



Breakthrough News

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Breakthrough Solutions is a program of the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service, with partners in the public, private, and non-profit sectors.

The purpose of Breakthrough News is to equip communities and regions to prosper in the 21st century economy.

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You won't want to miss this.

Registration Now Open: 2019 Breakthrough Solutions Conference to Focus on Creating Connected Communities

In an ever-connected global economy, successful communities are those that are well-connected – well-connected within their community, region, nation, and world. This notion of connectivity is the focus of the 2019 Breakthrough Solutions Conference, “Creating Connected Communities in the Emerging 21st Century Economy.”

[Learn more](#)

Two-Thirds of Arkansas Counties Lost Population - It is Time for Action

The most recent Census reveals that not only did 2/3 of Arkansas counties lose population between 2012 and 2017, but 89% of Arkansas counties did not keep up with the national rate of growth. As you know, the loss of population is harmful to a community, as it reduces income to local businesses, non-profits, and local governments. It can also trigger a downward spiral as deteriorating infrastructure can accelerate the process.

[See more here](#)



Kickstart Sheridan Action Plan Unveiled

After months of discussion and community surveys, the Kick Start Sheridan team unveiled its strategic action plan to the public that outlines the blueprint for growth and development in Sheridan and Grant County over the next five years. [Read the story](#)

Breakthrough Solutions Pre-Conference Workshop Will Revolve Around Strategic Action

The 2019 Breakthrough Solutions Pre-Conference Workshop, "Creating Connected Communities: A Hands-On Workshop for ARCO in Action," will feature the three-county **Arkansas Coalition for the Ouachitas** as the pilot community. This region, known as ARCO for short, includes Montgomery, Polk, and Scott counties. Local leaders will work alongside Breakthrough Solutions partners at the June 25 workshop to explore an action-oriented framework and toolkit designed for communities to transform strategic planning into strategic action. [Check it out](#)



Baxter County Forward Gears Up for Launch Event May 21

The Breakthrough Solutions team has been working **Baxter County Forward**, a dedicated group of community members and leaders, in a strategic planning process aimed at addressing the major issues facing Baxter County. [More info here](#)

Story of the Month: Did You Know That Trees Can Attract E-mail?

Melbourne, Australia developed an Urban Forest Strategy to combat the steady decline of trees following a 13 year drought. The city assigned all of Melbourne's 77,000 trees individual email addresses, so that residents could report trees that had been vandalized or were in decline. Instead of reporting problems, people began writing love letters to their favorite trees. The chair of Melbourne's Environment Portfolio, Councillor Arron Wood, said the response was an unexpected, but welcomed surprise. "It is unbelievable, we have now received over 3000 emails from all around the world — there have been people from

Russia, Germany, Hungary, Singapore, Britain and Hong Kong all confessing their love for trees in Melbourne.” Source: Anne Silvis, University of Illinois, Rural Partners Newsletter

Website of the Month: Amazon Warehouse Robots: Mind Blowing Video

What if your workforce was willing to work 24/7, never took a break, never complained, and even was willing to work in the dark, thus saving your business money on utilities? How can regular folks compete against that kind of superhuman workforce? Take a look at this [video](#)

Quote for the Day: Have You Reached Your Turning Point? "I found every single successful person I've ever spoken to had a turning point. The turning point was when they made a clear, specific unequivocal decision that they were not going to live like this anymore; they were going to achieve success. Some people make that decision at 15 and some people make it at 50, and most people never make it all. Every great leap forward in your life comes after you have made a clear decision of some kind.- Brian Tracy

NOTE:The same is true for communities!

Coming Events

May 16-17:Pave the Way – Strengthening Creative Placemaking and Creative Economy in Communities, West Memphis. Go to: <https://www.cvent.com/c/express/ef070980-135c-4f75-9e3b-a676d2dd9dc1>

May 21: Baxter County Forward Launch Event, Mountain Home. For more information, contact the Mountain Home Area Chamber of Commerce, 870-425-5111, angela@enjoymountainhome.com

June 25-26: 2019 Breakthrough Solutions Conference and Pre-Conference Workshop, Little Rock and North Little Rock. For more information, go to <https://www.uaex.edu/business-communities/strategic-planning/breakthrough-solutions.aspx>

July 29-August 2: 33rd Annual Community Development Institute, UCA in Conway. Go to: <https://uca.edu/cced/events/>.

July 30: CDI 2019: Downtown Comeback, featuring HGTV'S HOMETOWN, sponsored by UCA Center for Community and Economic Development. For more information, go to:[Downtown Comeback](#).

August 25-27: Arkansas Economic Developers and Chamber Executives Annual Conference, Fort Smith Convention Center; go to <https://www.aedce.org/events/event/aedce-annual-conference-2/>

More About Breakthrough Solutions:

Recipient of the Outstanding Program Award and Innovative Program Award by the international Community Development Society, Breakthrough Solutions is a program of the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service, with partners in the public, private, and non-profit sectors. For more information: (501) 671-2253.

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If you want to impact your community in a powerful way, forward this email newsletter to other individuals in your community or organization, so they can benefit from the resources, insights, and strategies covered in Breakthrough News.

Best regards,

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