

PRODUCED BY THE CITY OF BROOKHAVEN

Cherry Blossom Festival Back in Bloom

*Brookhaven's signature event
returns March 23 & 24*



**Something for
everyone:**

Free Concert

Splash Artist Market

Kidz Zone

Food Court

Classic Car Show (Sat)

Pet World (Sun)

Festival 5K (Mar 16)

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5K information: **Page 7**

www.BrookCherryFest.org &
[@BrookCherryFest](https://twitter.com/BrookCherryFest)

Letter from the Mayor

Greetings Brookhaven! I'm so excited that my first Brookhaven City News "Letter from the Mayor" is in the issue featuring the Cherry Blossom Festival.

One of my favorite things about Brookhaven is the way we can come together with our fellow residents and neighbors to celebrate.

Before I served on the City Council, it was one of my great honors to help bring Atlanta SoccerFest to Brookhaven Park in 2014. I could see the potential then of our City being a great gathering spot and a place where folks like to celebrate.

Ten years later the City is hosting its best Cherry Blossom Festival yet - there's a great concert led by Live and Barenaked Ladies, with supporting acts who could easily be headliners, and, like with SoccerFest, admission is free! Festival favorites like the Splash Artist Market, Kidz Zone, Classic Car Show and Pet World are back, too. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Please stay tuned to City news by following the City's Facebook, Instagram and X pages and by signing up for The Brookhaven Blast weekly email at www.BrookhavenGA.gov/Communications.

You can always contact me at John.Park@BrookhavenGA.gov with any questions or concerns.



John Park
Mayor

John.Park@BrookhavenGA.gov



Brookhaven City Council Meetings

The Brookhaven City Council generally meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 4:30 and 6:30 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.



Michael Diaz
District 1

Michael.Diaz@BrookhavenGA.gov



Jennifer Owens
District 2

Jennifer.Owens@BrookhavenGA.gov



Madeleine Simmons
District 3

Madeleine.Simmons@BrookhavenGA.gov



John Funny, Mayor Pro Tem
District 4

John.Funny@BrookhavenGA.gov

Brookhaven awarded Green Communities Certification

The City of Brookhaven has been recognized with the Green Communities Certification by the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC).

Brookhaven joins 17 local governments in the metro Atlanta area under the Green Communities Program. The ARC developed the Green Communities certification program in 2009 to certify local governments that prioritize programs and policies that lead to a more sustainable region.

According to the ARC, the level of certification is determined on a checklist that awards points for implementing a variety of sustainable measures such as green buildings, protecting tree canopies and greenspaces, and others. Brookhaven earned enough points to be Certified Gold.

To qualify, the city adopted several policies to satisfy requirements for the application. On May 9, 2023, the Brookhaven City Council approved of the following new policies.

- **Green Building Policy:** Requires all new or renovated buildings owned by the City to be LEED and/or ENERGY STAR certified.
- **Environmental Preferable Purchasing Policy:** When determining Goods, Capital Assets, and Services to purchase, the City shall integrate environmental factors into the City's decision, when available and commercially practicable in the reasonable discretion of the user.
- **Lights Out/ Power Down Policy:** Reduces energy use in City buildings from lighting and electronics when not in use.
- **Ultra-high Efficiency Plumbing Policy:** Requires installation of water-saving products, including WaterSense labeled, whenever practicable, including but not limited to, high performance fixtures such as toilets, urinals, low flow faucets, aerators, and upgraded high-efficiency irrigation systems.
- **No Idling Policy:** Restricts the allowed time that local government vehicles may idle when not directly engaged in the line of duty.

Brookhaven continues to perform activities within the strategic framework to demonstrate its commitment to benefiting the community now and in the future.

To find out more about Brookhaven's sustainability and energy efficiency efforts, visit www.BrookhavenGA.gov/SustainableBrookhaven.



Brookhaven named EV Association's 2023 City of the Year

The City of Brookhaven has been awarded the EV Association's 2023 City of the Year Award.

The Electric Vehicle Association (EVA) is the leading volunteer organization in North America that educates and advocates for the rapid adoption of electric vehicles. On Jan. 27, Brookhaven was recognized as the 2023 City of the Year for their initiatives that encouraged the adoption of electric vehicles throughout the City.

"In 2016, the City did not have any EV charging stations. Now we have them all over the place. They are in our parks, our public safety buildings, and even City Hall," said former Mayor John Ernst, who accepted the award on the City's behalf.

Brookhaven has more electric vehicles registered per capita than any city in Georgia. With 19 free chargers located throughout the City, Brookhaven has continued its efforts as a part of its Sustainable Brookhaven initiative. That includes tracking the usage of the public chargers and how each charging session benefits the environment, even calculating how many trees are saved in the process.

In 2023, funding was budgeted to purchase 15 hybrid or electric vehicles in the Police Department, 2 hybrid or electric vehicles 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.

In 2019, the City passed an ordinance requiring 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.

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 apply to Brookhaven's SPLOST II bond, approved by DeKalb County voters in Nov. 2023.

Brookhaven originally received the highest ratings from both rating agencies in July 2018 for the bond for the construction of the Peachtree Creek Greenway. The ratings remained in place in 2019 for the \$40 million parks bond, and again in 2023 for Series 2023A bonds issued by Brookhaven Urban Redevelopment Agency for 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 a sound infrastructure. The SPLOST bonds will empower us to improve the quality of our roads, acquire greenspace and purchase police vehicles," said Mayor John Park. "The ratings on the bonds from Moody's and S&P are a powerful endorsement of the quality of Brookhaven's fiscal stewardship."

When describing their evaluation in their Feb. 5 report, Moody's said the Aaa rating, "... is underpinned by a track record of strong



financial performance, robust economic growth, and major ongoing new development that will help extend these trends moving forward."

"The economic momentum, coupled with prudent budget management, will continue to support the city's strong financial position," the Moody's report added.

Cherry Blossom Festival

returns March 23 & 24



The City of Brookhaven is thrilled to announce music acts +Live+ and Barenaked Ladies as the concert headliners for the 2024 Brookhaven Cherry Blossom Festival, taking place Saturday and Sunday, March 23-24, at Blackburn Park, 3493 Ashford Dunwoody Road in Brookhaven. Admission is free.

+LIVE+ is the Saturday, March 23, headliner, while Barenaked Ladies headlines on Sunday, March 24. Also taking the stage Saturday are Moon Taxi, Sister Hazel, and Takiya Mason, while Lisa Loeb, Crash Test Dummies, and Koyal take the stage on Sunday.

“Once again the Brookhaven Cherry Blossom Festival proves why it’s one of the biggest concert events in the state,” says former Brookhaven Mayor John Ernst, who remains involved with the festival. “I’m looking forward to getting out and enjoying this phenomenal live music lineup with my fellow Brookhaven residents this spring.”

In addition to the music, this year’s festival brings back favorites such as the Splash Artist Market, Kidz Zone, Pet World, Classic Car Show, and food court. The Cherry Blossom 5K will take place on Saturday, March 16.

For more information about the Brookhaven Cherry Blossom Festival, visit BrookCherryFest.org, and Facebook, Instagram, and X at [@BrookCherryFest](https://www.instagram.com/BrookCherryFest).

SATURDAY, MARCH 23

SUNDAY, MARCH 24

For lineup and schedule updates, visit BrookCherryFest.org or scan the QR code.

SAT, MAR23
 +LIVE+ 4:30pm
 Moon Taxi 3pm
 Sister Hazel 1:30pm
 Takiya Mason 12:15pm

SUN, MAR24
 BNL 4:30pm
 Lisa Loeb 3:15pm
 CTD 2pm
 Koyal 12:45pm



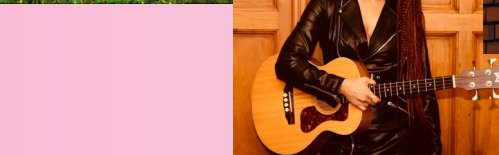
Lineup and schedule subject to change without notice.



Crash Test Dummies



Koyal



Takiya Mason



Sister Hazel

Healing through Art

Amy Hamberlin knows firsthand the healing power of art, and will share that with visitors at the Brookhaven Cherry Blossom Festival.

Born in Vancouver, Washington, Hamberlin began her artistic journey at a very young age. Growing up in the country surrounded by farms and the Cascade Mountains gave her plenty of exploring time and a love for the outdoors.

“My artistic spirit was fostered by loving parents who showed me their adventures as creatives and entrepreneurs,” Hamberlin says.

For the past 14 years, Hamberlin has worked in the textile and surface pattern design world, traveling the United States and participating in many inter-

national markets promoting her work.

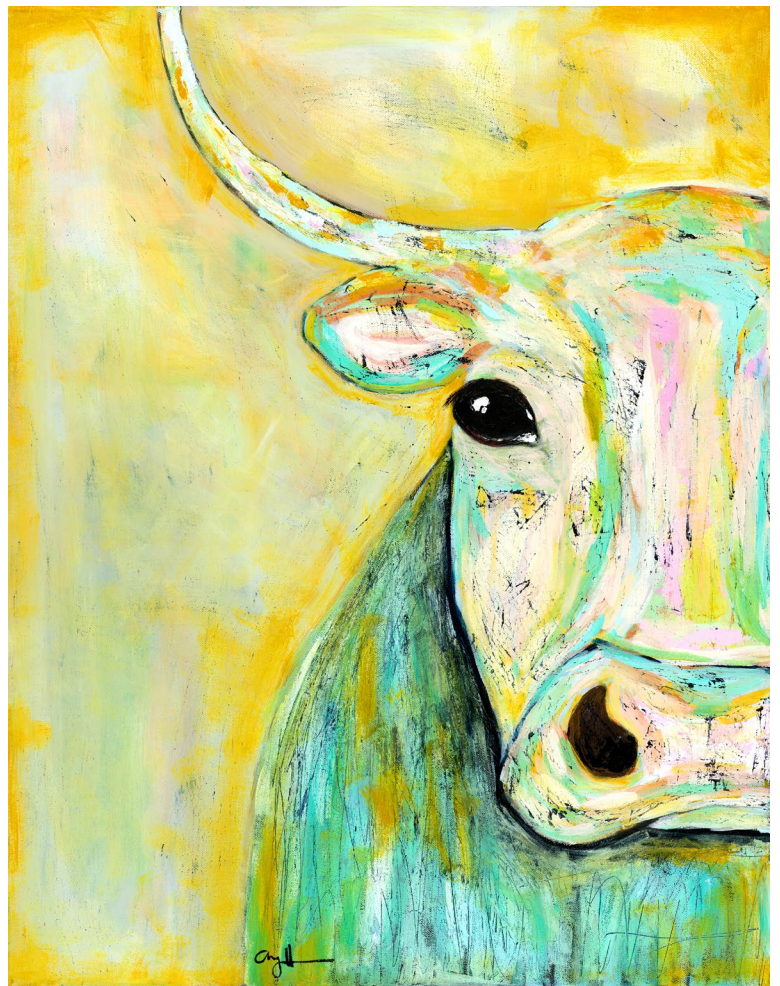
In 2011, she was diagnosed with NF2, a disorder that causes tumors to form on the nerves, primarily in the skull and spine.

“With this diagnosis and the many surgeries that came with it, I had to let a huge part of my career go. It wasn’t until the summer of 2018 that I picked up a brush and started to paint. At that time, I was recovering from a series of difficult surgeries,” Hamberlin says. “This form of expression gave me so much joy and has become a powerful source of healing. Today, I continue on my path of healing and gain strength and comfort through the healing power of a brush and paint.”

Hamberlin will participate in the Brookhaven Cherry Blossom Festival’s Splash Artist Market on March 23 and 24 in Blackburn Park.

View Hamberlin’s story and her work at www.AmyHamberlin.com, @AmyHamberlinArt on Facebook and @AmyHamberlin on Instagram.

Find more information about the Brookhaven Cherry Blossom Festival at www.BrookCherryFest.org and @BrookCherryFest on Facebook, Instagram and X.



The Splash Artist Market at the Brookhaven Cherry Blossom festival features 100+ fine art vendors lining Rebecca Williams Way on Saturday, March 23, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. & Sunday, March 24, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.



BROOKHAVEN

Cherry Blossom

FESTIVAL

BLACKBURN PARK
3493 ASHFORD
DUNWOODY RD.

BROOKHAVEN, GA
30319



SHUTTLE LOCATION

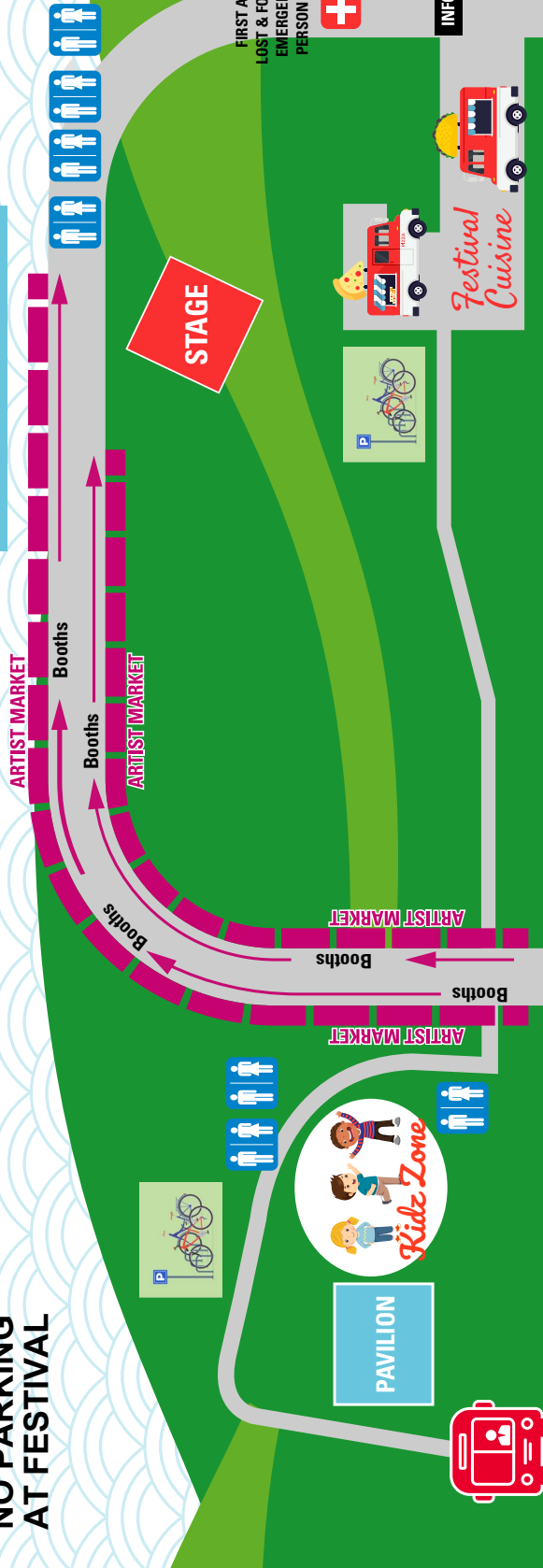
MARTA Brookhaven Rail Station
4047 Peachtree Road NE
Brookhaven

ADA PARKING

Cowart Family YMCA
3692 Ashford Dunwoody Rd
Brookhaven

**NO PARKING
AT FESTIVAL**

BLACKBURN TENNIS CENTER
VIP Hospitality on Court



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

SATURDAY, MARCH 23

10:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.

- Splash Artist Market (10a.m-6p.m.)
- Classic Car Show (10a.m-4p.m.)
- Kidz Zone (10a.m.-6p.m.)
- Concert (12-6p.m.)

SUNDAY, MARCH 24

10:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.

- Splash Artist Market (11a.m-6p.m.)
- Pet World (shows at 11a.m. & 1p.m.)
- Kidz Zone (10a.m.-6p.m.)
- Concert (12-6p.m.)

*Map & schedule subject
to change without notice*

BROOKHAVEN
Cherry Blossom
FESTIVAL



5K

PRESENTED BY



Benefitting

Children's
Healthcare of Atlanta



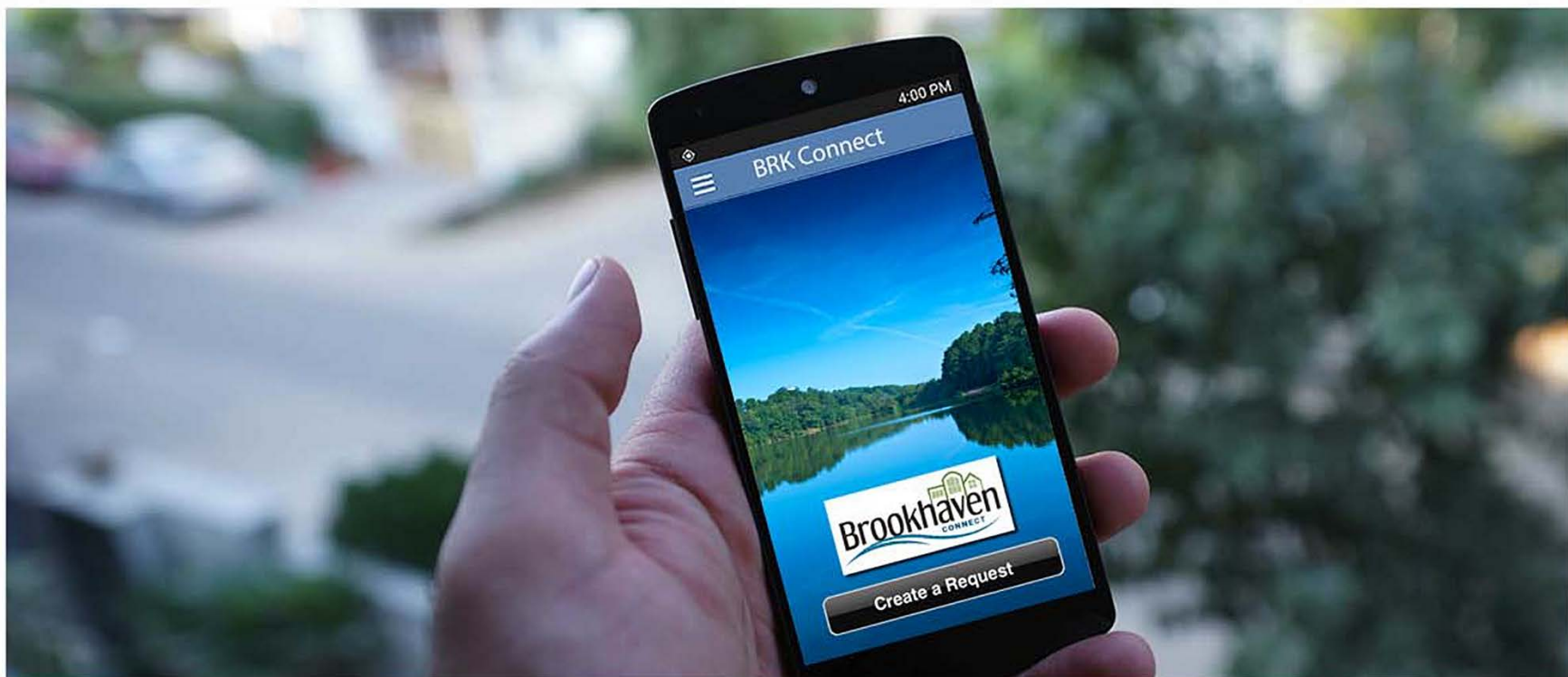
SCAN QR CODE TO
REGISTER NOW!



TEAMS WELCOME

SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 2024 - BLACKBURN PARK
REGISTRATION INFO AT WWW.BROOKCHERRYFEST.ORG

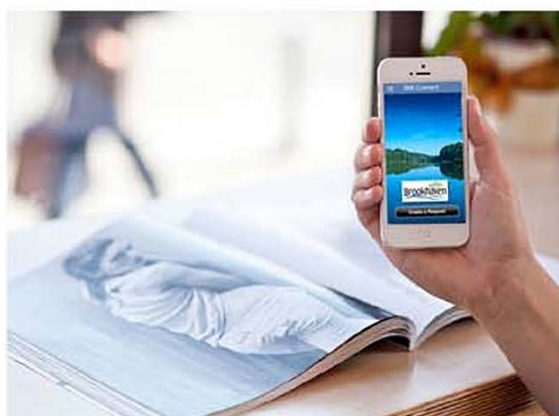
CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL: MARCH 23 & 24
@BROOKCHERRYFEST



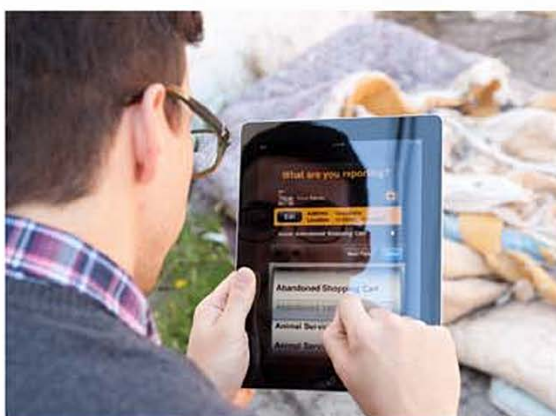
BROOKHAVEN, GA

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.