

Brookland News

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October 2021

From the Mayor's Desk:

In July, we thought that COVID-19 was going to be a thing in our review mirror. But, it came roaring back as what is called the DELTA Variant. Covid-19 shut our country down in 2020. Now according to all the scientist, the Delta Variant is worse. Our medical personnel on the front line are working valiantly to save those who contract this dreadful disease, while we all try to continue on with our daily life. If you have been fortunate to not get either of these viruses, consider yourself blessed. Several of my family members had COVID-19 in 2020. To my knowledge my family did not lose any family members in 2020, but since May of 2021 my family has lost three members that have contracted COVID-19. I lost a first cousin (age 72) in June and his son (age 53) on September 9th in Michigan, and I lost another first cousin on September 8th in Tennessee (age 54). Like all families, our family divided on getting vaccinated. This is their choice. I have been vaccinated. I have people ask me quite often if I have been vaccinated, and when I answer yes; well, I cannot write some of the things I am told by friends and family. I guess I do not understand why I need to support the right for someone not to get the vaccine, but I am not supported in my choice to get the vaccine. I got the vaccine because I not only want to protect myself, but those I am around. Family, friends, co-workers, and citizens.

Now, the debate is about wearing a mask. Herein lies the problem. You have specialist on both sides of the fence. So, who

is right? My opinion is, it helps. I base this opinion on the number of flu cases in 2020. We wore the mask for the COVID-19 in 2020, washed our hands, and consistently sanitized our homes and workplaces. Flu cases were very low in 2020. If you are out in a crowd, try to be safe by social distancing.

Now to update you on various city projects. We started the Holman Street Sidewalk project in the fall of 2016. The estimated cost of this project was \$135k. We accepted bids in June 2021 and our lowest bid for this project was \$329k. We have asked ARDOT to allow us to break this project down into two phases. Build Phase 1 with current approved grant; reapply for Phase 2 money to complete. ARDOT has agreed to allow us to do the sidewalk project this way, so Project #100935 Sidewalk plans have been resubmitted to ARDOT for modification.

Asphalt patching and overlay projects were let by bid and scheduled for completion by September 30. As I work on this newsletter, patch and overlay projects have yet to be started. The only project started is Eason Street, between Maple Slough Ditch Bridge and Brookvale Circle south entrance. This section of road was torn up badly due to the snow and freezes we had in February. Brookland Hills Subdivision had extensive damage to certain streets due to dirt, sand, concrete, being hauled into phase 4. These bad spots are scheduled to be cut out, repaired and overlaid.

Update on School Street and HWY 49 intersection; ARDOT is

working to approve the intersection changes. We hope to receive feedback from them anytime. ARDOT is also doing a traffic study that was requested by City of Brookland and Craighead County on the Pine Log Road (CR 762) and HWY 49 intersection, for a signal light to be installed.

The parks grant has been applied for and hopefully we will find out October 28 if our projects for the park on Smith and Bernis, and E Matthews and Nelms have been approved. Sewer improvement projects have been drawn and will start work this fall weather permitting. The search for a location of the new municipal building is ongoing with a couple of possible locations in mind. We will further update you on all these projects as we move forward.

Brookland will be home to a new Kubota Dealership. The location is north of Pine Log Road on HWY 49. The process to petition this property into the City of Brookland has started. I have been asked what is currently being built west of First Community Bank. It is a strip mall and car wash. Other new businesses have shown interest in Brookland, and we will keep you updated on these in the future.

This is the last quarterly newsletter of the year, and is the time that we celebrate many holidays. We just do not know if Brookland Christmas Parade will take place again this year due to COVID. We are planning to have it, but will wait and see how the numbers and Arkansas Department of Health Regulations are in November.

I pray everyone has a scary, safe Halloween, a blessed Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year.
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:

- 07/02/21-Connie Wooldridge
- 07/09/21-Cherie Clark
- 07/16/21- Ashley Allen
- 07/23/21 - Angie Smith
- 07/30/21 - Frankie Loyd
- 08/6/21 - JD McHalfey
- 08/13/21 - James Grimes
- 08/20/21 - Judy Brown
- 08/27/21- Shelia Evans
- 09/3/21 - Barbara Wortham

- 09/10/21 - Brittany Turner
- 09/17/21 - Jenny Simmons
- 09/24/21 - Bernice Bishop



**Brookland
Christmas Parade
Dec. 5 @ 2:00 pm**



The City of Brookland is tentatively scheduled to have its 20th annual Christmas parade on Sunday, Dec. 5 at 2:00 pm. However, with the uptick in active Covid cases due to the Delta Strain 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". 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:**



- 10/05 - Planning Commission meeting @ 7:00 pm
- 10/11 - City offices closed for Columbus Day
- 10/11- City Council meeting @ 7:00 pm
- 10/31 - Fall Festival @ New Antioch Baptist Church 4:00 - 6:00 pm



- 11/02 - Planning Commission meeting @ 7:00 pm
- 11/08 - City Council meeting @ 7:00 pm
- 11/11 - City offices closed for Veteran's Day
- 11/25-26 - Offices closed for Thanksgiving Holiday



- 12/05 - Christmas Parade @ 2:00 pm. Theme "Christmas Classics-Reminiscing 20" **NOTE: FOR ANY CHANGES DUE TO COVID, PLEASE VISIT THE CITY WEBSITE**
www.cityofbrookland.com
- 12/7- Planning Commission meeting @ 7:00 pm

12/13 - City Council meeting @ 7:00 pm

12/19 - Christmas Cantata - New Antioch Baptist Church @ 11:00 am

12/23-24 City offices closed for Christmas holiday

12/31 - City offices closed for New Year's holiday



Christmas Light Contest

The annual residential Brookland Christmas light judging will be December 13. 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. regarding adequate visible address on residence:



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.



Brookland Utilities Online Bill Pay

This is 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 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.

We also want to remind customers that if you wish to receive messages and notifications prior to

disconnect, to make sure that we have the correct phone number and email address on your account.



New Antioch Baptist Church

New Antioch Baptist Church will have their annual Fall Festival on Sunday, October 31st from 4:00 - 6:00 pm. Weather permitting, the event will be held outside. There will be games, food, candy and a blow up slide. (If there is inclement weather, activities will be moved inside.) Everyone is invited to come.

The Christmas Cantata will be presented on Sunday, December 19th at 11:00 am. The community is invited to come and celebrate Christ's birthday.

New Antioch is located at 429 County Road 960, near Goobertown. Elmer Ash is the Pastor.

Regular service times are Sunday School - 10:00 am, Sunday Worship - 11:00 am, Sunday Evening - 6:00 pm and Wednesday Evening - 6:00 pm. There are classes for children and youth on both Sunday morning and Wednesday evening.

If you have any questions about any of the events, please call 870-972-0339, email at newantiochbc@gmail.com, check them out on the New Antioch Baptist Church Facebook page or visit the church website www.newantiochbaptistchurch.com

