

Brookland News

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July 2021

From the Mayor's Desk:

As I write this, July 4, 2021 is just a few days away. As families come together and try to put 2020 in the rearview mirror, please remember to be safe and continue to practice social distancing, if in a crowd.

On June 8, 2021 the City of Brookland took to you, the citizens the opportunity to re-work the 2016 bond issue. All items on the ballot passed unanimously. This amendment allowed the city the opportunity to work on three projects, which include three new parks, sewer line extensions and a new city hall/police department building.

This will allow us to begin development on new parks at the corner of Nelms/E Matthews and Smith/N Bernis this year. Also in the plan is the sports plex, which will contain a 4-ball field complex that will be located on W School Street on 50 acres west of Whitten Creek Apartments. The sports plex will have a walking trail w/exercise equipment located around it, a small park with basketball court, and more. All are still in the preliminary design stage. By amending the bond, Brookland now has opportunity to apply for a matching park grant with out taking funds away from other projects. Watch our website, which will soon feature a parks committee page for meeting announcements, etc. The public is invited to attend and give ideas of what you would like to see in the parks.

Also approved were a sewer improvement project and new city hall/police station. I want to thank everyone that came out and voted. Some of our roads deteriorated after the freeze and snow in February. We have finally received

some bids for street projects, and hopefully Atlas Asphalt will begin work soon.

We recently received an email from ARDOT about the sidewalk that will be placed on the west side of Holman Street (HWY 49B). It appears the funding has been requested from the federal agency and ARDOT has given the city the okay to bid out the project.

The American Rescue Plan Act is federal money to help cities with revenue loss during COVID-19. We are working with the Arkansas Municipal League on when this funding will be available and what it can be used on. Brookland has submitted the initial paperwork with Arkansas Department of Finance to start the process to receive our portion of the funding distribution. We will keep you updated.

The construction of First Community Bank is coming along. Due to setbacks related to Covid-19 and the weather, they like others have not been able to receive items they need to move forward. You noticed windows being put in and finally doors are being installed.

Everyone has been asking what is being built west of the bank. It is a strip mall and car wash. The developer is also waiting on delivery of items to move forward. Delivery of product is hurting everyone. Increased cost has slowed construction of houses down some.

To give an update on Hwy 49 and School Street Intersection, Fisher Arnold Engineering did a traffic study on HWY 49 and School Street. After compiling the study information, Fisher Arnold developed a scenario of different design ideas. This study has been submitted to ARDOT for

consideration. We are awaiting feedback on submittal from ARDOT.

Summertime is here. It is getting hotter every day. Humidity is high. Let us remember to check on our neighbors and pets. If you have a concern or have not seen your neighbor in a day or even several hours, we might need to do a welfare check on them. If you have this concern, you can call the non-emergency police dispatch phone number (870) 935-5552 and ask for a Brookland Officer to make a welfare check. You may also call city hall during business hours, and give us their address and we will send an officer to check on them.

Let us all remember to drive the speed limit on our city streets. Pay attention to your surroundings because we have more citizens walking, jogging, and riding bicycles on our street. Nothing is worth the life of another citizen! God Bless and Have a Safe Summer.

Mayor Jones



*Have a Safe and
Happy 4th of July
Holiday!*



Fireworks Ordinance Reminder

Fireworks may be discharged between the hours of 10 am & 10 pm on June 29, June 30, July 1, July 2, July 3, and July 5. Fireworks may be

discharged between the hours of 10am and will be extended until 12:30am (of the following day) on July 4.



UPDATE FROM DEDMAN'S SANITATION REGARDING DISPOSAL OF YARD WASTE:

Dedman's Sanitation wants to remind residents about not putting yard waste in their trash carts. State law prohibits yard waste disposal at the solid waste management facility.

The City of Brookland's MS-4 Stormwater Permit, issued by ADEQ, prohibits grass clippings from being placed in city ditches.

Residents can contact the Jonesboro City Incinerator at 870-932-7520 for their hours and fees, to haul the grass clippings to their site at 2650 Lacy Dr.



MOSQUITO CONTROL INFORMATION

Any resident with comments and concerns regarding mosquito control are always welcomed and encouraged to contact Vector. At any time should you need our services you are encouraged to call our office at 870-933-6939 or call City hall here in Brookland and they will contact us on your behalf.

Have a Blessed Day!

Jim Stark

VDCI
Regional Contract Supervisor
Vector Disease Control International

SWIMMING POOL REGULATIONS

This is a reminder that Ordinance 2008-17 requires that all swimming pools, 15" or more in depth, have a fence of not less than four feet in height. Said enclosure shall be a minimum of four feet from any edge of the pool. A copy of this ordinance can be obtained at City Hall.



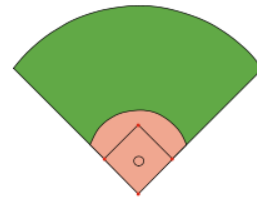
Info from the Brookland Parks Committee:

With the restructuring of the bonds, the future is even brighter for Brookland. This bond will allow Brookland to build a baseball sports complex that will include multiple baseball fields, a walking trail, and park. This bond will also allow for the building of two additional parks. One park will be located at Nelms & E Matthews, and the other will be at Bernis & Smith. The Parks Committee would like for the community to reach out

and share your ideas on what you would like to see at the complex and both parks. We can be reached by email at brooklandparkscommittee@gmail.com, on our Facebook page "Friends of Brookland", or come to our meetings that are held the 3rd Thursday of every month at 6pm. Our next meeting will be held on July 19th.

We are excited for what is to come, and we want you, to be excited with us.

David Loggins,
Parks Committee Chairman



RECYCLE!

The following residents' names were drawn and they won \$25 in the Bluebag Recycle Program sponsored by the City of Brookland. The following items can be recycled: all metal cans, all colors of glass and all grades of plastics. Everything goes in the same bag together. Bluebags are available at City Hall. Just fill out the attached tag and your name will be entered in the weekly drawing. Citizens who live in the county and bring their blue bags to put them in the recycle

trailer need to remove the name tags and bring them into City Hall or leave them in the drop box.

Bluebag Winners:

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- 04/02/21 - Jeanette Gambill
- 04/09/21 - Kathy Ferguson
- 04/16/21 - Jevonna Luna
- 04/23/21 - Kim Ford
- 04/30/21 - Nelda Milburn
- 05/07/21 - Morgan Peterson
- 05/14/21 - Crystal Shepherd
- 05/21/21 - Jerry Eldridge
- 05/28/21 - David McHalfey
- 06/04/21 - Donald Forehand
- 06/11/21 - Betty Cheshier
- 06/18/21 -- Susannah Abshier
- 06/25/21 - Pam Ross

Community Calendar:

July



07/04 - Happy Independence Day!

07/04 - Special 4th of July service at New Antioch Baptist Church @ 11:00 am. Lunch to follow.

07/05 - City offices closed for Independence Day Holiday

07/06 - Planning Commission Meeting 7:00 pm @ City Hall

07/12 - City Council Meeting 7:00 pm @ City Hall

07/19 - Parks Committee Meeting @ 6:00 pm @ City Hall

August



08/03 - Planning Commission Meeting 7:00 pm @ City Hall

08/09 - City Council Meeting 7:00 pm @ City Hall

08/19 - Parks Committee Meeting 6:00pm @ City Hall

September



09/06 - City Offices closed for Labor Day Holiday

09/07- Planning Commission Meeting 6:00 pm @ City Hall

09/12-15 - "In Times" Bible Conference at New Antioch Baptist Church 6:30pm

09/13 - City Council Meeting 7:00 pm @ City Hall

09/16 - Parks Committee Meeting 6:00pm @ City Hall

09/19 - Homecoming Service at New Antioch Baptist Church @ 11:00am with lunch to follow.

been paid. Please contact city hall at (870)935-0538 and provide your e-mail if you would like to receive notifications.

Tim Harrington
Water/Wastewater Supt.



DANGEROUS HEAT ADVISORY TIPS FOR OUTSIDE DOGS

Hundreds of pets will die of heatstroke this year - don't let it be yours.

1. Be sure your pet has a shaded area all day long. Dogs cannot get cool in their dog houses.
2. Be sure your pet has cool water located in the shade all day long - consider changing it out 3 or 4 times a day.
3. Consider putting a kid's swimming pool with a couple of inches of water in the shaded area with the dog.
4. Take a 2 liter bottle, fill it 3/4 with water, add a few dog kibbles and freeze it. When frozen cut the plastic from around the ice and put the ice in a pan, in the water bowl or in the swimming pool.
5. Don't take your pet with you in your vehicle, especially in the back of a truck - the metal can burn their feet.
6. Be sure your pet has something other than concrete to lie on. Don't take them for walks. Concrete or asphalt can actually burn their feet.



Brookland Utilities Update:

This is a reminder that our radio-read water meters provide utility employees with a great deal of information, and allow us to notify customers in the event that there is high usage or continual low usage. During the process of trying to contact customers, we have found that a lot of the phone numbers are no longer working numbers. Several residents have switched from landlines to cell phones, but have not updated their phone numbers. If you would like to have your phone number updated in our system, please write your phone number on the bill stub when you make your next payment, or call and let us know what the correct phone number is.

We also have a system to send e-mail and/or texts to remind customers that their bills haven't

BEST WAY TO PROTECT THEM FROM THE HEAT IS TO BRING YOUR PETS INSIDE. Put them in a crate or behind a baby gate until the weather cools.



Holiday Closing
City offices will be closed Monday-July 5th in observance of Independence Day Holiday



20th Annual Brookland Christmas Parade

If the Covid-19 numbers continue to stay low, the date of the Brookland Christmas Parade is scheduled for the first Sunday in December. The 20th Annual Brookland Christmas Parade will be Sunday, December 5, 2021 at 2:00pm. The 2021 Theme will be "Christmas Classics-Reminiscing 20 years". Mark the date on your calendars!



Spring Showers bring.....Stormwater Runoff Issues

✓What is stormwater run off?

Stormwater runoff is rainfall that flows over the ground surface. It is created when rain falls on roads, driveways, parking lots, rooftops and other paved surfaces that do not allow water to soak into the ground. Stormwater runoff is the number one cause of stream impairment in municipal areas. Where rain falls on paved surfaces, a much greater amount of runoff is generated compared to runoff from the same storm falling over a grassy area. These large volumes of water are swiftly carried to local streams, lakes, wetlands and rivers and can cause flooding and erosion, and can also wash away important habitat for living things that exist in the stream. Stormwater runoff...picks up and carries with it many different pollutants that are found on paved surfaces such as sediment, nitrogen, phosphorus, bacteria, oil and grease, trash, pesticides and metals.

These pollutants come from a variety of sources, including pet waste, lawn fertilization, vehicles, construction sites, illegal dumping sites and spills, and pesticide application. Researchers have found that as the amount of paved surfaces increases, stream health declines.

✓Preventing stormwater pollution

Pollution is a problem, but YOU can be the solution! Here are a few suggestions to prevent stormwater pollution:

- 1) Don't dump waste, including organic material such as leaves and grass clippings, in storm drains.
- 2) Inspect and maintain your car to prevent oil and antifreeze leaks.
- 3) Dispose of house hold chemicals properly.
- 4) Use kitty litter to clean up leaks and spills. Never hose spills into the gutter.
- 5) Buy household and garden products that are environmentally safe.
- 6) Don't apply lawn or garden products when rain is forecasted.
- 7) "Scoop the poop" by discarding pet waste in the garbage or flushing down the toilet.

✚ UPCOMING EVENTS: ✚
New Antioch Baptist Church
429 CR 950-Goobertown

New Antioch Baptist Church, located at 419 County Road 960, Brookland, will have a special 4th of July service at 11:00 am on July 4th with lunch to follow. Everyone is invited. Dr. Mike Routon will be leading a "In Times" Bible Conference September 12 - 15 at 6:30 every evening. Please come. Our Church Homecoming will be Sunday, September 19th at 11:00 am with lunch to follow.