

Dear Branson Community,

2020 is near its end and will soon be a part of our past. While COVID-19 is not over until it's under control, the news is promising regarding the vaccines. I know the end of this pandemic is in sight. I ask everyone to continue to wear face coverings, watch your physical distance from others, and to practice good hygiene to slow the virus down. Let's start 2021 as safe as possible.

Branson is strong and I believe that 2021 will be a growth year for us. We will take advantage of what we learned from the issues of 2020 and we will make adjustments, permanent improvements, in relation to how we function as city, a grouping of some of the best people on this planet. We will pursue developmental opportunities to expand our economy and we will work within the region (our area of interest) to make the Ozarks an even better place to live, work, and play.

On New Year's Eve in 2002, Former President George W. Bush talked about how "America is a land of justice, liberty, and tolerance" and how we can "work together to build on our successes and embrace the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead." Those words resonate with me still today. Can we as a community embrace what makes us strong by coming together with an attitude of cooperation, conciliation, and forgiveness to work together for a better tomorrow? I believe we have that within us.

Thank you to those who continue to pray for our city. Please stay positive and be thankful for living in the best city in America.

Thank you for letting me serve you,

Mayor Edd Akers