

Brookland News

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From the Mayor's Desk:

July 1, 2026! On July 4, 2026, our country will be celebrating its 250th Birthday. HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICA, and we pray our country has many more prosperous years ahead. In November of 2024, city council passed an ordinance establishing a date change regarding when the water bills were past due and when water services were to be disconnected due to nonpayment. The new policy went into effect on January 1, 2025. A change was made for the safety of our workers in the field, to give our staff time to do the month-end reports on time and give our citizens time to get their water bills paid before going into the next month. The Water Clerk downloads readings and prints water bills on the 25th of each month, and the bills are mailed that afternoon. This has worked very well except when the 1st of the month falls on Monday, and that puts disconnects on the 15th of the month. In 2027 there will be only four months that the first falls on Monday and in 2028 there will be three months that the fall on Monday. NexBillPay is the company we utilize to allow water bills to be paid with debit/credit card or e-check online, but there is a small fee for their secure site service. Customers do not have to pay their bill

through NexBillPay; however, if your account is signed up with them, you will receive text and/or email notifications when the water bill is processed by the water clerk the same day. This especially helps when there is a long delay in the mail arriving back in Brookland. The bill is due upon receipt, and if payment has not been received by the 10th (grace period) your water bill is considered late; on the 11th a 10% late penalty is accessed to your account, and past due cards are mailed. NexBillPay will then notify customers that your water bill is late, and the late fee is accessed. If the water bill is not paid before the third Monday of the month, it will be shut off for nonpayment. Water shut off begins at 9:00 am. We suggest our citizens sign up for this program even if they don't use it to pay their water bills, I have my personal account set up through NexBillPay and have not paid my water bill on time intentionally so we can make sure that notifications are sent out to our customers as they should be.

There have been some recent Facebook posts about Brookland raising property taxes over the last few years, even accusing the city of tripling those taxes on the elderly in some cases. The folks that are making posts like these really have not done their homework. The City of

Brookland has **NO PERSONAL OR REAL PROPERTY TAXES!**

The City Council removed the property tax on both personal and real property starting in 2023. Craighead County collects property taxes on property in Brookland, and Brookland School District collects a millage tax to run the day-to-day activities and build new buildings for the school district. However, this is voted on by you, and residents who live in the school district. Looking to the future there are several issues that we will ask you to support concerning the City of Brookland, one of which is the 2027 Bond Refunding and Restructuring for future generations. The following projects are what the restructuring will help Brookland accomplish. Refunding Bonds, Park Improvement (Sports Plex), Municipal Building Improvement (City Hall), Sewer Improvements (sewer to the south along HWY 49), Street Improvement (HWY 49 and the School/Pine log Intersection, and a new road north side of Middle School), Emergency Facilities (three new tornado sirens and three smaller storm shelters in different areas of the city). If approved, these projects will be accomplished with **NO NEW TAX.** It will just restructure the current bonds and add revenue to do these projects. What does it mean if

we **vote NO** to all these requests. Nothing, you will continue to pay the current 2% tax until the current bonds are paid off. If you vote yes to all the projects, the city will be able to complete all the projects mentioned. If you vote yes to all the projects these will be issued based on thirty years to pay off. A sunset clause is in the ordinance, once this is completed the 2% tax will be removed. We estimate that as our city continues to grow, so will our sales tax base. Based on history of current sales tax collections, the payoff will be less than thirty years. I implore you to reach out and talk with your city council members or myself about these issues. Again, as we get ready to celebrate Americas 250th Birthday let's take time to reflect on our history. We realize it has not been a perfect historical journey. There have been mistakes, however, there have been successes. History gives us a vision of what we can correct so that does not happen again. Good, positive things we can build on and even be a better country. I am very proud to be an American, Arkansan, Husband, Dad, Grandpa, and Great-grandpa. Let's work and pray together to help America, in the next 250 years, be brighter for our children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. God Bless and have a Safe Summer.

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.



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

Dedman's Sanitation wants to remind residents about not putting yard waste and grass clippings 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, also 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.



MOSQUITO CONTROL INFORMATION

Preparations for the 4th have begun and will continue until the fourth. Nightly spraying will increase as we move through the coming months to help battle the bugs. Individuals with major events planned for the 4th are welcome to call our office for extra treatment (870 933-6939). Please be aware this is not a door-to-door service so please use common sense when requesting. We are usually inundated with calls around the 4th so the earlier you call to schedule the better chance you have to get treated.

Have happy and safe 4th of July!

Jim Stark
VDCI

Regional Contract Supervisor
Vector Disease Control International

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 or can be viewed on the website.

Community Calendar:

July



7/04 - Happy Independence Day!

7/07 - Planning Commission Meeting 7:00pm @ City Hall

07/14 - City Council Meeting 7:00 pm @ City Hall

August



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

08/11 - City Council Meeting 7:00 pm @ City Hall

September



09/01- Planning Commission Meeting 7:00 pm @ City Hall

09/07 - City Offices closed for Labor Day Holiday

09/08 - City Council Meeting 7:00 pm @ City Hall

STREET DEPARTMENT NOTICE

Road Closure & Street Improvement Project

Project Start Date:

Monday, July 6, 2026

The City of Brookland Street Department will begin construction at the intersection of **Eason Street** and **HINKLEY Street** to prepare for street overlay and the widening of the intersection.

TRAFFIC IMPACT HINKLEY STREET WILL BE CLOSED TO THROUGH TRAFFIC

Residents south of **HINKLEY Street (Eason Street):**

Please use **3 Notch Road** as your detour to access the rest of the city.

Residents north of **HINKLEY Street:**

Please use **East Matthews Avenue** to travel through town.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Construction is expected to last **only a few weeks**. Please use extra caution when traveling near the work zone.

Crews will be installing new drainage infrastructure and completing improvements necessary for the intersection widening.

PROJECT BENEFITS

When completed, these improvements will:

Improve safety at the intersection.

Increase traffic flow and efficiency.

Better accommodate future traffic needs.

The City of Brookland's goal is to have this project **completed before school begins**, so school traffic can once again use **HINKLEY Street** when classes resume.

THANK YOU!

We appreciate your patience, cooperation, and understanding as we work to improve Brookland's streets and infrastructure for everyone.



DANGEROUS HEAT ADVISORY TIPS FOR OUTSIDE DOGS

Our area has already experienced a few days of extreme heat and humidity this summer. 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 kids' 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.



25th Annual Brookland Christmas Parade

The 25th Annual Brookland Christmas Parade will be Sunday, December 6, 2026, at 2:00pm. The theme will be "Silver Christmas". Mark the date on your calendars!



Stormwater Management Guide

Effective residential stormwater prevention involves redirecting runoff, using green infrastructure, and implementing best management practices to protect water quality and reduce flooding.

Understanding the Problem

Stormwater runoff from roofs, driveways, and lawns can carry pollutants such as fertilizers, oil, pesticides, and sediment into local waterways, posing a significant threat to clean water and contributing to flooding and erosion. By managing stormwater on-site, homeowners can reduce pollution, protect drinking water resources, and improve neighborhood aesthetics and climate resiliency (EPA).

Practical Homeowner Strategies

Homeowners can adopt several techniques to manage stormwater effectively:

***Downspout**

Disconnection/Redirection:

Redirecting downspouts from paved surfaces to lawns, gardens, or rain barrels reduces the volume of runoff entering storm drains and prevents pollutants from reaching streams.

***Rain**

Collecting rainwater in barrels allows for gradual release into planted areas, reducing runoff and providing water for gardens.

***Rain Gardens and Mini-Wetlands:**

Low-lying areas or

swales can be converted into rain gardens or mini-wetlands to store, filter, and clean runoff while providing habitat for native plants and wildlife.

***Meadows and Permeable Surfaces:**

Replacing lawns with native meadows or using permeable paving materials allows water to infiltrate the soil, reducing runoff and nutrient pollution.

Regulatory and Best Practices

Municipalities often enforce ordinances and best management practices (BMPs) to prevent contaminated stormwater from entering drainage systems. BMPs include source controls to reduce pollutants at their origin and treatment controls to remove pollutants from runoff. Homeowners should be aware of local regulations and implement BMPs to comply with stormwater management requirements.

Environmental and Community Benefits

Implementing residential stormwater prevention measures provides multiple benefits:

- Reduces flooding and soil erosion
- Protects streams, rivers, and groundwater
- Enhances neighborhood beauty and biodiversity
- Improves climate resiliency and urban cooling
- Lowers municipal costs for stormwater management (EPA)

By combining these strategies, homeowners can significantly reduce stormwater impacts, protect local waterways, and contribute to a healthier, more resilient community.

SEWER SYSTEM SMOKE TESTING

Notice to residents and property owners:

Brookland Utilities will soon be conducting routine sanitary sewer smoke testing within the city. This test will check for infiltration, which means any cracks, leaks or improper connections where storm water might be leaking into the sewer system.

This test is completely safe. The smoke will have a cherry scented odor and should exit the vent pipes, which are typically on the roof of your home.

Testing is scheduled to be done July 13 through July 30.

The process used to do the testing is that a worker will use a machine to blow a non-toxic cherry scented synthetic smoke into the sewer lines through manholes. You will likely see smoke rising from the plumbing vent stacks on your roof, as well as from manholes in the streets.

To prevent any smoke from entering your home, run your faucets, which will fill up the P-Traps under your sinks,

bathtub/shower and floor drains, especially if they have not been used in a while and may be dry.

If smoke enters your home, note the area, open windows and doors to clear the area. Call (870)790-1947 and report the problem so a utility worker can check your plumbing.

Thank You,
Tim Harrington
Water/Wastewater Supt