



CITY NEWS BLAST

Brookhaven Police Department off to a strong start

Brookhaven's new 54-officer police department has responded to more than 230 major incidents since launching on July 31.

In between proactively patrolling neighborhoods, officers have also responded to more than 85 traffic wrecks and issued more than 375 traffic citations.

Within the first 48 hours, Brookhaven police seized an assault rifle, narcotics, a stolen vehicle and several fake identification documents and arrested six people on charges ranging from theft to drug possession.

"We worked extremely hard to ensure that the force was ready to hit the



streets on July 31. Since then, officers have been getting more and more familiar with zones and neighborhood needs," Chief Gary Yandura said. "The reception of our officers by community members has been overwhelmingly positive."

The police department launched July 31 follow-

ing a formal ceremony at Town Brookhaven that featured the mayor, DeKalb County Police Honor Guard and other dignitaries.

The police department has made it a priority to engage with community groups and residents. On Aug. 8, officers delivered school supplies to the homes of

children identified as "in need" by local elementary schools.

Officers have also met with various neighborhood associations to discuss community safety and the process for establishing crime watch organizations.

"I am thrilled that residents are pleased with the city's new police department. With the support of our communities, the force will be successful in making Brookhaven a safe place to live, work and play," Mayor J. Max Davis said.

For more information on neighborhood watch programs, contact Lt. Brandon Gurley at 404-637-0610.

City takes over parks, celebrates with food truck event

There will be no lapse in maintenance to Brookhaven's 11 parks with the city's takeover on Sept. 3.

The city has entered into an emergency contract for a vendor to maintain the city's 11 parks for the rest of 2013.



This will ensure that crews will begin mowing grass, cleaning bathrooms, handling trash and providing continued upkeep to the parks immediately upon takeover from the county.

"This will ensure that the city operates

safe, clean and well maintained parks,” City Manager Marie L. Garrett said.

The city plans to host a food truck event series to celebrate the transition.

Brookhaven Food Truck Roundup will be held Sept. 4 from 5-9 p.m., weather permitting.

The food trucks, which will be held Wednesdays through October at Blackburn Park, are designed to be a weekly event to generate community interaction and city morale around the parks.

The city manager is now

interviewing the top five candidates for a parks and recreation director.

Brookhaven launched a nationwide search for a parks director in early August and has since received more than 60 applications for the position.

The city’s public works department is also in the process of conducting an assessment of all parks, including the condition of all parks, recreational buildings, playgrounds and other equipment. Brookhaven will then prioritize upgrades based on need and budget.

Brookhaven Police give back



Brookhaven Police delivered school supplies to Brookhaven children in need.

HOT TOPIC

For information about the city’s sexually oriented business ordinance, please take a moment to read the sexually oriented business Q&A , which can be found on our city web site:
www.brookhavenga.gov.

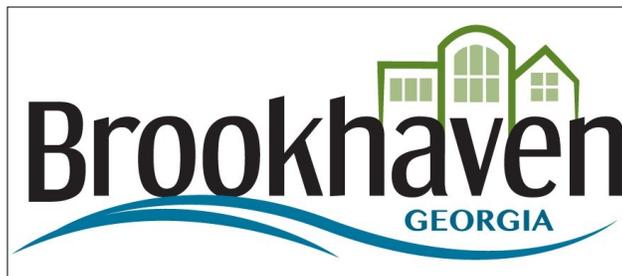
Brookhaven unveils new city logo; plans to add city signs

Brookhaven unveiled its new official city logo on Thursday, Aug. 29.

The logo was designed by Accent Creative Group of Lawrenceville after meetings with the mayor, city council members and city staff.

The logo represents both the history and future growth of Georgia’s newest city. The blue wave represents Brookhaven’s beautiful water bodies, including Peachtree Creek, Nancy Creek, Silver Lake and Murphey Candler Lake. The green cityscape represents both the historical architecture that the city boasts and its future economic development, as well as its proximity to downtown Atlanta.

“We are excited to have a new logo that represents the city’s natural beauty and unique location of being 100 percent inside the perimeter,” Mayor J. Max Davis said.



“We wanted something that unites all Brookhaven residents and businesses, and gives us something as a city to be proud of.” Councilmember Rebecca Chase Williams said.

The logo will be featured at city hall and on city limit signs, park signs, the web site, business cards and oth-

er marketing materials.

The city selected graphic design firm Accent Creative Group, which was awarded the international Gold Davey Award for the design of

Peachtree Corners’ logo. The award – the highest honor in the graphic design industry – was awarded to the new Gwinnett County city earlier this year.

“We are excited to unveil Brookhaven’s logo after months of working with the mayor and city council,” said Pam Ledbetter, president of Accent Creative.

The firm has also designed logos for Gwinnett County Parks & Recreation Department, Lake Lanier, as well as other Georgia cities.

Brookhaven to become more pedestrian-friendly

The state has committed more than \$15 million to improve pedestrian safety in Brookhaven on Clairmont Road and Buford Highway.

Clairmont Road Sidewalk Project

New sidewalk construction and pedestrian upgrades along Clairmont Road started Aug. 5.

The Clairmont Road Sidewalk Project, led by the Georgia Department of Transportation, includes improve-

ments to sidewalks, crosswalks and pedestrian signals along U.S. 23/Clairmont Road from Interstate 85 to Buford Highway/SR 13.



Upon completion, Clairmont Road will have 1.83 miles of 5-foot wide sidewalks along

both sides of the roadway. The project is scheduled to be complete in the fall of 2014 and is fully funded by the Georgia Department of Transportation.

Buford Highway Pedestrian Streetlight Project

On Aug. 13, the Brookhaven City Council voted unanimously to approve an intergovernmental agreement with the Georgia Department of Transportation to add more than 200 streetlights along Buford Highway.

The addition of pedestrian streetlights is part of the Buford Highway Sidewalk Project, which focuses on improving pedestrian safety.

The state has agreed to install 2.5 miles of pedestrian lighting spanning both sides of Buford Highway between the Atlanta city limit and Afton Drive. Brookhaven will assume costs related to power and maintenance after the project is completed.

Installation will begin in early 2014 and the project is expected to be complete by April 2015.

Corner Q&A

Brookhaven residents began receiving tax statements on August 12. City Finance Director Bonnie Kline answers questions about your tax bill.



Q: The city promised lower taxes. How has the city kept its promise?

Brookhaven approved a millage rate of 2.85 mills, which is considerably lower than DeKalb County's tax rate. Depending on property reassessment numbers, taxes in Brookhaven will be considerably lower than that of DeKalb County.

Q: I received a property tax bill from DeKalb County. Will I receive a separate bill for Brookhaven?

No, you will not receive a separate bill from the Brookhaven. The Brookhaven city tax is shown on a

separate line on the DeKalb bill.

Q: My home was reassessed by the county and was appraised at a higher value this year. How will that translate to what I pay this year in taxes?

It is likely that your property taxes will be higher this year if the DeKalb County Tax Assessors' Office appraised your property at a higher value. Had the appraised value remained the same, your property taxes would likely be lower than your 2012 bill. Brookhaven's millage rate of 2.85 replaces DeKalb's, which is currently set at 4.96 mills.

Q: What services is DeKalb County still providing and what services has Brookhaven taken over?

DeKalb County provides Fire & Rescue services and sanitation. Brookhaven provides police services and public works services, such as emergency maintenance and infrastructure upgrades, and will take over the maintenance and operation of all city parks in September.

Q: Why is there is a streetlight line item included on this tax bill?

The city did some clean-up on files received from DeKalb County and found that many DeKalb residents should have been charged for streetlights in the past, but were not. The city will not be back charging for the years that were not billed, but should have been.

Message From the Mayor

Dear Resident,

I am excited to report that we have now been an operational city for more than six months. In this issue, you will learn about some of our major recent accomplishments, including the launch of our 54-officer police department, the takeover of our parks, the unveiling of a new city logo and how we've fulfilled our promise to keep your taxes low.



In the weeks to come, the city will begin park clean-up efforts and launch an economic development and improvement plan for Buford Highway. Brookhaven will also begin accepting bids for a comprehensive plan that will include transportation and parks.

Please join us for a Town Hall meeting on Thursday, Sept. 19 at Oglethorpe University to discuss goals and plans for the future of our city.

Some of you have asked about how you can donate your time. The city is now accepting applications from volunteers. To apply to be a volunteer, please send an email to volunteer@brookhavenga.gov or a letter to the return address listed. Be sure to include all contact information and special areas of interest and expertise.

To learn more about news and events in Brookhaven, sign up for our e-newsletter by sending a request to news@brookhavenga.gov.

Thank you for your participation and input thus far in our growing city. We look forward to continuing our service to the residents of Brookhaven.

Sincerely,

Mayor J. Max Davis



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Current resident of: