

Dear Branson Community,

I hope everyone had a joyous Christmas, New Year's celebration, and the opportunity to reconnect with family and friends over the holidays. Your future is our future, together.

As we enter the New Year, I want to welcome anyone who has recently moved into our great city. We truly do welcome you and thank you for making Branson your new hometown. I want to give a special welcome to the new [President and CEO of the Branson Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce - Jason Outman](#). Jason and his family are moving from South Carolina to take over this critically important function for our city and area. We look forward to working with Jason and wish him much success in this position. Jason arrives in mid-January so when you see him around town, say hi and welcome him with our proud Ozark Mountain spirit.

Our Convention Center is starting the year with a busy schedule. January events include 950 college age students coming in for the Student Mobilization Conference which is a faith-based event to build spiritual leaders from college campuses. In addition, the Boys and Girls Youth Futsal Tournaments will bring in approximately 2,000 young athletes to play fast-paced small sided indoor soccer games. We are blessed to be able to safely run these events while other convention centers across our country are still closed.

I want to take the first month or so of these notes to highlight a few City accomplishments from 2020, as part of a "year in review." I will start with our [Planning & Development Department](#) who highlights that Branson has had an estimated value of \$66,686,835 in construction projects. The Planning & Development Department also successfully completed full implementation of "Citizenserve" which provides a more efficient and streamlined process for building permits, planning requests, code complaints, lodging inspections, police records requests, and public improvements. This is good work on your behalf.

Here is an interesting Branson factoid of the week for you: 49% of the "Branson, MO 65616" addresses are actually located **outside** of the city limits in Taney or Stone County.

Your prayers have made a difference. Look for the positive and be thankful for living in the best city in America.

Thank you for letting me serve you,

Mayor Edd Akers