

CITY NEWS

What if . . . ?

City's emergency center plays major role when disaster strikes

We've all been there...trees blown down, traffic snarled, power outages, creeks rising. While we usually escape the kind of extreme chaos caused by hurricanes like Florence and Michael, sometimes their aftermath can still cause major disruptions to everyday life. When events like these occur, Brookhaven city leaders have stepped up to the plate twice in recent years to get things back to normal as quickly as possible. At the end of the day, the lessons learned have focused on two key words:

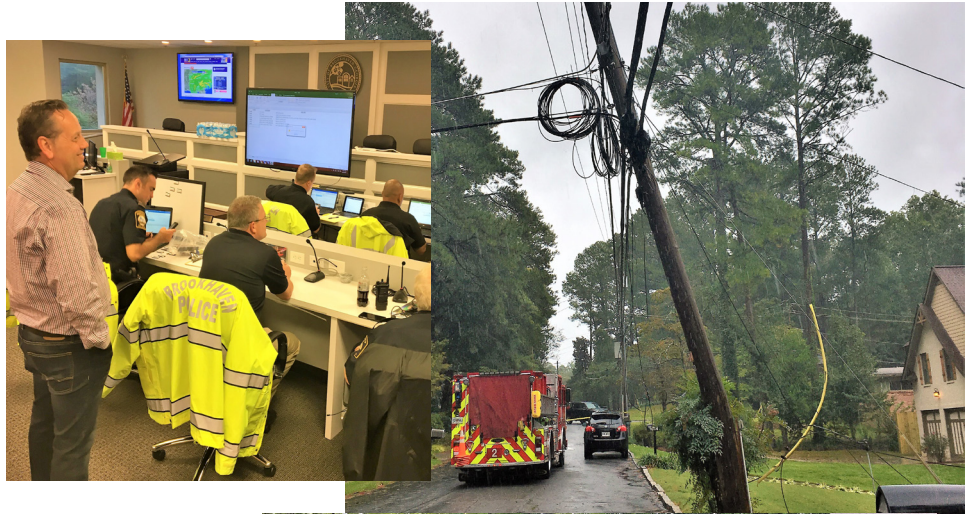
"Be prepared."

This simple phrase embodies a million pearls of wisdom. More than just the Boy Scout motto, being prepared for any dangerous situation can save a life or help deal with life-threatening emergencies. There is no way to be ready for every natural or manmade disaster, but emergency preparedness can play a major role in coping with one.

Brookhaven's City leaders, police and management team know all too well how important it is to take the appropriate steps to protect residents during a crisis. That's why the key players on the City's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) team remain in "stand by" mode.

"In Brookhaven we make every effort to prepare for any type of disaster," said Mayor John Ernst. "We all know the inconvenience that comes with every storm and we focus on putting measures in place to make these inconveniences minimal. We can have the best parks or sidewalks, but nothing is more important than the safety and protection of our residents."

During a crisis, the EOC is the primary location for emergency management. It provides a centralized location of authority and information as well as allows for



An EOC was activated in City Council chambers in 2017 to address downed trees and power lines during Hurricane Irma.

face-to-face coordination among personnel managing the emergency response effort. In addition, the EOC is also there to answer the call...any call...for help.

This was a lesson quickly learned in the City's infancy.

A 2014 snowstorm, dubbed Snowmagedden, crippled metro Atlanta for almost a week and caused extreme chaos on the City's main interstates and highways. Thousands of vehicles were left stranded after the storm created massive gridlock on the roads.

"A makeshift EOC was quickly set up in the

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From the Desk of the Mayor

I'm thankful for . . .

'Tis the season to be thankful, and in the City of Brookhaven, there's plenty of reason to give thanks.

After a year of groundbreaking, I'm thankful we are now celebrating ribbon-cuttings on some wonderful improvements in our City. We recently opened the brand new Skyland Park. This park, which features Brookhaven's only sand volleyball courts, two dog parks, shelters that double as solar charging stations and a fantastic open space didn't cost taxpayers a dime, thanks to a land swap and agreement with DeKalb Schools.

I'm thankful we also unveiled the new "County Corner" at Murphey Candler Park. The possibilities are endless at this open space. I see us having movie nights and concerts there, and I see citizens playing pickup soccer games and enjoying picnics.

I'm also thankful for the citizen input we received when designing these new parks. I'm thankful we have



John Ernst, Mayor
John.Ernst@BrookhavenGA.gov

Town Hall Schedule

Mayor John Ernst hosts monthly town halls on varying topics at City Hall, 4362 Peachtree Road, 6 to 7 p.m. Below is the schedule for the remainder of 2018:

Nov. 15 (Presentation by DeKalb Sanitation)

Dec. 20 (Presentation topic TBD)

Visit www.BrookhavenGA.gov for updated calendar and event schedule.

residents who are passionate enough about their city to show up and help guide us through this journey.

I hope that you find plenty of reason to give thanks, and that you enjoy the holiday season in our City. Don't hesitate to contact me at John.Ernst@BrookhavenGA.gov or at 404-637-0710 with any questions or concerns. I hope to see you at a Town Hall or City Council meeting.

Thank you for all you do to make Brookhaven better!

Yours truly,

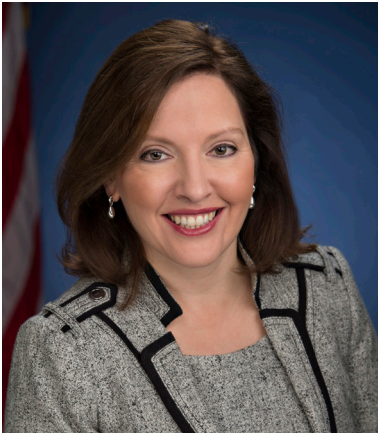


Patrons enjoy the newly designed open space field at Murphey Candler Park.



Rep. Scott Holcomb, city officials and some young helpers cut the ribbon at the new Skyland Park.

City Council



Linley Jones
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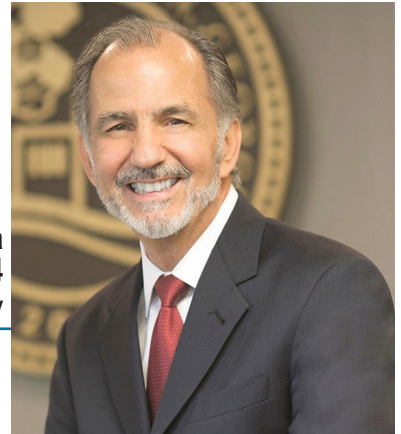


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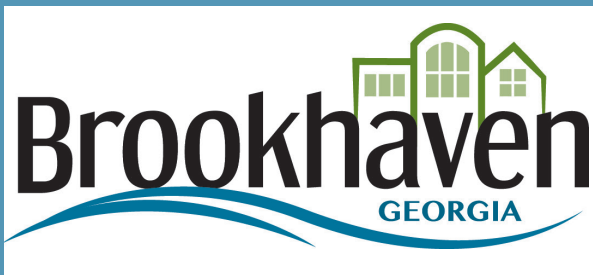


Joe Gebbia
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The Brookhaven City Council generally meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 3:30 and 7 p.m. at 4362 Peachtree Road. Visit www.BrookhavenGA.gov for schedule changes.

City meetings are streamed online and archived at www.BrookhavenGA.gov. To access meetings and videos, go to the Meetings & Agendas tab near the bottom of the homepage.



City Vision and Mission

The following are vision and mission statements of the City of Brookhaven.

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.

Light Up Brookhaven ushers in the holiday season on Nov. 29

A sleigh full of activities promises something for everyone

Forget about visions of sugar plums.

Gently falling “snowflakes,” reindeer, twinkling lights, s’mores and more await visitors to this year’s Light Up Brookhaven celebration slated for Nov. 29 at Blackburn Park, 3493 Ashford Dunwoody Road from 6-8 p.m. The fun-filled evening, starting with a dramatic arrival by Santa, will be packed with holiday-themed activities including music, games, crafts, and giveaways leading up to lighting of the City’s Hanukkah decorations and dazzling new 40’ Christmas tree.

Utilizing movie magic, man-made snow is planned to create the perfect holiday mood while hundreds of young eyes will be searching the horizon watching for Santa’s arrival. Kids, make sure your parents have their cameras ready as you get in line to greet and pose with St. Nick and his live reindeer.

Setting the holiday tone for the event will be performances by choirs from Montgomery Elementary and Marist Schools, along with the Salvation Army Band. Flashing holiday necklaces will be given away to the first 250 youngsters to arrive, along with candy canes and other holiday treats. When not crafting penguin, reindeer and other holiday ornaments, there will be corn-hole games and additional fun offerings to keep the kids entertained. New this year will be a festive little red wagon decorating contest (see sidebar story for details) to showcase the younger crowd’s imaginations.

These activities are bound to work up an appetite, so Flavor Rich and the Royal Pig BBQ food trucks will be on hand selling wings, chicken, salmon, tacos, shrimp, burgers and a host of other treats. To take the chill off a cool November evening, the Girl Scouts will be there offering hot chocolate and s’mores for a nominal fee.

Representatives from Toys for Tots, a holiday staple, will be there collecting unwrapped toys to help those less fortunate share the magic of the holidays.

Young patients from Children’s Healthcare of Atlan-



Santa Claus, Brookhaven Barry and Mrs. Claus help celebrate at last year’s event.

ta will be on hand to help Mayor John Ernst flip the switch lighting the towering City holiday tree. “We are very excited about the upcoming Light Up Brookhaven,” said Ernst. “Thanks to our team of ‘Santa’s helpers’ from Parks and Recreation, I think residents will find this year’s event bigger and better than ever. This makes the effort worthwhile when we all see the joy in the faces of the youngsters. I look forward to seeing everyone there!”

Sponsors for this year’s Light Up Brookhaven are Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta, Buckhead Yard Greetings and Gunnison

Tree Specialists.

Decorate your little red wagon for the holidays!

New to Light Up Brookhaven this year is a holiday-themed little red wagon decorating contest to allow youngsters to show off their creative skills. Criteria for the judged event includes:

- Creativity (Artistic design, colorful, imaginative)
- Holiday Theme (Any November/December/early January Holiday!)
- Originality (Unique approach, novel use of materials)

Those participating should follow these guidelines:

1. Standard four-wheel wagons only. No two-wheel garden carts or motorized vehicles of any description.
2. Wagons must be in proper working order and able to roll.
3. All decorations must be attached securely ahead of time.
4. A child must be able to sit in it (does not need to sit in it for the judging)
5. Animals may be part of the experience and must be leashed.
6. No entry needed! Show up with your decorated and named wagon at Light Up Brookhaven.
7. Ages up to 12 welcome.
8. Groups will be ages 1-6 and ages 7- 12
9. Judging will take place at 7:45 p.m. at Light Up Brookhaven in Blackburn Park.

City News

Here we grow again!

Enclave at Briarcliff residents ask to join City

In September, Brookhaven got a little bigger. City Council members voted unanimously to approve an annexation for the gated Enclave at Briarcliff Commons condominiums. The 13.49-acre parcel of land, along the Buford Highway Corridor, contains five existing multi-family dwellings consisting of 271 units at 1000-5308 Westchester Ridge.

The movement to annex was initiated by residents of the condominiums last spring and application made for the rezoning was filed in July. As part of the process, 95% of the residents voted to seek annexation.

A group of representatives from the condos were present at the Council meeting to show a display of support. One of the property owners, John Ziegler, expressed to the Council some of the reasons why they wanted to be annexed into the City. “We like the



exceptional police service available in Brookhaven,” said Ziegler, “as well as the direction we see the City of Brookhaven moving and the government structure that provides good access to City representatives. We also like the AAA bond rating the City has and the quality of businesses and amenities such as Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta and the proposed Peachtree Creek Greenway.”

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Brookhaven Police Department (BPD),” recalled Deputy Chief Juan Grullon. “We relied on tv for the latest updates and coordinated our moves with Public Works, tracking where we needed snow plows and where we needed to salt the streets. We were a brand new city, but we did the best we could under the circumstances.”

Three years later, in September 2017, the City EOC team was once again put to the test when Hurricane Irma wandered inland packing a powerful punch. Even as a tropical storm, Irma pummeled Brookhaven with rain and high winds.

Within three hours of deciding to set up a command center, the EOC was established in City Hall Chambers. Taking on key roles (and 12-hour shifts), members of the BPD, Public Works and Communications were simultaneously doling out instructions regarding downed trees and powerlines and fielding queries from anxious residents. The Communications team, often a vital lifeline for residents, sent constant updates to the media and kept residents informed of the latest developments via social media. Working in tandem with Georgia Power Company and county and state entities such as the Georgia and DeKalb Emergency Management Agencies (GEMA and DEMA), over 200 issues were addressed within a 27-hour period.

Behind the scenes, several internal crises occurred that called for impromptu maneuvering, Grullon added. “When the power went off in City Hall,” he recalled, “team members were scrambling to collect enough extension cords to access back-up generators

in the computer server room and spotlights normally used at crime scenes were brought in to illuminate the command center.”

There is no question that before, during and after the major impact of the storm, resident safety and the desire to get everything back to normal as quickly as possible was the top priority.

There were vital lessons learned from both emergencies that affect the EOC team moving forward. Emphasis has been placed on further training by police and key City Hall staff including National Incident Management System (NIMS) courses offered by the Department of Homeland Security. A better suited and accessible location has been identified for future EOC command centers and contingency plans are constantly being updated.

Key emphasis is being placed on better ways the City can stay in contact with residents to provide much-needed updates and information during any crisis. This is the impetus behind encouraging residents to sign-up for communication tools such as Smart911 (www.smart911.com) and Brookhaven Alert, (www.BrookhavenGA.gov/BrookhavenAlert) a free service to get notifications from state and local authorities like weather, traffic and other emergencies.

Residents can also receive updates during emergencies from DEMA’s state-of-the-art emergency notification system, called CodeRED. This opt-in system provides rapid notification to residents and businesses about emergency events within DeKalb County. Visit <https://public.coderedweb.com/CNE/en-US/3BD32E-C1739A> for details.

Mark your calendars

Light Up Brookhaven

DATE: Thursday, Nov. 29

TIME: 6-8 p.m.

LOCATION: Blackburn Park

DETAILS: This free event features special musical performances, visits with Santa, holiday crafts and activities, Toys for Tots collection box, hot chocolate sale, s'mores, food trucks and Christmas tree and Hanukkah display lighting.



MLK Day Dinner & Celebration

PRICE: \$10

DATE: Monday, Jan. 21

TIME: 4-7 p.m.

LOCATION: Lynwood Park

DETAILS: The City of Brookhaven's annual MLK Day event and dinner honors the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. More details to follow.

Daddy-Daughter Valentine's Dance

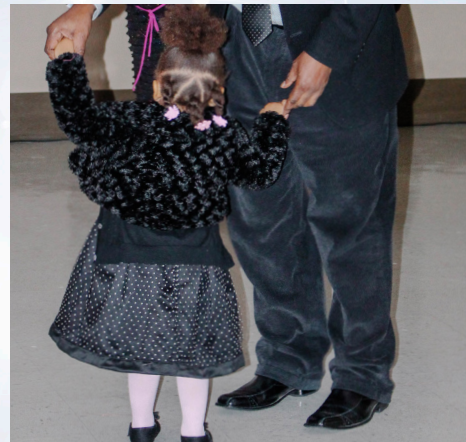
DATE: Saturday, Feb. 9

TIME: TBD

LOCATION: Lynwood Park

AGES: Girls 5-15

DETAILS: A memorable evening for Daddys and Daughters to dance the night away to a live DJ that will be playing the latest songs and special requests. The event will include finger foods, giveaways, and keepsakes to take home.



Community Yard Sale

DATE: Saturday, March 2

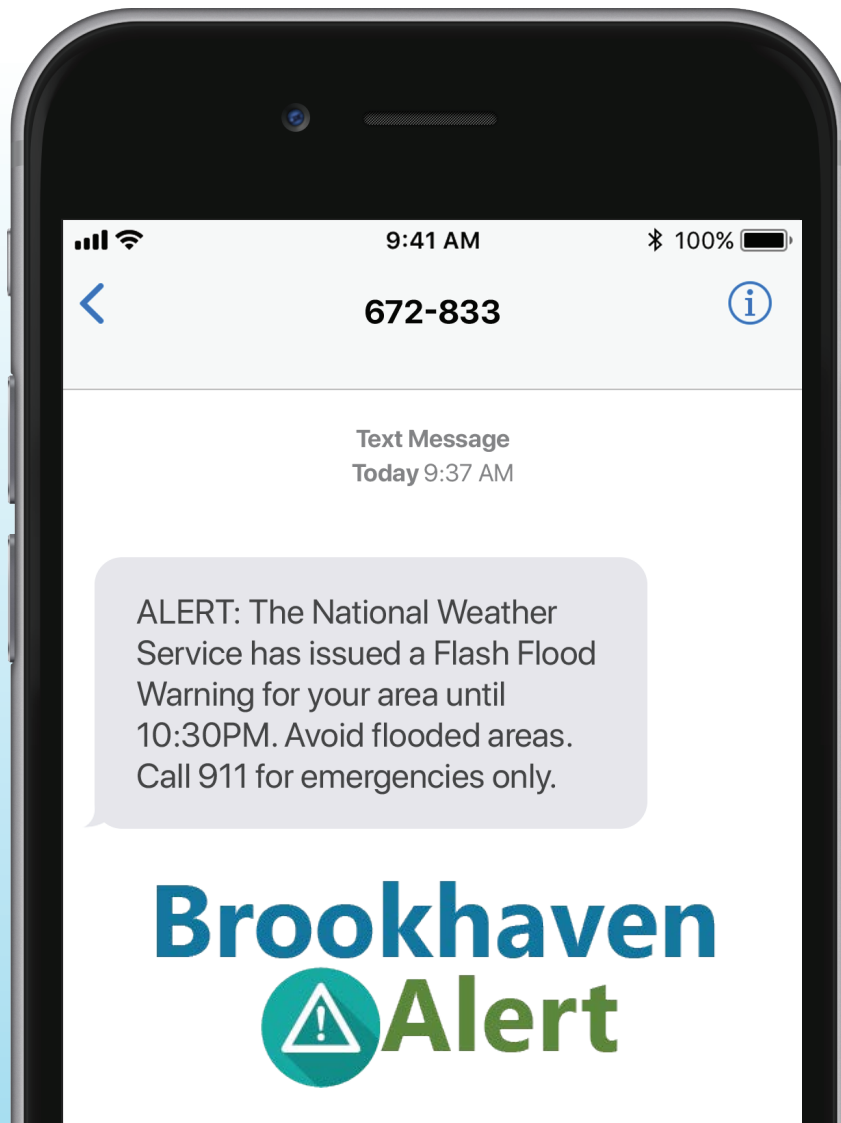
TIME: 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

LOCATION: Briarwood Park

DETAILS: Instead of traveling all over town to find the best yard sales, why not visit them all in one place? Event is free to attend, or you can purchase a table to sell your own unwanted items. Cost to vendors is \$20 for one 8' table or \$30 for two tables. Contact Philip at 404-637-0512 for more information.

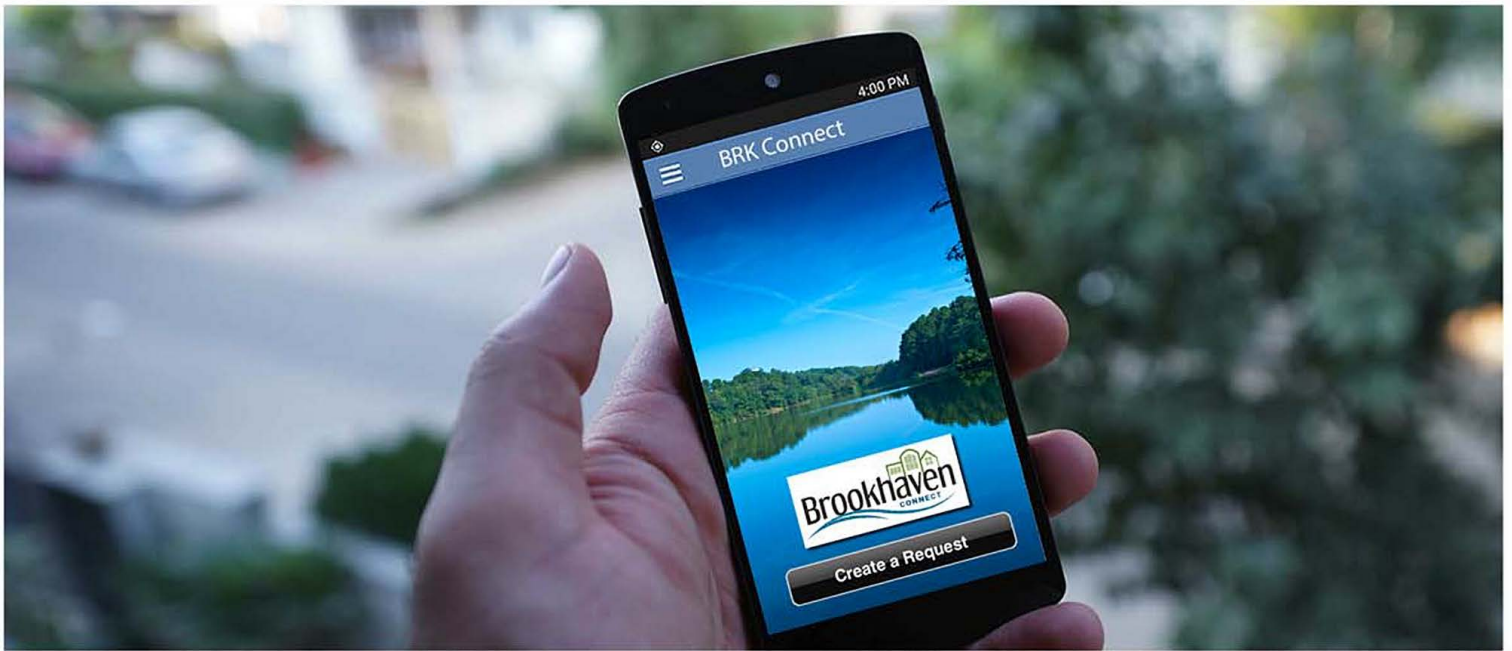
Always Be Notified.

Alerts and notifications help inform you on weather, traffic, and other emergencies in your community. When you opt-in for alerts, you will have the option to choose the kind of notifications you prefer to receive.



Sign up at www.BrookhavenGA.gov/BrookhavenAlert

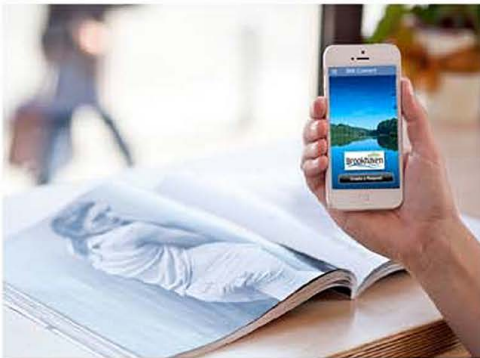
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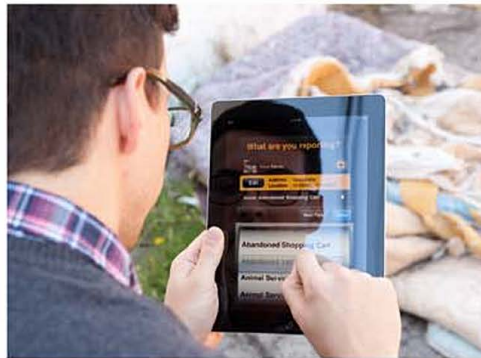
BROOKHAVEN, GA

Brookhaven Connect

EFFORTLESS CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT



Real-time Updates



Simple Reporting



Access Anywhere

The City of Brookhaven is excited to provide residents improved access to issue reporting and other helpful city information. Visit the city's website or search for 'Brookhaven Connect' in your app store to download today.