

# Bella Vista Vision

Newsletter of the Bella Vista Historical Society

January – March 2026

Editor: Xyta Lucas

*The Bella Vista Historical Society was founded in 1976 in order to “discover, collect, preserve or restore materials and artifacts concerned with our community’s heritage.”*



1885 Bella Vista Way, Bella Vista AR 72714 (479) 855-2335

Website: [www.bellavistamuseum.org](http://www.bellavistamuseum.org) Facebook/Instagram: Bella Vista Historical Museum

Open Wednesday – Sunday, 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

## GRANT/LEE PROGRAM - FREE ADMISSION - COOPER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN BELLA VISTA

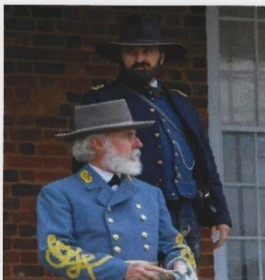
*Thursday May 7 at 7:00 p.m. with afternoon encampment on the school grounds.*

Featuring nationally recognized living historians Curt Fields as General Grant and Thomas Jessee as General Lee. Donations to help with speaker expenses are welcome at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/LeeSurrendersToGrant>.

**Bella Vista Civil War Round Table and  
Bella Vista Historical Society Announce  
A Very Special Evening**

**Thursday, May 7 at 7:00 p.m.**

***“Appomattox: The Last 48 Hours”***



Living historians Curt Fields and Thomas Jessee, featured in the Appomattox National Park Service video and annual remembrance

**See Generals Ulysses S. Grant and Robert E. Lee  
come alive to discuss the last 48 hours of the Civil War**

For further information  
call 479-855-2335

**Open to the public**  
Free of charge  
Donations accepted  
to cover speaker costs

**Special Location**  
Cooper Elementary School  
2 Blowing Springs Road  
Bella Vista, 72714



## OUR CONDOLENCES

Our condolences go to our Co-Treasurer Virginia Reynolds, her two daughters, and their families upon the death of her beloved husband Gary Reynolds on March 8. Virginia and Gary celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding last September 5, shortly after Gary was diagnosed with cancer. He was a real estate agent, retired banker, and corporate sponsor of the museum. Memorial contributions may be made to Village Baptist Church at 380 Glasgow Rd, Bella Vista 72715, Bella Vista Historical Society Expansion Fund at 1885 Bella Vista Way, Bella Vista 72714, or Circle of Life Hospice at 901 Jones Rd, Springdale 72762.

Our condolences also go to the family of Jeanette Hume, a former volunteer at the museum, who passed away on February 14. She is survived by her husband Duane, her identical twin sons and her sister. Jeanette earned her bachelor's degree in history from the U. of Oklahoma and her teaching credentials from the U. of Colorado. She taught high school history, chemistry and science, usually to special needs students. She retired from the Florida Dept of Education as the Grant Manager over all special needs funding.

\*\*\*\*\*

## HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Bella Vista Historical Society took place on Saturday March 21 at 2 p.m. Election of officers was held with Xyta Lucas and Dale Phillips re-elected as Co-Presidents, and Virginia Reynolds and Gina Kietzmann re-elected as Co-Treasurers. Docents and Board members who were in attendance were recognized, as was Mayor John Flynn and his wife Linda Flynn.

We thank Carol Phillips for providing her delicious home-made Louisiana bread pudding for everyone.



Following the business meeting, Missouri resident Jeremy Amick presented a program based on his book *Camp Crowder*. He explored the dramatic rise of the WW II military installation near Neosho, Missouri, how it became a major Signal Corps training center, housed thousands of soldiers and even held German POWs. Amick is a Missouri high school educator and longtime student of Midwestern history and folklore. He has authored numerous regional history books, including *Camp Crowder*, *Moments on the Moreau*, and *Beyond the Moreau*, along with biographies highlighting Missouri's WW II veterans and community leaders.

## MUSEUM EXPANSION CAMPAIGN

We have now raised nearly \$530,000 for our planned museum expansion, so when we put that with the anonymous pledge we have of \$750,000, we are now at the point where if we include that pledge and we can raise another \$720,000, we will have reached our \$2 million goal. We thank two area foundations who recently stepped forward with grants for this project.

If you are interested in donating to our campaign, checks or credit card donations are welcome. You may also donate online at our website, [www.bellavistamuseum.org](http://www.bellavistamuseum.org). Thank you!

We very much appreciate the Blue Undertones who donated a concert at the museum on Feb. 21. They played to a sold out crowd a variety of jazz, blues, R & B, and pop which everyone enjoyed! The musicians were: Drums - Brendan Engholm, Bass - Jeff Holeman, Vocals - Trent Ediger, Guitar - Tim Dougherty, and Musical Director Phil Pitts.



Some of our fundraising includes partnering with other organizations to raise funds jointly, as we are currently doing with Pedal It Forward in selling water bottles, and with the Dug Hill Cemetery Association selling firewood (when the temps were colder) and helping them conduct a raffle. We appreciate the donation of the firewood from Brad Weber and Sam Walker.

We are participating again this year in the City-wide garage sale on April 24-25. Vendors who do not wish to have a garage sale at their home are welcome to sign up for a space in our parking lot one or both days. The cost is \$25 for one space; \$45 for two. That fee covers both days.

**NOTE:** We are also accepting donations at the museum for us to sell as a fundraiser for our building expansion.



**FRIDAY & SATURDAY APRIL 24 & 25**

## HISTORIC SITES DRIVING TOUR

Co-President Dale Phillips conducted a driving tour of historic sites on Saturday morning, March 28, also as a fundraiser for the building expansion campaign. The car caravan made nine stops in the eastern and southern parts of Bella Vista where Dale spoke about the history of each location. The next tour is planned for November. The cost is \$20/person, \$30/for two. If you are interested in going on the next tour, leave a message for Dale at the museum in person or by phone (479-855-2335) to get your name on the waiting list. The tours are usually sold out in advance.

Summit Cemetery



Bolain Barn



Blowing Springs



Linebarger Water Tank



## PRESERVE ARKANSAS AWARDS

Wendel Norton (1951-2019), the late son of our Constance Norton Waddell, and his widow Elizabeth were honored on January 30 by *Preserve Arkansas* in Little Rock for their many achievements in historic preservation.

### Award Recipients

#### Parker Westbrook Award for Lifetime Achievement

*Elizabeth and the late Wendel Norton of Mount Judea*



For the past 30 years, the Nortons have contributed to the preservation of Arkansas's historic landscape, professionally through their business, Norton Arts Fine Art Conservation, and personally through the restoration and stewardship of the May Farmstead in Newton County. Elizabeth and Wendel completed restoration projects in many of Arkansas's notable historic places, including the Arkansas State Capitol, Historic Washington State Park, Powhatan Courthouse, Jackson County Courthouse, Methodist churches at Hot Springs and Rogers, and Van Buren's Fairview Cemetery. From conserving works of art and architecture to educating people about conservation, their work combined technical excellence with deep personal commitment. Their legacy of preservation, education, and service makes them richly deserving of the Parker Westbrook Award.

Source: [www.preservearkansas.org](http://www.preservearkansas.org)

Wendel and Elizabeth's daughter is Vanessa McKuin, Executive Director of Historic Cane Hill, who was our March 2025 annual meeting speaker. Historic Cane Hill received the Excellence in Preservation through Restoration Award at the January 30 meeting also for the restoration of the 1896 John and Alice Edmiston House at Cane Hill.



Source: [www.historiccanehill.org](http://www.historiccanehill.org)

## BUXTON CEMETERY

In 1981, John Stoneman of the Bella Vista Community Church was elected chairman of a committee to determine the need for a Bella Vista Village (as it was known before it became the City of Bella Vista) cemetery. With the support of the Ministerial Alliance, a nonprofit organization was formed and named the Bella Vista Cemetery Association to acquire land and develop a cemetery. In October 1983, Cooper Communities provided up to 15 acres of land to the BV Cemetery Association near the old Buxton Cemetery off 340 on Buckston Drive. The site was prepared and dedicated on August 11, 1985. It was decided to name it the Bella Vista Memorial Garden Cemetery.

The deed for the original cemetery, dated 1904, contains the name of George Buckston but his grave, where he is buried in the Mt. Pleasant Cemetery at nearby Hiwasse, has his name spelled Buxton, so it is assumed the correct spelling is Buxton. The street leading to the present-day cemetery was named Buckston by Cooper Communities.

Fast forward several decades to the present, where John Kittelman is the Cemetery Manager and Don Sprong is in charge of buildings and grounds. John has been involved with the cemetery for 6.5 years and Don started about 8 months ago. They have converted a storage building in the middle of the grounds into an office and are now working on the former unidentified graves in the old Buxton Cemetery. They started by having grave dowser Terry Davis locate the graves and are now marking them by burying a plastic container filled with concrete at each grave. The four-inch lids on the plastic containers are being painted with orange outdoor paint and will have a cross painted on each lid. The handful of old gravestones already there will be grandfathered in but everything else will be at ground level consistent with the rules for the rest of the modern-day cemetery. Don has started on the project, digging a hole for each grave and burying a container in each one but has requested help for the remaining graves. Justin Malott, an Ag teacher and FFA advisor at Gravette High School, has agreed to coordinate this project with Don, with the help of Gravette HS students. Some of the unidentified graves were located under the paved driveway so those will have spikes buried in the pavement and a cross painted on top to permanently mark the location of those graves. The photos below were taken on March 17.

Don Sprong with completed grave markings.



Buxton Cemetery graves to be marked.



## BELLA VISTA CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

The Round Table celebrates their 7<sup>th</sup> anniversary this May and continues to meet the first Thursday of every month (unless the first Thursday is a holiday, then the meeting is the following Thursday) at 7:00 p.m., normally at our museum. Admission to the programs is free but donations are welcome to help cover speaker expenses.

The April 2 speaker will be David Powell, who is a 1983 graduate of the Virginia Military Institute with a B.A. in history. He has authored numerous magazine articles and several books. His latest project is a five-volume study of the Atlanta Campaign in 1864. He has published two of the volumes and the third one is due out this year. His topic for the April 2 meeting will be *The Atlanta Campaign: The Union Assault at Kennesaw Mountain*. The speakers over the past quarter were:

**January 8:** Dr. Eric Paul Totten, Instructor in the Dept. of History at the University of Arkansas, was given a certificate of appreciation by Dale Phillips, President of the Bella Vista Civil War Round Table, following his presentation at the museum on Thursday evening, January 8. His topic was the Second Battle of Pocotaligo, South Carolina, which took place on October 22, 1862. Prior to the Civil War, Pocotaligo became an important stop on the Charleston and Savannah Railway. When hostilities began, control of the railway became an objective in disrupting the Confederate economy. Periodic raids were attempted by Union forces to attack the railway, but at this battle, Confederate forces held firm at Pocotaligo and forced a withdrawal of the Union troops back to their transports.



**February 5:** “Chickamauga: The Second Day, September 19, 1863” was presented by Dale Phillips, 41-year retiree of the National Park Service. Most historians have considered the great Battle of Chickamauga as a two-day engagement (September 19-20, 1863). Dale explained in detail that the battle was really a three-day struggle (September 18- 20). September 19th, the second day and the subject of this presentation, was one of the bloodiest days of the entire Civil War. Chickamauga was the largest battle of the western theater during the Civil War. Over 125,000 troops engaged in this critical fight for control of the vital rail junction at Chattanooga, TN. The presentation reexamined how these two armies came to this area just south of Chattanooga and how they became locked in full, deadly combat. This lecture was part two of a three-part series which Dale will conclude in January 2027 with “The Decisive Day At Chickamauga, September 20, 1863.”

Prior to Dale’s program, Chuck Pribbernow, right, presented these Grant & Lee commemorative T-shirts to Dale as President and Russ Pennington as Vice-President of the Bella Vista Civil War Round Table. Pictured on the shirt are Thomas Jesse as Gen. Lee and Curt Fields as Gen. Grant who will be the living historians at our May 7 meeting as described on Page 1 of this newsletter.



## CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE MEETINGS, cont.

**March 7:** The program was presented by John H. Fahey, M.D., who recently retired to northwest Arkansas where he is on the board of the Heritage Trails Partners. After a 30-year career in the Navy, he spent the next 20 years in medical practice in Illinois. Dr. Fahey's program topic was Bernard John Dowling Irwin.

Irwin was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions at Apache Pass in February 1861, the first action for which the Medal was awarded. Five months later he left Arizona to join the Civil War in the Western Theater. He rode onto the field of Shiloh with his sword drawn and established history's first full-service field hospital. He was taken prisoner of war after the battle of Richmond Kentucky and was a participant in the events that led up to the murder of General William (Bull) Nelson by General Jefferson C. Davis at the Galt House in Louisville in 1862. In 1863 he became superintendent of all Federal hospitals in occupied Memphis during Grant's Vicksburg campaign. In April 1865 he took care of the wounded survivors of the Sultana explosion, among the last casualties of the Civil War.



\*\*\*\*\*

## BELLA VISTA BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

We thank museum volunteers Deborah Lukotch and Gina Kietzmann for representing the museum at the BVBA



event on Wednesday afternoon February 18 at the BV Recreation Center.



## VOLUNTEER DOCENTS

We welcome returning docent Sandy Jackson as we continue to recruit docents. Our goal is still to have enough docents available so that no one has to serve more than one afternoon per month (unless they want to, of course!). The docent role consists of welcoming visitors to the museum, giving a little information about Bella Vista history, explaining how the museum exhibits are laid out, and handling gift shop sales. We always have two docents per shift and start out new docents by having them partner with experienced docents for training. We look for men and women who like interacting with others and enjoy learning about Bella Vista history. We ask that they read Gil Fite's 1993 book on the history of Bella Vista, and our 2021 pictorial history book, Images of America Bella Vista. Anyone interested in becoming a docent is welcome to leave a message on our museum phone, 479-855-2335, on our email, [bellavistamuseum@gmail.com](mailto:bellavistamuseum@gmail.com), or to stop by in person during our open hours.

All of our volunteers were thanked by Mayor John Flynn and the City Council at their meeting on Feb. 23 with this Certificate of Recognition. Co-Presidents Xyta Lucas and Dale Phillips also received individual certificates. We very much appreciate the City's support for our museum.



\*\*\*\*\*

## HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD

Two of our Historical Society Board members, John Bozarth and Sara Parnell, recently retired and we thank them for their service and support. We also welcome new Board member Susan Visser. Eight members of the Board enjoyed lunch at Rosita's Restaurant next door to the museum following the Feb. 26 Board meeting. Shown left to right are Deborah Lukotch, Gina Kietzmann, Chuck Pribbernow, Xyta Lucas, Dale Phillips, Susan Visser, Debbie Sorensen and Suzanne Adams. Missing lunch that day were Mark Clark, Linda Lloyd, Brian Mobley, Virginia Reynolds, and Jill Werner. We are very glad that Mark is active again after he fought major health battles.



## PRESENTATIONS AND MUSEUM TOURS

Co-Presidents Xyta Lucas and Dale Phillips continue to make presentations about Bella Vista history related topics and give tours of the museum upon request from church groups, civic organizations, social clubs, etc. If you would like a presentation for your group at the museum or at the location of your choosing, please leave a message at the museum, 479-855-2335.

*Xyta spoke to the PEO BR chapter at the Presbyterian Church on January 13.*



*Jessica Pearson, Director of Community Coalitions with Arkansas Moves, and several of their staff members toured the museum on February 25.*



Arkansas Moves had the opportunity to tour the Bella Vista Historical Museum and learn more about the people, stories, and culture that have shaped this community over time.

Growth is happening quickly across Northwest Arkansas. Taking time to understand Bella Vista's history allows us to approach that growth with context, care, and clarity.

Honoring the past is part of building a smarter way forward.

[#arkansasmoves](#) [#northwestarkansas](#) [#bentonvillear](#) [#bellavistaar](#)

*Dale spoke to about 25 members of the Men's Group at the Highlands Methodist Church on Feb. 18.*



*Xyta hosted a Care Group from the Highlands Methodist Church who toured the museum the morning of March 21. Eight members of the group had never been to the museum before, so we were very happy to have them visit.*



## YOUNG MUSEUM VISITORS

This family visited the museum on Jan. 17. After touring the museum, the kids had fun in the children's corner with Mom.



This mom helped her three children on Feb. 22 with the scavenger hunt activity that volunteer Virginia Reynolds created several years ago. It requires visitors to find specific exhibits in the museum and then answer questions about them.



This young lady announced she was a history buff so she insisted that her mom tour every room in the museum with her on March 18.



This young man, Joseph Magaruh, enjoyed a visit with his family to the museum on April 7.



\*\*\*\*\*

## NEW GIFT SHOP POSTCARD

This postcard is the newest item added to our gift shop selection of merchandise. We also continue to carry the handmade greeting cards from Nan DeLany. Stop by and take a look at all of our merchandise. Remember our museum staff consists of all volunteers so any revenue from gift shop sales goes to operating expense. Thanks!



## LAKE BELLA VISTA GEESE

The geese at Lake Bella Vista were coming for handouts on Dec. 30, 2020. (Photo courtesy of Dennis & Lisa Lozano)



These geese were checking out the water during the removal of the nearby Lake Bella Vista dam, which was in process when this picture was taken on March 23, 2026.

(Photo courtesy of Michael Keys)



## LAKE BELLA VISTA 100 YEARS AGO

Little Sugar Creek was dammed up 111 years ago, in 1915, to create Lake Bella Vista. The pictures on this page were both taken over 100 years ago. The top one was sent to us by Tim Dougherty from his family's collection of 1920 photos. The bottom photo is from the museum's files, also from the 1920s.



## THE FORMER LAKE BELLA VISTA NOW

A large chunk of the Lake Bella Vista dam washed out in April 2021 and eventually the decision was made by the City of Bentonville, which became owner of the lake in 2005, not to rebuild the dam. The process of removing the dam began early this year.

*East end of former dam, looking west (March 24, 2026).*



*Removal equipment at work at west end of former dam, looking east (March 24, 2026).*



## THEN AND NOW, cont.

These pictures of the Roy Cunningham farm on Oldham Road were taken in July 2012. Roy was one of six children whose family moved to Arkansas in 1904 from western Kansas. His parents bought the farm where Cunningham Corner stands today on Highway 71, a short distance north of where Roy later bought his farm. He died in 1970 but the farm stayed in his stepdaughter's family until 1992. The barn was already standing when Roy bought the farm, but the house and shop shown here were built after the family sold the farm in 1992.



Oz Trails Bike Park is shown in the picture below under construction on the former Roy Cunningham farm during the winter of 2025-2026. The bike lift starts about where the barn was located. The park is scheduled to open June 12.



<https://www.facebook.com/OZTrailsBikePark/about/>

OPENING JUNE 12TH, 2026

**OZ TRAILS BIKE PARK** features 20+ miles of gravity trails showcasing innovative trail design and the first lift-served mountain bike park in Arkansas.



## 2026 CORPORATE SPONSORS

Our membership form at the end of each newsletter offers the option of corporate sponsorship at the rate of \$50 per calendar year or for services donated. If you or your organization or business is interested in supporting the museum as a corporate sponsor, we will publish the name in our newsletter each quarter and add it to our posted sign at the museum. We hope you will join us!

<i>Acorn Realty – Linda Lloyd</i>	<i>Bella Vista POA</i>
<i>A-List Inspection Services</i>	<i>Blue Crane</i>
<i>Ahnimisha Consulting – Abby Foster</i>	<i>City of Bella Vista</i>
<i>Allen’s Food Market</i>	<i>Mayor John &amp; Linda Flynn</i>
<i>Bella Vista Animal Shelter</i>	<i>Kinco Construction</i>
<i>Bella Vista Community TV</i>	<i>Chuck Pribbernow</i>

\*\*\*\*\*

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- 1) BV Civil War Round Table, Thursday April 2, 7:00 p.m., David Powell presenter, *Museum*
- 2) POA Spring Bazaar, Saturday April 11, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., *BV Recreation Center*
- 3) Golf club donation day for First Tee Saturday April 18, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., *Museum*
- 4) City wide garage sale Friday-Saturday, April 24-25, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., *Museum*
- 5) Grant & Lee program Thursday May 7, arrive by 6:45 p.m., *Cooper Elementary School*
- 6) Artists Weekend, Saturday-Sunday, May 16-17, 1:00 – 5:00 p.m., *Museum*

### PLEASE NOTE:

We will be celebrating at the museum the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the nation on Flag Day, which is Sunday, June 14, at 2:00 p.m. with a program by Johnny Haney of Bentonville on artist Norman Rockwell. Haney is a collector and authority on Norman Rockwell limited-edition prints. He formerly served on the Board of the Norman Rockwell Museum in Stockbridge, Massachusetts.

A temporary exhibit about the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary is on display in the Cooper Room at the museum. We thank Joe and Tina Flahive for the loan of their 1976 flag for this exhibit. We have related merchandise for sale in the gift shop such as these magnets by vendor Jason Buss of JMB Custom Woodcrafts.



## THANK YOU'S

As you know, we have no paid staff, so it's up to our volunteers to keep the museum running smoothly. We just can't thank everyone enough who pitches in any time we ask for help, including our Board members and all of our docents. We also thank our technical support & security coordinator, Jack Kellogg, as well as the City of Bella Vista for its continued financial support, and the POA for their seasonal mowing and printing our newsletter for those members who want it mailed to them. Our thanks goes also to the Democrat Gazette and the Weekly Vista for continuing to publish information about museum events. And we thank...

--Shelly Fredrick, Bella Vista Police Dept Community Outreach Officer, for the donation of a former City flag, and the Work Detail Team from the Benton County Jail under the direction of Deputy Tom Hall for hanging the flag for us.

--Susan Visser for her ongoing donation of Ron Ruby's groundskeeping services.

--Pat and Mark Kirby for the donation of fairy lamps to sell in our gift shop.

--Deborah Lukotch for representing us at the BV Business Association meetings.

--Co-Treasurer Gina Kietzmann for the extra hours she has been putting in to help us while Co-Treasurer Virginia Reynolds dealt with her husband Gary's illness and passing.

--Mr. and Mrs. Don Henderson for their donation of the framed BV montage.

--Chari Bouse for her donation of the Native American flute.

--Kim French Lake for her donation of her dad's (H.O. French Jr) sweater from the 1970s.

--Mark Nelson and the POA Grounds/Maintenance crew for their annual trimming and bagging of our liriopo.

We apologize for anyone we overlooked but please know that we are grateful for everyone's donations and support.

Our thanks also to Rose Hofer who has donated a number of items to the museum, the most recent being this antique carpenter's square. Her note with it reads, "Belonged to Elmer J. Longley (1884 – 1959), a farmer of Mercer County, Illinois. His father was the first white baby born in Mercer County." The square is believed to be from the 1880s and was manufactured by H.S.B. & Co. of Chicago.



**• 1882 Hibbard, Spencer, Bartlett & Co. \* A.C. Bartlett joined the firm William Hibbard - President; Franklin Spencer - Vice President; A.C. Bartlett - Secretary**

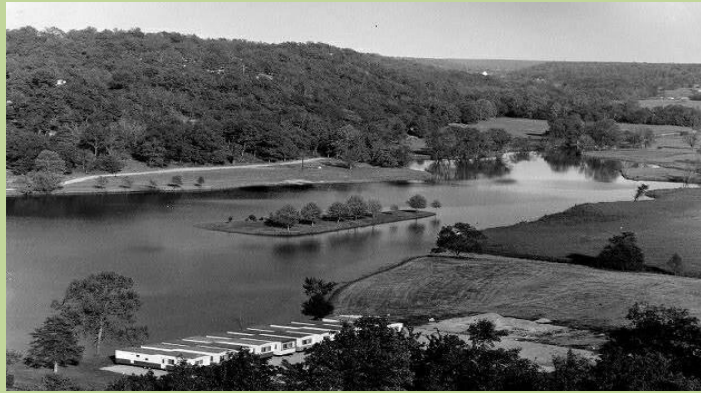


**Plaque of William Gold Hibbard 1826-1903, Franklin Fayette Spencer 1817-1890, and Adolphus Clay Bartlett 1845-1922**

Source: [www.madeinchicagomuseum.com/single-post/hibbard-spencer-bartlett/](http://www.madeinchicagomuseum.com/single-post/hibbard-spencer-bartlett/)

## SIXTY YEARS AGO

Cooper Communities staff were very busy in March 1966. That was when they moved the 200 mobile homes they had purchased up into the hills on the east side of Lake Bella Vista for overnight guests who were potential lot or home buyers, as there were few motels nearby. This picture shows some of the homes parked along the west side of the lake prior to being towed up the hill.



Cooper bought a pair of palomino mules and a covered wagon for a 20-day tour to multiple cities around Arkansas to publicize the new Bella Vista Village that had opened the year before. Ed Bolain, who lived on a farm on the eastern edge of Bella Vista, was hired to be the wagon driver for the tour. The planning was finished in March 1966, and Ed and the mules left Bella Vista on April 3. This picture shows them crossing the dam at Lake Bella Vista upon their return on April 23, after traveling 316 miles.



\*\*\*\*\*

## WEATHER

We had very few cold days this winter in Bella Vista, just enough snow to close the museum only one weekend, January 24-25. At the other extreme, we saw highs some days that broke records. A most unusual winter!

Jason Petersen of Petersen Lawn Service and his family cleared our parking lot and sidewalks for us. We really appreciate their service. (Photo courtesy of Jason Petersen)



This man and his dog were enjoying the warm weather on the water at Lake Ann on Feb. 9.



## MEMBERSHIP

### DUES REMINDER

**PLEASE NOTE, UNLESS YOU HAVE RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP SINCE OCTOBER 1, IT IS NOW DUE FOR 2026.**

New members are always welcome! Membership in the Bella Vista Historical Society, which operates the museum, is on a calendar year basis. So if you haven't already renewed for 2026, please do so now.

We appreciate your past support and hope you will continue to be a member with us. You may mail your check to us or, when we are open, stop by in person to pay by check or card. **NOTE:** We also now offer the option of paying online at our website [www.bellavistamuseum.org](http://www.bellavistamuseum.org).

By becoming a member, you support the preservation of Bella Vista's rich and unique history, and help us educate the public. Benefits include receipt of our quarterly newsletter and an invitation to our annual membership meeting usually held each March. Our newsletter is available by email or snail mail, but of course we would prefer to have your email address so that we can avoid printing and mailing costs. If you don't have email however, we will mail our newsletter to your home address. We have no paid staff so all revenue, including membership dues and donations, is applied to our general operating expenses unless a particular project is specified. We very much appreciate the financial support we receive from the City of Bella Vista, which helps us pay for major operational expenses, but we still need your individual membership dues and donations to help us continue to improve the museum in every way we possibly can. Thank you!

Bella Vista Historical Society  
1885 Bella Vista Way  
Bella Vista, AR 72714

(479) 855-2335  
[www.bellavistamuseum.org](http://www.bellavistamuseum.org)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Fee:  
Individual \$15 \_\_\_\_\_  
Family \$25 \_\_\_\_\_  
Corporate \$50 \_\_\_\_\_

Donations in excess of your membership dues are very welcome also.

The Bella Vista Historical Society is a 501(c)3 organization and donations qualify as tax deductible.

Thank you for your support!