

# Brookland News

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*January 2026*

*From the Mayor's Desk:*

I pray everyone had a Merry Christmas and a great start to the New Year.

This has been very warm start to winter. As Arkansas weather tries to change seasons, it can create situations that can cause thunderstorms. Some can even become severe. During these weather events, keep your weather apps on to stay informed. In August of 2025, the city applied for a Community Assistance Grant Program. We found out on Monday, January 5, 2026, that Brookland was not selected to receive this funding. The grant would have allowed us to complete the sports complex on West School Street.

Phases 2 and 3 are getting ready to start for the Holman sidewalk projects. These two projects will complete the sidewalk from Stevens Street to Jessica Lane. Phase 4 has been selected by ARDOT and will move to the next phase of their program. Phase 5 has been submitted, and if selected it will complete the sidewalk project to Whispering Hills Subdivision entrance. This will give citizens the

opportunity to walk along Holman Street safely.

The municipal building project Phase 1, which will house the Brookland Police Department, is moving along. The projected date is the end of February 2026 for it to be completed. Street overlays with the help of State Street Aid money are scheduled for 2028. These streets include Shirley, S Oak, W Hinkley, E Hinkley, Eason between Maple Slough Ditch Bridge and E Matthews, and streets in the Northern Heights Subdivision. Street department workers have already begun work to change out culverts, improve drainage, and plan on widening streets that are narrow.

We are continuing to work with ARDOT on HWY 49 and School Street and HWY 49 and Pine Log Rd. intersection improvements. The Pine Log Rd. intersection is scheduled for late 2027, and the School Street intersection is scheduled for 2028. Brookland Utilities applied for and was awarded a \$500k grant to the Delta Regional Authority Grant Program. This grant will be used to improve the headworks at the

Brookland Sanitary Sewer Plant. Our treatment plant is permitted for 500k gallons of treatable wastewater daily. We currently treat around 190k daily. Expanding the headworks at the plant will enable us to move more sewer water to the treatment plant.

Brookland had been trying to get approval to move the unused money from the grant received to clean Maple Slough Ditch. These funds will be used to start working on the ditch that runs through the Northern Heights subdivision. Work began in December from Holman to Christy and Phase 2 will be from Christy to Teresa Drive. Brookland Schools new building is moving forward. I talked with Superintendent Kennedy, the plan is to be in the new building at the start of the school year 2026. We are very excited about the completion of the building. Its location should enable us to look at different traffic patterns that should be helpful.

We have several new businesses under construction with more businesses looking at different locations around the city.

Cold weather is going to be here soon. Let's review the tips below, take necessary precautions and be safe when it happens.

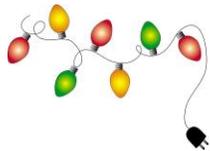
Sincerely,

*Mayor Jones*



### Winter Tips

Once again, winter is upon us. Just a few tips to help you through the cold: 1) Keep your cabinet doors open on cold nights to help keep your pipes from freezing. 2) Have someone check the antifreeze in your car. 3) Care for your animals outside.



Christmas Light Contest Winners:

The judging of the annual residential Christmas light contest for city residents was held December 15. Charles Haire at 123 Janis Dr. was the first-place winner and received the \$100 prize. Marion Glenn at 803 N Holman was the second-place winner was awarded the \$75 prize.

Summer Maxwell at 307 W. School Street won the \$50 third place prize.

Thanks to everyone in the community who decorated their homes for the holidays.

### City Calendar:

#### January



01/01/26 - City Offices Closed - New Year Holiday

01/06 - Planning Commission meeting @ 7:00 pm

01/13 - City Council meeting @ 7:00 pm

01/19 - City Offices Closed - MLK Holiday

#### February



02/03- Planning Commission meeting @ 7:00 pm

02/10 - City Council meeting @ 7:00 pm

02/13 - Make A Wish; Have-A-Heart Wish-A-Thon

02/16 - City Offices Closed - President's Day Holiday



#### March



03/03 - Planning Commission meeting @ 7:00 pm

03/10 - City Council meeting @ 7:00 pm

**REMINDER TO BUSINESS OWNERS: 2026 Privilege License are due February 28.**

### Urbanization and Stormwater Runoff

Stormwater runoff is generated from rain and snowmelt that flows over land or impervious surfaces, such as paved streets, parking lots, and building rooftops, and does not soak into the ground. Runoff can pick up and deposit harmful pollutants like trash, chemicals, and dirt/sediment into streams, lakes, and groundwater. Construction sites, lawns, improperly stored hazardous wastes, and illegal dumping are all potential sources of stormwater pollutants. To protect water resources, communities can employ management practices to control stormwater and prevent pollution at its source.

- [Public education and outreach](#) with homeowners and businesses on topics such as proper use and storage of household toxic materials, equipment maintenance practices, and responsible lawn care and landscaping helps prevent pollution.

- [Erosion and sediment control measures](#) help prevent sediment, chemicals, and nutrients from washing off construction sites.
- [Land use controls and/or incentives](#) restrain certain activities within a defined area, such as a source water protection area, or encourage certain land uses or best management practices. Local government officials can use subdivision growth controls zoning ordinances, overlay districts and other land use controls to limit impervious surfaces, encourage open space, impose runoff-efficient site design standards, locate high risk activities away from drinking water sources, or facilitate cluster development to reduce runoff.
- [Low Impact Development \(LID\) and green infrastructure](#) systems and practices that preserve or use natural landscape features and processes temporarily slow down, detain, or filter contaminants from stormwater. Examples include bioretention facilities, rain gardens vegetated rooftops, buffer strips, forested areas, grassed waterways, constructed wetlands, rain barrels and permeable pavements. Natural areas

preserved through LID can also provide important habitat, flood protection, and access to open space.

The most effective stormwater pollution prevention plans combine these measures and reflect local soil, precipitation, and land use conditions.

EPA's [National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System \(NPDES\)](#) Permitting Program regulates stormwater runoff from municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s), industrial activities, and construction activities. Operators of these sources might be required to obtain an NPDES permit before they can discharge stormwater. This permitting mechanism is designed to prevent stormwater runoff from washing harmful pollutants into local surface waters.

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