

## Holiday Happenings



### PLAN TO ATTEND THE 25TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING AND FIREWORKS SHOW!

Food and monetary donations will be accepted at the entrance to the park before and after the show.

Immediately following the lighting of the Christmas Tree, **Benbrook Winter Wonderland** will come alive as Dutch Branch Park bursts into a display of twinkling lights and holiday decorations. This Christmas illumination is **FREE to the public and runs every evening through the New Year**. Join us for this holiday walk in the park located at 1899 Winscott Road, behind the Benbrook Community Center/YMCA.

### FIREFIGHTERS FOOD DRIVE

Non-perishable, unexpired canned and dry foods, and monetary donations will be accepted at the **Benbrook Central Fire Station, 528 Mercedes Street, until December 16, 2016**. All donations directly benefit families living within the City of Benbrook through the 'Firefighters Food Drive' and the 'Benbrook Spirit of Christmas' program (page 2).

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## Spirit of Christmas

Through the Benbrook Spirit of Christmas program, the Benbrook community is celebrating **30 years of providing Christmas gifts to children who attend Benbrook schools, qualify for the free/reduced lunch program and live in Benbrook.** Each year, school counselors identify students who are in need. The families provide their clothing needs, along with toy items on the children's 'wish list' and the program matches a donor with each child.

If you are interested in becoming a Christmas donor, please contact the program chair below. Donors will receive the child or children's name(s), clothes/shoe sizes and wish list items. After shopping, donors will be instructed where and when to drop off the items.

**Again this year, and in partnership with Meals on Wheels, the Spirit of Christmas has expanded its reach to include those who receive the meal service and live in Benbrook.** Christmas donors can brighten the holidays for many of the elderly and disabled that are recipients of Benbrook Meals on Wheels.

**Besides adopting, another option for participating in the program is to simply bring a new, unwrapped gift item to one of the following gift Collection locations until December 9, 2016:**

- Pinnacle Bank, 9282 Benbrook Boulevard/US 377
- Benbrook Water Authority, 1121 Mercedes Street



Contact Beth McKnight at 817-825-5243 or [spiritofchristmas01@gmail.com](mailto:spiritofchristmas01@gmail.com), or to volunteer go to [www.benbrookspiritofchristmas.org](http://www.benbrookspiritofchristmas.org)

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## LOOKING TO PURCHASE FLOOD INSURANCE? QUESTIONS FOR YOUR INSURANCE AGENT.

There are several things to know before speaking to your insurance agent that can help determine the right flood insurance for your home.

### ELEVATION CERTIFICATES

Your insurance agent should ask you for an Elevation Certificate. This certificate verifies the elevation of the lowest floor of your home/building relative to the ground. This is especially important if your home/building is located in a high-risk flood area. **Contact the Community Development Department at 817-249-3000 for additional information regarding Elevation Certificates.**

The City of Benbrook participates in the Community Rating System and has a rating of '6', which means Benbrook residents receive a 20% discount on their premium costs.

### HELPFUL QUESTIONS

To be proactive about your insurance, you should ask your agent the following questions:

- What flood zone do I live in? What is my property's flood risk?
- Is flood insurance mandatory for my property? Will the lender require it?
- Even if flood insurance isn't required by my lender, do I still need it?
- Do I qualify for a Preferred Risk Policy?
- What will and will not be covered against flood damage?
- Will my flood insurance policy be backed by the Federal Government?
- How much coverage should I get for my building and for my contents?
- What options do I have to reduce my premium?
- Are there additional expenses or agency fees I should be aware of?
- Will my policy provide Replacement Cost Value or Actual Cash Value? What is the difference between the two?
- Who should I call if I have a flood claim?
- How can I pay for my policy?
- How will my policy be renewed?

To find an agent near you, go to [FloodSmart.gov](http://FloodSmart.gov) or call 1-888-379-9531.

## A Message from the Benbrook Fire Department

### HOLIDAY SAFETY

Each year hundreds of lives are lost, thousands injured, and hundreds of millions of dollars in damage occur during the holiday season. The United States Fire Administration recommends these life-saving steps to help 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 4**).
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.



Finally, always be sure to 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 ensures that your family and guests enjoy the season!

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## Benbrook Public Library Holly Jolly Holiday



The Benbrook Public Library will host its **3rd Annual Holly Jolly Holiday on Saturday, December 17, from 11:00am to 3:00pm**. Enjoy a **FREE** holiday celebration for the entire family. Expect something for everyone, including arts and crafts, carolers, trackless train rides, Story time with Mrs. Claus, ornament making, and refreshments.

For more information, contact the Benbrook Public Library at **817-249-6632**.



*Our Pride. Your Joy.*

City of Benbrook  
P.O. Box 26569  
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Benbrook, TX 76126-0569

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### **City Council:**

- Jerry Dittrich, Mayor
- Renee Franklin, 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.benbrook-tx.gov](http://www.benbrook-tx.gov)

### **BENBROOK COMMUNITY CENTER/YMCA NEWS**

Join the Benbrook Community Center/YMCA in January and get a discount on your membership fee! Please contact the branch at 817-249-0500 for more information!

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### **REPUBLIC SERVICES/ALLIED WASTE NEWS**

#### **Regular Wednesday Schedule**

There will be **no changes to the trash/recycling pick-up schedule during the holidays**. Benbrook residents should place trash/recycling curbside no earlier than 5:00pm on Tuesday evening, and no later than 7:00am on Wednesday morning for Wednesday (trash day) pick-up. **Republic Services/Allied Waste Customer Service: 817-953-7214**

#### **Collection Rates**

Beginning January 1, 2017, residential refuse/recycling rates will increase from \$13.61 to \$13.81 per month, per the City of Benbrook contract with Republic Services/Allied Waste Services.

#### **Dispose of Christmas Trees in one of the following ways:**

- Place trees curbside on Wednesdays before 7:00am. Trees and brush are normally collect by Republic Services/Allied Waste within 72 hours.
- Take trees to the roll-off dumpster located at the City Maintenance Facility, 467 Winscott Road. **Trees are accepted from December 27 until January 10, Monday through Friday 8:00am-4:00pm.**

***Please remove any nails, stands, plastic bags, and decorations from all trees.***