

***From the Mayor's Desk;***

As most of you are aware by now, on April 8, 2024, the eclipse will occur across our area. While we are expecting travelers and viewers to be in our area, we have worked on plans to try and keep everyone safe. My understanding is that Brookland School will be in session on April 8th. If you are out driving in our city, please use extra caution while we experience the eclipse. I regretfully have to tell you that the City of Brookland (COB) was not chosen to receive the Community Infrastructure Fund Program Grant. This CIF program would have been used to upgrade Hwy 49 & School Street intersection to include turn lanes. The city engineer and I met with East Arkansas Planning Development District (EAPDD) on Thursday, March 14, 2024, and found out we had not received the funding. I instructed EAPDD to re-file our application, as this is a revolving fund and is open as money is released for the CIF program. We will continue to work with ARDOT on the intersection to help with traffic congestion issues. The COB and Brookland School continue to work together to improve traffic congestion during drop-off and pickup times at school. BPS has purchased property off CR 948 (HWY230) just east of Woods Chapel Church. However, we are looking at three years before the new school building will be completed. As the city grows, the school district grows, and with school choice, we are going to have to figure out a way to ease the congestion on School, N Hickory, and Oak Streets. Craighead County, COB, and

ARDOT are working together to install a traffic light at Pine Log Road (CR762) and HWY 49. Once this traffic light is installed it will give us several options of traffic flow on Oak Street. We will be discussing different options over the next few months at the council meetings on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

Our East Ridge Park and Bernis /Smith Street Park equipment was ordered in January of 2024. The equipment should be delivered in May and installed in June. The completion of the walking trails, pavilions, and parking should be completed by August, weather permitting.

Sports Plex Job 2 which consists of completing two small ball fields, 1 large ball field, concession stand, street, and parking has been put out to bid. Bids should be opened toward the end of April with work to begin in May.

The COB was awarded a grant for Phase 3 of the Holman sidewalk project. It will connect the current sidewalk at Smith Street by the School Administration building south to Stevens Street. Phase 4 & 5 when approved, will build the sidewalk along Holman, north from Jessica Street, ending at Whispering Hills Subdivision entrance.

Several streets are scheduled to be overlaid this summer. Work will begin as soon as weather permits, with W Matthews being extended to HWY 49. W. The W Matthews intersection will be entry only from HWY 49 with exit only to the north toward Paragould at this time. You can read more about this project in the street department section.

Drainage is a continuing work in progress. The Elder family allowed the city to install underground 42" elliptical culverts on the south side of W Matthews. The City is having concrete boxes built at the end of the culverts that regulate the flow of stormwater runoff during a storm event. We got the culverts changed out on Stevens Street. The 24" culverts that were in the "s" curve were taken out and replaced with 2' x 4' culverts. The work done along W Matthews and on Church Streets have reduced the flash flooding on Church and S Bernis Street at the Stevens Street intersection. The City was donated land south of Stevens Street with a detention pond on it.

The following new businesses have opened over the winter months, which include; Harp's Food Store, McDonald's, Southern Chef, Dollar Tree. Mr. Jim's Pizza recently sold and is under new management and has increased their delivery area.

As we transition from winter to spring, let's remember to keep an eye on the weather. Also, drive carefully when traveling around our city. A lot more residents will be walking, riding bicycle, and jogging. Obey the speed limits, stop signs, and workers signs when driving through a work area. Let's have a good, safe summer. I want to take a moment to thank everyone for their prayers during the time I was in the hospital. Your prayers, cards and calls meant a lot to me and my family. Thank You! God Bless!

*Mayor Jones*

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**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 or viewed on the Ordinances page of the city website ([cityofbrookland.com](http://cityofbrookland.com)). If there are questions concerning the installation of a pool, please contact our inspection department.

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**Brookland  
Storm Shelter  
is located at 407  
Holman, beside  
Brookland Police  
Department**

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**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.

Brookland Utilities has radio-read water meters, and they sometimes 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. The repair/replacement costs are based on our current cost and can increase monthly. Property owners will be invoiced for the repair or replacement to the damaged meter 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](http://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.



**FROM THE STREET  
DEPARTMENT:**

The Brookland Street Department has several road improvement projects planned for this summer. Several of the high traffic roads are scheduled to be overlaid with new asphalt. Citizens will come in contact with road crews and equipment, that may cause some traffic delays. We are asking residents and members of the community to be extra cautious while driving through these areas, as they pose an elevated risk to workers and passing traffic. These areas will be marked with signs and other warning devices to keep everyone informed. If there is an alternate route that residents can

take to cut down on the congestion, it would be very much appreciated. Work has been started on the two new parks in town that are located at Smith and Bernis Streets and on Nelms Street. The new playground equipment should be arriving soon as well as warmer, dryer weather. This means we will be having contractors working at both park locations. We also ask that caution, while in these work areas, be exercised as well.

The city is also working to open up West Matthews Street, from South Oak Street to U.S. Hwy 49 N. This will help traffic from the central part of town to have another way to enter the main highway, relieving some of the strain on School and Stevens Streets.

The City of Brookland is growing at a steady rate and will only increase as we continue to move forward. With this growth comes small issues as well as some bigger ones that take time to get fixed. The bad thing about that growth, is that it is sometimes hard to stay caught up and on top. We currently only have three employees that work at the street department to date, which means as we try to help with the growth, we still try to maintain what we already have. I am asking for the help of the citizens, with one small issue. It would help us out tremendously if the ditches in front of the homeowners residences are kept clear of trash and other debris. These items get clogged in the culverts, which causes a lot of flooding issues; even more than normal during a heavy rain event. Citizens are allowed to burn certain items, such as leaves, limbs, grass, etc. This is something that we can't do without having a designated place. If burning is ever halted, due to dry conditions, Burn Ban In Effect signs will be placed throughout the town as well as public announcements will be made.

We at the street department are dedicated to serving our community and citizens and appreciate the opportunity to continue serving our city. We also want to express our thanks, for any assistance we may receive.

Jeff Vernon,  
Street Supervisor

## Community Calendar:



04/02 – Planning Commission Meeting at 7pm

04/03 - Noon deadline for City Council Agenda

04/09 – City Council Meeting at 7pm



05/01 - Noon deadline for Planning Commission agenda

05/07 – Planning Commission meeting at 7pm

05/08 - Noon deadline for City Council agenda

05/12 – Happy Mother's Day!

05/14 – City Council meeting at 7pm

05/27 – City offices will be closed for Memorial Day holiday

05/29 - Noon deadline for Planning Commission agenda



06/04 – Planning Commission meeting at 7pm

06/05 - Noon deadline for City Council agenda

06/11 – City Council meeting at 7pm

06/16 – Happy Father's Day!

06/26 - Noon deadline for Planning Commission Agenda

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## 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 the 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](http://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.

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## STORMWATER INFORMATION:

**What is stormwater?**

Stormwater is water from rain or melting snow that "runs off" across the land instead of

seeping into the ground. The runoff usually flows into the nearest stream, creek, wetland, river or lake. The runoff is not treated in any way and can become polluted. Developed areas such as parking lots, buildings, roadways and other hardened "impervious surfaces" exist around Brookland. When it rains, water runs off these impervious surfaces and picks up pet waste, oil, sand, fertilizers, and other pollutants. The water then flows into gutters and storm drains which discharge directly into the nearest waterway. Polluted stormwater runoff is the single largest source of pollution to our local ponds and waterways.

### How can you help?

By putting fewer pollutants on the land, stormwater will be cleaner as it flows into our lakes, rivers and the ocean. Never pour or sweep anything down a storm drain. This includes pet waste, motor oil, paint, litter, leaves, and sand.

- \* Do not block storm drains with refuse or debris.
- \* Use fertilizers sparingly and sweep up driveways, sidewalks, and roads.
- \* Vegetate bare spots in your yard or cover with mulch.
- \* Compost your yard waste.
- \* Avoid pesticides.
- \* Do not over-water your lawn.
- \* Reduce lawn size by planting rock gardens, shrubs and trees.
- \* Pool water is only allowed in the drains if it has been de-chlorinated. The chlorine level must be less than one parts per million. Allow the water to stand for one week prior to draining. Also, make sure the pool is drained in such a way as not to cause a nuisance or erosion.
- \* Aim your roof downspouts away from paved surfaces or into a rain barrel or rain garden.

\* Take your car to the car wash instead of washing it in the driveway. If you wash your car at home, wash it on the lawn so that the water can seep into the soil, and use low-phosphate detergents in small amounts.

\* Check your car for leaks. Recycle motor oil, antifreeze, tires, and batteries.

\* Pick up after your pet and dispose of droppings in the trash.

\* Maintain native vegetation along streams and lakefronts.

### **INFORMATION FROM ANIMAL CONTROL:**

Let me start by introducing myself. My name is Danny Stallings and I am the Animal Control Officer for the city of Brookland. This however, is not my only job that you might see me doing. I am also the Quality of Life Officer who deals with high grass and trash around houses as well as other unsightly conditions. I am a certified police officer and when the need arises, I help out with accidents and/or police calls. Now that you know a little about me, I would like to address a few legal issues that have been coming up often in my Animal Control duties. I have received several calls the last couple of weeks from citizens who have picked up dogs from outside the city and brought them to their homes in Brookland. After trying to find a home for them unsuccessfully, they call me to come get the dog and want me to find a good home for them. I also have weekly calls from citizens that simply want to surrender their pets, because they longer want to take care of them.

This is where my legal issues come into play. The City of Brookland Animal Control is a pound and not a rescue. We cannot keep animals for long

periods of time due to financial concerns. State Law 5-62-102 (17) defines ownership of a dog. "Owner" means a person that (A) Keeps or harbors an animal; (B) Has an animal in his or her or it's care; (C) Acts as an animal's custodian; (D) Knowingly permits an animal to remain on or about any premises occupied by him or her or it.

I have given the definitions of ownership to explain what situation that citizens are putting themselves in. Although you are picking up dogs with good intentions to keep them from getting run over, by picking them up you could be stealing someone's dog that lives in the county where dogs are not required to be on a leash. You must also consider the state law as to once you pick up the dog, he or she is your dog.

When owners call to surrender an animal to a city pound, we often have to refuse for a number of reasons.

I love animals and have had some great rescue groups that help me to re-home animals in the past. Over the last few months, it has gotten harder to find spots for my animals This puts me in a bad situation of having to euthanize, after all other plans to get animals re-homed are exhausted.

Always feel free to call me with any situation and I can use the resources I have to try to come up with a plan that benefits the animals and citizens.

Like I explained earlier, I do have several jobs that I take care of daily. If you, for example have someone who let's dogs out to run off leash all the time, you could tell me anonymously where the dogs live. I can cite them for dogs running at large. This seems to be the only remedy that will fix the problem long term.

Thank you, Officer Stallings