

Brookland News

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July 2024

From the Mayor's Desk:

HAPPY JULY 4th to ALL! Let's start with open projects: Bernis/Smith Park and Nelms/E Matthews Park; I want to encourage you to go by these two parks and see the work that is happening. After talking with the contractor, it appears that these two parks are scheduled to be open to the public around the first of September 2024.

On June 4, 2024, the bids were opened on Municipal Building Project. We had four bidders on the project. Bids came in ranging from a high of \$3,391,000.00 to the lowest bid of \$3,289,608.00 from Bailey Contractors, Inc. We are working with Civil Engineering, Cooper Mixon Architects, and Bailey Contractors on ways to cut cost and still have a functional building.

On June 6, 2024 one bid was received for the Phase 2 of the Sportsplex Project and that was from Olympus Construction. Their bid was \$2,983,587.17 The City is working with Fisher Arnold Engineering Architects, and Olympus Construction to come up with options to

partner with local businesses to complete Phase 2.

The City is currently working with landowners to attain easements where the sidewalk with cross their property for Phase 2 of the sidewalk project on west side of Holman, from W School Street to Jessica, we are trying to work. Plans for the sidewalk have been submitted; and the grant has been approved to install a sidewalk from Jessica to Brady Lane along west side of Holman (HWY49B), which will be Phase 3.

DR. Horton Group is one of the largest home builders in our area. They recently purchased Phase 2 of the Hidden Creek Subdivision and are in the process of purchasing another area in Brookland. They build homes that will start in the \$175k to \$350k range. We want to welcome DR Horton Group to our city. We also want to thank all the home developers who are investing in our city.

I get several questions about new businesses. We have a strip mall development behind 8400

Hwy 49N, the first phase of a possible 3 strip mall development across from the car wash on West School Street, and many others that are in the preliminary talking stage. You have probably noticed that there are two street widening projects underway for the summer, Stevens Street and West Matthews Street. We are preparing our streets for the next cycle of Arkansas State Aid Street Money to help with overlay of these projects. It will be given in 2025. The Street Department has two culverts to replace on W Matthews. We will be working with property owners to attain Right-of-Ways. West Matthews has been extended to HWY 49. The intersection with HWY 49 will be a right turn only if you are going west. The goal of this street extension is to have a different way for first responders and citizens to get to HWY 49 during the peak traffic times on school street. The City is looking to add turn lanes to North Oak Street in front of Brookland Middle School. This will ease the congestion of vehicles.

Brookland School Superintendent Brett Bunch and I are looking at the possibility of adding a road on the north side of Brookland Middle School. This road, if built, would reduce traffic congestion on North Oak, but would also reduce traffic congestion on North Hickory. Brookland School has purchased around 100 acres of property off HWY 49B and Dixie Rd. (HWY 230) In talking with Superintendent Bunch the plan is a 2-story development. I want to thank Superintendent Bunch, Assistant Superintendent George Kennedy, and the Brookland School Board for working with the City of Brookland to help ease the traffic congestion around the Brookland School. In closing let me say be cautious in these hot temperatures. Drink plenty of water. Do your projects early in the morning while it is a little cooler. Let's remember heat brings on stress, and we are all stressed during this trying time. Be kind to your neighbors! Drive the speed limits, and watch for children walking and playing. 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.

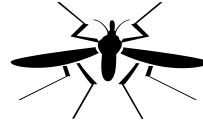


**REMINDER FROM
DEDMAN'S SANITATION
REGARDING DISPOSAL
OF YARD WASTE:**

Dedman's Sanitation wants to remind residents about not putting yard waste and grass clippings 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, also 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**

As you may have noticed mosquito populations have really 'bloomed' as of late. This, however was not unexpected for it is that time of year again.

Preparations for the 4th have begun and will continue until the fourth. Nightly spraying will increase as we move through the coming months to help battle the bugs. Individuals with major events planned for the 4th are welcome to call our office for extra treatment (870 933-6939). Please be aware this is not a door to door service so please use common sense when requesting. We are usually inundated with calls around the 4th so the earlier you call to schedule the better chance you have to get treated.

Have happy and safe 4th of July!

Jim Stark
VDCI

Regional Contract Supervisor
Vector Disease Control International

**CITY HALL OFFICE
HOURS**

☪
**6:30AM - 5:00PM
MONDAY-THURSDAY**

☪
CLOSED FRIDAY



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 or can be viewed on the website.



Community Calendar:

July



7/02 - Planning Commission Meeting 7:00pm @ City Hall

7/04 - Happy Independence Day!

07/04 - City offices closed for Independence Day Holiday

07/09 - City Council Meeting 7:00 pm @ City Hall

07/22 - Parks Committee Meeting @ 7:00 pm @ City Hall

August



08/06 - Planning Commission Meeting 7:00 pm @ City Hall

08/13 - City Council Meeting 7:00 pm @ City Hall

08/19 - Parks Committee Meeting 7:00pm @ City Hall

September



09/02 - City Offices closed for Labor Day Holiday

09/03- Planning Commission Meeting 7:00 pm @ City Hall

09/10 - City Council Meeting 7:00 pm @ City Hall

09/16 - Parks Committee Meeting 7:00pm @ City Hall



Brookland Utilities Update:

Brookland Utilities will be smoke testing our sewer system over the next few months in various areas of the city. This is to determine if there are any issues with infiltration in our sewer lines, such as clean-out caps that have been removed, or possibly a hole in the line.

The smoke is non-toxic and has a cherry scented odor. Some issues that could arise include smoke coming into your home through the P-Trap under your sinks, if they are dried out and not working properly. Some smoke may also come from the sewer vent pipes on the roof as well.

This is also 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; for example if you are watering your flowers or garden and accidentally leave the hose on, the meter will send notification of continual 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. Please call and let us know what your correct phone number is, if your number has changed.

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.

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 Thursday, July 4th in observance of Independence Day Holiday



***23rd Annual
Brookland
Christmas Parade***

The 23rd Annual Brookland Christmas Parade will be Sunday, December 1, 2024 at 2:00pm. The theme will be "Santa's Toyland". Mark the date on your calendars!



STORMWATER POLLUTION

*The difference is you-
The Drain Is Just For
Rain*

Stormwater is rain that falls on roofs or paved areas like driveways and roads. This water is carried away by a system of stormwater pipes that is separate from the sewage system. It soon reaches our rivers and eventually the ocean.

We can help prevent stormwater pollution from ruining our waterways by taking steps to stop detergents, paints, leaves, cigarette butts and other litter from ending up in our drains and ditches.

CLEANING YOUR CAR

If you wash your car in the street or on your driveway, soaps, mud, oil and grease can wash directly into the stormwater system. Many soaps contain phosphates which over-fertilize waterways and can lead to a buildup of toxic algae which is harmful to fish and humans too.

What can we do to help?

- 1). Try to wash your vehicle on a grassy area or over gravel
- 2). Use as little soap as possible
- 3). Check for any fluid leaks and maintain your car.

CLEANING UP

PAINTING SUPPLIES

Cleaning paint brushes and rollers into gutters or drains puts chemicals in the water which can poison aquatic wildlife such as fish, frogs and even birds.

What can we do to help?

- 1). When using water-based paint, clean up over soil.
- 2). When using oil-based paint: - keep paint and solvents clear of gutters and drains - allows unused paint to dry out and then put it in the trash.