



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
ECONOMICS | ENVIRONMENT | EXCELLENCE

Dear Branson Community,

Welcome to February! Can you believe January is already in the rearview mirror? As I understand, Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow, so we are in for six more weeks of chilly weather. But that is okay because we have a lot going on at our Parks & Recreation Department's RecPlex to keep you warm. I encourage you to check out its [website](#) to see what activities might interest you to help stay in good physical and mental shape through the winter. I doubt I am up for the Youth Trampoline Dodgeball Tournament, but the Virtual Esports Tournament looks interesting, especially as we roll into Super Bowl Weekend. Go Chiefs!

February 2nd holds a special meaning for my buddy Jack. 33 years ago with not the best odds, he underwent open heart surgery. Today he continues to cast his shadow as a blessing to this community. So glad you are still with us.

To continue our **2020 "Year in Review"** as we look at some City accomplishments from the past year, I wanted to update you on Branson Fire Rescue. It responded to 4,260 calls for service in 2020. This included 83 working fires causing an estimated \$598,188 in property damage and almost \$377 million in property saved. This value can be directly attributed to the training of our firefighters as they averaged 284 hours per person or 10,864 hours for the whole department. Additionally, our personnel completed 1,900 fire and life safety inspections and presented educational programs to reduce risk in our community. The annual Performance Report will be published on its [website](#) in February and will be presented to the Board of Aldermen at the March 18 Study Session which will be streamed live at www.bransonmo.gov/livestream. I am proud of our first responders.

Interesting Factoid of the Week: There are 3,165 City of Branson issued Business Licenses. "Buy Local" is not only a motto but a goal here in Branson. Buying local helps keep our money where we live, work, and play and is crucial for not only our economy but also for our friends who own, manage, and work in our local businesses. Buying local helps provide not only an economic tie of our personal actions to the city but also an emotional connection. As we buy locally, we become more aware of what makes our local businesses flourish and the realization that we as individuals are helping to grow our local economy and help our neighbors and fellow Branson community.

For those who pray, thank you. 2020 proved change can occur quickly. A positive attitude and working together can get us through anything. Thank you for supporting the best hometown in America.

Thank you for letting me serve you,

Mayor Edd Akers