

Benbrook Welcomes New Councilmember



Dan Tully was sworn in and began serving as Place 5 Councilmember on Benbrook City Council on May 17, 2007. Mr. Tully was elected to Place 5 when John Vander Pan chose not to seek re-election.

Dan and his wife, Madonna, have lived in Benbrook since November 1988. They met at Oklahoma State University and married in 1976. Madonna is a retired classroom art teacher and current treasurer of the Westpark Elementary PTA. Dan has served on the Benbrook Economic Development Corporation (EDC) Board since 2004. Mr. Tully has spent the

past 30 years doing project management support in project controls. He is currently a contractor to Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART), working as a Senior Budget/Cost Control analyst on the DART three billion dollar, 42-mile Light Rail Expansion project.

Mr. Tully describes his vision for Benbrook to include assisting impacted citizens and businesses in future Benbrook Boulevard improvements and economic development projects, encouraging planned development within the City's parklands, resolving education needs for children in middle and upper grades, and continuing the City's sound financial path.

Citizen Survey

The City recently reported the results of the 2007 Citizen Survey, conducted by the National Research Center, to City Council. The survey was mailed to approximately 1,200 Benbrook households and responses were received from almost 300 families. The survey was designed to measure citizen satisfaction with city services and quality of life issues. Results were then compared to the survey results of approximately 300 other cities nationwide. Eighty-six percent (86%) of respondents reported that overall quality of life in Benbrook is good or excellent.

Results of the 2007 Citizen Survey can be found on the City website at www.cityofbenbrook.com.

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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.

4 PAWS



4 PAWS (Pets are Worth Saving) will celebrate its 10th anniversary this year and is approaching the adoption of its 1,000th stray animal. 4 PAWS, a non-profit volunteer organization, works directly with the Benbrook Animal Shelter to coordinate adoptions of homeless dogs and cats. This year, the family that adopts the 1,000th animal will receive special gifts, waiver of the adoption fee, and extended free veterinary care. All Benbrook residents are eligible for low cost spay/neuter service through 4 PAWS, and financially challenged families may qualify for no cost services. For spay/neuter service, call 817-249-1205. For those interested in volunteering, making a donation, or adopting an animal, call 817-249-0459 or admin@4pawsinc.org.

City Studies New Funding Method for Stormwater Projects

The City is investigating the possibility of establishing a “stormwater utility” to help fund future flood control and water quality projects in Benbrook, instead of using property taxes to fund those projects. Currently, a portion of the City’s annual property tax is used to pay for stormwater improvements, including debt service on bonds and annual operation and maintenance expenses.

Under the new stormwater utility system, properties would be charged a monthly stormwater fee based on the amount of impervious area (portion of property covered by buildings and pavement) on the property. One of the current proposals is to use a portion or all of the revenues from the stormwater fee to lower the annual property tax rate.

The stormwater fee is often a more fair funding method for stormwater activities, since the fee is based on the amount of stormwater runoff generated by a property and not based on the market value of the property. A stormwater utility is now used to fund these types of activities in 42 other cities in the North Texas area, including Fort Worth, Mansfield, and White Settlement.

Additionally, funds would be segregated into a specific stormwater account and can only be used for stormwater activities budgeted by the City.

Benbrook has made significant improvements in flood control over the last 25 years and more than 100 houses have been removed from the 100-year floodplain, or otherwise protected from flooding. Although the City has received national recognition for its floodplain regulation program, the City has identified an additional \$37 million in projects that are needed to protect residents from flooding.

The new stormwater utility would provide a steady revenue source to build and maintain new stormwater projects where warranted. The utility would also provide funding to implement new stormwater quality requirements of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to improve the quality of the water in streams and lakes in Benbrook.

As currently proposed, the fee for all residential properties would be the same, while the fee for other non-residential properties would be based on the actual impervious area on the property. Undeveloped properties in their natural state would not be charged a fee.

The City staff and its consultant are compiling the necessary data and making financial projections of costs and fees for City Council consideration. A public hearing will be held at the end of the Summer, with a projected implementation date of October 1, 2007, if the utility is approved by the City Council. For more information, contact the Community Development staff at (817) 249-3000.

Boards and Commissions

The **City of Benbrook** is accepting applications from citizens interested in serving on various Boards and Commissions. These positions include:

- Planning and Zoning Commission**
- Zoning Board of Adjustment/Appeals Commission**
- Parks and Recreation Board**
- Benbrook Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors**
- Tax Increment Finance Reinvestment Zone No. 1**

Appointed members of the Boards and Commissions serve a two-year term and must meet the following qualifications (with exception of TIF Board of Directors):

- Be a registered voter of the City
- Have resided in the City for one year
- Continue residency in the City during the term of office (or for Planning and Zoning candidate must own real property in Benbrook)
- Not hold a public elective office within the State; and
- Serve without compensation



Tax Increment Finance Reinvestment Zone No. 1 Board of Directors qualifications:

- Be a resident of the City or own a business within the City
- Serve without compensation

Applications and information are available at City Hall, 911 Winscott Rd., or at www.cityofbenbrook.com. The application deadline is **August 17, 2007**.

Transit Service Available 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
Larry Stowe, 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

Visit us on the Web:
www.cityofbenbrook.com

Benbrook Area Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament

The **Benbrook Area Chamber of Commerce 5th Annual Golf Tournament** will be held at Whitestone Golf Club on Monday, June 11. This event is sponsored by Moritz Chevrolet and promises to be a fun-filled day. Players pay \$100 per person, which includes green fees, a cart, breakfast, lunch, a gift, goody bag, and player photo. Volunteers also needed. Please contact Ed Wilsberg at 817-249-4451.

Benbrook Community Center/YMCA News

Upcoming Summer programs at the Benbrook Community Center/YMCA include the following:

Summer Aquatics—Certified and caring swim instructors teach swim lessons to individuals ages 6 months to adult in the indoor pool. Classes run on a twice per week or monthly schedule.

Summer Day Camp—Summer camp for school age children or young teens includes swimming, weekly field trips, fishing, arts and crafts, and more.

Benbrook residents receive a 10% discount on all fees.

Contact the BCC/YMCA at (817) 249-0500 to register or go online at www.benbrookcommunitycenterymcafw.org