



Brookland News



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April 2010

From the Mayor's Desk:

Stand Up and Be

Counted. Today, April 1st, 2010 is the start of the census count. As we have explained, this is very important to the City of Brookland, Craighead County and the State of Arkansas. This will not only determine the local turn back revenue on the state level, but also will affect how grants and federal monies are given to states and cities. The 2010 Census will be handled differently from the 2000 Census. All citizens of Brookland and Craighead County will receive a survey from the census bureau by U.S. Mail. Fill out the form, drop it back in the mail and you are done. If you do not fill it out correctly and return it to the census bureau, then a census worker will call or come to your address to verify the census information. On the local level, this count will determine for the next 10 years what the City of Brookland will receive in turn back money from the state sales tax. The Brookland Street Fund revenue also depends on this count. Everyone needs to be counted. If you have questions about the 2010 Census, please call the local census number 870-819-3320 for more information. **Remember, the count is in our hands.**

The City of Brookland and Brookland Public Schools have teamed up together to build a retention pond. It will be located at the northeast corner of the school baseball fields. This retention pond, when completed, will slow down the volume of water that comes through the Northern Heights Subdivision. The reduction in the current

volume of water that is carried by this ditch, should reduce the flooding events on Christy Street by Kidz "R" Us Daycare and East School Street between Highway 49-B N. and the Union Pacific Railroad tracks. We will continue to work on drainage issues that face our city.

One reason the City of Brookland has been reluctant to condemn any vacant homes, buildings and other unsafe structures is due to the City having to incur the expense of the cleanup, if the owner does not rectify the issue. Most people think when a building is condemned, that you can dig a hole and burn it. This is considered demolition by burning. Demolition by burning is against Arkansas State Law. Any structure torn down has to be hauled to a landfill. Before a structure is hauled to Legacy Landfill, you must call and find out what the landfill will accept. Once the City of Brookland starts the condemnation process, the owner of the property will have the opportunity to fix/tear down the condemned structure. If the owner refuses to fix/tear down the structure then the City can proceed with demolition, but all expenses now will be the responsibility of the City. Depending on EPA/ADEQ test results; this expense could cost the City a few thousand dollars, up to tens of thousands of dollars. After clean up, the City can invoice expenses to the owner and if the owner refuses to pay, a lien can be attached to the property for payment. If the City has to attach a lien, it could be years before the money is received for the work that was done. Also, the City Council has

adopted a Verification Worksheet to Condemn Unsafe, Uninhabited Residences or Buildings. As citizens of Brookland, you can help address these issues. You may pick up one of these work sheets and fill it out, requesting the Mayor, city inspector or police department to assess the structure. Once documentation is put together, it will be presented to the city council for a vote.

We will not be having a Brookland Mayfest Celebration this year. The committee had talked about moving it to the fall because of the wet spring weather, but other established festivals and fairs had conflicting dates during these months. Since it was getting too late to prepare for the original May date, we decided to cancel it for this year. We have decided to form a festival commission. We would like to get 10 people to serve on this commission. If you are interested in serving, please contact city hall at (870)935-0538, or you can drop a note in the drop box with your name, address and contact number. We would like to get five people from the city and five from the county to organize and plan future festivals.

In closing, let me remind you spring is almost here and with the longer days and warm sunshine, our children are getting out riding bikes, walking and playing. As drivers, please use caution, stay alert and watch out to keep the citizens of Brookland safe.

Mayor Jones



City Wide



April 9 & 10

Contact City Hall to have your address put on the map.



JROTC

5K Run/Walk

The Brookland JROTC is hosting the 1st annual 5-K on May 1, 2010. Registration will be from 7:30am to 8:30am at the Brookland High School Auditorium. The race starts at 8:30am. Pre-registration costs are \$8 for students and \$13 for adults. Registration the day of the race is \$10 for students and \$15 for adults. All race proceeds will go to the Brookland Fire Protection District. For more information, contact Col. Waldo at (870)932-2080 Ext. 140 or 141, or e-mail him at waldoj@brookland.crsc.k12.ar.us.



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.

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, 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. 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:

- 01/01 – Alvin Groves
- 01/08 – Kidz R Us
- 01/15 – Rachel Jaramillo
- 01/22 – Jo Petit
- 01/29 – Nelda Milburn
- 02/05 – Jerry Schaechtel
- 02/12 – JD McHalfey
- 02/19 – Steve Smith
- 02/26 – Catherine Chipman
- 03/05 – Maxine Harrison
- 03/12 – Donald Forehand
- 03/19 – Kenneth Williams

Thanks for making Brookland a “GREENER” place to live.

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.



SPRING CLEAN

SWEEP



April 12, 2010

Brookland Mayfest Golf Tournament

The 2nd annual Brookland Mayfest Golf Tournament is scheduled for May 22nd at the Brookland Hills Golf Course, with tee time at 8:00 am. This will be a four person scramble and the entry fee is \$25.00 per person, which includes cart and green fees. There will be a \$5.00 fee for one mulligan per person, which is optional. The mulligan fee will be donated to the Brookland Golf Team and the Brookland Trap Team. Trophies will be awarded to the top three in each flight. An additional tee time of 1:00 pm may be added if there is enough participation. Signup sheets are available at Brookland City Hall or Brookland Hills Golf Course so please RSVP as soon as possible so we can get a preliminary count.

Building Inspection and Permit Update:

The State of Arkansas adopts codes such as the Fire, Gas, Plumbing, HVAC and Mechanical Codes, which are revised and updated periodically. Brookland passed an ordinance to support the Arkansas Codes. These codes are to protect the health, safety and welfare of all the people.

Death caused by fire in Arkansas has been reduced drastically over the years, because of these codes. Each code has its own do's and don'ts. That is why a permit is required. This allows the inspector to look at each job and make the property owner aware of the specific code requirements allowed. 1) **Building permit** is needed for any construction that alters the structure in any way; 2) **Plumbing permit** is needed if any work is to be performed on any plumbing. The work must then be inspected prior to turning the water on or operating any fixture that empties into the sewer system; 3) **Electrical permit** is required for any work, especially building additions, that add or remove electrical circuits; 4) **Heating / Ventilation / Air Conditioning (HVAC) permit** is needed when changing, adding or reducing the units, duct work, etc.

Remember these permits are adopted from the State of Arkansas and the Arkansas Department of Health. These codes are set forth to provide safety and protection to the homeowner when a contractor makes repairs or additions to their home. For more information or questions, contact City Hall or G.T. Jones at 275-5831.

Community Calendar:



- 04/02 – City offices closed for holiday
- 04/04 – Happy Easter!
- 04/06 – Planning Commission meeting @ 7:00 pm
- 04/09 – New Harvest Friday Night Lights @ 7:30 pm
- 04/09-10 – City Wide Yard Sale
- 04/10 – New Harvest Agape Kitchen Free Community Meal at 5:00 pm
- 04/12 – Spring Clean Sweep

- 04/13 – City Council meeting @ 7:00 pm
- 04/15 – Messiah Ministries Boston Butt Fundraiser
- 04/17 – BUMC Monthly Fellowship Breakfast @ 8:00 am
- 04/18 – New Harvest 8th Homecoming Services
- 04/18 – Potter's House 3rd Sunday Dinner
- 04/24 – BUMC Fish Fry – 5:00 - 7:00 pm
- 04/24 – Messiah Ministries Boston Butt Fundraiser



- 05/04 – Planning Commission meeting @ 7:00 pm
- 05/06 – Messiah Ministries Boston Butt Fundraiser
- 05/11 – City Council Meeting @ 7:00 pm
- 05/15 – BUMC Monthly Fellowship Breakfast @ 8:00 am
- 05/16 – Potter's House 3rd Sunday Dinner
- 05/22 – Brookland Mayfest Golf Tournament at Brookland Hills Golf Course at 8:00 am
- 05/22 – New Harvest Agape Kitchen free community meal at 5:00 pm
- 05/22 – Messiah Ministries Spring Charity Golf Classic at the Links @ 8:00am
- 05/28 – Messiah Ministries Boston Butt Fundraiser
- 05/31 – City Offices Closed – Holiday



- 06/01 – Planning Commission meeting @ 7:00 pm
- 06/08 – City Council meeting @ 7:00 pm

- 06/10 – Messiah Ministries Boston Butt Fundraiser
- 06/18-19 – New Harvest 9th Annual BBQ Fundraiser
- 06/20 – Potter's House 3rd Sunday Dinner
- 06/21-25 – BUMC VBS Services @ 6:30 – 9:00 pm
- 06/26 – Messiah Ministries Boston Butt Fundraiser



Upcoming events:

Messiah Ministries

Small Christian Community

Messiah Ministries support group, Friends of the Messiah, is hosting a Spring Charity Golf Classic on May, 22 at The Links of Jonesboro, off South Caraway Road in Jonesboro. The cost is \$50 per person and the proceeds from the golf classic will be used to help fund the operational expenses of the residence here in Brookland and will offer an opportunity for Christians to fellowship together in a wholesome atmosphere. It is also intended to help spread the word about the program and increase awareness, interest and support.

A monthly Boston Butt fundraiser is also held to aid in the payment of monthly mortgage expenses. The cost is \$30. Call 932-0051 to place order or email mm@neapath.com. Pick up is from 8am until noon at 208 Hwy. 230 East, Brookland. Upcoming Dates are: March 18 & 27; April 15 & 24; May 6 & 28; June 10 & 26; July 2. There are also several delivery points in Jonesboro and Paragould.

The Messiah Ministries Spiritual Training Center is a Christ-centered, Spirit led program providing a beneficial living environment in a Small Christian Community. The community

provides biblical spirituality and discipleship training for adult men who are desperate to seek God as their answer to life's problems. It is a program of a non-denominational, religious, non-profit corporation.

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***New Harvest Family
Worship Center
203 N. Lynch***

New Harvest is introducing a new ministry called the "Agape Kitchen". The purpose of the Agape Kitchen is to reach outside the four walls of the church to bless the community with a free meal. The kick-off first meal was in March and preliminary plans are underway for the upcoming months. Scheduled dates are: April 10th and May 22nd at 5:00 pm. The June date will be omitted to allow time for the annual BBQ fundraiser.

On April 18th, New Harvest will celebrate their 8th Homecoming. Please make plans to attend and join in on this day of celebration. June 18-19 will be the 9th annual BBQ Fundraiser. Boston butts are available for \$25.00, BBQ plates will be \$7.00 for adults and \$3.50 for children 12 and under. For more information or to place an order, call Karen Russell at (870) 910-0191 and leave a message if there is no answer. Pastor Marty and his wife, Karen Russell wants to express their thanks to everyone in the community who support this yearly event. You are a true blessing to our church.

New Harvest Vertical Youth Ministry will be having Friday Night Lights on April 9 beginning at 7:30 pm. This will include various dramas and music ministries. The devotional is entitled "The Matrix" and refreshments will be provided following the service. For questions, call Audie Cox at 926-7432.

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Potter's House

403 N. Bernis

The Potter's House will have their monthly 3rd Sunday Dinner on April 18, May 16 and June 20 following the morning services. Their pastor is Rex Howell and the public is invited to attend.

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***Brookland United
Methodist Church
401 W. Matthews***

Upcoming events for BUMC include a fish fry on April 24 from 5:00 to 7:00 pm.

Vacation Bible School will be June 21 - 25 and will start at 6:30 pm nightly and conclude at 9:00 pm.

The monthly Fellowship Breakfast will be April 17 and May 15 starting at 8:00 am. The monthly breakfast will be canceled for the months of June, July and August.

An adult Bible Study and Children's Church School is held each Thursday night at 6:00 pm and is followed by a contemporary worship service at 7:00 pm. The public is invited to attend.

For more information concerning events at the church visit their website at www.brooklandmethodist.org.

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***Christian Life Center
8298 Hwy. 49 N.***

On April 2, at 7:00 pm the Christian Life Center will hold dedication services for their new building.

April 10 beginning at 7:00 am a rummage sale will be held at the church.

Behold the Bridegroom Cometh, Family Enhancement Seminar will be May 21-22 beginning at 7:00 pm each day.



Animal Control Info:

The Animal Control Committee has been working on revamping the current ordinance for the past several months. We presented a

draft copy to the City Council at the March meeting for their review, and it will be on the agenda at the April council meeting for the first reading. A copy is available at City Hall if anyone has questions or wants to review it. I would personally like to thank Charles Harris, Marvin Tate, William Thompson and Wannda Turner with NAFA for serving on the committee and helping with the revisions to the ordinance.

Warm weather is approaching, so I want to remind everyone to keep your pets on a leash or in a pen while they are outside. This law is for the safety of your pet as well as to keep them from intruding on your neighbor's property.

Bobby Williams



**From the
Brookland Police
Department:**

Brookland's newest police officer, Hardy, the two year old German Shepherd recently purchased by donations made to the Brookland Police Department, made his first drug arrest this past month. During a traffic stop by Chief Mark Rusher, Captain Jason Allen utilized Hardy to search the exterior of the stopped truck. Officers searched the truck, and located a coffee filter containing meth inside the driver's door. Components used in the manufacture of meth were also located, as well as a syringe and other drug paraphernalia. During the month of January, the BPD answered 230 calls and for February, they were dispatched on 211 calls. So far for March, 217 calls have been responded to.

Mark Rusher

Chief of Police