



City of Benbrook Community Newsletter

April / May 2006

Benbrook Elections Cancelled

BENBROOK CITY COUNCIL:

In accordance with Title 1, Chapter C, Subchapter C, Section 2.053 of the Texas Election Code a governing body of a political subdivisions may declare each unopposed candidate elected to office and cancel the election upon certification by the City Secretary that:

- The deadline for placement on the General Election ballot and declaration of write-in candidacy has passed;
- That each candidate on the ballot is unopposed for election to office; and
- There are no propositions to appear on the ballot in that election.

At the April 6, 2006 City Council meeting the City Secretary will certify to the council that the following candidates are unopposed in the May 13, 2006 General Election:

Member of the Council, Place 2 -
James D. Schull
Member of the Council, Place 4 -
Rickie Allison
Member of the Council, Place 6 -
Larry L. Stowe

An ordinance has been prepared for council adoption to cancel the May 13, 2006 General Election.

BENBROOK WATER AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

At the April 4, 2006 Benbrook Water Authority meeting, the BWA Secretary will certify to the Directors that the following candidates are unopposed in the May 13, 2006 General Election:

Board of Directors - Patricia Dunkin
Board of Directors - Julie Haynes

An order has been prepared for Board adoption to cancel the May 13, 2006 election.

BENBROOK LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

At the April 10, 2006 Benbrook Library District meeting, the Executive Director will certify to the Directors that the following candidates are unopposed in the May 13, 2006 General Election:

Board of Directors - Richard Heyser
Board of Directors - Manny Gonzalez

An order has been prepared for Board adoption to cancel the May 13, 2006 election.



BWA Building Expansion

The Benbrook Water Authority broke ground on an expansion to its administration building on December 20, 2005. At the Board's November 2 meeting, the \$890,000 project was awarded to G.L. Barron, a Benbrook-based builder. The project will add 3,200 square feet to the existing building. The new space will include a larger Board meeting room, a new customer service area, and several administrative offices. A new 30-space concrete parking lot is also included. Completion of the project is expected in early June. The original building was constructed in 1986. Offices for Field Services and Environmental Services will remain in the original portion of the building.

During most of the construction, the customer entrance will be located at the east side of the building. Once completed, the main entrance will be on the west side of the building, facing the library.

IN THIS ISSUE

Page 2

Benbrook CC/
YMCA

Asphalt Overlay
Program

Page 3 / 4

Community
Schedule of Events
for April and May

Page 5

Benbrook Sister
Cities

Mosquito Control

Page 6

Are You Storm
Ready?

Benbrook Community Center / YMCA

Summer is almost here and registration for Camp Castlebrook has already begun. There are also weekly specialty camps available. Visit the web site or come by the BCC / YMCA for more information.

The annual Benbrook Triathlon will be on Sunday, May 7th and the Kid's Triathlon will be held on Sunday, May 14th. Registration forms for either event may be picked up at the BCC / YMCA. Space is limited.

The BCC / YMCA Take a Hike program is every 3rd Saturday of the month. Each month the YMCA will take a group to a local nature reserve to hike and explore the surroundings. Contact the BCC / YMCA to find out where each month's hike will be. If you are interested in

participating meet at the BCC / YMCA parking lot at 8:30 AM on the 3rd Saturday of each month.

If you haven't visited the BCC / YMCA lately, what are you waiting for? Your membership includes use of our state-of-the-art facility, over 50 land / water aerobic classes per week, free personalized 12 week fitness program, and free personal training. The BCC / YMCA is truly a "one stop shop" for individual or family fitness and recreation. For more information on a membership or programs call (817) 249-0500 or go online to www.benbrookcommunitycenterymcafw.org. All Benbrook residents receive a 10% discount on memberships, services, and programs.

Benbrook Spotlight Program

Benbrook Spotlight is a 30 minute monthly television program which has premiered on Cable 7, the local Benbrook station. Produced by Benbrook Economic Development Corporation and hosted by Patty C. Bissey, Director of Marketing and Research, the program has been designed to respond to high priority questions and citizen concerns.

Watch Benbrook Spotlight airing daily on Cable 7 at 9:30 AM, 1:30 PM and 7:30 PM. Future shows will feature: Mayor Jerry Dittrich; Phyllis Wolfe - Information Technology Coordinator; Dawn Konieczny and Steve Collier - Police Department Code Compliance; Cary Conklin - City Manager; Dave Gattis - Assistant City Manager and Community Development Director;

Sam Balkum - Benbrook Chamber of Commerce Tourism Director; Dawn Lovoi and Laurie Capps - Benbrook Relay for Life Volunteers; and Economic Development Updates by EDC Executive Director Ron Rainey.

If you have show ideas or comments please send an e-mail to spotlight@benbrook.org

Asphalt Overlay Program

For the seventh consecutive year, nearly eight miles of streets will be upgraded through Benbrook's asphalt overlay street improvement program. The annual street improvement program enhances street smoothness by applying a leveling layer of new asphalt to the existing street surface. Importantly, the process extends street service life, delaying more costly street reconstruction.

The program is slated to begin this spring/summer. The City will place a

notification letter on the front door of each residence adjoining an overlay street. For the street work to begin, the street must be completely dry and the temperature must be above 45 degrees. The asphalt overlay process is usually completed in just a few hours. The City asks that residents not park vehicles on the street during daylight hours until the process is completed.

The asphalt overlay program is a collaborative effort between the City of Benbrook and Tarrant County

Precinct 1. Working together keeps costs to a minimum by combining the resources of both entities. Through the program, the County provides equipment and labor, and the City provides traffic control and materials. The continuing efforts of the Benbrook City Council and Tarrant County Commissioner Roy Brooks make the program possible, benefiting Benbrook citizens as their City and County tax dollars work together.

April Community Events

MONNIG MIDDLE SCHOOL MUSTANG STAMPEDE SATURDAY, APRIL 8

5K Fun Run at Monnig Middle School, 3136 Bigham. Proceeds benefit Monnig Middle School. Registration begins at 7:45 AM, Stampede starts at 8:30 AM. Entry fees apply. Several award categories. Packet pick up April 6 and April 7 from 12 PM to 6 PM at Fort Worth Running Company, 5811 Camp Bowie Boulevard.

For more information, please call 817-377-7250.

BENBROOK POLICE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION EASTER EGG HUNT SATURDAY, APRIL 8

The Benbrook Police Officers Association is sponsoring an Easter Egg Hunt at 10 AM on Saturday, April 8, Westpark Elementary School, 10117 Westpark Drive.

4 PAWS TREASURE SALE & RAFFLE SATURDAY, APRIL 15

The 7th Annual 4 PAWS Treasure Sale & Raffle will be held at the Benbrook Antique Mall parking lot on April 15, from 8 AM to 2 PM. 4 PAWS (Pets Are Worth Saving), is a group of local volunteers whose mission is to provide care and loving homes for the homeless pet population in Benbrook. Anyone interested in joining, volunteering, or wishing to adopt a new pet, can 249-3770, 249-4516 or 249-0459, e-mail admin@4pawsinc.org or go to the web site, www.4pawsinc.org.

Due to the large number of raffle prizes, the drawing will be held at the May meeting of 4 PAWS, and winners will be notified shortly thereafter. Last year, over 160 prizes were awarded. Tickets may be obtained from any 4 PAWS member, and will be sold near Texas Grill restaurant and Brookshires grocery store through May 15 and at the sale on April 15. Tickets are \$1 each, 7 for \$5 and 15 for \$10.

Starting now, you may contact 4 PAWS at 249-3770, 249-4516 or 249-0459 to schedule pick up of furniture items you wish to donate. Other items may be brought to the

Benbrook Antique Mall parking lot between 10 AM and 5 PM April 13 and 14, prior to the sale. If you are planning a yard sale before April 15, you may want to consider bringing your leftovers to the parking lot where volunteers will be on hand to accept your tax-deductible donations and provide tax receipts if needed. Clothing is not accepted and remaining merchandise is donated to Boy Scout Troop 95 following the Treasure Sale.

4 Paws is an IRS recognized 501(c) 3 organization, and accepts donations throughout the year. When a friend loses a special pet, we accept donations in honor of that pet with a special note sent to the owner in your name, advising them of your thoughtful donation.

For all local pet owners, please contact Benbrook Animal Control, 249-3000 if you are missing your pet or if a stray appears. 4 PAWS does not take in strays and works strictly with the City of Benbrook on pet adoptions.

BENBROOK GREEN GARDEN DAY SATURDAY, APRIL 29

The Benbrook Area Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center is pleased to announce a new Spring event, the Benbrook Green Garden Day. Plan on attending this fun and educational garden show at the Benbrook Stables, 10001 Benbrook Boulevard, just south of the Benbrook Community Center/YMCA on Highway 377 South, from 9:00 AM till 5:00 PM on Saturday, April 29, 2006.

The Benbrook Green Garden Day is a celebration of Green and Arbor Days with exhibitors, lectures, and fun activities for kids and information and gardening tips for all. The show will feature organic products, herbs, native and xeriscape plants plus landscape, pool and water feature contractors and designers as well as a variety of "environmentally friendly" products and services.

Please call Sam Balkum, Tourism Director for the Benbrook Area Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center, at 817-249-4451 or email sam@benbrookchamber.org for exhibitor and sponsor information.

May Community Events

BENBROOK RELAY FOR LIFE FRIDAY, MAY 5 THRU SATURDAY, MAY 6

The American Cancer Society Benbrook Relay for Life, May 5th and 6th will be registering teams Saturday April 1st from 9 am till noon at the Benbrook YMCA. For additional information contact Glenn and Julie Herrington, Event Chairs, at 817-443-6004 or Linda Elliott, Team Manager, 817-560-8070.

The American Cancer Society is the nationwide, community-based, voluntary health organization dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem by preventing cancer, saving lives and diminishing suffering from cancer, through research, education, advocacy and service. The American Cancer Society's Relay for Life is scheduled for 10 Tarrant/Denton County Communities, with a goal of raising \$800,000 for 2006.

The Relay for Life is a special celebration to honor the ten million cancer survivors in the United States. Patients currently in treatment, as well as those who are out of treatment, are considered survivors. All survivors of any type of cancer are welcome and encouraged to participate and can pre-register for a Relay in or near your community by calling the American Cancer Society at 817-737-9992.

If you haven't been involved with an American Cancer Society Relay for Life before, it's time to check it out and get involved. Join the largest slumber party in North Texas and help raise money for cancer research, education, advocacy and patient services. Grab your family and friends and sign up today at www.cancer.org or by calling 1-817-737-9992.

TRI-BENBROOK SPRINT TRIATHLON SUNDAY, MAY 7

The Fourth Annual Tri-Benbrook Sprint Triathlon is produced by Ironhead Race Productions in cooperation with the Benbrook Community Center/YMCA. This event draws triathlon athletes from throughout the Metroplex and beyond. The event has a 300-yard swim, 13.8-mile bike ride and a 5-kilometer run in the City of Benbrook parks and on Benbrook Lake. For additional information or to enter the race visit www.ironheadrp.com or pick up a registration from at the Benbrook Community Center YMCA.

BENBROOK KIDS TRIATHALON SUNDAY, MAY 14

The Tenth Annual Benbrook Kids Triathlon is produced by Ironhead Race Productions in cooperation with the Benbrook Community Center/YMCA. This event draws young triathlon athletes from throughout the Metroplex and beyond. Triathlon athletes' ages seven to ten years of age compete in a 100-meter swim, 2.5-mile bike ride and a 1-mile run. Ages eleven to fourteen compete in a 200-meter swim, 5-mile bike ride and 1.5-mile run. The City of Benbrook and Benbrook Lake park facilities are utilized for the triathlon. For additional information or to enter the race, visit www.ironheadrp.com or pick up a registration from at the Benbrook Community Center YMCA.

BENBROOK COMMUNITY CENTER / YMCA BIRTHDAY BASH FRIDAY, JUNE 2

A Birthday Bash! for the Benbrook community in celebration of the 6th birthday of the opening of the Benbrook Community Center/YMCA. Free hotdogs and plenty of activities for the kids plus a life jacket exchange and much more. For additional details contact Shawna Gibson, 817-249-0500, sgibson@ymcafw.org or visit the Benbrook CC / YMCA website at www.benbrookcommunitycenter.ymcafw.org.

TEXAS SCALE CHAMPIONSHIP/US SCALE MASTERS QUALIFIER (Radio Controlled Model Plane) SATURDAY, JUNE 10 & SUNDAY, JUNE 11

Fort Worth Thunderbirds Field, Benbrook Lake

The Texas Scale Championship, the oldest and largest scale event in Texas, is qualifying event for the U.S. Scale Master Championships. Over 25 pilots from Texas and surrounding states are expected for this radio controlled scale model event. Airplanes from all eras will be represented including: WW I, WW II, jet and passenger planes. Planes are judged for scale accuracy: paint and detailing and pilots will be judged on their flying skills. The event is open to the public and there are no admission fees. For more information, please contact: Lawrence Harville, 817-284-5537, Lawharv@yahoo.com, or visit the website www.fwthunderbirds.org.

Benbrook Sister Cities, Inc.

Benbrook Sister Cities is an all-volunteer organization dedicated to the cultural and educational enrichment of Benbrook area residents, with a focus on youth exchanges and inclusive arts programs. Membership is open to all!

Youth Ambassador Trip to Beautiful Bled, Slovenia:

Congratulations to the following students who are named as the 2006 Youth Ambassadors to Bled, Slovenia: Tyler Bornman, Eric Brooks, Haley Hankins, Delia Owens, Ashley McDonald, Aaron Rasco, and Ashley Winters. The Ambassadors, along with their sponsor, Lucynda Nicholson, a teacher at Western Hills High School, will live with host families in Bled for two weeks in July and represent Benbrook, Texas, and the USA.

Visit from Ballymoney Youth Ambassadors: Five students and two sponsors from Ballymoney, Northern Ireland will arrive in Benbrook on June 28 for a two-week stay with local families. The visitors and their Benbrook host siblings will tour Benbrook and visit recreational and educational sites including Burger's Lake, the stockyards and rodeo, Science Museum and Omni Theater, Hurricane Harbor, the State Capitol and State Museum, and will even go tubing down the Comal River in New Braunfels. Host siblings participate in events free of charge. If you are interested in hosting a student or sponsor, visit our web site and look under "2006 Programs."

Arts Program: BSCI conducted workshops in March at local schools and at the Benbrook Community Center/YMCA to help contestants prepare for the Sister Cities International Young Artists Competition. Local entries will be recognized and winners will receive cash awards at the Mayor's Reception for visiting students in July.

Benbrook Sister Cities, Inc.
P.O. Box 26992, Benbrook, TX 76126
Website: www.benbrooksistercities.org

Youth Exchange Programs:
Pamela Brandenburg, 817-249-2324
BledProgram@benbrooksistercities.org

Arts Program:
Marilyn Perkins, 817-249-5253
ArtsProgram@benbrooksistercities.org

Mosquito Control

As temperatures begin to warm and mosquito activity increases, the City of Benbrook asks that Benbrook citizens start thinking about mosquito control. Mosquito control and bite prevention is easy – just remember the "Four D's":

DUSK/DAWN are the times of day to stay indoors. This is when mosquitoes are most active.

DRESS in long sleeves and pants when outside. For extra protection, spray clothing with repellent.

DEET (N, N-diethyl-m-toluamide) is an ingredient to look for in insect repellent. Follow label instructions and always wear repellent when outdoors.

DRAIN standing water in the backyard and neighborhood – old tires, flowerpots, and clogged rain gutters. These are mosquito-breeding sites.

The City of Benbrook will soon begin testing mosquitoes for disease. If disease (like West Nile Virus) is found, neighborhood fogging will occur in the immediate area. Signs will be posted at major neighborhood intersection detailing the date and times.

Thank you for doing your part to control mosquitoes in Benbrook.



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*A bi-monthly publication of the
City of Benbrook*

City Council:

Jerry Dittrich, Mayor
James Schull, Place 2
Keith Bailey, Place 3
Rickie Allison, Place 4
John Vander Pan, Place 5
Larry Stowe, Place 6
Ron Sauma, Place 7

Benbrook City Council normally meets on the 1st & 3rd Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM at City Hall, 911 Winscott Road. For more information, call 817-249-3000 or e-mail: info@cityofbenbrook.com.

Visit us on the Web:
www.cityofbenbrook.com

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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 and is not responsible for errors or omissions.

Are You Storm-Ready?

With springtime comes the threat of severe weather. Following are a few tips to help keep your family safe in case of storms:

1. If you live in a flood prone area, have an action plan to quickly move to higher ground.
2. Create a disaster plan. Designate a place to meet outside your home in case of a sudden emergency, like fire, and outside your neighborhood if you are unable to return home.
3. Assemble a basic emergency supply kit including a three-day supply of water, food, and medicines; can opener; radio and flashlight with extra batteries; first aid kit; whistle; moist towelettes, garbage bags, and plastic ties for personal sanitation; special items for infants, the elderly, or persons with disabilities; protective clothing, rainwear, and bedding; and a wrench or pliers and instructions on how to turn off utilities if necessary.

Top Safety Tips for a Blackout

- Only use a flashlight for emergency lighting. Never use candles!

- Turn off electrical equipment you were using when the power went out.
- Avoid opening the refrigerator and freezer.
- Do not run a generator inside a home or garage.
- If you use a generator, connect the equipment you want to power directly to the outlets on the generator. Do not connect a generator to a home's electrical system.

In the event of extended loss of power or for notification of important information about storms, Benbrook will use the Code Red emergency notification system.

If you are not sure your telephone number is in the Code Red system or perhaps you prefer to add your mobile phone to your address, visit www.cityofbenbrook.com, and click on the Code Red icon. Or, call 817-249-6085, and we will add your information to our database.

For more information about preparedness, visit www.fema.gov/areyouready, www.redcross.org or contact Fire Chief Tommy Davis at 817-249-1727.