



A publication of the
City of Benbrook

www.cityofbenbrook.com

April/May 2008

Community News

Benbrook Green Earth Day

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, April 19th**, for the **Benbrook Green Earth Day** event at Dutch Branch Athletic Complex. This FREE (admission) educational event takes place from 12:00 noon to 4:00pm and includes speakers on environmental topics, kids games and activities, a bounce house, food and fun giveaways!! **See you there!!**



Don't Mess With Texas Trash-Off

As part of the Great American Cleanup™ and the Keep Benbrook Beautiful program, local groups are invited to participate in the annual "Don't Mess with Texas Trash-Off" on **Saturday, April 5, from 9:00 to 11:30AM**. To learn how your group or organization can be a part of this litter clean-up day, please call City Hall at **817-249-3000**.

4 PAWS 9th Annual Treasure Sale

4 PAWS (Pets Are Worth Saving) animal adoption is requesting donations for the **9th Annual Treasure Sale on Saturday, April 5, from 8:00am-2:00pm**. The sale takes place in the parking lot of the Benbrook Antique Mall, 9250 Benbrook Boulevard. All proceeds benefit homeless animals in the Benbrook Animal Shelter, and provide neuter/spay services for pets of qualifying pet owners. Non-clothing donations may be brought to the site between 10:00am-5:00pm on Thursday, April 3, and Friday, April 4. In case of rain, the sale will be held the following Saturday, April 12. For more information, please call **817-249-3770, 817-249-4516 or 817-249-0459**.

Cell Phones in School Zones

Benbrook City Council passed an ordinance prohibiting the use of hand-held mobile telephones while operating a motor vehicle in active school zones. The ordinance is designed to reduce danger to school children caused by distracted drivers. Effective March 6, 2008, any driver observed using a hand-held mobile telephone in an active school zone could be issued a citation and fined up to \$200. *Exceptions to the ordinance include:* 1) The use of a mobile telephone for the sole purpose of communicating with a hospital, physicians office, health clinic, or a public safety department regarding an emergency situation; 2) Any law enforcement officer, emergency services official, first aid, emergency medical technician and personnel, or any fire safety official in the performance of duties arising out of an emergency in the course of his or her employment as such; and, 3) The use of a hands-free mobile telephone when being used in a hands-free manner.

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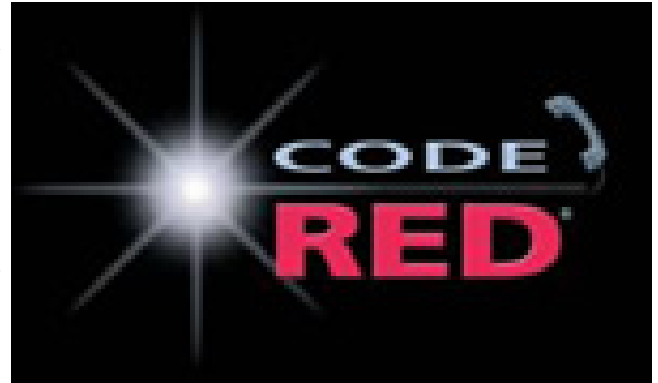
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Please note: Certain material included in this newsletter is provided by other entities. Any opinions expressed by those entities do not necessarily reflect the official views of the City. The City reserves the right to edit as necessary, however,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

CodeRED

The City of Benbrook contracts with the Emergency Communications Network to provide "CodeRED" emergency notification services. The CodeRED system is a high-speed emergency telephone communication service that delivers customized, emergency messages directly to Benbrook homes and businesses, at a rate of up to 1,000 calls per minute for a 30-second message. CodeRED allows specification of areas for message delivery – from individual streets, to subdivisions, to the entire City.



CodeRED allows Benbrook officials to generate emergency information 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, for citizen notifications including evacuations, flood information, power or utility interruptions, missing children, inclement weather and hazardous material situations.

Benbrook Fire Chief Tommy Davis, cautions that such systems are only as good as the telephone database supporting them. "The initial Benbrook citizen database is developed from publicly-available information. However, if your phone number is not in the database, you will not be called. No one should automatically assume his or her phone number is included," Chief Davis said. All businesses and individuals with unlisted phone numbers, those who have changed their phone number or address within the last year, and those using a cellular phone as their primary home phone should register.

To register, Chief Davis urges all individuals and businesses to log onto the City of Benbrook's website, www.cityofbenbrook.com, click on the CodeRED icon, and submit your information. Those without Internet access may call Benbrook's automated CodeRed Information Line (817-249-6085) to leave their information over the recorded phone line. Required information includes first and last name, street address (physical address, no P.O. Boxes), zip code, primary phone number, and additional phone numbers (optional).

According to Chief Davis, "the CodeRED system is a geographical-based system, which means street addresses are needed to select which phone numbers will receive emergency notification in any given situation. The system works for cell phones, too, but we have to have a street address". People who have recently moved, but kept the same listed or unlisted phone number, also need to change their address in the database.

Are You Storm Ready?

AM I IN A FLOOD ZONE?

To learn if your house or property is within a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA), as designated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), contact the Community Development Department at City Hall at 817-249-3000, or go online to www.cityofbenbrook.com and 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 an annual Floodplain Newsletter to owners of property within the 100-year floodplain. 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 most homeowner's insurance coverage. Because Benbrook is currently classified as a "6" in the Community Rating System of the National Flood Insurance program, property owners within the 100-year floodplain are eligible for a 20% discount on flood insurance. Contact your flood insurance carrier to ensure you are receiving the appropriate discount.

BE PREPARED!

Make a list and take photographs of all possessions so a complete claim can be filed if flood damage occurs. Keep a flashlight and battery-powered radio in working order and easily available. Keep valuables, legal documents, and insurance papers in a safe, dry location such as a safe-deposit box. Keep emergency food, water, and medical supplies on hand. If an evacuation is ordered, move quickly and calmly, taking necessities such as medication, eyeglasses, and clothing. Avoid flooded areas and NEVER drive through high water. If a flood occurs, fill containers, bathtubs, and sinks with clean water in case the water system becomes contaminated. Shut off all utilities (water, gas, and electric) at the main switches or valves (use caution if the area is already inundated). Move personal property to higher ground.

AFTER THE FLOOD!

If flooding damages your home, wait until City officials determine that it is safe to re-enter. Call your flood insurance agent. Be cautious of live electrical wires until an electrician has checked the system. Clean and dry your home as soon as possible, and scrub and disinfect walls and surfaces. Throw away any perishable foods. Have the water system tested before using tap water. Take photos to document damaged areas and repair activities. Contact the City Permit Office before beginning any repairs to a flood-damaged structure.

KEEP OUR STREAMS CLEAN!

Flooding often occurs because the natural capacity of a stream is blocked by obstructions. It is a violation of City Code to place or dump any material in a stream or channel, including dirt, rock, construction debris, rubbish, refuse, tree and brush cuttings, grass clippings or other waste, material or device that may obstruct or impede flow. If you see a violation, please call the Code Enforcement Office at 817-249-6110.

STORMWATER POLLUTION SOLUTIONS

Storm water runoff occurs when precipitation flows over the ground. Impervious surfaces like driveways, sidewalks, and streets prevent storm water from naturally soaking into the ground. Storm water can pick up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants and flow into a storm sewer system or directly into streams, lakes, rivers, and wetlands. Polluted storm water runoff can have adverse affects on plants, fish, animals, and people. Sediment, bacteria and other pathogens, debris, and household hazardous wastes (HHW) can pose a threat to water bodies. Residents can mitigate some of these dangers by disposing of HHW properly, avoiding dumping automotive fluids or other material into storm drains, and limiting pesticide and fertilizer use. For more information on pollution solutions, go to www.cityofbenbrook.com and select "Residents" and "Storm Water Information".



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Benbrook, TX 76126-0569

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A publication of the
City of Benbrook

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

Elections Cancelled

In accordance with the Texas Election Code, a governing body of a political subdivision may declare each unopposed candidate elected to office and cancel the election upon certification that: 1) The deadline for placement on the General Election ballot and declaration of write-in candidacy has passed; 2) That each candidate on the ballot is unopposed for election to office; and 3) That there are no propositions to appear on the ballot in that election.

At the April 3, 2008 **Benbrook City Council** meeting, the City Secretary will certify to the council that the following candidates are unopposed in the May 10, 2008 General Election:

- Member of the Council, Place 2 James Schull**
- Member of the Council, Place 4 Rickie Allison**
- Member of the Council, Place 6 Mark Washburn**

An ordinance has been prepared for council adoption to cancel the May 10, 2008 General Election.

At the April 21, 2008 **Benbrook Library District Board** meeting, the Executive Director will certify to the Trustees that the following candidates are unopposed in the May 10, 2008 General Election:

- Trustee Richard Heyser**
- Trustee Manny Gonzalez**

An order has been prepared for Board adoption to cancel the May 10, 2008 General Election.

The **Benbrook Water Authority** will not conduct an election for the three places on the Board of Directors. Unopposed candidates are:

- Gary Corlies**
- Rick Whitehurst**
- Dennis Lindgron**