

Summer 2023

Brookhaven

GEORGIA

City News

PRODUCED BY THE CITY OF BROOKHAVEN

An evergreen endeavor

Brookhaven establishes Osborne Nursery

Pictured: A Winged Elm sapling, rescued from a construction area, gets a new "leaf" on life at the Osborne Nursery.

See Page 5:

'Brookhaven branches out with more arborists'

'Front Yard Tree Program takes root in Brookhaven'

The City of Brookhaven has established a nursery at Osborne Park to cultivate indigenous trees, which will ultimately be given to Brookhaven residents and developers at no cost to preserve Brookhaven's tree canopy.

"These trees will be available once they reach a certain level of maturity," said Brookhaven Arborist Jeff Dadisman. "Almost all of these trees are large growing species to be grown at the nursery for a few years and then released to Brookhaven residents free of charge."

The project is a part of the City's ongoing Sustainable Brookhaven initiative, which is a way of governing and managing in pursuit of lasting economic, social, and environmental development that seeks to avoid and prevent the depletion or permanent damage of Brookhaven's resources, which include the environment.

"Sustainable Brookhaven is committed to protecting our natural resources," said Assistant City Manager Patrice Ruffin Dowdell. "Managing our tree canopy in this way costs almost nothing. It just requires a mindset to preserve indigenous trees whenever the opportunity presents itself."

Case in point: During construction of Brookhaven's new Public Safety Building, the disturbed soil and wet weather produced dozens of seedling "volunteers" that were relocated prior to landscaping the facility.

The half-acre at the new Osborne Nursery will have the capacity for almost 250 trees. The species chosen for re-population are all indigenous to this area, which means additional care should be minimal to non-existent, and not widely available or well-stocked by local nurseries. The species that are planted and/or ordered are:

- White Oak (*Quercus alba*)
- Swamp White Oak (*Quercus bicolor*)
- Southern Red Oak (*Quercus falcata*)
- Scarlett Oak (*Quercus coccinea*)
- Honey Locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*)
- Persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*)
- Winged Elm (*Ulmus alata*)
- Eastern Cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*)
- American Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*)
- American Hophornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana*)
- Shagbark Hickory (*Carya ovata*)
- Pignut Hickory (*Quercus glabra*)

"Once again, this is another demonstration of Brookhaven's commitment to preserving our tree canopy, our most valuable natural resource," said District 2 Councilman John Park. "We have some of the most robust ordinances regarding tree removal. Now we also have an easy way to repopulate and replenish trees that die or need to be removed."

SUSTAINABLE
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Letter from the Mayor

Welcome to Summer in Brookhaven!

We've got a lot of exciting things to report on in this newsletter, from a roundup of this year's Cherry Blossom Festival (the best ever, by the way), to our commitment to preserving trees, an important component of our Sustainable Brookhaven initiative.

You can also read up on progress on our future City Hall, something for the entire City to be proud of, and how rating agencies have affirmed our financial stability and excellence.

I hope to see you in the coming months out at our pools, and especially the Lynwood Park splash pad, a product of our Park Bond initiative overwhelming approved by Brookhaven voters in 2018.

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.

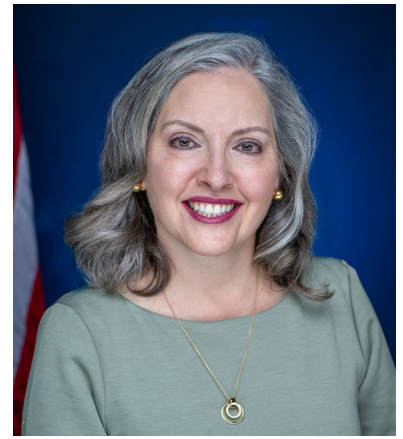
Don't hesitate to contact me at John.Ernst@BrookhavenGA.gov or at 404-637-0710 with any questions or concerns. Thank you for all you do to make Brookhaven better!

Yours truly,



John Ernst
Mayor

John.Ernst@BrookhavenGA.gov



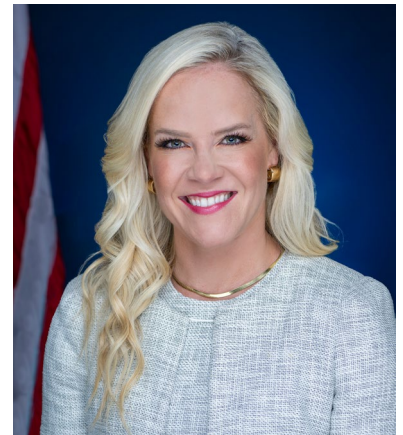
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Madeleine Simmons
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John Funny
District 4

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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

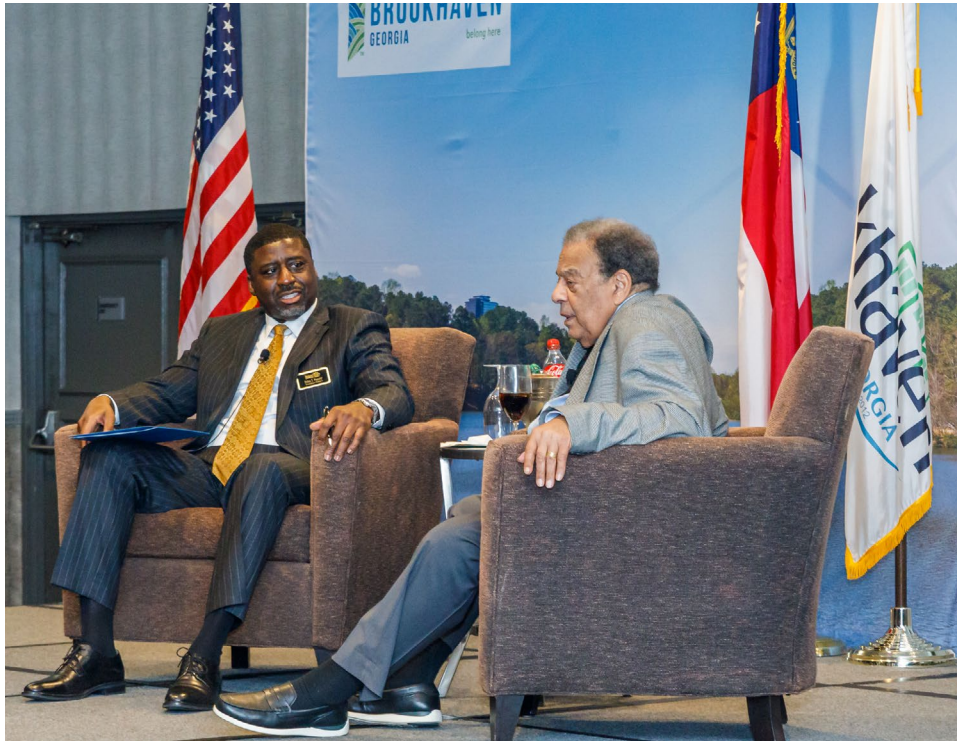
Brookhaven will be nationally recognized as a beautiful community where multiple generations can live in safety, flourish in business and succeed in a historic, sustainable environment with exceptional education and transportation options.

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.



Around Town



The City of Brookhaven celebrated Black History Month with a panel discussion featuring Ambassador Andrew Young and hosted by District 4 Councilman John Funny.



Cassandra Bryant, a titan of Brookhaven's Lynwood Park community and member of the Brookhaven Parks & Recreation staff, was honored at a Trailblazers event by Congressman Hank Johnson for her dedication to the community.



Mayor John Ernst, along with District 3 Councilwoman Madeleine Simmons, accepted a Blue Star Memorial Marker on behalf of the City. The marker was installed in Historic Brookhaven in the triangle park at East Brookhaven and Brookhaven Drive thanks to the Club Estates Garden Club. The Blue Star Memorial Marker is a Garden Club project that honors those who serve in the Armed Forces and veterans.



District 4 Councilman John Funny (center) was joined by officials from the City, Chamber of Commerce and PCG Inc. in cutting the ribbon on Phase 1B enhancements to the Peachtree Creek Greenway. Improvements include the installation of various amenities along three new trail spur paths.



District 4 Councilman John Funny, Mayor John Ernst, and District 3 Councilwoman Madeleine Simmons were on hand to celebrate the recent grand opening of Chick-fil-A at 4046 Peachtree Road in Brookhaven, located across from MARTA and next to Mellow Mushroom.



Brookhaven residents and guests celebrated the 44th annual Lynwood Park Community Day with a parade, entertainment, food and appearances from the City's elected officials, including District 2 Councilman John Park (far left), District 1 Councilwoman and Mayor Pro Tem Linley Jones (second from right), and District 4 Councilman John Funny (far right).

Progress continues for Brookhaven's new City Hall

Brookhaven's new City Hall is making headway, as the most recent design progress was presented at the March 28 City Council work session at the 50% design development benchmark. In the presentation, the Mayor and Council received updates on the public feedback to date. Among other things, the feedback indicated the community's visual preferences and strong support for the planned community spaces that bring the people together.

"The feedback has been crucial as we move forward with the design. This building will be the 'People's House' and should reflect the vision of the community as a whole," said Mayor John Ernst.

Residents rated spaces that encouraged community interaction such as outdoor patio dining and pop-up markets. Design details of City Hall continue to evolve through input from the public and stakeholders. So far, community visual preferences indicate the highest design attributes that residents prefer are high ceilings and open spaces, with mural art being a close second, and garden spaces located in the lobby.

Public input regarding the new City Hall began shortly after the historic agreement with MARTA in June 2022. Since then, the community has provided public input to the Mayor and Council at council meetings and through various community engagement methods.

Brookhaven's new City Hall will be located at the corner of Peachtree Road and North Druid Hills Road on the existing long-term MARTA parking lot. Peachtree Road is the City's "Main Street" and the most recognizable thoroughfare in the entire metropolitan area. It was important to locate the Brookhaven City Hall close to mass transit and major mobility corridors to encourage access for all. The City Centre Master Plan and the Comprehensive Plan call for City Hall to be located within the City Centre.

The overall purpose of the new City Hall is to be the focal center of the community, providing engaging and exceptional resources and services along with community access and benefits. The current design includes an atrium and adjacent event space that totals approximately 6,000 square feet for community gatherings and rentals. Sixty-two percent of the building is dedicated to public space, which will include a multipurpose hall, rooftop garden, coffee shop and kitchen;

Rating agencies reaffirm Brookhaven's 'Double Triple-A' credit rating

Standard & Poor's (S&P) and Moody's Investor Services (Moody's) have again graded the financial health, management and fiscal policies of the City of Brookhaven, each giving the City the highest rating: S&P rated Brookhaven AAA, Moody's awarded the City Aaa.

These ratings, which apply to \$88.5 million in Series 2023A bonds issued by the Brookhaven Urban Redevelopment Agency, reaffirm the highest ratings originally received in July 2018 for the bond for the construction of the Peachtree Creek Greenway, and reaffirmed in 2019 for Park Bond improvements. Funding for the latest bond issuance is secured by property located within the City's Special Service District (SSD), which encompasses approximately 40% of the total tax base and only consists of commercial property.

At its meeting on Feb. 15, the Brookhaven Urban Redevelopment Agency approved a supplemental resolution to approve the terms of the Series 2023A bonds.

Bond proceeds will be used to finance a variety of projects across the SSD including a new City Hall, road, bridge, streetscape improvements, and multi-use paths/sidewalks.

"A local government is reflective of the residents it represents, and Brookhaven residents want and deserve quality," said Mayor John Ernst. "The bonds will empower us to improve the quality of our infrastructure and construct an iconic City Hall, and the ratings on the bonds from Moody's and S&P are a powerful endorsement of the quality of our fiscal stewardship."

"As the CFO for Brookhaven, my mission is to continue the im-



A rendering of a potential design for a new Brookhaven City Hall.

and Explore Brookhaven, Brookhaven's Convention and Visitors Bureau; among other community partners. The rooftop terrace for public event use will afford beautiful views of Brookhaven, Buckhead, and Stone Mountain.

Community engagement is a priority for the City of Brookhaven. Its first-ever Citywide Engagement Plan was approved by the City Council on Nov. 8, 2022, and guides community engagement for capital projects, planning efforts, policy development, daily operations, etc.

Currently, progress remains continuous and steady. Brookhaven will continue to engage and encourage input from its residents. Architect Bill De St. Aubin of Sizemore Group stated during the presentation, "We are taking an urban site and giving it back to the public."

To submit feedback on the City Hall project, email CityHallProject@BrookhavenGa.gov. To view recent updates on the City Hall project, visit www.BrookhavenGa.gov/PublicWorks/Page/City-Hall-Project.



plementation of strong financial policies and controls. The triple-A ratings from S&P and Moody's allow us to get the best interest rates possible, which gives Brookhaven the biggest bang for the buck," said Brookhaven CFO Steven Chapman.

When describing their evaluation in their Feb. 2 report, Moody's said the rating "Reflects the city's exceptionally strong financial position that is supported by a rapidly growing and affluent tax base, competitive location within the dynamic Atlanta (Aa1 stable) metropolitan area, and prudent budget management."

An evergreen endeavor

Continued from Page 1



City Arborist Jeff Dadisman rescues dormant saplings from the Public Safety Building construction site.

Brookhaven branches out with more arborists

The City of Brookhaven has hired another full-time arborist, fulfilling the City's goal to have three full-timers on staff.

Bryant Warren joins Jeff Dadisman and Tyler Lenn in carrying out the duties to preserve Brookhaven's tree canopy. Just across the hall from their offices are three more certified arborists working as land development inspectors.

"By the end of the year, we'll have six certified arborists on staff, which illustrates the City's commitment to preserving the tree canopy," said Community Development Director Linda Abaray.

The arborists in the land inspection division remain focused on minimizing tree loss during residential and commercial construction projects, while the canopy cadre of Dadisman, Lenn, and Warren administer the rest of the City's arborist functions, which include:

- Reviewing construction plans to protect Brookhaven's tree canopy
- Enforcing the tree ordinance
- Working with the Parks and Recreation Department to maintain a healthy tree canopy
- Working with the Public Works Department to preserve trees in right-of-way when possible
- Administering tree removal permits for non-construction requests.
- Manage invasive species removal in City parks
- Curating the Osborne Tree Nursery
- Preparing Tree Canopy studies in conjunction with Brookhaven's GIS Department
- Working in conjunction with Trees Atlanta for the Front Yard Tree Program

"As always, we need to reiterate that everyone in Brookhaven removing trees greater than four inches in diameter at breast height needs to have a permit," said Abaray. "For owner-occupied homes, tree permits are at no cost."

"With the addition of another arborist in our City of approximately 55,000 people, we have more manpower preserving trees than any other comparable municipality in the area," said District 2 Councilman John Park. "Successful tree preservation requires a comprehensive strategy, and this new position gives us the manpower to both preserve existing canopy and grow our urban forest."

Front Yard Tree Program takes root in Brookhaven

Back by popular demand, Brookhaven is once again partnering with Trees Atlanta to sponsor the Front Yard Tree Program.

In this partnership, Trees Atlanta will plant up to 80 trees. Homeowners can choose one of five varieties of White oak, Overcup oak, Willow oak, River Birch and Sycamore, all between six and eight feet in height. Trees Atlanta will plant the tree and provide the initial mulching and watering and include a two-year replacement guarantee.

"We all recognize that shade trees enhance Brookhaven's tree canopy, which in turn enhances Brookhaven's quality of life," said Mayor John Ernst. "People need to act fast, however, because participation is once again on a first come, first served basis."

Continuing last year's promotion, there is no application fee for Brookhaven residents.

After the application is completed online, a representative from

Trees Atlanta will contact the homeowner to discuss the appropriate species and location of the tree, usually within 5-7 business days after the request is made. As part of the participation agreement, the resident agrees to water the trees roughly every 10 days for the first year and to call Trees Atlanta if the tree shows signs of stress, needs staking, or there are any other issues with the tree.

Trees Atlanta will schedule volunteer planting projects in neighborhoods in Brookhaven so that others can learn how to properly plant and maintain trees on their own property. Residents can register to volunteer with Trees Atlanta at www.TreesAtlanta.org/Calendar.

"Brookhaven's inaugural program was very well received last year and applauded by the community," noted City Arborist Jeff Dadisman, "Support of this program once again shows that the City of Brookhaven continues to make tree and greenspace preservation a priority."

To apply for the program, visit www.TreesAtlanta.org/YardTree/



Cherry Blossom Festival

in full bloom

The 2023 Brookhaven Cherry Blossom Festival was the most successful to date, bringing in more attendees and sponsors than ever before. Hanson (pictured below) and Band of Horses headlined the concert, which also included Don McLean, The Fray, All-4-One, Deep Blue Something, Eliot Bronson, Lissie, and Little Hopes. The Splash Artist Market returned, with over 100 fine art vendors. A Kidz Zone, Pet World, and food trucks were also part of the fun.



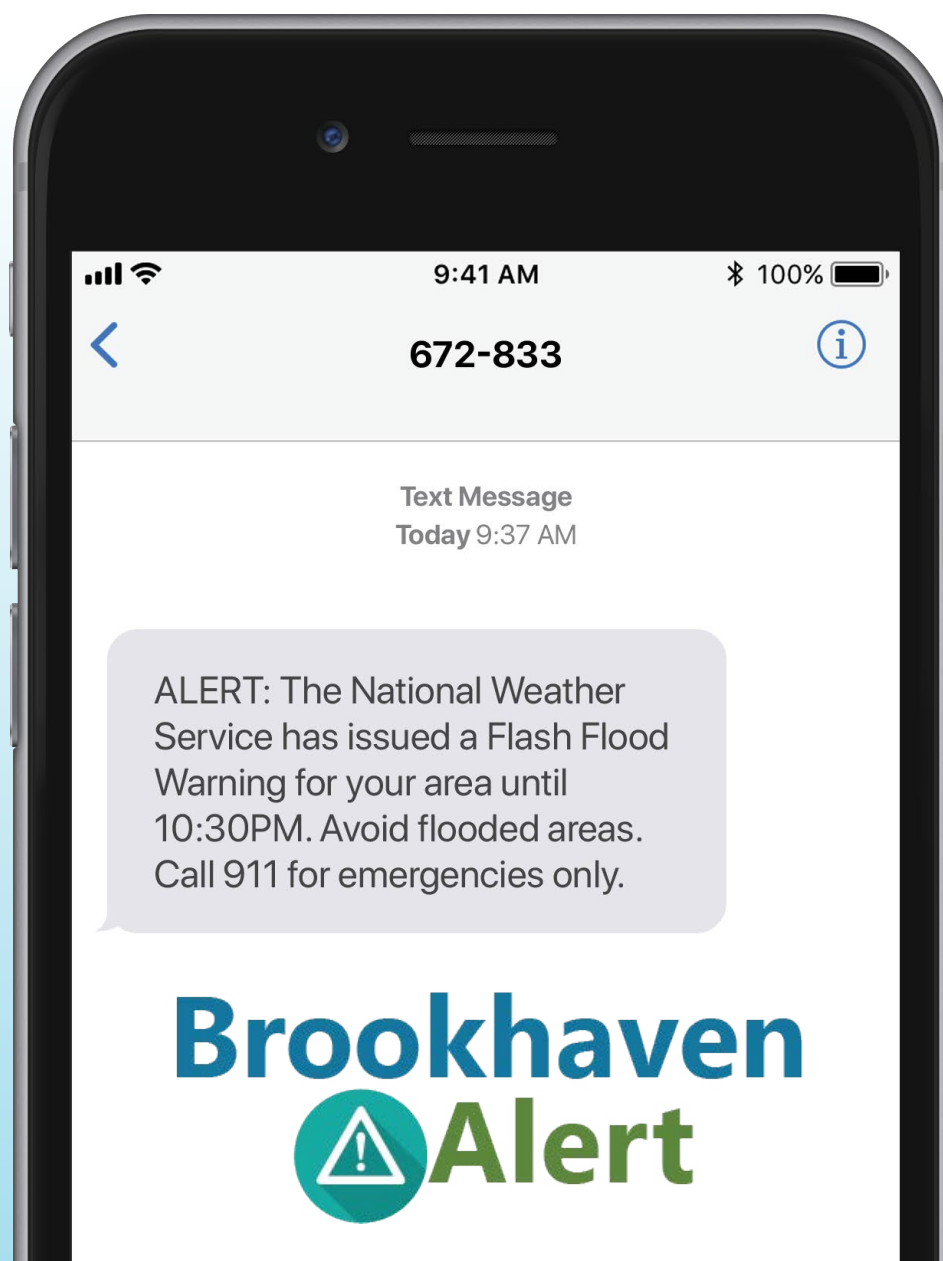
A Music & Arts Extravaganza

The Brookhaven Cherry Blossom Festival returns March 23 & 24, 2024.

For updates, visit www.BrookCherryFest.org and [@BrookCherryFest](https://twitter.com/BrookCherryFest)

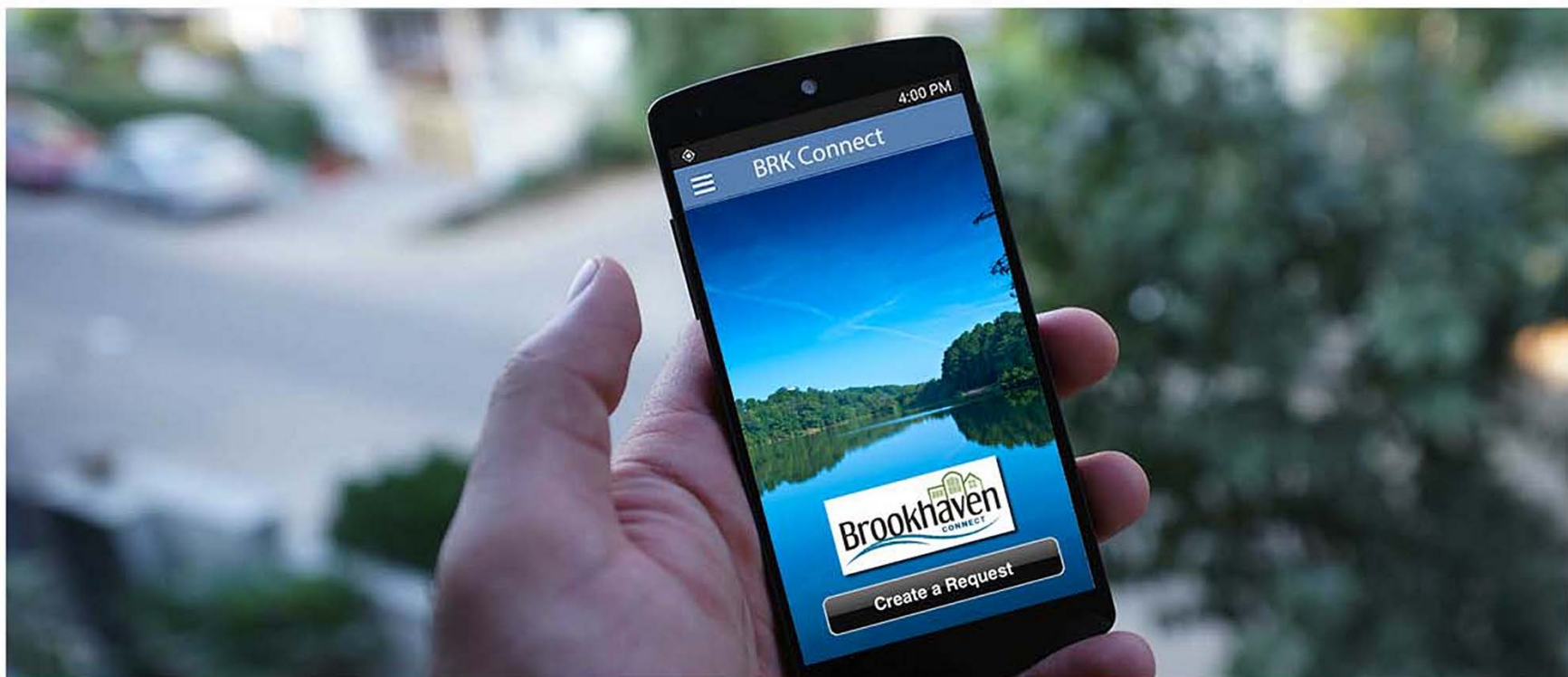
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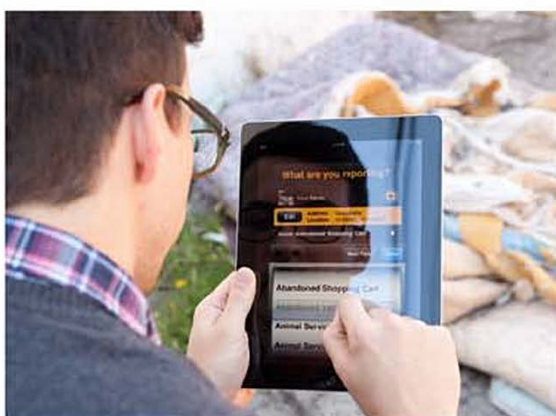
BROOKHAVEN, GA

Brookhaven Connect

EFFORTLESS CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT



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