

CITY NEWS

From Brookhaven to Baton Rouge

Following a month-long collection drive, a truckload of supplies donated by Brookhaven residents took off for flood-ravaged Baton Rouge, La., in September. When local residents Todd and Leanne Hall started the collection effort, District 4 Councilmember Joe Gebbia made arrangements for items to be stored at the city’s Briarwood Rec Center, an effort supported by Mayor John Ernst and the City Council. “The residents of Brookhaven responded in a very big way and showed their caring hearts,” Gebbia said.

Local resident Tom DeLadurantey, owner of You Move Me Atlanta, offered to donate his services to transport the supplies on the eight-hour trip. Donated items included food, school supplies, toiletries, pet food, bedding, clothing, portable beds, water, bug spray and cleaning supplies. Iberia Bank created an account where residents could also donate money.

“This is the second time we’ve had [a collection drive for] a disaster and Brookhaven residents really stepped up,” Ernst said.



Clockwise from top right: Councilmember Gebbia looks over donations; Hall boxes items; City staff member David Delgado helps pack donated goods; Mayor Ernst thanks DeLadurantey for volunteering to take the items to Louisiana.



From the Desk of the Mayor

Building a community of character

Brookhaven has the great fortune to be full of passionate and creative individuals who truly care about our City. These citizens are working with City leaders and staff, local businesses, and community organizations to tackle some of Brookhaven's longstanding problems, such as traffic, infrastructure and greenspace needs, in innovative ways.

Here are three recent examples of how working together, we've been able to accomplish meaningful improvements and shape the future of our city:

Visioning greenspace

What began as a grassroots effort, the recently adopted Peachtree Creek Greenway Master Plan is the product of the hard work of Brookhaven residents, City and North DeKalb County officials, local businesses and non-profits. The plan envisions a 2.7-mile multi-purpose linear park with expanded walking and cycling opportunities along the north fork of Peachtree Creek. Hopefully we can expand on this trail to create a city-wide belpline that will connect with the Atlanta Beltline and PATH400.

Striving for smart growth

In response to rapid real estate developments happening across the City, the City Council enacted a six-month moratorium on high density developments to allow the City time to chart a course for smart growth. In addition, City Council stood with residents by denying, under threat of legal action, zoning requests on poorly planned developments, and deferred projects to send a message development must be in keeping with Brookhaven's ultimate vision.

As part of our planning process, the City's Character Area Study is currently underway to inform future Zoning Code rewrite efforts. So far, more than 200 residents have participated. Some bold ideas have been recommended, such as pocket neighborhoods, walkable boulevards and neighbor-



John Ernst, Mayor
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hood-scaled commercial districts.

Enhancing our parks

Recently, the City installed new pedestrian bridges at Murphey Candler and Briarwood parks in addition to improvements at Ashford Park, all with countless hours of resident input and planning. Next year, we will have brand new parks at Skyland, Clack's Corner and major improvements will be completed at all City parks; thanks to a year-long resident-driven planning process.

Some improvements in our parks are due to the continued efforts of neighbor-driven conservancies. Nature trails and thriving community gardens have resulted from their recent and long-term hard work at Blackburn, Murphey Candler, Briarwood and Brookhaven parks.

Since our last newsletter, we also welcomed our new City Manager, Christian Sigman, to Brookhaven. In just four short months, he has already made great improvements to the day-to-day operations of our City.

The work doesn't stop on realizing Brookhaven's vision and we will continue to work with the residents to build our community of character. Over the next few months, I will continue addressing – along with you – the City's infrastructure, development and greenspace needs.

Please join me at one of my upcoming monthly Town Hall meetings to learn and share with your neighbors and my administration. Or don't hesitate to contact me at john.ernst@brookhavenga.gov or at 404-637-0710 with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

John Ernst

Brookhaven
GEORGIA

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. Go to the "City Government" tab near the top of the homepage and click on "Meetings & Agendas."



Wood boring beetles endanger City's trees

Both Southern Pine Beetles and Asian Ambrosia Beetles have been detected in Brookhaven as well as the entire metro Atlanta area, posing a threat to both healthy and stressed trees. The City of Brookhaven suggests the following steps:

1. Keep trees healthy. Water at least twice a week in the evenings (even if it's with grey water from showers).
2. Consult with a certified arborist about preventative treatments such as bark spray, but note that those are not 100 percent effective.
3. Avoid pruning pine trees if pos-

sible as the chemicals released attract the beetles.

4. If lightning strikes a pine tree, remove it.
5. Trees infested with pine beetles should be removed and burned or chipped on site.
6. Do not place the pine wood chips anywhere near pine trees.
7. Do not store cut pine logs for outdoor fireplaces unless they are under sealed tarps for three months.
8. Trees infested with Asian Ambrosia Beetles should be removed and burned, and trunks should be treated

with the proper insecticide.

9. If you suspect a beetle infestation, report it on Brookhaven Connect under the category "Trees (Dead/Diseased/Hazardous)" to allow the City to track the problem, as well as confirm the tree should be removed.

10. There's no requirement to obtain a tree removal application if the tree has an infestation verified by a certified arborist.

Visit www.brookhavenga.gov for more information on the dangers these insects pose, signs of infestation and solutions.

Sidewalks, paving progressing

Brookhaven Public Works Director Richard Meehan recently presented a sidewalk update to City Council highlighting completed projects. Since the City's inception nearly four years ago, 2.38 miles of sidewalks have been installed. Meehan also reported that 22.84 miles of streets have been repaved since the City began. The department is working on developing five-year plans to prioritize projects. To learn more, visit www.brookhavenga.gov.



The newly opened ElectroBike store on Briarcliff Road has donated an electric-assisted bicycle to the Brookhaven Police Department, which will add it to its fleet of bicycles which the department uses for special patrols. The bike is outfitted with flashing blue lights and a siren and can reach 25 mph. Left, Sgt. Justin Young takes the bike for a test ride. Pictured below are Luke Story with the Brookhaven Chamber of Commerce, ElectroBike owner Eric Hunger, Councilmember Joe Gebbia, Chamber President Alan Goodman and Police Chief Gary Yandura at PD headquarters.



Park surveys complete, bridges installed

Brookhaven's Parks & Recreation Department recently completed ahead of schedule field surveys of each of its parks, a project that Park Director Brian Borden said is "a crucial first step in getting started implementing our individual park master plans." As part of those plans, new pedestrian bridges have also been installed in Murphey Candler and Briarwood parks. At right, park master plan consultant Liz Cole and Borden discuss the new bridge in Murphey Candler Park. Grand openings for each bridge are being planned.



City Council Notes

10 great ideas for fall fun in District 1 parks

This fall, we encourage Brookhaven residents to take advantage of our great Brookhaven parks with some of these fun ideas for getting outside:

1. Go on a hike around Murphey Candler Lake and visit the newly installed bridge.
2. Have an old-fashioned picnic on a blanket at Blackburn Park.
3. Play indoor or outdoor basketball at Lynwood Park.
4. Hike the beautiful, undeveloped forest at Osborne Park.
5. Walk a dog along the paths and sidewalks of Blackburn Park.
6. Take a yoga class at Lynwood Park.
7. Have a cookout at a picnic shelter by the lake at Murphey Candler (no reservation required!).
8. Kick a soccer ball around or have a baseball catch at Blackburn Park.
9. Practice hitting baseballs in the batting cages at Murphey Candler.
10. Play tennis at Lynwood Park or the Blackburn Park



Linley Jones
District 1

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Tennis Center.

The City of Brookhaven is working hard to continue improving the City's parks by beginning the implementation of the Brookhaven Parks Master Plans.

You will see even more improvements and changes coming soon in all our parks.

Always feel free to e-mail me anytime with questions or concerns at linley.jones@brookhavenga.gov.

I hope to see you soon in the park!

Turning dirt

As many of you know, I write software for a living. A good software developer knows that putting in the extra effort to clearly define requirements and carefully design the application, before writing code, will yield a more stable program or website. This will save time and money in the long run. With most projects, it will be weeks or even months before I write one line of code.

Brookhaven has spent almost four years, millions of dollars, and countless staff and citizen hours preparing the Parks Master Plan, Bike Ped Plan, Transportation Plan, Peachtree Creek Greenway Plan, Comprehensive Plan, and individual parks master plans for good measure. I'm sure you're tired of meetings.

Now it's time to write code or rather, turn dirt. Paving is on course to build a healthy system in five years: <http://www.brookhavenga.gov/city-departments/public-works/-/paving>. We continue to fill in gaps in our sidewalk network keeping in mind the Bike Ped Plan: <http://www.brookhavenga.gov/city-departments/public-works/sidewalks>.

In District 2, we've built a new pedestrian bridge at Briarwood Park and new shade structures and family pavilion at Ashford Park (and don't forget the new playground last year). Next year, expect a complete build out of Skyland Park with a new multi-use field, playground and dog park. Georgian Hills Park will get a new playground, basketball court, multi-use walkway and open-air seating area. Ashford Park will get a tricycle track, cookout patio, tennis



John Park
District 2

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court seat walls and loop trail. All these amenities are scheduled to be available by July or August of 2017.

I thank everyone who has engaged in the planning and invite all of you to further participate in making our neighborhood and Brookhaven a great place to live.

Also, we are in negotiations with DeKalb County to purchase the "PDK Greenspace," which will be a giant step toward reaching Brookhaven's stated goal of providing eight acres of parks and greenspace per 1,000 residents (currently 5.6).

We've done so much together. I'm proud to represent the City of Brookhaven and especially AshDrewFields. Please call me at 404-822-7059 or email me at john.park@brookhavenga.gov with any questions or concerns.

City Council Notes

Traffic & development: Creating smart solutions

In speaking with Brookhaven residents, the most common complaint is traffic and density. According to the Atlanta Regional Commission, the Metro Atlanta area has added one million people over the last decade, and is anticipated to add an additional 2.5 million by 2040. While traffic and development are largely regional issues, the City is looking at ways to relieve our roads and encourage smart development.

Since the inception of the City, we have commissioned a citywide study to identify traffic issues, allowing City management a comprehensive look at our current status. From that study, the city has drilled down to specific areas to address: the Ashford Dunwoody corridor and the Peachtree/N.Druid/Dresden Drive corridor. The plans to address these major corridors are in the works, which will allow our City to develop strategies to fund the improvements.

Improvements to major corridors are expensive - larger than our City's budget can afford. Specific to the Brookhaven MARTA, improvements to the Peachtree/Dresden/N. Druid Hills corridor can be "built into" the project in partnership



Bates Mattison
District 3

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with the developer, reducing or eliminating the need to burden our taxpayers. We will continue to look at ways to improve traffic flow and to develop and fund solutions. While we will always have a reliance on cars, I believe most people would rather not have to sit in traffic if there is an alternative.

The main contributor to our traffic issues in Brookhaven is the reality that job growth in the metro area has increased 20 percent since the recession and our city is in the crosshairs of commuter traffic coming from all directions. If we want to decrease the amount of cars on our roads throughout Metro Atlanta, we have to look at "smart development" around transportation alternatives and providing a mix of uses within our community.

Currently, Brookhaven has very little opportunity for commercial office and shared/collaborative workspaces. Therefore, the majority of our residents get in their car and drive somewhere else to go to work. If we approve "smart developments" that increase our work options, as well as provide housing options that have access to MARTA and other commute options, we will actually be reducing traffic based on current metro growth trends.

We should not rush to a decision on the MARTA TOD

The rezoning of the MARTA TOD, or Transit Oriented Development, is of a much greater scope than the typical technical rezoning decisions we as a City Council are asked to make. We are talking about Brookhaven's front door, the City's only transit center and the convergence of three of the City's busiest streets.

[Following an Oct. 25 unanimous 90-day deferral of MARTA's rezoning request] we find ourselves after literally years of preparation, analysis, studies, public participation and media coverage. As a City Council we wholeheartedly support this transparency and engagement. We also know this type of project inherently brings out the passions of interested parties on both sides of the issue.

Caring, engaging citizens want to know how this project is going to impact them. We have heard from you. Many have worked hard to educate themselves on the issues at hand including traffic engineering, watershed management, urban planning, sewer systems, economic development, and abatements. These are complex, interrelated issues and the City Council has the obligation to weigh the opinions of many along with the analysis of experts.

The Oct. 25 decision is a zoning issue, and the technical aspects of the issues at hand have been largely resolved. But I also believe it is accurate to say that I and my fellow colleagues still have remaining concerns over some key issues.



Joe Gebbia
District 4

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We have been inundated with questions about stormwater impacts on the Fernwood Detention Basin, Fernwood Park and downstream flooding. I would like to see staff work with the developer to determine the impact and cost of onsite stormwater detention to address these concerns.

Another concern we have heard is the need for citizen input on the design of the project. I think it is the direction of the Council to establish an Architectural Review Board for the purpose of providing guidance to Council on this very important project as well as future projects of this magnitude.

Sewer capacity is the next issue and it is not simply an issue just for this development, but also for the strategic future of DeKalb County.

Finally, the developer has sought public financing of what has been described as "site amenities." While a discussion, analysis and debate over incentives is not a part of the rezoning decision, the developer has included

in the public funding of "site amenities" the specific cost of various rezoning conditions. These include road improvements. If the City refuses to pay for these road improvements, AND if MARTA refuses to pay for these road improvements, AND if the developer refuses to pay for these road improvements.... The question remains - do we have a viable project?

These concerns support a valid reason not to rush to a decision.

Around Town



Hundreds of runners participated in the City's annual 5Ks this year. Above left, the Brookhaven Police Department's Hot Pursuit and Tot Trot in September raised funds for the department's Shop With a Badge event in which officers take less fortunate children Christmas shopping. Above right, in July the Brookhaven Parks & Recreation Department hosted its annual It Starts in the Park run that took participants on a route through Blackburn Park.



The Brookhaven Police Department along with the departments of Sandy Springs, Dunwoody and Johns Creek, hosted the annual National Night Out event in August at Perimeter Mall. The nationwide event allows the community to mingle with and learn about public safety officers and units. Above center, Brookhaven Sgt. Justin Young and Police Chief Gary Yandura escort City mascot Brook as he greets young visitors at the event. Above right, a Children's Healthcare of Atlanta made a surprise landing demonstration.



Right, the Brookhaven Parks & Recreation Department hosted a screening of "The Force Awakens" in Blackburn Park in July. Above, the movie was preceded by a friendly match of "Nerf Wars." Left, Councilmembers Bates Mattison and Linley Jones and Parks Director Brian Borden gather during the "Nerf Wars" game.

Special Events



Participants created some 30 pieces of art when the City hosted its second annual Paint the Park event in Blackburn Park in September.

Above: Rebecca Ganz puts the finishing touches on her winning entry in the adult category.

Right: Naa Adua Annan works on her third place entry in the children 8 and up category.

Below: Finished pieces line Ashford Dunwoody Road.

Winners were: 1st place adult- Rebecca Ganz; 2nd place adult- Margaret Boylan; 3rd place adult- Laurenthia Mesh; 1st place child 8 & up- Haven Somerson; 2nd place child 8 & up- Sadie Ganz; 3rd place child 8 & up- Naa Adua Annan; 1st place child under 8- Victor Pelaez; 2nd place child under 8- Monroe Culbreth; 3rd place child under 8- Keegan Ludwig; Honorable Mention- Damion Tice; Judges Entry- Mike Potts; Sponsor Entry- Ida Beth Barner. All winning entries will be on permanent display in City Hall.



Light Up Brookhaven

DATE: Thursday, Dec 8

TIME: 6-8 p.m.

LOCATION: Blackburn Park, 3493 Ashford Dunwoody Road

DETAILS: This FREE event features special musical performance, visits with Santa (parents welcome to take pics), holiday crafts, Toys for Tots collection box, hot chocolate sale, refreshments and Christmas tree and Hanukkah display lighting.

Red and White Ball

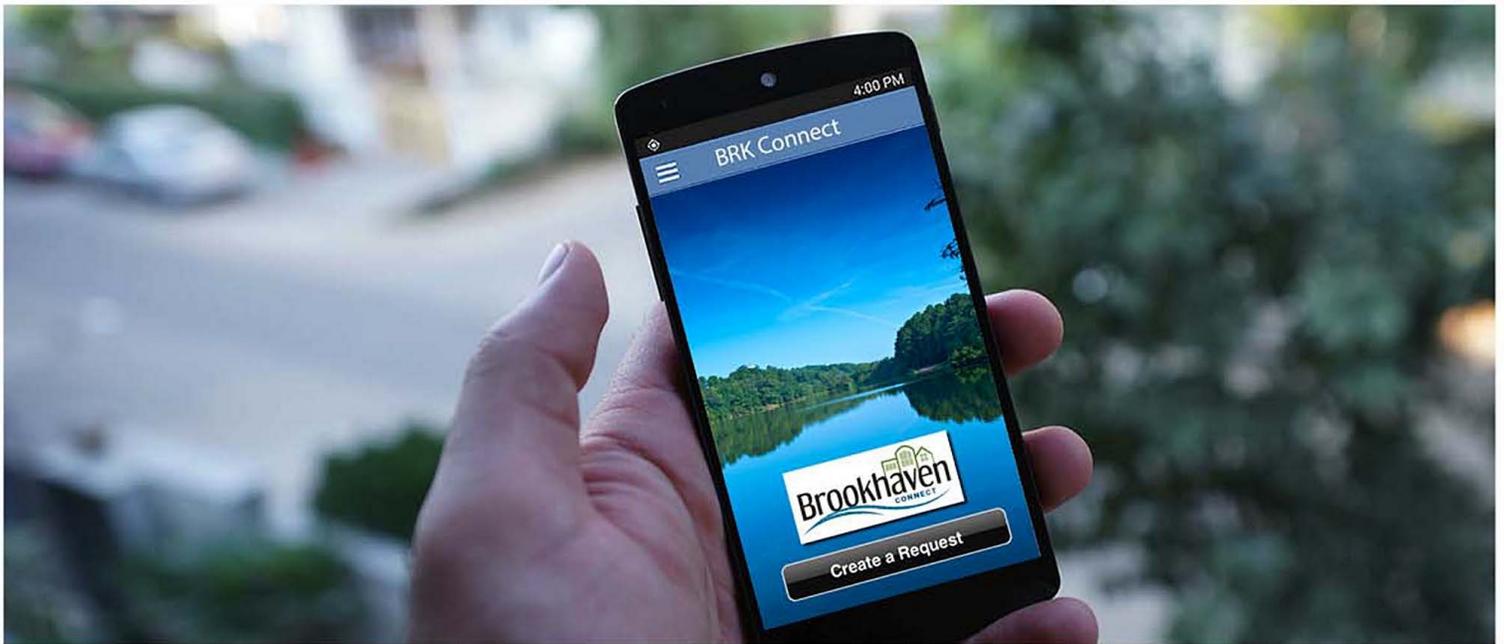
DATE: Saturday, Dec. 10

TIME: 7-11 p.m.

FEE: 13 & up: \$30 / 6-12: \$15 / 5 & under: Free

LOCATION: Lynwood Community Center, 3360 Osborne Road

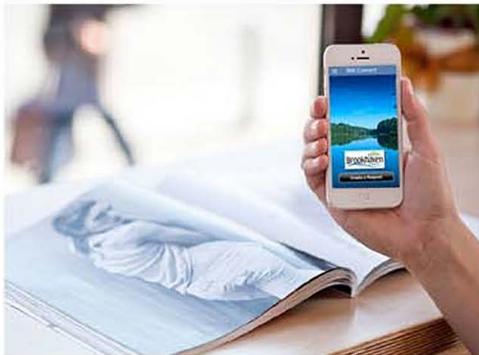
DETAILS: This holiday ball and toy drive will benefit people of all ages. The ball will feature a dinner and jazz band providing the entertainment, and will also be a means to donate toys that will be given to Toys for Tots to go to children in need during the holidays.



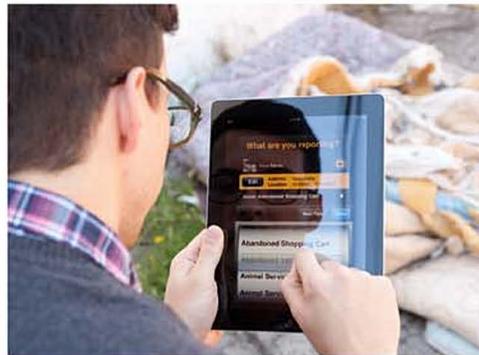
BROOKHAVEN, GA

Brookhaven Connect

EFFORTLESS CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT



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