

Northwest Arkansas Oral History Project
 Frank E. Anderson Interview Abstract
 September 21, 2018

Interviewee	Frank Anderson
Year of birth	1937
Place of birth	Des Moines, Polk County, Iowa
Interviewer	Susan Porter
Interview date	2018-09-21
Interview location	Anderson home; Bella Vista, Benton County, Arkansas
Keywords	Anderson, Frank Highfill, John D. Wilms, Jane Porter, Susan Cooper Communities Inc. Property Owners' Association; Bella Vista, Benton County, Arkansas U.S. Air Force pilots Bella Vista, Benton County, Arkansas City government Military Politics Volunteerism
Description	<p>For Frank Anderson service, both military and community, has been an integral part of his adult life. Born in Des Moines Iowa in 1937, Anderson grew up and went to college in Omaha. Graduating with a degree in accounting, Anderson, joined the Air Force serving for 28 years at bases from Morocco, to Washington DC, to Omaha.</p> <p>In 1988, he and his wife moved to Bella Vista looking forward to days playing golf and being closer to family. Within a few years, his desire to contribute to the Bella Vista community led him to join (and later chair) the Bella Vista Property Owners Association's (POA) Golf Committee. Next he was elected to (and would chair) the POA Board. Anderson describes accomplishments of his six years on the POA Board as: passage of the first two-tiered assessment; addition of an 18-hole golf course; good personnel hires; and putting the water department fees on stronger financial footing.</p> <p>Anderson left the POA Board, but not community service. He shares first-hand details of how he became involved with J.D Highfill and the successful campaign to incorporate Bella Vista. These memories include time spent working with the State Legislature; creation of a plan to get a future city running; meetings with residents to sell the plan; and finally, the decision to run for Mayor. He was a bit surprised at the outcome of the election, but ready to take on the opportunity. Anderson got to work with other election winners, the POA, and Cooper</p>

	<p>Communities Inc. to be ready for January 1, 2007. That was day one of the new city. He and City Clerk/Treasurer, Jane Wilms, visited small cities to get budget ideas; planned with Cooper to procure space and equipment, worked with the incoming council members to write ordinances while cooperating with the POA for the transition of the police, fire, and street, library and dog-catcher departments. For 8 years he served as Mayor.</p> <p>Anderson concludes the interview with thoughts about the future of Bella Vista. Calling it 'a little murky', he sees the community growing less a retirement city and more a bedroom community. He comments on the quality and commitment of those who continue to serve both the City and POA noting the challenges they face including economic development, funding, and volunteerism.</p>
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Questions or Comments	https://nwaoralhistory.org
Interview sidebar	<p>When asked about his community service activities, Anderson says that while in the Air Force there was not a lot of time for community service; he was not in one place long enough. So [after moving to Bella Vista] 'decided I probably owed the community something...I started simply with the Golf Committee. [00:05:20]</p>