

Brookland News

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October 2019

From the Mayor's Desk:

It's already October! Where has 2019 gone?

I want to inform our citizens that all city council and planning commission meetings are now recorded and will be kept for one (1) year. Recordings of the City Council meetings will now be on the city website at cityofbrookland.com. (Go to website under City Government tab click on Agendas and Minutes. Look under Audio Files.)

Utility bills have been a big topic the past few months. The city has not changed water/sewer rates since 2010! What has changed is Dedman's Sanitation increased the trash collection fee \$1.00 per month and the Arkansas Department of Health fee increased .10 cents. No other changes at this time is planned by the city.

City hall is still hearing complaints about mail delivery issues. Again, you can pay online or by phone, using a credit/debit card, or set up to have a draft taken out to pay your bill. Please read more about these ways to pay/receive your bill in the utility section of this newsletter.

North Oak Street residents will see additional sidewalk improvements. When the sidewalk between Brookland Elementary and Brookland Middle School were completed, they were paid for by a grant. The City requested AR-DOT to allow us to use the remaining safe route to school funding to complete the sidewalk on the west side of North Oak in front of the Honeysuckle Heights subdivision. It was granted in

September and work is currently being done.

There will not be a Fall Clean Sweep and City Wide Yard Sale this year. The Clean Sweeps, when started, were needed to help clean up areas around our city. It coincided with city wide yard sales in the spring and fall. Last year there was around six residents who signed up for the fall yard sale, then two withdrew their name from the list. So, the department heads and I sat down and talked about issues with clean sweep, because something that should have lasted three days, turned into three weeks because residents continued to put items on the curb long after the clean sweep had ended. This issue was discussed with the city council, asking to stop clean sweep completely. After discussion, the council decided to have one clean sweep in April and see how it goes. If you have large items that you want to get rid of, you can haul them to the county landfill or contact Dedman's Sanitation for a special pickup. Their fee for the special pickup will be added to your utility bill.

We filed for matching grant for two parks recently. One park will be located on Nelms Street, and the other at 202 W. Smith Street. We will find out around October 29, 2019 if our projects were chosen. If not, we will file again next year.

Water Improvement Project (WIP) 2016-01 is nearing the end of construction. Brookland Utilities has upgraded water lines to eight inch along Hwy 49 south to Crain Road. This will help with pressure and volume of water to that area. This has

also allowed us to install fire hydrants in this area.

Census 2020 will start April 1 of next year. There will be some changes in the way data is collected. A large amount of the data will be collected by use of your computer. Enumerators that collect information will still come if you do not fill out the Census paperwork by computer or mail. A Census Correct Count Committee was formed that will be reaching out to you by different means to make sure we get everyone counted. Remember this is how our city gets more financially sound without the increase of any tax. We are very excited for our city/citizens and what this will mean for our future.

This is the last letter newsletter of the year. I am working on the newsletter today and realized it is just three months until Christmas. As we look forward to 2020, let's enjoy the upcoming holidays with our family and friends. Thanksgiving is a time of remembering all the blessings of the past year and things we are thankful for. Christmas is more than just about the gifts given or received. Christmas is a time for remembrance of the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. New Years gives us the opportunity to reflect back over the previous year, and set goals for things we want to improve in the New Year.

Set aside time to pray for our country and our troops serving overseas that are stationed away from home. Pray for our city and its citizens. Have a safe and Blessed Holiday Season.

Mayor Jones



RECYCLE!



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.

NOTE: Please place your tags on the outside of the bags so that they are easily removable.

Bluebag Winners:

7/5/19 - Shelia Evans
 7/12/19 - Mary Stotts
 7/19/19 - Courtney Peters
 7/26/19 - Jamie Shirley
 8/2/19 - Crystal Shepherd
 8/9/19 - Robbie Polsgrove
 8/16/19 - Andrew Peters
 8/23/19 - Scott Keen
 8/30/19 - Patricia Kimble
 9/6/19 - Lance Loftin
 9/13/19 - Jeanne Garrett
 9/20/19 - Judy Brown
 9/27/19 - Julie Ramsey



Brookland Christmas Parade Dec. 1 @ 2:00 pm



The City of Brookland will have its 19th annual Christmas parade on Sunday, Dec. 1 at 2:00 pm. The theme is "Christmas Through the Eyes of a Child". Judging begins at 1:00 pm. The parade will start at Brookland High School parking lot and go south on Holman to Stevens Street, west on Stevens to S. Oak Street. The parade will then turn north to W. School Street and it will end up back at the school.

Community Calendar:



10/01 - Planning Commission meeting @ 7:00 pm
 10/14 - City offices closed for Columbus Day
 10/14 - City Council meeting @ 7:00 pm

10/15 - Sr. Citizens Pot Luck @ City Hall; 11:30 am

10/31 - New Antioch Baptist Church Community Fall Festival; 6:30pm-8:30pm

10/31 - Woods Chapel General Baptist Church Trunk or Treat; 6:00pm



11/05 - Planning Commission meeting @ 7:00 pm

11/11 - City offices closed for Veteran's Day

11/11 - City Council meeting @ 7:00 pm

11/12 - Sr. Citizen's Pot Luck @ City Hall; 11:30 am ****NOTE DATE CHANGE**

11/28-29 - Offices closed for Thanksgiving Holiday



12/01 - Christmas Parade @ 2:00 pm. Theme "Christmas Through the Eyes of a Child"

12/03 - Planning Commission meeting @ 7:00 pm

12/09 - City Council meeting @ 7:00 pm

12/10 - Sr. Citizen's Pot Luck @ City Hall; 11:30 am ****NOTE DATE CHANGE**

12/24-25 City offices closed for Christmas holiday

01/01 - City offices closed for New Year's holiday

Sr. Citizen's Monthly Potluck



The Sr. Citizen's pot luck lunch is the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 11:30am at Brookland City Hall. (Note: Due to the holidays, the November and December meeting will be held on the 2nd Tuesday of these months.) Bring a dish and come enjoy fellowship with other Brookland residents. Invite your neighbors and give your friends a ride. Special guest speakers on topics that affect senior citizens or singers provide entertainment each month.



New Antioch Baptist Church

New Antioch Baptist Church will have their annual community fall festival on Thursday, October 31 from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. Admission is free. There will be hot dogs, chili, popcorn and cotton candy. There will also be lots of games and a blow-up slide. Five \$50 Wal-Mart gift cards will be given away. Everyone is invited to attend.

New Antioch is located at 429 CR 960, near Goobertown. If you have any questions about any of the events, please call 870-972-0339, email newantiochbc@gmail.com, check them out on Facebook or visit the church website newantiochbaptistchurch.com.

Wood's Chapel General Baptist Church

Everyone is invited to attend the Annual Trunk or Treat on October 31. The event will begin at 6pm in the church parking lot. There will be candy, hot dogs,

popcorn and drinks. Everyone is welcome.

For more information on upcoming events at Wood's Chapel, contact their pastor Rick Hathcoat at 870-932-1780. The church is located at 175 Hwy. 230 E.



Christmas Light Contest

The annual residential Brookland Christmas light judging will be December 9. Judges will be driving around town on this date looking at residential lighting displays. Prize money in the amounts of \$100 for first place; \$75 for second place and \$50 for third place will be awarded. Signs recognizing the winners will be placed in their yards throughout the holiday season.



Notes from the Police Dept:



While responding to calls, it is often difficult to locate houses due to the house number not being properly displayed. The ambulance and fire department personnel also have difficulty finding addresses of residents who are in need of immediate emergency assistance.

BPD wants to urge residents to repair or replace damaged house numbers or to purchase house numbers and place them on your house if your home doesn't have any, to make it easier to respond to your location in the event of an emergency.

Brookland Police Department also wants to urge motorists to please slowdown be cautious of young children along the streets as they are trick-or-treating.



Brookland Utilities Online Bill Pay

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 access through our website brooklandarkansas.org.

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.

