

# CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL TURNS 5



Creativity is in bloom when the Brookhaven Cherry Blossom Festival returns to Blackburn Park March 30-31. The music and arts extravaganza celebrates its fifth birthday in a big way with headliners Smash Mouth and the Wallflowers leading the music lineup. A large variety of artisans, with some works sampled below, will also delight festival goers.



**Returning this year:**

- Artists Market
- Pet World
- Kidz Zone
- Classic Car Show
- Festival 5K



# From the Desk of the Mayor



**John Ernst, Mayor**  
[John.Ernst@BrookhavenGA.gov](mailto:John.Ernst@BrookhavenGA.gov)

## Brookhaven in bloom

Spring is just around the corner, and that means the return of the City's premier event - the Brookhaven Cherry Blossom Festival!

My favorite thing about this event is the way that it brings the community together every year. We're basically putting together one big party for everyone to enjoy, and each year we try to make it better for you.

My second favorite thing about the festival - now in its fifth year - is our continued partnerships with Live Nation and Splash Festivals. Thanks to Live Nation, the music lineup just keeps getting better, and this year we are proud to present the Grammy-award winning Wallflowers and Smash Mouth as our headliners. Joining these two great bands are none other than the Spin Doctors and the Romantics. How exciting is that?

For the art lovers, Splash Festival did a stellar job last year of greatly expanding the artists' market with one hundred vendors to browse and local and regional artists to support. I can't wait to see what they have in store this year.

You can't beat two straight days of live music, arts, food and fun, and I hope to see you there with your family, your friends, and even your dog!

You can read more about what this year's Brookhaven Cherry Blossom Festival has to offer in the following pages of this newsletter.

Don't hesitate to contact me at [John.Ernst@BrookhavenGA.gov](mailto: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,*

### Town Hall Schedule

Mayor Ernst hosts monthly town halls at City Hall, 4362 Peachtree Road, 6 to 7 p.m. Below is the schedule for the remainder of 2019:

Wednesday, March 20

Thursday, April 18

Thursday, May 16

Thursday, June 20

Thursday, July 18

Thursday, Aug. 15

Thursday, Sept. 19

Thursday, Oct. 17

Thursday, Nov. 21

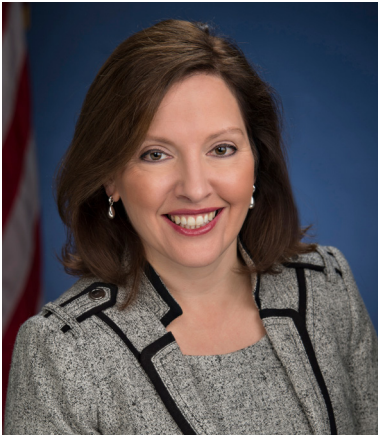
Thursday, Dec. 19

## Breaking ground on the Greenway

The City of Brookhaven broke ground on the Peachtree Creek Greenway in December. Distinguished guests joined the City's elected officials, staff, and community volunteers to start construction on Brookhaven's portion of the Greenway, with a ribbon cutting expected later this year.



# City Council



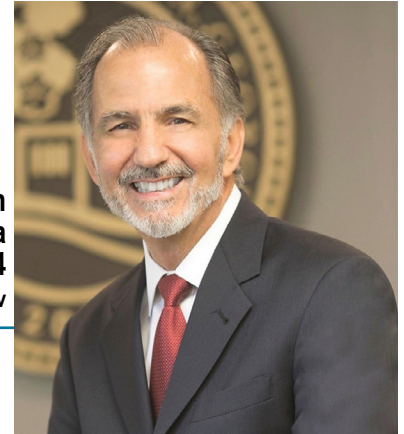
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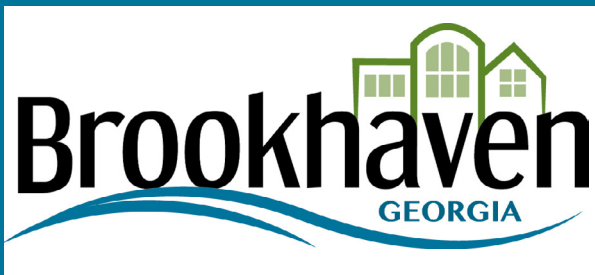
**John Park**  
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**Mayor Pro Tem**  
**Joe Gebbia**  
District 4  
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**The Brookhaven City Council generally meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 3:30 and 7 p.m. at 4362 Peachtree Road. Visit [www.BrookhavenGA.gov](http://www.BrookhavenGA.gov) for schedule changes.**

**City meetings are streamed online and archived at [www.BrookhavenGA.gov](http://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.



# Cherry Blossom Festival 2019



***From Grammy-winning entertainers to glassblowers, this year's festival promises to be the best ever***

What better way to usher in spring than with two fun-filled days of live all-star entertainment, world class arts and crafts, classic cars and much, much more. That's what guests will have awaiting them at this year's Brookhaven Cherry Blossom Festival set for March 30-31 in Blackburn Park, 3493 Ashford Dunwoody Road. The festival is open to the public from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day and admission is free.

Taking the stage over the two-day event will be all-star music groups including the Wallflowers, Smash Mouth, Spin Doctors and the Romantics. Performing Saturday, March 30, is headliner Smash Mouth along with the Spin Doctors and the Romantics. The Wallflowers will headline the music lineup on Sunday, with supporting acts to be announced.

"I couldn't be more pleased with our partnership with Live Nation in booking these premier bands," said Brookhaven Mayor John Ernst. "I know I'm excited about this line-up, and I encourage the community to come out and enjoy two great days of live music."

For the second year, the City of Brookhaven is partnering with Splash Festivals who will operate the Arts & Crafts Market and the ever-popular Kidz Zone



as well as handle logistics for the event. New this year in addition to nearly 100 artist booths will be artisans demonstrating their craft such as Sean O'Shea (blacksmith); Jeremy Thomas (glassblower); Devanie Schilpp (clay pottery); Aaron Williams (musical instrument maker); and Fatmanur Akdeniz (paper marbling).

"The fifth annual Brookhaven Cherry Blossom Festival is going to be even bigger and better this year,"



# Cherry Blossom Festival 2019



said District 1 Councilwoman Linley Jones. “Our continued partnership with Live Nation and Splash Festivals will ensure that once again we will kick off the Atlanta-area festival season with a top-notch event.”

The festival will also bring back perennial favorites such as the Classic Car Show, Pet World and food trucks. The car show will return on Saturday, March 30. The 5K, sponsored by Oglethorpe University and designated as a 2019 Peachtree Road Race qualifier, has grown so in popularity that it will now kick off the weekend before the festival and will take place Saturday, March 23.

For updated information about the festival, visit [www.BrookCherryFest.org](http://www.BrookCherryFest.org), Facebook at @BrookhavenBlossomFest and Twitter at @BrookCherryFest.



## Pet Parade is back

It's time to start planning a costume for your furry friend! The Atlanta Braves Heavy Hitters drumline will lead the march and provide some fun prizes for our guests. Award categories include Best in Show, People's Choice, and Cutest Couple.

## Registration open for 5K

Registration is now open for the 2019 Brookhaven Cherry Blossom Festival 5K, taking place Saturday, March 23, at 7:30 a.m. at Blackburn Park, 3493 Ashford Dunwoody Road. This year's 5K, which is USATF-certified for 2019 Peachtree Road Race qualifying and a fundraiser for Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, will take runners through Brookhaven's Blackburn Park. Oglethorpe University is the presenting sponsor for this race.

Participants can register online by March 19 here: <https://www.active.com/brookhaven-ga/running/distance-running-races/cherry-blossom-5k-2019>. (Participants must register online by March 11 to guarantee a T-shirt.)

Participants can save by taking advantage of Early Bird Pricing through March 11 with registration set at \$25 for adults and \$20 for children (13 & under). Regular pricing until race day and onsite will cost \$30 for adults and \$25 for children (13 & under).

## RACE SCHEDULE

**March 19:** Online registration closes

**March 21-22, noon-8 p.m.:**  
Packet pickup at Big Peach Running Co., Town Brookhaven

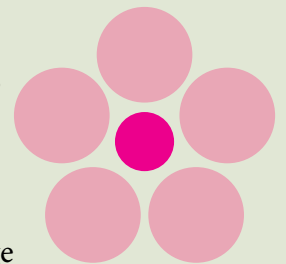
**March 23 race day:**  
**6:30-7:15 a.m.:**  
Race day registration and packet pickup  
**7:30 a.m.:** 5K race start



## Volunteers wanted!

Volunteers are needed for the 2019 Brookhaven Cherry Blossom Festival 5K, taking place Saturday, March 23, and the Brookhaven Cherry Blossom Festival, taking place Saturday and Sunday, March 30 and 31. All events are held at Blackburn Park, 3493 Ashford Dunwoody Road.

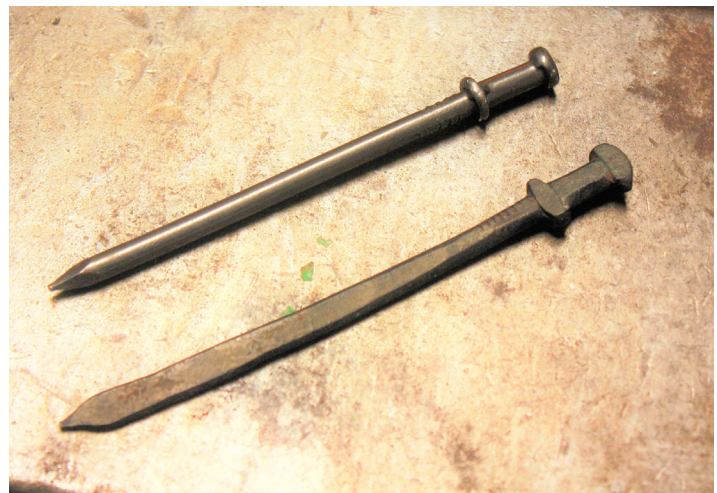
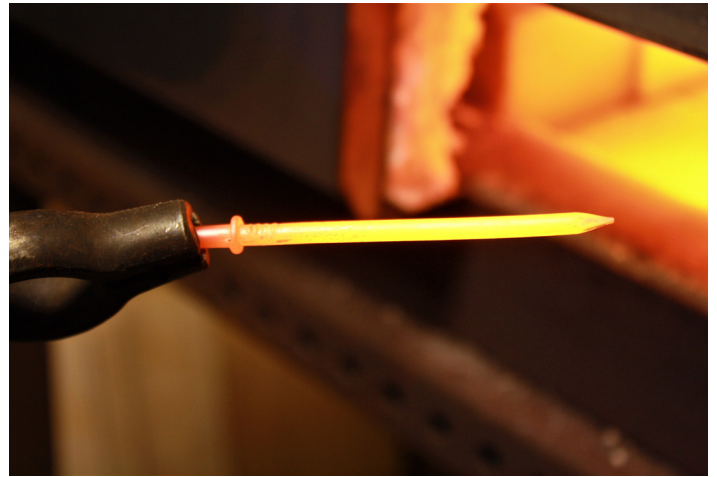
Volunteer opportunities include artist setup, breakdown, hospitality suite, and 5K race duties. Shifts range from two to four hours. Volunteers must be at least 14 years of age. For more information on volunteering go to: [www.BrookhavenGA.gov/festival/page/volunteer](http://www.BrookhavenGA.gov/festival/page/volunteer)





# Cherry Blossom Festival 2019

## Forged in Fire



### Local artisan brings blacksmithing skills to festival

Local artisan Sean O'Shea is slated to bring the pioneer charm of blacksmithing to 21st Century audiences at this year's Brookhaven Cherry Blossom Festival. The festival returns for its fifth year to Blackburn Park, 3493 Ashford Dunwoody Road on Saturday and Sunday, March 30-31, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission is free.

The Doraville resident will join nearly 100 arts and crafts professionals in the festival's popular artist

Blacksmith enthusiast Sean O'Shea will be featured in the artist market at the Brookhaven Cherry Blossom Festival March 30-31. To delight the kids, he will be making these miniature swords as part of his exhibition.

market where shoppers will have access to incredible handmade items featuring jewelry, pottery, paintings, yard art, mixed media, photography, folk art and much more.

"We are excited about our line-up of professionals at this year's artist market," notes Brookhaven Mayor John Ernst. "Some have had booths at past festivals, but this year we are adding many first-time vendors to raise the bar on creativity. New to the mix this year are exhibitors giving live presentations, such as Mr. O'Shea, ranging from blacksmithing and glass blowing to musical instrument makers and a paper marbling technique known as Ebru."

O'Shea balances a full-time job and activities with his family with his love for an art form that was,



# Cherry Blossom Festival 2019

until recent years, on the verge of disappearing from the American cultural landscape. By day, he is chief financial officer for a software company in Alpharetta, but evenings and weekends often find him in his 1,800-square-foot shop off Buford Highway heating, hammering, and creating functional pieces of metal art.

“I prefer making functional pieces as opposed to just creating observational art that sits on a shelf,” says O’Shea. “Functional art includes items like letter openers, candle holders, door knockers and other pieces that you come into contact with on a regular basis that you can handle, touch, and use every day.”

Honing his blacksmithing skills over the past 15 years, O’Shea’s interest in the art beckons back to his childhood when he used to tag along with his father who did housing renovations.

“I picked up electrical and carpentry skills in different mediums like wood and plexiglass along the way,” he recalls, “but realized I needed to know how to work with metal as well.”

Taking classes in welding at DeKalb Community College and Gwinnett Technical College piqued his interest in metalwork, but it was a visit with friends to an Appalachia blacksmithing demonstration that sparked a real attraction to the craft. “I was fascinated seeing a blacksmith take a 5’ square metal column



and twist and manipulate it into a work of art,” says O’Shea. This fascination, combined with curiosity and a creative streak, morphed from a mere interest into a full-fledged hobby.

The craft is just a hobby for now for O’Shea, with friends, family, and word-of-mouth customers forming his client base. His skill level ranges from replicating movie props such as the dagger used in the tv fantasy show, *Once Upon A Time*, to candle holders and shelving to mail box stands. One of the most challenging was a mail box stand made for his personal use that included a tree trunk, branches, and nearly 150 intricate individual leaves, each welded onto the branches. The mailbox also required detailed engineering to meet postal regulations and took nearly four months to complete.

## Featured on the cover



Handcrafted jewelry by Kristen Babay (above)



Handmade paper art by Kristin Replogle (above)



Home decor by Lisa Mele (left)

These artists will join nearly 100 others in the Splash Festival artists market at the 2019 Brookhaven Cherry Blossom Festival. This year the market will also contain live demonstrations.

For more features on participating artists, visit [www.BrookCherryFest.org](http://www.BrookCherryFest.org).

O’Shea credits participation in a local blacksmithing guild as a resource for enhancing his skills. He serves as treasurer for the Alex Bealer Blacksmith Association, a group of blacksmith enthusiasts who meet monthly to share skills and newly-learned methods. The group is hosting the bi-annual Southeastern Blacksmith Conference in Madison, Ga., in May that draws blacksmith craftsmen from throughout the southeastern United States. There are classes and competitions offered that provide opportunities for participants to learn from each other. The namesake for the local guild, Alex Bealer, is credited nationally with helping revive the blacksmith movement in America.

This is O’Shea’s first appearance at the Brookhaven Cherry Blossom Festival. He plans to conduct demonstrations, including one crowd-pleaser in particular. On site, he will be heating double-headed construction nails to 2,000 degrees in his portable forge and hammering each one into a miniature sword in about 45 seconds. Once the tiny sword is cooled with a quick dip in cold water, it will then be offered for sale to bystanders for a very minimal cost. O’Shea also plans to have a limited variety of other metal pieces he’s created available for purchase.



4362 Peachtree Road  
Brookhaven, GA 30319

## Mark Your Calendars

### **North Druid Hills Corridor Study Public Open Houses**

**DATE:** Monday & Thursday, March 11 & 14

**TIME:** 6-8 p.m.

**LOCATION:** March 11 - City Hall, 4362 Peachtree Road; March 14, Briarwood Recreation Center, 2235 Briarwood Way

**DETAILS:** Residents are invited to the second round of public input meetings for the North Druid Hills Road Corridor Study. Visit [www.BrookhavenGa.gov/NDruidHills](http://www.BrookhavenGa.gov/NDruidHills) for more information, updates from the public meetings in January, and City Council presentation.

### **Volunteer Stream Cleanup**

**DATE:** Saturday, March 23

**TIME:** 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

**LOCATION:** Triple Creek Court

**DETAILS:** Participants needed for the fifth annual Storm Drain Marker Volunteer Event.

Volunteers will glue plastic discs to storm drains reminding residents that “No Dumping” protects the environment. The City’s Stormwater Division will provide all materials needed. Volunteers should RSVP by emailing [Stormwater@BrookhavenGA.gov](mailto:Stormwater@BrookhavenGA.gov).

### **Easter Egg Scramble**

**PRICE:** Free

**DATE:** Saturday, April 20

**TIME:** 9:30-11 a.m.

**LOCATION:** Blackburn Park, 3493 Ashford Dunwoody Road

**DETAILS:** Brookhaven Parks and Recreation invites all families to join us at Blackburn Park for our fifth annual Easter Egg Scramble. Light breakfast will be provided and the egg hunt will begin at 10 a.m. sharp. Egg hunters will be split into age groups (3 & under, 4-6, 7+) with separate hunting areas for each group.

**Visit [www.BrookhavenGA.gov](http://www.BrookhavenGA.gov) for updated calendar and event schedule.**