



# Newletter

FROM THE CITY OF BENBROOK, TEXAS

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## Benbrook's 31st Annual Tree Lighting and Fireworks Show

Capture the spirit of the season by joining the fun during Benbrook's 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Tree Lighting and Fireworks Show at 7 p.m. Saturday, December 3, 2022, at Dutch Branch Park behind the Benbrook Community Center YMCA (1899 Winscott Rd.). Attendees can watch Mr. & Mrs. Claus ride in on the Fire Truck, take pictures in the old-time sleigh, and even enjoy a cup of hot cocoa during the lighting of the tree and the fireworks show. The event is free to the public and hot chocolate will be available for purchase.

## Pictures with Mr. & Mrs. Claus

Pictures with Mr. & Mrs. Claus will return to the Benbrook YMCA this year Friday, December 2, 2022, from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. Refreshments will be provided along with reindeer games during the event. Pictures are \$5.00 each and all proceeds go to The Spirit of Christmas. This benefits Benbrook families in need during the holiday season.

## Municipal Complex Update

The Benbrook Municipal Complex construction is underway. The approximately 35,000 square-foot building, located at the southeast corner of Winscott Rd. and Mercedes St., will provide residents with a one-stop shop for city services. The building will include the Police Station, Senior Citizens Center, Municipal Court, Administrative Offices, and a Visitor's Center. Planned outdoor amenities include a large greenspace for picnics/relaxation, a water fountain/splash feature for public enjoyment, and a band shell for festivals and events on the grounds.



To ensure continuity of services, the existing City Hall and Police Station will remain fully operational during construction of the new Municipal Complex. Following completion of the Municipal Complex, existing structures will be demolished to provide more parking for citizens when they visit City Hall. The construction of the facility is expected to be completed in 2024.

Voters approved funding of the new complex during a special election held May 1, 2021. The new facility did not raise taxes.

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:



@benbrooktx



@benbrooktexas

Watch public meetings live on our Benbrook Government Access Cable Channel: Spectrum, Channel 190

## Benbrook Heritage Fest Featured Cookie Recipe Winners



### Best Tasting 18 & Under

#### World's Best Chocolate Chip Cookies

##### Ingredients:

2 cups all-purpose flour  
1 teaspoon salt  
3/4 teaspoon baking soda  
1 cup unsalted butter, at room temperature  
1 cup sugar  
2/3 cup packed light brown sugar  
2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract  
2 large eggs  
2 cups chocolate chips or 2 cups semi-sweet chocolate chunks  
1 cup finely chopped walnuts (optional) or 1 cup pecans (optional)

##### Instructions:

- Preheat oven to 375° F.
- Whisk together the flour, salt, and baking soda.
- Working with a stand mixer, preferably using the paddle attachment, or a hand mixer in a large bowl, beat the butter at medium speed for about one minute, until smooth. Add the sugar and beat for another two minutes, until well-blended. Mix in vanilla. Add the eggs one at a time, beating for one minute after each egg. Reduce the speed to low and add the dry ingredients in three portions, mixing only until each addition is incorporated. On low speed, or by hand with rubber spatula, mix in the chocolate and nuts.
- Place tablespoons of slightly rounded dough onto the baking sheets, leaving about 2 inches between spoonfuls.
- Bake the cookies one pan at a time, rotating the sheet at the midway point for 10 to 12 minutes, or until they are brown at the edges and golden in the center. They may be a little soft in the middle, which is fine. Pull the sheet from the oven and allow the cookies to rest for one minute, then using a wide metal spatula, transfer them to cooling racks.
- Repeat with the remainder of the dough, cooling the baking sheets between batches.



Submitted by:  
Will Petty

### Best Tasting 19 & Up

#### Lemon Drop Cookies

##### Ingredients:

##### LEMON CURD:

3/4 teaspoon unflavored powdered gelatin  
2 1/4 teaspoon cold water  
6 tablespoons fresh lemon juice  
1/2 cup + 1 tablespoon sugar  
3 large eggs  
1 stick of unsalted butter, room temp  
1 1/2 teaspoons lemon zest

##### COOKIE:

7 tablespoons unsalted butter at room temp  
3 1/2 ounces of cream cheese at room temp  
1 cup sugar  
1 egg  
1 egg yolk  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
1 3/4 cup flour  
2 teaspoons baking powder  
1/4 teaspoon salt  
Powdered sugar for rolling  
White chocolate, melted, for drizzle

##### Instructions:

##### MAKE THE CURD:

- Dissolve gelatin into the cold water and let sit for five minutes.
- Combine the lemon zest, lemon juice, and sugar in a medium saucepan and bring to a simmer over medium heat, stirring until sugar has dissolved. Remove from heat.
- Whisk eggs in a large bowl. While whisking, pour the liquid slowly into the eggs until a quarter of the liquid is left.
- Pour the egg mixture back into the saucepan and cook over medium heat. Constantly stirring until curd has thickened and starts to bubble. Remove from heat, mix in gelatin.
- Pour the curd through a strainer to remove any over-cooked egg.
- Incorporate butter and whisk until smooth.
- Cover with plastic wrap and have it touch the curd to prevent a skin forming. Chill in fridge for 2-4 hours.

##### MAKE THE DOUGH:

- Cream together the butter and cream cheese in a large bowl. Mix in sugar until fluffy.
- Mix in eggs and vanilla, fold in flour, baking powder, and salt, until combined.
- Scoop and drop cookie dough balls into powdered sugar and evenly coat, then place on a parchment covered cookie sheet.
- Freeze for 20 minutes while oven preheats to 350° F.
- Press a tablespoon into the center of balls to create a well. Bake 12-13 minutes and then let cool. You may have to redefine the shape while the well is still hot.
- Spoon or pipe lemon curd into center of cookie. Drizzle with melted white chocolate. Sprinkle with leftover powdered sugar if desired.



Submitted by:  
Laura Sharratt

### Benbrook PD Household Watch Program

The Benbrook Police Department provides a House Watch program that enables residents to notify patrol personnel of short-term absences from their homes. Homeowners can complete a House Watch form with basic information regarding the duration of the stay, vehicles, pets, emergency contacts, etc. The information is passed on to officers, who will periodically provide extra patrol during the designated time period.



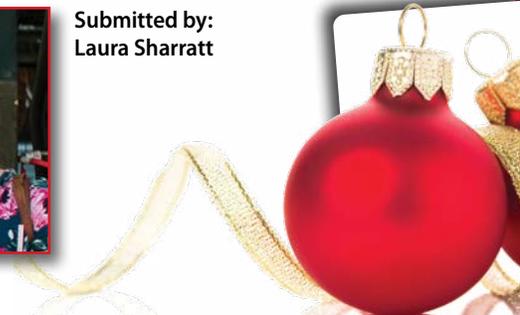
The application can be downloaded from the City website at <http://www.benbrook-tx.gov/230/House-Watch-Program>, but it must be submitted in person to the Police Department at 1080 Mercedes St.

For more information,  
call 817-249-1610.

### Christmas Tree Disposal

For your convenience, Republic Services offers curbside Christmas tree pick-up. Simply place your tree at the curb by 7 a.m. on Wednesdays to be picked up within 72 hours, like normal brush collection. Remove nails, stands, plastic bags, and decorations from all trees.

For more information, contact  
Republic Services at  
817-953-7214.





### Park Plan Update

On October 20, 2022, the Benbrook City Council unanimously adopted the Parks and Open Space Master Plan. The plan was prepared by the Public Services Department with input and direction from the Parks and Recreation Board, a citizen board appointed by the Benbrook City Council, and Benbrook residents. The plan was also approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission during a public meeting held on September 8, 2022.



Early in the plan update process, residents were asked to participate in a Community Interest Survey to gather viewpoints on existing parks and future recreational and facility needs. Over 500 survey responses were submitted to the City. The Parks and Recreation Board compiled the survey results together with other City goals and objectives. The Board used this information to develop the community focused and fiscally responsible plan.

The plan, a component of the City's Comprehensive Plan, does not contain any regulatory language. Rather, it is intended to provide guidance and policy direction for the community's parks and open space properties. This will determine priorities when funding and other opportunities become available. The plan is available for download or viewing from the City's webpage at <http://www.benbrook-tx.gov/120/Comprehensive-Plan>. If you have questions, contact Jim Hinderaker, Assistant City Manager, at [jhinderaker@benbrook-tx.gov](mailto:jhinderaker@benbrook-tx.gov), or at 817-249-6005.

### Benbrook Community Center YMCA News



#### Need a safe place for the kids during winter break?

Registration is open for the Winter Break Camps. Week 1 camp is December 19 – December 23 and Week 2 camp is December 26 – December 30. Camp costs are \$150 for members and \$175 for nonmembers per camp. For more information, email [ychildcare@ymcafw.org](mailto:ychildcare@ymcafw.org).

#### Join the Y this January and Save!

Benbrook residents who sign up for a membership with the YMCA in the month of January will receive a 20% discount. Bring your Benbrook water bill to ensure the discount.

#### Y's Teen Night

Want a fun, safe place for your teens to hang out? Bring them to the Y's Teen Night December 16 from 8:30 p.m. – 11:30 p.m. This is a free event for all community teenagers to get together for food, games, and a great time. Sign up online at [www.ymcafw.org](http://www.ymcafw.org).



### Senior News

Grab your boots and jackets, because winter is here! The Benbrook Senior Citizens Center offers many indoor engaging events and activities for seniors. Seniors are invited to participate in Ceramics with Steve Tuesdays at 1 p.m. Thursday's scheduled activities include Canasta at 9 a.m., Mahjong at 10 a.m., and Spades at 1 p.m. Learn more about upcoming events and activities by visiting the Benbrook Senior Citizens Center's Facebook page at [Facebook.com/BenbrookSeniorCenter](https://www.facebook.com/BenbrookSeniorCenter).

### Volunteers Needed

The Benbrook Senior Citizens Center is looking for volunteers to assist in setting up and organizing monthly dances and events. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact Karol Arnette at 817-249-6300.

### Holly Jolly Holiday at the Benbrook Public Library

Benbrook Public Library will host its 8th Annual Holly Jolly Holiday celebration Saturday, December 10, 2022, from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. This holiday celebration is free for the entire family. It features trackless train rides, a reindeer photo opportunity, the Uptown Carolers performing holiday songs, balloon making, a special appearance by Mrs. Claus, and more. There will be arts and crafts, laser engraved ornaments, hot chocolate, and other refreshments throughout the day. All ages are invited to attend and celebrate the holiday season.

### Holiday Gift Wrapping

For those who need time and space to do holiday gift wrapping away from prying eyes, the Library is offering the space to wrap! On Tuesday, December 13 from 5 p.m. – 8 p.m., and Saturday, December 17 from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., the Library will have wrapping paper, tape, scissors, and ribbon to help make your presents sparkle. They provide the space; you do the wrapping!



### Benbrook Residents Recognized for Parent Teacher Association Leadership

On October 20, 2022, during the Benbrook City Council meeting, Mayor Ward honored Benbrook residents Tiffany Rogers and Ken Kuhl with proclamations distinguishing their service and dedication to public education in the City of Benbrook. Tiffany is the President of the Benbrook Middle-High School Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and was awarded the first ever "Lead Like Marni" Award in recognition of her passion for the Texas PTA. Ken serves as the President of the Fort Worth Independent School District Council of Parent Teacher Associations. He was the recipient of the 2022 Texas State Board of Education's "Heroes for Children" Award, which recognized his excellence in advocacy for education.



**City of Benbrook**  
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### City Council

- Jason Ward ..... Mayor
- Renee Franklin ..... Place 2
- Dr. Larry Marshall ..... Place 3
- Dustin Phillips ..... Place 4
- Gary Addison ..... Place 5
- Laura Mackey ..... Place 6
- Keith Tiner ..... Place 7

### Public Notices

#### City Hall Closures for Christmas & New Years

Benbrook City Hall will be closed December 23 and 26, 2022, for the Christmas Holiday, and closed January 2, 2023, for the New Year Holiday.



#### Trash & Recycling Collection Dates

The holiday schedule will not impact Republic Services' trash and recycling service. Trash and recycling will be collected on its regular scheduled day.

### City Council Election Results

With all candidates running unopposed at the filing deadline, City Council cancelled the November 8, 2022, General Election declaring all candidates elected to office. Renee Franklin, Place 2; Dustin Phillips, Place 4; and Laura Mackey, Place 6, received the Oath of Office at the November 17 City Council meeting.

# Support Benbrook Businesses by Shopping Local!



The City of Benbrook's ZoomBusiness website makes it easy to find shops and services in Benbrook.

**Simply visit [BenbrookZoomBusiness.com](http://BenbrookZoomBusiness.com).**

If you are interested in listing your Benbrook business for **FREE**, call the Economic Development Department at **817-249-6990**.