

Brookland News

Published Quarterly - Vol. 14, Issue 4

October 2020

From the Mayor's Desk:
October 1, 2020 and this will be the last newsletter of the year. I am re-doing the newsletter today because we found out our 2020 Census count is being extended into October. Census workers are trying to make sure everyone is counted. I am asking you to be counted for your city, county, and state. 13.5% of estimated 4,750 citizens equals 641 Brookland citizens that have not been counted in 2020 Census. This would mean a loss in revenue of \$13,198.19 a month, or \$158,378.28 a year. 2030 will be the next Census count, **and in that ten-year period Brookland would lose \$1,583,782.80.** This loss would not just be detrimental to the city of Brookland but would also affect the Brookland Fire Protection District, Brookland Street Department, Brookland School, and the list goes on. So, I ask you to be counted for your city, county, and state. The revenue generated by just being counted can mean the difference of having parks for citizens to enjoy, an animal park, curb and guttering on city streets and better drainage, which equals a strong self-sustaining City of Brookland for the future. The American Made Store is open at the corner of Crain Rd and Hwy 49. If you have not had a chance to visit, I want to encourage you to

drop by. Try their home-made sandwiches for lunch and their ice cream is really good. White milk and chocolate milk are in glass containers and canned goods in jars, like jelly, jams, beets, etc. are like grandma made them. They also have a metal shop show room and build houses and shop buildings too. So, stop by and check them out.

First Community Bank is under construction at the corner of West School Street and Hwy 49. Hopefully, the weather will cooperate, and we will have a First Community Brookland Branch open by spring.

There is a lot of residential construction going on in our city. Brookland Hills residential subdivision's final Phase 4 is started, Gatlin Crossing at Whispering Hills infrastructure is underway, and Hidden Creek Subdivision Phase I has been approved.

By the time you receive this letter hopefully, School Street be overlaid. This asphalt overlay was made possible through the state aid street program.

COVID-19 has thrown us a big curve this year. Our positive numbers continue to grow in Craighead County. The mask issue has really caused strong issues for all. Those for and those against. When Governor Hutchinson wanted all cities to pass an ordinance mandating masks, I was against this. I felt if a

mask was required it should be a state mandate. I could not see a city requiring citizens to wear a mask and citizens in the county or neighboring city not required. People would avoid your city or how would you enforce the mandate. Now that Governor Hutchinson has made it a mandate, I will follow the law. I hate wearing the masks, as do most. I just do not want to take a chance of getting COVID-19 much less pass it on to my elderly loved ones, other family members, neighbors, or employees here at city hall. We are here working every day, but our lobby will remain closed. Business will continue to be conducted by phone or at our drive through. We are holding our city council meetings and planning commission meetings here at city hall. Plexi-glass protectors have been installed for council members at their meeting desk, and around 17 citizens will be permitted in the meeting area. Citizens that attend will be asked a couple of questions, have their temperature taken, and wear a mask to attend the meeting. Seating is around 6 feet apart.

Well holiday season is almost upon us. Will there be Halloween? Will we have our annual holiday events. Right now, we do not know the answer. I have spoken with other cities and they have already canceled their

seasonal events. We are asking that you check our web site cityofbrookland.com for upcoming announcements. On November 6th we will post our decisions. I pray all of you have a happy holiday season, and a Blessed safe 2021.

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:

- 7/3/20 - Chris Pfeifer
- 7/10/20 - Karen Robles

- 7/17/20 - Angie Smith
- 7/24/20 - Julie Ramsey
- 7/31/20 - David McHalfey
- 8/7/20 - Elizabeth Lam
- 8/14/20 - Connie Wooldridge
- 8/21/20 - Chad Turner
- 8/28/20 - Jon Griesse
- 9/4/20 - Barbara Wortham
- 9/11/20 - Courtney Peters
- 9/18/20 - Diana Ball
- 9/25/20 - Jimmy Stewart



**Brookland
Christmas Parade
Dec. 6 @ 2:00 pm**



The City of Brookland is tentatively scheduled to have its 20th annual Christmas parade on Sunday, Dec. 6 at 2:00 pm. However, with the uptick in active Covid cases in our area, a final decision regarding the parade won't be made until the middle of November. Check the city website for further information.

If we are able to have the parade, the theme is "Christmas Classics-Reminiscing 20 years in 2020". 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:**



- 10/06 - Planning Commission meeting @ 7:00 pm
- 10/12 - City offices closed for Columbus Day
- 10/12- City Council meeting @ 7:00 pm
- 10/15 - Sr. Citizens Pot Luck @ City Hall; 11:30 am- ****CANCELED**



- 11/03 - Planning Commission meeting @ 7:00 pm
- 11/09 - City Council meeting @ 7:00 pm
- 11/11 - City offices closed for Veteran's Day
- 11/17 - Sr. Citizen's Pot Luck @ City Hall; 11:30 am ****CANCELED**
- 11/26-27 - Offices closed for Thanksgiving Holiday



12/1- Planning Commission meeting @ 7:00 pm

12/06 - Christmas Parade @ 2:00 pm. Theme "Christmas Classics-Reminiscing 20 years in 2020"
NOTE: FOR ANY CHANGES DUE TO COVID, PLEASE VISIT THE CITY WEBSITE cityofbrookland.com

12/14 - City Council meeting @ 7:00 pm

12/15 - Sr. Citizen's Pot Luck @ City Hall; 11:30 am****CANCELED**

12/24-25 City offices closed for Christmas holiday

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



Christmas Light Contest

The annual residential Brookland Christmas light judging will be December 14. 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.



through our website 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.

We have also recently added a new feature regarding text and/or e-mail alerts a few days prior to disconnects. If you have recently changed your phone number, please contact our office to ensure that we have the correct number on file to send the notifications to.



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