

Brookland News

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From the Mayor's Desk:

As I sat down to begin the 2nd quarter newsletter for 2022, I asked myself, "What do I write about? How do I stay upbeat about what is going on in Brookland?" We have so many things going on around the world right now that affects us here in Brookland.

One year ago, we could not fathom \$4.00 gas, or \$5.00 diesel, but it has happened. A 20-foot stick of 6-inch sewer or water pipe that we paid \$30 to \$35 dollars for; well, today that same 20-foot stick of pipe cost \$110 to \$125 dollars. Everyone's grocery bill has gone up also. Supply chains for products have not gotten any better in the last few months and I hear contractors that say they wait weeks or months, for items they have ordered. Then when they do get materials in, they can't find workers to complete job.

I try to keep our citizens informed on projects even when the news is not good. On June 8, 2021, the city went to you the voters and asked for an extension of the current 2% sales tax. 4.1 million was dedicated for a sports complex and two smaller parks. The city also applied for a matching grant of \$250k to help with two smaller parks, and was awarded a \$225,000.00 grant. However, the cost of everything from dirt work, drainage, roads, parking lots, etc., and playground equipment has skyrocketed. N Bernis & Smith and the E Matthews and Nelms parks are still on schedule to be completed this year.

The parks committee is continuing to design the sports complex. Once design is complete, the bidding process

will begin for the project. Decisions will be made based on cost numbers for sports complex once bids are received.

The First Community Bank Grand Opening was March 2, 2022. The weather was perfect and it was a great success. Over 400 people came out and enjoyed catfish and chicken, which was cooked by John 3:16 Ministries personnel. Desserts were furnished by Harp's Grocery store.

If you are wondering what the two new buildings being constructed north of Pine Log road on HWY 49 are, they are for the new Kubota Dealership. We worked diligently to keep this facility in our Brookland city limits. The original site for dealership was the land which housed the former Cotter Cox Seed Company on the south side of Busch Agricultural Resources. This location developed issues and when we were notified of the problem, we jumped into action and informed them of four other parcels to look at, and they chose the current location. Tentative opening date is June 1, 2022. We will keep you posted.

The Pre-Construction meeting has been completed and work will begin on the sidewalk along west side of Holman Street soon. The first phase will build a sidewalk from Anderson Street north to W. School St. Price increases have caused us to have to break this project in two phases.

The lowering of the Speed Limit on HWY 49, ½ mile north and south of the School Street intersection has helped to reduce the number of traffic accidents. Where police officers were working multiple accidents

around this intersection each week, it had been six weeks since the change and on March 21, 2022, the first accident was reported.

A signal has also been approved for Pine Log Road (CR 762) and HWY 49. Notification was received from ARDOT that the intersection met the criteria for federal and state assistance. Meeting the criteria will help with funding the installation of signal light. Thank You ARDOT!

As we move into summer Brookland is hiring an animal control/code enforcement officer. This officer will dedicate 100% of their time in animal control/code enforcement.

We look forward to 2022 even though it has not started out very well. High Covid-19 numbers, inflation, war, and hiring issues are a few of the problems the city faces. However, we must stay focused on goals that have been set for the city. Widening/Overlay of streets, drainage & ditch work, etc. Also, our streets are busier than ever. Obey the speed limits and stop signs. There are several children who ride their bikes, and several families who walk so please be mindful of their safety.

If you have a swimming pool, please read the article in this newsletter and make sure you are aware of the fence requirements.

If out and about with your pets, please remember to keep them on a leash.

Let's be safe and have a great spring and early summer.

Pray for our Country and Troops. and God Bless,

Mayor Jones



Brookland Utilities Online Bill Pay

This is just a reminder that Brookland Utilities (BU) has partnered with Nexbillpay to give residents the option to pay their bill by phone or online. There is a \$2 or 2.75% fee associated with online pay.

However, due to problems with receiving utility bills from post office in a timely manner, BU is encouraging residents to set up their accounts with Nexbillpay, so they can receive notification of the amount of the new bill each month by free text and/or email (standard message and data rates may apply). To sign up, each resident must have their account number. The online pay can be accessed through our website cityofbrookland.com. **Hopefully this will eliminate the water bill delivery issue.**

Customers do not have to actually pay their bills online, but having an account established allows them to receive electronic notification of the amount they owe. The phone number to call in your payment is 1-844-293-9814.

DOXO Bill Payment Warning:

Several customers have used a search engine, such as Google, to pay their bills online and often end up on the DOXO online payment website. **DO NOT USE DOXO TO PAY YOUR BU BILL!** The website appears to be affiliated with the water system or municipality, but it is not. "doxo.com" may charge extra or higher fees, and BU cannot control when our utility will receive payments from doxo.com, because they come in the form of a check. This could result in late payment fees or disconnection due to non-payment. Therefore, **BU**

advises customers to **ONLY** utilize the **ONLINE PAYMENT** link on our website for online bill pay.



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. 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.

The radio read meters that were installed in the summer of 2016, 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, and lists the fees that will be invoiced to repair the damaged 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.



RECYCLE & WIN!

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. Please remember to tie your bluebags before you place them in the trailer.

Newspapers, junk mail, old magazines and other paper products are to be placed in a separate bag and placed on the curb with your bluebag.

Corrugated cardboard boxes are to be flattened out and put in the green dumpster behind City Hall.

Bluebag Winners:

- 1/7/22 - David McHalfey
- 1/14/22 - Mary Barber
- 1/21/22 - Diane Powell
- 1/28/22 - Susannah Abshier
- 2/4/22 - Lance Loftin
- 2/11/22 - Frankie Loyd
- 2/18/22 - J D McHalfey
- 2/25/22 - Jevonna Luna
- 3/4/22 - Ann Cofield
- 3/11/22 - Patricia Kimble
- 3/18/22 - Karen Robles
- 3/25/22 - Barbara Dacus

Thanks for making Brookland a "GREENER" place to live.

Community Calendar:



04/05 – Planning Commission Meeting at 7pm

04/06 - Noon deadline for City Council Agenda

04/10 - Special Singing @ New Antioch Baptist Church at 6pm

04/11 – City Council Meeting at 7pm

04/16 - Community Easter Egg Hunt @ New Antioch Baptist Church at 10am

04/15 - City offices closed for Good Friday Holiday; utilize drop box, online and phone options to pay utility bills

04/17 - Easter Sunday

04/27 - Noon deadline for Planning Commission agenda



05/03 – Planning Commission meeting at 7pm

05/04 - Noon deadline for City Council agenda

05/08 – Happy Mother's Day!

05/09 – City Council meeting at 7pm

05/22-25 - Revival at New Antioch Baptist Church

05/30 – City offices will be closed for Memorial Day holiday



- 06/01 - Noon deadline for Planning Commission agenda
- 06/07 – Planning Commission meeting at 7pm
- 06/08 - Noon deadline for City Council agenda
- 06/13 – City Council meeting at 7pm
- 06/19 – Happy Father’s Day!
- 06/26-30 - VBS at New Antioch Baptist Church; 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm; Theme: "Spark Studio"
- 06/29 - Noon deadline for Planning Commission Agenda



***New Antioch
Baptist Church
429 CR 950-Goobertown

New Antioch Baptist Church will have a special singing on April 10th at 6:00pm. Ronnie and Mary Lou Warren will be singing and all are welcome to attend the free concert.

The Annual Community Egg Hunt will be Saturday, April 16th at 10:00 am. Everyone from the community is invited to attend.

May 22nd through May 25th, revival services will be held and Bro. Mark Forester is the evangelist.

Vacation Bible School will be June 26th through June 30th from 6:00pm until 8:30pm each evening. The theme is "Spark Studio", where kids learn that their creativity is a gift from God. There will be classes available

from Kindergarten through Youth.

Service times are: Sunday School at 10am; Worship at 11am. Sunday evening service at 6pm and Wednesday evening services begin at 6pm. There are classes available for every age.

Elmer Ash is the pastor and everyone in the community is invited to the above mentioned events. For more information and times of events, please call the church office at 870-972-0339, email at newantiochbc@gmail.com, or check them out on their Facebook page at New Antioch Baptist Church. The church website is newantiochbaptistchurch.com.



STORMWATER POLLUTION



What is stormwater?

Stormwater is rainfall or snowmelt that runs off surfaces such as roads, compacted ground surfaces and rooftops. As the stormwater runoff moves, it can pick up and carry away natural and man-made pollutants into lakes, rivers, wetlands, coastal waters and even our underground sources of drinking water. This is called nonpoint source pollution.

Sewer System vs. Storm Water Drain

Sewer systems and storm water drains are two different things. The water that goes down a sink or toilet flows into a wastewater treatment plant where it is treated and filtered. Water that flows down driveways and streets into a gutter is not treated and goes into a storm drain that flows directly to a lake, river or the ocean.

Pollutants Harm Our Water

We rely on clean water to drink, to support wildlife, to fill our

lakes and creeks and to wash up onto the shores of our beaches. Pollutants can contaminate clean drinking water sources, kill off local wildlife and close beaches, lakes and creeks.

Common Stormwater Pollutants

There are a variety of contaminants that can easily pollute our stormwater. Rain picks up oil and grit left on the roads; sprinklers wash pesticides, fertilizers and weed killers from our gardens and lawns; washing the car carries detergents, oils and grease from the driveway and into our waterways. Motor oil, antifreeze, pesticides, animal waste, soaps and detergents and yard debris are examples of stormwater pollutants.

Preventing Stormwater Pollution

Pollution is a problem but YOU can be the solution! There are many ways you can help prevent stormwater pollution.

- Don't dump waste, including organic material such as leaves and grass clippings in storm drains.
- Inspect and maintain your car to prevent oil and antifreeze leaks.
- Dispose of household chemicals properly.
- Take motor oil, antifreeze, oil based paint, paint thinner, varnishes and solvents to a recycling station.
- Use kitty litter to clean up leaks and spills. Never hose spills into the gutter.
- Buy household products that are environmentally safe.
- Do not apply lawn or garden products when rain is forecast.

- Avoid over-fertilizing your lawn by testing your soil first to find out how much nutrient it needs.
- "Scoop the poop" by discarding pet waste in the garbage.

Remember: ONLY RAIN DOWN THE STORM DRAIN.

First Community Bank - A NEW NEIGHBOR



On March 2, 2022 First Community Bank hosted the grand opening celebration for their newest location – Brookland, Arkansas! The Brookland branch opened on December 13, 2021, and they are excited to be a part of our growing community. The branch manager, Jamie Whitehead, makes clear the strong ties she and her coworkers have to Brookland: “I have a special interest in this community, and we are so proud to be a part of it. We’ve watched the area as it continues to grow, and we feel like it is an ideal place to

expand our footprint in the region.”

Those at the ribbon cutting ceremony were treated to a catfish and chicken strip lunch as well as a selection of door prizes. Speakers for the ceremony included First Community Bank’s Chairman and CEO, Dale Cole; President and COO, Boris Dover; Jonesboro Market President, Allen Williams; and Brookland Mayor, Ken Jones.

Jonesboro currently boasts three branch locations, and Market President Allen Williams had these enthusiastic remarks: “Our experienced, local team is excited and ready to serve Brookland. We couldn’t be prouder to launch in Brookland and extend our legacy of quality service to this community.”

Hours of operation for the bank are Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. First Community Bank is a full-service bank offering competitive loan and deposit products as well as an impressive array of online and mobile banking services. The branch boasts artwork

sourced from local artists and a community room that can be utilized for meetings.

For folks who haven’t gotten a chance to view the bank yet, they should feel free to stop by anytime during business hours. Jamie, Lachelle and the rest of the Brookland crew would love to help with any banking needs!

