



# Brookland News



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### From the Mayor's Desk:

I hope everyone had a Happy Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas and a Blessed start to 2010.

A year ago this month, the City of Brookland along with numerous other cities in our area, were devastated by the 2009 Ice Storm. Thanks to city employees, Brookland Police Department, Brookland Fire Protection District and YOU the citizens of our town. With everyone's help, we were able to work together and make the best out of a very bad situation.

The City of Brookland has applied for two grants for 2010. The GIF grant, if approved, will paint the outside of the water tank at Well #2 on East Matthews Street. The funding will also wash and touch up the standpipe tank at Well #1 on North Hickory Street. This tank is just five years old and needs some repair. Someone has thrown rocks at the tank, hitting and chipping the paint. This has caused the tank to rust and it needs to be repaired before further damage is caused. Anyone that is caught throwing rocks can be charged with felony destruction of public property.

An application has also been made for a safe walk to school grant. If approved, this grant would allow us to build a sidewalk from Brookland Elementary School, south to Stevens Street.

We are also researching a FEMA Grant that will aid in the installation of a SAFE ROOM for the City of Brookland. I know everyone has heard about the American Reinvestment and Recovery money (stimulus). USDA, Rural Development and AR Natural Resources

Commission as well as other sources for grant funding have declined support for the City of Brookland due to our 2000 Census household median income being too high. We are eligible for LOANS, which we have to repay, but NOT FOR GRANTS, which is basically free money for projects. I ask that you call your senators and congressman and ask them to loosen the guidelines for small cities like Brookland, to allow us to be able to apply and receive the stimulus grant money. Whether you agree or disagree with the stimulus money, it is there. Most small communities that have improved their roads, parks, or built museums have applied for and received grants to complete these projects. Ricky Carter, with USDA, Rural Development said that if the rules were changed to allow 20% above the present per capita, most cities could apply and receive a grant. Again, please call or write your senators and congressman. This could help us obtain much needed funding to work on streets, drainage, etc. We will continue to search for grants to aid in infrastructure projects.

One concern that citizens of Brookland had in 2006 when I was campaigning was the cost of our water. As we explained to you in previous newsletters and mail outs during the sales tax election, our water rate is based on a 1998 Ordinance agreed to by ARNC and USDA, RD. Ordinance 1998-1 called for an increase in 1999, 2000 and 2001. The only rate increase implemented was in 1999. Due to an increase in our operating expenses, and our agreement to fulfill our loan obligations, we are

changing our water and wastewater rates. Brookland Utilities must prepare for future needs and not count on LOANS for its maintenance needs. This is why we put the sales tax proposal before the citizens in September of 2009. A percentage of the sales tax was to be utilized for a capital improvement / preventative maintenance fund for the future. After the sales tax vote failed, the city council and I went to work on a water and wastewater rate structure to present to USDA, RD and ARNC. Ricky Carter came to City Hall and we discussed the proposed rate structure. He agreed to let us try this new structure and if it does not generate adequate revenue, then we will re-evaluate the rates at that time. The new rates will be divided into three categories, city, rural and commercial. A copy of the rate structure can be obtained at City Hall.

We have some areas in town which need to be cleaned up. I urge you to take action and clean up your neighborhood. We want our community to shine. We are looking into "green" ideas to help us cut our energy needs. This means a savings to you our citizens.

While campaigning in 2006, I ran on the slogan, "Working Together We Can". The year 2009 has proved that slogan to be true. With the help of the citizens of this area, Brookland has obtained two state awards for community involvement. The 2009 Arkansas Shine Award for recycling and the 2009 Volunteer Community of the Year award. Thanks to everyone for your contributions that allowed Brookland to be recognized in this capacity.

Again, I wish you and your families a Blessed 2010 and my office is open anytime you need to come in and talk.

*Mayor Jones*



### Winter Tips

Once again, winter is upon us. Just a few tips to help you through the cold: 1) Keep your cabinet doors open on cold nights to help keep your pipes from freezing. 2) Have someone check the antifreeze in your car. 3) Care for your animals outside.

### 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.

Also, remember to recycle your newspapers and old magazines. Put them in a separate sack and put them out with your bluebag on Thursdays.

### Bluebag Winners:

- 09/25 - Brian Jones
- 10/02 - Pat Nelms
- 10/09 - Janis Moore
- 10/16 - Peggy Hudson

- 10/23 - Glenda Moman
- 10/30 - Lucy Hoggard
- 11/07 - Rebecha Phillips
- 11/13 - Ann McGee
- 11/20 - Diane Powell
- 11/25 - Bryan Carter
- 12/04 - JD McHalfey
- 12/11 - Heather Parsons
- 12/18 - Marvin Tate

### 2009 AR SHINE AWARD WINNER



### Christmas Parade

#### Update:

The theme was "Green Christmas", and everyone was quite creative in displaying their eco-friendly recycling suggestions during the 9<sup>th</sup> annual Brookland Christmas Parade on December 13, 2008. Santa's float and the Miss City of Brookland float were made using recycled cardboard donated by Marck Recycling. The day was overcast, but we had a great turnout of participants and spectators again this year.

#### Winners are:

Non Religious Float:  
1<sup>st</sup> Place - Cub Scout Pack 89; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Brownie Troop 3119; 3<sup>rd</sup> Place - Boy Scout Troop 890.

Religious Float:  
1<sup>st</sup> Place - New Haven Family Worship Center; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Brookland United Methodist Church.

Antique Tractors:  
1<sup>st</sup> Place - Jerry Coleman, 1956 200 Farmall; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Rick McGarity, "B" John Deere; 3<sup>rd</sup> Place -

Mary Burchfield, 1951 Allis Chalmers "G".

Horse & Rider:  
1<sup>st</sup> Place - Jalee Price riding "Charley Horse"; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Pam Cook riding "Cherokee"; 3<sup>rd</sup> Place - Phillip Brown riding "H", (representing Cowboy Church).

Horse & Wagon:  
1<sup>st</sup> Place - Chris Pfeifer; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Alvin McNatt; 3<sup>rd</sup> Place - Martin Thompson.

Antique Vehicle:  
1<sup>st</sup> Place - Harold & Faye Quarles, Paragould, 1951 Cheverolet coupe; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Jim & Sandy Clardy, Jonesboro, 1966 Pontiac Lemans; 3<sup>rd</sup> Place - Eddie & Sandy Dickerson, Paragould, 1967 Pontiac GTO.

4-Wheelers:  
1<sup>st</sup> Place - Kyle Luna; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Nathaniel Powell; 3<sup>rd</sup> Place - AR Lawnmowers Association.

Other Division:  
1<sup>st</sup> Place - Brookland JROTC; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Brookland Marching Band; 3<sup>rd</sup> Place - Brownie and Girl Scout Troop 3266.



### Happy New Year!



### Christmas Light

#### Contest Winners:

The judging of the annual residential Christmas light contest for city residents was held on Monday, December 14. Naomi Box at 200 S. Lynch was the first place winner and received the \$100 prize. Donald Mink at 201 W. Hinkley Street was the

second place winner and was awarded the \$75 prize. Patricia Bittle at 110 Teresa Street won the \$50 third place prize.

Thanks to everyone who decorated their yards and houses. It was difficult for the judges to make the decisions on the winners. The decorations were really pretty and we appreciate all the hard work and effort it takes to decorate.

Update from the Animal Control Committee:

*The animal control committee has had several meetings concerning changes to the current animal control ordinance. Wannnda Turner, who is with NAFA, has attended the meetings and has helped us with the modifications of the ordinance revisions. These new changes will deal with the procedure for handling vicious animals and tethering. For those interested in learning more about the changes, this will be on the agenda at the January 12 City Council meeting.*

*Bobby Williams*

**Craighead County**

**✧ Skywarn ✧**

The first meeting for 2010 will be Saturday, January 9 at 1:00 pm at the Craighead County Courthouse Annex building. The meeting will be at the Office of Emergency Management,

located in the basement. For future meeting dates and locations, please visit their website at [www.craigheadcountyskywarn.org](http://www.craigheadcountyskywarn.org) For more information, contact Bobby Williams at (870) 897-8780 or Lisa Williams at (870) 273-3559.

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LOCAL CENSUS JOBS

AVAILABLE

Temporary/Pt-Time

\$10.75 per hr.

Plus

.55¢ mileage

TEST DATES

Jan. 6 – 2:00 pm

Jan. 14 – 6:00 pm

Jan. 19 – 6:00 pm

Jan. 26 – 6:00 pm

Brookland City Hall

located at

613 Holman

JOBS Line

1-866-861-2010

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Upcoming events:

*Brookland United  
Methodist Church*

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The Brookland United Methodist Church will have their monthly fellowship breakfast on January 16, February 20 and March 20. The breakfast will start at

8:00 am. Everyone is invited to attend. The church is located at 401 W. Matthews and the pastor is James Wainscott.

*New Antioch Baptist  
Church*

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New Antioch Baptist Church will have their annual Wild Game Dinner on Saturday, March 20. The doors will open at 2:00 pm and will begin with Children's activities which include a BB gun shoot, bow shoot, casting and the AR Game and Fish Commissions fish tank. The meal will start at 5:00 pm and the speaker this year is Joey Hancock, a nationally known outdoors man. He is listed as one of the top 10 turkey hunters in 1991, a professional turkey and quail guide and chaplain for NASCAR Bush racing team. Everyone is invited to come and hear his humorous stories as he shares his life experiences. Tickets are limited, so reserve your ticket today at (870)972-0339. New Antioch is located at 429 CR 960, near Goobertown.



COMMUNITY WIDE  
EASTER EGG  
HUNT

The City of Brookland and several local churches have partnered together for the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Community Wide Easter Egg Hunt. The date of the event is March 27<sup>th</sup>. It will start at 1:00 pm and will be held at Wood's Chapel General Baptist Church, located at 175 Hwy. 230 E (north of the golf

course). The egg hunt is for ages newborn through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Make plans to come for a time of fun, singing and refreshments.

**City Calendar:**

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**January**



- 01/01 – City Offices Closed - Holiday
- 01/05 – Planning Commission meeting @ 7:00 pm
- 01/12 – City Council meeting @ 7:00 pm
- 01/16 – Brookland United Methodist Church Monthly Fellowship Breakfast @ 8am
- 01/18 – City Offices Closed – Holiday
- 01/19-22 – Utility Dept. will be flushing hydrants

**February**



- 02/02 – Planning Commission meeting @ 7:00 pm
- 02/09 – City Council meeting @ 7:00 pm
- 02/15 – City Offices Closed – Holiday
- 02/20 – Brookland United Methodist Church Monthly Fellowship Breakfast @ 8am

**March**



- 03/02 – Planning Commission meeting @ 7:00 pm
- 03/09 – City Council meeting @ 7:00 pm
- 03/20 – Brookland United Methodist Church Monthly Fellowship Breakfast @ 8am

- 03/20 – New Antioch Baptist Church Wild Game Dinner 5:00 pm
- 03/27 – Community Easter Egg Hunt 1:00 pm @ Wood’s Chapel Baptist Church

**Water/Wastewater Information**

Brookland Utilities will be flushing water lines the week of January 19 through January 22. Please note that the water may have some temporary discoloration due to minerals inside the pipes being dislocated during the flushing process. Be sure to check the water for discoloration before washing clothes during this time by running some water in your bathtub to check for clarity.

Also, I want to remind you to please make sure the cap is on the sewer clean-outs in your yard. This helps to prevent inflow of storm water into the sewer system, which in turn saves us from using extra chemicals to treat the wastewater. In the long run, it is a savings to you the customer.

*Tim Harrington,*  
W/WW Supt.

**From the  
Brookland Police  
Department:  
Mark Rusher,  
Chief of Police**

**Happy 2010!**

