

Benbrook Welcomes New Councilmember



Mark Washburn was sworn in and began serving as Place 6 Councilmember on Benbrook City Council on Thursday, May 15, 2008. Mr. Washburn was elected to Place 6 when Larry Stowe chose not to seek re-election.

Married since 1996, Mark and his wife have two children and have lived in Benbrook since 1998. Mark describes Benbrook as a comfortable, quality location to raise a family. Benbrook amenities such as parks, recreational opportunities, businesses, and schools provide for enhanced quality of life.

Mr. Washburn holds a Bachelor of Arts in Communications degree from the University of New Orleans. In 1991, he earned a Master in Arts in Religious Education degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth. Additional studies include Clinical Pastoral Education from the School of Pastoral Care at North Carolina Baptist Hospital in Winston-Salem, where he served as hospital chaplain. Mr. Washburn is considering pursuing an Anglican Studies degree and currently serves as the Director of Christian Education at All Saints' Episcopal Church in Fort Worth. His professional background includes over 25 years in media technology. Mark served on the Benbrook Park and Recreation Board from 2005-2007 and the Benbrook Citizens on Patrol in 2007-2008. He also served on the Benbrook Water Board's Capital Improvement Advisory Committee and has served on the Benbrook Zoning Board of Adjustment since 2007.

Mr. Washburn desires to represent the citizens of Benbrook and believes the timing to serve on Council is right. He strives to utilize his servant-leadership gifts in a creative and innovation manner. Mr. Washburn wants "to assist working families and citizens with challenges they face, find common ground for citizens and city government, incorporate policies from the City Charter and create new policies that are best for the majority of our neighborhoods and the community we call Benbrook." Priorities include assuring City services such as police and fire departments are equipped to best serve the public, assuring the City continues to be financially sound, working to improve the school system, and seeking the best solutions and affordable resources for future projects and challenges.

Mr. Washburn describes his vision for Benbrook to include enhancing quality of life through balancing the interests of residents and business, and improving "the look" of the city with exciting development projects such as the Benbrook Boulevard Master Plan, Town Center Project, and Lake Benbrook and Marina projects.

When asked what he likes best about Benbrook, Mark Washburn answers, "the people."

In This Issue

Page 2

Refuse Information

Page 3

Outdoor Warning Sirens

Transit Service

Page 4

Community News

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.

Residential Refuse, Recycling, Bulk and Brush Collection

The City of Benbrook contracts with Allied Waste Services for residential garbage and recycling services. To promote safe, sanitary, and efficient conditions, the City requires by ordinance that all residents utilize the refuse service provided by Allied.

Refuse Collection

- Household Refuse and Recycling is collected ONCE per week, on WEDNESDAYS, and must be placed at curbside by 7:00am. Brush and Bulk materials placed at curbside on Wednesdays by 7:00am will be collected by Allied WITHIN 72 HOURS.
- It is a violation of City Ordinance to place refuse and recycling on the curb earlier than the TUESDAY evening prior to the Wednesday pick-up.
- Please contain all refuse in closed plastic bags, whether or not a garbage can is used.

Recycling Collection

Residents may obtain a blue recycling bin, limit 2 per household, at City Hall, 911 Winscott Road, or Benbrook Water Authority (BWA), 1121 Mercedes Street. There is no charge for the bins. Residents may purchase lids for the recycling bins at a cost of \$6.41 per lid. The City recommends that residents mark their names/addresses on the bin with a waterproof marker. The following items may be placed in bins for recycling:

- Plastics—Number 1,2,3,4,5 and 7 plastics such as milk jugs, liter bottles, shampoo bottles, etc. (please remove all caps) NO butter tubs or containers with openings as large as the container. NO plastic bottles that have contained oil or petroleum by-products.
- Newspapers/Catalogs/Magazines.
- Glass—all colors of glass may be recycled. NO plate glass, ceramic, or mirrors.
- Metal—all metal food and beverage containers (tin, aluminum, and steel) may be recycled. It is not necessary to remove labels, but please remove lids and food from containers.
- Cardboard—all cardboard must be broken down to fit the blue bin. Large boxes may be flattened and placed under the bin. No tissue or wet paper. No contaminated food items. No Styrofoam products.

Brush & Bulk Collection

- Brush and bulk materials placed at curbside on WEDNESDAYS by 7:00am will be collected WITHIN 72 HOURS.
- If possible, loose brush should not exceed 4 feet in length, 6 inches in diameter, or 100 pounds.
- Large brush and bulk materials are collected with a special brush truck designed to be used for collecting cardboard boxes, furniture, and appliances.
- Allied will not pick up construction material such as sheetrock, tile, roofing or earthen materials.
- Allied will not pick up tires, batteries, petroleum products or household hazardous waste (check City website for upcoming Household Hazardous Waste Collection events: www.cityofbenbrook.com)

Please note: Residents may now haul brush only (no bulk) materials to the brush dumpster at City Maintenance Shop, 467 Winscott, during business hours (Monday through Friday 8:00am-3:00pm).

Please direct all billing inquiries to BWA at 817-249-1250. To report a problem, contact Allied at 817-332-7301.

Outdoor Warning Sirens

Outdoor warning sirens are part of an emergency notification system designed to notify citizens of impending danger, typically weather-related events. The sirens are designed to provide warning to residents who are outdoors or within close proximity of the siren. The siren may not be heard inside homes or buildings with high ambient noise levels (offices, businesses or factories) or by persons who are sleeping.

Sirens are commonly activated for a weather event—and not only for tornado warnings. Local officials will sound the siren when a tornado has been sighted or is approaching a specific area. Other reasons for sounding the siren are when dangerous weather conditions (wind speeds sustained in excess of 70 mph, or “quarter-size or larger” hail) exist. For these weather events, the siren sound is a long, steady tone lasting 3 minutes, and may be repeated. Sirens will only be activated if the weather event will directly impact the City—not if a countywide alert has been announced (the danger may be east of the City of Benbrook and moving away).



Sirens may also be used to warn residents of a “Hazardous Material Incident” or other hazardous condition in the area. This siren sound is different from the weather siren. This siren produces a “whooping” sound—with low to high tones lasting 3 seconds, followed by a short pause and then repeating.

If you hear a siren, remain calm and seek shelter for yourself and your family. When possible, turn on your radio or television for local information and instructions. **WBAP Radio 820AM** is the designated Emergency Alert Station for the Benbrook area. Unless instructed to do so, stay indoors until the emergency situation is ended. Do not call 911 for information, call only if you are reporting a life-threatening condition.

Weather Alert radios offer an additional measure of safety for residents and may be purchased for home and business use. The electric-powered radios have back-up battery power and sound an alarm when the National Weather Service issues a bulletin.

The Benbrook Fire Department runs silent siren tests three times weekly and manually tests the siren monthly (the first Wednesday of each month at 1:00pm) to maintain a constant state of emergency readiness.

For more information, contact the Benbrook Fire Department at 817-249-1727.

Transit Service for Elderly and Disabled

In May, City Council approved the contract with the Fort Worth Transportation Authority to continue transit service for elderly and disabled Benbrook citizens. Persons who are 55 years of age or older, or who have a disability (permanent or temporary), may qualify for transit service to medical appointments, shopping, recreation, school or work. The fare is \$2.50 for a one-way trip. Benbrook residents may ride any day on a first-come, first-serve basis, except weekends and holidays, with Tuesday and Thursday rides guaranteed.

To register and schedule trips, call 817-336-8714.





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

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City of Benbrook

City Council:

Jerry Dittrich, Mayor
James Schull, Place 2
Keith Bailey, Place 3
Rickie Allison, Place 4
Dan Tully, 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**
e-mail: info@cityofbenbrook.com

Community News

Benbrook Community Center/YMCA announces summer activities including Camp Castlebrook Summer Day Camp beginning June 9, co-ed Summer Basketball League for 3rd-8th graders, and Aquatics beginning June 9. For more information, contact the "Y" at **817-249-0500**.



The **Benbrook Senior Citizen Center**, located at 1010 Mercedes, is sponsored by the City of Benbrook. The Center promotes the welfare of senior members (age 50 or more) and provides opportunities for educational, recreational, and social activities and events. The Center is open Monday through Friday from 8:00am-2:00pm,

except on scheduled City holidays. For more information, contact the Senior Citizen Center Director, Marcy Fletcher, at **817-249-6300**.

