

*Around the Town with Denise Honeycutt*

## VFW Post 10429 Celebrates Community Support at Awards Banquet



Commander Eddie Terry presents a \$5,000 check to One Tribe Foundation CEO Jacob Schick.

VFW Post 10429 hosted an awards banquet on April 11, recognizing participants and supporters of the fifth annual 5K Ruck, Run and Walk held in fall 2025.

The event, held at the post's facility, brought together sponsors, community leaders and participants for an evening of food, music and recognition. Guests enjoyed a barbecue dinner featuring brisket, chicken, sausage and traditional sides, followed by dessert.

The banquet also featured live music from Proud Country and prize drawings for attendees.

The 5K event, organized in partnership with the VFW Motorcycle Group Unit 19, raised funds for veteran-focused nonprofit organizations, including One Tribe Foundation and VetsStart.

Representatives from both organizations attended the banquet, where proceeds from the event were formally recognized and celebrated. *(photos continued on page 3)*



MGU19 presents a \$1,209.11 check to One Tribe Foundation (l-r) Mike Seifert, MGUnit 19 President Donald Smallwood and One Tribe Foundation CEO Jacob Schick, (back row, l-r) Past Commander and Past Texas VFW Commander Lynn Toomer and Commander Eddie Terry.



Race Director Jamie Bengford presents a \$3,000 check to VetStarts representative Anna Leone while Commander Eddie Terry looks on.

*From Benbrook News Staff Writers*

## Benbrook Launches 'At a Glance' Public Dashboard

The City of Benbrook has launched "Benbrook at a Glance," a new public dashboard designed to provide residents with an interactive view of development activity across the community.

The dashboard presents "The Real Dirt" information in an upgraded, map-based format, offering a clear snapshot of active community development and capital improvement projects.

Through the platform, users can explore applications for new commercial construction, tenant remodels, rezoning requests, subdivision activity and city-led projects. The tool is intended to help residents stay informed about growth and ongoing development throughout Benbrook.

Residents can [access the dashboard here](#).

*From Benbrook News Staff Writers*

## Benbrook City Council Meets Tonight

The Benbrook City Council meets the first and third Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers, located at 911 Winscott Road in Benbrook, 76126.

The April 16 agenda is available to [view here](#).

For questions or more information, contact City Secretary Beth Fischer at 817-249-6086.

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Mistakes in stories or ads must be reported by Friday at 4 p.m. following Thursday's edition for corrections. Advertising payments are due by 10 a.m. Monday.

# Around the Town (photos continued from page 1)



Pinnacle Bank received a plaque for their continuous support over the years. The 5k race committee is also pictured.



Auxiliary President Shawn Terry shared a few words.

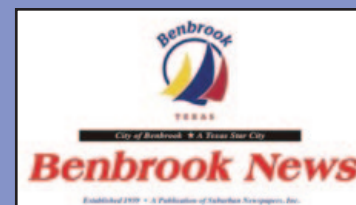


Benbrook Mayor Jason Ward participated at the event.



VFW Motorcycle Group Unit 19, One Tribe Foundation members and Karen Toomer.

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*From the Texas Department of Transportation*  
**TxDOT Seeks Public Input on  
 Future of I-35 Corridor**

From road trip stops to international trade, Interstate 35 remains a critical transportation corridor in Texas, and drivers now have a chance to help shape its future.

The Texas Department of Transportation is inviting public feedback through a survey open April 6 through May 6 as part of the I-35 Texas Corridor Study, a long-range plan focused on improvements from Laredo to the Texas-Oklahoma state line.

Often called the “Main Street of Texas,” the I-35 corridor serves about half the state’s population and connects major cities, military installations, tourism destinations and state parks.

The study aims to address current and future mobility needs, identify gaps and explore improvements for all modes of transportation across urban, rural and border regions. The effort will guide priorities for the next 25 years and is expected to be completed by early 2027.

“I-35 is one of the most important interstates for Texas and the nation, supporting our economy and quality of life,” said Humberto “Tito” Gonzalez Jr., TxDOT’s transportation planning and programs director.

Residents can learn more and take the survey at [txdot.gov](http://txdot.gov).

*From the City of Benbrook*  
**Guidelines for Brush,  
 Bulk Waste Collection**

The City of Benbrook is reminding residents of its guidelines for brush and bulk waste collection as part of its contract with Republic Services.

Under city ordinance No. 642, all residents and businesses are required to subscribe to municipal refuse services. The program is designed to maintain safe, sanitary and efficient waste collection throughout the community.

Bulk items accepted for pickup include common household goods such as bathtubs, bicycles, bookcases, box springs, couches, toilets and desks.

However, certain materials are prohibited. Federal law bars the collection of refrigerators and freezers unless chlorofluorocarbons, or CFCs, have been removed by a certified technician. In addition, Environmental Protection Agency regulations prohibit the collection of used tires, batteries, petroleum products, paint containers, herbicides, pesticides and other hazardous chemicals or solvents.

Construction debris, including sheetrock, tile, roofing materials and earthen materials, will not be collected.

Residents should place brush and bulk items at the curb by 7 a.m. on Wednesdays. Materials will typically be collected within 72 hours. Loose brush must not exceed 3 feet in length or 50 pounds.

The city uses specialized trucks to collect larger brush and bulk items such as furniture and appliances. Items may also be disposed of at the Southeast Landfill, located at 6288 Salt Road.

For more information about residential solid waste services, residents may contact Cecilia Ventura at 817-249-6008 or Republic Services customer service at 817-332-7301.

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*From Suburban Newspapers Staff Writers*  
**Benbrook EDC to Hold  
 April 20 Board Meeting**

The Benbrook Economic Development Corporation will hold its regular board meeting at 7 p.m. Monday, April 20, at the Benbrook Municipal Complex, 911 Winscott Road.

The meeting is open to the public and provides an opportunity for residents to stay informed about local economic development initiatives, projects and business activity within the city.

For additional information about the meeting, residents may call 817-249-6090.

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*From the Sports Desk with John English*

## ***BMHS Track Teams Shine at District Meet, Advance to Area***

The Benbrook track and field team had an excellent showing at their district meet this past week, and coach Rusty Ballard said he was pleased with the effort.

“We finished as the District-Runner Up on Varsity and JV,” Ballard said. “I felt like our kids did a great job competing at the district meet. We had many personal records in many events. In addition, we broke two school records at the District Track Meet.” Benbrook has 15 kids on the boy’s side that qualified for the Area Track and Field Championships in Springtown today.

The Bobcats also qualified all three of their relays (4x100m, 4x200m, and the 4x400m).

New School Records include Shot Put - Jacob Carpenter (44'9") and the 4x200m Relay (Jayden Hall, Quentin Thomas, Evan Kramer, Jayden Deane 1:30.15).

Deane also broke the school record in the 400 meter earlier this season with a time of 52.35.

Area Qualifiers include Owen Atkins, Carpenter, Deane, Dylan Gonzales, Hall, Dorian Johnson, Braden King, Kramer, Phillip McFadden, Tyler Newman, Carson Roberts, Mac Shafer, Izaiah Smith, and Quentin Thomas.

For area, the objectives are pretty straight forward.

“As far as goals, we control what we can control which is our performances,” Ballard said. “We look to PR (personal record) every time we compete.”

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On the girl's side, Samantha Lindsey won a district championship in the 400 Meter Dash with a time of 1:00.13 and Julianna Velasquez finished third with a time of 1:04.29.

Lux Perez won a district championship in the discus with a throw of 91-11.00, and Addison Brown won a silver medal in the same event with a toss of 83-11.00.

Perez also took Silver in the shot put with a throw of 29-5.00.

Eve Carnegie finished third in the 1600 Meter Run with a time of 7:04.46 and the 3200 meter run with a time of 16:05.29.

Benbrook finished third in the 4X100 Meter Relay with a time of 51.00, second in the 4X200 Meter Relay with a time of 1:47.61 and second in the 4x400 Meter Relay finals with a time of 4:49.72.

Kira Cleveland finished third in the long jump with a jump of 16-5.50.

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Over at Western Hills, D'Shawn Elder finished third in the boy’s shot put event with a throw of 42-10.00.

On the diamond, the Western Hills Lady Cougars softball team came up a big short on Friday against Diamond Hill-Jarvis, but coach Tyler Sutton said he was happy with his team’s effort.

“Although the final score didn’t swing our way, the ladies played high level softball and gave everything they had,” Sutton said. “The game came down to the wire in the bottom of the seventh, finishing with a score of 11-8 in favor of Diamond Hill.

“With the full support of our community at our backs, the ladies

embodied our mantra of ‘Cougar Pride Never Dies,’ and couldn’t have made everyone prouder. The team made, minimal mistakes and as a coach I couldn’t have asked for more fight or effort from the team.

Sutton said there were several standout performances in the game.

“Seniors Vivian Hernandez, Sophia Castellanos, Addison Dudley, and Sophomore Isabela Gonzales all had multi-hit performances at the plate,” Sutton said. “Addison’s performance included an RBI double, and Isabela’s included a double and triple, along with 2 RBI. On the mound Addison also struck out 16 hitters over 7 innings.”

With the playoffs right around the corner, Sutton said his team needs to finish out strong.

“Although we don’t feel like this loss set us back, Monday night against Southwest is a must win,” Sutton said on Saturday. “It will secure placing second in the district as well as the most favorable matchup possible in the bi-district round. Even with a playoff spot secured, the team’s mentality is that every game is more important than the last and complacency is never the standard.”

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Over at Benbrook, the Lady Bobcats defeated Carter-Riverside by a score of 15-0 last Friday.

Mya Vasquez went 2-2 with a triple and 3 RBI.

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In baseball, the Benbrook Bobcats played Trimble Tech and Fort Worth Boswell this past week, defeating Tech by a score of 8-6 and Boswell 9-7.

The Bobcats improve to 17-8, 8-0 on the season.

“In both games we were up 8-1 and 9-0,” coach Justin Chavez said. “We pulled the starters to give the other guys some work and some things kind of fell apart, but we were able to recover from our mistakes and win both games. I like to see the other guys play so we can see who we can rely on come playoff time.”

Dan Stiefvater and Sebastian Martinez picked up the wins this past week and Chavez said “they both threw really really well on the mound.”

At the plate, Martinez, Hudson Stockton, Brennan Barton, and Evan Smith “all had a really good week at the plate,” as well for Benbrook.

“We are looking forward to getting better each week and preparing for the playoffs,” Chavez said.

Benbrook still had three more non-District “competitive games” as of Saturday and will pick up district play next week against Carter Riverside.

“They are 7-1 in district and we are 8-0, so it will be a good test for us and then we have Celina next Saturday at their place,” Chavez said.

Texas History Minute by Dr. Ken Bridges

# Benjamin Franklin: From Printer to Founding Father and Champion of American Liberty



“Those who would sacrifice a little liberty for a little security shall get and deserve neither.” This was the warning of Benjamin Franklin, a scientist, thinker, and defender of American freedom. He became one of the most well-known figures of the American Revolution for his sharp observations of human nature, quick wit, noted inventions, and steadfast principles.

Franklin was born in Boston in 1706, one of 17 children. Franklin loved to read as a child, teaching himself grammar, philosophy, and math. His father, Josiah, a candlemaker and an English immigrant, had hoped for his son to become a minister, but he could only afford to send him to the Boston Latin Grammar School for a couple of years. At the age of 12, his father sent Franklin to be an apprentice to his 21-year old brother, James, a printer and also publisher of the *New-England Courant*. After five years, Ben Franklin decided to leave Boston and start a life on his own.

He was 17 when he arrived in Philadelphia. He took a few jobs working for local printers. In 1727, he formed the “Junto,” an organization of young professionals to discuss ideas. The organization helped form Philadelphia’s first library by 1731.

In 1728, Franklin set up his own print shop and began publishing *The Pennsylvania Gazette*, a newspaper which quickly be-

came popular through Franklin’s own witty observations. Franklin had a keen sense for opportunity and developed partnerships to start other newspapers. Within 20 or so years, Franklin was part-owner of nearly half the English-language newspapers in the colonies. In 1732, he began publishing *Poor Richard’s Almanac*, which he wrote under a series of pen names. It sold thousands of copies each year, and its success gave Franklin financial security.

He had a strong sense of civic duty, often using his imagination and creativity to benefit Philadelphia. In 1736, he created one of the first volunteer fire departments in the colonies. Officials named him postmaster of Philadelphia in 1737. Soon after, Franklin founded the American Philosophical Society in 1743 to promote science and education, becoming the first scholarly organization in the colonies. Working with a group of prominent Philadelphians, he co-founded the College of Philadelphia in 1749, which would later become the University of Pennsylvania. By 1748, he was elected to the Philadelphia city council. This was followed by a brief turn as a justice of the peace and then to the Pennsylvania legislature by 1751. While in the legislature, he quickly pushed for a charter to establish the first hospital in Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania Hospital, which was only the second hospital in North America.

Franklin’s scientific achievements were widely respected. He became one of the foremost experts on electricity in the world. In 1749, Franklin developed the lightning rod, a simple device that saved countless lives and property from the destructive force of lightning. Instead of patenting it, he made the design free to the public. In 1752, he conducted his famous experiment with a kite and key during a storm and was able to prove that lightning was electricity. He would go on to develop bifocals and the Franklin stove among other inventions. Because of his achievements, he was inducted into the Royal Society of Arts in 1756.

As early as 1754, Franklin supported the Thirteen Colonies acting more in unison. This would become even more important with the French and Indian War.

By 1757, the colonies hired Franklin to act as a lobbyist in London to speak to Parliament for American interests. He noted that with the rising economic development of the colonies that one day the economic center of the British Empire would be in America. After the war, Britain’s increasingly heavy-handed tactics toward the colonies brought Franklin into a far more visible position in defending the colonies and becoming one of the leaders calling for independence.

## Part II

“We must either hang together or be hanged separately.” Ben Franklin warned of the need for unity among the colonists as they declared independence in 1776. As a keen observer, his wit and his intelligence had made him respected and successful, and he spent decades serving his community and the nation. Franklin would be responsible for such a wide array of accomplishments, including the idea of the Gulf Stream in 1770, the first use of the pro and con list in 1772. Of the many inventions and innovations Franklin created that would change the world, the creation of the independent United States with the other Founding Fathers would further cement his place in history.

For over a year, Franklin had already been serving as postmaster general of the colonies, devising what would become the US Post Office. This was after several years of serving as a colonial agent in England, warning Parliament of its disastrous policies. Now as the Continental Congress prepared for independence in Philadelphia in June 1776, Franklin joined Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Roger Sherman, and Robert R. Livingston in a committee tasked by Congress to make a statement to the world why the colonies were moving for independence. Though (continued on page 7)

## Benjamin Franklin (continued from page 6)

the *Declaration of Independence* was overwhelmingly the work of Jefferson, Franklin made important suggestions and contributions. Most notably, where Jefferson repeated philosopher John Locke's assertion that a government's responsibility is to protect "life, liberty, and property," Franklin suggested the change to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness," saying that the new nation was more than just about possessions but was about letting people live their own lives on their own terms under freedom.

Shortly after the *Declaration of Independence* was approved on July 4, Franklin, now past 70, left for France as the nation's first ambassador to that nation. France had already been quietly supplying gunpowder to the Continental Army, but Franklin's job was to secure recognition for American independence and to persuade the French to join the cause. He did the slow, careful work of building relationships that diplomacy requires, working to charm the French public and nobility. The American victory at the Battle of Saratoga in 1777 convinced France that America was a winning cause.

In February 1778, France became the first nation to recognize American independence and signed an alliance, bringing the French army and navy into the fight.

At the end of the fighting in 1781, he led the American delegation for the treaty negotiations. The *Treaty of Paris of 1783* secured British recognition of US independence and a border set at the Mississippi River, among other concessions. In 1785, he returned to the US and was elected to the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania, becoming one of the three governors of the state, serving until 1788. In 1787, he became president of the Pennsylvania Abolition Society.

In 1787, delegates gathered in Philadelphia to devise a new constitution. At 81, Franklin was the oldest delegate. He offered insights and ideas, for he still believed in the importance of

imagination, integrity, and fairness in government. Independence Hall, where debate took place, was just a few blocks from his home. Franklin had built a successful career based on freedom of the press and speaking his mind. He understood the necessity of free thought to preserving a free nation. "Without freedom of thought there can be no such thing as wisdom; and no such thing as public liberty, without freedom of speech," he wrote.

After months of negotiations, the Constitution was drafted and sent to the states for ratification. When asked what kind of government the new Constitution created, Franklin is said to have replied, "A republic. If you can keep it."

The Constitutional Convention would serve as Franklin's last major public role. He continued to correspond and visit with friends and even sent a petition to Congress calling for the end of slavery. However, his health was declining.

He died in April 1790 at age 84. Almost the entire population of Philadelphia attended the processional at his funeral. Though he was not much of a churchgoer, he openly supported Christian and Jewish congregations throughout Philadelphia. At his funeral, every minister and rabbi in the city led the march in honor of their beloved neighbor. As the years passed, dozens of communities and counties would be named for him as well as many schools and colleges.

Even at the end, Franklin was still thinking ahead. In his will, he set up trust funds for Boston and Philadelphia to be used for future education training, a trust he designed to mature in 200 years. Philadelphia devoted what came to be a \$2 million fund for scholarships for high school students. In 1908, Boston used what became a \$5 million fund to create the Franklin Institute of Boston, a trade school.

*From 4PAWS/Benbrook Animal Shelter*

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Brownie is a handsome, 2-year-old Shepherd mix who walks great on a leash and has a loyal, stoic, one-of-a-kind personality. He's ready for a forever home with someone who appreciates a truly special dog.

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Visit [www.4pawsinc.org](http://www.4pawsinc.org) or call 4 PAWS volunteers, Ursula at 817-262-3086, or Lynda at 682-279-0760 to set up a meet-and-greet or to get more information about any of the available dogs.

*From the City of Benbrook*

### Household Hazardous Waste Dropoff

Benbrook residents may take household hazardous waste to the Fort Worth Environmental Collection Center (ECC) at no cost.

Proof of Benbrook residency is required (e.g., utility bill, driver's license).

The Fort Worth ECC is located at 6400 Bridge St. and is open for drop-offs Thursdays and Fridays, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

If you have questions, please call 817-392-EASY (3279).

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## Weekend Forecast

### Friday, April 17:

**AM** - Partly sunny, high near 83. South wind 15 to 20 mph, gusts as high as 30 mph.  
**PM** - A 50% chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, low around 55.  
 South wind around 15 mph, gusts as high as 25 mph.

### Saturday, April 18:

**AM** - A chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, high near 66. North wind 15 to 20 mph, gusts as high as 30 mph. Chance of precipitation is 40%  
**PM** - Partly cloudy, low around 46. North northeast wind 5 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

### Sunday, April 19:

**AM** - Mostly sunny, high near 71. East wind 5 to 10 mph.  
**PM** - Mostly cloudy, low around 51. East wind 5 to 10 mph.

**Extended Forecast [Click Here](#)**

