



A publication of the  
City of Benbrook

[www.cityofbenbrook.com](http://www.cityofbenbrook.com)

October/November 2007

## Council Adopts 2007-2008 Budget / Lowers Tax Rate

The Benbrook City Council adopted the City's 2007-08 Budget on Friday, September 28, 2007. The Budget, effective October 1, 2007, is based on reducing the property tax rate from its current level of \$0.7225 per \$100 valuation by two and one-half cents to \$0.6975 per \$100 valuation. This tax rate adjustment is Benbrook's third reduction in the past three years and the sixth decrease in the past decade.

Total operating fund revenues are \$13,921,627 and operating fund expenditures are \$13,697,565. The Budget includes the transfer of \$250,000 from the General Fund to the Core Values Fund for the Benbrook Boulevard Improvement Project and the transfer of \$125,000 from the General Fund to the Capital Projects Fund for a traffic signal installation on Winscott Road. These transfers result in total expenditures of \$14,072,565.

The 2007-08 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 2007-2008 Budget includes the addition of four new positions. Three additional Police Officers are included to expand patrol activities and ensure continued rapid police response times. One new Police Officer position is included for assignment to Western Hills High School; the FWISD will reimburse a portion of the costs.

The Budget provides funds to implement and/or expand services and programs. These enhancements include: bike route expansions, intoxilyzer testing, replacement plan for Fire Department's self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), compressed air foam system for fire fighting and suppression, Life Pak 12 cardiac monitor for the fourth ambulance, year one of the street sign upgrade program, year one of the LED traffic signal conversion, light pole replacement at Ball Field #2, overlay of the parking lot at the Athletic Complex, and video-taping of monthly Planning and Zoning meetings for broadcast on the City's cable channel and on the City's webpage.

## Benbrook Economic Development Corporation Update

In August, Benbrook City Council adopted Land Use Plan amendments to the Comprehensive Plan for a development located on the west side of U.S. Highway 377/Benbrook Boulevard, north and south of Mercedes Street, and south of I-20/Loop 820.

Council considered issues such as location and height of multi-tenant signs, architectural enhancements, screening walls, and re-zoning. City Council voted to rezone the 137.172 acres of land that will include approximately 53 commercial properties. This action paves the way for the proposed construction of Home Depot on an 11 acre site and Wal-Mart Super Center, which will occupy 20+ acres on the site.

The Economic Development Corporation predicts favorable economic growth from these retail giants. Anticipated Home Depot sales are \$30 million per year and Wal-Mart sales could reach \$50 million annually. Sales taxes from these two retailers could generate \$800,000 per year for the City of Benbrook and an additional \$400,000 per year for the Benbrook Economic Development Corporation and the Library District.

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Please note: Certain material included in this newsletter was 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

## Community News

**Benbrook Community Center/YMCA** announces the Harvest Festival taking place on Saturday, October 27, from 2pm-5pm at the YMCA. This fall celebration includes carnival games, pool games, bounce houses, open swim, horses, and a lighted pumpkin contest. The event is free. For more information on the event or on YMCA fall sports programs, contact Sarah Gray at **817-249-0500**.

**Western Hills High School** Assistant Principal, Denise Kahn, announces that the Disney Channel will air the summer Hills-Heights production of "High School Musical" this fall. A film crew spent several days this summer documenting the production under the leadership of WHHS Theater Director, Julia Worthington. Check local listings for details.

**The Visitors Center and the City of Benbrook** remind you that the 2007 Heritage Fest "Cowboy Roundup" event takes place on Saturday, October 6, at Dutch Branch Park from 10am-9pm. This fun-filled day includes arts & crafts, a Kiddy Korral, a Native American Village, Cowboy Camp, local dance performances, great food and an evening concert and fireworks finale. Free admission. For more information, call Sam Balkum at **817-249-4451**.

**The City of Benbrook** announces that City Hall will be closed on Monday, October 8, in observance of Columbus Day. Also, Allied Waste will pick up garbage/recycling on Wednesday, November 21 (prior to Thanksgiving Day), the regularly scheduled pick-up day for that week.

## Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day



On Saturday, October 27, the City of Benbrook is hosting a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event for citizens of Benbrook from 9am-11am at the Benbrook Industrial Park at 7400 Benbrook Parkway. A mobile collection unit and staff will be available to 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, transmission fluid, and varnishes.*

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.**
- People who arrive before 9am should be prepared to wait until the collection unit is set up and staff are available to load and transfer items from vehicles to the collection unit.

If the weight capacity of the collection unit is reached before 11am, residents will receive vouchers to take material to the Fort Worth Environmental Collection Center.

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

## Stormwater Utility System

The City of Benbrook has identified numerous locations throughout the City that do not drain properly or convey stormwater safely and effectively during heavy rainfall. Stormwater runoff management in our City is a major concern of City Council. To address this issue, on September 6, City Council established a Stormwater Utility System. Acting on State legislation which allows political subdivisions to create a Stormwater Utility System and to assess a dedicated fee to fund the utility, City Council identifies this system as a viable option for funding necessary maintenance, repair, and construction of stormwater facilities.

Beginning October 2007, residential property owners will be charged a \$6.50 flat fee per month for each dwelling unit on their property. The stormwater fee for non-residential properties (including commercial, industrial, institutional, and multi-family) is calculated individually based on the specific impervious area on the property. Impervious coverage is a surface (such as a building, or concrete, asphalt, and compacted soil parking areas and driveways) that does not allow the soil to naturally absorb water during rainfall events.

The stormwater fee will be included, as a separate charge, in the monthly water/sewer/refuse bill sent by the Benbrook Water Authority. The stormwater fee is a dedicated fee going directly to the Stormwater Utility and can only be spent on stormwater related activities.

This new fee enables the City of Benbrook to fund construction projects and operation and maintenance expenses, which will help alleviate present flooding problems and correct drainage issues that may negatively affect water quality in streams and lakes in the area.

For more information, go to the City website at: [www.cityofbenbrook.com](http://www.cityofbenbrook.com) or call **817-249-6062**.

## Floodplain Update

Could 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 Community Rating of "6", putting it in the top eight percent of all cities in the nation 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 2008.



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### City Council:

Jerry Dittrich, Mayor  
James Schull, Place 2  
Keith Bailey, Place 3  
Rickie Allison, Place 4  
Dan Tully, Place 5  
Larry Stowe, 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)

## 4PAWS Implements New Spay / Neuter Program

**4PAWS (Pets Are Worth Saving)** was organized in 1997 in response to the local need for stray pet adoptions. In an effort to reduce the number of unwanted puppies and kittens in the City of Benbrook, 4PAWS is implementing a new spay/neuter program, serving Benbrook residents only at this time. The program, designed to assist in the cost of pet spay/neuter services, is open to ALL Benbrook pet owners. 4PAWS has entered into an agreement with Cityview Animal Hospital to provide surgical and preventative services (if needed at the time of surgery) at reduced cost to residents of Benbrook. Some residents may also qualify for supplemental financial assistance through 4PAWS, allowing for no cost services. "We encourage any Benbrook resident to contact us about this program, as we want to assist them in assuring their pets are spayed or neutered," says Pat Dunkin of 4PAWS.

### 4PAWS reminds citizens of the following:



- Pet ownership is a privilege with responsibilities, please assure your pet is spayed or neutered.
- If you want to adopt a pet, contact 4PAWS and add your name to the Wish List. If an adoptable pet becomes available, 4PAWS will contact you for possible adoption.
- If you find a lost pet, please take it to the Benbrook Animal Shelter at 467 Winscott Road so the rightful owner can claim their pet. Should the owner not claim the pet at the shelter, the pet can find a new home through 4PAWS adoption.
- If your pet is missing, please contact the Benbrook Animal Shelter at 817-249-1610 or 4PAWS.

For more information on the spay/neuter program, volunteering, or making donations, please contact 4 PAWS at 817-249-0459 or [admin@4pawsinc.org](mailto:admin@4pawsinc.org). 4PAWS is currently selling tickets to Macy's Shop for a Cause sale event taking place on October 13, for \$5 per ticket, benefiting 4PAWS. You are invited to visit the 4PAWS booth at the Benbrook Heritage Fest event on October 6, where Macy's tickets and pet related items will be sold.