

Brookland News

Published Quarterly - Vol. 10, Issue 3

July 2016

From the Mayor's Desk:

The test well has been drilled and water was found at 178 feet. The test pump ran for a week, and water samples have been sent to Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) for testing. This process will take around three (3) weeks to complete. Results from these test should be received the week of June 27 through July 1. We will post test results on our web page or have them available at city hall for review. Once the test results are received and they are approved by ADH the project will move forward.

Our storm water drainage system got a major test on May 24, 2016. I would give it a D-. As stated before in previous newsletters talking about storm water events, you think you have made progress then mother nature shows you different. I was attending my grandson's graduation at the ASU Convocation Center during the rain event. Trying to get back to Brookland, I saw water in roads and fields that I have never seen before. I saw that Hwy 49 had been closed between the Farrville Curve and signal light at Three Notch Road. We got 1 ¼" of rain from 4:15 pm to 5:35 pm. Then when I got back into the city, around 9:15 I checked the rain gauge and Brookland had received another 3 ½ inches for a total of 4 ¾ inches of rain 5 hours. We will continue to clean ditches, change culverts, and add retention ponds to help during a storm event.

The City of Brookland has been awarded another Safe Routes to School Grant that will build a sidewalk from the Brookland Elementary campus to the new Brookland Middle School. The City of Brookland has also applied for a Transportation Alternative Grant that will build a sidewalk on the west side of Holman (Hwy 49-B) from the police department to School Street.

The addition of these sidewalk projects will give pedestrians a safer mode of travel along our busy streets.

The City of Brookland recently purchased the Brookland Café to remodel and turn into a community building. This building, when complete, will be available to senior citizens, and will also be available for citizens to rent. We are working to have it renovated by this fall.

The city is working to bring a grocery store to our community. There is interest, but a lot of work has to be done before this will happen. I hope to have future announcements by the October newsletter.

Now we need to go over a few issues that that we have started receiving complaints about at city hall. Unsightly conditions around residents homes. The City of Brookland started trying to clean the city image up in 1969. In 2009, the Brookland City Council amended the previous ordinances in an effort to get the grass cut before it was too tall to cut with a lawn mower. Another issue is people storing materials in their yard, that they pick up. We realize this is done to eventually haul the items off to sell. But several residents are putting items out on the curb to advertise them for sale. According to Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration, any person/persons setting up a yard sale, items for sale, for three (3) consecutive days is operating a business. Anyone conducting business in the State of Arkansas, shall collect and report sales tax revenue to the Arkansas Department of Finance. I have instructed Brookland Police Chief Morris Rusher and the Brookland Police Department to observe yards that are not in compliance with our ordinances. If a residence is out of compliance with a city ordinance, they will deliver a copy of the

ordinance to the owner/renter explaining why the ordinance is being broken and discuss options with the owner/renter to bring residence back in compliance with the ordinance. If this is a rental property, the police department will notify not only the renter, but the landlord to resolve these issues. If you collect items to eventually sell and keep them at your residence, this shall be done in accordance with city ordinance. Your help in resolving these issues is greatly appreciated. If you have unwanted household items and place them at the curb for trash pickup that will not fit in your trash cart as part of your weekly garbage, it is your responsibility to contact Dedman's Sanitation and schedule these items to be picked up. When large items are put on street curb other than normal weekly garbage, like furniture, mattresses, appliances, etc., Dedman's may require an extra fee to pick these items up. Contact Dedman's Sanitation at (870)781-3754 for more information regarding the additional cost to pick up large items. The city only sponsors clean sweep two times a year.

It has been a very hot start to the summer of 2016. Remember your pets and neighbors through this time.

Pools more than 15 inches in height require a fence by city ordinance and there is more information in the newsletter concerning this.

Have a great, 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. This program was started in July of 2013 and has been a big success. Several seniors attend each month to enjoy a time of fellowship. Invite your friends, give your neighbor a ride and come join in on the fun.

**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, clear glass and #1 & #2 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:

- 4/1/16 - Darrell Reece
- 4/8/16 - Melinda Burcham
- 4/15/16 - Nelda Milburn
- 4/22/16 - Heather Parsons
- 4/29/16 - Allen Brown
- 5/6/16 - Bernice Bishop
- 5/13/16 - Darlene Downs
- 5/20/16 - Connie Nesmith
- 5/27/16 - Wyveta Groves
- 6/3/16 - Leigh Ann Cross
- 6/10/16 - Christopher D Williams
- 6/17/16 - Jim Borders
- 6/24/16 - Donald Forehand



**Community
Calendar:**

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July



- 07/04 - City offices closed for Independence Day Holiday
- 07/10 - Connection Point Baptist Church VBS - 2:00 to 6:30pm
- 07/11 - Planning Commission Meeting 6:00 pm @ City Hall
- 07/11 - City Council Meeting 7:00 pm @ City Hall
- 07/11-15 - Brookland United Methodist Church VBS - 6:30 to 8:30 pm
- 07/18 - Brookland United Methodist Church Food Pantry - 9:00 to 11:00 am
- 07/19 - Sr. Citizens Community Pot Luck Lunch 11:30 am @ City Hall

August



- 08/01 - Planning Commission Meeting 7:00 pm @ City Hall
- 08/06 - Brookland United Methodist Church Clothing Distribution - 8am to noon
- 08/8 - City Council Meeting 7:00 pm @ City Hall
- 08/15 - Brookland United Methodist Church Food Pantry - 9:00 - 11:00 am
- 08/16 - Sr. Citizens Community Pot Luck Lunch 11:30am @ City Hall
- 08/22-26 - Utility department will smoke test sewer lines

September



- 09/05 - City Offices closed for Labor Day Holiday
- 09/12 - Planning Commission Meeting 6:00 pm @ City Hall

09/12 - City Council Meeting
7:00 pm @ City Hall

09/19 - Brookland United
Methodist Church Food Pantry -
9:00 to 11:00 am

09/20 - Sr. Citizens Community
Pot Luck Lunch 11:30am @ City
Hall



UPCOMING EVENTS:
*Brookland United
Methodist Church*

Brookland United Methodist Church will host a clothing distribution on Saturday, August 6, 2016 from 8:00am until noon at the church. There will be no charge for the clothing, but donations will be accepted for children and youth ministries. A clothing donation box will also be located in the lobby at Brookland City Hall.

BUMC will host Vacation Bible School July 11-15 from 6:30-8:30pm. Join in the fun as they put on the full armor of God with Bible stories, crafts, music, games and a meal. Classes will be offered for preschool through sixth grade.

The third Monday of each month, the BUMC Food Pantry is open from 9-11am. The dates for this quarter include July 18, August 15 and September 19.

Brookland United Methodist Church welcomed a new pastor on June 27. Cory Pfeifer, a native of Bono, most recently served the United Methodist churches in Black Rock and Lynn. He welcomes anyone who is looking for a church home to visit during traditional worship on Sunday mornings at 11 or contemporary worship (including a meal) on Wednesday nights at 6.

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

**Connection Point
Baptist Church**

Connection Point Baptist Church will have a one day Vacation Bible School on Sunday, July 10. The theme is "Cave Adventure" and it will begin at 2:00pm and end at 6:30pm. All children ages 3 years old through sixth grade are welcome!

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:**

I would like to take this opportunity to remind residents that pouring grease and/or cooking oil down the drain results in maintenance issues with the wastewater lift stations that pump the sewage from your homes. During a recent inspection of our wastewater system, ADEQ noted that there is an increase in the amount of grease accumulating in the lift stations. This results in additional cost to breakdown and remove the grease buildup. Please do not pour grease and/or cooking oil in the garbage disposal or down the sink drain. The best way to

dispose of unwanted grease or oil is to let it cool and then pour it into a Ziploc bag; seal it up and then place it in the trash.

If you have shrubbery that has grown over the meter box, please prune them to help the meter reader gain easier access to read your meter. Also, please do not park vehicles over the meter box, as this prohibits workers from reading the meter.

We are in the process of changing out the water meters to the new radio read meters. Advanced Utility Services Company (AUS) will be doing the new meter installations and they will begin working on July 18. Their employees will be wearing safety green shirts with AUS logo, and their vehicles will be marked with the AUS logo. Your meter box may be raised during this process, and may need to be adjusted back down to the height of your yard. This is to let you know that they will be adjusted at a later date.

I have tentatively scheduled August 22-26 to do smoke testing of our sewer lines. The smoke is white in color, is non-toxic and has a cherry scent. This test will help us to locate storm water infiltration problems due to cracked or broken lines and will help to reduce the cost of treatment of wastewater. If you notice smoke coming into your house or out of the ground near your home during this time, please contact city hall so utility workers can help find the problem.

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 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



Christmas Parade Date Change

Christmas is still six months away, but the date of the Brookland Christmas Parade is changing and we wanted to get the word out early.

In the past, the parade has always been on the second Sunday in December. Due to scheduling issues related to inclement weather the past few years, we have decided to change it to be the **first Sunday in December**. The 16th Annual Brookland Christmas Parade will be Sunday, December 4, 2016 at 2:00pm. Mark the date on your calendars!



BROOKLAND FARMER'S MARKET

Beginning July 10, the Brookland Farmer's Market will be open on Sundays from 11:00am until 4:00pm. The market is located at the vacant lot at 403 Holman (south of the Brookland Police Department). Anyone interested in being a vendor

or volunteering can contact Christina Ballard at 325-338-5697 for more information.

Update from the:
**BROOKLAND
POLICE
DEPARTMENT**

The last few months have been busy for the Brookland Police Department. As the weather warms up so does the activity around town. Last month was the busiest for us so far this year. In May, the police department made 29 misdemeanor arrests. These arrests consisted of anything from driving on a suspended drivers' license to theft charges. The department also made nine felony arrests. I would like to commend a few officers for some of these nine arrests. One of those was made on a subject that was mentally unstable and posed a threat to not only himself, but others as he traveled the highway in the oncoming lane of traffic with no head lights. Our officers were able to locate this subject and get him the help that he needed. Another one of the felony arrests was made by one of the new Reserve Officers. Officer Iglehart made a traffic stop on Memorial Day that led to the discovery of all the components needed to make crystal methamphetamine. It is stops like these that help keep the streets safe. During the patrol hours, our officers were also able to take 11 people who were driving under the influence off the streets.

Last month the department also participated in a state wide campaign called "Click it or Ticket", in partnership with the Arkansas State Police and other

agencies around the state. Our officers were able to spend a little extra time on the streets and really work on enforcing traffic laws. In total, they issued over 20 citations to motorist for things like speeding, not having insurance on their vehicle, and not wearing their seat belts. One last item to mention is that our car seat tech handed out six car seats to those who were in need. Remember if you have any questions about getting a car seat, or even questions about how to install one that you have bought, contact the department and the tech will be more than happy to answer any questions you may have.

Just some reminders from our officers, the city park closes at sunset so no one should be out there after dark. Also, be sure that your children are not playing in the street. Whether you are watching them or not, the street is a very dangerous place for them. Vehicles are very hard to stop in a split second. Also, please **always** buckle your children and yourself up, whether you are going just down the road or on a long trip. Seat belts save lives!

Chief Mark Rusher

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**NEW WEBSITE
COMING SOON!**

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We have been working to improve our city website, and it is finally almost finished! We have had issues with the old one the for past month, and been unable to update it. Our goal is to have the new one online by

July 1. It will be the same as the old one. Check it out at: brooklandarkansas.org

