



City of Benbrook Community Newsletter

August / September 2005

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I-20 & WINSCOTT ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

To encourage development of the vacant commercial property along the I-20 corridor near Winscott Road, construction recently began to:

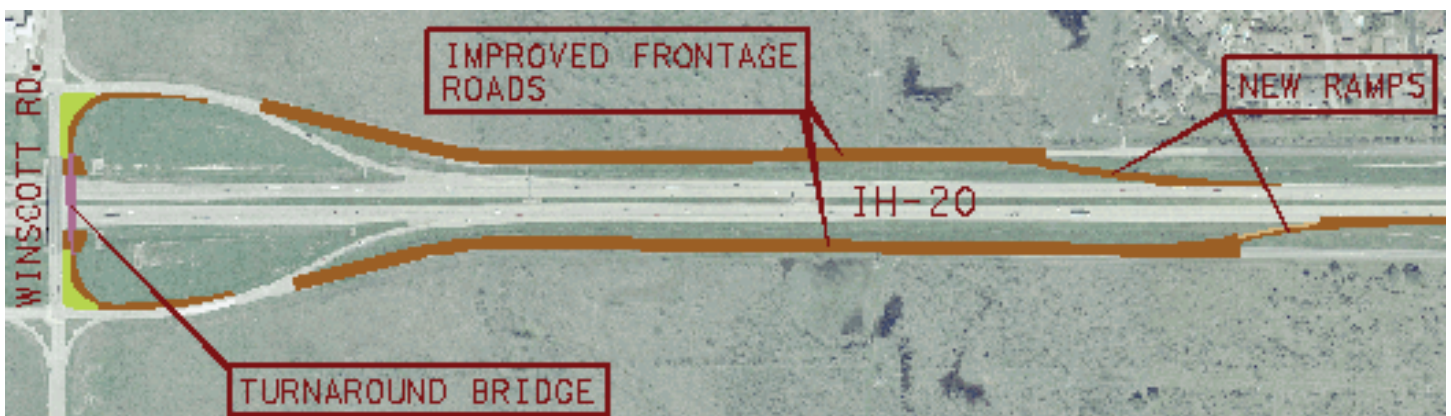
1. Add a Texas turnaround (U-turn bridge) at the Winscott Road overpass,
2. Relocate both the east- and westbound I-20/Winscott ramps to the east, and
3. Improve the I-20/Winscott Road access roads.

The projects are the result of collaboration between the Benbrook Tax Increment Finance (TIF) District, Benbrook Economic Development Corporation, North Central Texas Council of Governments, and Texas Department of Transportation. Once completed, the improvements should stimulate commercial development of

the area, ultimately benefiting the citizens of Benbrook with further tax base diversification.

Currently, the City of Benbrook relies disproportionately on residential property taxes as its primary source of revenue. By encouraging commercial development, the City of Benbrook will realize an increase in both commercial property taxes and sales tax receipts, thereby creating opportunities for residential property tax relief. The City's share of the cost of the project will be paid by commercial property taxes within the TIF district. No residential property taxes are being used for the project.

Please contact Dave Gattis at 817-249-3000 with questions or to receive additional information.



BENBROOK JOINS CITIES NATIONWIDE FOR AMERICA'S "NIGHT OUT AGAINST CRIME"

On Tuesday, August 2nd, neighborhoods throughout Benbrook are invited to join forces with thousands of communities nationwide for the **22nd Annual National Night Out** (NNO) crime and drug prevention event. NNO, which is sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch (NATW) and co-sponsored locally by the Benbrook Police Department and Benbrook Community Center/YMCA, will involve over 10,000 communities from all 50 states, U.S.

territories, Canadian cities, and military bases around the world. In all, over 34 million people are expected to participate in 'America's Night Out Against Crime' on August 2nd. NNO 2005 is being supported in part by the Target Corporation and the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance.

National Night Out is designed to: (1) heighten crime and prevention

awareness; (2) generate support for, and participation in, local anticrime efforts; (3) strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships; and (4) send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

From 6 to 9 PM on August 2nd, residents in neighborhoods throughout Benbrook and across the nation are asked to lock their doors, turn on the outside lights, and spend the evening outside with the neighbors and police. Many neighborhoods throughout Benbrook will be hosting a variety of special events such as block parties, cookouts, and visits from the Police and Fire Departments.

In addition to neighborhood events, the Benbrook Police Department and Benbrook Community Center/YMCA will be 'giving crime and

drugs a going away party' from 6 to 9 PM at 1899 Winscott Road. The American Red Cross will host a blood drive. Fort Worth Air One Patrol Helicopter and Care Flight Helicopter Ambulance will stop by for a visit. Military personnel will show off vehicles and visit with event goers. Benbrook Police and Fire Departments will show off equipment and perform fire apparatus demonstrations. Meet Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts from Troop 95, the Tarrant County Arson dog, and 4PAWS animal rescue organization members. There will be plenty of fun for all - bounce houses, an obstacle course, Kid's Adventure Train, and more. Come join us in 'giving crime & drugs a going away party' at the Community Center/YMCA. For more information, contact Crime Prevention Officer Jennifer Gabbert at 817-249-2752, ext 6111.

SET "SALE" TO BENBROOK

Mark your calendar for Benbrook Area Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center's **Set "Sale" to Benbrook 12 Square-Mile Citywide Event** to be held October 22, 2005. The Citywide Sale Event will include the Benbrook Antique Mall parking lot sale, Benbrook Community Center/YMCA's Arts & Craft Show, special sales at Benbrook businesses, fundraising opportunities for community non-profit organizations, and resident "treasure" sales.

Watch for more information in the next *City of Benbrook Community Newsletter*, on the Chamber web site (www.benbrookchamber.org) and in the *Chamber Connection*, which is published in the *Benbrook News* the last week of each month. For more information, contact Chamber Tourism Director Sam Balkum at 817-249-4451 or sam@benbrookchamber.org.

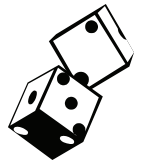
2ND ANNUAL CHAMBER CASINO NIGHT

Benbrook Area Chamber of Commerce (BACC) is planning its **Second Annual Benbrook Casino Night!** The event will be an adult's only evening (no one under 21), with food and various casino-type games such as craps, roulette, blackjack, Texas Hold 'Em, and slots. There will be drawings and auctions for fabulous prizes. All proceeds will benefit BACC. The event will be held during the later part of September. Watch for more details in the *Benbrook News* and *Chamber Connection*.

BACC is seeking donations for auction and prizes such as:

- Restaurant gift certificates,
- Tickets to events,
- Goodie baskets,
- Merchandise, coupons, etc.

All donations are tax deductible. For more information, please call BACC Executive Director Lisa Flowers at 817-249-4451.



TRASH BASH 2005

Are you or your organization looking for ways to improve the community? As part of the Keep Benbrook Beautiful program, volunteers are invited to participate in the 14th annual **Trash Bash** on **Saturday, September 17** from **8:30 to 11:30 AM**.

Registration begins at 8:30 AM near the concession stand in the east parking lot of Dutch Branch Park, off of Winscott Road and Benbrook Boulevard (Highway 377). Cleanup starts at 9:00 AM. Lunch will be served to all volunteers after the cleanup at 11:30 AM.

Formerly known as Trinity River Awareness Day, the Trash Bash is an annual volunteer cleanup of the Trinity River. Since 1992, over 50,000 residents of the Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex from 20 cities and six counties have gathered each September at major parks along the Trinity River and its tributaries to remove more than 900,000 pounds of debris from river and creek banks.

Contact Shawna Cortez at **817-249-3000** or scortez@cityofbenbrook.com for more information or to sign up.

DRIVERS BEWARE

Children will soon be heading back to school. Fort Worth Independent School District (FWISD) has announced new, standardized start times for the 2005-06 school year, which begins August 15:



Elementary Schools

Start: 8:00 AM
Dismissal: 2:15-3 PM

6th Grade & Middle Schools

Start: 9:20 AM
Dismissal: 4:25 PM

High Schools

Start: 8:35 AM
Dismissal: 3:35 PM

For more information, call 817-871-2000 or visit FWISD's web site at: www.fortworthisd.org.

Did You Know...

Estimates show that five percent of pedestrians die when struck by a vehicle traveling at 20 miles per hour or less. Fatality rates are 40, 80, and nearly 100 percent for striking at speeds of 30, 40, and 50 miles per hour or more, respectively. (Study funded by U.S. Department of Transportation and National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 1999)

BENBROOK COMMUNITY CENTER / YMCA NEWS

Benbrook Community Center/YMCA (BCC/YMCA) continues to provide fun and fitness for Benbrook. This year's birthday bash brought out over 4,000 participants. As we look to head from the dog days of summer into fall, BCC/YMCA has even more events planned.

"I'm Possible" (a six-week nutrition and weight loss program designed to encourage healthy lifetime choices) begins September 6th. Program meetings will be held on Tuesdays from 6 to 7 PM.

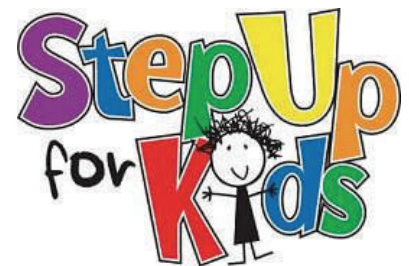
Country Western Line Dancing classes will be offered from 10:45 to 11:45 AM from September 9th to October 14th.

Active Older Adults hold potluck lunches on the 3rd Friday of each month. Drop by on August 19th or September 16th at 11:30 AM for fellowship and fun.

Speaking of fun; BCC/YMCA is ready to kick-off its annual pledge campaign: **Step Up For Kids**, which allows BCC/YMCA to provide scholarships for those otherwise unable to

participate. This year's campaign will kick-off with a golf tournament on September 30th with a 2 PM shotgun start at Whitestone Golf Course. The kick-off will continue with dinner and dancing on October 1st. The "Boot Scoot and Boogie for Kids" will bring back native Benbrook recording artist, Glenn Williams with his band, Coyote Rodeo. The weekend will be one to remember, so make plans now to take part.

This fall, don't miss the BCC/YMCA Craft Fair on



October 22nd from 9 AM to 5 PM. This event brings Benbrook Crafters together with those around the world.

For more information, call 817-249-0500 or visit the BCC/YMCA Web Site: www.benbrookcommunitycenterymcafw.org.



City of Benbrook Community Newsletter

*A bi-monthly publication of the
City of Benbrook*

City Council:

Jerry Ditrach, 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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APPLICATIONS TO SERVE ON CITY BOARDS & COMMISSIONS DUE AUGUST 20

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:

- 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;
- 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 land or a business within the TIF District
- Serve without compensation

Applications and information are available at City Hall, 911 Winscott Rd., or online at www.cityofbenbrook.com. The application deadline is August 20, 2005.

