

From the Mayor's Desk:

We are already three months in to the new year. Time passes quickly.

As our city grows, there are certain things that residents want. Whether it's a grocery store, fast food restaurant or other business considering Brookland as a place to locate, the first thing they do is tour our city. We may not even know that they are looking at our city. So, if I am a new business, thinking about locating in Brookland, I will visit and drive around the city. This gives potential investors an idea of what, we as citizens, think of our community. Do citizens that live here care about how their city is perceived? I think every citizen in this city cares about Brookland. However, there are areas that we need to address as a city to move forward. We have tried to govern under the idea that if citizens think they are part of something great like Brookland, they will act accordingly. The majority of our citizens do care and take care of their residence accordingly, but there are areas that we must admit need attention. So, at the March city council meeting, I read a proclamation, making April 1, 2017 through October 31, 2017 "Brookland Pride" months. I don't know how it is at your home, but when we have friends and family coming to visit at our house, we diligently clean our home for our company. That is what we, as a city, are doing. We have "company" (i.e. businesses) coming, so we are going to prepare Brookland to put our best foot forward. To help combat this problem, the police department has broken the city into two areas. Area 1 is everything south of School Street and Area 2 is everything north of School Street. Area 1 will be covered by Chief Jon Moore and CID officer Blake

Miller; Area 2 will be covered by Captain Janssen Settlemoir and Patrolman Cameron Sailor. Our part-time officers will also be helping in these areas. City Inspector, Doug Frederick will be tasked with the process of looking at unsafe, abandoned structures. Arkansas Code Annotated § 14-54-901, covers a municipal governments authority to protect the community and promote quality of life.

The sewer extension project in the Gambill Subdivision has progressed slowly this winter. The project should be nearing completion by the first of April.

Another project that has seemed to be moving at a snail's pace is the water improvement project. The plans were finally approved by the Arkansas Department of Health and bids were accepted on February 14, 2017. Line work, elevated storage tank, well and water treatment building work will begin, weather permitting, the last week of March.

Storm water drainage has been a major issue between Holman (49B) and the Union Pacific Railroad for years. The city has purchased a lot and built a detention pond, installed 48" underground culverts, so the section of East School Street can be widened and the intersection straightened out. The city applied for three State Aid Street overlay projects. Though we were not chosen this year, we were told to resubmit our applications. We have resubmitted the requests and expect these overlay projects will be at the top of the list for 2018, per officials.

Sidewalk projects that Brookland has been chosen to receive are moving forward. Work on the North Oak sidewalk, that will connect the Brookland Elementary and Brookland Middle Schools is scheduled for this summer. The sidewalk that will run from the

Brookland Police Department, north to School Street is in the beginning stages. We are working diligently to get this project done by the start of the 2017-2018 school year. Plans are to submit a grant request for a new sidewalk that will begin at School Street and run north to the Gambill and Brookland Hills Subdivision. I hope to have more information on this project in the third quarter newsletter in July.

We have also started taking bids on removal and replacement of old dilapidated sidewalks through our city. Sidewalks allow students to walk to school safely and folks a safe place to walk for exercise. Just want to remind everyone that spring and summer time is a great opportunity for everyone to get outside, so parents please talk to your children about using the sidewalks, when they are available, for their safety. If you drive a vehicle, please obey the speed limit and pay attention to the surroundings and children outside playing and riding bikes. Swimming pools will soon be put up and filled with water. Please see article in this newsletter regarding specifications on fencing.

Have a safe spring and summer!

Mayor Jones

City Wide



April 7 & 8

Contact City Hall to have your address put on the map.



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.



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.

SPRING CLEAN

SWEEP



April 10-13, 2017

Any items placed on the curb after 04/13/17 will be the responsibility of the resident to dispose of.



Great Arkansas Cleanup

The City of Brookland and the Brookland EAST students will participate in the Great Arkansas Cleanup on Wednesday, April 19 from 3:30pm until 4:30pm.

Groups of students and adults will be in various areas of town cleaning up trash in ditches and along streets. This event is sponsored by the Keep Arkansas Beautiful Commission who provides supplies necessary for the cleanup. Please drive safely while students are picking up litter.



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:

1/6/17 - Peggy Hudson
1/13/17 - Jim Borders

1/20/17 - Jeanne Henderson
1/27/17 - Jennifer Jaynes
2/3/17 - Jevonna Luna
2/10/17 - Tom Lindsey
2/17/17 - Stephanie Jernigan
2/24/17 - Will St. Pierre
3/3/17 - Eric Mathis
3/10/17 - JD McHalfey
3/17/17 - Terry Maxell
3/24/17 - Connie Nesmith
3/31/17 - Jerry Blair

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

Community Calendar:



04/03 - Planning Commission Meeting at 7pm at City Hall

04/05 - Noon deadline for City Council agenda

04/07-08 - City Wide Yard Sale

04/08 - Brookland United Methodist Church Spring Fling; 8am-2pm

04-09 - Brookland United Methodist Church Homecoming service; Sunday School at 9:45am and Worship Service at 11am

04/10-13 - Spring Clean Sweep (for city residents only)

04/10 - City Council Meeting at 7pm at City Hall

04/15 - Community Easter Egg Hunt at New Antioch Baptist Church at 2pm

04/15 - Easter Egg Hunt at Brookland United Methodist Church at 10am

04/16 - Easter Sunday

04/16 - New Antioch Baptist Church Easter Services at 8am and 11am

04/16 - Brookland United Methodist Church Easter Service; Sunday School at 9:45am; Worship Service at 11am

04/18 – Senior Citizen's Potluck at 11:30 at City Hall
 04/19 - Keep Brookland Cleanup
 04/26 - Noon deadline for Planning Commission agenda
 04/29 - Brookland United Methodist Church Fish Fry; 5pm - 7pm
 04/30 - 5th Sunday Singing at New Antioch Baptist Church at 6pm



05/01 – Planning Commission meeting at 7pm
 05/03 - Noon deadline for City Council agenda
 05/08 – City Council meeting at 7pm
 05/14 – Happy Mother's Day!
 05/16 – Senior Citizens potluck at 11:30am at City Hall
 05/20 - New Antioch Baptist Church Block Party at city park; 10am - 1pm
 05/29 – City offices will be closed for Memorial Day holiday
 5/31 - Noon deadline for Planning Commission agenda



06/05-07 - Vacation Bible School at Brookland Baptist Church; 6:30pm - 9pm
 06/05 – Planning Commission meeting at 7pm
 06/07 - Noon deadline for City Council agenda
 06/12 – City Council meeting at 7pm
 06/17 - New Antioch Baptist Church Block Party at Brookland Hills; 2pm-4pm
 06/18 – Happy Father's Day!

06/20 – Senior Citizens potluck at 11:30am at City Hall

06/25-29 - Vacation Bible School at New Antioch Baptist Church; 5:55pm - 8:30pm

06/28 - Noon deadline for Planning Commission agenda



**Brookland United
 Methodist Church
 401 W. Matthews**

Brookland United Methodist Church will host its annual Spring Fling on Saturday, April 8 from 8am to 2pm in conjunction with the city wide yard sale. There will be a trash to treasure sale, as well as pancakes served during the breakfast hours and hotdogs and nachos will be served at lunch. All proceeds will go to the church's Relay for Life team for the American Cancer Society. Luminaries can be purchased in honor and memory of loved ones at this event as well.

BUMC will host its Homecoming services on Palm Sunday, April 9. Sunday School begins at 9:45am, followed by worship at 11am. A potluck meal will be served following morning worship.

Brookland United Methodist Church will host an Easter egg hunt for children on Saturday, April 15 at 10:00am. Following the hunt, a hotdog meal will be served. A special invitation is also issued to the community for Easter morning services, with Sunday school at 9:45am and morning worship at 11am.

BUMC will host a fish fry on Saturday, April 29 from 5:00pm - 7:00pm. The meal will include fish and all the trimmings, drinks and desserts. Donations will be accepted.

Brookland United Methodist Church is located at 401 W. Matthews and for more information on any of the above listed events, contact Corey Pfeifer, pastor at 870-935-3501.

**New Antioch
 Baptist Church**

429 CR 950-Goobertown

New Antioch Baptist Church has several planned for this Spring and Summer. On Saturday, April 15th, at 2:00pm, they will have a Community Easter Egg Hunt. Everyone is invited and there will be door prizes. On Sunday, April 16th there will be two Easter Services. One will begin at 8:00am with breakfast to follow and the second service will start at 11:00am and will include their Easter Cantata. On April 30th at 6:00pm they will have a 5th Sunday Singing with lots of special music.

Our ladies will join with hundreds of other women on May 6th for the Run For The Cure in Jonesboro.

Two block parties are planned for this Spring. The first will be on Saturday, May 20th at the Brookland City Park from 10:00am to 1:00pm. The second will be Saturday, June 17th at Brookland Hills from 2:00pm until 4:00pm. Both block parties will have hotdogs, cotton candy, snow cones and popcorn along with games and an inflatable slide.

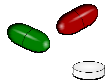
One of the biggest events of the summer will be Vacation Bible School. VBS will begin June 25 through June 29 from 5:55pm until 8:30pm. The theme is Galactic Starveyors. Participants will have fun learning about God and His love for them.

Tony Stottlemire is the pastor and the church is located at 429 CR 960 (Goobertown Curve). Everyone in the community is invited to any or all of 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.

**Brookland Baptist
 Church
 200 N. Oak St.**

Brookland Baptist Church will have Vacation Bible School on June 4 through June 7 for ages Kindergarten thru 6th grade.

VBS will begin at 6:30 pm and end at 9:00 pm. Brookland Baptist Church is located at 200 N. Oak and Bro. Bill Becker is the pastor. For more events happening at Brookland Baptist Church, check out their website at brooklandchurch.com.



National Prescription Drug Take Back Day

Turn in your unused or expired medication for safe disposal on Saturday, April 29, 2017. The event will take place from 10:00am until 2:00pm at the Brookland Police Department located at 409 Holman.

Wastewater Info:

An issue I need to address is, to make residents aware of the consequences of putting cooking grease/oil down the sink. It could clog up your sewer service lines, and the build up from several residences that pour grease down the drain causes the city sewer mains to become clogged, thus causing sewage to back up in several homes in your neighborhood. This creates an extra expense for the utility department to have to treat the grease buildup and flush out the sewer mains. A suggestion to eliminate this problem would be to let your grease or oil cool down and then place it into a Ziploc bag and simply put it in the trash. Also, another problem is residents flushing kitty litter down the toilet. This gets into the pumps at our lift stations and causes them to malfunction or fail. It is very expensive to replace the pumps and creates an additional burden on our wastewater system. Inflow is another issue at our wastewater treatment plant.

This occurs when rainwater gets into the sewer system through a sewer clean out plug that has been removed or broken off or when a sewer service line has been broken and over time, dirt will cave in the surface of the pipe allowing rainwater to flow into the line. All this additional rainwater has to be treated with chemicals, the same as the sewer water, before it is discharged. The usage of additional chemicals to treat the rainwater is another expense incurred by the utility department. If you have any broken pipes or sinkholes in your yard, please notify our office and have one of the utility workers come and inspect the area.

Tim Harrington

Water/Wastewater Supt.
