

Brookland News

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From the Mayor's Desk:

As I sit here thinking back on the year 2025, I have mixed feelings about the accomplishments the city has made. Roads, drainage, and parks are something I think we all are proud to see accomplished.

The new municipal building phase 1 is going well and expected to be completed by March of 2026.

Sports plex project is waiting to find out if it was selected to receive the Citizens Assistance Grant by the state.

Phase 2 of the Holman Street Sidewalk has been approved. The notice of award will be sent out to the contractor this week and a pre-construction meeting will be set up and work should begin within a couple of weeks. We are still waiting on ARDOT to give the okay to move forward with the award of contract to be signed on Phase 3 of the sidewalk project. Once the notice is received and signed by both parties, we can schedule the pre-construction meeting and hope to get started on Phase 3.

The overlay street State-AID projects have been completed and Brookland has applied for the next round of Street AID Projects funding. They include the following streets: S Oak Street, West & East Hinkley, Eason Street, East Matthews, Shirley Street, Christy, Margie,

Teresa, & Janis. If received, the funding for these overlays will be in 2028. While the street department waits for the funding they will be preparing the roads for overlay. Just an example of the work planned. Intersection of East Hinkley and Eason culvert will be changed and modified, Shirley Street drainage system will be installed and road prepared for overlay, drainage along Christy that will drain the water coming off Margie and culverts under Christy will be widened for ditch improvements.

We are working with the state to transfer some funds that were left over from Maple Slough Ditch clean-up project. If they will allow us to move the funding, we plan to start working on the ditch that runs through Northern Heights.

Brookland School is coming along and is on schedule. That will be a great addition to our city.

Meetings are planned in November to discuss the intersection improvements on Highway 49 at School Street and Pine Log.

There are some new businesses moving to our city. Domino's Pizza, Herren Tire, ARCARE Medical, and 1st Choice Medical. We hope to announce others very soon.

The housing development is moving forward in all subdivisions. There was a

decrease in the interest rate in September. If this continues and the interest rate drops again this year, I think you will see a lot of developments pace pick up. As we look forward to the Holiday Season, let's remember that our friends and neighbors, and fellow citizens are struggling in today's economy to make ends meet. Sometimes a kind word like, "Hello, how are you doing today?", could be all someone needs to hear make their day better.

I pray that you all have a great Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas, and a Blessed 2026 New Year.

Mayor Jones



**Brookland
Christmas Parade
Dec. 7 @ 2:00 pm**



The City of Brookland is scheduled to have the 24th annual Christmas parade on Sunday, Dec. 7 at 2:00 pm.

The theme is "Characters of Christmas". 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:



10/07 - Planning Commission meeting @ 7:00 pm

10/13 - City offices closed for Columbus Day

10/14- City Council meeting @ 7:00 pm



11/04 - Planning Commission meeting @ 7:00 pm

11/11 - City offices closed for Veteran's Day

11/11 - City Council meeting @ 7:00 pm

11/27-28 - Offices closed for Thanksgiving Holiday



12/02- Planning Commission meeting @ 7:00 pm

12/07 - Christmas Parade @ 2:00 pm. Theme "Characters of Christmas"

12/09 - City Council meeting @ 7:00 pm

12/24-25 City offices closed for Christmas holiday

1/1/26 - City offices closed for New Year's holiday



Christmas Light Contest

The annual residential Brookland Christmas light judging will be December 15. Call City Hall at 870-935-0538 or send an email to cityofbrookland@yahoo.com to be on the list to have your residence judged.

Prize money in the amount 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:



This is an annual reminder to residents that 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.



Animal Control/Code Enforcement

Residential Swimming Pool Discharge Guidance -City of Brookland-

How to drain or backwash your pool and spa WHILE PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

Pool owners may be tempted to discharge chlorinated or saline pool water into the street and gutter that leads to a storm drain. However, the purpose of the storm drain system is to protect against flooding and water damage by quickly removing rainwater from our streets. This water gets no treatment and may ultimately drain into creeks, lakes, and rivers. The City of Brookland has permits and ordinance to reduce the pollutants into our storm drains and is why the disposal of chlorinated or saline swimming pool and spa water to the storm water drain systems is prohibited. Remember to dispose of unwanted pool chemicals as household

hazardous waste.

The City of Brookland's storm water drains into the Lower St. Francis River Watershed.

In Arkansas, the disposal of swimming pool water is regulated to protect the environment and public health. Here are some key points.

1. **Prohibited Dumping:** It is unlawful to dispose of swimming pool and spa water in way that could harm public or private property, or any body of water such as creeks, rivers, lakes, or ponds.

2. **Permitted Disposal:** Pool and spa water should be disposed of through the sanitary sewer system, if possible. This helps ensure that the water is treated properly before being released into the environment.

3. **Chemicals Considerations:** Before discharging pool or spa water, it's important to ensure that the water is free of harmful chemicals. This typically involves dechlorinating the water and ensuring that pH levels are neutral.

4. **Local Regulations:** Always check with local authorities or the Arkansas Department of Health for guidelines and permits that may be required for disposing of pool and spa water.

NO! STREET OR GUTTER

· Do not discharge chlorinated or saline pool or spa water into the street or gutter because this water drains into the creeks, lakes, ponds, and rivers.

· Remember to dispose of unwanted pool and spa chemicals as household hazardous waste.

NO! SANITARY SEWER

· Never drain pool or spa water into a septic tank system.

· Never drain pool or spa water to the sanitary sewer until the water has been de-chlorinated and pH adjusted.

· Always contact the City of Brookland with the amount of gallons of water you will be dumping into the sanitary sewer.

YES! YOUR YARD

· Drain you pool or spa water to your vegetated landscape, lawn or rocky areas on your property that allow the water to percolate into the ground.

· Salt or saline pool or spa water contains higher concentrations of salts that can be more damaging to plants and soils. Consider locations or discharge as some plants are more salt-tolerant than others.

· Remember to move the drain hose frequently.

· Be sure the pool or spa water does not flow onto your neighbor's property or collect in any areas that may attract mosquitoes.

· Where it is not possible to discharge the pool or spa water to the ground with impacting your neighbor's property, a professional pool-draining service must be hired to collect

all water for off-site disposal at an approved location.

Guidelines for DE-Chlorinating Swimming Pools and Spas And Discharging Filter Backwash To de-chlorinate residential swimming pools, hot tub, spa or fountain water:

1. Once the chlorination system has been shut off or chlorine has stopped being added to the water, keep the water in the pool/spa/fountain for 7-10 days to allow the chlorine to naturally evaporate in the sunlight.

De-chlorination additives can also be purchased at your pool supply store and can be used to speed up the de-chlorination process.

2. Use a test kit to measure the chlorine level and pH in the water. Most pool owners use a pH and chlorine test kit to maintain the quality of the pool water, but if you do not have one, you can purchase an expensive one at the local pool supply store.

The water should not show any detectable levels of chlorine, and the pH should be neutral between 6.5 and 8.5. You may need to let the water sit longer to achieve the chlorine and pH levels required before discharging the water.

3. After water is de-chlorinated, you may discharge the water under the following conditions:

· Avoid creating conditions that cause street or property flooding or ponding water

· Avoid discharging when it is raining, in order to prevent the

storm drainage system from becoming overloaded.

lakes, and rivers clean and healthy!

Remember, only DE-CHLORINATED swimming pool/hot tub/spa/fountain water is allowed to be discharged into the environment.

To discharge residential swimming pool filter backwash:

1. Water from backwashing pool filters **shall not** be discharged to the street or storm drainage system.
2. Backwash must be contained on the property. Use it to water grass or any area on your property that will allow water to percolate into the ground.
3. Hire a contractor to pump the pool water into a truck to be hauled offsite. Check the internet for septic disposal companies for this service.

Additional Precautions:

Pool water may contain copper from chemicals used in the pool to prevent the growth of algae. Since copper can be harmful to fish and wildlife, your local pool supply store can help you determine the best chemicals to add to the pool to neutralize or remove metals from the water before discharging.

Properly store pool and spa chemicals to prevent leaks and spills. Store them in an area that is properly covered to avoid exposure to rain or vandalism.

Thank you for your cooperation in keeping the City's streams, creeks, ponds,