

Brookland News

Published Quarterly - Vol. 14, Issue 3

July 2020

From the Mayor's Desk:

The 2020 Census is entering the second half of the population count with a lot of work to be done. Brookland currently has 59.2% of its citizens counted for the census. This means we have 40.8% that have not been counted to date. So, let us look at this in numbers. If our 2020 census shows us to be at 4,500 and we have only counted 59.2%. That means we have around 1,836 citizens that have not been counted. Arkansas Department of Finance & Administration turns back to the City of Brookland around \$15.50 per person each month. That equals a \$28,458 per month loss to Brookland General Fund, or \$341,496 annually. Not only does your city lose, but the Brookland Fire Protection District (BFPD) loses also. Since 1980, the city has paid the household fire protection fee for residents. This revenue is generated from our DFA turn back. Our Police Department has focused on better equipment and training, and this funding helps the department to have better equipment like body cameras, squad cameras and training, which equals better qualified officers on staff. Improved amenities such as parks, better streets and drainage, and quality of life for our citizens is what the 2020 census means to Brookland. Brookland School District's funding is also based on the state population count. These monies are used for the daily operation of the school, student lunch programs, etc. So, you can see how not being

counted affects more than just the City. Talk to your neighbors, friends, and family and ask them if they have completed their 2020 Census Count Request. Get Counted. Let's GO BROOKLAND! 100% is our GOAL!

COVID-19, what can we say? I hope everyone is trying to follow the guidelines to stay safe. I know it's hard and I dislike the mask too, but if it will protect my family, neighbors, and friends, I will wear it. I watch the daily reports as our number of active cases grow, but the number that concerns me most is the loss of life numbers that now seem to be increasing at a higher rate. In a state that has over 3 million people that number does not sound like many, but to those who have lost loved ones, the number is great. Let us do what we can to slow the spread of COVID-19.

As I work on this letter, we anxiously await the sales tax turn back from DFA next week. Our sales tax turn back is two months behind. So, what was collected in April of this year, we receive in June. You might ask why this is an important month. April was the first full month of COVID-19 restrictions. It will give Brookland a view of where we will be at on our revenue stream that was budgeted for 2020.

When we talked with Arkansas Municipal League attorneys, they advised us to operate city hall as we are currently. Brookland City hall will continue to be closed to the public. We are looking at opening possibly

on August 1st. Again, we will follow the direction of CDC, ADH and our attorneys as to when we can safely open back up.

Two big announcements...FIRST COMMUNITY BANK board members met recently and have given the go ahead for our bank branch to begin construction. Construction was put on hold for a few months due to COVID-19, now we are top priority for a branch to start. Look for work to begin soon. Chad Overman, owner of the AMERICAN MADE GENERAL STORE, out of Pocahontas is opening a branch in Brookland. The store building is located at the corner of Crain Rd and Hwy 49. Plans are to open around the middle of August. The American Made General Store has a variety of groceries and gifts made here in America. They will also have Overman Buildings and carry building materials. Join with me to make both First Community Bank and American Made General Store feel welcome in Brookland.

As we prepare to celebrate July 4th, 2020, let us come together as Americans and pray for our country. Say a prayer for our military that is protecting freedom here at home and abroad. God Bless and have a safe holiday and summer months.

Mayor Jones



*Have a Safe and
Happy 4th of July
Holiday!*



Fireworks Ordinance Reminder

Fireworks may be discharged between the hours of 10 am & 10 pm 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.



UPDATE FROM DEDMAN'S SANITATION REGARDING DISPOSAL OF YARD WASTE:

Dedman's Sanitation has noticed that there are several residents who are putting yard waste in their trash carts. State law prohibits yard waste disposal at the solid waste management facility.

The City of Brookland's MS-4 Stormwater Permit, issued by ADEQ, prohibits grass clippings from being placed in city ditches.

Residents can contact the Jonesboro City Incinerator at 870-932-7520 for their hours and fees, to haul the grass clippings to their site at 2650 Lacy Dr.



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.



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.**

Bluebag Winners:

- 4/3/20 - Cherie Clark
- 4/10/20 - Whitney Metheny
- 4/17/20 - Jeff Rainbolt
- 4/24/20 - Annie Carter
- 5/1/20 - Phillip Gay
- 5/8/20 - Drake Newsom
- 5/15/20 - Amanda Saleki
- 5/22/20 - Connie Nesmith
- 5/29/20 - Debbie Lawson
- 6/5/20 - Sarah Munoz
- 6/12/20 - Janette Gambill
- 6/19/20 - Frankie Loyd
- 6/26/20 - Carla Cartee

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Community Calendar:

July



07/03 - City offices closed for Independence Day Holiday

07/07 - Planning Commission Meeting 6:00 pm @ Brookland School Auditorium; followed by Special City Council Meeting

07/13 - City Council Meeting 7:00 pm @ City Hall

07/21 - Sr. Citizens Community Pot Luck Lunch 11:30 am @ City Hall-CANCELED

August



08/04 - Planning Commission Meeting 7:00 pm @ City Hall

08/10 - City Council Meeting 7:00 pm @ City Hall

08/18 - Sr. Citizens Community Pot Luck Lunch 11:30 am @ City Hall-CANCELED

September



09/1- Planning Commission Meeting 6:00 pm @ City Hall

09/07 - City Offices closed for Labor Day Holiday

09/14 - City Council Meeting 7:00 pm @ City Hall

09/15 - Sr. Citizens Community Pot Luck Lunch 11:30am @ City Hall-CANCELED



Brookland Utilities Update:

As most of you know, we installed the new Sensus radio

read water meters in the summer of 2016. These new meters provide us with a great deal of information, and allow us to notify customers in the event that there is high usage or continual low usage. During the process of trying to contact customers, we have found that a lot of the phone numbers are no longer working numbers. Several residents have switched from landlines to cell phones, but have not updated their phone numbers. If you would like to have your phone number updated in our system, please write your phone number on the bill stub when you make your next payment, or call and let us know what the correct phone number is.

We also have a new system to send e-mails to remind customers that their bills haven't been paid. Please contact city hall at (870)935-0538 and provide your e-mail if you would like to receive notifications.

Tim Harrington
Water/Wastewater Supt.



DANGEROUS HEAT ADVISORY TIPS FOR OUTSIDE DOGS

Hundreds of pets will die of heatstroke this year - don't let it be yours.

1. Be sure your pet has a shaded area all day long. Dogs cannot get cool in their dog houses.

2. Be sure your pet has cool water located in the shade all day long - consider changing it

out 3 or 4 times a day.

3. Consider putting a kid's swimming pool with a couple of inches of water in the shaded area with the dog.

4. Take a 2 liter bottle, fill it 3/4 with water, add a few dog kibbles and freeze it. When frozen cut the plastic from around the ice and put the ice in a pan, in the water bowl or in the swimming pool.

5. Don't take your pet with you in your vehicle, especially in the back of a truck - the metal can burn their feet.

6. Be sure your pet has something other than concrete to lie on. Don't take them for walks. Concrete or asphalt can actually burn their feet.
BEST WAY TO PROTECT THEM FROM THE HEAT IS TO BRING YOUR PETS INSIDE. Put them in a crate or behind a baby gate until the weather cools.



MOSQUITO CONTROL INFORMATION

Any resident with comments and concerns regarding mosquito control are always welcomed and encouraged to contact Vector. At any time should you need our services you are encouraged to call our office at 870-933-6939 or call City hall here in Brookland and they will contact us on your behalf. Have a Blessed Day!

Jim Stark
VDCI

Regional Contract Supervisor

Vector Disease Control International



20th Annual Brookland Christmas Parade

Christmas is still six months away, but the date of the Brookland Christmas Parade has been set and it is scheduled for the first Sunday in December. The 20th Annual Brookland Christmas Parade will be Sunday, December 6, 2020 at 2:00pm. The 2020 Theme will be "Christmas Classics-Reminiscing 20 years in 2020". Mark the date on your calendars!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

*New Antioch
Baptist Church
429 CR 950-Goobertown*

New Antioch Baptist Church is having their regular services. They are wearing masks and socially distancing to be in compliance with Covid-19 regulations. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to come meet their new pastor, Bro. Elmer Ash.



Holiday Closing

*City offices will be closed
July 3rd in observance of
Independence Day
Holiday*

REMEMBER: ONLY RAIN DOWN THE STORM DRAIN!



WHAT IS STORMWATER RUNOFF?

Stormwater runoff occurs when rain or snowmelt flows over the ground. Impervious surfaces like driveways, sidewalks and streets prevent stormwater from naturally soaking into the ground.

WHY IS POLLUTION OF STORMWATER A PROBLEM?

Stormwater can pick up debris, chemicals, dirt and other pollutants and flow into storm sewer systems which flow into lakes, streams, rivers, wetlands and other water bodies. Anything that enters a storm sewer system is discharged untreated into water bodies we use for swimming, fishing and drinking supply.

The effects of pollution:

Polluted stormwater runoff can have many adverse effects on creeks, rivers, lakes and water supplies as well as plants, fish, animals and people.

- Household hazardous wastes like insecticides, pesticides, paint, solvents, used motor oil and other auto fluids can poison aquatic life and pollute the drinking water supply.
- Sediment from unfinished or disturbed yards can help transport pollutants into water bodies. Naturally occurring phosphorous found in soils is a nutrient pollutant. Sediment can also destroy aquatic habitats by clouding the water, making it difficult or impossible for aquatic plants to grow.
- Excess nutrients can cause algae blooms. When algae die, they sink to the bottom and decompose in a process that removes oxygen from the water. Fish and other aquatic organisms can't exist in water with low dissolved oxygen levels.

- Bacteria and other pathogens can wash into swimming areas and create health hazards.
- Debris - plastic bags, six-pack rings, bottles and cigarette butts - washed into water bodies can choke, suffocate or disable aquatic life like ducks, fish, turtles and birds.

STORMWATER POLLUTION SOLUTIONS:

Many routine activities conducted at your home can have significant negative impacts on our creeks, rivers, lakes and other water supply. Through simple measures at home, you can help protect our natural resources.

Lawn Care:

Excess fertilizers and pesticides applied to lawns 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 water wise 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 these materials washing into the street or storm drain.

Residential Landscaping:

Erosion from single family residential lots individually may not pose a very significant risk; however, numerous residential lots, as found in most subdivisions, can cause excessive amounts of sediment and debris to be carried into the storm drainage system.

- Do not place piles of soil, mulch, rock or other landscaping materials in the street or on sidewalks.
- Cover or provide sedimentation controls on

landscaping material stockpiles.

- Sweep up work areas prior to storm events to prevent materials being washed into the storm drainage system.

Household Hazardous Waste:

Many commonly used household products can be hazardous to our environment, as well as people or their pets, if they are improperly disposed.

- Always use and store the product according to the instructions.
- Keep chemicals in the original container or properly labeled.
- Buy only what you intend to use. If you have some leftover, check and see if anyone you know can use it.

Auto Care:

Washing your car and degreasing auto parts at home can send detergents, oils and other automotive fluids through the storm drainage system. Dumping automotive fluids such as oils, gasoline and coolants into storm drains or onto the ground has the same effect as dumping them directly into streams, rivers and lakes.

- Use commercial car washes that treat or recycle their wastewater, or wash your car in your yard so the water infiltrates into the ground.
- Have routine maintenance performed on your automobile to prevent leaks. When leaks are found, have them repaired immediately. Properly clean up fluids that have leaked.
- Properly dispose of automotive fluids.
- Utilize commercial oil change companies and auto parts stores who will accept your used motor oil.

Pet Waste:

Pet waste can be a major source of bacteria and excess nutrients in local waters.

- When walking your pet, properly pick up and dispose of waste. Leaving pet waste on the ground increases health risks by allowing harmful bacteria and nutrients to wash into the storm drain and eventually into local water bodies.