

City Council:

Jerry Dittrich, Mayor
Charlie Anderson, Place 2
Keith Bailey, Place 3
Rickie Allison, Place 4
Jim Wilson, 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
or visit www.cityofbenbrook.com

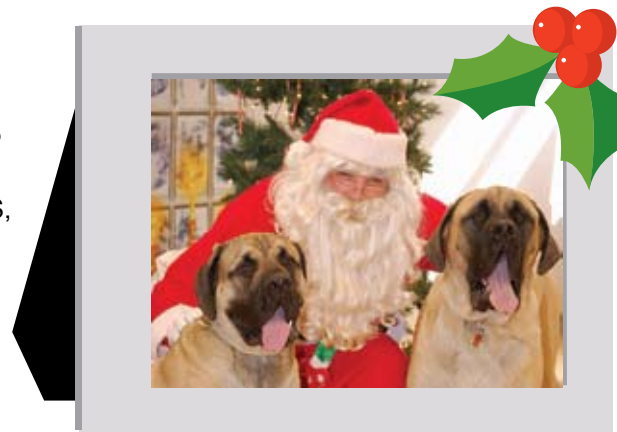
4 PAWS SANTA PICTURES

Members and volunteers of 4 PAWS (Pets Are Worth Saving) are preparing for their 11th season working with PETsMart to offer pictures of your pet(s) and/or children with Santa.

4 PAWS and Santa will be at PETsMart, located at 4465 Bryant Irvin Road, from 11:00 am-4:00 pm on Saturday and Sunday, December 5 & 6, 12 & 13, and 19 & 20. The digital photo with frame costs \$10.95 (\$9.95 for PetPerks members). Half of the cost is donated to 4 PAWS, helping fund veterinary expenses for stray pets in the Benbrook Animal Shelter.

4 PAWS reminds you that Benbrook residents are eligible for the low-cost pet spay/neuter program through 4 PAWS, and financially challenged families may qualify for the no-cost program.

If you are interested in adopting a pet, inquiring about low or no cost services, or volunteering to be a Santa or Santa's helper, please call 817-249-0459 or admin@4pawsinc.org.



HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

The Benbrook Firefighters Association proudly presents:

Pictures with Santa and Mrs. Claus

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2009

6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

BENBROOK CENTRAL FIRE STATION

528 MERCEDES STREET



Cost: Donation of four (4) non-perishable food items or \$5
Free refreshments and musical entertainment by the Western Hills Jazz Band

The 18th Annual Christmas Tree Lighting and Fireworks Show

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2009

7:00 PM

BENBROOK COMMUNITY CENTER / YMCA

1899 WINSKOTT ROAD

This year, look for the Benbrook Winter Wonderland after the show.

Food and monetary donations will be accepted at the entrance to the park before and after the show. Non-perishable food and monetary donations are accepted at the Benbrook Central Fire Station, 528 Mercedes Street, until December 18. All donations benefit the Firefighters Food Drive and the Benbrook Spirit of Christmas program (see page 3).

CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY

The Benbrook Police Department announces the Citizen's Police Academy (CPA), beginning February 9th. The goal of the CPA is to educate Benbrook citizens about the structure and activities of their police department. The CPA is not a "training class", but an opportunity to experience a behind-the-scenes look at the department and its operations. The program operates under the premise that an informed and educated citizenry fosters a more effective police-community partnership. The class is held Tuesdays from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM for up to 12 weeks. Seating for the class is limited, so reserve your seat by contacting Officer Wes Cooper at 817-249-6077 or wcooper@benbrookpd.com.

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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.

A MESSAGE FROM THE BENBROOK FIRE DEPARTMENT

HOLIDAY SAFETY

Each year hundreds of lives are lost, thousands injured, and hundreds of millions of dollars of damage occur during the holiday season. The United States Fire Administration recommends these life-saving steps that can ensure a safe and happy holiday season.

1. **Selecting a tree.** Needles on fresh trees should be green and difficult to pull from branches. The trunk should be sticky to the touch. Older trees can be recognized by bouncing the tree trunk on the ground. If many needles fall off, the tree was cut too early.
2. **Caring for your tree.** Do not place your tree too close to a fireplace or vent. The heat will dry out the tree, causing it to be more easily ignited by heat or sparks.
3. **Disposing of your tree.** Never put branches or needles in a fireplace or stove. Promptly discard a tree when it becomes dry (see 'Holiday Refuse' on page 3).
4. **Maintain your holiday lights.** Inspect holiday lights each year for frayed wires, bare spots, gaps in the insulation, broken or cracked sockets, and excessive wear before storing them. Replace older lights with a fresh set.
5. **Do not overload electrical sockets.** Do not link more than three (3) strands of standard lights, unless the directions indicate that it is safe. Check the extension cord for heat – it should never be warm to the touch.
6. **Use only non-flammable decorations.** All decorations should be non-flammable or flame-retardant, and placed away from vents.
7. **Never put gift wrapping paper in the fireplace.** It can result in a very large fire, throwing off dangerous sparks and embers.
8. **Avoid using lit candles.** Do not go near a Christmas tree with an open flame. If you must use candles, make sure they are in a stable holder, far from flammable materials.

And finally, good advice in any season, have working smoke and heat detectors on every level of your home. Test them regularly, and keep them clean and equipped with fresh batteries.

Planning for Holiday Safety will ensure your family and guests enjoy the season!

2009 Benbrook Spirit of Christmas



The Benbrook community is celebrating 23 years of providing Christmas gifts to children attending Benbrook elementary schools. Each year, school counselors identify students and their clothing needs, in addition to toy items on the children's "wish list." The process to "adopt" a child or a family is easy. If you are interested in becoming a 'Benbrook Christmas Angel', contact the program leaders below, and they will provide a list to include the child or children's name(s), clothes/shoe size(s), and wish list items.

Last year, over 83 families, representing 233 children, benefitted from the generosity of Benbrook residents. Please consider becoming a Benbrook Christmas Angel by adopting a child or family.

Contact: Joel Peal, BCC/YMCA, 817-249-0500 or Beth McKnight, 817-249-0201, 817-825-5243 or bethm76126@yahoo.com.

HOLIDAY REFUSE

Since Christmas and New Year's Day are celebrated on Fridays this year, no interruption in the collection of refuse, recycling, or yellow bags will occur.

Christmas trees placed at curbside on Wednesdays before 7:00 am will be collected by Allied Waste within 72 hours. Trees must be cut into segments that weigh less than 50 pounds and do not exceed six feet in length.

This year, Benbrook residents may choose to dispose of their trees the "green" way. From December 26-January 10, residents may take trees to Dutch Branch Park Complex, off Winscott Road, in the rear parking lot behind Par 3 Golf. Place trees in the designated area (look for signs). Once trees are collected, city crews will mulch the trees. Free mulch will be made available to citizens, in the same location, around mid-January. For questions on the mulching program, please contact the Parks Department at 817-249-5580.

For more information, contact City Hall at 817-249-3000.