



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
ECONOMICS | ENVIRONMENT | EXCELLENCE

Dear Branson Community,

Each month, the City of Branson has a featured value. The value focus for the month of October is "Open Communication/Transparency - Open sharing of information between employees, citizens, and visitors." Our ability to share information continues to improve as we refine our "virtual tools" and the [City website](#). [Live streaming](#) our Board of Aldermen meetings is working very and we will soon be rolling out an improved meeting management system that will enable our staff and board members to move through our meetings more smoothly, efficiently, and effectively.

I know you are all waiting for the announcement of the winner of the "2nd Annual Branson Battle of the Badges" Blood Drive that occurred last week. The winner is the Police Department! They just edged out the Branson Fire Rescue; but again, the ultimate winners are the citizens who need that precious blood. Thank you for all involved.

I have two events I want to make sure you are aware of for next week. First, on Tuesday, October 6, we will have our Branson National Night Out. This is an annual community-building campaign that promotes strong police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer. We will have police personnel and other city staff in approximately 13 neighborhoods from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. enjoying a beautiful evening in the Ozarks with our citizens. The second event is the Missouri Job Center "Drive Thru Job Fair" that will be held on Thursday, October 8, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. It is open to the public and I highly encourage any of you looking for a job to take advantage of this great service.

As we continue to work through the process of relocating the recycle center to Taney County, we are helping them in a variety of ways, including gathering metrics. This data will help Taney County develop their processes and procedures. Here is a breakdown of usage by area in the first week of the temporary reopening: 36% Taney County (outside City Limits), 24% Branson, 16% Hollister, 5% Kirbyville, 5% Ridgedale, 4% Blue Eye, 2% Branson West, 2% Lampe, 2% Walnut Shade, 1% Chestnut Ridge, 1% Point Lookout, 1% Rockaway Beach, and under 1% each for Cape Fair, Chadwick, Forsyth, Galena, Kimberling City, Lockwood, Springfield, and Taneyville.

Brigadier General Hood from Fort Leonard Wood called us this week. He shared his enjoyment of past visits to Branson and hopes to encourage future visits. While the Soldiers on the fort are still under a COVID-19 travel restriction, the installation leaders are starting to look beyond COVID with a focus on increasing community engagement. With all the Veterans in Branson combined with our Veterans Homecoming Week celebrations, it is only natural to increase our engagement with the closest military installation. I look forward to increasing this partnership in the near future.

This past week I was also pleased to meet with pastors from all over the Country as they were attending a rest and renewal conference. I am blessed to hear and see how much they were enjoying this place we call home.

Please 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