

CITY NEWS

Brookhaven's first Emergency Operations Center put to the test

With then-Hurricane Irma approaching, the City of Brookhaven accomplished another first for the new city: It mobilized its first Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

"We had most of our staff in 24-hour mode, either at work or on-call, throughout the duration of this event. The EOC was able to function and succeed even though City Hall was in a blackout like most of the rest of the City," said Brookhaven Mayor John Ernst.

"I am proud of the accomplishments of our first EOC. We were put to the test, so if there is a next time, we'll be even better prepared to respond," said District 4 Councilmember Joe Gebbia.

At 11 a.m. on Sept. 11, City Council Chambers at City Hall was commandeered by Brookhaven Police, Public Works, Communications and IT staff to orchestrate emergency response utilizing National Incident Management Systems (NIMS) protocols.



"With Brookhaven's Emergency Management Coordinator, most Brookhaven employees had at least begun NIMS training, and many had completed several course modules. I believe that training helped to prepare us collectively for an efficient, integrated response," said City Manager Christian Sigman.

Brookhaven's stormwater system stands up to Hurricane Irma

Hurricane Irma knocked down thousands of trees and caused the worst power outage in Georgia history, but Brookhaven's stormwater system was able to weather the storm.

Beginning Monday, Sept. 11, and lasting through Sept. 12, the tropical storm system Irma entered Georgia and caused significant damage throughout the state, Brookhaven notwithstanding. Throughout the entirety of EOC operations, 209 unique incidents were reported and responded to with none of them relating to flooding or stormwater system deficiencies.

The weather system brought 3.43 inches of rain to the Atlanta area and stressed the capacity of the local creek system. The National Weather Service has four flooding designations with "major" being the most severe and "action" being the least. The North Fork Peachtree Creek achieved a crest of 11.75 feet while

Nancy Creek achieved a crest of 12.87 feet, with the two tributaries achieving "action stage" flood status and near flood status respectively. Despite the influx of precipitation and accompanying stormwater volume, no significant flooding or road closures related to stormwater topping occurred.

"The Hurricane Irma system that impacted our City caused widespread power outages and brought down many trees throughout Brookhaven, however, it was unable to stress the capacity of our stormwater system. If our stormwater system would have been unable to manage the precipitation brought by the storm, ongoing recovery efforts could have been complicated exponentially," says City Manager Christian Sigman. "This goes to show that if a city invests in and takes care of its stormwater infrastructure, it will in turn, take care of us."

From the Desk of the Mayor

Progress continues in Brookhaven

Happy fall! Hopefully you're enjoying the fall season with football, festivals and new school routines. The City continues to be hard at work to improve our core services: parks, police and public works. Below are some new ordinances to be aware of and highlights of progress we've made since our last newsletter:

- Our financial records are in great shape, and an adequate budgetary reserve was met for the first time in the City's history.
 - We made traffic improvements, installed traffic signage and found new funding for speed signs.
 - We installed "no left turn" signs along northbound Ashford Dunwoody Road that restrict travelers from turning into the Cambridge Square Shopping Center during the afternoon rush hour.
 - The City has secured \$75,000 from GDOT for new traffic signage, safety improvements and speed signs on our roadways.
 - Your ideas are in the works: Our public works department is busy engineering improvements of numerous intersections on Ashford Dunwoody Road as part of recommendations from the traffic study. Thank you for your input and participation in this traffic mitigation effort.
 - We passed a variety of new ordinances to make our community safer and more convenient.
 - Sidewalks on all new and improved local residential streets must be five feet wide in most circumstances and bike lanes will also be required.
 - Residents who wish to construct a fence need to first get a permit.
 - Backyard chickens and bees are now permissible in Brookhaven. Check out the guidelines first before bringing new animals into your backyard: brookhavenga.gov.
 - We approved 1.8 million in improvements to City Parks and several park construction projects are underway.
 - The "Murphey Candler Open Space" project began,
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John Ernst, Mayor
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which will provide a new, 1.9-acre open space complete with a walking trail along the perimeter of the park. We are continuing to solicit bids for parking improvements at Murphey Candler as well as at Blackburn Park.

- Along with construction continuing at Skyland Park, our Georgian Hills Park improvements project broke ground, which includes an open space field, an irrigation system and a walking trail. Infrastructure enhancements also include stormwater upgrades, a better parking lot and sidewalk enhancements along Clairmont Road. Anticipate these parks to open in early 2018.

- We were awarded a \$150,000 grant for streambank restoration of Nancy Creek that will restore the natural beauty of the waterway and significantly decrease the amount of silt flowing downstream. This restoration project will improve water quality, vegetation and native wildlife habitats.

Fall is also festival time in Brookhaven. We hope to see you at the 6th annual Chili Cook-off on Oct. 7 as well as the Arts Festival on Oct. 21 and 22.

In addition, an important election will take place in Brookhaven on Nov. 7 to elect District 2 and District 4 City Council members. For voter registration, precinct and current election information, visit www.dekalbvotes.com.

As always, please join me at one of my upcoming town hall meetings, which are generally held on the fourth Thursday of every month. Find the full schedule at brookhavenga.gov/newsroom. Or don't hesitate to contact me at john.ernst@brookhavenga.gov or at 404-637-0710 with any questions or concerns.

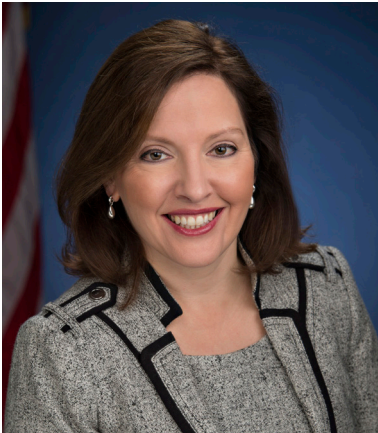
Thank you for all you do to make Brookhaven better.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John Ernst
Mayor

City Council



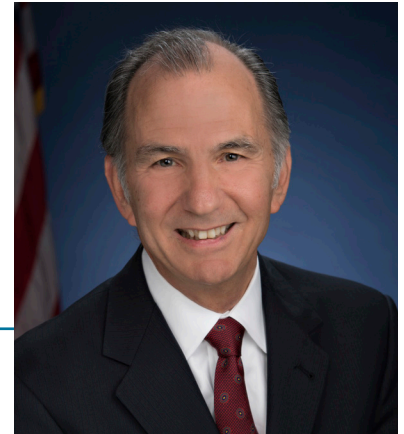
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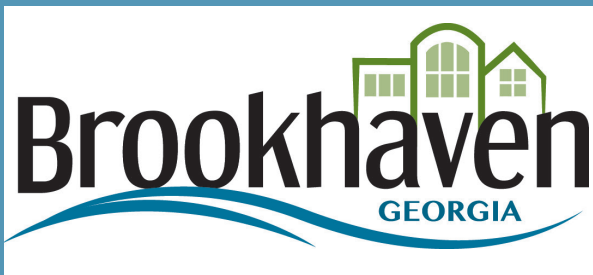
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The Brookhaven City Council generally meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 3:30 and 7 p.m. at 4362 Peachtree Road. Visit www.brookhavenga.gov for schedule changes.

City meetings are streamed online and archived at www.brookhavenga.gov. Go to the "City Government" tab near the top of the homepage and click on "Meetings & Agendas."



City Vision and Mission

The following are vision and mission statements crafted and adopted by the Mayor and Council during their council retreat in 2015.

Vision

Brookhaven will be nationally recognized as a beautiful community where multiple generations can live in safety, flourish in business and succeed in a historic, sustainable environment with exceptional education and transportation options.

Mission

In support of the Brookhaven vision the City government shall: encourage and maintain a beautiful community, meet public safety needs, develop an environment for business success, promote sustainable projects and activities, identify and preserve historic and neighborhood resources, facilitate educational opportunities, and improve transportation conditions, connectivity, and options while listening to and communicating with the public.

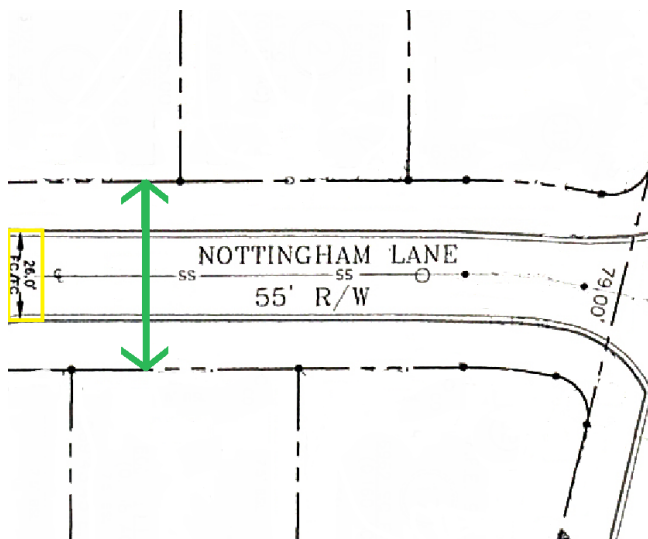
City News

City adopts right-of-way maintenance policy

Brookhaven has adopted a policy for the continued maintenance and upkeep of City right-of-ways.

The policy establishes a framework that clearly defines what the right-of-way is, as well as the responsibilities of property owners adjacent to the right-of-way and those of the City. The document also outlines the enforcement procedures for property owners who fail to abide by the stipulations set forth in the policy.

Municipal right-of-way is defined as the area on, below, or around a roadway that the government holds for the benefit of the public. It is in this area that sidewalk, curbing and utility infrastructure exists or could exist in the future. Any construction and/or landscaping installation within the right-of-way must conform to the specifications set forth in the Brookhaven Code of Ordinances and the newly adopted City policy.



(This illustration depicts the official right-of-way along a City road using an official DeKalb County plat. The green line illustrates the extent of the 55' right-of-way while the yellow box indicates the exact width of the road from curb to curb (26'). In this case the right-of-way extend approximately 14.5' from the edge of pavement to the abutting property lines when road width is accounted for.)

As the above illustration indicates, the public right-of-way includes the road as well as a buffer on either side of the road that varies in width. Some roads may have a right-of-way as wide as 90' while others can be

as narrow as 40' in width.

It is in this area that abutting property owners are limited in what they can install in the right-of-way and what activities they can undertake; however, this does not negate the responsibilities property owners have when it comes to maintaining their own respective right-of-ways and ensuring that these areas stay clean, well groomed, and free of obstructions.

Some properties in Brookhaven have right-of-way outside of a fenced in perimeter or beyond a wooded area which has not been maintained by the property owner. These areas are not exempt from the stipulations of this policy and property owners are required to maintain these areas as well.

Right-of-way responsibilities as defined by the policy include but are not limited to landscaping maintenance, grass cutting and tree maintenance in a manner consistent with Brookhaven code. Property owners must also refrain from the installation of permanent structures within the right-of-way such as irrigation systems, fences and walls, or any object that can obscure line of sight.

“Establishing and enforcing a comprehensive right-of-way policy is essential to ensure that the City of Brookhaven is, and continues to be, a beautiful and aesthetically pleasing place to live,” says Brookhaven City Manager Christian Sigman.

Properties which do not comply with the policy and code could be subjected to citations and fines.

For additional information regarding the right-of-way, visit the Brookhaven City website at bit.ly/brookhavenrightofway.

Walls, fences and retaining walls need to adhere to code

In addition to retaining wall permit requirements, freestanding walls and fences permits are now required due to issues regarding inappropriate placement of structures in right-of-ways causing visibility and public safety concerns. The permits will be issued over-the-counter at no cost to the property owner.

The new ordinance updates the City's regulations to ensure freestanding walls and fences are in accordance with design, location, and safety requirements; and to guarantee the protection of property owners within the city.

For more information, call Community Development at 404-637-0500.

City News



From left: Telemundo anchor Jorge Buzo, Plaza Fiesta Marketing Director Maritza Garcia and Brookhaven Police Officer Carlos Niño.

Brookhaven Officer is a 'Hero'

Officer Carlos Niño from the Brookhaven Police Department won the Community Hero award from the Telemundo Atlanta event "Everyone is a Hero." Each Year Telemundo Atlanta chooses nine Latino Heroes among hundreds of nominations. The awards celebrate individuals whose actions make a difference in their community. The City of Brookhaven chose to nominate Officer Niño based on his dedication exhibited in programs such as Hispanic Citizen's Police Academy, Coffee with a Cop, and Shop with a Badge.

Lieutenant graduates from Northwestern program

The Brookhaven Police Department is pleased to announce the recent graduation of Lieutenant Kevin Patton from the School of Police Staff and Command at Northwestern University. Lt. Patton recently completed the 10-week program held in Kennesaw. The program, implemented by the Center for Public Safety in 1983, has graduated over 20,000 students both nationally and internationally. It provides upper-level college instruction in topics including Leadership, Employee Relations, Applied Statistics, Planning and Policy Development, and Budgeting and Resource allocations.



From left, Shelly Camden, Deputy Director - Northwestern Center for Public Safety; Lt. Kevin Derek Easterling, Mayor - City of Kennesaw; and Edward Stephens, Acting Chief of Police - Kennesaw State University Police Department.

Progress on parks continues

Brookhaven's "Year of Progress" continues with major developments at several City parks:

- Work is underway on building a new Skyland Park at 2600 Skyland Drive. The former home of the Georgia Vital Records Office has been demolished, making way for the new park, set to open in early 2018. Features will include a playground, sand volleyball courts, open space field and shade structures that also serve as solar charging panels for electronic devices.

- A tricycle track for Ashford Park is being built. The idea was conceived during public input planning for the park, which caters to young children and toddlers.

- Work is beginning on the 1.9 acre Murphey Candler Park Open Space Field, which will include a walking trail and seating to accommodate park-goers.

- Improvements are underway at Georgian Hills Park that include an open space field with Bermuda turf, an irrigation system and a walking trail. A playground, picnic shelter, and an outdoor basketball half-court will also be constructed. Enhancements at this location will also include a redesigned parking lot and improvements to the sidewalk that runs along Clairmont Road. This project also includes a new stormwater conveyance system.



A new storm drain is part of the infrastructure improvements in Georgian Hills Park.

Around Town



A runner crosses the foam finish line at the Brookhaven Police Department's Hot Pursuit Glow Run. Proceeds from the event benefit the Department's annual Shop With a Badge.



Participants complete the Brookhaven Parks & Recreation Department's annual It Starts in the Park 5K, which takes runners around a course at Blackburn Park.



Some 50 artists gathered at Blackburn Park for the City's third annual "Paint the Park" event. To illustrate the importance of civic art, the winning pieces will be placed on display at City facilities. Above, District 1 Councilmember Linley Jones is pictured with children who participated.



Some 30 attendees participated when Keep DeKalb Beautiful hosted a rain barrel workshop at Briarwood Park, with proceeds benefitting the Peachtree Creek Greenway.



District 4 Councilmember Joe Gebbia (left) and Mayor John Ernst (right) meet with the Council for Quality Growth at City Hall.
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Sgt. Jacob Kissel, along with Brookhaven Police and neighboring jurisdictions, invited the community to National Night Out.

Special Events

Food Truck Roundup

PRICE: Free

DATE: Wednesdays, through Oct. 25

TIME: 6-9 p.m.

LOCATION: Blackburn Park

DETAILS: Join us on Wednesdays at Blackburn Park for our weekly Food Truck Roundup. Each night will feature 8-10 food trucks, live entertainment, a bounce house, and a beer/wine tent. This is a family friendly event so bring the kids, dogs and whoever else is hungry.

Parent's Night Out

PRICE: \$15 for one child;

\$10 for each additional

DATES: Oct. 13, Dec. 15

TIME: 6:30-9 p.m.

AGES: 5-12

LOCATION: Lynwood Community Center

DETAILS: Parent's Night Out is a great way for parents to drop off the kids on a Friday and get some time to themselves. We will provide dinner as well as games, activities and plenty of options to keep the kids entertained. Pre-registration is required by Wednesday before the event and pickup is promptly at 9.

Fall Festival

DATE: Saturday, Oct. 21

TIME: noon-4 p.m.

LOCATION: Lynwood Park

DETAILS: Enjoy the crisp fall weather at Lynwood Park with a fall themed get-together for the whole family. We'll have food, a bounce house and other activities to take part in.

Thanksgiving Day Meal

DATE: Thursday, Nov. 23

TIME: 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

LOCATION: Lynwood Community Center

DETAILS: If you don't have plans for Thanksgiving, stop by Lynwood Community Center and pick up a meal. Call 404-637-0542 for information.

Light Up

Brookhaven

DATE: Thursday, Nov. 30

TIME: 6-7 p.m.

LOCATION: Blackburn Park

DETAILS: This free event features special musical performances, visits with Santa (parents welcome to take pics), holiday crafts, Toys for Tots collection box, hot chocolate sale, refreshments and Christmas tree and Hanukah display lighting.

Red and White Ball

DATE: Saturday, Dec. 9

TIME: 6-10 p.m.

FEE: 16 & up: \$25;

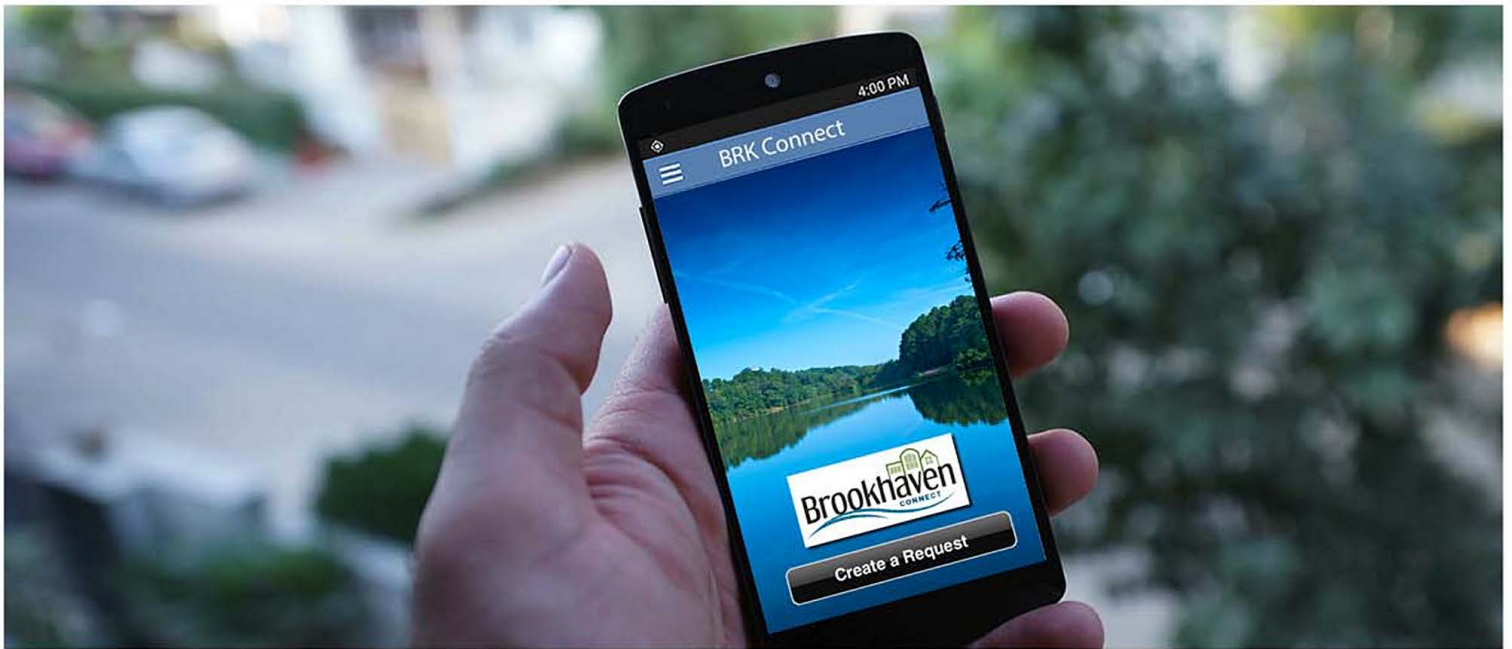
6-15: \$15;

5 & under: Free

LOCATION: Lynwood Community Center

DETAILS: This holiday ball and toy drive will benefit people of all ages. The ball will feature a dinner and jazz band providing the entertainment, and will also be a means to donate toys that will be given to Toys for Tots to go to children in need during the holidays.

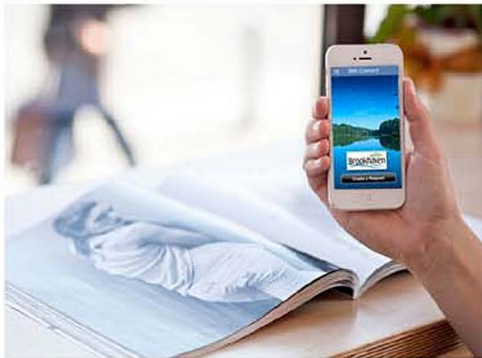




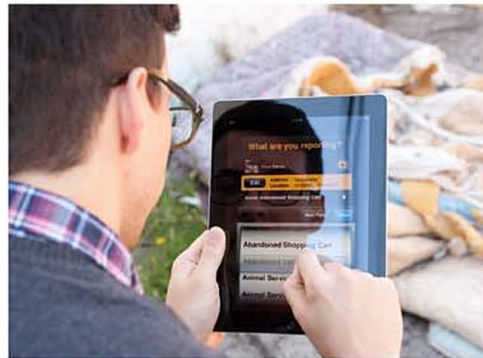
BROOKHAVEN, GA

Brookhaven Connect

EFFORTLESS CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT



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