

## National Night Out 2011

The Benbrook Police and Fire Departments, along with the Benbrook Community Center/YMCA, will be giving crime and drugs a going away party on October 4, 2011, from 5:00p.m. – 8:00p.m.

The 28th Annual National Night Out Against Crime and Drugs is a unique crime prevention event sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch.

National Night Out is designed to: (1) heighten crime and drug prevention awareness; (2) generate support for, and participation in, local anti-crime programs; (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.

You definitely won't want to miss this year's new and exciting magic show! Magician David Slick, Guinness world record holder for juggling, will kick off the event at 5:45 p.m., so don't be late!

Immediately following the magic show is the return of the always entertaining **"BIG DOG DANCE OFF"**. New to the dance this year is 'CHASE', the dog from Chase Bank, and 'Badger' from the new Benbrook Middle School. Come see if 'CHASE' and 'Badger' can get their groove on with 'McGruff' the Crime Dog, 'Jack' from Wells Fargo Bank, 'Cujo' from Western Hills High School (WHHS), and 'Rover' from Tabernacle of Praise Church.

The impressive display of fire apparatus this year will include **equipment from Benbrook, Cresson, Aledo, and Tarrant County Fire Marshal**. The evening will conclude with a joint, mock accident scene, to include the exciting arrival and departure of the PHI Helicopter Medical Unit!

Benbrook's National Night Out 2011 will take place at the **Benbrook Community Center/YMCA**, located at 1899 Winscott, and will include food, fun, and activities for both young and old. Enjoy the bounce houses, get your face painted by the WHHS cheerleaders, or be mystified by the magic show. For more information, or to reserve a booth/table for the event, contact Benbrook's Community Resource Officer, Officer Doug Byrd, at 817-249-2752, ext. 6111.

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# Responsible Pet Ownership

Pets bring a special joy to our lives. Pet ownership is a privilege and a responsibility. Domesticated animals rely on humans to meet their needs and provide a safe and healthy environment. Many Benbrook residents own cats, dogs, or other pets. Most residents are responsible pet owners who understand the importance of meeting their pet's basic needs; veterinary care, proper diet, appropriate shelter, spay/neuter, exercise, and companionship. In addition, responsible pet owners remove their pets waste from another person's property, maintain their pet's annual rabies vaccinations and ensure current pet registration with Benbrook Animal Control.

Pet owners must also consider the rights of their neighbors and the community as a whole. Owners should prevent animals from running at large. Unrestrained animals can transmit diseases, produce unwanted litters, damage property, and can attack children and adults. They can also become victims of traffic injury or attack by other animals.

The City's Animal Control Department protects Benbrook citizens, and the animal population, by working to prevent animals from running at large, or causing a nuisance or hazard to the public health, safety, and welfare. Benbrook Municipal Code, Chapter 6.12\* regulates the control of animals within the City. It is unlawful for any dog or other animal possessed, kept or harbored, other than a cat, to run at large. The Animal Control Officer may

impound animals running at large, other than cats, and may impound a cat that has caused a nuisance or hazard to the health or welfare of humans or other animals.

You can help protect your community and your pet by watching your pet (s) closely while in unenclosed areas of your property, and encouraging your friends and neighbors to do the same.

Pet ownership can also be costly. The City of Benbrook is fortunate to work cooperatively with the animal adoption organization, 4 PAWS. This volunteer group works to find homes for homeless pets in our City. 4 PAWS also provides low- or no- cost spay/neuter services.

**A complete listing of animal control laws can be found at [www.cityofbenbrook.com](http://www.cityofbenbrook.com), click on 'city departments', 'police department', 'animal control'.**

**4 PAWS animal adoption can be reached at 817-249-0459 or [admin@4pawsinc.org](mailto:admin@4pawsinc.org).**

To contact the Animal Control Department during normal business hours, call City Hall at 817-249-3000, and the receptionist will page the Animal Control Officer. For Animal Control assistance on weekdays after 5:00 p.m., or on weekends, contact the Benbrook Police Department at (817) 249-1610.

\*Benbrook Municipal Code, Title 6 Animals, Chapter 6.12 Regulation and Control of Animals



## Become a Benbrook Christmas Angel

For over 25 years, Benbrook residents have come together to provide Christmas for children that attend Benbrook schools. The counselors at these schools provide the names

of children (and their siblings) and their needs and wishes. Individuals and local businesses adopt one, two, or three children, or entire families. That's a Benbrook Christmas Angel – would that be you?

"If you would like to adopt a family, the process is easy," said Beth McKnight, "simply let us know how many children or

families you would like to 'adopt' and we will give you a list of the child(ren) along with their clothes / shoe sizes and their wish list. You get to go shopping and return the wrapped presents to the Benbrook Senior Citizens Center, 1010 Mercedes, on December 12th and 13th.

**If you would like to be a "Benbrook Christmas Angel" donor please contact:**

**Beth McKnight**, Edward Jones, 817-825-5243, [bethm76126@yahoo.com](mailto:bethm76126@yahoo.com)

**Joel Peal**, BCC/YMCA, 817-249-0500, [JPeal@ymcafw.org](mailto:JPeal@ymcafw.org)

## COUNCIL ADOPTS 2011-12 BUDGET

The Benbrook City Council adopted the City's 2011-12 Budget on Thursday, September 15, 2011. The budget, which goes into effect on October 1, 2011, is based on maintaining the property tax rate at the current level of 65.75 cents per \$100 valuation. The budget is predicated on the continuation of current services, programs, and staffing levels. There are no planned cut-backs, layoffs, or service reductions.

Total operating fund revenues and transfers are \$16,208,454 and operating fund expenditures and transfers are \$17,274,738. The variance between revenues and expenditures in the 2011-12 Budget of \$1,066,284 is attributed to the transfer of \$891,230 from the General Fund to the Capital Projects Fund for Rolling Hills Park and the use of \$175,054 in Debt Service Fund reserves.

The Budget projects that at the end of the 2011-12 fiscal year, operating fund reserves will total \$8,867,159, or a decrease of \$1,066,284 from the estimated 2011-12 beginning fund balance of \$9,933,443.

Operating expenditures (excluding transfers) included in the 2011-12 Budget in the amount of \$15,848,042 reflect a net increase of \$659,939, or 4.35%, over the 2010-11 Budget of \$15,188,103.

The 2011-12 Budget includes funding for projects and equipment through other fiscal resources:

- Replacement of One Ambulance  
*(Capital Asset Replacement Fund and Grant from Tarrant County)*
- Police Department Security Improvements and New Equipment  
*(Police Narcotics Fund)*
- Rolling Hills Park Project and Expansion of Trinity Trail  
*(Capital Projects Fund)*
- Fountain/Aeration System for Mont Del Duck Pond  
*(Park Dedication Funds)*



A summary of the 2011-12 Budget is available on the City's website at [www.cityofbenbrook.com](http://www.cityofbenbrook.com).

### 5th Annual Benbrook Heritage Fest "Cowboy Roundup" & BBQ Cook-Off

Saturday, October 15, 2011 from 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Heritage Fest is a free-admission event that promises tons of family-fun! This year the event celebrates our Texas heritage by offering Arts and Crafts booths, a Native American Village, live music and dance performances, German heritage performances, a Mexican Village, and great festival food.

A BBQ Cook-Off, sponsored by the Benbrook Area Chamber of Commerce, allows guests to view cooking techniques and visit with the cooks. Part of the proceeds from the BBQ Cook-Off benefits the Benbrook Community Center/YMCA 'Step Up for Kids' program.



Other activities include radio-controlled airplane demonstrations by the Fort Worth Thunderbirds, an Outlaw Jail, a miniature horse exhibit, fun activities for the kids, and an evening concert featuring blue grass band "Salt Creek" (band starts at 5:00 p.m.)

All activities take place at Dutch Branch Park and on the adjacent grounds of the Benbrook Stables, located at 10001 Benbrook Boulevard, in Benbrook. Mark your calendar and join us for a day of fun and celebration!

For more information, contact Patty Bissey at 817-249-6087 or [pbissey@cityofbenbrook.com](mailto:pbissey@cityofbenbrook.com)

A publication of the City of Benbrook

**City Council:**

Jerry Dittrich, Mayor  
Charlie Anderson, Place 2  
Larry Marshall, Place 3  
Rickie Allison, Place 4  
Jim Wilson, Place 5  
Mark Washburn, Place 6  
Ron Sauma, Place 7

Benbrook City Council  
meets on the 1st and 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](http://www.cityofbenbrook.com)**

## City Council Amends Solicitors Ordinance by Requiring Safety Vests

Benbrook City Council recently approved amendments to the Benbrook Municipal Code\* regulating door-to-door solicitation activities. The purpose of the regulation is to protect citizens against crime, to minimize unwelcome disturbances of citizens, and to preserve the public health, safety, and general welfare by registering and regulating solicitors.

Recent increased solicitor activity prompted a fresh evaluation of the ordinance. In an August City Council meeting, Police Chief James Mills reported that requiring solicitors and hand bill distributors to wear traffic safety vests provides greater visibility and helps identify solicitors and hand bill distributors in the community.

Solicitors are required to obtain a permit from the City Secretary's Office prior to engaging in door-to-door activities. Minors (under 18) are not required to secure a solicitor's permit. Also, a permit is not required for handbill distribution.

### THE NEW ORDINANCE:

1. Defines "Commercial Home Distribution" as the door-to-door distribution of advertisements or handbills.
2. Defines "Handbills" as any printed sheet or pamphlet, including printed or written matter, any sample or device, circular, leaflet, pamphlet, paper, booklet, or any other printed or otherwise reproduced original or copies of any matter or literature.
3. Defines "Traffic Safety Vest" as a high visibility vest made of fluorescent orange or yellow material that may be clearly seen at any time of the day.
4. Requires any person who conducts themselves as a solicitor or engages in commercial home distribution to wear a traffic safety vest.

\*Benbrook Municipal Code, Title 5 Business Licenses and Regulations, Chapter 5.16 Door-To-Door Solicitors