



Newsletter

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You'd Better Watch Out

Christmas tree lighting, fireworks show, St. Nick and Winter Wonderland all are comin' to town

Dutch Branch Park will once again be filled with holiday spirit as we present our 27th Annual Fireworks Show and Christmas Tree Lighting, Saturday, Dec. 7.

The fireworks show will begin at 7, and afterward, Santa — and Mrs. Claus! — will ride in on a City of Benbrook fire truck to greet visitors and help light the tree. After the tree lighting, guests can enjoy our new "Winter Wonderland," a row of trees with lights that "dance" to holiday music.

The family-friendly event is free admission and open to the public. Local nonprofits will be selling hot cocoa, popcorn, and glow items.

The fun actually begins Friday night, Dec. 6, as Santa and Mrs. Claus make an appearance for photos with the kids. They will be at the Benbrook Community Center/YMCA, 1899 Winscott Road, from 6 to 9 p.m.

Photos are \$5 and free refreshments will be served.

Both nights, **the Benbrook Fire Department will be accepting canned goods and cash donations** to assist families in need during the holidays. Donations also can be made through December 19 at the Benbrook Fire Department, 528 Mercedes St.

Winter Wonderland is sponsored by **Pinnacle Bank**. The trees will be lit up every evening through the New Year. For more information, please call 817-249-6087. Bring your family and friends to help Benbrook kick off the holidays in style – and you'd better not pout!

The fireworks show begins at 7 p.m., followed by the lighting of the Christmas tree and Winter Wonderland.

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.

STAY UP-TO-DATE:



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Check out Benbrook Government Access Cable Channel: Charter, Channel 190





Benbrook Proud!

Two volunteer groups receive Hometown Pride recognition

“Benbrook Hometown Pride” is a program that recognizes businesses and organizations that have provided exceptional service to our community for 20 years or more. The program is a collaborative effort between the City of Benbrook, the Benbrook Area Chamber of Commerce, and the Benbrook Economic Development Corporation. Recently, two local groups were honored with this prestigious award.

In September, the City recognized **4 PAWS** (above right). Founded in 1988, 4 PAWS helps animals find loving homes; the name stands for “Pets Are Worth Saving.” Dedicated volunteers take adoptable animals to the vet for exams, shots, and to be neutered or spayed. Since their inception, 4 PAWS has facilitated the adoption of more than 2,500 dogs, cats, and other animals. To learn more about 4 PAWS, call 817-372-9044.



Benbrook Citizens on Patrol (COP) has served our community for 24 years. The COPs regularly patrol our neighborhoods, watching for criminal activity, suspicious behavior, and potential hazards. They also help out during critical incidents and at special events. In October, the COPs were recognized at the Heritage Fest event with a Hometown Pride award. To learn more about the COPs, call 817-249-6088.

We offer our congratulations to both organizations and thank them for their continued outstanding service to our community!





A Blue Christmas?

Don't let thieves spoil your holiday shopping season

With the holiday season here, people are busy doing a lot of shopping online and in stores. Unfortunately, this also is a busy time for thieves, who are eager to take advantage of full cars, unattended porches and busy shoppers. So here are some tips to help you reduce the chances of being a victim of theft.

Online: When ordering items, try to have them delivered to a secure location. You might have the package shipped to a neighbor or friend, or to your workplace; you also could ship to an Amazon Locker or to a local "mailbox" store (some UPS stores will hold your package for a fee). Or you could pick up the item at the store.

More safety options include requiring a signature with delivery and signing up for delivery alerts. If you know you'll be home on a specific date, that's a great day to have packages delivered. And if you have a surveillance system or doorbell camera in place, make sure it is properly functioning.

In stores: When you are out and about, try not to leave packages or shopping bags in your vehicle. While this may be more convenient, it also is a tempting target. Even if you will be in the store for "just a sec," that may be enough time for a crime to happen. If you have to continue shopping with bags in your vehicle, put them in the trunk or cover them so they are not in plain sight. And do this before you arrive at the next store, where criminals may be sitting in the parking lot, watching.

Try not to carry any more cash or credit cards than necessary. Try to park in a well-lighted area. And as you walk to and from your vehicle, be aware of your surroundings.

Both: Be extra-careful around "Black Friday" and "Cyber Monday," when thieves know shopping activity is heavy. Flatten any large cardboard boxes before you put them on the curb, and avoid the temptation to post photos of your expensive new items online – both of these measures make it harder for criminals to know what is in your house.

There is no way to guarantee you won't be victimized, but you can take steps to reduce the risk of theft – and increase the chances you will have a happy holiday season. For more information, call Detective J. Hatton at 817-249-6089.



Holly Jolly Holiday at the Benbrook Public Library

The Benbrook Public Library will host its sixth annual **Holly Jolly Holiday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 14.** The schedule for this event includes:

11 a.m.: Le Theatre de Marionette performance of "Peppermint Twist"

11 a.m. to 2 p.m.: Trackless train rides

Noon to 2 p.m.: Uptown Carolers perform holiday songs

Noon to 2 p.m.: The snow princesses and their snowman friend

Noon to 3 p.m.: Face painting

1 to 3 p.m.: Balloon making

There also will be arts and crafts, ornament-making on the library's laser engraver, and a special appearance by Mrs. Claus. Hot chocolate and other refreshments will be available throughout the day.

All ages are welcome to this fun holiday celebration at the library, 1065 Mercedes Street.

For more information, call 817-249-6632.



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BENBROOK COMMUNITY NEWS

Holiday Schedule for Trash and Recycling

Christmas Day: Trash and recycle collection normally provided on Wednesdays will shift to Thursday, December 26.

New Year’s Day: Trash and recycle collection normally provided on Wednesdays will shift to Thursday, January 2.

Please note the schedule is subject to revision based on agreement between Republic Services and the City of Benbrook. For more information, please visit RepublicServices.com or www.Benbrook-TX.gov.

Strictly Business, Totally Social

Would you like to quickly connect with dozens of great local businesses? Want to mingle with hundreds of guests? Need something fun to do with the kids?

If so, you won’t want to miss the **2020 Benbrook Business and Community EXPO!** Along with all the great business vendors, we’ll have free samples from local restaurants, door prizes, games for the kids – and a great time for everyone. Free admission, too!

The EXPO will be held at HighRidge Church, 10100 Rolling Hills Drive, in early spring – exact date still TBD. If you’re interested in being a vendor or learning more about the event, please contact Hillary Cromer of the Benbrook Economic Development Corporation at 817-249-6091 or hcromer@benbrook-tx.gov. Plan now to be at Benbrook’s biggest – and most fun – networking event of the year!

**BENBROOK CITY HALL
 WILL BE CLOSED
 DECEMBER 25
 AND JANUARY 1.**

CITY COUNCIL

Jerry Dittrich, Mayor
 Renee Franklin, Place 2
 Larry Marshall, Place 3
 Dustin Phillips, Place 4
 Jim Wilson, Place 5
 Laura Mackey, Place 6
 Jason Ward, Place 7

Benbrook City Council meets on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month, at **7:30 p.m.** at City Hall, 911 Winscott Road.

Benbrook City Hall
 817-249-3000
www.benbrook-tx.gov

Election Results

In the November 5 election, Benbrook residents voted on four City Council seats.

In the mayor’s race, incumbent **Jerry Dittrich** prevailed with 64 percent of the vote.

In Place 3, incumbent **R. Larry Marshall** received 46.59 percent of the vote. Although Marshall did not receive a majority, the second place challenger, who received 28.15 percent of the vote, withdrew from the race, eliminating the need for a runoff election.

In Place 5, incumbent **Jim Wilson** received 62 percent of the vote, and in Place 7, **Jason Ward** was uncontested in winning the seat. The winning candidates will be sworn in at the November 21 City Council meeting.

The Benbrook Water Authority (BWA) had two seats up for election. In a field of eight candidates, **Karen Henderson** was the top vote-getter, followed by **Nick Dons**. The BWA operates independently of the City.