

Fall 2023

PRODUCED BY THE CITY OF BROOKHAVEN

Leading the charge

Brookhaven commits to environment with electric vehicle options



A Ford F-150 Lightning charges up in the Lynwood Recreation Center parking lot.

Not only can Brookhaven residents and visitors get out and enjoy the environment when visiting one of the City’s parks, but they can also contribute to preserving that environment with the help of one of the 19 vehicle charging ports located in those parks. And, they can “fill up” for free.

One look at industry trends supports Brookhaven’s decision to provide resources for EVs. According to various news reports, electric vehicles are nearing a “tipping point,” meaning they will soon overtake gasoline-vehicle sales, while also becoming cheaper to purchase than traditional automobiles.

Brookhaven appears to be on the leading edge of this trend.

“Brookhaven has more electric vehicles (EVs) registered per capita than any city in Georgia,” said City Manager Christian Sigman. “We need to provide this service to our residents not only as a ‘thank you’ for doing their part, but to also encourage vehicle buyers to consider an electric or hybrid vehicle when shopping around.”

As part of its Sustainable Brookhaven initiative, the City tracks usage of the public chargers and how each charging session benefits the environment, even calculating how many trees are saved in the

process.

For example, in August of this year there were 744 charging sessions at City facilities. This was double the 360 charging sessions in August 2022.

The amount of energy dispensed by the City’s stations is measured in kilowatt hours (KWH). In the past 12 months, the City has dispensed a total of 86.1 megawatt hours (MWH) of electricity. In August, the City dispensed 10,200 MWH. A megawatt hour equals 1,000 kilowatt hours.

Over the life of the City’s charging systems (since 2019), EVs have avoided 150,341 KWH of greenhouse gas emissions, the equivalent of 3,855 trees growing for 10 years.

Residents are invited to view this information month over month by visiting www.BrookhavenGA.gov/CityManager and then clicking on the blue “Monthly Department Reports” menu button on the left of the page.

Georgia Power also operates two paid charging stations at the new Public Safety Building on Briarwood Road. From January to August of this year, EV drivers used those stations 1,238 times, with 24.655 MWH dispensed.

With 19 free chargers located throughout the City’s parks and at City Hall, charging is convenient.

Brookhaven is also taking a close look at the needed infrastructure for a surge in EV ownership. For example, the City passed an ordinance in 2019 mandating that all commercial developments and multi-family housing complexes must provide EV chargers, while any new single-family homes must have wiring installed to accommodate EVs.

Brookhaven isn’t just looking to residents to commit to EVs. As part of its Sustainable Brookhaven initiative, the City continues to monitor metrics such as fuel usage, maintenance costs, and vehicle lifespan to assess electric and hybrid models to replace gasoline-powered city fleet vehicles in all departments. As

new EV models become available, and fleet vehicles near retirement, consideration of energy-efficiency is a top priority in new vehicle selection.

“Plus, we just know that EVs are better for the environment,” Sigman said. “We know they’re not spilling gasoline; we know they’re not damaging the ozone. EVs do not leak fluids, oils or antifreeze.”

Funding was budgeted in 2023 to purchase 15 hybrid or electric vehicles within the Police Department, 2 hybrid or electric vehicles

Continued on Page 6

See Page 6:
Charging locations in Brookhaven
Bumper sticker giveaway

Letter from the Mayor

Let's talk sustainability. Since I began my term as mayor nearly 8 years ago, one of my goals was to set Brookhaven on a sustainable track.

I'm proud to say Brookhaven is leading the sustainability charge. One of the ways you as residents can benefit from this is by charging up your electric vehicle for free at many of our City facilities and parks. Read more about this on these pages.

We also recently opened our state-of-the-art Public Safety Building, which features a cost- and environment-saving geothermal system. You really need to check out the new building along the Peachtree Creek Greenway.

But sustainability is more than just EVs and heating/cooling systems. You can catch up on all Sustainable Brookhaven initiatives at www.BrookhavenGA.gov/SustainableBrookhaven.

You can always catch up on our latest news by visiting the City's Facebook, Instagram and Twitter pages and by signing up for The Brookhaven Blast weekly email at www.BrookhavenGA.gov/Communications.

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



Brookhaven City Council Meetings

The Brookhaven City Council generally meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 4:30 and 7 p.m. at 4362 Peachtree Road. Visit www.BrookhavenGA.gov/Calendar for schedule changes.

To access meetings and videos, go to the Meetings & Agendas tab near the bottom of the homepage.

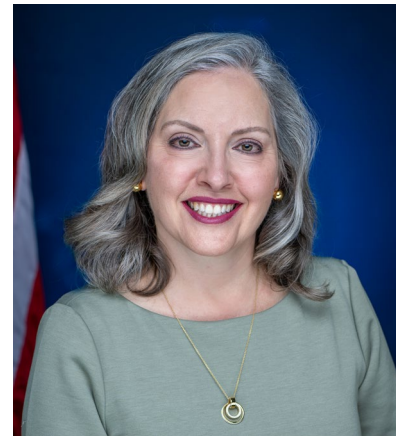
Brookhaven Vision and Mission

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.



Linley Jones, Mayor Pro Tem
District 1

Linley.Jones@BrookhavenGA.gov



Jennifer Owens
District 2

Jennifer.Owens@BrookhavenGA.gov



Madeleine Simmons
District 3

Madeleine.Simmons@BrookhavenGA.gov



John Funny
District 4

John.Funny@BrookhavenGA.gov

International Festival

A celebration of cultures

District 4 welcomes inaugural Brookhaven International Festival

An assortment of cultures will be woven together on Saturday, Oct. 21, and Sunday, Oct. 22, 2023, to create what will be Brookhaven's annual International Festival along the Peachtree Creek Greenway.

This festival will be the City's first major event along the Buford Highway Cultural Corridor. The Brookhaven International Festival will feature a variety of live cultural performances and music, international cuisine, an art walk, interactive art creation, a Kidz Zone, health screenings and vendors. A 5K walk/run will benefit We Love Buford Highway.

In 2022, the City officially designated the vibrant community of Buford Highway as the Buford Highway Cultural Corridor to highlight the rich heritage and support the diverse arts and cultural initiatives and public art that are accessible for and representative of all residents. This celebration will bring all cultures on the Corridor and region into one area to encourage multicultural exchanges.

"This celebration is something that I have envisioned for a while now, so to watch it come to fruition is remarkable at what a community can do when seeking to strengthen ties along cultural divides. It fosters cross-cultural understanding, promotes unity, and provides an opportunity for people to learn about and appreciate the richness of global heritage," District 4 Councilman John Funny said. "The Buford Highway Cultural Corridor greatly enriches Brookhaven's community. We want to share this culturally enriched community with the state, region, and beyond."

Registration is now open for the Brookhaven International Festival 5K, with all proceeds benefiting We Love Buford Highway. The race takes place on Sunday, Oct. 22, the second day of the Brookhaven International Festival.

The 5K is a qualifier for the AJC Peachtree Road Race and is a USATF-certified course. It takes place along the Peachtree Creek Greenway and adjacent parking lots, making it safe for runners and walkers of all ages and abilities. For registration, visit www.BrookhavenGA.gov/intl-fest and click on the 5K button.

"We're thrilled to be the beneficiary nonprofit," said We Love Buford Highway Executive Director Lily Pabian. "There's literally no 10-mile stretch like Buford Highway - immigrant communities are here for its sense of belonging through authentic representations in languages, cultures, and commerce; preserving this place takes coalitions, partnerships, and yes, celebrations. This weekend is a giant step in that direction."

For festival and 5K updates, visit www.BrookhavenGA.gov/intl-fest and follow the City of Brookhaven on social media at @BrookhavenGAgov and @CiudadDeBrookhaven.



Brookhaven International Festival & 5K

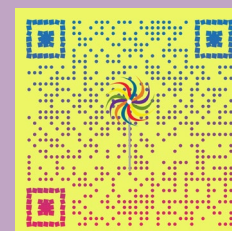
Saturday-Sunday, Oct. 21-22

Peachtree Creek Greenway

www.BrookhavenGA.gov/intl-fest

@BrookhavenGAgov

@CiudadDeBrookhaven



Brookhaven PD moves into state-of-the-art facility

Brookhaven has nearly completed the transition of Municipal Court, Police and Emergency Management into the new Public Safety Building, located on the Peachtree Creek Greenway at 1793 Briarwood Road.

While the police have moved into the building, due to previously scheduled Municipal Court dates in the existing location, full utilization for Municipal Court was expected by Sept. 30, according to Senior Municipal Court Judge Laura Stevenson.

“One of the things I’m most excited about is that this building has one of the largest geothermal systems in the Southeast. It also was built with formaldehyde-free products and low-volatile organic compounds in the construction process,” said Mayor John Ernst. “It’s the little things like this that save money over the long haul. We are saving money while we are saving the planet.”

“A lot of goodwill was built on this spot. This building is filled with a lot of granite and mortar. It’s filled with science and technology and there was a lot of value-engineering that went into this project,” said District 4 Councilman John Funny. “But the most valuable

thing in this building, right now, are the people in this room and the partnerships that made it happen”.

“One thing that is very important in being a City is having a unique identity reflective of the community. When we are renovating a park, or building a building such as this, it is important to do it in such a way that you can look at it and say ‘Wow – That’s Brookhaven,’” said Mayor Pro Tempore Linley Jones.

“It is such an exciting day in Brookhaven. One of the things I am most excited about is the leadership we show with community policing. This building shows to the community how important they are to Brookhaven,” said District 3 Councilmember Madeleine Simmons.

“In April 2013, we started the Brookhaven Police Department with Chief Gary Yandura, Deputy Chief Freeman, and myself in a building located in Dunwoody. On July 31 2013, we built a more than 50-person police force and rolled out of Town Brookhaven to take over police services from DeKalb County,” said Chief Brandon Gurley. “We are thankful for the movement and the growth that we have been able to experience over the years.”



We have moved

NEW LOCATION

Police Services Here

1793 Briarwood Rd
Brookhaven, GA 30329

404-637-0600

www.brookhavenga.gov/police

State of the art • Geothermal System
Workout Facility • Community Room

BROOKHAVEN POLICE DEPARTMENT



Brookhaven’s first speed camera begins operations

In response to residents’ concerns, Brookhaven police are utilizing RedSpeed automated speed enforcement with a speed detection camera at 3110 Ashford Dunwoody Road in Brookhaven.

“We studied several school zones and found that speeding during school hours is an exceptional problem, threatening the safety of our most vulnerable pedestrians,” said Police Chief Brandon Gurley. “I want to thank St. Martin’s Episcopal School for their cooperation and partnership as we begin this new initiative to curb excessive speeding during school hours.”

The Redspeed automated camera is located on Ashford Dunwoody Road to control school-zone speeding.

In 2019, Brookhaven conducted a study of traffic volume and speeders in school zones during school hours. In three school zones, more than 3,000 vehicles were found to be speeding at least 11 miles per hour over the speed limit in a single day. Of these, 467 took place at St. Martin’s Episcopal School.

Through Oct. 5, only warnings will be issued. Beginning Oct. 6, a sworn Brookhaven police officer will review every citation

prior to issuance. School zone fines will be set at \$80 for the first violation and \$130 for the second during the same calendar year. In addition, real-time alerts will be integrated into Brookhaven’s existing License Plate Reader (LPR) platform to identify sex-offenders, protective orders, and wanted persons for increased safety in school zones.

Violations will only be registered on school days, during the times when classes are taking place. This includes one hour prior to the scheduled start of classes and one hour after classes have concluded.

The following activation times for the speed cameras and school zone flasher:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday mornings:

Speed camera and school zone flasher activation: 7 – 8:30 a.m.

Reduced speed limit: 25 m.p.h.

Speed camera trigger: 36 m.p.h.

Wednesday mornings:

School zone flasher and speed camera activation: 8 – 9:15 a.m.

Reduced speed limit: 25 m.p.h.

Speed camera trigger: 36 m.p.h.

Afternoons (Mon-Fri):

School zone flasher and speed camera activation: 2:35 – 4 p.m.

Reduced speed limit: 25 m.p.h.

Speed camera trigger: 36 m.p.h.

Between the specified windows of reduced speeds, when school is actively in session, the speed limit will return to 40 m.p.h. However, the speed camera trigger will remain in effect at 51 m.p.h. during these intervals. After 4 p.m., all speed camera enforcement will cease.

“After this camera is fully established, we hope that we can expand this program to other schools in Brookhaven where speeding is a safety issue, like Cross Keys High School and Montgomery Elementary School,” said Gurley.



Park Progress



Langford Park opened this summer with both a ribbon-cutting and a dedication ceremony in honor of Robert C. “Bob” Langford, for whom the park is named. The land once belonged to the family of Langford, who had grown up in the family home formerly on the site. Langford Park is a tribute to the fallen local war hero, lost in Vietnam half a century ago, as well as other members of the armed services who lost their lives in combat. The new park includes a playground, Bocce Ball court, sheltered pavilion, and walking trails that accentuate the natural green space.

Briarwood Recreation Center to close for park renovations

With the Brookhaven City Council’s approval Sept. 12 of one of the final Park Bond construction contracts, Briarwood Recreation Center will close for park renovations beginning Oct. 1.

“I’m thrilled for our district and the City that we are taking yet another step in our commitment to amazing parks and greenspaces,” said District 2 Councilwoman Jennifer Owens. “Briarwood Park is such an asset to our community. After these improvements, Briarwood Park will be an even better place for the community to gather and enjoy the new and refreshed amenities.”

The Council approved a contract for \$4,609,369 with Sovereign Cooper.

The Parks Bond-funded Briarwood Park improvements include:

1. Reconstructed parking lot with improved lighting, dumpster pad, and EV chargers
2. Resurfaced driveway off Briarwood Road with new entry sign
3. Stormwater improvements to bring the property into compli-

ance with the current City stormwater ordinance

- Underground detention below parking lot
 - Bioswales
 - Detention ponds
4. New, larger community garden
 5. Loop trail in wooded area with bridge crossing the stream
 6. Removal of driveway entrance off Briarwood Way for pedestrian sidewalk entrance and added sidewalk entrance closer to Drew Valley Road

The recreation center will be closed beginning Oct. 1 for parking lot and underground detention work. The parking lot and access will be completed in time for the 2024 pool season. The playground and tennis courts will remain open during construction. The Briarwood Park pool, completed and opened in 2020, was also funded by the Parks Bond Program.

For more information, visit www.BrookhavenGA.gov/parks-bond-ref.



District 3 Councilwoman Madeleine Simmons speaks at the groundbreaking ceremony for Brookhaven Park. Improvements will include a new playground, pavilions, and restrooms.



District 1 Councilwoman and Mayor Pro Tem Linley Jones at the opening of Lynwood Park’s new pool and splash pad, part of the Park Bond projects approved by voters in 2018.

Leading the charge

Charge Up

City of Brookhaven charging ports

City Hall – 4
Ashford Park -2
Blackburn Park Tennis Center – 2
Blackburn Park Playground - 2
Briarwood Recreation Center -2
Lynwood Recreation Center – 2
Lynwood Pool – 2
Murphey Candler Park -2
Skyland Park -1

(Georgia Power operates four paid charging ports at the Public Safety Building. Briarwood charging ports will be closed during park renovations, beginning Oct. 1)



EV charging stations at Brookhaven City Hall

Continued from Page 1

within the Community Development Department, 1 electric car within the City Manager's Office, and 1 electric pick-up truck within the Parks and Recreation Department. Funding also includes upfitting of vehicles with necessary equipment.

In 2015 a Tesla was purchased with confiscated funds as a pilot electric vehicle test for the police department. While some challenges arose with outfitting the vehicle, it was discovered that a 100 percent

Sustainable Brookhaven bumper stickers available now!

Do you drive an electric or hybrid vehicle in the City of Brookhaven?

Then drop by City Hall at 4362 Peachtree Road between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday-Friday to claim your complimentary Sustainable Brookhaven bumper sticker. You can even charge up your vehicle for free while you are here! Promotion lasts until supplies run out.

Email News@BrookhavenGA.gov for more information.

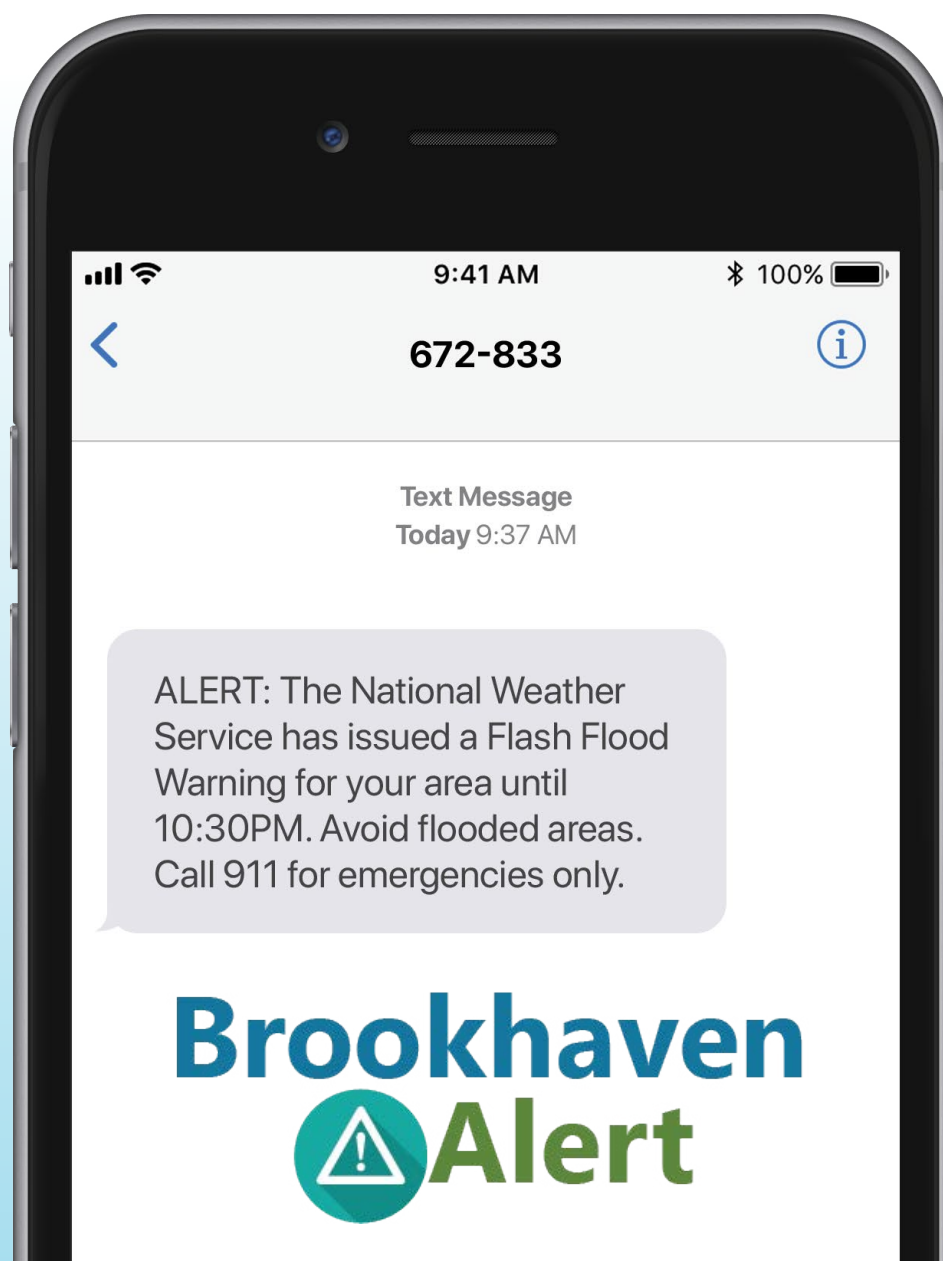
electric vehicle fleet could save the City \$250,000 a year in fuel and maintenance costs. "A quarter of a million dollars a year is not an insignificant amount," Sigman said.

While there is currently no timeline for a full conversion to electric vehicles, testing will continue to measure the financial benefits, as well as the practicality of outfitting the vehicles for City usage.

For more information on the City of Brookhaven's sustainability initiatives, visit www.BrookhavenGA.gov/SustainableBrookhaven.

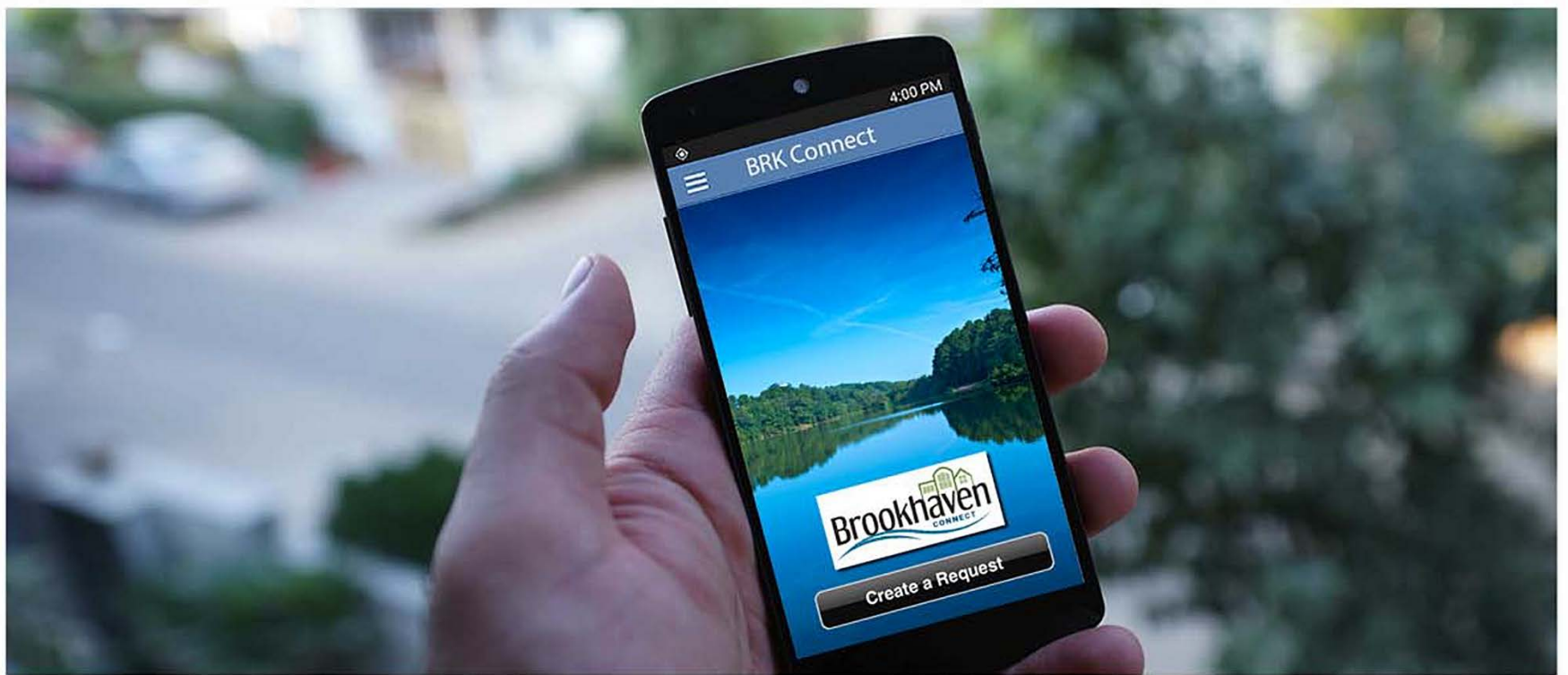
Always Be Notified.

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

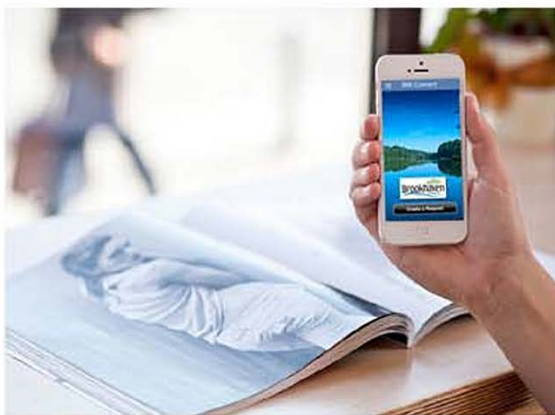
Powered by  **Smart911**[®]



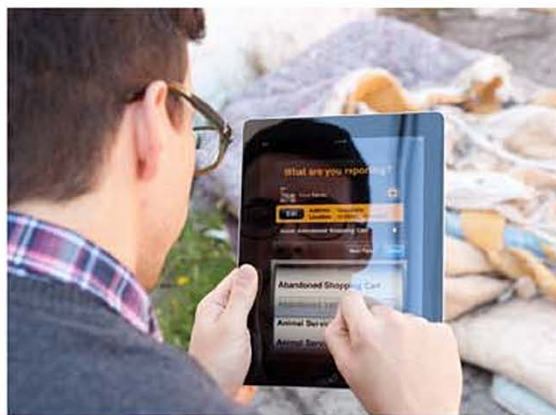
BROOKHAVEN, GA

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.