

Dear Branson Community,

While the COVID-19 issue may impact some traditional Memorial Day activities, I hope we all take a few moments to observe this holiday to honor the men and women who have died while serving our great nation as members of our armed forces.

While we are not fully open for this holiday weekend, I am confident we have reached a point where we are prepared as a City to safely get the local economy going to help struggling families and businesses. The City Hall, the Chamber of Commerce and the Taney County Health Department are all continuing to take precautions as we open under the Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) guidelines. These precautions and guidelines are our top priority for the health of everyone. Common sense tells me there is a fine line that we need to ride between being safe health-wise and taking care of our economic health. We as a community need to work together to do this properly and that means taking individual responsibility and holding each other accountable to these health guidelines.

The City of Branson is getting a lot of attention for these carefully planned moves to serve visitors who are wanting to come. Many of our visitors choose to come because they feel safe in Branson. Our theaters, attractions, and businesses that feel comfortable to open are doing so focused on safety. Seeing these businesses make smart choices about when to open and how to do it safely, gives me the confidence that our entire community is working together to keep each other safe. Thank you and keep up the good work.

If you haven't already done so, please complete the 2020 Census. It's not too late and we need a good count! You can respond online at my2020census.com, by phone at 844-330-2020, or by mail.

City Hall is also now taking applications for several board and committee vacancies. I would encourage you to apply. This is a great way to get involved with local government and to have an influence in some vital city issues. Applications and information are available on our website at <http://www.bransonmo.gov/125/Boards-Committees>.

If you feel called to pray for this special weekend in our home town, please do.

Thank you for letting me serve you,

Mayor Edd Akers