

INSIDE:
Tree
Planting in
Brookhaven
Park

Brookhaven
GEORGIA
summer 2021
city news

PLUS:
Parks &
Recreation
Activity
Guide



Welcome to Brookhaven!

Brookhaven Parks & Recreation introduces in-house maintenance division

A crisp spring morning at Blackburn Park was the perfect setting to welcome the City of Brookhaven's newest staff members- a 17-member parks operations maintenance crew. To save money and maintain better quality control, the Brookhaven Parks & Recreation Department hired in-house staff in lieu of contractors to take care of the City's parks, recreation facilities, right-of-way and FEMA properties.

"Having a permanent crew rather than contractors not only allows us to save money, it gives the City better control of the quality of work being performed, and we have a lot more flexibility to deal with any issues that come up. We won't have to wait on amending contracts; we can get right to work," said Parks & Recreation Director Brian Borden.

The new 17-member Parks Operations Division includes three crew leaders and an operations manager and supervisor. The team is responsible for an array of tasks, including

park landscaping, mowing, trimming, repairs, minor construction, and trash duties.

"I am so proud to welcome these professionals into the Brookhaven family," said Mayor John Ernst. "We have high standards, and this move to an in-house staff will help us keep up to the task of maintaining our parks - a major point of pride in this City."

After a one-time capital cost of around \$300,000 to establish the division and purchase equipment, the move is expected to save the City about \$300,000 a year.

"I am excited about how these men and women being on site every day will not only increase beautification throughout all our parks, but also bring greater community awareness of what we do," said District 1 Councilwoman Linley Jones. "I can't wait to see Brookhaven blossom even more under their care."

INSIDE: Park Bond Progress

From the Desk of the Mayor

Happy Summer, Brookhaven!

Greetings Brookhaven! Since our last newsletter, we have made some important strides in the City. As you can see on the cover, we brought our previously contracted parks maintenance crew in house. Not only does this save Brookhaven money, it also gives us more control over keeping our parks up to the Brookhaven standard. If you see our crew out and about, please say hi!

We've also made enormous progress with our park bond projects. Check out our four-page update in this newsletter to see the cool things accomplished in the parks to date.

Finally, we are seeing some light at the end of the pandemic tunnel. Vaccines are available to all adults - I encourage you to get yours as soon as possible. To celebrate, we are throwing a Cherry Blossom Summer Block Party at the end of July with live music, food, and more. We'll have fun while also honoring our first responders. Stay tuned for details, and check www.BrookhavenGA.gov for updates.

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

Help tell Brookhaven's story with the City's new history project

Brookhaven is seeking to catalog historical sites in the City and is asking for public input to help with this project.

"From our very own Lynwood Recreation Center that was the site of an historic desegregation, to locations like China Grove Missionary First Baptist Church which just celebrated its 100th anniversary, this City has a rich history that needs to be catalogued," said Community Development Director Patrice Ruffin. "We're asking the public for its help in identifying the sites that make up the historic fabric of Brookhaven."

The City has launched a website at www.BrookhavenGA.gov/commdev/page/brookhaven-historic-resources that includes a portal to a historical "story map" compiled by the City's Community Development and GIS departments, an online tool where residents can input historical information

on an interactive map, and a list of other historical resources.

The website's creation follows some other steps the City has taken to note its history. In October 2020, the City Council approved an official historic designation for Lynwood Park and its community, and in 2015 the book "Images of America: Brookhaven" was commissioned by the City and former Mayor Rebecca Chase Williams.

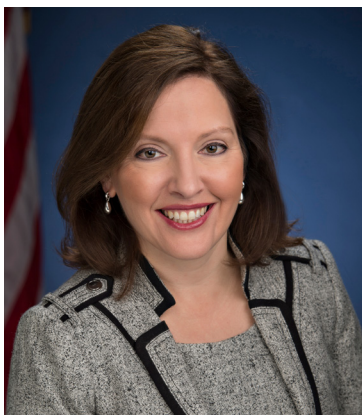
In the future, Ruffin says the Community Development Department hopes to contract with a historian to chronicle Brookhaven's incorporation efforts and its first 10 years.

"I think having our history written down is extremely important for the City's future operations," said Brookhaven Mayor John Ernst. "Plus, there's just a lot of great stories to document."



Left, District 1 Councilwoman Linley Jones, Parks & Recreation's Cassandra Bryant (a Lynwood Park native), the late Mayor Rebecca Chase Williams and historian Valerie Biggerstaff, along with members of the Lynwood Park Foundation, began in 2018 working on obtaining a historical marker to commemorate the significance of Lynwood Park School and the neighborhood's residents. Below, Lynwood Park School under construction in 1955, which is now Lynwood Park Recreation Center. (Courtesy of Images of America).





Linley Jones
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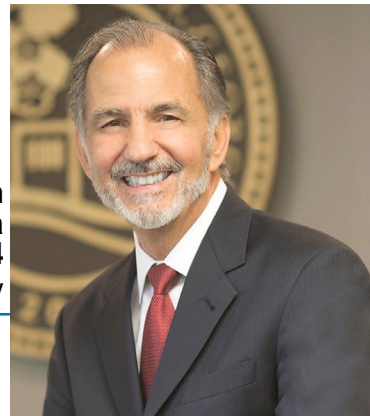


Madeleine Simmons
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Mayor Pro Tem
Joe Gebbia
District 4
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The Brookhaven City Council generally meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 3:30 and 7 p.m. at 4362 Peachtree Road. Visit www.BrookhavenGA.gov 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.

Park Bond Progress

Bringing the community's vision to a City park near you

The City of Brookhaven is home to more than 300 acres of the most beautiful parkland in Metro Atlanta. With aquatics, hiking, sports facilities and playgrounds, Brookhaven's parks truly offer something for everyone. In November 2018, residents approved the Parks Bond referendum to authorize up to \$40 million in capital improvements to Brookhaven parks and facilities.

More than two and half years later, we're excited to share the progress we've made in parks throughout the City, including how some of the projects have evolved based on community input and onsite conditions. While the pandemic slowed down some of the work, new amenities have been opening and are available for the community's enjoyment this summer and beyond.

Did you know?

Projects included in the 2018 Park Bond Program were identified in the 2016 Parks Master Plans developed through an extensive community engagement process. The Bond Program funds improvements from six of the 10 master plans.

Park Bond Program Management

Jacobs was contracted as the Park Bond Program Manager and CPL (Clark, Patterson, Lee) and Lose Design were contracted to complete design for the six parks in the program.

The Park Bond Oversight Committee

The Park Bond Oversight Committee was appointed by Mayor and Council in 2019 to offer citizen input and review of the Bond Program. The five-member group started with an initial review of the master plans for individual parks and the beginning of construction documents to confirm compliance with the Park Bond. The committee continues to meet regularly to review Program updates and plans.

Keep up with Parks Bond Program projects and track financial reports at www.BrookhavenGA.gov/parks-bond-ref

Oversight Committee meetings are one way residents can keep up to date on the Bond Program's progress. Project updates, public involvement opportunities, and project plans are posted to a dedicated page on the City website, and even shared in the weekly Brookhaven Blast. You can sign up here: www.BrookhavenGA.gov/communications

In support of Transparency in Brookhaven, project financial reports are also posted to the Park Bond Program web page monthly.

Murphey Candler Park Playground



Additional Bond Program Improvements

- Murphey Candler Park Lake dredging completed in 2020
- Ongoing invasive plant removal throughout the park system
- Ongoing park system security improvements

Comments/Questions | ParksFeedback@BrookhavenGA.gov

Park Bond Progress

Ashford Park

Bond Funding: \$1,943,954

Completed Summer 2021

Highlights for the park include a family friendly splashpad featuring a colorful soft surface with waterjets and sprays plus granite columns and seat walls that can double as stage area. A new pavilion/picnic shelter now sits atop the hill just beyond the splashpad.

Other improvements under the Park Bond Program include:

- Site drainage and grading
- New boardwalk across drainage swale
- Sidewalk and stairs to the new pavilion
- New decorative fence to replace chain link perimeter fence



Blackburn Park

Bond Funding: \$1,279,810

Completed Fall 2020 (Phase 1)

Marquee fencing featuring granite columns along Ashford Dunwoody Road was completed in August 2019. The entire parking lot was renovated by October 2020 taking care to preserve and reuse granite curbs and save a large oak tree (50" diameter). The roots had grown into the pavement along the soccer field, so the drive was realigned to keep traffic off the roots and restore a travel lane. Saving the tree required special arborist care, which was also used to save a 34" oak tree at the playground.

Other improvements under the Park Bond Program include:

- Bioretention pond for stormwater management with landscaping
- Phase 2 parking improvements on Donaldson Drive to be completed later this year

Brookhaven Park

Bond Funding: \$6,000,000

Planned improvements to Brookhaven Park include:

- New dog park pavilion with patio and restrooms
- New playground with a pavilion and restrooms
- Large group pavilion
- Reconstructed parking lot

City improvements are pending discussions and agreements with DeKalb County.



Park Bond Progress

Briarwood Park

Bond Funding: \$7,013,100

Completed Fall 2020 (Phase 1 – Pool)

Memorial Day weekend marked the season opening of the new Briarwood Park Pool. Originally planned as a renovation in the bond referendum, early planning and design determined it would need to be fully replaced to bring the pool and pool house up to current codes and standards. A special “ground cracking” event in October 2019 kicked off construction, which continued into 2020. Despite the impacts of the pandemic and other construction variables, the pool featuring competitive and recreational sections opened for the first time on Sept. 12, 2020.



The 75-foot long competitive side includes six lanes for swim teams and lap swimmers, and the zero-entry recreational side includes spray features. The new 4,000 square foot pool house includes restrooms, locker rooms, concessions, ticket office, and a lifeguard room.

Phase 2 improvements will include other master plan items such as:

- Community garden and new pavilion
- Parking lot improvements
- Tennis court seating and pavilion
- Multi-use trail with boardwalk and bridges

Lynwood Park

Bond Funding: \$10,977,393

Timeline: Summer 2022

The Lynwood Park Master Plan was updated in 2019 to include a splash pad and zero-entry pool along with a lap pool. Residents attending a January 2020 Town Hall supported the change to a splashpad and also shared concerns about limited parking.



In response, the main parking lot was expanded, and additional parking was added off Mendell Circle. Council affirmed the amended master plan on Jan. 28, 2020.

Changes to the City’s stormwater ordinance and site conditions resulted in the need for additional stormwater management design to include underground detention. The splashpad and pool are scheduled for completion to open for the Summer of 2022 swim season.



Volunteers for the Brookhaven Park tree planting included (from left to right): Patrick Feagin, Duke Scott (Troop 379 Scoutmaster), Warren Neel, Nicholas Cox (Troop 21), Mateo Tagtachian, Ryan Lisowski, Greg Lisowski, Hayden Humphrey, Jack Schmitt, Judson Divenere.

Conservancy planting event adds 18 trees to Brookhaven Park

Grants from Park Pride and City of Brookhaven help fund the effort

March 20 was the first day of the spring season and in one of the City's crown jewels, Brookhaven Park, Mother Nature got a helping hand from a group of volunteers who spent the morning adding 18 trees to the park's landscape.

The community tree planting project was spearheaded by the Brookhaven Park Conservancy and primarily funded by two grants from Park Pride of Atlanta (\$2,500) and the City of Brookhaven (\$3,000) to help plant evergreen screening trees next to an adjoining neighborhood. The value of all project costs, including volunteer labor, trees, planting supplies and equipment, exceeded \$20,000, a significant investment to improve Brookhaven Park.

Gathering along a winding walkway on the west side of Brookhaven Park's dog run, the group, under the direction of Justin Viens, Conservancy board member and president of Southern Gardener Landscape and Design, received instruction on how to properly plant the trees. The Conservancy had contracted to pre-dig the holes to save time, and a generous donation from

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Lowe's Chamblee provided water buckets, top soil, mulch, and fertilizer for the project. Southern Gardner, using some of the grant funding, had sourced the trees from a South Georgia nursery, and the company absorbed the cost of transporting and delivering the trees to the park for planting.

"The trees we selected were Little Gem magnolias and Green Giant arborvitae," said Viens. "These are both hardy screening trees. The magnolias grow well in shady locations and the arborvitae in sunnier locations. They are expected to grow about four-to-five feet a year and should reach a height of about 40'. We like to refer to plantings like this as 'green naturalization' that will provide a screening wall between the park and the homes behind it, intermingled with other trees to add to the density of the wall."

When planting trees like this, Viens added, one should keep in mind the phrase "Sleep, Creep, and Leap." The first year, the tree will sleep—it may not grow much above ground while its roots develop and establish. The second to third year, the tree will creep—

it will begin to grow a little as it settles into its space. The third to fourth year, the tree will leap in size, as it has established itself and begins to thrive. The newly planted trees at Brookhaven Park, have a good jump on the “sleep” aspect in that they are already about eight-to-10 feet tall.



Justin Viens, left, owner of Southern Gardener Landscape and Design, demonstrates how to properly plant the young trees.

Regarding the tree planting project, Brookhaven City Councilwoman Madeleine Simmons commented, “I am so thankful to the Brookhaven Park Conservancy, Park Pride, the Boy Scouts, Lowe’s and the City for coming together on this important tree planting initiative in Brookhaven Park’s wooded area, a cherished natural oasis in the center of our City. This was the second major tree planting initiative from the community volunteers with Brookhaven Park Conservancy, and the addition of these new trees will benefit Brookhaven’s tree canopy and Brookhaven Park’s visitors for decades to come. Thank you to all who volunteered in making this great project possible.”

“We are extremely grateful for all of the effort by the Brookhaven Park Conservancy, Park Pride and other members of the Parks and Recreation Coalition Brookhaven (PARC) to communicate, promote and encourage use and improvement of our City parks,”

said Brookhaven Mayor John Ernst. “PARC Brookhaven is an organization of representatives from all parks in the City of Brookhaven, and their goal is to work with citizens, elected officials and City staff to create world class parks and recreation in Brookhaven for the benefit of its citizens and park users.” Twelve City of Brookhaven park organizations, including the Brookhaven Park Conservancy, are active in PARC Brookhaven.

Also instrumental to the success of the tree planting project were Boy Scout Troop 379 members from St. Martin’s Episcopal School. Assistant Scoutmaster Jay Schmitt noted, “Troop 379 is thrilled to be included in this effort to plant new trees. We hope our efforts will improve the park for all to enjoy, a truly unique peaceful place in a busy city. Several of our Eagle Scout candidates are working on individual projects to help improve the park.” Several of those pending projects include installation of public information kiosks in the park and the construction of birdhouses suitable to put in the park for bluebirds, owls and swifts.

Kroger Brookhaven’s manager Nigel Vereen donated water and other refreshments for the tree planting volunteers. “We are always grateful to companies like Lowe’s and Kroger for their donations,” said Conservancy board member Mike Elliot. “These folks are always supportive of our efforts and don’t ever hesitate to provide items for us.”

Elliot added that the March 20 tree planting was the second major planting project the Conservancy had spearheaded for the park in the past five years. “When the Gables Brookhaven project was developed near Town Brookhaven at Hermance Drive, we coordinated the spading and removal of 22 mature, mostly oak, trees from that property. The 15-20-foot trees were like installing an instant forest that helped create a tree-lined pathway in the park.”

Over the past decade or more, even pre-dating the incorporation of Brookhaven as a city, the Brookhaven Park Conservancy has provided much-needed upgrades to the park. Since the City was created in 2012, the group has worked in tandem with the Brookhaven Parks and Recreation team on projects ranging from mulching, flower planting, painting picnic tables, helping restore a park pavilion, and invasive tree removal and brush cleanup, to name just a few.

“We are happy to be making progress improving Brookhaven Park’s ecology with substantial and much-needed trees. Many thanks to Park Pride and the City of Brookhaven for the funds to get us started,” said Thad Ellett, President of Brookhaven Park Conservancy.

For anyone that would like to volunteer time or resources, follow the plans of the conservancy, or make a donation for more Brookhaven Park improvement projects, go to www.brookhavenparkconservancy.org.

Parks & Recreation Activity Guide

YMCA SUMMER CAMP

www.ymcaatlanta.org/cay/
770-451-9622

YMCA Summer Camp programs are “camper-centered” and focus on small group interactions. These small groups, led by our camp counselors, will work together and participate in fun camp activities in a safe environment. Throughout the summer, counselors will emphasize the importance of having fun while learning the Y’s character values of caring, honesty, respect, and responsibility – the cornerstones of our day camp activities. Campers are encouraged to pack a water bottle, sunscreen, bug spray, and additional snacks. Financial assistance applications are available at the Cowart Family YMCA front desk.



LOCATION: Lynwood Community Center

DAYS OF THE WEEK: Monday-Friday. Camp in Brookhaven begins June 21.

TIME: 7 a.m.-6:30 p.m.

AGES: 5-12

PRICE: *Traditional Camp:* Facility Members \$195, Program Members \$245
Sports Camp: Facility Members \$210, Program Members \$265

VIRTUAL ADVENTURES

Challenge Island® Road Trip USA - Rev up your R.V. for a cross country STEAM adventure! You and your tribe will engineer your way from sea to shining sea from the Statue of Liberty to the Golden Gate Bridge from the Hawaiian Volcanoes to the Floridian Theme Parks on an open road of exciting pit stops in between. This imagination-fueled excursion across the USA promises to have campers smiling from coast to coast! Brought to you by the world’s number one STEAM program, Road Trip USA will allow each camper to journey to whimsical destinations where they will work on action-packed challenges using the materials in their treasure chest and creativity. July 19-23, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. at the Ashford Park Building. Ages 6-12, \$160. Register online at <https://challenge-island.com/sandysprings-dunwoody-buckhead/>



Challenge Island® Xtreme STEAM Retro Camp - Get ready for some groovy time-traveling fun! You and your tribe will build a time machine and take a STEAMtastic journey to a different decade every day. You will engineer iconic toys and pop culture products from each era and experience what it was like to be a kid in the 50s, 60s, 70s and 80s! This Retro-riffic camp is sure to be one for the history books! Brought to you by the world’s number one STEAM program, campers will love journeying to each dazzling decade and using their imaginations to create something new. July 19-23, 1-4 p.m. at the Ashford Park Building. Ages 6-12, \$160. Register online at <https://challenge-island.com/sandysprings-dunwoody-buckhead/>

DANCE

 **CREATIVE MOVEMENT AND DANCE®**

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 Brookhaven. Visit CreativeMovementAndDance.com or call (678) 482.2264 for more information or to register.

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

Tap-Ballet (ages 4-7):
Saturdays, 10:15-11 a.m., Lynwood

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

Tap-Ballet-Hip Hop (Pre-K-2nd grade):
Thursdays, 3-4 p.m., Ashford Park

LEGO® CAMP

STEM + Pokémon w/LEGO® Materials - Prepare for a full-day LEGO® camp packed with hands-on and minds-on STEM fun! Build projects inspired by cool machines such as chugging steamboats, enchanting moon bridges, and bustling airports. Then join Ash and Pikachu as you explore the vast world of Pokémon, design your own Poké Balls, and fly with Charizard! Engineering and Pokémon adventure are the focus of this new full-day themed camp for LEGO® fanatics. June 7-11 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Ashford Park Building, Ages 5-10, \$270. Register at www.play-well.org under the section for Summer Camps.



Parks & Recreation Activity Guide

ART

Young Rembrandts Drawing Workshops

Come draw with us this summer! Each day we will explore a favorite topic as we learn fundamental drawing techniques in a fun and nurturing setting. Your artistic child will love expressing their creativity and you will be amazed at the artwork that your child can create in a Young Rembrandts drawing workshop. Media include colored pencils, markers, and Sharpies. On our final day, we will gather for an art show that you won't want to miss!



DRAWING WORKSHOP FOR AGES 5-7 (RISING K & 1ST GRADE)

If You Give a Mouse a Cookie - We will explore the world of Laura Numeroff in a week full of art and reading. Each day we will read a different book in this series, then draw a Young Rembrandts lesson to illustrate the topics of the book we've read. Your child will love drawing pigs, pancakes, a moose, muffins, and more. \$20 materials fee payable to instructor on the first day of class includes all supplies needed for the week. Monday-Friday, 9-11:30 a.m., at the Ashford Park Building. June 14-18. Ages 5-6, \$140.

Jr. Drawing Workshop: Under The Sea - Your child will love to draw all the different things we see and imagine under the sea. Narwhals, jellyfish, mermaids, and more will fill our pages in bold colors and strong shapes. We will complete our last day with one large scene showcasing a whimsical underwater king-

dom complete with all its subjects. \$20 materials fee payable to instructor on the first day of class includes all supplies needed for the week. Monday-Friday, 9-11:30 a.m., at the Ashford Park Building. July 26-30. Ages 5-6, \$140.

DRAWING WORKSHOP FOR AGES 7-11 (RISING 2ND-5TH GRADE)

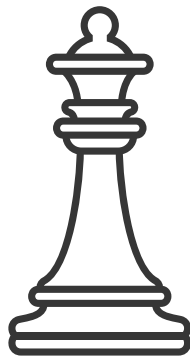
Anime & Manga Drawing - Kawaii drawing is a popular style of Japanese art. This five-day workshop will tap into your child's imagination as they learn to draw cute manga-inspired characters, accessories, and costumes. Your child's talent is about to take off in this drawing workshop focused on technique and creativity. \$20 materials fee payable to instructor on the first day of class includes all supplies needed for the week. Monday-Friday, 12:30-3:30 p.m., at the Ashford Park Building. June 14-18. Ages 7-11, \$160.

Character Creation With Young Rembrandts - Your child will learn the basics of cartooning as they create their own original characters. We will explore how to illustrate personality, mood, and action in humorous situations. Students will learn about the concept of personification as they apply human-like expressions and details to ordinary objects. On the last day, students will draw their own comic book page with an eye-catching panel layout, exciting action scenes, and expressive characters. Media include pencils, markers, Sharpies. \$20 materials fee payable to instructor on the first day of class includes all supplies needed for the week. Monday-Friday, 12:30-3:30 p.m., at the Ashford Park Building. July 26-30. Ages 7-11, \$160.

CHESS CAMP

The Knight School Chess Academy-

Become absolutely devastating at Summer Chess Camp! Beginners and experts alike are welcome during this super-fun concentrated time. The Knight School is perfectly engineered so that brand new chess players and veterans can all have fun at the same camp! There will be daily chess puzzles for prizes, daily tactics to learn for new colorful wristbands, chess play with rewards on the line...all with an exciting, energized spirit. Have your chess breakthrough at Chess Camp in our great network of chess friends! Contact Coach Davis at davis@theknightschool.com, or call or text at (404) 549-5585. Enroll at www.theknightschool.com. July 6-9 at the Ashford Park Building. 1-4 p.m. Ages 6-13, \$200.



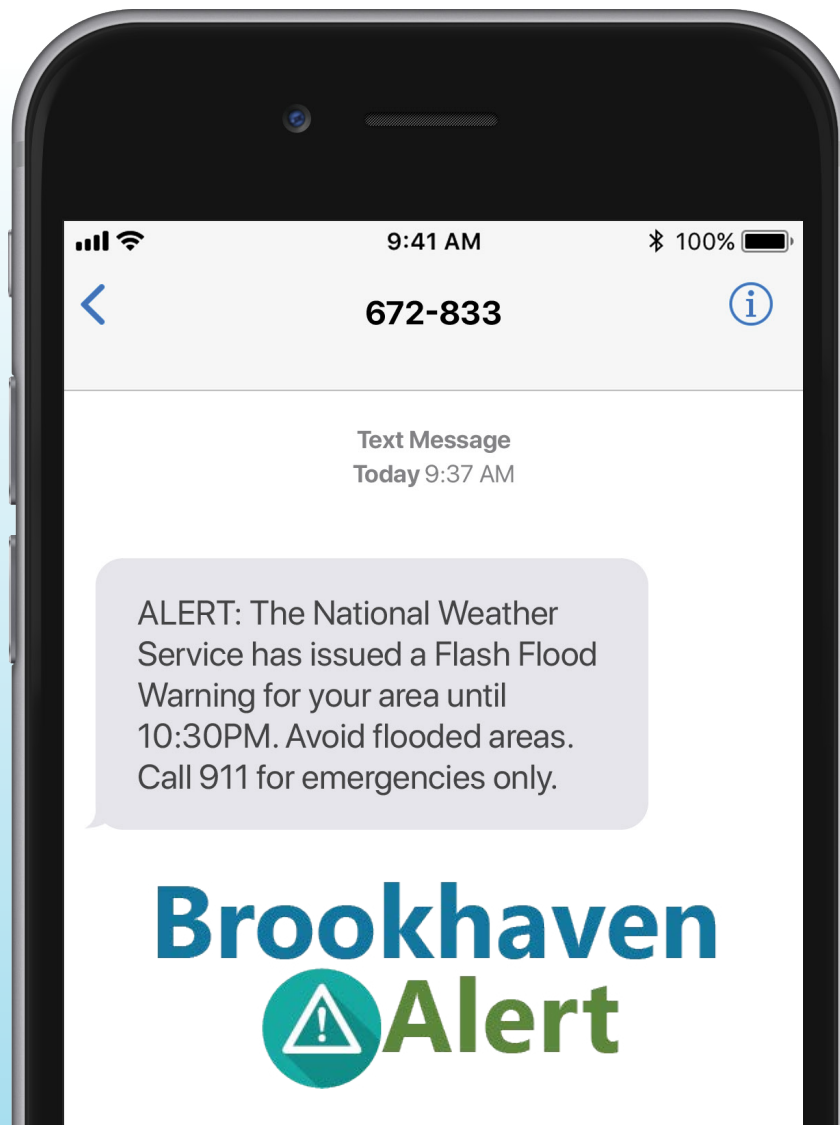
MAGIC CAMP

Beginning Magic - Learn the closely guarded secrets of magic performance from one of Atlanta's best magicians: Jeffrey Williams, "THE GREAT IMPO." In this amazing class you will learn to make objects vanish in mid-air and reappear again in a different location, read a spectator's thoughts, predict future events, and many more miraculous feats of magic! Students will gain valuable social skills and develop the confidence to perform in front of a group of their peers. All of the materials are included in the price, and the students make a special magic box that they can store their magic in and take home at the end of camp. Please pack your camper a snack. May 31-June 4 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Ashford Park Building. Ages 7-12, \$130.



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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