

Welcome to the Garden



Blackburn Park's community garden is lovingly tended to by a group of volunteers and long-time residents known as the Friends of Blackburn Park. Their mission is to not only harvest typical garden fare like veggies and herbs, but also a sense of community. See story on Page 4.



From the Desk of the Mayor

A note of thanks as we welcome fall

As we head into fall, the City of Brookhaven continues to strive to make the best of these unprecedented times.

We successfully opened our pools at the beginning of the summer with safety and social distancing protocols in place, and I thank you for your patience as we worked to make our facilities safe for everyone. As schools announced delaying the start of their year, we remained flexible and also made the decision to extend our daily pool season schedule.

While our Parks Department had to cancel some of our most popular events due to the pandemic, I'm thankful to staff for thinking of creative, safe and socially distant ways to bring the community together. Our outdoor drive-in and movie under the stars nights have been a hit, and again, I thank everyone for their patience and flexibility. I can't wait to see what other fun events Parks staff have up their sleeves!

One new project I'm particularly proud of and thankful for is the floating trash trap on Nancy Creek. The device is keeping litter out of our beloved Murphey Candler Lake, and we should reap the benefits of cleaner water for many years to come.

Brookhaven has also been fortunate to welcome some exciting businesses to our City recently. Lidl food market made its Brookhaven home on Briarwood Road in July, while Rooms To Go chose Perimeter Summit in Brookhaven as its Atlanta-area headquarters. Meanwhile, Grindhouse Killer Burgers entered our exciting dining scene by opening a location on Apple Valley

Road near Dresden. Please join me in wishing a warm Brookhaven welcome to these businesses and their employees. I'm thankful they chose Brookhaven for their new home!

I'm also thankful to see so many of our neighbors get involved in our virtual town halls and Council and Planning meetings via Zoom and Facebook. These are different times for sure, but we will get through them together!

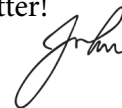
On another note, as we listened to the community ask for more transparency with Police operations nationwide, our Police Department was up to the task as always, and initiated a transparency campaign on Facebook. We decided to take that a step further and built a new Transparency website, bringing together information in one place on everything from operating procedures and credit

card reports to an expenditure tracker and police procedures. Check it out at www.BrookhavenGA.gov/Transparency and let us know what you think or what else you might like to see.

Finally, I want to extend a well-earned congratulations to Police Chief Gary Yandura, who was recently named "Outstanding Chief of the Year" by the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police. That honor certainly comes as no surprise to us!

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,

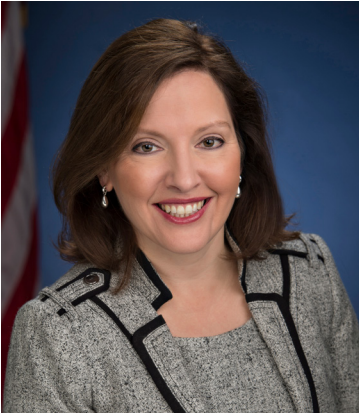


John Ernst, Mayor
John.Ernst@BrookhavenGA.gov



Eager shoppers lined up, socially distanced for safety, in front of the new Lidl food market at 2480 Briarcliff Road, bright and early on July 8. Before the front doors were unlocked, Brookhaven Mayor John Ernst joined Lidl officials for the official ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrating the grand opening. The North Druid Hills store is one of four stores Lidl has opened in the Atlanta area over the last few months and will be Lidl's eighth store in Georgia.

City Council



Linley Jones
District 1
Linley.Jones@BrookhavenGA.gov

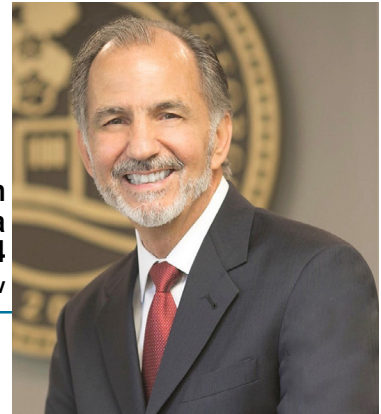


Madeleine Simmons
District 3
Madeleine.Simmons@BrookhavenGA.gov

John Park
District 2
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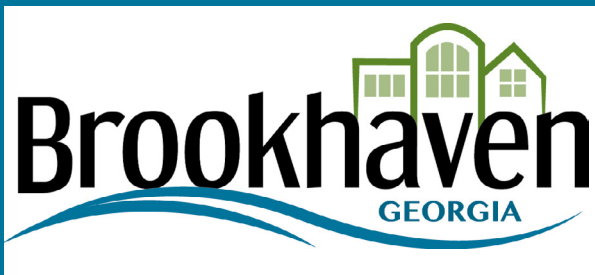


Mayor Pro Tem
Joe Gebbia
District 4
Joe.Gebbia@BrookhavenGA.gov



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 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.

Blackburn Park community garden helps locals reconnect with nature

Small plot is home to bees, birds, butterflies and veggies

Give a man a fish, he can eat for a day,” goes the old saying, but when it comes to the Blackburn Park community garden this can be updated to: teach someone to garden and the whole neighborhood gets tomatoes ... and beans ... and herbs ... and so much more.

Predating the founding of the City of Brookhaven, the Blackburn Park garden was created nearly a decade ago by longtime residents Laura Vann, Mari Geier and Ida Beth Barner (who currently heads the group of volunteers who tend the garden). The 32 volunteers are known as the Friends of Blackburn Park (FOBP). The garden, surrounded by a fence, lies on a small patch of land on the eastern edge of the park, near Bubbling Creek. “Before Brookhaven was created, we had been assisting DeKalb County with keeping the park clean, planting flowers at the park entrance and a number of other low maintenance projects,” said Barner. “I suggested we needed a project and the garden idea was born.” In 2017, the Brookhaven City Council officially sanctioned the garden with policies established for maintenance, space guidelines and overall use.

Initially consisting of three small beds of vegetables, the garden has grown to its current 40 beds and room was added recently for the addition of more beds. Care and upkeep on the garden are volunteer-driven. The first Saturday of each month, FOBP members gather to hear a guest speaker or master gardener lecture on a wide variety of garden-related topics, spend time

tending the beds and harvesting the fruits of their labor. An additional work session has been added this summer on designated Thursday evenings. Many of the members also post articles on the Internet that can be shared that feature suggestions for what people can grow in their own yards, providing information shared beyond the boundaries of the community garden.

“One of the best things about having speakers is that it offers the opportunity to get to know our garden bed neighbors, everyone helps everyone out and it also attracts potential new members,” said Barner. “It truly enhances the community spirit and enlarges our circle of friends and acquaintances.” Not restricted to just nearby residents, the garden lures visitors and others interested in participating from neighboring communities such as Hart’s Mill, Mill Creek and Ashford Dunwoody. The garden appeals to people who primarily just want to grow things who may live in apartments or houses built on small yards with too much shade.

The FOBP garden is supported by those who rent and tend the beds. A 4’x4’ bed can be leased annually for \$50 and an 8’x4’ bed goes for \$100. “When someone rents a bed, they take on full responsibility for the



maintenance of their bed and help maintain the entire garden throughout the year, but we provide some guidance on what would be appropriate items to plant in their beds,” added Barner. Many of the current bed renters are always eager to share extra plants with new renters to help them get started.

Unlike a smaller community garden located in Briarwood Park, the Blackburn Park garden is a four-season garden and assorted vegetables that are commonly grown there include green beans, cucumbers, tomatoes, peppers, squash ... the typical garden variety selection.

“We do get additional monies through grants with Atlanta Park Pride for some of our bigger projects,” Barner noted. “Our next major venture is to raise the height of the fence around the garden to about eight feet to keep the deer out. We hope to write another grant to subsidize this project and perhaps work with the City to do a fundraiser to get the fence built.”

Also new this year, just outside the entrance to the garden, is a pollinator garden designed to attract bees and butterflies who will buzz or float their way throughout the entire garden to pollinate existing plants. The flora in this specific garden are all native plants that are sourced from the area so it can maintain itself. A bench has been added beside the garden, specifically for senior citizens who live in a senior center across the street from the park. “This is yet another offshoot from our garden that involves the community,” said Barner. “We help the senior center with their internal gardens and encourage the residents to visit ours. We even have designated ‘scholarship beds’ in our

garden for some of the seniors to use, free of charge, to plant their favorite items. Plans call for the addition of a small picnic table to be located under a huge nearby oak tree for seniors to come and enjoy as well.”

Another popular feature is the new herb garden filled with the sweet scent of rosemary and thyme. The herbs are especially popular with local food pantries that rarely have access to fresh herbs and spices. “We have a few designated beds known as ‘pantry beds’ that are harvested on Tuesdays throughout the summer,” noted Barner. “The produce harvested from these particular beds is delivered to area food pantries to help feed those in need and we also partner with a church in Dunwoody who helps feed homeless people. We also work some with other community gardens to share plants and ideas.”

Beyond raising and harvesting healthy garden vegetables, Barner also praised the communal outreach the gardens provide. “Our garden has brought people from all of these surrounding communities together in friendship and I have met people I never would have met otherwise,” she recalled. “We all share many common interests and we learn a lot from each other.”

Over the years, the City of Brookhaven has provided assistance with mowing around the garden, trimming trees and other small maintenance tasks. The garden is watered with water the FOBP group purchases from the City.

The beds in the Blackburn Park garden are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Those interested in joining the group, renting a bed or helping with the garden can contact Barner at idabeth1@yahoo.com.

Members of the Friends of Blackburn include, from left, Jay Beech, Ida Beth Barner, Christo Carscallen, Taylor Carscallen, Steve Palmer, Kelly Melton, Jeanne Wright, Luke Kelley, Jana Pearce, and Christina McPhillips.



Brookhaven PD's K-9 unit takes a bite out of crime

Touting names like Dano, Spock, Bane and Oso, members of Brookhaven's K-9 Corps sound like Justice League super heroes. Actually, they are super heroes as this formidable team of dogs and their handlers are often called upon to help fight crime on City streets whenever needed.

For more than a century, an increased emphasis has been placed on utilizing canines to aid law enforcement with the first use of police dogs in New York City in 1907. Just as human police departments grew and law enforcement jobs began to encompass all parts of what are considered modern police work – investigation, detection, pursuit, and forensics – police dogs have become increasingly specialized and valuable to law enforcement.

The Brookhaven Police Department (BPD) K-9 Unit was created in July 2014. Since then, various dogs have assisted not only the BPD, but have been often called upon to help surrounding departments and several federal agencies such as the United States Marshals, the Drug Enforcement Administration and the FBI. Locally, they have assisted with over 200 arrests and the value of narcotics seizures using the dogs has surpassed \$7,000,000.

Members of the BPD corps currently include Dano, teamed with Officer John Ritch (who will be teamed with Oso when Dano retires this year); Bane is partnered with Sgt. David Fikes; and Spock works with handler Officer Trent Williams. Thanks to a generous donation from the Brookhaven Police Foundation and donations from private citizens, an additional dog will be added to the corps later this year who will be handled by Officer David Huffschtmidt.

According to research, a K-9 dog's sense of smell is at least 10,000 times more acute than humans, meaning they can smell things humans cannot. Police working dogs can also search an area four times faster than humans with much higher accuracy and they usually identify objects first by scent, followed by voice and then by silhouette.

Remember McGruff, the animated crime dog from the 1980s? He was depicted as a bloodhound, but different police dog breeds are required for the variety of tasks they are called upon to perform. Some breeds are more popular than others, but it really comes down

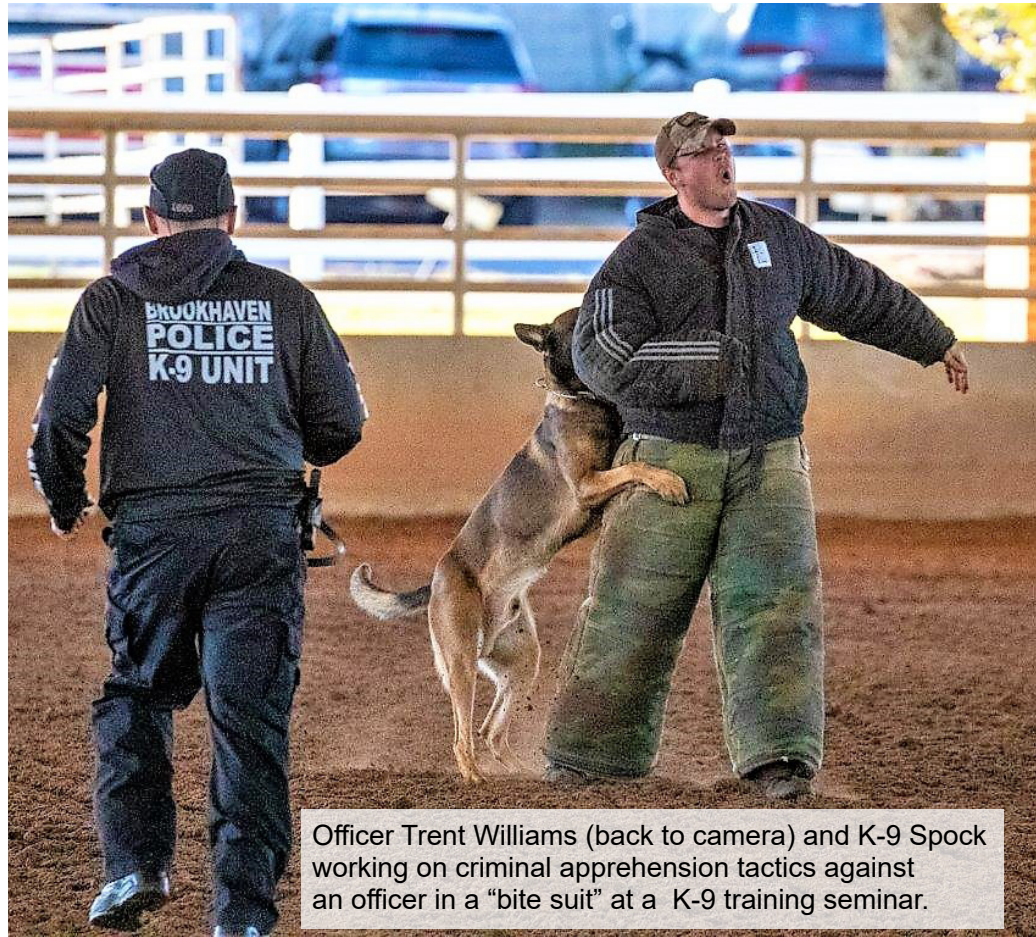
BPD Sgt. David Fikes and K-9 Officer Bane share an intense, focused moment of narcotics detection training.



to training. German Shepherds are the most popular and are well known for their size, superior intelligence and work ethic. The second most common breed is a Belgian Malinois, similar to a shepherd but smaller and more sleek. These dogs are well-known for their endurance, speed, intelligence and high intensity.

The Brookhaven dogs Bane and Oso are shepherds from the Czech Republic while Dano is a Belgian Malinois and Spock, who came from Holland, is a cross between the two breeds. The approximate cost for each dog is \$15,000. They come to the Brookhaven squad with some obedience training, but are basically trained 100 percent inhouse, according to Fikes. "When we get a new dog, he and his trainer go through an eight-week training course at a police training facility in south Georgia," Fikes noted. "There, the dogs earn certification to work the streets and they have to re-certify every year. If they don't certify, they come off the road for some remedial training. At Brookhaven, we have never had a dog fail its certification."

When doing public demonstrations, casual observers often wonder why commands are given to the dogs in a different language. Some believe this is to deceive the criminals from knowing what the officer is command-



ing the dog to do. “Not necessarily true,” added Fikes. “The reason for that is twofold. One, the dogs usually come from Europe and they already know the commands in the language of their home country. Second, it is easier for us to learn a few foreign words and use them rather than having to completely retrain the dog in English. It would take weeks to retrain one of these dogs in another language.”

Typically, dogs don’t start their police training until they’re between 12-15 months old. That’s when they become mature enough to concentrate. Training never ends. Even when they are not actively working, police dogs are learning new skills and gaining new knowledge from their handlers. The average “career” of a K-9 dog, depending on health factors, can last as long as 12 years and the dogs usually live with their handler’s family after they retire.

The Brookhaven K-9s are considered full-service dogs and not trained in any one specialty. They are trained to not only find drugs, but they can track and locate suspects, missing people or someone who may have wandered off from a nursing home. They are trained to clear houses, to locate missing property from crimes for use as evidence or assist with crowd control.

While the dogs have a reputation for being intense “on the job,” privately they are quite docile. The difference is in the command they are given. “They engage or react on command just as they are trained to do,” said Fikes. “It is no different from commanding the dog to just sit. The dogs are trained to apprehend criminals, but by no means are the dogs mean and they interact well with people of all ages. They like to be loved on just like your average house pet. They could be apprehending a murder suspect one minute and the next could be letting a youngster give them a hug around the neck.” As ambassadors for the City of Brookhaven, the dogs are popular at public outings such as National Night Out or with groups such as Boy and Girl Scouts, at schools, community and senior centers. “People love the dogs and vice-versa,” added Fikes.

It is often said that dogs are man’s best friend. When it comes to law enforcement, however, the K-9 police dog unit plays an integral role in maintaining the public peace and keeping everyone safe. They are just as much a part of the police force as the officers who patrol the streets and investigate crime scenes. They constantly earn (and deserve) the public’s respect and admiration.



Brookhaven Police Department Officer William Gilham poses with one of the department's new 2020 Ford Explorer hybrid SUVs. The new cars, rotated into use as needed, will help reduce the City's bottom line with fuel savings and provide lower emission levels.

BPD mobile fleet is going greener

As Brookhaven continues its commitment to preserving and enhancing the environment as part of the Sustainable Brookhaven initiative, 15 new 2020 Ford Explorer hybrid SUVs have been added to the City's Police Department fleet. With lower emissions and sizable fuel savings, the new cars will have a substantial impact on the City's bottom line and pollution control.

"Migrating to hybrid police vehicles is another milestone in our Sustainable Brookhaven Initiative," said City Manager Christian Sigman. "We are always looking for ways to minimize expenses for operations, but also to do so in an environmentally friendly and efficient manner."

The current cars in the fleet, primarily Ford Taurus and non-hybrid Explorer SUV models, are averaging about 12-13 miles per gallon (mpg), while the new hybrids are expected to average around 24-25 mpg. An average fuel expense for a BPD car is about \$2,500 per year, according to BPD Officer William Gilham. By way of example, that's an annual savings of about \$1,200 per car times 15 amounting to an annual savings to the BPD of roughly \$18,000. With a total car fleet consisting of 114 cars, it is obvious that there will be substantial savings as more of the hybrid cars are purchased and rotated into the system. This, and reduced emissions expelled into the atmosphere.

As opposed to electric cars, the hybrids do not require charging at a charging station. As they are being driven, they are self-charging and continue to charge when the driver brakes. As long as the battery is holding a charge above 12 volts, it is using the electric system. If the battery drops below 12 volts, the engine kicks into use for a few minutes simultaneous-

ly charging the battery and after a few minutes, the battery goes back into use.

"We've learned a lot about our different capabilities and needs from the Tesla and we feel the hybrids are better suited for our day-to-day needs," says Gilham. "With the hybrids, since they are self-charging, we do not have to worry about the car losing its charge and having to plug it in, keeping it charged, looking for charging stations, etc." The Explorer hybrid automatically chooses when it uses electric power; it operates in its most efficient mode all the time. It relies on battery-only power at parking lot speeds, with the combustion engine kicking in when the car is on the road.

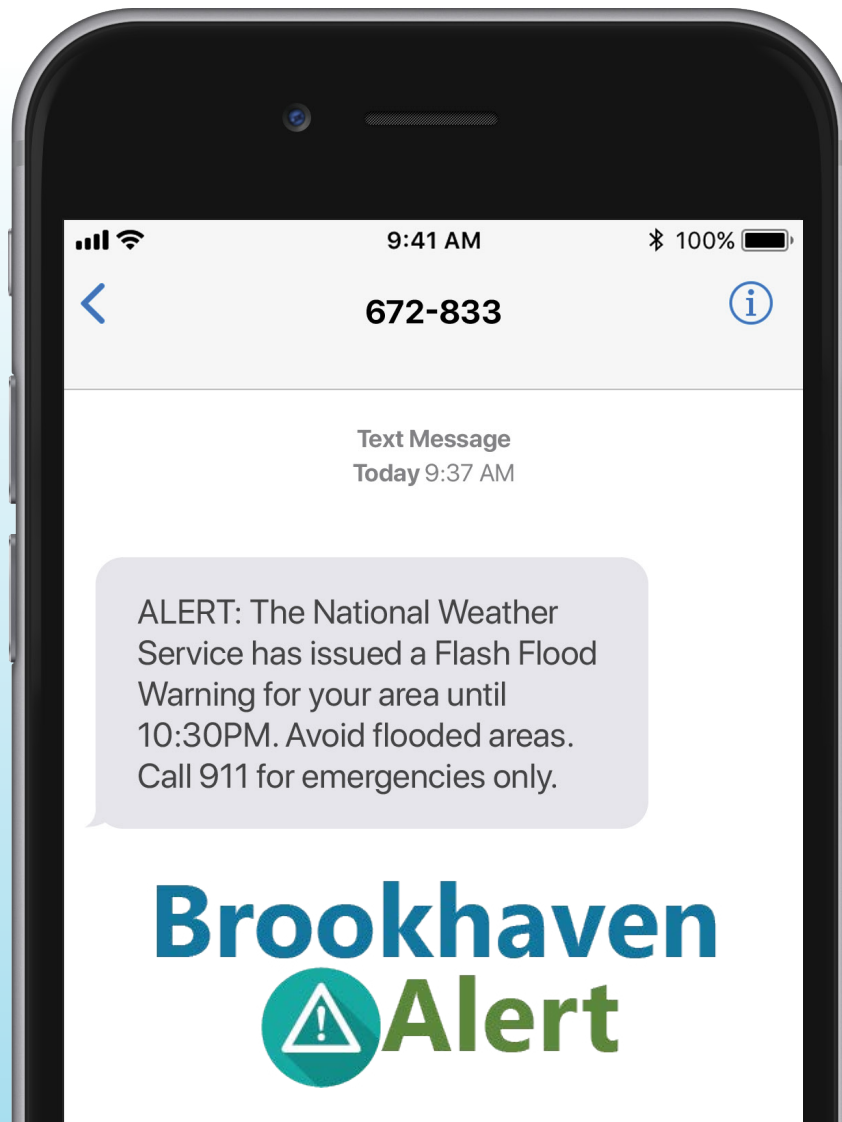
The 15 cars were purchased as part of the annual police vehicle replacement program and the cars are replaced as needed based on service life, mileage and repair history. City policy requires that cars are rotated out of service after five years or 100,000 miles, whichever comes first. There had been a slight delay on delivery of the cars because of the COVID-19 impact on manufacturing at Ford Motor Company.

Under the hood, the Explorer hybrid has a 3.3-liter, naturally aspirated V6 engine, complemented by a 1.5-kilowatt-hour battery and 35-kilowatt electric motor. The hybrid delivers a total of 318 horsepower and 322 pound-feet of torque, and a 10-speed automatic transmission handles shifting duties.

"We will be using the cars for patrolling, narcotics or special investigations, and for community development/administrative needs," added Gilham. The cars are currently undergoing modifications to include computers, signage, and other BPD detailing specifications.

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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Parks & Recreation

ART CLASSES

Young Rembrandts Drawing for PreK & Kindergarten (ages 4-6)

ALL NEW LESSONS for Fall 2020! Young Rembrandts teaches PreK and Kindergarten children how to use lines, shapes and colors to create familiar images such as animals, vehicles, toys and other fun subjects. While practicing drawing and coloring skills, your child will also develop fine motor skills, focus, listening, staying on task, and spatial organization. \$10 materials fee due to instructor on the first day of class. Mondays 3:30-4:15 p.m. at the Ashford Park Building. Sessions offered Sept. 14-Oct. 19 and Oct. 26-Dec. 7 (no class 11/23). \$100 per session.



Young Rembrandts

Young Rembrandts Drawing & Cartooning for 1st-5th grades (ages 6-11)

ALL NEW LESSONS for Fall 2020! Your artistic child will love expressing their creativity as they learn new drawing skills and coloring technique. Each week we present a brand new lesson to challenge and excite your child! Drawings will include cartoons, still life, landscapes, graphics, and art history. \$10 materials fee due to instructor on the first day of class. Mondays 4:30-5:30 p.m. at the Ashford Park Building. Sessions offered Sept. 14-Oct. 19 and Oct. 26-Dec. 7 (no class 11/23). \$112 per session.

DANCE CLASSES



www.creativemovementanddance.com
info@creativemovementanddance.com
678-482-2264

Creative Movement and Dance, based in Atlanta, was founded over 36 years ago. Their professional instructors teach classes and camps at hundreds of locations throughout the Southeast. We are proud to have them bring their expertise to our Brookhaven community. Please visit the website or call for more information or to register.

Pre-Ballet (ages 2.5-4): Sat., 9:30-10:15 a.m., Lynwood

Tap-Ballet (ages 4-6): Sat., 10:15-11 a.m., Lynwood

Tap-Ballet-Hip Hop (ages 4-7): Thurs., 3-4 p.m., Ashford Park

Hip Hop Tots (ages 3-5): Sat., 11-11:45 a.m., Lynwood

Fall classes continue through May, ending with a recital at the park (no additional cost, costumes provided).

MUSICAL THEATRE

CandiNews Productions provides youth theatre experience designed to awaken the creative spirit and imagination through acting, musical theatre, and movement in a safe, non-competitive environment. We'll work on all aspects of theatre, including acting, dancing, and music. Our goal for your little one is to provide them with the opportunity to have fun exploring the creative arts and discovering new talents while building on those they already have.



This fall session will feature musical productions of *The Wizard of Oz* and *Cinderella*. There will be a performance for family and friends on the last day of class. Both classes meet on Tuesdays at the Ashford Park Building. *Cinderella* will be 5:30-6:30 p.m., and *Wizard of Oz* will be 6:45-7:45 p.m. Session offered Sept. 1-Dec. 8. Ages 4-13, \$300. For more information and to register, contact Candice at (678) 622-5636 or visit www.candinewscamps.com.

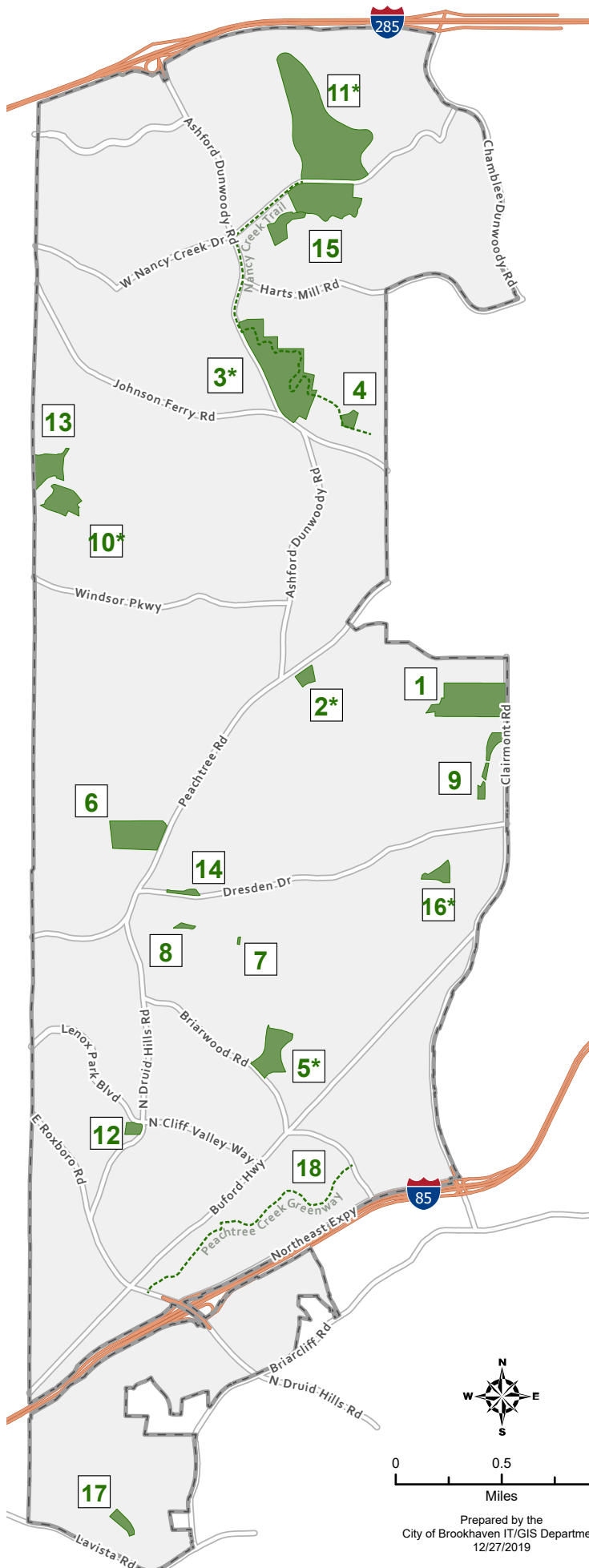
For more Parks & Recreation activities and events, visit www.BrookhavenGA.gov/parksrec

Parks & Recreation

Parks & Recreation Department:
3360 Osborne Road
Brookhaven, GA 30319
(404) 637-0500
Pavilion and Field Rentals:
(404) 637-0500



* Indicates rentals are available



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|---|---|
| <p>1 ASHFORD FOREST PRESERVE
3890 Clairmont Road
</p> <p>3* BLACKBURN PARK
3493 Ashford Dunwoody Road

</p> <p>5* BRIARWOOD PARK
2235 Briarwood Way

</p> <p>7 CLACK'S CORNER
1410 Cartecay Drive
</p> <p>9 GEORGIAN HILLS PARK
2800 East Georgian Drive

</p> <p>11* MURPHEY CANDLER PARK
1551 West Nancy Creek Drive

</p> <p>13 OSBORNE PARK
3412 Osborne Road
</p> <p>15 PERIMETER TRAIL @ MURPHEY CANDLER
1551 W Nancy Creek Drive
</p> <p>17 LAVISTA PARK
1319 Brook Forest Run

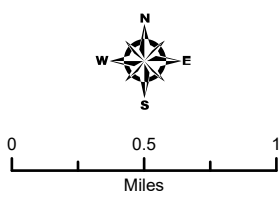
</p> | <p>2* ASHFORD PARK
2980 Redding Road

</p> <p>4 BLACKBURN II PARK
3509 Blair Circle
</p> <p>6 BROOKHAVEN PARK
4158 Peachtree Road

</p> <p>8 FERNWOOD PARK
1342 Sylvan Circle
</p> <p>10* LYNWOOD PARK
3360 Osborne Road

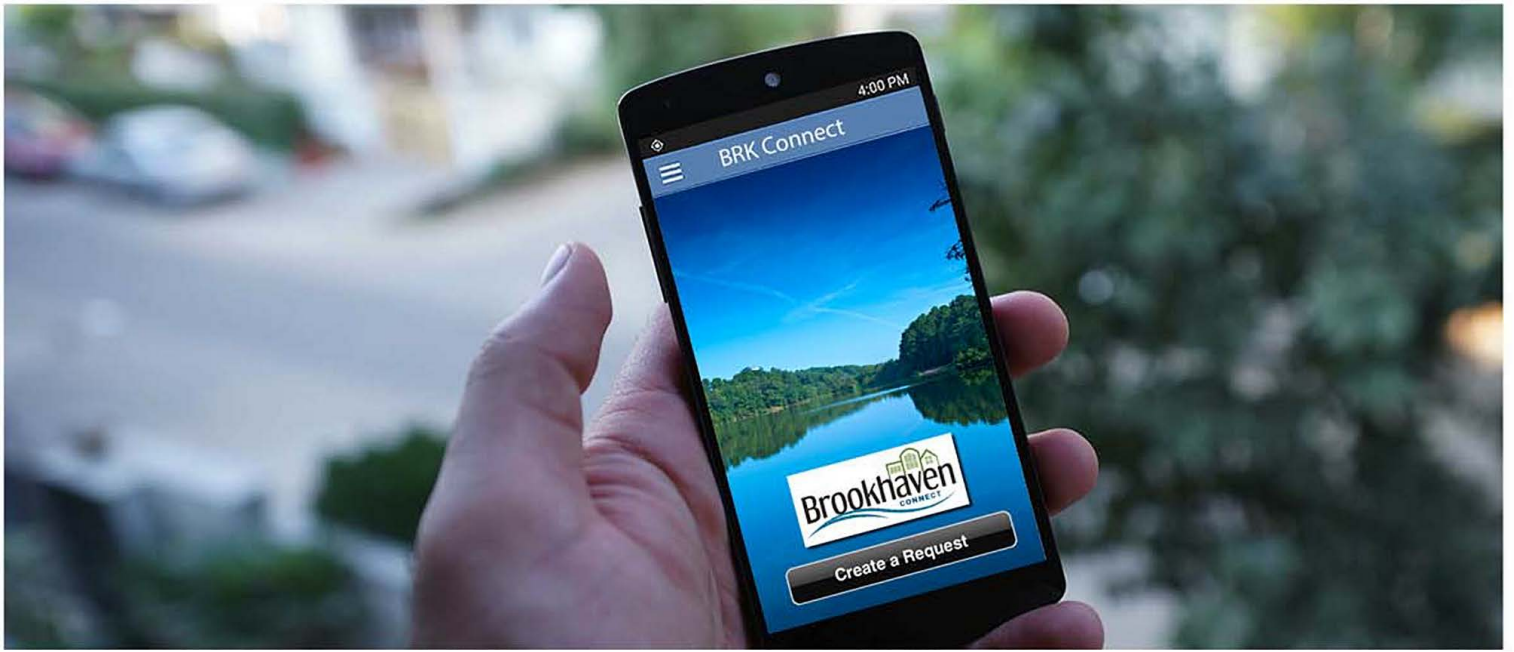
</p> <p>12 N DRUID HILLS GREENSPACE
1623 N Druid Hills Rd
</p> <p>14 PARKSIDE PARK
1316 Dresden Drive
</p> <p>16* SKYLAND PARK
2600 Skyland Drive

</p> <p>18 PEACHTREE CREEK GREENWAY
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Prepared by the
City of Brookhaven IT/GIS Department
12/27/2019

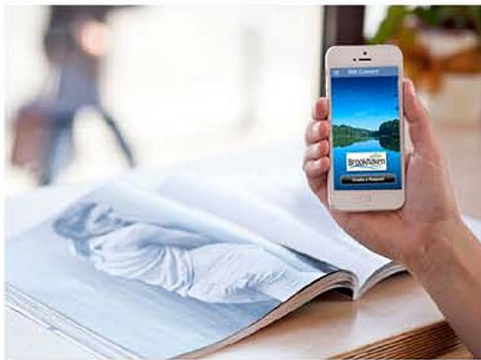
- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| Community Center | Swimming Pool |
| Picnic Shelter | Mixed-Use Field |
| Playground | Basketball Court |
| Picnic Table | Greenspace |
| Tennis Court | Baseball Field |
| Trails and Paths | Multi-Use Path |



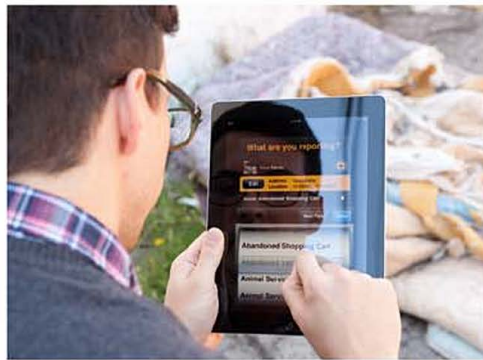
BROOKHAVEN, GA

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.