

From the Mayor's Desk:

2021 began with a frigid start with two weeks of freezing single digit temps, and multiple ice and snow storms in February. March has also provided some torrential rain events.

Latest update on 2020 Census is our population counts will not be available now until September 2021. Census updates were supposed to be available April 1, 2021 but due to COVID-19 this date has been moved to September 2021. This means monies that we should have started receiving in April, now will not be available until after September. Unfortunately, this means some projects slated for this summer will be delayed until after September.

Covid-19 continues to hit us pretty hard. I am thankful so many people have been fortunate not to get this virus. However, if you had it and have recovered, be thankful. There are those who have had it but are still dealing with long term affects. For those who have lost loved ones, friends, or associates our thoughts and prayers for everyone. The COVID-19 mask mandate appears to be coming to an end. However, the question now is, "Do we continue to wear it or take it off?" Please respect others decisions, who may not feel safe and continue to wear a mask.

Let us talk about the rain event that happened March 18, 2021. Our weather station here at city hall indicated the rain was falling at 2.29 inches per hour. However, the total amount of rain was 3.66 inches. I apologize, because this was one storm event that I was not able to get out with the employees.

However, I was on the phone with workers getting updates. Your city employees worked diligently to keep culverts open and water flowing. When that much rain falls in a short period of time, it shows that even though the city has made strides in the correct direction, there is still drainage work that needs to be done. We will continue to try to improve our drainage system for our city. Transportation Alternative Program (TAPS) project 100935 has received final approval from ARDOT. This grant will allow Brookland to install a sidewalk that will connect School Street south to Stevens Street along the west side of Holman Street. This project has been in the works for some time. We have met all the requirements of ARDOT and will advertise construction bids in the next few weeks.

Three new subdivisions have been approved by the Brookland Planning Commission. They are Gatlin Crossing at Whispering Hills, Hidden Creek, and Oak View Manor. Construction on the First Community Bank building is coming along, and a tentative opening is late June at this time. City leaders are bringing to you, our citizens, a request to rework the bond that done in 2015. We are also asking to approve this extension for three different projects for our city.

Project one is the development of baseball/softball fields at a cost of \$4,370,000.00. The complex will have a total of 4 new ball fields, a walking trail with exercise equipment,(similar to what is at Craighead Forrest Park in Jonesboro), and a playground for children to use while attending ball games. Parks at corner of Smith/Bernis,

and Nelms/E Matthews will be constructed also. 250k of the bond will be used as matching grant.

Project two, if approved, will be to construct a new municipal building that will house both city hall and Brookland Police Department in the amount of \$1,095,000.00. Brookland Police Chief Jon Moore and Captain Janssen Settlemoir addressed the Brookland City Council last year that they needed more space. "We have outgrown our current building," they said. City hall has also outgrown the current location at 613 Holman. In 2019, we added a new office to the inside, which took space out of our meeting room. We have scheduled to possibly add a city engineer position to our staff, the city inspector needs more room, and plans are to add an Animal control officer/code enforcement officer position. So, you can see we are growing and there is a need for a new structure to house the various departments.

Project three is for sewer improvement projects in the amount of \$1,310,000.00. As I have stated before, our wastewater treatment plant is in good condition and has capacity to handle around 10,000 population. The problem is the Eason Street Lift Station. When it was installed in 1975 the station was designed for around 800+ people. Though we have directed most of the new development away from this lift station, there are several projects that must use this lift station. It needs to be designed to meet current and future needs for our projected growth. Along with improving the Eason Lift Station, our utility department

needs to build a sewer main along Hwy 49. We feel this will help our commercial properties develop on Hwy 49.

We are asking you for FOUR (4) YES votes on these projects. These FOUR (4) YES votes means quality of life improvements that all current/future citizens can enjoy. It will provide a new City Hall that citizens will be proud of and visitors can see our belief in our city and sewer improvements will mean commercial growth that will help us remain financially stable into the foreseeable future.

Spring and summer time are here. Remember to follow all street speed limits. Watch for pedestrians and bicyclists, and children out playing. Have a blessed Spring!

Mayor Jones

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



2021 Spring City Wide



**CANCELED TO
REDUCE SPREAD OF
COVID-19 VIRUS**

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 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.

DOXO Bill Payment Warning:

Several customers have used a search engine, such as google to pay their bills online and often end up on the DOXO online payment website. **DO NOT USE DOXO TO PAY YOUR BU BILL!** The website appears to be affiliated with the water system or municipality, but it is not. "doxo.com" may charge extra or higher fees, and BU cannot control when our utility will receive payments from doxo.com, because they come in the form of a check. This could result in late payment fees or disconnection due to non payment. Therefore, **BU advises customers to ONLY utilize the ONLINE PAYMENT link on our website for online bill pay.**



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. If there are questions concerning the installation of a pool, please contact our inspection department.

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.

The new radio read meters that were installed in the summer of 2016, 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, and lists the

fees that will be invoiced to repair the damaged 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.) 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.



SPRING CLEAN

SWEEP



*****CANCELED to prevent spread of Coronavirus to our employees**

In an effort to keep our employees and residents safe from the ongoing situation with Covid-19, the City of Brookland will **NOT** have a spring clean sweep or city wide yard sale. Residents may contact Dedman's Sanitation to schedule a special trash pickup and find out the cost to have items picked up at (870)781-3754. 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.



**RECYCLE &
WIN!**

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. Please remember to tie your bluebags before you place them in the trailer.

Newspapers, junk mail, old magazines and other paper products are to be placed in a separate bag and placed on the curb with your bluebag.

Corrugated cardboard boxes are to be flattened out and put in the green dumpster behind City Hall.

Bluebag Winners:

- 1/1/21 - Mary Jones
- 1/8/21-Drake Newsom
- 1/15/21-Kristine Hammonds
- 1/22/21- Chad Turner
- 1/29/21- June Gulley
- 2/5/21 - Jose Vazques
- 2/12/21 - Bob Sartain
- 2/19/21 - Stephanie Jernigan
- 2/26/21 - Connie Nesmith
- 3/5/21 - Diane Powell
- 3/12/21 - Patricia Kimble
- 3/19/21 - Sandy Dacus
- 3/26/21 - MC Taylor

Thanks for making Brookland a "GREENER" place to live.

Community Calendar:



- 04/02 - City offices closed for Good Friday Holiday
- 04/03 - Community Easter Egg Hunt @ New Antioch Baptist Church at 11am
- 04/03 - Community Easter Egg Hunt @ Connection Point Baptist Church at 4pm
- 04/04 - Easter Sunday
- 04/06 - Planning Commission Meeting at 7pm
- 04/07 - Noon deadline for City Council Agenda
- 04/12 - City Council Meeting at 7pm

04/28 - Noon deadline for Planning Commission agenda



05/04 - Planning Commission meeting at 7pm

05/05 - Noon deadline for City Council agenda

05/09 - Happy Mother's Day!

05/10 - City Council meeting at 7pm

5/26 - Noon deadline for Planning Commission agenda

05/31 - City offices will be closed for Memorial Day holiday



06/01 - Planning Commission meeting at 7pm

06/09 - Noon deadline for City Council agenda

06/13-17 - VBS at New Antioch Baptist Church; 5:55pm - 8:30pm; Theme: "Concrete & Cranes".

06/14 - City Council meeting at 7pm

06/20 - Happy Father's Day!

06/30 - Noon deadline for Planning Commission Agenda



New Antioch Baptist Church 429 CR 950-Goobertown ***

A community Easter Egg Hunt is planned for Saturday, April 3rd at 11am at New Antioch Baptist Church. There will be lots of eggs, candy and prizes. All activities will be outside. (Alternate rain date is Sunday, April 4th at 3pm.)

New Antioch Baptist Church will have Vacation Bible School June 13-17 from 5:55pm - 8:30pm The theme is "Concrete and Cranes". There will be classes from Kindergarten thru 12th grade. Supper will be served each night. Children will have fun learning about Jesus's love for them.

Elmer Ash is the pastor and everyone in the community is invited to the above mentioned events. For more information and times of events, please call the church office at 870-972-0339, email at newantiochbc@gmail.com, or check them out on their Facebook page at New Antioch Baptist Church. The church website is newantiochbaptistchurch.com. *****



Help us keep F.O.G out of our sewer system!

What is F.O.G.? FOG is Fats, Oils and Grease that is found in food and food ingredients such as meat, butter, cooking oils, mayonnaise, salad dressings, gravies and food scraps.

Help us to keep FOG out of our sewer system by following these steps:

- 1) After cooking food that contains FOG, let the FOG cool to a safe room temperature. 2) Put the FOG into a disposable, container (e.g. an empty soup can) and dispose of the container in the trash. 3) Scrape food scraps from the dishes into the trash can. Use a paper towel to wipe FOG out of

the pots and pans before washing them.

4) Use sink strainers to catch food waste during dish washing. Empty the strainer in the trash can.

5) Soak up spilled FOG with an absorbent material such as paper towels or kitty litter and throw it into the trash can.

MYTH: It's ok to pour FOG down the drain as long as I use the garbage disposal. FACT: The garbage disposal only grinds up FOG and food items before passing them into your sewer pipes. These items can still cause the system to back up.

MYTH: It's ok to pour FOG down the drain as long as I run hot water. FACT: The FOG will cool and build up in the sewer pipes causing the system to back up.

MYTH: It's ok to pour FOG down the drain as long as I chase it down with dish soap. FACT: Soap breaks up FOG, but the soap will lose its effectiveness, causing the grease to solidify in the sewer pipes.

Tim Harrington

Water/Wastewater Supt.



STORMWATER POLLUTION SOLUTIONS FOR LAWN CARE



Excess fertilizers and pesticides applied to lawn and gardens wash off and pollute streams. In addition, yard clippings and leaves can wash into storm drains and contribute nutrients and organic matter to streams.

- Don't overwater your lawn. Use waterwise gardening techniques. Perform regular irrigation system checks. • Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly, and only in recommended amounts. Use organic mulch or safer pest controls whenever possible. Sweep up excessive fertilizer from sidewalks and streets. • Compost or mulch yard waste. • Cover piles of dirt or mulch being used in landscape projects. • Sweep leaves, grass and other debris into the trash, and avoid washing these materials into the street or storm drain.