



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
ECONOMICS | ENVIRONMENT | EXCELLENCE

Dear Branson Community,

This week, I sponsored an agenda item during the regular Board of Aldermen meeting. Early in the COVID fight we realized that face coverings were a good protective option until a vaccine could be readily available for the citizens of Branson who desire the inoculation. As you know, the vaccines are available in Branson, our region, and throughout the nation. I brought a request to the Board of Aldermen that would rescind our face covering mandate, effective May 9, 2021. During the meeting, the Board of Aldermen adjusted the date and voted to approve keeping the mask mandate in place until May 24, 2021. The Board of Aldermen ask you to continue to practice good safety and health procedures and give serious thought to receiving a vaccination. Please stay safe.

I want to point your attention next week to March 29 and March 30, which is Vietnam Veterans Day. The Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act, signed into law in 2017, designates March 29 of each year as National Vietnam War Veterans Day. On March 29, 1973, the last combat troops were withdrawn from Vietnam. The state of Missouri designated March 30 as "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day." In addition to saying "welcome home Vietnam Veterans," I want to again congratulate the Branson Veterans of America 913 for not only supporting and advocating for Vietnam Veterans but also opening your association to all veterans of all services and periods of service.

Interesting Factoid of the Week: When you vote on April 6, the Tourism Tax renewal initiative will look familiar to many of you, as you last approved it in 1997. What you are voting on this April is to continue the tax, not a tax increase.

I believe it is time for our community to stop and take a deep breath. We have been blessed to stay open and if these first two months are any indication, our economy is strong and the potential for a banner year is in the making.

Your prayers help sustain us as a 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