

**City Council:**

Jerry Dittrich, Mayor  
Charlie Anderson, Place 2  
Keith Bailey, Place 3  
Rickie Allison, Place 4  
Jim Wilson, 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  
or visit [www.cityofbenbrook.com](http://www.cityofbenbrook.com)

## Community News

**BENBROOK SENIOR CITIZEN CENTER ANNOUNCEMENTS:** The Center is looking for vendors for the upcoming Craft Sale scheduled for October 22. Also, the Center is holding a garage sale on Friday, September 17. Donated items are always appreciated, and proceeds are used for Center projects and day trips. For details, contact Marcy Fletcher at 817-249-6300.



**BENBROOK HERITAGE FEST "COWBOY ROUNDUP" & BBQ COOK-OFF** takes place Saturday, October 16, 2010, from 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. Heritage Fest is a day of family fun (free admission) including arts & crafts booths, festival food, a Kiddy Korral, a Native Village, dance performances, a Mexican Village with authentic food, dancers, and live "Mariachi" music, radio-controlled airplane demonstrations by the Fort Worth Thunderbirds, plus an evening concert featuring bluegrass band "Salt Creek".

New this year - a BBQ Cook-off sponsored by the Benbrook Area Chamber of Commerce, and a Trail Ride Benefit sponsored by the Benbrook Stables. All the festivities will take place at Dutch Branch Park on the grounds adjacent to Benbrook Stables, at 10001 Benbrook Boulevard in Benbrook. **Mark your calendar and join us for a day of fun & celebration!**

**BENBROOK LIONS CLUB TO HOST THEIR ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT** The Benbrook Lions Club will host their annual Bob Green Memorial Golf Tournament on Friday, September 24, 2010 at Whitestone Golf Course. The tournament will be a four-man scramble with a 1:00pm shotgun start. If you are interested in playing or becoming a sponsor, contact Joel Peal at (817) 249-0500 or [jpeal@ymcafw.org](mailto:jpeal@ymcafw.org).

*This annual event supports the Benbrook Lions Club and the organizations they serve.*

## City Launches New Online Video Viewing Technology

The City of Benbrook recently launched a new web-based program to allow citizens to more easily view videos of regularly-scheduled videotaped City meetings and work sessions, along with corresponding meeting documents.

The new program allows viewers to select specific meetings, choose the section of the meeting they are most interested in viewing, and view related agenda item documents.

"This new program allows our citizens to bypass entire sections of online City meetings in order to quickly view their topic of interest." says Phyllis Wolfe, Information Technology Director, "Prior to implementing this system, citizens often had to view entire meetings in order to view the agenda item presentations they really wanted to see."

In order to access this convenient, new technology, simply click on the 'I want to' section, in the upper right side of the City's homepage, and select 'View City Meetings.' You will then be directed to the 'City Meetings' page. Available videos on this page begin October 1, 2009. (Users may obtain documents for meetings taking place prior to October 2009, through the archives link).

Viewers will need Microsoft Silverlight (a free, small download) installed on their computer to view the meetings. Viewers are prompted to download this software.

Using the calendar graphic on the left, select the date of the meeting you are interested in viewing – or search for an item using the search tool. In the box to the right of the calendar, highlight your meeting and click 'Launch Player for Selected Program'. On this page, the meeting video screen on the left will load and begin playing the video from the beginning of the meeting. To select the segment of the meeting you are interested in viewing, simply click the agenda item index box to the right of the



video screen. Agendas, staff reports, supporting documents, and meeting minutes are available on this page.

The full meeting agenda is attached as a paperclip icon at the top of the index boxes. Simply click on the paperclip and the agenda is available for view or print. Corresponding agenda item topics are located in the index boxes, as well as any attachments of supporting documents (also displayed as paperclip icons).

For upcoming meetings, agendas and attachments are uploaded, as soon as available, for early public viewing prior to the actual meeting video. Videos of these meetings are posted as soon as they become available.

"With just a few simple clicks, citizens can readily access online City meeting video segments and supporting documents." Wolfe adds "Citizen feedback on this new technology has been great."

Full minutes of each meeting are uploaded as the last index box item on the page, once they become available, as approved by City Council (typically at the next City Council meeting).

If you should need assistance in viewing the meetings, do not hesitate to contact the City Secretary at 817-249-3000.

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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.

# Swimming season is here!

## The City of Benbrook reminds you to make sure your swimming pool is safe and enjoyable for everyone (including pets). Please take note of the following water safety tips:

- ⦿ Never leave children alone around open water of any kind – swimming pool, spa, pond, river, etc.
- ⦿ Never go to answer a door or telephone while your children are swimming or your pool is unprotected.
- ⦿ Never rely entirely on a safety device or product. Nothing can replace constant adult supervision.
- ⦿ If you have a pool safety fence, do not leave chairs, ladders or other objects near the pool that would allow a child to climb up and over. Make sure all gates have self-closing latches.
- ⦿ Never allow your children to swim alone or without an adult present.
- ⦿ Make sure your child understands how jumping or diving into water can result in injury. Know the depth of the water and the location of underwater hazards before permitting children to jump or dive.
- ⦿ If your child disappears, check the pool first.
- ⦿ Teach your children to swim and cope with all conditions in all types of water.
- ⦿ Never assume that someone is watching your child unless you have designated an adult to watch the water.
- ⦿ Use approved personal flotation devices whenever on a boat or fishing, and while playing near a river, lake, or ocean.
- ⦿ When entertaining or using the pool, always designate an adult who can swim to watch the water at all times. Hire a lifeguard if necessary.
- ⦿ Teach your children to never attempt to rescue a pet.
- ⦿ Maintain your pool. Keep the water clear and clean so visibility is kept at a maximum.
- ⦿ Inform your child of methods to obtain help.
- ⦿ Do not swim during thunderstorms or any inclement weather.
- ⦿ Learn CPR and support the inclusion of CPR training in school.
- ⦿ Position all swimming pool jets in such a way that any floating objects will end up in the shallow end of the pool, close to the steps or ladder.
- ⦿ Counsel children--especially teenagers--about the dangers of alcohol and drug consumption during water recreational activities.
- ⦿ Remove all toys and floating objects from the pool when not in use.
- ⦿ Make sure children's caregivers and supervisors know all safety precautions and are fully trained in CPR.
- ⦿ Never allow bikes or 'rideable' toys in the pool area.
- ⦿ Even pets that can swim may not be able to find their way out of the pool once they are in it. Keep an eye on pets, too.
- ⦿ Buy and keep on-hand lifesaving equipment approved by the U.S. Coast Guard, such as life preservers, life jackets, shepherd's crook, etc.



## 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 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.

Portions of Benbrook may be subject to flooding from Mary's Creek, Timber Creek, the Clear Fork-Trinity River, and their tributaries. Other areas may be subject to flooding from improper drainage between lots. 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 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.

FEMA adopted new floodplain maps for Tarrant County in September 2009 under its Map Modernization program. The new maps incorporate more accurate topographic information and the results of special flood studies prepared by Benbrook for Timber Creek, Willow Bend Creek, Plantation East Creek, and Plantation West Creek. Many residents have been removed from the floodplain by these maps, while others may now be included.

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. Property owners within the 100-year floodplain are eligible for a 20% discount on flood insurance. Even if you are not within a SFHA, you may also want to consider purchasing flood insurance since there may still be a risk of flooding. Benbrook has participated in the Community Rating System for the National Flood Insurance program since 1991 and currently has a rating of "6", putting it in the top eight percent of all cities in the nation for reducing flood hazards. Contact your insurance agent for more information regarding flood insurance. Don't wait until a flood occurs (there is a 30-day waiting period), and make sure that the coverage (both for structure and contents) is adequate.

You can take steps to protect the community from the damages of flooding. If you live near a drainage channel, do not dump grass clippings, brush, or other debris into the channel. Not only is this a violation of City Code, it may cause the obstruction of storm water flow, resulting in damaged property. If you see someone dumping anything into a drainage channel, contact Code Enforcement at 817-249-6078. Any construction or land modification within a floodplain requires a special permit. If you are within a SFHA, contact the Inspections Department at 817-249-6064 prior to building any structures, fences, or major landscaping, to determine whether a permit is required.

*If a flood occurs, do not walk or drive through flood waters. Drowning is the number one cause of flood-related deaths. Fire Chief Tommy Davis reminds citizens not to drive around road barriers or attempt to drive or walk across flooded roadways. "It is crucial that people take seriously how dangerous flooded areas can be", says Davis, "even if it looks manageable, it's better not to attempt crossing."*

**Remember: Turn Around, Don't Drown.**