

# Community Newsletter

December 2004 /  
January 2005



## Tree Lighting and Fireworks Show Moves Location

To provide adequate parking, enhance safety, and improve the overall show experience, the 13<sup>th</sup> annual Benbrook Christmas Tree Lighting and Fireworks Show will move to the area adjoining the Benbrook Community Center/YMCA in Dutch Branch Park, 1899 Winscott Road. The event, scheduled for Saturday, December 4, 2004, will begin at 7 pm.

Pictures with Santa will continue to be at the Fire Station located at 528 Mercedes Street. Pictures will be taken Thursday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> from 6 pm to 8 pm and Friday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> from 6 pm to 9 pm. Please plan on making a donation of four food items or \$3.00. All proceeds benefit the Firefighters Annual Food Drive for Benbrook area families.

## Trash Bash Event A Success

Thanks to City employees and community volunteers for making Trash Bash 2004 an overwhelming success! The annual event brought together approximately 300 volunteers who collected roughly 2.5 tons of trash from the Dutch Branch Park, Benbrook Lake, and Timbercreek Park areas. Special thanks to the following persons and groups for helping coordinate and/or conduct the event:

Mayor Hebert  
Lynette Spence  
Mario Rodriguez  
Dale Bonham  
Brad Green  
Robert Perry  
Cole Mulholland  
Johnny Schoonover  
Roy Faulks  
Jason Wiley  
Harold Downes  
Shawna Cortez  
Benbrook Fire Department  
4 PAWS  
Ray Moore  
Boy & Girl Scouts  
Raymond Switlik  
Lisa Flowers  
Benbrook Christian Fellowship Youth Group

WHHS Key Club and Cheerleaders

Special thanks to the following entities, which donated lunch for volunteers, door prizes, supplies, and more:

Coca-Cola Enterprises, Brookshire's, Rio Mambo Tex-Mex, Hoffman Organization (Benbrook McDonalds), TGI Friday's, Westerly Automotive, Lakeside Hair & Hair, Kwik Kar Oil & Lube, Total Image Salon, Dixie Café & Catering, Benbrook Bouquet & Gifts, Texas

Grill, Napoli Restaurant, Benbrook Floral, Mr. Jim's Pizza, Benbrook Community Center/YMCA, Texas Bank, Wells Fargo, Tractor Supply, Auto Zone, Sutherlands, Benbrook Car Wash, Benbrook 3 Par Lighted Golf Course, Trinity River Environmental Education Society, Keep Texas Beautiful, Albertsons, Subway, Reddy Ice, Russell Feed & Supply, US Army Corps of Engineers, Benbrook Water & Sewer Authority, Benbrook Area Chamber of Commerce, Trinity River Authority, and Trammell Crow.

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## Holiday Closings

*Benbrook City Hall will be closed*

- Friday, December 24
- Friday, December 31

*Benbrook Library will be closed*

- Friday, December 24
- Saturday, December 25
- Friday, December 31
- Saturday, January 1

*Benbrook Water and Sewer Authority will be closed*

- Friday, December 24
- Friday, December 31

*Benbrook Community Center / YMCA Holiday hours:*

- Friday, December 24  
5:30 AM to 3 PM
- Saturday, December 25  
closed
- Friday, December 31  
5:30 AM to 7 PM
- Saturday, January 1  
closed

## Holiday Refuse Collection

Yellow Bags will not be collected on December 25 or January 1.

Christmas trees placed at curbside on Wednesdays before 7 AM will be collected by Trinity Waste Services within 72 hours. Trees over six-feet in length must



be cut into segments not exceeding six feet. Benbrook residents may also bring trees to a roll-off dumpster, located at the City maintenance facility at 467 Winscott Road from December 27 to January 14.

Please remove any nails, stands, plastic bags, and decorations from ALL trees, whether placed in dumpster or picked up curbside. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Shawna Cortez at 817-249-3000.

## Santa Photos for Pets Benefits 4 PAWS

For the sixth consecutive year, 4 PAWS (Pets Are Worth Saving), Benbrook's local animal welfare organization, will be photographing pets with Santa at PETsMART on Hulen.

Photos are not limited to pets. Owners and children are welcome, and Santa will have sweet treats for the little ones.

For \$9.99, volunteers will take two Polaroid pictures, place one in a Christmas ornament and one in a paper frame. Hours are 11:00 A.M. until 4:30 P.M. every Saturday and Sunday, beginning November 27 through December 19.

Only the Hulen store, located at 4800 Southwest Boulevard, will provide photos on Thanksgiving weekend.

PETsMART donates \$5 to 4 PAWS for each picture set taken, which the organization spends on veterinary care provided by Dr. Randy Jones and staff at Cityview Animal Hospital. To date, 4 PAWS has cared for more than 600 homeless animals from the Benbrook Animal Shelter since 2001.

Benbrook resident, Doug Bradshaw, is the store manager. He and PETsMART, have been vital to the 4 PAWS success story. Kittens and cats stay in the PETsMART adoption center from Monday mornings until Friday afternoon, and dogs are transported each weekday from the shelter to the store where volunteers attempt to find them homes from 12:30 P.M. until 4:00 P.M.

Except during the holiday season, 4 PAWS volunteers transport shelter animals to B. Dalton Bookseller in Hulen Mall on the first and third Saturday of each month, 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M., for adoption.

Adoptions are \$50 for felines and \$75 for canines. The fee includes veterinary exam, testing and treatment for parasites, heartworms and feline leukemia/FIV, rabies and other routine vaccinations, as well as sterilization surgery. When a dog tests positive for heartworms, 4 PAWS will pay for treatment if the dog is adopted.



4 PAWS is a 501 (c)3, non-profit volunteer organization. Veterinary care is funded by public donations and two annual fund raisers; the Santa Photos and the very popular 4 PAWS Treasure Sale in April at the Benbrook Antique Mall.

4 PAWS adopts only animals from the City of Benbrook Animal Shelter and does not accept animals directly from individuals. To volunteer or join 4 PAWS, please call them at 249-0459, 249-4516, 249-1205 or e-mail [admin@4pawsinc.org](mailto:admin@4pawsinc.org). Meetings are the third Wednesday of each month at the Benbrook Senior Citizens Center at 7:00 P.M.

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## Benbrook Community Center / YMCA

The Benbrook Community Center/YMCA, located at 1899 Winscott Road, will offer number of exciting programs and seminars, beginning in January.

Registration for youth basketball and cheerleading has already begun. The season begins in January. Registrations are also being accepted for adult co-ed

volleyball and soccer for ages three to six.

BCC/YMCA will also offer single parenting seminars and a support group for those with eating disorders. Childcare is available for program participants.

Please contact the BCC/YMCA at 817-249-0500 for more information.

## Benbrook Sister Cities Exciting Plans for 2005

Outbound Two-week Youth Ambassador trip to Ballymoney, Northern Ireland. Tentative first two weeks in July. Live with a host family and represent Benbrook, Texas, and the USA. Eligibility: Currently in grades 8-12.

Inbound What are you doing next summer? Host a visiting student ambassador from Bled, Slovenia for the last two weeks in July and participate in all activities free of charge. Eligibility: Currently in grades 8-12.

Fort Worth Sister Cities International Leadership Academy July 16 - 31. Live in the dorms at TCU with students from around the globe. Have fun while learning more about your community and theirs. Eligibility: ages 14 through 18.

Sister Cities International Young Artist Competition For youth up to age 18. The deadline is March 31, 2005. Four cash prizes will be awarded.

Visit the Benbrook Sister Cities website or contact the representatives below to learn more.

**Benbrook Sister Cities, Inc.**  
P.O. Box 26992, Benbrook, TX 76126

[www.benbrooksistercities.org](http://www.benbrooksistercities.org)

### Program Contacts:

**Youth Exchange Programs, ILA Program:**  
Pamela Brandenburg  
817-249-2324  
pbranden@swbell.net

**Arts Program:**  
Marilyn Perkins  
817-249-5253  
dmp Perkins02@worldnet.att.net

## Benbrook Area Chamber of Commerce Events

### Legislators' Forum and Luncheon

Based upon the desire of the Coalition of Tarrant County Chambers of Commerce (CTCC) expressed in recent CTCC meetings, efforts have begun to bring together Tarrant County's state legislative leaders and the leaders of the Tarrant County business community for the purpose of discussing major state issues impacting businesses. This event is a joint effort of the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce and the Coalition of Tarrant County Chambers of Commerce and will complement our February 15 & 16 Tarrant County Day At The Capitol event. Sponsors for the event include: Wells Fargo; Kelly, Hart, & Hallman; Jackson Walker, L.L.P.; TXU; Law, Snakard and Gambill; and Republic Title Company.

The **Legislators' Forum and Luncheon** will be held on December 16, 2004 from 11:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. the Radisson Plaza Hotel, 815 Main Street in Fort Worth. Please call the Benbrook Chamber for more details and to make your reservation (817-249-4451).

### 2004 Neighborhood and Business Decorating Contest

Entry forms can be picked up at the Chamber office located at 8507 Benbrook Blvd. The office is open between the hours of 9:00 & 5:00 P.M. Monday – Friday.

Neighborhood theme categories include: Texas, Patriotic, Traditional, Religious or Most Spirited Block (only those whose entire block of homes has decorated may enter under this category).

Business Decorating Contest categories include: Texas, Patriotic, Traditional or Religious.

For more information, please call Lisa Flowers at the Chamber office, 817-249-4451.

## BENBROOK CITIZENS PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT

On Saturday, November 13, more than 160 Benbrook citizens participated in the Household Hazardous Waste Collection and E-Cycling Event held at the City maintenance facility at 467 Winscott Road. In a little over two hours, City staff collected approximately **26,000** pounds of materials from 150 residents and issued Environmental Collection Center vouchers to another 31 people after the collection trailers were full. If you missed this event but would like to participate in the future, please

check upcoming newsletters for similar events to be held between March to May and again between mid-October and mid-November (subject to the availability of Fort Worth's Crud Cruiser - mobile collection unit). If you can't wait until the next event, please contact Diana DeSousa at 817-249-3000 to obtain a voucher to take items to the Fort Worth Environmental Collection Center. Thank you for helping protect our environment by keeping dangerous items out of the landfill!

City of Benbrook  
PO Box 26569  
911 Winscott Road  
Benbrook, TX 76126



## Benbrook Community Newsletter

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

Felix T. "Bear" Hebert, Mayor  
Robert Cook, Place 2  
Keith Bailey, Place 3  
Rick Allison, Place 4  
John Vander Pan, Place 5  
Jerry Dittrich, Place 6/Mayor Pro Tem  
Ron Sauma, Place 7

Benbrook City Council normally  
meets on the 1st and 3rd Thursday  
of each month at 7:30 PM at City  
Hall, 911 Winscott Road. For more  
information, call 817-249-3000 or  
email [info@cityofbenbrook.com](mailto:info@cityofbenbrook.com).

We're on the Web!

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

### RIDGLEA HILLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL RECEIVES ACADEMIC AWARD

Ridglea Hills Elementary School is once again an Honor Roll school for the Texas Business and Education Coalition and Just for the Kids. The school received this honor for having consistently high test scores among all student groups at the school: all students, African American students, Hispanic students, White students, and Economically Disadvantaged students. Fifth grade teacher Rita Porter and principal Jonna Murray will travel to Austin, Texas on Thursday, December 9, to receive the award.

### READING BEE WINNERS

All second graders in the area participated in a "Reading Bee" this fall. Students were assessed on their rate of reading and their comprehension skills. Ridglea Hills campus winner was Noah Hertel.



## BENBROOK'S 13<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING and FIREWORKS SHOW

at  
**Benbrook Community Center/YMCA**

1899 Winscott Road

**Saturday, December 4, 2004**

Fireworks Show Starts at 7:00 PM

### **Pictures with Santa will be at the Fire Station**

528 Mercedes Street

on

**Thursday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> from 6:00PM to 8:00PM**

and

**Friday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM**

Donations of \$3.00 or 4 Food Items

All Proceeds Benefit the Firefighters Annual Food Drive