

# Brookland News

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*From the Mayor's Desk:*  
HAPPY NEW YEAR! I want to begin with the announcement that First Community Bank is now open. FCB opened their doors December 13, 2021. It's a beautiful facility with a public meeting room that local citizens may utilize for special events. It was exciting to finally be able to take our city banking business to our local bank branch, which employs local citizens.

On June 8, 2021, you our citizens voted to extend our current 2% sales tax for a sports complex, a park at corner of Bernis and Smith Street, and another park at corner of E Matthews and Nelms Street. At this same time, we applied for a Department of Parks, Heritage and Tourism's Outdoor Recreational Grant to help with costs of both inner city parks. I received a letter from Governor Asa Hutchinson stating that the City of Brookland will be awarded a grant in the amount of \$225,000.00. This matching grant will allow us to construct two parks where pavilions, picnic tables, playgrounds, walking trails, and barrier free parking will be constructed. We believe these parks will be great additions for community.

The sports-plex that is being built on fifty acres on W School Street is in the design stage now. Our current schedule is to begin dirt work on all sites in spring of 2022 as weather permits.

Sidewalk Project #100935 that will connect downtown Brookland to School Street on west side of Holman Street, will finally start in January weather permitting. ARDOT allowed us to split this project into two phases.

Phase one will start at Smith Street and run north to School Street. This project will allow citizens to walk along Holman safely.

Phase 1 of the north sewer extension project along North Oak Street has been designed and engineers are now in the process of obtaining utility easements along those properties. Residents will be contacted during the line installation process to determine the best location to make the tap for the service lines, which will make it easier for customers to hook to. Please note: if you have a good functional septic system, you do not have to hook up immediately. However, if you have a septic system that is **not** operating correctly, or if you have raw sewage coming to the top of the ground, you will be required to hook up to sanitary sewer.

We are still looking for a good location for the new city hall/PD. Discussion is in the works regarding possibly placing the building on 2 acres on W School Street by the sports complex.

We had several streets scheduled to be overlaid with asphalt this year and it has been very disappointing to not get most of this work done. We ran bid advertising for street work that we wanted to do. We did not get one (1) single bid. In the fall, we finally hired a company out of Memphis and they did okay, but they had trouble getting asphalt to do work. Several days it was mid-morning or later to get asphalt. We are starting early for 2022. We have already got local asphalt layers working on quotes to begin possibly in

March or April to get our projects at top of their list.

We look to a better 2022 as for getting projects started and completed. As we work around the city to make things better, be patient with our workers and contractors.

God Bless and hope you all have a prosperous New Year.

Sincerely,

*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!

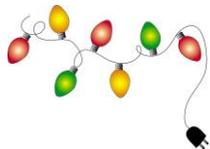
**The following residents' names were drawn and they won \$25 in the Bluebag Recycle Program sponsored by the City of Brookland. The following items can be recycled: all metal cans, all colors of**

glass and all grades of plastics with the recycle triangle. 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.

**Bluebag Winners:**

- 10/01/21-Chris Pfeifer
- 10/08/21 - Pat Nelms
- 10/15/21 - Kyle Brown
- 10/22/21 - Darrell Reece
- 10/29/21 - Dalton Taylor
- 11/05/21 - Billy Hoggard
- 11/12/21- Mary Passmore
- 11/19/21- Ann McGee
- 11/26/21 - Julie Miller
- 12/03/21- Jerry Blair
- 12/10/21 - Jonathan Griesse
- 12/17/21 - Joe/Rachel Ferraro
- 12/24/21 - Salena Couch
- 12/31/21 - Robert Baker



Christmas Light Contest Winners:

The judging of the annual residential Christmas light contest for city residents was held December 13. Jeff & Shelly Chaplain at 119

Nelda was the first place winner and received the \$100 prize. Michelle Cobb at 117-A Hayes was the second place winner was awarded the \$75 prize. Robbie Polsgrove at 104 Pecan won the \$50 third place prize.

Thanks to everyone in the community who decorated their homes for the holidays.

**City Calendar:**

**January**



12/31/21 - City Offices Closed - New Year Holiday

01/04 - Planning Commission meeting @ 7:00 pm

01/10 - City Council meeting @ 7:00 pm

01/17 - City Offices Closed - MLK Holiday

**February**



02/01- Planning Commission meeting @ 7:00 pm

02/14 - City Council meeting @ 7:00 pm

02/21 - City Offices Closed - President's Day Holiday

02/18 - Make A Wish; Have-A-Heart Wish-A-Thon



**March**



03/01 - Planning Commission meeting @ 7:00 pm

03/14 - City Council meeting @ 7:00 pm

**REMINDER TO BUSINESS OWNERS: 2022 Privilege License are due February 28.**



**Tornado/Severe Weather Shelter Info**

Friday night, December 10, 2021 was a night NE Arkansas won't soon forget. Tornadoes were sighted all around our area and several neighboring cities had major damage from the storms. For the second time, in as many years, our storm shelter was tested and full. Anytime there are storm events city personnel try to analyze and improve on and/or develop a policy to manage various situations that occur during a disaster.

After the March 28, 2020 tornado, our storm shelter response was analyzed and Brookland City Council with assistance of our City Attorney developed a set rules of operation for the shelter. One rule that was made was that NO pets were

to be allowed in Storm Shelter. This was a difficult decision because majority of us are pet owners and understand what someone's pet means to them. However, our storm shelter is built to offer citizens a safe place to go when a severe weather event is occurring.

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## Brookland Utilities Wastewater Issues

There are a couple of issues that have arose this past year regarding the treatment of wastewater, which have created problems at our East School Street, Whitten Creek, HWY 49, and Davidson Lane Sewer Lift Stations.

1.) Several items are being flushed down the commodes that are **NOT flushable**. Items include **sanitary products, baby wipes, paper towels, cloth rags, and other miscellaneous items**. Lift station pumps are not designed to handle these types of materials, and these items cause the pumps to clog up which prohibits them from working properly to pump the wastewater to the sewer treatment plant. Fortunately, when a lift station clogs up, there are alarms to warn of an imminent issue; however, there are NO warning systems for sewer main lines and manholes. Manholes are located approximately 500 foot apart and are used for mainly for maintenance purposes.

2.) Another major contributor to problems with sewer mains is **COOKING GREASE** being poured down home kitchen

sink drains. When it is hot and in liquid form, you do not think about grease from bacon, beef, chicken, or other fatty foods causing becoming a solid mass that can clog your service line or the sewer main. However, when this cools down it forms a solid mass that will stick together or to the walls of the sewer line. This grease can build up to the point it will completely stop up a residential sewer service line or sanitary sewer main. Unlike a lift station, there are NO alarms to forewarn residents of a potential problem. This can cause issues to include sewage backing up the sewer service line of your home or blocking the sewer main causing sewage to back up into your service sewer line and possibly into your home, if not detected.

Since there are no warnings about these issues, how do residents know if they are having problem? Slow water drainage from your bathtub, shower or sinks could be signs of a possible problem. If you have any drain that is slow to drain, use your plunger first, to make sure there is not hair or other debris that could be causing the issue. If you still have a slow flow of water leaving your drain, then call city hall and a work order will be issued to have workers check the sewer mains. If the sewer main is clear, utility workers will let you know and you may need to have your service drain line checked by a qualified service person.

Another item you may want to consider is adding a back flow preventer in your sewer service line. This addition would prevent any back flow from your service line or sewer main coming back up through your drains.

Working together we can help each other keep our city sewer treatment cost down. However, **NOTHING SHOULD BE FLUSHED OR PUT DOWN DRAINS EXCEPT HUMAN WASTE, BIODEGRADABLE TOILET TISSUE, AND FOOD WASTE THROUGH YOUR GARBAGE DISPOSAL.**

There are packages that say flushable, but they are not biodegradable. Be sure to read the package to determine if the product is made with biodegradable plant based material.

