Spring 2014

TOWN HALL MEETING May 28th, 6:30 - 8:30 at City Hall



# CITY NEWS Moving Into City Hall



Brookhaven's new city hall is still under construction but open for business. City staff are out of the temporary location in Dunwoody and have moved into new digs at 4362 Peachtree Rd. This is the 3-story building next to Town Brookhaven that was formerly used by Georgia State –centrally located on a main thoroughfare, Peachtree Road, no more than three miles from any resident in the city. We are completing finishing work on the 3rd floor, and look forward to having your building ready for a citizen open house on Tuesday, May 13, at 4 pm. Please stay for our first city council meeting in the new building.

If you need a permit or other service from the city, Brookhaven is open, but please be patient as we finish out the space, and work through a punch list of details. City council will meet on the 3rd floor, as will other boards and commissions.

The main phone number is the same (404-637-0500) and city staff is working hard to maintain high levels of service to the public during the final phases of this transition.

### From The Mayor's Desk...



### Growing Pains Can Actually Be Painful

There is some debate among pediatricians as to whether or not growing pains are real. Some say that growth doesn't cause pain. Others say the pain is caused by something else. I can tell you as a father, though, that growing pains are real to the child experiencing them. As a 16-month-old city, Brookhaven has recently experienced some growing pains of our own and they hurt.

Councilmember Jim Eyre resigned on April 22nd, in the middle of a council meeting. The other council members and I were taken completely by surprise at his abrupt resignation and silent departure from our meeting. During his tenure on City Council, Jim had strong opinions and was often helpful in clarifying or bringing attention to important issues. Each member of the council feels strongly about certain issues, and advocates for them, but we all strive to maintain decorum and professionalism, even if there are instances where we can only agree to disagree.

We just recently learned that Jim was apparently unhappy with City Manager Marie Garrett's compensation. Unfortunately, we first learned about his unhappiness when he went to the news media and made statements that the Council and I knew to be incorrect. The city had to correct the record, and when we resolved to release documents from executive session supporting the facts, Jim's reaction was stone silence until he resigned and walked out.

To the extent that there has been confusion or misunderstanding about Ms. Garrett's contract, I take full

responsibility as Mayor for not moving the process forward more quickly. Over the past few months we faced tough competition from neighboring cities looking to hire a new city manager with at least one mayor respectfully informing me that he was seeking to hire Marie Garrett away. The pool for highly talented city managers with rare "startup city" experience is very small and the competition for those few individuals is very high. We have been working these last few months on an agreement with Marie that replaces the first year salary/consulting arrangement with a straight full-time salaried contract with no overtime. All relevant documents have been posted on our city website and when her final contract is approved by Council, it will be posted there as well. I will also add that I and every member of City Council are very pleased with Marie's performance for the City of Brookhaven, and keeping her has been a high priority.

In 16 months of operating as a city, Marie recruited and hired our top-notch Police Chief, Gary Yandura, and helped get a world-class police force up and running -completely from scratch. In 2013, She negotiated city contracts for \$2.2 million less than their original amounts, and renegotiated another \$1.2 million in savings so far this year. That's \$3.4 million in savings, or roughly 15% of our city budget. When real estate professionals couldn't come to an agreement, Marie personally negotiated a reduced rate on our new city hall (fronting Peachtree Road) -to \$12.50 per square foot. She's helped us put \$1 million in our reserve fund in the first year, to which we will add another \$1 million this year. Prior to incorporation, the County spent \$400,000 on parks. County sidewalk construction and paving programs were virtually nonexistent. In contrast, we will be paving six miles of road this year and are building new sidewalks every month. We will be investing \$2.5 million this year in parks alone. We've done this –and more- with a millage rate that is one half mill below the property tax cap contained in our charter.

These are major accomplishments, especially at a time when Brookhaven is growing so quickly. Our community Development department is processing over 300 permits a month, and the Atlanta Business Chronicle just reported that Brookhaven is the fastest growing community in the metro area. The knowledge and experience of Brookhaven City Manager Marie Garrett is a key reason that Brookhaven is on a successful path.

Yes, we've had some growing pains, but sometimes that's part of growing. Look anywhere around Brookhaven, and you'll see a thriving community advancing on all fronts. Please stay engaged and involved with your city as Brookhaven gets even better.

[J. Max Davis, Mayor - 404.637. 0710 - jmax.davis@brookhavenga.gov]



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## Food Trucks Returning May 14!

The popular Wednesday night community event series, the Brookhaven Food Truck Roundup, is returning to Blackburn Park in May.

Attendees can expect more than 12 food truck dining options, live entertainment and activities for children from 5-9 p.m. every Wednesday through the end of October.

The event series was first launched last fall in celebration of the city assuming operational ownership for all Brookhaven parks. An estimated 2,000 people attended during each of the nine-week series.

"The Food Truck Roundup was overwhelmingly successful in attendance, but most importantly, the events

spurred a true sense of community. Residents from all parts of our city came out to enjoy the parks, to socialize with friends and neighbors, and to meet new ones. I'm excited to re-launch this event series and see everyone come out for it again." Mayor J. Max Davis said.

Just as last year, limited seating will be provided. Attendees are encouraged to bring picnic blankets and lawn chairs.

The Food Truck Roundup is hosted by the city in conjunction with Fork in the Road, a joint venture between food truck provider Happy Belly and the Atlanta Street Food Coalition.

For more information, please follow the city on social media: Facebook/BrookhavenGaGov and @BrookhavenGaGov. Please email brookhaventrucks@gmail.com with any questions or concerns about the food trucks. For the weekly food truck lineup, please visit Brookhaven's Facebook page at facebook.com/Brookhaven.

### Brookhaven Marks Earth Day With North Fork Cleanup

Brookhaven officials, DeKalb Clean and Beautiful and citizen volunteers teamed up with the North Fork Connectors to show their support for maintaining a cleaner environment during a special Earth Day service project.

The clean-up crew dedicated a Saturday to removing trash that had accumulated along Peachtree Creek's North Fork. North Fork Connectors, Brookhaven's Mayor and Council, along with students and a large turnout of volunteers removed tires, trash and debris from what they hope will someday be a linear park. paths and someday, our big hope is that people can also safely paddle down the North Fork," said North Fork Connectors Chairperson Betsy Eggers. She is hopeful they will turn what she calls an "undiscovered asset" into a park that will be great for neighborhoods, businesses and families in the community.

The North Fork clearing project was also supported by representatives of Keep DeKalb Beautiful. The non-profit organization's mission is to join public and private resources to promote sustainability through litter prevention, waste reduction and beautification.

"This linear park will be a mix of bike trails, walking redu



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### **Road Paving Under Way**

You'll see more city crews paving sidewalks and roads across Brookhaven as the weather gets warmer. Brookhaven Mayor J. Max Davis and Council finalized a list of 16 city roads to be resurfaced this year as part of the 2014 paving schedule, based on pavement condition ratings and funding allocated from the 2014 budget, along with a Georgia DOT Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant. Brookhaven workers will focus their efforts on roads that are in the worst condition along with those most heavily traveled. The city is already evaluating additional roads for repair in 2015.

#### The current list includes:

- Ashford Dunwoody Road (from Harts Mill Road to South Johnson Ferry Road Southeast)
- Dresden Drive (from Ellijay Road to Apple Valley Road)
- Lenox Park Boulevard
- West Nancy Creek (from Old Johnson Ferry Road to Ashford Dunwoody Road)
- Ashford Road (from Dresden Drive to Redding Way)
- Caldwell Road (from Redding Road to City Limits)
- Redding Road (at Caldwell Intersection)
- Fuller Road
- Hermance Drive (from Costco Service Drive to Windsor Parkway)
- Curtis Drive
- Goodwin Road (City Limits to East Roxboro Road)

#### Paving has already begun for the 2013 roads listed below.

- Dunwoody Place
- Hunters Brook Court

- Etowah Drive
- Pamela Drive
- Stratfield Drive (between Ashford Dunwoody Road and Stratfield Circle)

Brookhaven has committed \$2.2 million for resurfacing and repaying the 16 roads, a total of about six miles of roadway. Each paying project expected to last between five and seven days, depending on weather conditions.

### **Cherry Blossoms in Brookhaven**



After voting on April 22 to make the Cherry Tree the official tree of Brookhaven, City officials celebrated National Arbor Day by planting three Japanese Kwanzaa Cherry trees in front of the new City Hall. Councilwoman Rebecca Williams said the trees will be "a way to beautify our city, protect our tree canopy and help create a signature look for Brookhaven."

State Representative Mike Jacobs, Brookhaven City Councilman Bates Mattison and Japanese Consul General

Kazuo Sunaga were also on hand for the ceremony. Consul General Sunaga said the cherry trees in Washington, D.C., were a present from Japan over a century ago and now serve as a symbol of U.S.-Japanese friendship. "I hope the same can happen here," he said.

Trees Atlanta has agreed to maintain the trees in front of City Hall until they are fully established.

JD Clockadale and his daughter Ella helped plant three cherry trees in the front of the newly relocated Brookhaven City hall last Friday in commemoration of National Arbor Day and the city's naming the cherry tree as its official city tree.]



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# Blue And Green Rolling Bins? DeKalb County Trial Program Underway in Parts of Brookhaven

DeKalb County Sanitation has started a three-month pilot program designed to test consolidating collections of all materials to one day per week for 28,000 households throughout DeKalb County, including 2,800 households in Brookhaven. Residents who have been selected for the pilot program will have their garbage, recycling, and yard trimmings all collected on the same day in separate containers. Garbage will be collected in 65 gallon green containers, but recyclers in Brookhaven will use 65-gallon blue containers rolling bins. Participants in the pilot program will put out both garbage and recycling on their current recycling day. The goal of the program is to evaluate the methods of increasing recycling and reducing costs without decreasing service levels.

#### How does the Sanitation Pilot Program work?

On collection day, the customer will wheel their carts to the curb by 8 am. DeKalb sanitation will empty the cart by 6:30 pm.

#### Will the service cost more?

No. This DeKalb County pilot program is for evaluation purposes and there is no charge during this program.

#### Will my rates change with the new equipment?

No. The DeKalb County program was designed, if eventually implemented throughout the service area,

to ensure rates do not escalate. The goal is to keep rate sustainable over a longer period of time.

#### What if my garbage is more than the cart can contain?

DeKalb Sanitation allows a maximum of one (1) bag of garbage to be placed next to the cart for pick up. Placing excess garbage on the top of the cart will prevent the cart from being tipped.

### Can I use my current garbage cans or cart during the Pilot?

No. Participants in DeKalb's program must use the 65-gallon roll cart provided by the county for garbage collection. These containers are authorized by the DeKalb Board of Commissioners and or municipalities in which customers live.

#### What do I do with bags for recycling and yard trimmings each week?

If you are in the pilot program, simply place your green roll cart on the curb alongside any yard trimmings or recycling ready for collection.

#### What happens at the end of the DeKalb's pilot program?

DeKalb County will survey participants for customer satisfaction, and then evaluate and provide recommendations on how the service should proceed to the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners and CEO for consideration.

#### Other Questions? Email sanitation@dekalbcountyga.gov or call 404-294-2400



### **Council** Views...



### Be part of the plan: Help us design the Brookhaven of tomorrow

#### District 1 City Council member Rebecca Chase Williams

One of the most important challenges of our new city is managing our growth and making sure we protect our beautiful neighborhoods, great schools, our access to jobs and

retail, and our high quality of life.

The city has launched four planning initiatives to create master plans that will guide our development and future decisions (in keeping with state law) to describe the character of our city and set our policy for future planning decisions. These plans will be completed by the end of the year.

Consultants have been hired to guide your input into our Parks and Recreation, Transportation, the Buford Highway Corridor, and Comprehensive Plans. Each plan has a steering committee appointed, and the first kick-off meetings have been held. In this newsletter you will find an insert listing ALL of the upcoming meetings over the next few months. All residents are invited to every meeting, and your input is vital. I would especially urge you to come to the May 15th "Visioning Workshop", from 6-8 p.m. at St. Martin's Episcopal Church, at 3110 Ashford Dunwoody Road.

There's an additional opportunity to participate in the process. On the City website, there's a survey just about parks. Please take the survey and let us know your opinions and desires about Brookhaven's parks at www.surveymonkey.com/s/BrookhavenSurvey.

We are actively seeking your input and feedback. These meetings are your chance to "dream big," to help set our priorities and to let us know what you want your city to become.

Please don't miss these opportunities to make your voice heard and help determine Brookhaven's future. We'd like to see as many people as possible at the meetings, but if you can't attend, there is also a portal on our website (www.brookhavenga.gov/city-government/boards-commissions/steering-committees) where you can see all the meeting dates and summaries.

If you cannot attend the meetings, you can email your comments, questions and ideas to the appropriate plan: bufordhwyplan@brookhavenga.gov comprehensiveplan@brookhavenga.gov transportationplan@brookhavenga.gov parksandrecreationplan@brookhavenga.gov

#### District 1 City Council - Rebecca Chase Williams Email: rebecca.williams@brookhavenga.gov

#### **District 2**

Councilmember Jim Eyre resigned April 22nd, and currently district 2 is without elected representation. State law does not permit the appointment of an interim councilmember, however as your Mayor and council we are all committed to serving the residents of District 2. We encourage all residents of District 2 to call on any of us at any time with concerns or questions.

Mayor J. Max Davis Councilmember Rebecca Chase Williams Councilmember Bates Mattison Councilmember Joe Gebbia

**Note:** The Special Election to fill the unexpired portion of Councilmember Eyre's term will be November 4th. The call of election and dates for qualifying will be set by Mayor and Council.

#### **INFORMATION ABOUT PURCHASING OR CONTRACTS:**

All City bids are posted on the City's Purchasing Page at http://www.brookhavenga.gov/city-departments/ purchasing. If you are a vendor and interested in receiving an email notification of upcoming bids, please register with Team Georgia Marketplace at: http://doas.ga.gov/TGM/Pages/Home.aspx

If you are interested in doing business with the City, please contact the Purchasing Department at purchasing@brookhavenga.gov. Questions about policy or procedure should be directed to Brad Middlebrook at the above email or at 404-637-0480.

The City Council meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. Meeting



#### Bates Mattison - New Education Initiative On The Way

I'm very excited to announce a new education initiative in the City of Brookhaven. Education is a key driver for economic development and the City of Brookhaven has partnered with Atlanta based Edevate to provide resident an extended range of public educational options that will serve the needs of every student and provide technology skills required by the 21st Century economy. This project will comprise three initiatives: (1) Creating an Independent Charter School, Brookhaven Innovation Academy, (2) Developing a strategy to partner with DeKalb County Schools to address school performance at Cross Keys & Woodward Elementary, and (3) producing a feasibility study for a City of Brookhaven School System.

Operated as a non-profit public Charter School, Brookhaven Innovation Academy will utilize STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics), project-based and blended learning curricula inspired by the High Tech High model that's been so successful in California.

The Academy will provide every student with a Google Chromebook and implement Google's advanced educational technology to enhance learning. Among the innovative features are an extended school day and school year and the incorporation of coding (computer programming) from Kindergarten onwards. Students will choose from Spanish and Chinese language tracks and students entering Kindergarten will be fluent in their chosen foreign language by the end of 8th Grade.

Starting with a single campus in 2015, the Academy will develop into a multi-campus school serving preschool though 12th grade with an early-college option, providing the ability to graduate with both a High School Diploma and an Associate's Degree in Applied Technology. The Academy will also offer online programs in STEM to any student resident within the City.

While the Academy will work closely with the City Government and serve to attract new businesses and residents to Brookhaven, it will impose no financial burden upon the City as its budget will be fully covered by Charter School funding and private philanthropic support.

Our efforts to address the educational needs of our community are critical to the long-term success of Brookhaven. This effort will need your input to ensure that we develop plans that represent the interests of our citizens. Please visit http://brookhaven.education to sign up for more information as this effort moves forward, or contact me at bates.mattison@brookhavenga.gov. Thank you!

District 3 City Council - Bates Mattison • Email: bates.mattison@brookhavenga.gov



#### Joe Gebbia – A Greener Brookhaven

Spring means the greening of trees and lawns, and the City of Brookhaven has announced two important green initiatives.

First, a major collaborative effort between the City of Brookhaven, the DeKalb Sanitation Department and the DeKalb County School Board to significantly improve Brookhaven's recycling capabilities. The effort will start with 2,800 residents in Districts 1, 2 and 3 participating in a 90-day pilot program being implemented and administered by our fantastic DeKalb County Sanitation Department. Each participating home will receive two 65 gallons containers – one green for solid waste and one blue for recycling.

The blue recycling bins will hold all your recycled materials. Known as "Single Stream Recycling", it will no longer be necessary to separate paper from plastic from glass, etc. By making it so easy we feel participation rates will increase significantly. The program will be monitored by Kennesaw State College with updates posted each month on our City web page.

The DeKalb Sanitation pilot program will implement 2 key changes in service: a) one solid waste pick up per week, and b) one day pick up per week – this means that whatever day you currently put out your yard waste and recyclables, you must also put out your solid waste (green) container. During that day three trucks will drive by to pick up all your items.

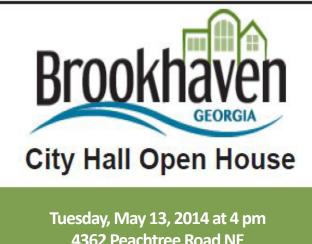
Last month the City of Brookhaven announced our *Keep Brookhaven Beautiful (KBB)* program. Financed in part with a grant from DeKalb County, *KBB* will assume responsibility of coordinating all clean up events in our parks and neighborhoods, educating HOAs on available beautification programs, assist in planning and implementing the planting of flowers and trees throughout the City, and serving as the City's liaison to the DeKalb BOE when implementing their recycling curriculum in our schools. The Mayor will announce our new KBB Ambassador later this month.

As we become greener we become more sustainable, and as we beautify, we increase the quality of life for all. These are developments we can all be proud of.

#### District 4 City Council - Joe Gebbia • Email: joe.gebbia@brookhavenga.gov

tings are open to the public. To learn more: http://www.brookhavenga.gov/mayor\_council.html

TOWN HALL MEETING May 28th, 6:30 - 8:30 at City Hall 4362 Peachtree Road Brookhaven, GA 30319 Phone: 404-637-0500



**4362 Peachtree Road NE** Work session and regular meeting to follow at same location

Please join Brookhaven Mayor J. Max Davis and City Council for an open house and tour of the new city hall. Current Brookhaven Resident at:

# A message from our Chief....

As vacation season approaches, Brookhaven residents need to be aware of two programs designed to keep them and their property safe. First, we will begin enforcing the Council-approved policy of fines for false-alarm calls. The first three false alarm calls will cost the homeowner nothing, but the 4th call will incur a \$50 charge. Subsequent false alarm calls will incur increased charges, as a means of encouraging homeowners to keep their security systems in good working order and to let us allocate police resources effectively.

Before homeowners in Brookhaven go on vacation, they should take advantage of our Residential Vacation Security Check. If you're going to be away from your home for an extended period, you should let the police department know, so that our officers will make sure to check your home while you are away. Officers will stop by your address, walk around your house and look for signs of forced entry, suspicious activity or anything that just doesn't look right. If we find anything we can call you or someone you have designated as a contact. When you return, we'll send you a report of when our officers were at your home and what, if anything, we noticed.

You can sign up online for **The Residential Vacation Security Check** at our website: www.brookhavenga.gov/public-safety/residentialsecurity-checks. Or you can give us a call at 404-637-0600. We're committed to keeping the residents of Brookhaven safe, while you're home, and your property safe when you're not.

Have a safe summer.

-Gary Yandura