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 inspire, equip, and empower communities and regions to become vibrant and sustainable in a rapidly changing world.

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**Forging A Future: Reclaiming Agricultural Spaces Through Innovations**

Recently, Emily Smith traveled to the Netherlands and Belgium with LeadAR Class 18 on their
International Studies Tour. This abroad adventure calls on participants to apply the complex social, culture, and economic dynamics evident Arkansas to a global scale. She learned a lot but was particularly struck by the different agricultural spaces in the Netherlands and their ability to reclaim these spaces through innovative techniques.

Read the full blog article here.

**Baxter County Forward and Growing Corning Together Receive State Awards**

Congratulations to Baxter County Forward and Growing Corning Together for receiving the 2019 Innovative Community Development Awards from the Arkansas Community Development Society for communities with a population of 10,000 to 50,000 and for communities with less than 10,000.

Read the full blog article here.

**Ed Levy Receives Arkansas Community Development Society Award**

Congratulations to Ed Levy, Director of Architecture with Cromwell Architects Engineers for receiving the 2019 Community Development Achievement Award.
Fairfield Bay to Undertake Planning for the Future

Congratulations to community leaders of Fairfield Bay, who recently committed to launch a strategic action planning process to ensure a vibrant and sustainable future for the community.

Initiated by the Fairfield Bay 2035 Team, representatives from several organizations were invited to a meeting on Oct. 11, 2019, to discuss how best to plan for the future.

Baxter County Forward Addresses Downtown Revitalization

“We want to re-establish downtown Mountain Home as the heart of our community and become a destination” was the major theme that emerged from a meeting to explore the revitalization of
downtown Mountain Home on October 3. At that meeting, key leaders from Mountain Home and Baxter County Forward met with Ed Levy and Josh Danish with Breakthrough Solutions Partner Cromwell Architects Engineers to explore opportunities to revitalize downtown Mountain Home.

See the rest of the article here.

Video of the Month: Moving Manila Forward Shapes the Future of its Community

Concerned about the sustainability of the local airport and the many vacant buildings in downtown Manila AR (pop. 3,278), in early 2017 the Manila pilots’ association expressed these concerns to Mississippi County Extension Chairman Ray Benson. This led to the formation of Moving Manila Forward that has involved 290 citizens, drawn over 3,000 people to downtown events, created a farmers’ market with 60 vendors and over 600 people, supported the building of 30 new homes in the community, and procured a $510,000 grant to build an airport hangar.

You can see the video here.

Story of the Month – The Secret to Living is Giving

Mike and Nick Fiorito are social entrepreneurs from Brooklyn, N.Y., and the Founders of Blankets of Hope, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that partners with schools to deliver blankets and handwritten notes to the homeless. In just
three years, they have delivered over 11,000 Blankets of Hope and have
crowdfunded over $75,000 using social media.

To see this incredible story, go here.

Quote of the Month

“June 29, 2007 was the day that the world changed. It was the day that the
iphone came out. Now people can rate you as you talk at an event.”

-Dennis Fraise, Keynote speaker at the 2019 Arkansas Community
Development Society Conference

Coming Events

November 6: Arkansas State Chamber / AIA 91st Annual Meeting in Little
Rock.

Go here for more information.

November 7-8: Greater Delta Region Conference, Little Rock, with a focus on
infrastructure issues, housing, water programs, broadband, and jobs.

Go here for more information.

More About Breakthrough Solutions:
Recipient of the Outstanding Program Award and Innovative Program Award by the
international Community Development Society, and other awards Breakthrough
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Arkansas Community Development Society
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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