

From the Mayor's Desk;

March was a very active month for severe weather. As we move into April, mother nature does not seem to be letting up. Our severe weather forecast for Wednesday, April 2, could be the highest threat level for a possible tornado this year. Then we have to deal with the projected potential of torrential rain through the weekend. With a projected rain forecast of 1 to 2 inches a day, with Sunday projected possibility of 2 to 3 inches, we are working to be prepared for this event. City workers will be out trying to keep culverts clear, and debris from clogging up ditches. We are asking all the citizens to help us by picking up anything in your yard that will float from the stormwater run off and potentially stop up culverts. This includes branches, landscaping wood, building materials and toys. Thank you in advance for your help.

We have a lot of things going on in the city. Let's talk about the two inner-city parks. They are finally open and they are being used. We still have a little work going on around both parks but they are open. Please come out and let your children enjoy the playground and walking trails. Smith & Bernis Street Park has exercise equipment along the walking trail.

The sidewalk along Holman is moving forward and work

should begin soon. Once the approved four phases are completed, it will extend north to Cotton Lane. The final phase has been applied for and if approved, will complete the project to Whispering Hills.

Our state aid overlay projects are scheduled for late summer. N Oak is one of the streets scheduled for overlay. We have requested this street be completed before school starts back for the 2025-2026 school year.

I hope everyone has had a chance to go by and look at the Brookland Mural on the south wall of the future Brookland Museum. This mural was done by the Brookland Art Students. Art teacher, Mrs. Carrie Hatton, and her students did a great job on the mural. The north wall of the building where the Brookland Library is located, and the two walls on the storm shelter are scheduled to be painted after the school starts this fall.

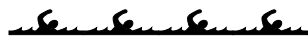
Brookland School has broken ground on their new building that will be located on Dixie Road (HWY230). This addition is scheduled for completion in 2026.

There are currently two strip malls being built and five lots south of Jordan's/Taco Bell have sold. We know for sure that Herren Tire Service will be building on one of the lots. Directly behind this location on the west side of Maple Slough Ditch, another lot has

also sold. These new developments along with the subdivisions being built is positive growth for our city. As you can see, we are very busy with all that the City of Brookland has going on. While this is a very exciting time, we must remember with spring and summer seasons residents must stay alert while driving. Families and children will be outside playing, walking and riding bicycles. Please watch your speed by obeying the speed limits and watch for anyone outside.

I pray everyone has a safe and joyful spring and summer.

Mayor Jones



**SWIMMING POOL
REGULATIONS**

The weather is getting warmer and everyone is starting to think about filling their pools for the summer.

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 or viewed on the Ordinances page of the city website (cityofbrookland.com). If there are questions concerning the installation of a pool, please contact our inspection department.

Brookland
☛ Storm Shelter ☛
is located at 407
Holman, beside
Brookland Police
Department

**Mowing around
your Water Meter
Reminder:**

Brookland Utilities wants to remind everyone to pay attention to your water meters as you start mowing your yards this spring, and if you utilize a lawn service, make sure that they are also aware of the location of your water meter.

Brookland Utilities has radio-read water meters, and they sometimes sit up higher than the older style, and running a lawn mower over the top of them with the deck too low can damage the radio, cord, meter box and/or other meter components.

The City Council enacted Ordinance 2016-02, which states that repairs to damaged water meters is the responsibility of the owner/occupant. The repair/replacement costs are based on our current cost and can increase monthly. Property owners will be invoiced for the repair or replacement to the damaged meter components. Remember to check your yard after it is mowed, and immediately report any meter damage to the lawn care provider. (A copy of this ordinance can be viewed on the city website cityofbrookland.com.)

The office will receive an alarm notification when the meter is not communicating with the billing software, and city workers will notify residents of any damage that is found.

Please be proactive and inform your mowing service of the

location of your meter box, when you hire them; so they won't damage the meter while mowing your yard.



**Fireworks Ordinance
Reminder**

Fireworks may be discharged between the hours of 10am & 10pm 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.



**INFORMATION REGARDING
DISPOSAL OF YARD WASTE AND
LARGE ITEMS:**

Residents may haul large items, such as tires, mattresses, electronic waste, furniture or appliances to Legacy Landfill which is located at 238 County Road 476, Jonesboro, AR. Their phone number is (870)972-6353 to obtain more information on dumping fees. Another location is the Lake City Transfer Station, which is located at 12662 Highway 18 E., Lake City, AR. Their phone number is (870)237-8194

Residents may also contact Dedman's Sanitation to schedule a special trash pickup and find out the cost to have items picked up at (870)781-3754. This fee will be added to the monthly utility bill.

Shrub clippings, leaves and other yard waste may be

hauled to the Jonesboro Yard Waste Incinerator located at 2650 Lacy Drive, Jonesboro. Contact their office at (870)932-7520 for hours and fees.



Community Calendar:



04/01 – Planning Commission Meeting at 7pm

04/02 - Noon deadline for City Council Agenda

04/08 – City Council Meeting at 7pm

04/30 - Noon deadline for Planning Commission agenda



05/06 – Planning Commission meeting at 7pm

05/07 - Noon deadline for City Council agenda

05/11 – Happy Mother's Day!

05/13 – City Council meeting at 7pm

05/26 – City offices will be closed for Memorial Day holiday

05/28 - Noon deadline for Planning Commission agenda



06/03 – Planning Commission meeting at 7pm

06/04 - Noon deadline for City Council agenda

06/10 – City Council meeting at 7pm

06/15 – Happy Father’s Day!

06/25 - Noon deadline for Planning Commission Agenda

Residential Stormwater Management

What is residential stormwater management and why is it important?

The quantity and quality of stormwater runoff from residential areas collectively poses a great threat to our waters. Large impervious surfaces such as roofs, driveways and parking areas prevent rain from being distributed evenly across the ground. Instead the water is concentrated into channels and other drainages where it can easily increase in force and velocity if the drainage path is too steep and is also impervious. As rainwater passes over impervious surfaces, it picks up sediment and other particles, nutrients, pathogens and chemical pollutants that cause pollution. Anything that enters a storm sewer system or that flows from your residence directly to a nearby stream or

lake is left untreated. Although it seems like a small thing when considering one individual house or lot, polluted stormwater runoff from all of our residential areas collectively poses a great threat to our waters. There are many things that we as individual landowners can do to protect the environment and improve water quality by managing stormwater runoff in our neighborhoods. Even if you don’t live at the water’s edge, reducing stormwater volumes and helping infiltrate stormwater into the ground benefits the whole watershed.

How can one reduce stormwater runoff from residential property? Here are some ways to reduce the quantity of stormwater runoff and in many cases improve stormwater quality as well.

⇒ Capture water from a downspout in a rain barrel or cistern. Rain barrels are a cost effective way to reduce stormwater runoff near its source and to catch the “first flush” of stormwater from your roof. Rain barrels also provide a source of irrigation water for use in gardening or lawn maintenance. A rain barrel is typically a 50 to 80-gallon plastic vessel that is attached to a roof downspout. Homemade rain barrels can be easily constructed at a cost of approximately \$60 per barrel or purchased as a unit at a cost of approximately \$125 per barrel.

⇒ Direct other downspouts away from pavement and toward grassy, mulched or planted areas. You can attach

a perforated plastic “French drain” pipe and bury it in order cross a stretch of lawn with the drainage. If you don’t have gutters, dig a 3-6 inch deep infiltration trench under the drip line and fill it with gravel to decrease erosion as well as standing water.

⇒ Use a broom instead of a hose to remove plant debris and soil from your driveway.

⇒ Reduce the size of impervious paved driveways, walkways, parking areas and patios. As repairs are needed to parking areas and walking paths, consider using permeable paving such as interlocking pavers or gravel.

⇒ Instead of piping stormwater to a roadside ditch, install swales to carry stormwater runoff while moderating the concentration and flow of water leaving your property. Many swales are simply wide, shallow, vegetated depressions that are gently sloped and directed toward areas that can easily stand an influx of water; they are really nothing more than a grass-lined ditch.

⇒ Design new construction to allow water to soak in to the ground. Decks should be built with gaps between the boards, and bricks, concrete lattice pavers or stones should be used for paved areas.
