

Brookland News

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July 2019

From the Mayor's Desk:

July 1 2019. Where has this year gone already?

I want to address our tornado sirens being sounded June 18, 2019 around 9:45 pm. The activation of our tornado siren was not authorized by myself, city council, police chief, nor Brookland Fire Protection District Chief Wayne Reece. What occurred was a city employee who serves on Brookland Fire Protection District, and also serves on the Craighead County Emergency Skywarn Storm Spotters previously had a personal radio that had the city tornado frequency programmed in it, which was approved by a former Water/Wastewater Supervisor. This radio stopped working, so the employee purchased another radio to replace it. Another citizen, who also serves as a Brookland Fire District Volunteer said he could program the new radio for City Employee. While programming the new radio, when he started down loading tornado siren program, it activated our sirens. Like you, I was home watching television with my wife, when we heard the siren. I knew the weatherman had said that our severe weather had moved out, so I checked my KAIT8 weather app, which showed nothing. That led me to believe that someone might be messing with a radio. I ran out the door bare footed jumped in my truck and went to city hall to turn the siren off. As I pulled into city hall, the siren was shutting down. While answering calls at city hall and trying to find out what was going on, the tornado siren started up again and I shut it down immediately. That is when I received a call from Captain Settlemoir with Brookland PD, that

his wife had seen on Facebook the siren was set off by the Brookland Fire District while programming a radio. I called Chief Reece and he reported that they were not having any radios programmed. So, after several phone calls made and received, we found out what had happened. I want our citizens to know I apologize for this scare! WE have taken measures to insure this accidental activation does not happen again.

We here at city hall take it very seriously about sounding our Tornado Warning Sirens. When monitoring severe storms, we are in constant contact with Craighead County Office of Emergency Management as well as watching the radar and listening to local television and radio stations for updates. Our operations manual says tornado sirens will be sounded when Craighead County goes under a tornado warning. Eastern Craighead County has been under tornado warning in the past, but the storms were moving away from Brookland, and in that circumstance we don't activate the sirens. In the event we do have severe weather, we open our storm shelter located at 407 Holman. This is located beside the police department. I heard Meteorologist Ryan Vaughn say recently that it has been highest rain fall amount for Arkansas beginning September 2018 to current date.

So how have we done with city drainage? I would give us a grade C overall. We still have an area that needs work. This area is at the corner of Nelms and East Matthews. We have detention pond design and construction crew ready. We just need weather to cooperate. We are ready to

begin phase 1 of the Northern Heights Subdivision drainage ditch work. We also have our drainage plans for Brooks Street and Egg Farm Road and engineers are working on a drainage plan for Gambill Subdivision. We need dry weather, so we can begin these projects.

Rain and warmer temperatures are helping the grass grow. Generally, toward the end of June it is dry and hot, and grass is not growing so quickly. This is keeping our street department mowing crew very busy. Please remember our workers must weed eat these ditches. While walking your dog, remember these workers and pick up your dog waste. I ask, "Would you like to mow a ditch and get dog poop thrown in your face or all over you?" We lost a decent worker because of this issue last year.

The new sidewalk that will connect downtown Brookland to School Street is still a work in process. We have some right-of-way issues we are trying to work out. Another new sidewalk, that will connect Brookland Street to Bernis along the south side of the new detention pond should be completed before school.

We started leveling and cleaning the property at corner of Smith and Bernis where our new city park is going to be located. As soon as weather will permit, we will get the area cleaned up and the current playground equipment set back up. We are working on a grant that will help us make this a great park for our city. We will be applying for this grant in September 2019.

The street widening project on the north side of West Matthews is nearing completion. We have an

asphalt crew lined up to add 3 feet of asphalt to the north side.

We're just six months away from the end of the year, and I want to remind everyone that 2020 is a very important year for City of Brookland. It is Census year. It is time to stand up and be counted for our city. The increase in population count will determine the MONIES our city receives over the next 10 years. This will be without a tax increase of any kind! Just be counted! More about this in months leading up to April 1, 2020 when Census starts.

Let me close by praying all have a great 4th of July. Let's remember our military service men and women who are not at home but serving our country. If you have a service member THANK them for us. If it was not for those serving now, those who have served, and those who gave all in their service, we would not be celebrating Independence Day.

Remember to follow speed limit signs and watch for children. 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.



Sr. Citizens Community Pot Luck Lunch

Come join us for Brookland's Senior Citizens Community Pot Luck Lunch at Brookland City Hall, 613 Holman on the third Tuesday of each month at 11:30am. Bring any dish and come enjoy the company. There is a different speaker or musical entertainment each month.

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.



Help Keep Pollution Out Of Storm Drains...Only Rain In The Drain!

That's because storm drains and roadside ditches lead directly to our lakes and rivers. So, any oil, pet waste, leaves, trash or dirty

water from washing your car that enters a storm drain gets into our streams and rivers. Brookland is a rapidly growing community, so we all need to be aware of what goes into our storm drains.

What can you do? Simple. These tips will help prevent pollutants from entering our streams and rivers.

- Sweep fertilizer off of driveways and sidewalks, back onto your lawn.
- Keep leaves, grass clippings, trash and fertilizers out of storm drains.
- Do not dump motor oil, chemicals, pet waste, dirty or soapy water, or anything else down the storm drain.
- Volunteer to label storm drains in your neighborhood to inform your neighbors that storm drains flow directly to our streams and rivers.

Keep our water clean!



UPDATE FROM DEDMAN'S SANITATION REGARDING DISPOSAL OF YARD WASTE:

Dedman's Sanitation has noticed that there are several residents who are putting yard waste 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, 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.



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.

Bluebag Winners:

04/05/19 - Pat Harris
 04/12/19- Carla Dacus
 04/19/19 - Heather Parsons
 04/26/19 - Darrell Reece
 05/03/19 - Mary Passmore
 05/10/19 - Chad Turner
 05/17/19 - Kyle Brown
 05/24/19 - Betty Smith
 05/31/19 - Cassie Knipe
 06/07/19 - Sarah Williams
 06/14/19 - Ann Cofield
 06/21/19 - Thomas Lindsey
 06/28/19 - Jeff Stotts



Community Calendar:

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July



07/02 - Planning Commission Meeting 7:00 pm @ City Hall

07/04 & 05 - City offices closed for Independence Day Holiday

07/05 & 06 - NEA Gamers Guild gaming event at Brookland United Methodist Church starting at 7pm on 7/5 and ending at 7pm on 7/6

07/08 - City Council Meeting 7:00 pm @ City Hall

07/15-19 - Brookland United Methodist Church VBS - 6:30 - 8:30 pm

07/16 - Sr. Citizens Community Pot Luck Lunch 11:30 am @ City Hall

August



08/02 - BUMC Freecycle clothing event @ 3-9 pm

08/03 - BUMC Freecycle clothing event @ 8 am - 2 pm

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

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

08/12 - City Council Meeting 7:00 pm @ City Hall

08/20 - Sr. Citizens Community Pot Luck Lunch 11:30 am @ City Hall

September



09/02 - City Offices closed for Labor Day Holiday

09/03 - Planning Commission Meeting 6:00 pm @ City Hall

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

09/17 - Sr. Citizens Community Pot Luck Lunch 11:30am @ City Hall



UPCOMING EVENTS:

Brookland United Methodist Church

Brookland United Methodist Church will host a 24-hours of gaming event starting on July 5 at 7 pm and concluding at 7 pm on July 6 at BUMC. Admission is free. A variety of board games and table top gaming will be offered; attendees are encouraged to bring games to share, as well. Concessions will be available. All proceeds will benefit The Children's Shelter in Walnut Ridge.

BUMC will host The Roar Vacation Bible School July 15-19 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm each evening. Children will enjoy a safari theme featuring games, music, Bible story, crafts and a light meal. Classes for preschool through sixth grade will be offered. Everyone is invited.

BUMC will host its annual clothing giveaway on Friday, August 2, from 3-9 pm and Saturday, August 3, from 8 am to 2 pm. Anyone who would like to donate clothes, can drop them off at Brookland City through August 1. If you have a large donation, you can contact Megan Heyl at 870-215-3546 to arrange a pick up or drop off time. There are no income requirements, and all are welcome to participate in this clothing freecycle event.

BUMC is located at 301 West Matthews. For more information regarding the above mentioned events, please call (870)935-3501.



Brookland Utilities Update:

As most of you know, we installed the new Sensus radio read water meters in the summer of 2016. These new meters provide us with a great deal of information, and allow us to notify customers in the event that there is high usage or continual low 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. If you would like to have your phone number updated in our system, please write your phone number on the bill stub when you make your next payment, or call and let us know what the correct phone number is.

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 cook 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.



MOSQUITO CONTROL INFORMATION

Any resident with comments and concerns regarding mosquito control are always welcomed and encouraged to contact Vector. At any time should you need our services you are encouraged to call our office at 870-933-6939 or call City hall here in Brookland and they will contact us on your behalf. Have a Blessed Day!

Jim Stark
VDCI

Regional Contract Supervisor
Vector Disease Control International



19th Annual Brookland Christmas Parade

Christmas is still six months away, but the date of the Brookland Christmas Parade has been set and it is scheduled for the first Sunday in December. The 19th Annual Brookland Christmas Parade will be Sunday, December 1, 2019 at 2:00pm. The 2019 Theme will be "Christmas Through a Child's Eyes". Mark the date on your calendars!

Holiday Closing

*City offices will be closed
July 4th and 5th in
observance of
Independence Day
Holiday*

