



## **A Brookhaven milestone: *Facility will be first major City building***

An unusually hot Indian Summer day didn't prevent local residents and elected officials from gathering to break ground for the new Brookhaven Public Safety and Municipal Court Building. Gathered along a stretch of the scenic Peachtree Creek Greenway (PCG), approximately 100 people were on hand Sept. 13 to not only honor those who have played a huge role in the effort, but to hear exciting details about the new energy-efficient facility. The new facility, just off Briarwood Road, will overlook the PCG when completed in early 2021. Over 33,000 square-feet in size, it will be twice as big as the current police/court facility. It will feature state-of-the-art amenities and room to grow for both the BPD and the Municipal Court, both currently housed in a rental facility on Buford Highway.



**Inside:** Civic Dinner highlights diversity; New road sensor station helps plan for weather

# From the Mayor's Desk



**John Ernst, Mayor**  
John.Ernst@BrookhavenGA.gov

## Town Hall Schedule

Mayor Ernst will host the following town halls at City Hall, 4362 Peachtree Road, 6 to 7 p.m.:

- **Thursday, Nov. 21**
- **Thursday, Dec. 19**

## Some firsts for Brookhaven

We reached a milestone this past September - the City broke ground on the new Public Safety and Municipal Court Building, located at the signature trailhead of the future Peachtree Creek Greenway.

The event was impressive. It opened with an inspiring rendition of the Star Spangled Banner by Sgt. David Snively, one of our very own police officers who will be housed in the new building along with our Courts staff and judges, and will no longer be packed in like sardines in the City's rented facility on Buford Highway.

Not only is this the first municipal building constructed in Brookhaven's history, but it is being funded with proceeds from SPLOST, which the voters approved in November 2017.

To make this project even more exciting, it fits in perfectly with our Sustainable Brookhaven initiative. The building will have geothermal heating and cooling, high-efficiency windows, low maintenance grounds with indigenous plants, and EV charging stations in the parking lot.

October was pretty exciting, too. We began demolition of the Briarwood Park pool to make way for a sparkling new pool to be open just in time for next year's swim season. This is also a project that couldn't have happened without the voters. The new Briarwood Park pool is our first construction project funded by our parks bond, which was approved by Brookhaven voters last year.

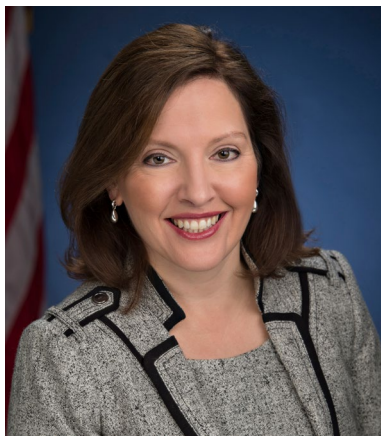
The future is bright in Brookhaven, thanks to you!

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!



Mayor John Ernst, center, prepares to kick off demolition of the Briarwood Park pool, joined by City Councilmen Bates Mattison, left, and John Park, right. The new \$3.5 million pool will feature competition swim lanes and a "cool surface" deck and is the first major parks bond project to begin construction.

# City Council



**Linley Jones**  
District 1  
[Linley.Jones@BrookhavenGA.gov](mailto:Linley.Jones@BrookhavenGA.gov)

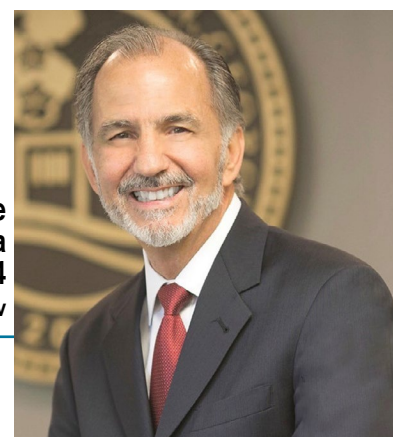


**Bates Mattison**  
District 3  
[Bates.Mattison@BrookhavenGA.gov](mailto:Bates.Mattison@BrookhavenGA.gov)

**John Park**  
District 2  
[John.Park@BrookhavenGA.gov](mailto:John.Park@BrookhavenGA.gov)

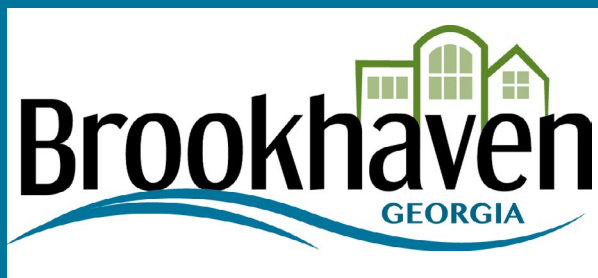


**Mayor Pro Tempore**  
**Joe Gebbia**  
District 4  
[Joe.Gebbia@BrookhavenGA.gov](mailto:Joe.Gebbia@BrookhavenGA.gov)



**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.



Guests at the Welcoming Week Civic Dinner included, left to right, City Parks Bond Liason Mary Beth Bucklen, Brookhaven Police Major Renan Lopez De Azua, Anis Sherali, Kendra Fuentes-Llaurador, Rabbi Hayyim Kas-sorla, Mayor Pro Tempore Joe Gebbia, Terri Moss, Jeff Thompson and Corinna Joyner.

## Brookhaven takes bold steps to enhance inclusiveness, diversity

As the annual celebration of “Welcoming Week” in Brookhaven (and across the world) drew to a close last week, one thing was abundantly clear: In a 21st Century world, the strongest communities will be the ones where all people can take part in local economic, civic and social life. These communities will successfully show it is possible to go beyond fear and even tolerance to achieve a bright future for all.

In addressing these and other related issues of connectivity and inclusiveness, Brookhaven is taking measures to step up to the plate and help residents feel more invited and engaged in co-creating a better future. These measures are an extension of the City’s goal to be a “Sustainable City,” according to Brookhaven Councilman and Mayor Pro Tempore Joe Gebbia. “A Sustainable Brookhaven prioritizes civic engagement, ethical standards, social equity, inclusiveness, and proactive community leadership development,” he noted.

At a final event marking the Welcoming Week observance, Gebbia hosted a table at a Civic Dinner attended by over 100 metro Atlanta leaders representing nine area cities and five counties. The purpose of the dinner was to discuss programs and policies that foster a sense of “belonging” across the region.

As of 2016, one million foreign-born persons lived in Georgia which has the ninth largest immigrant population in the nation. While people from around the world have long called Atlanta and surrounding suburban cities home, the region is a relatively new destination for immigrants and refugees. As with all change, communities need programs and policies that facilitate incorporation of new neighbors into the civic, social and economic fabric. This philosophy spurred the creation in 2014 of Welcoming America who later partnered with the One Region Initiative to help share ideas and concerns and listen to local residents to better understand the barriers they face and explore opportunities that may exist for immigrant newcomers.

The Civic Dinner concept is an outgrowth of this relationship and was created to provide a platform that brings people together to have conversations that matter and help transform dinner tables into forums for positive social change. Over 1,350 Civic Dinners have been held across the world so far. From Atlanta to Minneapolis to Vancouver to Wellington, New Zealand, people have gathered for meaningful conversations around big issues, helping bring diverse voices and perspectives to the table and building communi-

ties through shared values and visions.

At the Sept. 18 Civic Dinner, Brookhaven's special guests included: Rabbi Hayyim Kassorla with Or Ve Shalom Temple; Jeff Thompson, Acacia Realty; Corinna Joyner, Marist High School senior; Anis Sherali, Brookhaven Muslim Center; Kendra Fuentes-Llaurador, Brookhaven YMCA; and Terri Moss, Buckhead Fight Club. Representing the City of Brookhaven in addition to Gebbia were Mary Beth Bucklen, City Parks Bond Liason and Major Renan Lopez de Azua, Brookhaven Police Department.

"Everyone left very energized and with high praise for the entire Welcoming America experience," said Gebbia. "The dinner sought honest conversation and reflection among community leaders on how to implement policies and programs that will make our area a more welcoming place to live."

The dinner's format, built around the theme "Belonging," was wrapped around three major questions that each diner was asked to express their personal perspective on: 1) Describe a time when you felt like you didn't belong or witnessed someone else struggling to find a sense of belonging in a community; 2) Based on what you've seen or experienced in your community, what do you believe is the cause of "othering" (treating another person as different or as an outsider); and 3) What ideas do you have to foster a stronger sense of belonging within your community.

The response from 100 diverse individuals expressing their personal views was, as expected, staggering. "This was the beginning of a wonderful dialogue of diverse individuals within the Brookhaven community and surrounding areas," said Gebbia.

"By the end of the evening, we had some astonishing stories, ideas and insight from different perspectives," he recalled. "The Rabbi and the Islamic Center leader were making plans to meet outside of this dinner to further embrace their relationship and work together to further understanding between their congregations. The Marist student was so impressed that she wants to embrace and duplicate the Civic Dinner concept and have similar conversations with her fellow students. An invitation was also extended to City Council members to take a tour of the Brookhaven Islamic Center."

"Creating a better community was what this meeting was all about," noted Rabbi Kassorla. "We all think Brookhaven is a special place and we are always striving to make it even better. Meeting with the representative from the Muslim Center was a connection that can be capitalized on and taken to the next level by going to each other's places of worship, talking in depth and sharing ideas with the hope of breaking down barriers.

"We soon come to see the other person from a differ-

ent viewpoint and begin eliminating preconceived notions. We may both live in Brookhaven, but have very different world views. This takes a certain element of risk, but meeting on the other person's turf and talking about our differences can go a long way in actually breaking down cultural obstacles."

Anis Sherali from the Muslim Center echoed the Rabbi's sentiment. "We appreciate the City of Brookhaven for including the Brookhaven Islamic Center at the Civic Dinner," he noted.



*"The dinner sought honest conversation and reflection among community leaders on how to implement policies and programs that will make our area a more welcoming place to live."*

*- Mayor Pro Tem Joe Gebbia*

"There are many Muslims who attend the Mosque for prayers five times each day. The location of the Mosque is also very convenient for Muslims from other cities close to Brookhaven. Many of the Muslims who attend the daily prayers and who live in and around Brookhaven are immigrants from several countries around the world. Some of them look different and dress different which leads to profiling and possible discrimination.

"We are excited about the 'You are Welcome Here' initiative because certain politicians and media enablers have made Islam and Muslims a target. Muslim Americans are law abiding and model citizens and are nothing like the stereotypes depicted on TV. We hope that people will reach out and get to know a Muslim and learn about Islam."

"This showed that by simply breaking bread together, barrier walls can be broken down," Gebbia added.

## Local Rembrandts and Picassos descend upon Blackburn Park

Creativity and imagination swirled through the Pavillion at Blackburn Park, 3493 Ashford Dunwoody Road, on Sunday, Sept. 15 as 150-200 artists of all ages and skill levels gathered to “paint” the park. The Brookhaven Paint the Park event grows larger every year and competition this year for art supply prizes was brisk.

Championed by District 1 Councilwoman Linley Jones, the annual event was created to provide not only a fun activity for Brookhaven residents, but to illustrate the importance of civic art.

“We were extremely pleased and excited by this year’s turnout,” noted Jones. “With new emphasis on growing the art scene in Brookhaven through creation of our Arts Advisory Council, the Paint the Park event is not only a celebration of local talent, but an extension of the City’s dedication to creating an ongoing progressive art landscape. The creativity and talent, of all ages, that we have here is incredible.”

The City of Brookhaven provides the paint, paper and canvases for free to the artists and the paintings are judged, with art supplies awarded to the winning artists. Judges for this year included Elizabeth Peterson, chair of the Brookhaven Arts Advisory Council and Director of the Oglethorpe University Museum of Art, local artist Ida Beth Barner, and Montgomery Elementary art teacher Erin Warner.

Winners were: Ages 0-7 Years -- 1st: Alexis Grubman, age 7, 2nd: Lily Litner, age 4, and 3rd: Abigail Carden, age 7. For Ages 8-13 -- 1st: Aksha Thogati, age 9, 2nd: Lauren Reisman, age 8, and 3rd: Olivia F, age 8. In the Age 14+ category, 1st: Sarah Kennedy, 2nd: Rachel Gollatti, and 3rd: Natalie Reisman.



Above: Brookhaven District 1 Councilwoman Linley Jones, left, and Brookhaven Arts Advisory Council Chair Elizabeth Peterson, right, award first place in the Ages 8-13 category to Aksha Thogati.



In a festive celebration featuring coaches and players, the Atlanta Hawks and Brookhaven City Council unveiled new site improvements to existing basketball courts and renovation of the community room at Lynwood Park, thanks to a special partnership between the City, the Atlanta Hawks Foundation, Inc. and State Farm. Above, left: Councilmen Bates Mattison and John Park with two-time WNBA Champion Lisa Leslie. Above, right: Atlanta Hawks forward De'Andre Hunter meets with kids on the new basketball courts at Lynwood Park.



Ashford Splash Pad - Brookhaven

## City making progress on Parks Bond Capital Improvement Program – Updates available

A new pool and welcoming gateway to Brookhaven are just a couple of projects coming out of the Parks Bond Capital Improvement Program. Plans for improvements to the City's parks have been taking shape since spring. The Parks and Recreation Department has been working with the Parks Bond Oversight Committee and its Parks Bond Program Management team to further develop and refine projects from several master plans that were shared with the community during the 2018 bond referendum. An update on progress and even some preliminary project plans are now available for the community to view at [www.BrookhavenGA.gov/parks-bond-ref](http://www.BrookhavenGA.gov/parks-bond-ref).

## Public hearings scheduled for FY2020 budget

The City of Brookhaven will hold a public hearing on the proposed FY2020 budget at the regularly scheduled City Council meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 12, at 7 p.m. Another public hearing will be held during the City Council meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 26, at 7 p.m. Following the public hearing on Nov. 26, the City Council is scheduled to vote on the budget. The budget is available for public inspection at Brookhaven City Hall, 4362 Peachtree Road, and on the City's website at [www.BrookhavenGA.gov/finance/page/budget](http://www.BrookhavenGA.gov/finance/page/budget).

## Brookhaven roots for our trees

Brookhaven loves its trees and is always striving to find ways to preserve its tree canopy. In a 2017 tree canopy study, research found that the City had an estimated 3,928 acres of canopy out of 7,420 acres (53.6% of the City). Moving forward, ways to preserve and expand the current canopy are always being explored.

Did you know Brookhaven's canopy is....

- Four times bigger than Central Park in NYC (843 acres)?
- 19 times bigger than The Forbidden City in Beijing, China (180 acres)?
- Seven times bigger than the European principality of Monaco (500 acres)?
- One-tenth the size of Hilton Head Island (26,899 acres)?
- 20 times bigger than Disneyland in California (160 acres)?
- 60 times bigger than the U.S. Capital grounds (57 acres)?



## New road sensor station helps determine local weather-related closures

“Due to inclement weather, schools (and/or businesses) will be closed tomorrow.”

Depending on the perspective, making this important judgment call can have a dramatic impact, especially during metro Atlanta’s unpredictable winter weather. For students, it’s usually met with joy in anticipation of a school “snow day,” while for businesses it can have dramatic financial consequences.

In the past, Brookhaven officials often depended solely upon the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) and National Weather Service for the latest forecasts, but now that timely information will also be available closer to home.

In a unique municipal partnership with GDOT, the City has installed a Road Weather Information System (RWIS) at North Druid Hills and Buford Highway, one of the busiest intersections in Brookhaven. These systems are usually located along local state highways, but, for Brookhaven, the closest sensors are at I-400 and Pitts Road to the north and on the downtown connector near Georgia Tech to the south (the only sensor previously inside the perimeter).

“We looked into installing the RWIS because the decision for winter operations and government closings is often influenced by road conditions, including the actual road surface and road sub-surface temperatures,” said Brookhaven City Manager Christian Sigman. “GDOT’s road sensors are mostly on interstates, and road sensor data from highways does not translate well to local street conditions. Knowing exactly what is going on with the roadway is the key to successful decision making.”

The approximate \$50,000 cost for the RWIS was split with Brookhaven buying the equipment and GDOT shouldering the installation cost and ongoing maintenance. The location for the system was determined by the high traffic count in this area and the lack of overhead tree canopy that could impede the station’s measurements.

Components of the system, mounted inconspicuously on a utility pole in the North Druid Hills right-of-way, consist of a communication system enclosed in a weather-proof metal box; thermometers (for measuring air, surface and subsurface temperatures); a heated ultrasonic wind sensor (for measuring wind speed and direction); a heated visibility sensor (for detecting fog and smoke); and a barometric pressure sensor. All aerial devices are mounted high on the pole to get the best readings possible, with additional sensors embedded



into the street pavement at the bridge.

A RWIS provides valuable real-time data on weather factors including pavement conditions, precipitation amounts and visibility. It can determine if it is raining, snowing or sleet, which can create hazards for drivers. Additional information available from the sensor station includes wind speed and direction, air temperature, humidity levels, and visibility.

So why is this data important and necessary? It can play a role in a number of decisions such as proactively treating the roads, determining how quickly to mobilize street crews, alert the traveling public and encourage drivers to slow down in heavily affected zones. In more extreme conditions or other times of the year, the sensors can determine the need for fog or hydroplaning alerts due to severe weather.



“Members of Brookhaven’s public works, police and emergency services will be trained to monitor the RWIS data system,” noted Paul White, Brookhaven Emergency Management Coordinator. “This information is critical year-round for reliably monitoring conditions from winter ice and snow storms to spring and summer flooding, hail storms, etc.”

Anyone can access this data as well. All you have to do is go to [https://www.weather.gov/ffc/gdot\\_rwis](https://www.weather.gov/ffc/gdot_rwis) to find a map of all area road sensors. Zoom in to Brookhaven, and click the green dot near North Druid Hills Road and I-85. All of the charts and tables will then show data for Brookhaven’s road surface and subsurface conditions in 10-minute increments.

Since air and pavement temperatures can vary as much as 20 degrees, the valuable information gathered from the RWIS will primarily be used to determine if weather conditions warrant the need to close city facilities. It can also be used to decide how many street crews are needed at any given time, reducing associated costs by deploying only enough people needed to do the job (de-icing, sanding, what type and amount of melting agent, etc.).

In addition to making winter operations more efficient, the data can also be used throughout the year to support construction activities, timing of road maintenance and incident management. Brookhaven’s data is also readily available for science classes for weather-related projects.

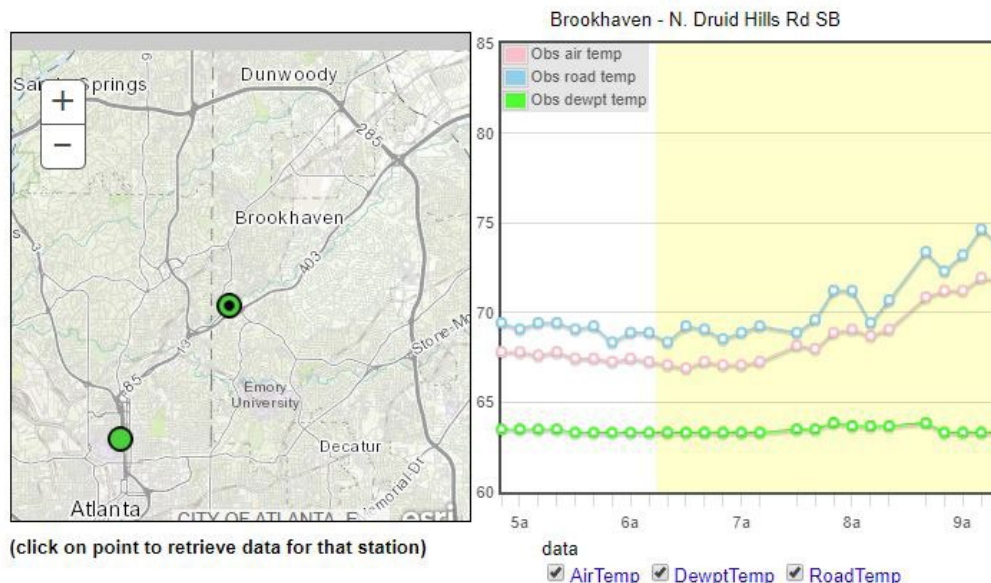
“The information that will now be available on a more localized basis will help us to efficiently maintain and operate our City transportation system,” Sigman added. “Just because it may snow does not necessarily result in school or business closures. It should make those 4 a.m. judgment calls a bit easier to make.”

## RWIS data from GDOT

[Weather.gov > Peachtree City, GA > RWIS data from GDOT](https://www.weather.gov/ffc/gdot_rwis)



[Current Hazards](#) [Current Conditions](#) [Radar](#) [Forecasts](#) [Rivers and Lakes](#) [Climate and Past Weather](#) [Local F](#)



Above: The new RWIS is located on the south side of North Druid Hills Road, near I-85 and Peachtree Creek.

Left: Anyone can access this data at [https://www.weather.gov/ffc/gdot\\_rwis](https://www.weather.gov/ffc/gdot_rwis). At that link, zoom in to Brookhaven, and click the green dot near North Druid Hills Road and I-85 to see charts and tables with Brookhaven’s road surface and subsurface conditions in 10-minute increments.

# MARK YOUR CALENDARS

## Indoor Movie Night

**DATE:** Friday, Nov. 15

**TIME:** 6:30 p.m.

**LOCATION:** Lynwood Gym

**PRICE:** Free admission and popcorn

**DETAILS:** Bring air mattresses, sleeping bags, blankets, and lawn chairs for the gym floor and watch a free screening of *How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World*.

## Light Up Brookhaven

**DATE:** Wednesday, Dec. 4

**TIME:** 6:30-9 p.m.

**LOCATION:** Blackburn Park

**DETAILS:** This free event features special musical performances, visits with Santa, holiday crafts, Toys for Tots collection box, hot chocolate, food trucks, holiday cartoons, and Christmas tree and Hanukkah lighting.

## MLK Day Dinner & Celebration

**PRICE:** \$10

**DATE:** Monday, Jan. 20

**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.

## Daddy-Daughter Valentine's Dance

**PRICE:** \$25 for first dad/daughter;  
\$5 each additional child

**DATE:** Friday, Feb 7 & Saturday, Feb. 8

**TIME:** 6:30-8:30 p.m.

**LOCATION:** Lynwood Park

**AGES:** Girls 5-15

**DETAILS:** Two nights due to popular demand. A memorable evening for Daddys and Daughters to dance the night away to a live DJ. The event will include finger foods and keepsakes.

## Community Yard Sale

**DATE:** Saturday, March 7

**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.

## Brookhaven Cherry Blossom Festival

**PRICE:** Free

**DATE:** Saturday-Sunday, March 28-29

**5K:** Saturday, March 21

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

**DETAILS:** The City of Brookhaven invites residents and visitors to join us at Blackburn Park for our sixth annual Cherry Blossom Festival. The fun includes musical performances, food trucks, arts and crafts vendors, a children's area and pet world and activities.

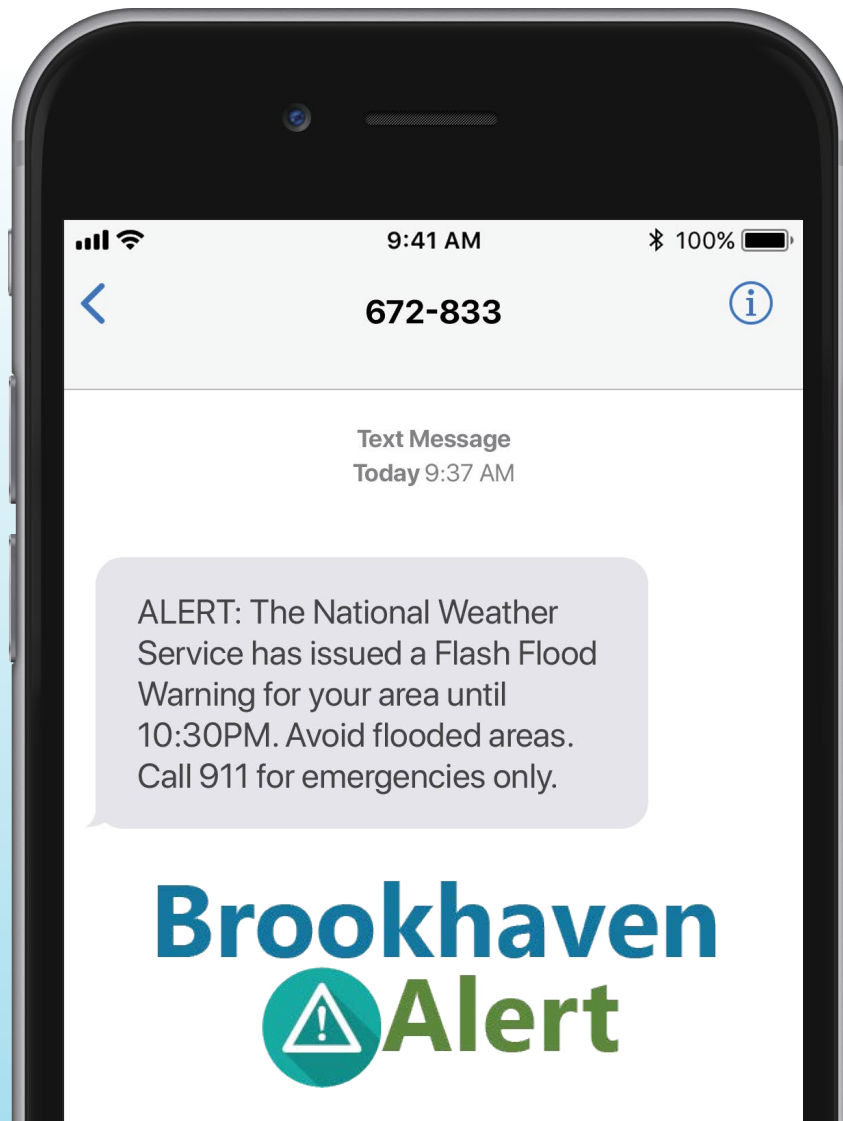
For updated information, visit [www.BrookCherryFest.org](http://www.BrookCherryFest.org).

*For updated calendar  
and event information,  
visit*

**[www.BrookhavenGA.gov/  
Calendar](http://www.BrookhavenGA.gov/Calendar)**

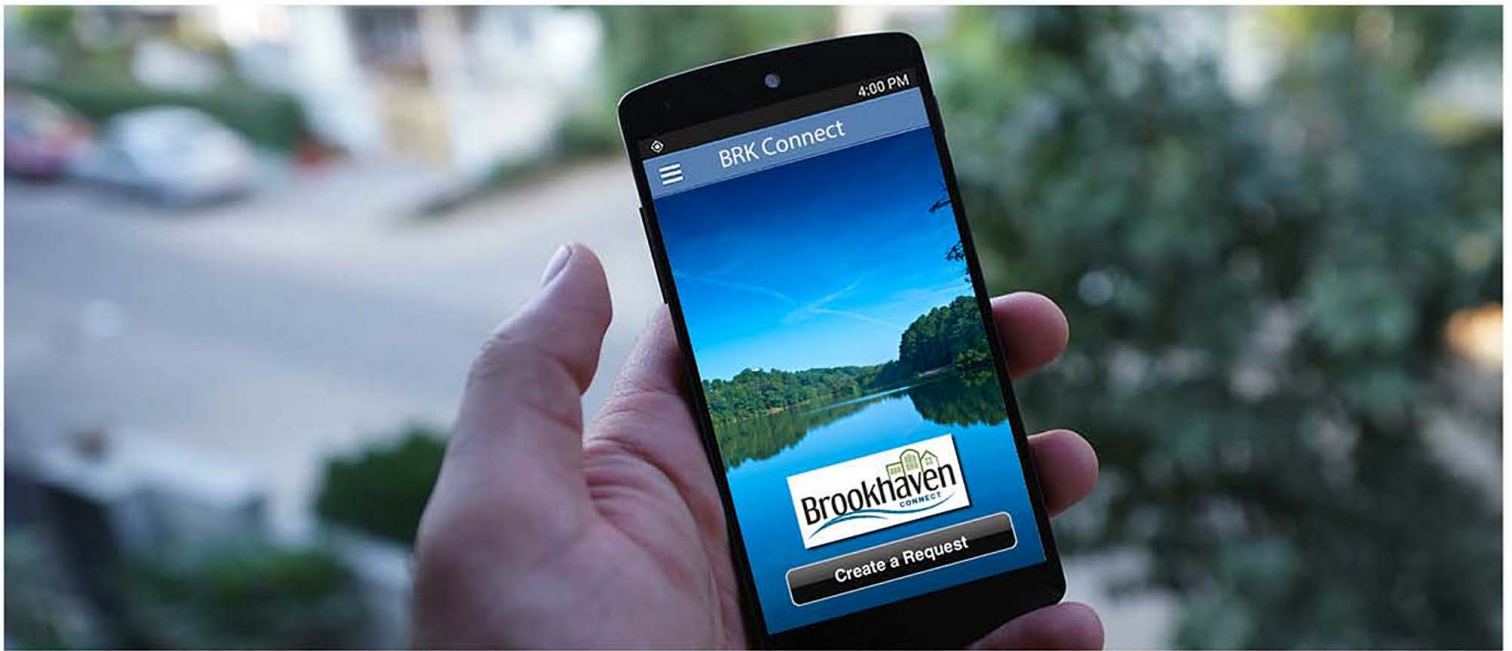
# Always Be Notified.

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](http://www.BrookhavenGA.gov/BrookhavenAlert)

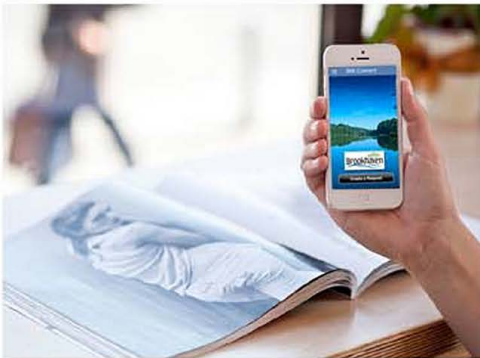
Powered by  Smart911®



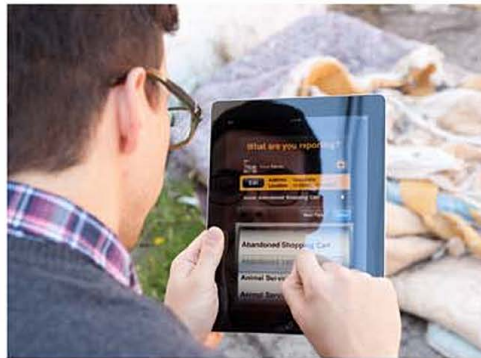
BROOKHAVEN, GA

# 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.