

**Council Adopts 2008-09 Budget and Lowers Tax Rate by Two Cents**

The Benbrook City Council adopted the City's 2008-09 Budget on Thursday, September 18, 2008. The Budget, which goes into effect on October 1, 2008, is based on reducing the property tax rate by two cents to 67.75 cents per \$100 valuation. This tax rate adjustment is Benbrook's fourth reduction in the past four years and the seventh decrease in the past nine years; the net reduction of the property tax rate for this period is 10.75 cents.



Total operating fund revenues are \$14,414,582 and operating fund expenditures are \$14,447,325. The Budget projects that at the end of the 2008-09 fiscal year, operating fund reserves will total \$6,947,556, or a decrease of \$32,743, from the estimated 2008-09 beginning fund balance of \$6,980,299.

Operating expenditures included in the 2008-09 Budget reflect a net increase of \$374,760, or 2.66%, over the 2007-08 Budget of \$14,072,565.

The 2008-09 Budget includes sufficient funds to continue all current City programs. No reductions or cuts in service are required or expected during the upcoming fiscal year. The increase in General Fund expenditures is attributed to a variety of expenses including adjusting salaries and fringe benefits, replacing and adding equipment and operating supplies, and implementing special projects. The reduction in Debt Service expenditures results from financing principal and interest payments for drainage projects from the Stormwater Utility Fund.

Highlights of the 2008-2009 Budget include: replacement of five police vehicles; replacement of one ambulance; new truck for street maintenance; replacement of wooden light poles at ball field; raw water irrigation system for parks; and software to provide internet reservations and payments for City services. Projects to be funded by the Stormwater Utility Fund include the Mary's Creek Drainage Study (in conjunction with the City of Fort Worth) and the Erosion Project for Timberline Drive.

**A summary of the 2008-09 Budget may be found in the Budget Section of the City's website at [www.cityofbenbrook.com](http://www.cityofbenbrook.com).**

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Please note:  
Certain material included in this newsletter is provided by other entities. Any opinions expressed by those entities do not necessarily reflect the official views of the City. The City reserves the right to edit as necessary, however, the City does not guarantee the accuracy of the information provided and is not responsible for errors or omissions.

## Voting Information

The November 4, 2008 General Election will be conducted by Tarrant County Elections. Although Benbrook City staff is not responsible for conducting the election, we stand ready to provide assistance to our citizens. Helpful information on early voting (by mail and in-person), voting hours, voter registration, phone numbers, and addresses are located on the Tarrant County Elections website at [www.tarrantcounty.com/evote](http://www.tarrantcounty.com/evote). Below is a sample of the information located on the Tarrant County site:



### Important Dates for November 4, 2008 Election

<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>
October 6, 2008	Last day to register to vote. Voter Registration applications must be received by Tarrant County or clearly postmarked on this date.
October 20, 2008	First day of in-person early voting.
October 28, 2008	Last day to apply for a ballot by mail. Application must be received by Tarrant County, not merely postmarked.
October 31, 2008	Last day of in-person early voting.
November 4, 2008	ELECTION DAY (polls open 7:00 AM until 7:00 PM)

### Early Voting in Person

If you are eligible to vote in Tarrant County on Election Day, you are eligible to vote at ANY Tarrant County early voting site during the early voting period. The lines are shorter and the days and hours are more convenient. Early voting is open to all registered voters, no excuses necessary.

## Household Hazardous Waste Collection

On **Saturday, October 25**, the City of Benbrook will host a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event for citizens of Benbrook from 9am-11am at Dutch Branch Park, at the rear parking lot behind Par 3 Golf. A mobile collection unit and staff will collect the following household materials for disposal: **acids, aerosol cans, antifreeze, all batteries, brake fluid, craft and hobby materials, degreasers, drain cleaners, fertilizer, fluorescent lights, herbicides, household chemicals, motor oil, oil filters, paints/stains, paint thinners, pest strips, pesticides, pharmaceuticals, photo chemicals, pool chemicals, solvents, varnishes, and transmission fluid.**

Cyclone Recycling will also be on-site to collect electronic waste such as computers, monitors, CPU's, scanners, printers, printer cartridges, fax machines, phones, cell phones, lawnmowers, and small household appliances such as microwaves.

The following materials **CANNOT** be accepted: *ammunition, explosives, medical waste, radioactive material (smoke detectors), waste generated by businesses, tires, propane and butane cylinders.*

Important: a recent Benbrook water bill must be shown as proof of residency.

For more information, call City Hall at 817-249-3000.

## Benbrook Economic Development

**B**enbrook Economic Development Corporation's (BEDC) Board of Directors continues to work toward retail development of approximately 80 acres on the west side of Benbrook Boulevard (US377), in an area located south of the I-20 frontage road, north of Sproles, and east of Vista Way. The Board is negotiating for approximately 53 acres of oil & gas minerals in Benbrook Field. Two companies are vying for the lease. BEDC Board of Directors is closely reviewing the proposals and expects to make a decision in the near future.

A North Carolina developer has submitted a contract for more than 11.5 acres for a big box development. The property is located south of Albertson's, between CVS and Jack in the Box, and was previously contracted to The Home Depot. The earlier contract was terminated mid-July with the company citing increased construction costs, increased site cost, and slumping corporate sales.

Wal-Mart officials have named a new Regional Real Estate Manager, Hunter Hart, for the Fort Worth and Dallas area. On September 12, Mr. Hart informed BEDC Staff that he will be in Benbrook within 30 days to visit the proposed Wal-Mart tract located on Benbrook Blvd. (US377), south of Mercedes and east of Vista Way. The company has reduced its pace of constructing 400 new SuperCenters per year to 140. The construction reduction has caused a delay in the planned Benbrook site to at least 2011. Mr. Hart is the fourth Regional Real Estate Manager assigned to the Benbrook area since the company contracted with the BEDC to purchase approximately 20 acres.

BEDC, in partnership with the Benbrook Area Chamber of Commerce, is gathering petition signatures in support of a Wal-Mart store in Benbrook. Those persons desiring construction of a Wal-Mart SuperCenter in Benbrook are encouraged to sign the petition. Copies are available at the Benbrook Area Chamber of Commerce office (8507 Benbrook Blvd.) and at the October 18<sup>th</sup> Benbrook Heritage Fest "Cowboy Roundup" celebration.

## Floodplain Update

**C**ould your house flood? To learn whether your house or property is within a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA), designated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), contact the City Community Development Department at City Hall at **817-249-3000**, or go online to [www.cityofbenbrook.com](http://www.cityofbenbrook.com), select "Interactive Maps", check the boxes next to "Parcels" and "Flood Zones", then select "Update Map." Locate your property on the map to determine if you are in a SFHA. The City mails a Floodplain Newsletter to the owners of property within the 100-year floodplain each year. If your property is within a flood hazard zone, you may want to purchase flood insurance even if your lender does not require it, since flood insurance is not part of your standard homeowner's insurance coverage.

Benbrook has participated in a Community Rating System for the National Flood Insurance program since 1991. Benbrook currently has a Rating of "6", putting it in the top eight percent of all cities nationally for reducing flood hazards. Property owners within the 100-year floodplain are eligible for a 20% discount on flood insurance. Contact your flood insurance carrier to assure you are receiving the appropriate discount.

FEMA proposes new floodplain maps for Tarrant County under its Map Modernization (MapMod) program. The new maps will incorporate more accurate topographic information as well as the results of special flood studies prepared by Benbrook on Timber Creek, Willow Bend Creek, Plantation East Creek, and Plantation West Creek. City staff believes many residents will benefit from the more accurate mapping. The City expects the new floodplain maps to become effective for insurance purposes sometime in late 2009.



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City of Benbrook

### City Council:

Jerry Dittrich, Mayor  
Keith Bailey, Place 3  
Rickie Allison, Place 4  
Dan Tully, Place 5  
Mark Washburn, Place 6  
Ron Sauma, Place 7

Benbrook City Council normally  
meets on the 1st & 3rd  
Thursday of each month at  
7:30PM at City Hall  
911 Winscott Road.

For more information:  
call 817-249-3000  
e-mail: [info@cityofbenbrook.com](mailto:info@cityofbenbrook.com)

## Community News

The **Benbrook Senior Center**, 1010 Mercedes Street, is holding it's 2nd Annual Craft Sale on Friday, October 24th and Saturday, October 25 from 8:00am–4:00pm each day. The Sale features hand-crafted items, a quilt raffle, and a silent auction. All proceeds benefit the Center's sewing projects, which are donated to various charitable groups. Vendors are still needed, please call 817-249-6300.

**2008 Benbrook Heritage Fest "Cowboy Roundup"** takes place Saturday, October 18, at Dutch Branch Park Athletic Complex. Don't miss this free-admission, family-friendly heritage celebration! The festivities start at 10:00am and continue throughout the day. Bluegrass kings, Cadillac Sky, perform around 7:00pm.

The **City of Benbrook** reminds you that City Hall will be closed Monday, October 13, in observance of Columbus Day. Also, Allied Waste will pick up garbage/recycling on Wednesday, November, 26th (prior to Thanksgiving Day), the regularly scheduled pick-up day for that week.

The **Benbrook Early Childhood PTA (BECPTA)** is an organization of families with children ranging from newborn to kindergarten age. BECPTA offers a social support network for parents in Benbrook, Aledo, West Fort Worth, and surrounding areas. The group offers monthly children's activities such as holiday parties, field trips, and play dates. Grown-up activities include Parent Education Programs, Lunch Bunch, Coffee Club, and Bunco. Visitors are always welcome and nursery is provided free of charge for first-time visitors. For more information, visit their website at [www.BECPTA.org](http://www.BECPTA.org).

The **Benbrook Community Center/YMCA** is conducting Fall Swim Lessons for ages 6 months to 12 years old. Classes are taught by certified swim instructors and Benbrook residents receive a 10% discount. For more information, contact Claudia Miller at 817-249-0500 or email at [cmiller@ymcafw.org](mailto:cmiller@ymcafw.org). Also, Winter Basketball season starts December 8, and registration begins November 7. For more information, contact Steve Walton at 817-249-0500 or email at [swalton@ymcafw.org](mailto:swalton@ymcafw.org). Sign up online at: [www.benbrookcommunitycenterymcafw.org](http://www.benbrookcommunitycenterymcafw.org).