

Dear Branson Community,

Well, whether you are ready for it or not, Fall is here. The Autumnal Equinox occurred on Tuesday, September 22, 2020, at 9:31 a.m. I've seen some of the trees in our area are already changing color and it once again reminds me how beautiful our region is every day of the year. We started this fall season with some very productive engagements this week.

On Monday we conducted the Proactive Government session with the Branson Chamber of Commerce. This is part of the "5 in Five" business community engagement initiative aimed at identifying and addressing five specific challenges in the chamber's area of operation. You can read more about this online, in the Branson Chamber's [5 in FIVE strategic plan](#).

On Wednesday, we temporarily opened the City of Branson Recycle Center. This is part of our plan to assist the Taney County Commission as they work towards establishing a county-wide recycle center. The City is going to use the old City of Branson Recycle Center to help train County personnel and to help them work through business operation policies and procedures for the County Recycle Center.

Thursday was a very busy, thoughtful, and thought provoking day. We started with the 19th Annual Ozark Mountain Prayer Breakfast, "Celebrating National Day of Prayer." This annual event which invites people of all faiths to pray together for our City, Region, State, and Nation was truly inspirational. If you were not able to attend, you can [watch a replay of online](#). Thank you to our Branson Convention Center for a terrific job supporting this event. We closed out Thursday with a Special Budget Meeting which included the Budget & Finance Committee, Capital Improvement Committee, Board of Alderman, and many citizens who listened in virtually. You can watch a replay of that meeting online at www.bransonmo.gov/livestream as well as see all materials presented [in that meeting's agenda](#).

I hope many of you had the opportunity to participate in the "2nd Annual Branson Battle of the Badges" Blood Drive today. This provides the Fire and Police Departments a little bit of camaraderie and competition to see who can recruit the most blood donors. Thanks to Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church for providing a great venue for the event. We will let you know the "winner" next week but the ultimate winner is the Red Cross and all of our citizens who may be in need of this precious blood.

The Branson Five Mile Prayer March is tomorrow (Saturday). The event will start at 1:00 p.m. in the upper parking lot of the Branson Star Theater (Behind Schlotzky's) on the west end of W. 76 Country Blvd and end at the North Beach Park at the Landing. The event is modeled after the Franklin Graham Prayer March that is happening tomorrow in Washington, D.C. For additional details about the Branson march, see the [Facebook event page](#). We really appreciate the focus the prayer march leaders have placed on COVID protection. As the event organizers said on the event Facebook page, "Please note that everyone is expected to follow the city ordinance and guidelines regarding the mask and social distancing mandate. Anyone with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 should refrain from participating in person." A great reminder to everyone participating.

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Please, if you are so inclined, continue to pray for our city, stay positive, and be thankful for living in the best city in America. Thank you for letting me serve you,

Mayor Edd Akers