

City Calendar

**Economic Dev. Commission**

Dec. 18 8 a.m.

**Utilities**

Dec. 29 Noon

**Council Meeting**

Dec. 29 5 p.m.

**City Offices Closed**

Dec. 24-25

**City Offices Closed**

Dec. 31-Jan 1.

**BOW/ Council Meeting**

Jan. 11 6:30 p.m.

In This Issue:

- COVID #'s Rise
- Trash schedule changes
- Long-term water project update
- Road funding
- Non-profit Spotlight
- Remember When?

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## Mayor provides local COVID-19 update



Mayor Bettice provided an update on COVID-19 at the City Council meeting in December.

The mayor focused on cases specifically in the Batesville zip code of 47006. From the start of the pandemic through mid-November there were a total of 242 cases within the zip code.

Within the last four weeks, the total case count has increased up to 607. That is a 150 percent increase since mid-November.

“It is impossible to know for sure what is going to happen next, but I am still concerned,” Bettice remarked. “The bigger concern is that all the local hospitals in Southeastern Indiana are dealing with a high volume of patients.”

Bettice is asking the community to continue taking precautions such as wearing a mask, washing your hands, maintaining social distance and staying home if you’re sick.

A test site remains open at the Ripley County Fairgrounds. Follow daily COVID-19 information by clicking here: <https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/2393.htm>

## Holiday Trash Schedule Change

Rumpke will make a change to the usual garbage collection dates due to the holidays.



Christmas and New Year’s Day will fall on Fridays this year. For those who have regular trash pickup on Fridays, the collection on Christmas and New Years will change from Friday to Saturday, December 26 and Saturday, January 2.

The schedule will return to Friday’s beginning January 8.

## Leaf collection ends Dec. 18

The final opportunity for City leaf collection will take place this Friday, December 18. Starting next week, residents are encouraged to place bags of leaves for Rumpke to collect during the usual trash pickup.



## Holiday Lights at Liberty last until Jan. 3



The Batesville Area Chamber of Commerce and the City of Batesville teamed up to bring a social-distance friendly light display at Liberty Park this holiday season.

Holiday Lights at Liberty feature more than a dozen light displays by local businesses that are available to view in the evening. It's a free event that concludes on January 3.

## Non-Profit Spotlight: Phi Beta Psi

Phi Beta Psi is a national sorority with a local chapter that has been in Batesville since 1926.

The non-profit makes it their mission to help patients at Margaret Mary's Cancer Center through providing meal vouchers, prescription assistance and gift cards for fuel expenses.

Each Christmas season they provide gifts and flowers to cancer patients and their families. This year they are helping 25 patients.

"To see the patients arrive and get these beautiful gifts, unexpectedly, to present to their children is an emotional impact I have never felt before. The patients are so grateful that they are even being thought of during the Christmas time," said Kari Ann Rennekamp, patient services coordinator at MMH Cancer Center.



## Batesville receives \$860K for additional road funding



The City of Batesville has been notified that it will receive more than \$860,000 in funding through the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) Community Crossing Matching Grant Program.

Mayor Bettice said the City received about \$140K in funding earlier this year which was used to pave several roads. The second round of funds will allow the City to conduct additional paving, storm water projects and ADA improvements.

This funding will assist the City in making road repairs to portions of Mitchell Avenue, Mulberry Street, South Street, Coonhunters Road, Volz Street and Park Avenue.

## Families Helping Families

One unique Christmas tradition in Batesville is the Families Helping Families (FHF) Program which has been in operation for more than 25 years. The purpose of the program is to ensure no child goes without presents come Christmas Day.

The program connects families at Batesville Schools who meet financial criteria to be eligible for Christmas gifts and Kroger cards. Last year the program served 124 families by providing more than 550 gifts and more than \$8,500.00 in Kroger Gift cards. The program started at St. Louis Church and is now connected with multiple churches and organizations.



Learn more by contacting Jim Saner at 812-525-1239 or Maureen Saner at 812-212-9797.

## Long-term Water Project: On Schedule, On Budget

The City of Batesville is making progress on the long-term water project as it remains ahead of schedule and within the budget.

The well field is nearly finished while crews have approximately 1,000 feet of pipeline left to install.

“They still have to finish the road in front of the new water plant here in town and do the interior finish work,” Mayor Bettice said.

Construction crews will then connect the pipeline to the well field. The project is expected to be complete in 2021.

## Remember When?



“The Caroling Christmas Tree of Batesville” was a holiday tradition where St. Louis schoolchildren would carol from the tree each year. It attracted visitors from across the region. Lou Voegele and Jean Struewing started the “Caroling Christmas Tree” in 1972. This photo is from 1981.

## Stay Connected!

**Mayor Mike Bettice**

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## City Services

(812 area code)

Building Commissioner	933-6103
Clerk-Treasurer	933-6101
City Court Judge	933-6102
Community Development	933-6116
Economic Development	933-6113
Fire & EMS	934-2230
Mayor’s Office	933-6100
Parks and Recreation	934-4560
Police	934-3131
Street Department	934-4393
Wastewater Treatment	934-5338
Water & Gas	934-3811