



# City of Benbrook Community Newsletter

December 2005 / January 2006

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**Benbrook City Council normally meets on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM at City Hall, 911 Winscott Road.**

**The Public is always welcome.**



## BENBROOK'S 14<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING & FIREWORKS SHOW

at

**Benbrook Community Center/YMCA**

1899 Winscott Road, in Dutch Branch Park

**Saturday, December 3, 2005**

**Fireworks Show Starts at 7:00 PM**

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

528 Mercedes Street

on

**Thursday, December 1<sup>st</sup> from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM**

and

**Friday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM**

Donations of \$3.00 or 4 Non-Perishable Food Items

All Proceeds Benefit the Firefighters Annual Food Drive for  
Benbrook Area Families at Christmas



## Access Town Hall 24x7 on New City Web Site

Beginning in January, Benbrook citizens will have a redesigned city web site offering more information and interactive features.

The new web site will allow city staff to post information and update city web pages immediately.

Citizens will be able to register for email notification of special events or postings. Multiple online calendars will allow viewers to easily check on community events and meetings. Citizens will also be able to pay their Benbrook Municipal Court citations online via credit card.

"We hope this new interactive web site will provide our citizens with convenient access to the information they want and need" said Phyllis Wolfe, IT Coordinator for the City.

Be sure to check out the new web site at [www.cityofbenbrook.com](http://www.cityofbenbrook.com)

## Local Businesses & Volunteers Make Trash Bash 2005 A Success

The 2005 Trash Bash was an overwhelming success, thanks to area businesses and community volunteers.

The event, held annually on the third Saturday of September, brought together **275 volunteers** who collected tons of trash from Dutch Branch Park, Benbrook Lake, and Timbercreek Park areas.

Special thanks to the following persons and groups who helped coordinate and/or conduct the event:

Lynette Spence  
Raymond Switlik  
Boy Scouts & Girl Scouts  
Benbrook Area Chamber of Commerce  
Western Hills High School Cheerleaders & Key Club  
Joe Sherwin  
Lynn Murphy, US Army Corps of Engineers  
4 PAWS

Thanks to Brookshire's for donating hot dogs for volunteers and to the following entities, which donated door prizes, supplies, and more:

Omni American Credit Union, McDonalds, Westerly Tire & Automotive, Lakeside Hair & Hair, Kwik Kar Oil & Lube, Total Image Salon, Dixie Café & Catering, Subway, Texas Grill, Benbrook Community Center/YMCA, Texas Bank, Tractor Supply, Auto Zone, Sutherlands, Benbrook Car Wash, Benbrook Par 3 Golf, Union Pacific Railroad, and Trinity River Environmental Education Society.



Thanks for protecting our environment by keeping dangerous items out of the landfill!

## Benbrook Citizens Protect the Environment

In celebration of Texas Recycles Day, more than **200 Benbrook citizens** participated in the Household Hazardous Waste & E-Waste Collection Event held in Benbrook Industrial Park on Saturday, October 22.

In just two hours, over **29,000 pounds** of materials were collected. If you missed this event but would like to participate in the future, please check upcoming

newsletters and web site. for similar events. These events are typically held between March to May and again between mid-October to 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 household hazardous waste items (no electronics) to the Fort

Worth Environmental Collection Center (ECC).

Vouchers are free to Benbrook citizens. The ECC will bill the City of Benbrook \$40 per voucher redeemed (household disposal). This rate has declined from over \$60, due to grants received by the ECC.

Thanks for protecting our environment by keeping dangerous items out of the landfill!

## Holiday Refuse Collection

Since Christmas and New Year's Day are on Mondays this year, no interruption in the collection of refuse, recycling, or Yellow Bags will occur.

Christmas trees placed at curbside on Wednesdays before 7 AM will be

collected by Allied Waste within 72 hours. Trees must be cut into segments that weigh less than 50 pounds and do not exceed six feet in length. Benbrook residents may also take trees to a roll-off dumpster located at the City maintenance facility at 467 Winscott Road from

December 26 to January 13. Please remove any nails, stands, plastic bags, and decorations from ALL trees, whether placed in the dumpster or picked up curbside. If you have questions, please contact Shawna Cortez at 817-249-3000.

## Major Events for 2006

**Outbound** A two-week Youth Ambassador trip is set for July to the beautiful city of Bled in the modern, fairy tale, Alpine country of Slovenia. Students will live with host families for two weeks and represent Benbrook, Texas, and the USA. Eligibility: Currently in grades 8-12. Chaperone: Lucynda Nicholson, WHHS teacher. Information and applications **now available** on the website. *Get your application in soon!*

**Inbound** What are you doing for excitement next summer? Host a visiting student ambassador from Ballymoney, Northern Ireland, and your child participates in all activities free of charge. Tentative dates: first two weeks in July. Information and host family applications available on the website in January, 2006.

**Sister Cities International Young Artist Competition** For youth up to age 18. Deadline is March 31, 2006. There will be a free, community-wide art workshop at the Benbrook Community Center/

YMCA in March for interested participants to work on their entries. Four cash prizes will be awarded. More information will be available on the website in January, 2006, or by contacting Marilyn Perkins.

Visit the Benbrook Sister Cities website:

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

or contact the representatives below to learn more.

### **Program Contacts:**

#### **Youth Exchange Programs:**

**Pamela Brandenberg**  
**817-249-2324**  
**pbranden@swbell.net**

#### **Arts Program:**

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

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

## Benbrook Library News

Mike Baldwin, Director of the Benbrook Public Library, recently announced approval of a contract with Tutor.com to provide Live Homework Help over the Internet for students in Benbrook schools. The service is free. You can use it at the Library or at your home computer through the Library website (just click on the Live Homework Help button). The service connects you with a live tutor for the subject for which you need help. Describe your assignment and the tutor will guide you in finding answers, critiquing your writing, etc. It's all done live over the Internet.

If you have questions about how to use this great new Library service, just ask one of the librarians.

Visit the Library web site, [www.benbrooklibrary.org](http://www.benbrooklibrary.org) For this service as well as many other great services offered to Benbrook residents.

## Benbrook Community Center / YMCA

It is time to make your New Years Resolution to be healthier in 2006. During the month of January the joining fee at the Benbrook Community Center / YMCA is only \$25. We have a new line of strength equipment, well trained fitness staff, and a desire to help you achieve your fitness goals.

We are currently taking registrations for our winter youth basketball league. This league is for youth ages 3 – 12 years old. The season includes 8 games, ball, trophy, practice and game facilities, and end of season party. Games will begin on January 21st, so stop by the BCC / YMCA today to register. Volunteer coaches are needed.

If you haven't visited the BCC / YMCA lately, what are you waiting for? Your membership includes use of this 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 truly is a "one stop shop" for individual or family fitness and recreation.

Don't forget that all Benbrook residents receive a 10% discount on memberships, services, and programs.

For more information on a membership or programs visit us online at [www.benbrookcommunitycenterymcafw.org](http://www.benbrookcommunitycenterymcafw.org) or call us (817) 249-0500.



## City of Benbrook Community Newsletter

*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](mailto:info@cityofbenbrook.com).

**Visit us on the Web:**  
[www.cityofbenbrook.com](http://www.cityofbenbrook.com)

**City of Benbrook**  
**PO Box 26569**  
**911 Winscott Road**  
**Benbrook, TX 76126-0569**

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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.

## FILING AND ELECTION INFORMATION

**Election Day - May 13, 2006**

### **City of Benbrook Officials**

- Three positions up for election  
Member of Council, Place 2  
Member of Council, Place 4  
Member of Council, Place 6

### **Benbrook Library District Board of Directors**

- Three positions up for election

### **Benbrook Water Authority Board of Directors**

- Two positions up for election

### **Filing Period**

February 11, 2006 through March 13, 2006

### **What are the requirements to run for a place on City Council?**

1. Be a United States citizen
2. Be 18 years of age or older on

- the first day of the term to be filled at the election
3. Have not been determined mentally incompetent by a final judgment of a court
4. Have not been finally convicted of a felony from which the person has not been pardoned or otherwise released from the resulting disability
5. Have resided continuously in the State for 12 months preceding the deadline for filling an application
6. Have resided in the City for 12 months before the date of the election
7. Be a registered voter of the City of Benbrook

### **Contact:**

- Benbrook Library Board for requirements to run for a place on the board. (817-249-6632)

- Benbrook Water Authority for requirements to run for a place on the board. (817-249-1250)

### **Where are the applications filed?**

City of Benbrook  
City of Benbrook  
Members of City Council  
911 Winscott Road  
Benbrook, Texas 76126

Benbrook Library District  
Benbrook Library Board of Directors  
1065 Mercedes Street  
Benbrook, Texas 76126

Benbrook Water Authority  
Benbrook Water Authority Board of Directors  
1121 Mercedes Street  
Benbrook, Texas 76126