

# City of Bethany Newsletter

Thank you, Mr. Mayor...

February 2017

After sixteen years of saying those same words to the same man, they carried new weight and meaning on February 7<sup>th</sup>, when they were said in closing statements for the final time to Mayor Bryan Taylor.

Mayor Taylor has a passion for Bethany, which is evidenced by the many causes he championed throughout the years. City Manager J.D. Cox, Police Chief Phil Col and Fire Chief S.R. Hunter all presented plaques and gave thanks for the unprecedented steps that Mayor Taylor took to better each department and, as a result, the city as a whole. We are safer and much improved as a direct result of Mayor Taylor's many years of hard work. So, we say once more....

Thank you, Mr. Mayor.



## The People's Councilman

On February 7<sup>th</sup> the city bid farewell to Councilman Randy Luinstra, who also gave 16 years of dedicated service to Bethany. Long has he been known as the champion for the people; citizens and employees alike.

Devoted family man, strong leader, dedicated public servant, comedian...those are only a few of the descriptives used to describe this remarkable man. Councilman Luinstra, you Sir, are truly one-of-a-kind.



## New Library Updates

The current library located at Mueller & 35<sup>th</sup> will be moving to its temporary location at the DeVille Shopping Center at NW 23<sup>rd</sup> and Council the first week in March. February 19<sup>th</sup> is the last day that the old library will be open. It will take a couple weeks for staff to move all of the books and furnishings, so opening day at the DeVille Shopping Center will be March 6<sup>th</sup>. This location will provide full services until the new library is complete.

Design plans are close to completion and final construction documents will be completed and submitted for review on April 11<sup>th</sup>. Once revisions are made, staff at Dewberry Architects will present the final plans at the May 16<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting. Advertising bids will go out the following day, May 17<sup>th</sup>, following City Council approval. Bid openings are scheduled for June 14<sup>th</sup> and construction contracts will be awarded at a Special meeting that will need to be called on June 27<sup>th</sup>. The anticipated public ground breaking will be July 15<sup>th</sup>.

The new 23,000 square foot library will include walking trails, pond improvements, a drive-through book return, additional/wider parking spaces, a new playground, extensive landscaping, large picture windows, a children's area and a teen center, and outdoor reading porches. Construction will take about 12-18 months. The grand opening is currently set for Fall 2018. Plans and updates will be made available on our website and via social media as they occur.

## Bethany Tribune

In a bid to re-establish the city's own unique identity in the Oklahoma City metro, City Manager J.D. Cox worked diligently with OKC Tribune newspaper owner Phillip Reid and the paper's Editor, Matt Montgomery. We are pleased and incredibly proud to say that the OKC Tribune has agreed to return to the newspaper's original name, the Bethany Tribune. As a result, the city will now have its own newspaper, which will focus solely on our great city.

We encourage you to utilize this wonderful resource to stay current on the comings and goings in Bethany. Please join us in letting the Bethany Tribune know how happy we are that they're back and eager to partner with us in this great new venture!



## New Website



Check out our brand-new website at [www.cityofbethany.org](http://www.cityofbethany.org) to stay current on everything that's happening in your city! If you'd like to see something added, please let us know!

## Citizen Advisory Boards

Don't forget to submit an application for one of our citizen advisory boards:

- Arts & Culture Advisory Board
- Cemetery Improvement Task Force
- Parks, Recreation & Trees Advisory Board
- Vision 2030 Branding & Logo Task Force

Join us in improving your hometown! Applications are available on our website at [www.cityofbethany.org](http://www.cityofbethany.org).