



City of Benbrook Community Newsletter

October / November 2005

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.

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Council Approves 2005-06 Budget, Lowers Tax Rate by Two Cents

The Benbrook City Council adopted the City's 2005-06 Budget on Thursday, September 15, 2005. The Budget, which goes into effect on October 1, 2005, reduces the property tax rate from its current level of \$0.7625 per \$100 valuation by two cents to \$0.7425 per \$100 valuation. This tax rate reduction is Benbrook's largest single-year decrease over the past 20 years. Total operating fund revenues are \$12,358,236 and total operating fund expenditures are \$12,669,605. Reserve funds in the amount of \$311,369 may be necessary to balance the Budget.

Expenditures in the 2005-

06 Budget of \$12,669,605 reflect an increase of \$655,028 or 5.45% over the 2004-05 re-estimate of \$12,014,577. Debt Service Fund expenditures in the amount of \$1,569,415 reflect a decrease of \$10,648 or 0.67% from the 2004-05 re-estimate of \$1,580,063. This net reduction in total debt results from re-financing current debt obligations, retiring bonds and certificates, and issuing certificates of obligation. General Fund expenditures in the amount of \$11,100,190 are \$665,676 or 6.38% more than the 2004-05 re-estimate of \$10,434,514.

The 2005-06 Budget

includes sufficient funds to continue all current City programs. No reductions or cuts in service are required or expected during the upcoming fiscal year.

The increase in General Fund expenditures is attributed to a variety of expenses including adjustments for salaries and fringe benefits, replacement and addition of equipment and operating supplies, implementation of new services / programs and higher fuel and utility costs.

A detailed summary is available in the Document Center on the City website, www.cityofbenbrook.com.

Benbrook EDC to sponsor Channel 7 Show

The Benbrook Economic Development Corporation staff announces the development of **Benbrook Spotlight**, a 30-minute monthly magazine program on issues of utmost importance to the citizens of Benbrook.

This 30-minute show will feature city departments and the promotion of community

events. The main function of Benbrook Spotlight is to educate, inform, entertain and involve Benbrook citizens and area viewers about the happenings and challenges facing Benbrook.

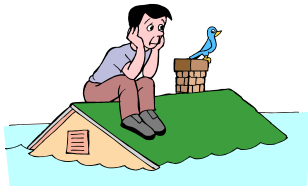
Ron Rainey, BEDC Director and Patty C. Bissey, Director of Marketing and Research, will act as executive producers.

Ms. Bissey will also act as production coordinator, on-camera talent and scriptwriter.

The interview portions of the program will provide footage which will respond to, and expand on, concepts being discussed. **Benbrook Spotlight** is set to premier in November on Cable 7, and on the EDC and City websites.

Important “FloodSmart” Information

COULD THIS HAPPEN TO ME?



To learn whether a house or property is within a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA), designated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), contact the Community Development Department at City Hall at 817-249-3000, or go online to www.cityofbenbrook.com, and select “Interactive Maps”. Check the boxes next to “Parcels” and “Flood Zones”, then select “Update Map”. Locate your property on the map to determine if you are in a SFHA. The City recently mailed a Floodplain Newsletter to the owners of property within the 100-year floodplain. If your property is within a flood hazard zone, you may want to purchase flood insurance if your lender does not require it, since flood insurance is not part of most homeowner’s insurance coverage.

BE PREPARED!

Make a list and take photographs of all possessions so a complete claim can be filed if flood damage occurs. A booklet from FEMA, “Repairing Your Flooded Home”, is available free of charge at City Hall.

Keep a flashlight and battery-powered radio in working order and keep emergency food, water, and medical supplies on hand. Keep valuables, legal documents, and insurance papers in a safe, dry place such as a safe-deposit box.

If an evacuation is ordered, move quickly and calmly, taking necessities such as medication, eyeglasses, and clothing. Avoid flooded areas, and never try to drive through high water.

If a flood occurs, fill containers, bathtubs, and sinks with clean water in case the water system becomes contaminated. Shut off all utilities (water, gas and electric) at the main switches or valves (use caution if the area is already inundated). Move personal property to higher ground.

AFTER THE FLOOD!

If flooding damages your house, wait until City officials determine that it is safe to reenter. Call your flood insurance agent. Use flashlights instead of lanterns, and watch for live electrical wires until an electrician has checked the system. Clean and dry your house as soon as possible. Throw away any perishable foods. Scrub and disinfect all walls and surfaces. Have the water system tested before using it. Take photographs to document damaged areas and repair activities. Contact the City Permit Office before beginning any repairs to a flood damaged structure.



CITY PERMIT PROCESS EARNS DISCOUNT FOR HOMEOWNERS

Benbrook has participated in the Community Rating System for the National Flood Insurance Program since 1991. Benbrook currently has a Community Rating of “7”, putting Benbrook in the top 25 percent of all cities in the nation for reducing flood hazards. As a result, property owners within the 100-year floodplain are eligible for a 15 percent discount on their flood insurance rate. Property owners outside of the 100-year floodplain receive a five percent discount. Contact your flood insurance carrier to make sure you are receiving the appropriate discount.

KEEP OUR STREAMS CLEAN!

Flooding often occurs because the natural capacity of a stream is blocked by obstructions. It is a violation of City Code to place or dump any material in a stream or channel, including dirt, rock, construction debris, rubbish, refuse, tree and brush cuttings, grass clippings or any other waste, material or device which may obstruct or impede flow. If you see a violation, please call the Code Enforcement Office at 817-249-1610, Extension 6110.

CONSTRUCTION IN FLOODPLAIN AREAS

Any construction or filling within the 100-year floodplain requires a Floodplain Modification and Development Permit from the City before work begins. This includes construction of buildings, storage buildings, fences, retaining walls, swimming pools, garages, carports, patio covers, or major landscaping improvements.

The City will verify whether the project is in the floodplain and that the proposed improvements comply with FEMA regulations and will not cause an increase in flood hazards. If repair or rehabilitation is being made to an existing structure in the floodplain, it may be considered a substantial improvement if the value of the work exceeds 50 percent of the value of the original structure. All substantial improvements must be flood-proofed by raising the minimum floor level to two feet above the 100-year flood level, or by providing hydrostatic protection. Contact the Community Development Department at 817-249-3000 with any questions.

FLOOD PROTECTION ASSISTANCE

If you are experiencing a flooding problem, City staff is available to provide assistance in determining what steps may be necessary for protection. Often, City personnel can advise you about installing diversion channels, french drains, bank protection or sand bagging strategies to prevent localized flood damage. City funds are not normally available for these types of projects, but advice and consultation are free of charge.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- www.cityofbenbrook.com
Links on the City Home Page:
FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency)
FLOODSMART.GOV (an official site of the National Flood Insurance Program)
- **Visit City Hall and the Community Development Department**
911 Winscott Road
817-249-3000
- **Benbrook Public Library**
1065 Mercedes Street

Household Hazardous Waste & E-Waste Collection Event

**When: Saturday, October 22
9:00 to 11:00 AM**

**Where: Benbrook Industrial Park -
7400 Block of Benbrook Parkway**

In celebration of Texas Recycles Day, the City of Benbrook will host a Household Hazardous Waste and E-Waste Collection Event for **BENBROOK** residents on Saturday, October 22 from 9:00 to 11:00 AM at Benbrook Industrial Park, located off of Winscott Road, in the 7400 block of Benbrook Parkway (where Benbrook Parkway dead-ends).

Through an agreement with the Fort Worth Environmental Collection Center (ECC), the following materials will be accepted: acids, aerosol cans, antifreeze, all batteries, brake fluid, craft & 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 Aluminum & Steel will also be on site to collect e-waste (electronic waste) such as **computer monitors, keyboards, CPU's, scanners, printers, printer cartridges, fax machines, phones, and cell phones.**

The following materials cannot be accepted: ammunition, explosives, and medical waste,

radioactive material (smoke detectors), waste generated by businesses, TVs, tires, propane and butane cylinders.

For safety and to make the collection of materials less costly and more efficient, please:

- Give usable products to someone who can use them.
- Keep chemicals in original containers; place broken / leaking containers in a second container of like material (i.e. glass for corrosives, metal for flammables).
- Label unmarked containers if contents are known.
- Use the trunk rather than the passenger compartment of a vehicle to transport chemicals.

IMPORTANT - A recent **BENBROOK water bill** must be shown as proof of residency.

Items will not be accepted until Fort Worth's collection unit is set up and authorized staff are available to load and transfer items from vehicles to the collection unit (at 9:00 AM).

If the weight capacity of the collection unit is reached before 11:00 AM or if the event is rained out, vouchers to take household hazardous waste materials to the Fort Worth ECC will be available.

For more information, call Shawna Cortez at 817-249-3000.

Did You Know...

- E-waste is the fastest-growing segment of municipal solid waste.
- Over 2 million tons of e-waste is buried in landfills each year.
- About three billion units of consumer electronics will be scrapped during this decade.
- Computers can contain an average of four pounds of lead, as well as other potentially hazardous materials like chromium, cadmium, mercury, beryllium, nickel, zinc, and brominated flame retardants.
- Consumer electronics account for 40 percent of lead found in landfills

Benbrook Community Center / YMCA

www.benbrookcommunitycenterymcafw.org

Fall brings some exciting opportunities to the Benbrook Community Center / YMCA. The 1st Annual Cowtown Kid's Marathon will begin at 9am on Saturday, October 8th at the BCC / YMCA. School age children participate in a 4 ½ month, self paced event of fitness and nutrition. Each participant keeps a mileage chart. There is no charge for this event and it is a great way to develop a healthy lifestyle at a young age. For more information contact Jeanne Jones, Volunteer Race Director at (817) 821-8897 or stop by the BCC / YMCA.

The 3rd annual Fall Craft Fair is

on Saturday, October 22nd from 9am – 5pm at the BCC / YMCA. Come and enjoy the creative crafts, food and entertainment that make this such a popular event. To inquire about a booth to sell crafts, contact Shawna Gibson at (817) 249-0500.

The BCC/YMCA is currently taking registrations for the fall 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. Practices begin the week of October 17th, 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? 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 or call us (817) 249-0500.



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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

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Visit us on the Web:
www.cityofbenbrook.com

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Set Sale For Benbrook

A 12 Square Mile Citywide Sale is planned for Saturday, October 22, 2005. This project of the Benbrook Area Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center held in co-operation with the Benbrook Antique Mall Parking Lot Sale and the Benbrook Community Center/YMCA 3rd Annual Arts & Craft Show is designed to promote Benbrook.

Various members of the Benbrook business community will have in store, sidewalk and/or parking lot sales. Local and area non-profits will also use the event to help raise funds for their community projects. Benbrook residents are encouraged to participate with treasure/yard



sales and use the event to do a little "house and garage cleaning". This is also the date of the City of Benbrook household hazardous waste and electronic waste drop off (see page 3).

The registration deadline for participation is October 5th. This deadline provides adequate time to complete the Official 12 Square Mile Citywide Map and have it available to the shoppers

prior to the event. Registration forms are available at the Benbrook Area Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center, 8507 Benbrook Boulevard or they can be downloaded from the Chamber web site at www.benbrookchamber.org. To promote participation by the non-profits a Special Discount is being offered for inclusion on the map, fee \$15.00 (\$10.00 for BACC members).

Your support of the SET SALE for Benbrook 12 Square Mile Citywide Event is appreciated. For additional information E-mail info@benbrookchamber.org or call Sam Balkum, Tourism Director, at 817-249-4451.