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City of Benbrook Community Newsletter

October/November 2006

City Council Brief

City Council Adopts Ordinance Prohibiting Smoking in Public

On August 17, 2006, Benbrook City Council joined other Texas cities in improving public health by adopting a more aggressive public smoking ordinance. The City Council amended the Benbrook Municipal Code to prohibit smoking in all public buildings.

City Council spent many hours discussing and developing the amendment, weighing the rights of private citizens to smoke with current research regarding the health effects of secondhand smoke exposure.

On June 28, 2006, the United States Surgeon General released a 652-page report on the effects of secondhand smoke exposure to those who do not smoke tobacco products. The report included the following:

“The health effects of secondhand smoke exposure are more pervasive than we previously thought. Secondhand smoke is a serious health hazard that can lead to disease and premature death in children and nonsmoking adults.”

The report noted that exposure to secondhand smoke raises the risk of heart disease by 25-30 percent and the risk of lung cancer by 20-30 percent among nonsmokers.

“Restrictions on smoking can control exposure effectively, but technical approaches involving air cleaning or a greater exchange of indoor with outdoor air cannot. Consequently, nonsmokers need protection through the restriction of smoking in public places and workplaces.”

Spurred by the June 2006 U.S. Surgeon General’s report, City Council adopted a more stringent ordinance. Council’s decision also reflected a desire to implement a stricter public smoking policy prior to anticipated development of new restaurants in the community.

Ordinance #1214, effective November 1, 2006, states the following:

It is unlawful for any person to perform the following acts in any public building in the City of Benbrook or within 25 feet from any entrance or exit to any building:

- (1) Smoke;
- (2) Carry a lighted cigarette, cigar, or tobacco-containing pipe.

Under the ordinance, “public building” is defined as any building that is not a private residence. Violators are subject to a daily fine not to exceed \$500.

To read the full ordinance, including detailed definitions, as well as to view agendas, minutes, and streaming video of council meetings, go to the city website at:

www.cityofbenbrook.com

Thank You For
Not Smoking



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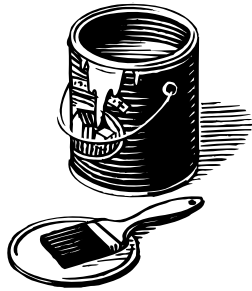
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Got Junk? Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day

**When: Saturday, October 28, 2006
9:00 to 11:00 AM**

**Where: Benbrook Industrial Park
7400 Benbrook Parkway**

On Saturday, October 28, the City of Benbrook is hosting a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event for citizens of Benbrook from 9 to 11AM at the Benbrook Industrial Park at 7400 Benbrook Parkway. Through an agreement with the Fort Worth Environmental Collection Center, the City of Fort Worth will provide a mobile collection unit and several personnel who will work with Benbrook staff to collect the following household materials for disposal: *acids, aerosol cans, antifreeze, all batteries, brake fluid, craft and hobby materials, degreasers, drain cleaners, fertilizer, fluorescent lights, herbicides, household chemicals, motor oil, oil filters, paints/stains, paint thinners, pest strips, pesticides, pharmaceuticals, photo chemicals, pool chemicals, solvents, transmission fluid, and varnishes.*

Cyclone Recycling will also be on site to collect electronic waste such as computers, monitors, CPU's, scanners, printers, printer cartridges, fax machines, phones, cell phones, lawnmowers, and small household appliances such as microwaves. The following materials **CANNOT** be accepted: *ammunition, explosives, medical waste, radioactive material (smoke detectors), waste generated by businesses, tires, propane and butane cylinders.*

To increase safety and to make the collection of materials less costly and more efficient, please remember:

- If a product is usable, give it to someone who can use it.
- Keep chemicals in original containers; place broken or leaking containers inside a second container of like material (i.e. glass for corrosives, metal for flammables).
- If a container has no label and its contents are known, place a label on the container clearly stating the contents.
- Transport chemicals in the trunk, do not transport them in the passenger compartment of a vehicle.

IMPORTANT

- **A recent BENBROOK water bill must be shown as proof of residency.**
- People who arrive before 9AM should be prepared to wait until the collection unit is set up and staff are available to load and transfer items from vehicles to the collection unit.
- If the weight capacity of the collection unit is reached before 11AM, residents will receive vouchers to take materials to the Fort Worth Environmental Collection Center. **For more information, call City Hall at 817-249-3000.**



CITYWIDE SALE & TREASURE HUNT

The 2nd annual 12-square-mile Citywide Sale & Treasure Hunt is scheduled for Saturday, October 21, corresponding with the Benbrook Antique Mall Sidewalk Sale. Join in the fun by participating or attending this all-day citywide event. Local businesses are donating items that will be awarded to 'Treasure Hunt' participants, area neighborhoods will host 'treasure sales', and 4 PAWS will provide pet adoption opportunities. For more information, contact Sam Balkum at 817-249-4451 or sam@benbrookchamber.org.

TIF PROJECTS UNDER CONSTRUCTION—Two projects funded by the TIF District are currently under construction. The I-20 Ramp Relocation/Texas Turnaround project is nearing completion. This project includes the relocation of the on-ramp and off-ramp east of Winscott Road, reconstruction of the frontage roads, and the construction of a Texas turnaround at Winscott Road. The purpose of the project is to stimulate and facilitate development along the I-20 frontage. The project is jointly funded by the Regional Transportation Council (federal money), the Texas Department of Transportation, the Benbrook EDC, and the Benbrook TIF District. No City general fund taxes are being utilized for the project. The second project is the Walnut Creek Sewer Line Phase 1, jointly funded by the City of Fort Worth and the Benbrook TIF District. The 36-inch sewer line connects to a Fort Worth sewer at Mary's Creek east of Winscott Road, and extends along Winscott Road to the UP Railroad, through Z. Boaz Park along the railroad, under U.S. 377 and westward through the new Team Ranch park area, then under I-20 near Aledo Road. The pipeline will then be extended by private developers to serve new development along Walnut Creek.

Council Adopts 2006-07 Budget and Lowers the Tax Rate by Two Cents

The Benbrook City Council adopted the City's 2006-07 Budget on Thursday, September 21, 2006. The Budget, which goes into effect on October 1, 2006, is based on reducing the property tax rate from its current level of \$0.7425 per \$100 valuation by two cents to \$0.7225 per \$100 valuation. This tax rate adjustment is Benbrook's second two-cent reduction in the past two years. City Council approved a balanced budget with total operating fund revenues of \$13,267,524 and total operating fund expenditures of \$13,267,524. No reserve funds are necessary to balance the 2006-07 Budget.

Expenditures included in the 2006-07 Budget in the amount of \$13,267,524 reflect an increase of \$597,919 or 4.72% over the 2005-06 Budget of \$12,669,605. Debt Service Fund expenditures in the amount of \$1,239,474 reflect a decrease of \$329,941 or 21.02% from the 2005-06 Budget of \$1,569,415. This net reduction in total debt results from re-financing current debt obligations in the summer of 2005 and retiring bonds and certificates. General Fund expenditures in the amount of \$12,028,050 are \$927,860, or 8.36% more, than the 2005-06 Budget of \$11,100,190.

No reductions or cuts in service are required or expected during the upcoming fiscal year. The Budget includes sufficient funds to finance a cost-of-living salary adjustment for full-time City employees. The Budget also includes funds to finance an increase in employee health, dental, and life insurance. Funds are also available to cover an increase in retirement contributions.

The 2006-07 Proposed Budget includes the addition of five new positions. The Community Development Division reflects the creation of an Engineering Department and one full-time employee, a City Engineer, to staff the new department. The Fire Department's staffing level increases from twelve to sixteen full-time positions with the addition of four Fire Fighter/Paramedic positions. Two Fire Fighter/Paramedics are funded for the full 2006-07 fiscal year while two additional Fire Fighter/Paramedics will be hired in April 2007.

The 2006-07 Budget includes funds to replace or add the following equipment, vehicles, and supplies: four Police vehicles, six light bars for Patrol vehicles, four computer systems for the Police Department, six portable radios for the Police Department, computer system for the jail booking area, four closed circuit cameras for the jail area, eight tactical entry vests for Police Officers, a LIDAR accident investigation tool for the Police Patrol Activity, brush truck chassis for the Fire Department, a generator for the Fire Station, a concrete saw for Public Works, a 2007 hybrid sedan to serve as a Staff car, a ball field light pole replacement and utility vehicle for the Parks Maintenance Activity. The Budget also includes funds for preliminary engineering for Benbrook Boulevard, and a Stormwater Utility Feasibility/Implementation Project.

The City Council added funds for: establishing a Wireless Hardware Fund, renovating the Benbrook Animal Shelter, procuring EMS software and computers for the Fire Department, and creating an Engineering Department.

The table below provides a summary of fund balances, revenues, and expenditures for the General Fund and the Debt Service on an actual basis for 2004-05, on a re-estimated basis for 2005-06, and on an adopted budget basis for 2007.

General Fund Summary	Actual 2004-2005	Estimated 2005-2006	Adopted 2006-2007
Beginning Balance	\$ 4,445,711	\$ 4,556,216	\$ 5,048,477
Total Revenues	\$ 10,586,346	\$ 11,314,692	\$ 12,028,050
Total Expenditures	\$ 10,475,841	\$ 10,822,431	\$ 12,028,050
Excess Revenues/Expenditures	\$ 110,505	\$ 492,261	\$ 0
Ending Balance	\$ 4,556,216	\$ 5,048,477	\$ 5,048,477
Debt Service Fund			
Beginning Balance	\$ 199,187	\$ 225,184	\$ 101,173
Total Revenues	\$ 1,674,999	\$ 1,424,500	\$ 1,239,474
Total Expenditures	\$ 1,649,002	\$ 1,548,511	\$ 1,239,474
Excess Revenues/Expenditures	\$ 25,997	\$ (124,011)	\$ 0
Ending Balance	\$ 225,184	\$ 101,173	\$ 101,173

A detailed summary of the 2006-07 Budget may be found in the Budget Section of the City's website at www.cityofbenbrook.com.



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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.

Visit us on the Web:
www.cityofbenbrook.com

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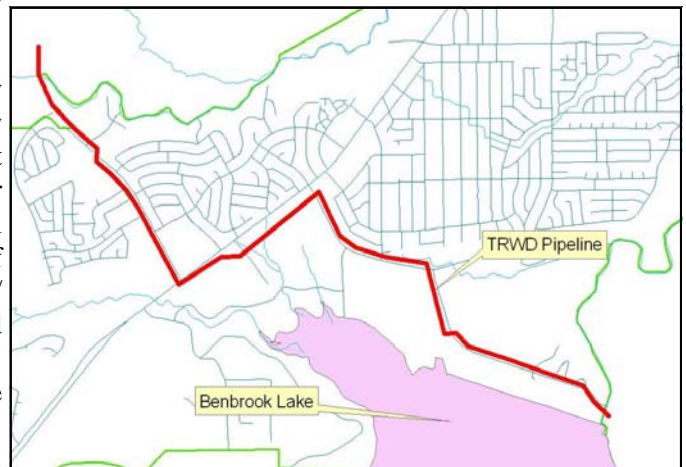
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TARRANT REGIONAL WATER DISTRICT BUILDS PIPELINE IN BENBROOK

Speculation abounds among Benbrook residents regarding the huge piles of dirt along Winscott Road. Some say that it is preparation for gas wells; others believe that the project is massive road widening. Actually, the purpose of the project is to provide additional water supply to fast growing areas in northwest Fort Worth and Tarrant County.

The Tarrant Regional Water District (TRWD) has recently started construction of a 20-mile, 96-inch diameter raw waterline through Benbrook that will connect their East Texas reservoirs (Richland-Chambers Reservoir and Cedar Creek Lake) with Eagle Mountain Lake. The pipeline will connect with the TRWD's existing pipeline east of Benbrook Dam, extending westward along Dirks Road/Lakeside Drive below the dam to a new pump station and storage facility located adjacent to the emergency spillway. The pipeline will then extend westward along Lakeside Drive and Winscott Road, south along the east side of Benbrook Boulevard, then northward along RM 2871. TRWD will restore existing roads to their prior condition upon completion of the project. Also, TRWD will provide hundreds of additional trees to replace those removed from behind Benbrook dam.



The pipeline will not remove water directly from Lake Benbrook. Water coming from East Texas will pass around Lake Benbrook in the pipeline. Additional information can be found at http://www.trwd.com/TRWD_future_emconnect.asp or by calling the TRWD at (817) 335-2491.