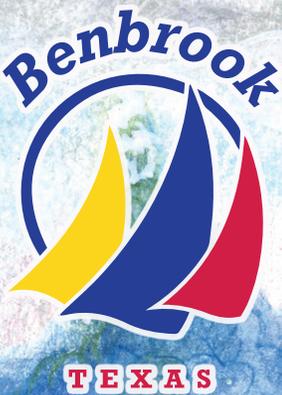


City of Benbrook
2020 Annual Report

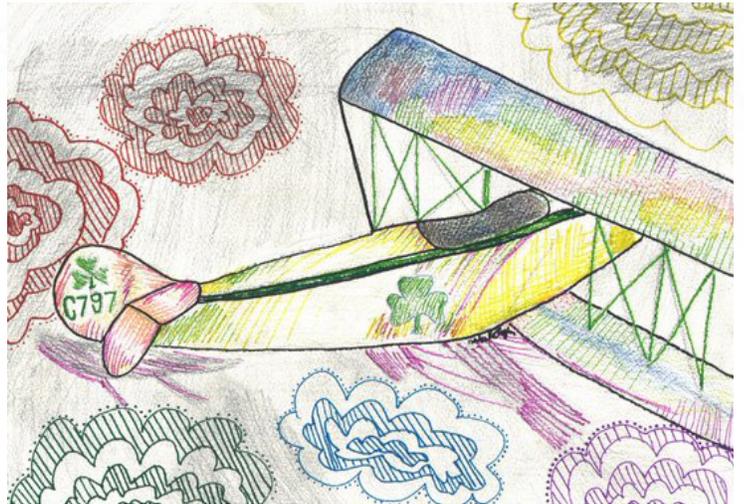
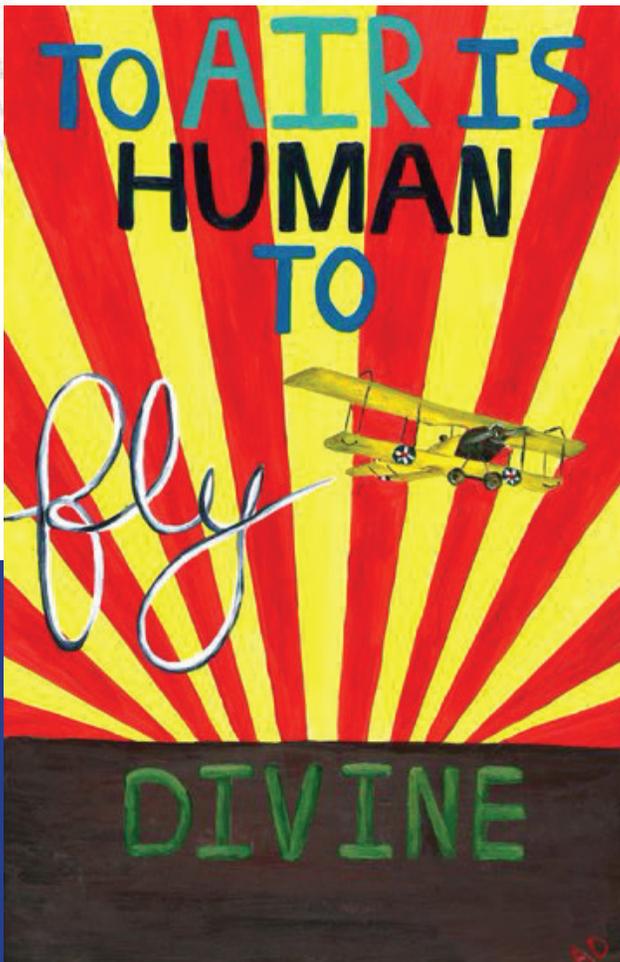


Soaring to a Brighter Future

A Message From Your City Council

Thank you for taking the time to review this annual report. This marks the fifteenth consecutive year the City of Benbrook is providing a written update on the state of our city. As we begin a new year, it is important to remember the accomplishments, challenges, and lessons of 2020. As you read these pages, we hope you too can reflect on how our community comes together to enjoy times of prosperity and to weather the storm in times of adversity.

Early in 2020, city council approved an update to the Benbrook Comprehensive Plan; an important document that lays the groundwork and provides guidance for Benbrook's growth. We couldn't have known then how critical and timely it is to have a fully-vetted blueprint in place to address our most pressing issues: future land use, business retention and expansion, quality-of-life considerations, infrastructure needs, and emergency response.



"Thank you for helping us soar and thank you for Building a Better Benbrook."

ON THE COVER:
Artist Michelle Brueggemann for Art on the Fly



Having a plan, maintaining continuity in service, partnering with our citizens and service organizations, and exercising the ability to quickly pivot and re-prioritize during challenging times is the benchmark of exceptional customer service, and we believe our *Small Town, Big Backyard* rose to the occasion in 2020.

As we enter a new year, there are reasons to remain hopeful. Unlike some other communities, Benbrook continues to experience an uptick in retail interest and sales tax revenue. Our award-winning public safety teams continue to keep our homes and neighborhoods safe. Our investments in Benbrook Boulevard/U.S. 377 reveal a very attractive commercial corridor,

and new projects on the horizon promise our residents more choice, improved mobility, a strengthened economy, and enhanced quality-of-life.

We know the sacrifices our citizens have made to keep our community safe. In 2020, we suspended our usual events and gatherings. We now look forward to a time when we can come back together again safely, and we believe when we do, we will have gained a new appreciation for all that it means to live, work, and play in Benbrook.

On behalf of city council, thank you for helping us soar and thank you for Building a Better Benbrook. ✈



Thank you to our artists!

April Dow
Heather Break
Jerry Shidal
Isabelle Taylor
Alice Satterfield
Miranda Petty
Seth James
Jaynee Naran
Camryn Soward
Andrew Brown

Will Petty
Brenda Gearheart
Beckham Theiss
Briana Guthrie
Anna Gleyser
Annie Cantrell
Michael Gearheart
Sam Petty
Megane Ishee
Maria Chipekwi

Community Spirit

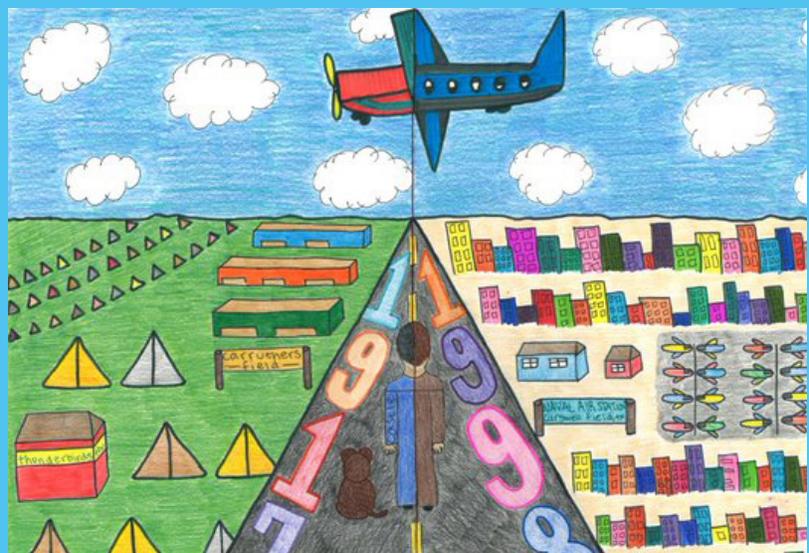
Managing the Crosswinds

The challenges of 2020 were numerous. Yet, our community has adapted and demonstrated incredible resilience and community spirit. We know our citizens, businesses, partner agencies and organizations have adjusted in creative ways to face unprecedented demands. Sometimes, the going has been tough, but our *Small Town, Big Backyard* is managing the crosswinds with grace and innovation.

Our first priority is always service to our citizens and our commitment to that has never wavered. The City of Benbrook offers exceptional service delivery and attention to our customer's needs; phone calls to city hall are always answered by a real person wanting to help, pandemic or no.

For the City of Benbrook, hosting annual events has always been an exciting part of our job. Providing family-friendly fun and activities gives city leaders and staff an opportunity to be creative, carry on traditions, and inspire community togetherness.

In 2020, several staple events were suspended, so we rolled up our sleeves to offer new, safer alternatives to the usual gatherings. In September, the City hosted a Virtual Trash Bash event. With no lack of willingness or dedication on the part of our residents, Trash Bash volunteers cleaned litter and debris from their neighborhoods, schools, and parks. Two lucky groups won an on-site visit from a Kona Ice truck!



In November, our first Art on the Fly drive-by art show was a big success. Our sponsor, First Baptist Church Benbrook, graciously offered the use of their main parking lot to display works from local artists. Fifteen pieces of art were chosen for display from over fifty submittals of work depicting Benbrook's aeronautic history. The art show remained open daily for two weeks, allowing visitors to enjoy it at their leisure, from the safety of their own vehicles. *Check out some of the artwork submittals on the pages of this report.*



While cookies are no substitute for a festive holiday event, we consoled ourselves with them anyway! In December, the City of Benbrook hosted a virtual Christmas Cookie Challenge, encouraging folks to submit photos of their favorite holiday cookies and cookie-baking experiences for prizes. Visions of snowmen, reindeer, and Christmas trees danced in our heads each morning as we opened e-mails from talented Benbrook residents sharing sweet treats and best wishes. Thank you for playing along! ✈



In 2020, our community has proven we can stand strong in difficult times, and land safely together.

We look forward to soaring to a brighter future in 2021.



STEERING our Public to Safety

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Protecting lives and property from fire and other emergencies

Firefighting is only one part of the job. The Benbrook Fire Department also performs rescue operations, controls hazardous spills, conducts fire inspections, and enforces fire codes. In addition, the department manages Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and provides classes on cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and other life-saving techniques.

All this work is done by 31 full-time staff, one part-time employee, and two volunteers. All personnel are EMS-certified and provide staffing for the ambulance service.

IN 2020, THE DEPARTMENT:

- Responded to 3,779 total calls for service, an increase of 7.1% or 251 greater than the previous year.
- The Fire Division responded to 1,162 calls, 97 greater than 2019.
- The EMS Division responded to 3,174 calls for service and transported 1,950 patients to area hospitals. 2019 statistics: 2,753 calls, 1,913 patients transported.
- Total fire loss was \$796,616; down from the 2019 loss of \$2,202,140.
- Fire and EMS personnel jointly responded to 278 calls for service, 48 greater than 2019.
- Inspected 172 businesses for safety.

The department made significant purchases in 2020, including a fire engine and a new ambulance. The fire engine was purchased through an air quality grant, saving the City \$175,000 towards the purchase. The department also received a grant through Tarrant County to assist with the purchase of the ambulance, saving the City another \$75,000. The department purchased seven new sets of firefighting bunker gear, and two Lucas CPR compression systems for the ambulances.

The average response time to calls for service within Benbrook city limits was 6.31 minutes in 2020. The average response time to calls for service in unincorporated Tarrant County was 10.52 minutes.

The Fire Department performs many duties. But all of it is done in support of their main goal: Protecting lives and property in Benbrook and surrounding areas from fire and other emergencies. ✈



POLICE DEPARTMENT

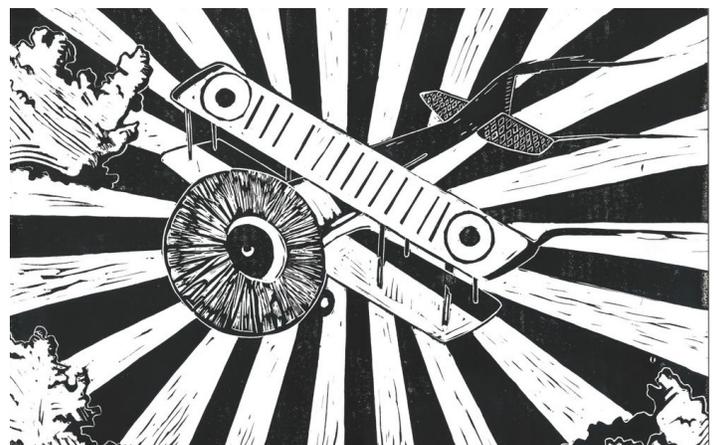
Proactive patrol keeps our community safe

In addition to a great quality of life, Benbrook continues to enjoy one of the lowest crime rates in Tarrant County. For example, from 2019 to 2020, the number of "Part I Crimes" (the most serious types) dropped by a total of 41 crimes, or 9.62 percent. This reflects both the partnership of the community and the quality of the police force. The department focuses on proactive patrol and community policing - proven strategies that help keep us all safe.

The nationally recognized department continues to focus on recruiting top-notch officer candidates. The Citizens on Patrol (COPs) remain a key asset, assisting the department by logging volunteer service hours. It all adds up to make Benbrook a great place to live, work, and play - safely. ✈️

FOR THE RECORD:

	2019	2020
Part One Crimes	426	385
Calls to Patrol & Criminal Investigation for Service	15,171	13,651
Total dispatches for service	20,317	19,137
Average response time	2.64	2.78
Arrests	1,296	722
Citations Issued	8,503	5,062
Stolen Property Value	899,885	694,173
Hours of Training Completed	4,865	3,702
Total Accidents Investigated	299	277
Major Accidents with Injuries	124	87



DEVELOPMENTS on the GROUND

In 2020, city teams, partners, and developers stayed busy Building a Better Benbrook.

A refreshed City Comprehensive Plan, approved in 2020, provides guidance and helps set priorities for our community's physical growth and social character. Commercial, residential, and infrastructure projects took no backseat, as several significant projects were completed in 2020, and some remain ongoing. The following are project updates as of December 2020.

COMMERCIAL PROJECTS

- **Braum's Ice Cream & Dairy Store** – In 2018, the Benbrook Economic Development Corporation (BEDC) and City Council approved a property sale and incentive with Braum's Ice Cream & Dairy Store to construct a new restaurant with a fresh market grocery at 8909 Benbrook Boulevard. A certificate of occupancy was issued on April 6, 2020, and Braum's reports robust sales.
- **O'Reilly's Auto Parts** – Located at 8101 Camp Bowie West Boulevard, a new 9,000 square-foot O'Reilly's Auto Parts retail store has been approved. Permits were issued in August 2020 and construction is ongoing.
- **Audi Dealership and Inventory Lot (Group 1 Automotive)** – As part of a BEDC-initiated effort, an Audi car dealership is slated for the northeast corner of I-20 frontage road and Hawkins Center Drive. Construction plans are approved.
- **Russell Feed & Supply** – Another BEDC-initiated effort, and approved by City Council on September 3, 2020, a redevelopment project to construct a new 16,000 square-foot Russell Feed & Supply at its current location at 8704 Benbrook Boulevard includes public art and placemaking features. Russell's is temporarily operating on BEDC-owned property at 9331 Westpark Drive.



- **Foot Works Performing Arts Center** – On March 13, 2020, a certificate of occupancy was issued for the new Foot Works Performing Arts Center at 9191 Vista Way. The new facility includes an approximately 10,000 square-foot dance studio and offices.

RESIDENTIAL PROJECTS

- **Whitestone Heights Phase 2 and 3** – Located northeast of the intersection of Benbrook Boulevard/U.S. 377 and Hawkins Home Boulevard, a multi-phased single-family development has been approved. Phase 2 includes 58-lots and its infrastructure is currently under construction. Phase 3 plans are expected to be submitted in 2021 and will include 49 residential lots.
- **Whitestone Crest Phase 2** – An 82-lot single-family residential development located southwest of the intersection of R.M. 2871 and Rolling Hills Drive has been approved and its infrastructure is currently under construction.
- **Whitestone Point** – Preliminary plans for an 8.82 acre development, located on the north side of Jerry Dunn Parkway, have been approved for 41 new residential lots.

■ **Destinations Benbrook** – Located at 8879 Cook Ranch Road, plans are approved for a 179-unit active senior adult multi-family development on a 7.34-acre site. Permits were issued in June 2020 and construction is ongoing.

■ **Aura Benbrook Apartments** – Permits were issued in December 2018 for the construction of a 301-unit multi-family development located at the northeast corner of Mercedes Drive and Vista Way. A certificate of occupancy was issued in October 2020.

FORT WORTH ISD PROJECTS

■ **FWISD Baseball/Softball Complex** – Fort Worth Independent School District (FWISD) substantially completed work on a new competitive baseball field with associated facilities, concession stand, and changing rooms/restrooms. The facility is located southwest of the existing softball fields behind the Benbrook Community Center/YMCA, 1899 Winscott Road.

■ **Western Hills High School** – Construction is ongoing on improvements to Western Hills High School, 3600 Boston Avenue. The work includes a new classroom addition, front entry portal, exterior updates and interior remodeling.

■ **Benbrook Middle-High School** – Permits were issued in May 2020, and construction is ongoing for improvements to Benbrook Middle-High School, 201 Overcrest Drive. Plans include new classroom additions, gymnasiums, a storm shelter, and other renovations.

CITY OF BENBROOK PROJECTS

■ **Clear Fork Emergency Access Bridge** – In 2020, work continued on the Clear Fork Emergency Access Bridge over the Clear Fork Trinity river between I-20 and Bellaire Drive. The bridge will provide needed emergency access to Benbrook neighborhoods to the east of the river. Public access to the bridge is prohibited and will be controlled via automatic gates and fencing. The bridge is expected to be operational by February 2021.

■ **Perimeter Screening Fences** – The City of Benbrook completed two perimeter screening fence projects in 2020. The first is adjacent to the Westpark residential neighborhood directly abutting Benbrook Boulevard/U.S. 377 between Amory Drive and Overcrest Drive. The second is adjacent to the Winchester residential neighborhood, located along Jerry Dunn Parkway and Rolling Hills Drive. Both fences are eight feet tall, mounted on metal posts embedded in concrete, and constructed of high-quality cedar wood planks with decorative top and bottom rails, posts, and post caps.

ON THE HORIZON

In a May 1, 2021 special election, Benbrook voters will be asked to consider a bond package. The proposed bond is for design and construction of a new two-story, approximately 35,000 square-foot Benbrook Municipal Complex to house the Police Station, Senior Citizen's Center, Municipal Court, City Hall Offices, and a Visitor's Center. Planned outdoor amenities include a large greenspace for picnics/relaxation, a water fountain/splash feature for public play, and a band shell for festivals and events on the grounds. For information on the election and the project, go to benbrook-tx.gov. ✈





A Financial Safe Landing

2019-20 was another year of fiscal responsibility—including a tax cut for 2020-21.

- The property tax rate for fiscal year 2019-20 was 62.777 cents per \$100 valuation.
- For each dollar, 2.13 cents was allocated toward the payment of debt for streets, parks, and drainage, and 60.647 cents financed general operations.
- General Fund and Debt Service Fund unaudited expenditures for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020 totaled \$21,831,788.
- Police Department expenditures represented 29.6% of total expenses, and Fire Department expenditures were 18.9%.
- Total unaudited revenues for the 2019-20 fiscal year were \$23,849,933.
- General Fund revenue was 105.8% of the budget projection.
- Property taxes accounted for 61.7% of total revenue collected.
- Moody's once again gave Benbrook a strong credit rating of Aa3, while Standard and Poor's again rated the City as AA+.
- The high ratings are the result of the City's ample reserves, proven financial controls, and professional staff, and reflect the private sector's positive view of Benbrook's solid financial condition and optimistic future prospects.

- The City's annual financial report earned a Certificate of Achievement for Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA). This is the 36th consecutive year Benbrook has received this recognition.
- The GFOA again presented Benbrook with the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for excellence in municipal budgeting.
- In September 2020, City Council adopted the budget for the 2020-21 fiscal year based on lowering the property tax rate from 62.777 cents to 62.250 cents.

Fiscal Year 2019-20 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Source	Revenue	% of Total
Ad Valorem Taxes	\$ 14,725,128	61.7%
Sales and Other Taxes	3,315,099	13.9%
Franchise Taxes	1,444,339	6.1%
Transfers	1,360,600	5.7%
Charges for Current Services	917,697	3.8%
Fines and Forfeitures	669,883	2.8%
Licenses and Permits	654,118	2.7%
Revenue from Other Agencies	574,181	2.4%
Use of Money and Property	150,384	0.6%
Other Revenue	38,504	0.2%
Total	\$ 23,849,933	100.0%

Source	Expenditure	% of Total
Police	\$ 6,465,152	29.6%
Fire and EMS	4,126,121	18.9%
General Government	2,163,356	9.9%
Public Works	2,074,069	9.5%
Debt Service	1,549,905	7.1%
Transfer and Use of Reserves	1,202,170	5.5%
Staff Services	1,069,757	4.9%
Public Services	1,048,692	4.8%
Parks and Recreation	985,634	4.5%
Community Development	810,827	3.7%
Municipal Court	239,670	1.1%
Code Compliance	96,435	0.4%
Total	\$ 21,831,788	100.0%





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