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# City of Benbrook Community Newsletter

December 2006/January 2007

## CITY MANAGER RETIRES



**B**enbrook City Manager Cary Conklin will end his distinguished career with the City of Benbrook when he retires effective December 31, 2006. Cary began his service with Benbrook in 1974 as Director of Parks and Recreation. In 1979, he was promoted to Director of Community Services. Cary became Assistant City Manager in 1988 and was promoted to City Manager in 1996.

During his tenure, Conklin was instrumental in developing Dutch Branch Park, the Benbrook Community Center/YMCA, and Benbrook's neighborhood parks. When asked what other accomplishments he is proud of, Cary states that lowering the tax rate by ten percent over the last ten years, improving streets through overlay projects and the highway turn-around, drainage improvements in the north and south which ended flooding for hundreds of residents, and seeing the reserve fund grow from \$1.8 million to about \$5 million in ten years are significant accomplishments for the City. Cary is quick to point out that most of these accomplishments are due to "good timing and measured growth."

Conklin has had his share of adventures as City Manager. He recalls a time when he helped rebuild a transmission on a garbage truck one night so the City could have one truck running the next day. "That was a critical time." Cary also remembers standing in waste deep water in the middle of a residential street during those flood years. Another time, "One of our Council members, Rick Allison, and I made a swift water rescue of a kid from Mary's Creek during a flood."

When asked what he will miss, he says he will miss the routine things, like "City Council meetings the 1st and 3rd Thursday every month, twelve months a year, for thirty-one years; and I'll miss my colleagues. I have a 20 to 30 year relationship with several of the staff members."

Cary and his wife, Carolyn, plan to build a new home just south of Benbrook. Carolyn recently retired from Crowley ISD, and they are both looking forward to starting their new life, spending more time with family and friends, and discovering new adventures.

Known for his leadership, high ethical standards, and approachable demeanor, Conklin will be sorely missed by City staff, Council members, community organizations, and residents alike. Staff wishes Cary Conklin and his family the very best for the future.

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### Public Welcome!

Benbrook City Council always welcomes the public to the normally scheduled City Council meetings:

- **1st & 3rd Thursdays of each month**
- **7:30PM**
- **City Hall**  
**911 Winscott Road**

### Holiday Refuse Collection

Since Christmas and New Year's Day fall 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 7:00AM 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 12. Please remove any nails, stands, plastic bags and decorations from ALL trees, whether placed in the dumpster or picked up at curbside.

If you have any questions, please contact City Hall at 817-249-3000.



### Benbrook Citizens Protect the Environment

More than 150 Benbrook residents brought hazardous material waste and electronic waste to the Hazardous Household Waste & E-Waste Collection Event held at Benbrook Industrial Park on Saturday, October 28.

Approximately 45 citizens were given vouchers to take their items to the Fort Worth Collection Center (ECC) for disposal.

In partnership with the ECC, Benbrook holds two collection events a year, once in the Fall and once in the Spring. These events allow Benbrook residents to dispose of unwanted household waste in a safe and environmentally friendly manner.

If you missed the event, or if you collect significant hazardous waste between local collection events, Benbrook residents may contact City Hall at 817-249-3000 to obtain a voucher to take their items to the ECC (no electronics).

Vouchers are free to Benbrook citizens. The ECC will bill the City of Benbrook \$46 per voucher redeemed (household disposal).

Thank you to everyone who participated in keeping dangerous chemicals out of our landfills.

Your efforts make a BIG difference!

### City Earns Flood Insurance Discount For Homeowners



Benbrook has participated in FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS) since 1991.

The CRS is a voluntary incentive program that recognizes and encourages community floodplain management activities that exceed the minimum NFIP requirements. Flood Insurance premium rates are discounted to reflect the reduced flood risk resulting from community actions. Because Benbrook has taken comprehensive action to reduce flood risk, the City recently qualified for reduced flood insurance rates for homeowners.

Benbrook now has a Community Rating of "Class 6", putting Benbrook in the top 8% of all cities in the nation for reducing flood hazards. As a result, property owners within the 100-year floodplain are now eligible for a 20% discount (up from 15%) on their flood insurance rate. Property owners outside of the 100-year floodplain receive a 10% discount. The City recommends that you contact your flood insurance carrier to make sure you are receiving the appropriate discount on your flood insurance.





***BENBROOK FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION  
PROUDLY PRESENTS***



**The 15<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING AND FIREWORKS SHOW  
DECEMBER 2, 2006 AT 7:00PM  
BENBROOK COMMUNITY CENTER/YMCA  
1899 Winscott Road, in Dutch Branch Park**

***FOOD AND MONETARY DONATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED AT THE ENTRANCE OF THE PARK BEFORE AND AFTER THE SHOW. ALL DONATIONS WILL GO DIRECTLY TO THE FIREFIGHTERS FOOD DRIVE AND BENBROOK "CHRISTMAS FOR KIDS"***



***PICTURES WITH SANTA  
BENBROOK CENTRAL FIRE STATION  
528 Mercedes Street  
NOV. 30th 6 – 8 PM AND DEC. 1st 6 – 9 PM  
FOR DONATION OF 4 FOOD ITEMS OR \$3.00***

***NON-PERISHABLE FOOD AND MONETARY DONATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED AT THE BENBROOK CENTRAL FIRE STATION UNTIL DECEMBER 18, 2006. ALL DONATIONS WILL***

**Holiday Safety Tips**

From Benbrook Police Department



- Be extra cautious about locking doors and windows when you leave your house, even for a few minutes.
- Don't display holiday gifts where they can be seen from a window or doorway. Store or hide gifts before you go away on a holiday trip.
- Be wary of strangers soliciting for charitable donations. Ask for identification, how donated funds are used, if contributions are tax deductible, etc.
- Use only fire resistant ornaments on a holiday tree and make sure electric lights are in good working order. Don't leave the lights on overnight or when you are away from home.
- Shop before dark if possible. Possibly coordinate shopping trips with a friend. Never park in an unlit lot or area, no matter how convenient it is.
- Be extra careful with purses and wallets. Carry a purse under your arm. Keep a wallet in an inside jacket pocket, not a back trouser pocket.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash. Pay for purchases with a check, credit card, or debit card when possible.
- Teach children to go to a store clerk, security guard, or police officer and ask for help if you become separated. They should NEVER go into a parking lot alone.



## City of Benbrook Community Newsletter

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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](mailto:info@cityofbenbrook.com).

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

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

FOR KIDS.”

**RECTLY SUP-  
PORT THE FIRE-  
FIGHTERS FOOD  
DRIVE AND BEN-  
BROOK**

PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
FORT WORTH, TX  
PERMIT NO. 551

“CHRISTMAS

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.

## 4 PAWS PREPARES FOR SANTA

Members and volunteers of 4 PAWS (Pets Are Worth Saving) of Benbrook are anxiously preparing to work with Santa at local **PETsMART** stores. 4 PAWS and Santa will be taking photographs of your pets, children or both with Santa Claus. This marks the seventh year the group has participated in the program.

4 PAWS and Santa will be at the **Hulen PETsMART on December 2, 3, 9, 10, 16 and 17, from 11:00AM to 4:00PM.** They will also be at the **Ridgmar PETsMART on December 10, 16 and 17, from 11:00AM to 4:00PM.**

4 PAWS Members have noticed Santa bears a strong resemblance to some of our City employees and City Council members. While posing for your pictures, Santa will make time to talk with your child and have sweet treats to share. Since 4 PAWS expanded their efforts beyond pet pictures, many have noted the much shorter lines at PETsMART than at the malls.

The cost is \$9.95 and includes two Polaroid pictures placed in an ornament and a paper frame. PETsMART donates half of the cost to 4 PAWS, providing much-needed funds for veterinary care of the animals housed in the Benbrook Animal Shelter.

4 PAWS looks forward to seeing you at either PETsMART location on the noted dates, and wishes to remind you to get on their Wish List if you are thinking of adopting a pet. You may contact them by phone at (817) 249-4516, 249-1205 or 249-0459, or e-mail your request to [admin@4pawsinc.org](mailto:admin@4pawsinc.org).

New members and volunteers are always needed to assist with the adoption program each weekday, and other special weekend adoption events.

