

Brookland News

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July 2017

From the Mayor's Desk:

This year has been very busy. Seems like just yesterday we were starting 2017, and today it's July 1, 2017.

The Water Improvement project is proceeding since the rain has decreased. Rain has slowed these projects down. Right now, a lot of work upgrading the water main line along School Street has started. The contractors are trying to get it completed before school starts back in August. New water well and treatment house will start as soon as tank metal is all complete. Please use caution when traveling this area. City of Brookland and Civil Engineers is working with AHTD to get the side walk that connects Brookland Elementary to Brookland Middle School installed before school starts back in August. Changes that were suggested, which are to include a right-hand turn lane into the middle school, if needed in the future to insure the safety of students walking this area during peak travel times, has delayed the project. Changes have been submitted to AHTD. Once they approve the changes we should be able to bid job out for construction. Drainage is an issue that Brookland will continue to address now and in the future. Though we have taken steps to improve our drainage system, we realize there is still a lot of work to be done. However, in several of the problem drainage areas, we cannot do this without the citizens help. State law prohibits a municipal government from going on private property and doing work. Therefore, request for right-of-way letters was sent out to land owners along ditches where flash flooding occurs. Once all the right-of-ways are signed, these projects will be scheduled in our drainage plan for clean out.

The city was put under a tornado warning in May. I activated our tornado sirens around 1 am. A few minutes later the phone rang at city hall and a lady asked where was our tornado shelter. I got a sick feeling in my stomach, when I had to tell her that

we do not have a storm shelter, but city hall was open. I advised her that if she was in a home, to get in the smallest room in the middle of the house, in a bath tub, hall way, and to put something over her. We had 23 people at city hall, 9 of them were children. We will be building a concrete storm shelter at 407 Holman beside Brookland Police Department. The structure when completed will be 1,000 sq ft. The block part of the structure on the west end will be remodeled and become our Senior citizen/community building. This building when complete will available to public to rent for family events, birthdays parties, meetings, etc. Scheduled completion date is the fall 2017.

We have several streets that will have maintenance work done on them. This includes overlay, patch work, and sealing. Use caution when work is being done on streets. I want say thank you to Craighead County Road Department for help with replacing bridge on East Mathews. CCRD and Brookland Street Department worked together with local land owners and farmers to widen the bridge and place culverts for road drainage. This ditch is scheduled to be cleaned out between E. Matthews and E. School Street this winter and we have a good starting point now where the bridge was replaced.

The 2014, 2015 and 2016 Legislative audit was completed February. We received our letter letting us know the findings. There were no findings in the administration office of Mayor and Office Manager. However, there were findings of funds being mis-handled by former police chief. Brookland Utility audit for year 2015 and 2016 was also completed and presented to council on June 12, 2017. Good report on utility audit with no findings. Anyone wanting to review these audits can do so between the hours of 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. I want to thank Office Manager Shelby Pfeifer for her hard work, dedication to ensure that how your money is spent for city business is documented and accounted for. I also want to thank our department

heads Tim Harrington, Billy Pirtle, and Police Chief Jon Moore staying on top of their budgets. They do this by getting, at a minimum, three bids when possible on items they purchase. This helps the city get quality product at the best price for our city. Thank you all for your effort in being good stewards of city funds. Water Bills are mailed the last working day of the month so you the customer will receive them on the first of the following month. Our mail now goes to Memphis to be sorted. Somewhere in this process, there is a problem. For some reason it is delayed in returning to Brookland. Some of our customers get the past due notice for the month owed, before they receive the actual bill for the month. This is not an issue with our local post office. This is happening at the sorting facility in Memphis. We are working with Senator Cotton, Senator Boozman, and Congressman Crawford as well as our local legislative representatives to solve this issue. If you want to let them know your frustrations with this problem, you can call, write, or email your representatives.

We have a couple of holidays in this quarter; Independence Day in July and Labor Day in September. I pray everyone has safe holidays and enjoys spending time with family and friends.

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

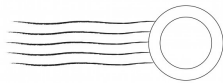
5. Fireworks may be discharged between the hours of 10am and will be extended until 12:30am (of the following day) on July 4.



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.

ZIP CODE MEETS THE DATE



When the date meets the ZIP Code...

If you live in Brookland July 24th will be a special day that only happens once a century. That's the day (7-24-17) when the date matches the 72417 zip code for Brookland Arkansas.

This event happens once every 100 years.

To mark the occasion, residents and businesses are invited to bring postcards and letters or purchase these items at the Post Office to be stamped with the commemorative postmark designed by Lisa Scott, Postmaster of the Brookland Post Office. The postmark stamp features the 'Bearcats'

and will be available for only 30 days after July 24, 2017. Come and join in for this 'once in a life time' event at the Brookland Post Office on Monday, July 24th.

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.



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:



4/7/17 - Patricia Williams
4/14/17 - Era J Jackson
4/21/17 - Chad Turner
4/28/17 - Karen Robles
5/5/17 - Darrell Reece
5/12/17 - Marie McCain
5/19/17 - Jimmy Stewart
5/26/17 - Heather Parsons
6/2/17 - Lucy Hoggard
6/9/17 - Jaime Shirley
6/16/17 - Susan Deeds
6/23/17 - James Grimes
6/30/17 - Shelley Dhane

Community Calendar:

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July



07/03-04 - City offices closed for Independence Day Holiday

07/10 - City Council Meeting
7:00 pm @ City Hall

07/17-21 - Brookland United Methodist Church VBS - 6:30 - 8:30 pm

07/18 - Sr. Citizens Community Pot Luck Lunch 11:30 am @ City Hall

07/30 - Connection Point Baptist Church VBS - 6 - 7:30 pm

August



08/01 - Connection Point Baptist Church VBS - 6 - 7:30 pm

08/03 - BUMC Freecycle clothing event @ 6-8 pm

08/04 - BUMC Freecycle clothing event @ 6-9 pm

08/05 - BUMC Freecycle clothing event @ 8 am - noon

08/06 - Restore Church Back to School party 5-8 pm at Grandslam Entertainment

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

08/14 - City Council Meeting 7:00 pm @ City Hall

08/15 - Sr. Citizens Community Pot Luck Lunch 11:30am @ City Hall

September



09/04 - City Offices closed for Labor Day Holiday

09/10 - Restore Church "Back to Church Sunday" 10 am at Grandslam Entertainment

09/11 - Planning Commission Meeting 6:00 pm @ City Hall

09/11 - City Council Meeting 7:00 pm @ City Hall

09/19 - Sr. Citizens Community Pot Luck Lunch 11:30am @ City Hall



UPCOMING EVENTS:

Brookland United Methodist Church

Brookland United Methodist Church will host its annual clothing giveaway the first weekend in August. Anyone who would like to donate clothes, can drop them off at Brookland City Hall or 3 Junk Ladies in Brookland. If you have a large donation, you can contact Megan Heyl at 870-215-3546 or Gretchen Hunt at 870-219-9443 to arrange a pick up or drop off time. The church will be open on Thursday, August 3, from 6-8 pm, Friday, August 4, from 6-9 pm and Saturday,

August 5, from 8 am to noon. There are no income requirements, and all are welcome to participate in this clothing freecycle event.

BUMC will host its Vacation Bible School July 17-21 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm each evening. The VBS will include snacks, games, music, Bible story and crafts. Classes will be offered for toddlers through sixth grade. Everyone is invited.

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

Restore Church

Restore Church is a non-denominational church that has been meeting in Brookland since January. They meet on Sunday mornings at Grandslam Entertainment, located at 50 County Road 792 (turn left at Goobertown curve). Entertainment starts at 10 am.

Restore Church is hosting a Back to School part on August 6 from 5-8 pm at Grandslam Entertainment. There will be inflatables, water games, food and fun for the whole family!

September 10 is Back to Church Sunday at Restore Church. Summer is ending, school is back in session, and it's time to get back to church. Invite your friends to Restore Church at 10 am for an exciting time of worship, food and giveaways. Call Clint at (325) 201-2842 if there are any questions concerning any of the upcoming events.

Connection Point Baptist Church

Connection Point Baptist Church is excited to host this year's

Vacation Bible School: Operation Arctic! We are heading deep into the Arctic Circle to discover the breathtaking beauty of the book known as the Bible. This event runs July 30-August 1 from 6:00 - 7:30 each evening. All kids 3 years old through the 6th grade are welcome. Come join us and learn about the coolest book on the planet!

Connection Point Baptist Church is located at 600 West School Street (in front of Whitten Creek Apartments.) Chad White is the pastor. For more information concerning events at Connection Point, call 870-931-1076 or visit the church website MyConnectionPoint.org.



Brookland Utilities Update:

As most of you know, we installed the new Sensus radio read meters in July and August last year. 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.

The Water Improvement Project is in progress and we are in the process of upgrading water lines around town. With the recent excessive rainfall we've encountered, it is difficult to repair yards. After the ground has dried up, the contractor will come back and dress up the yards.

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.

Holiday Closing

*City offices will be closed
July 3rd & 4th in
observance of
Independence Day
Holiday*



SUMMER Notice to Elderly Residents:

It has already been extremely hot and humid this summer. Please notify city hall if you are experiencing problems with your air conditioning and are in need of a fan or a cool place to stay during the hot part of the day. Our police officers will be making rounds checking on elderly residents to ensure that they don't get overheated.



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



17th 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 17th Annual Brookland Christmas Parade will be Sunday, December 3, 2017 at 2:00pm. The 2017 theme will be "Christmas Melodies". Mark the date on your calendars!

Update from the:

BROOKLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT

We hope everyone is enjoying their summer break and staying safe with all the activities this warm weather brings. This year we are stepping up our enforcement with our city ordinances and have been happy to report much success

can be seen through the city. Tall grass complaints have been addressed almost weekly. We do realize it has been a very wet season so far; but staying on top of a good mowing schedule will help your yard from getting out of hand. As all of you are aware, school is out and we have kids everywhere in our city! We have been enforcing illegal parking in regards to vehicles parked over sidewalks and on the edge of roadways. Keeping our roads and sidewalks clean and clear will help with traffic flow both on foot and in vehicles. Along the same topic we are stressing to parents that we are not tolerating ATV's on any roadways. The fact is our roads have changed so much over the years and every gravel road now connects to a paved one. This puts our juveniles at risk of getting involved in an accident that very rarely has positive outcomes. For that, we are asking everyone to help us by calling and reporting when you spot ATV's on the roads.

The 4th of July is fast approaching and we wanted to reiterate our times for enjoying fireworks this year. Starting June 29th through July 3rd, fireworks can be discharged from 10a.m. to 10p.m. We have extended the enjoyment of fireworks on July 4th to 10a.m. to 12:30a.m. Please be safe and aware of any dry areas to avoid when enjoying the fireworks.

The city curfew for our juveniles is still in place for their safety and the times are as follows: Sunday-Thursday 11p.m. to 5a.m. and Friday-Saturday 12a.m. to 5a.m. Meaning juveniles can not be out in public loitering or on foot unsupervised during these hours. We have also seen a rash of vehicle break-ins all over town and are stressing to our citizens to secure your vehicles and do not

leave anything valuable inside your cars. On behalf of the Brookland Police Department we want to say Thank You for allowing us to serve in such a great community and hope everyone has a great summer!



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BE SURE TO
VISIT OUR
WEBSITE FOR
LATEST
UPDATES!

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Check it out at:
brooklandarkansas.org

