



Benbrook News

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From Benbrook Public Library

Grand Opening of Family Place Library Aug. 9

GRAND OPENING
Friday, August 9th
10AM-12PM

Family Place Libraries
Building Foundations for Early Learning

BENBROOK PUBLIC LIBRARY

New Toys
New Furniture
New Parenting/Family Collection
Parent/Child Workshop

Join us for the grand opening of our [Family Place Library](#) Friday, Aug. 9.

We will showcase our new furniture, toys, and parenting collection we were able to purchase through the grant we received from Family Place Libraries™.

We invite our patrons to visit with us to learn more about the workshop and what it means to be a Family Place Library!

We will also be introducing a five-week long [Parent/Child Workshop](#) that begins on Aug. 23 (registration is required). Workshops will be held on Fridays from 8:30 to 9:45 a.m., and dates are Aug. 23, 30, Sept. 6, 13, and 20.

Benbrook Council Action

Aug. 1 Benbrook Council Meeting Wrap Up

The Benbrook City Council meeting was held on Aug. 1 as scheduled.

Mayor Jason Ward called the meeting to order. An invocation was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Time was then allowed for citizen comments on any agenda item, but there were none.

The minutes from the previous meeting held on July 18 were then approved unanimously.

The first item of the evening was to approve the finance report ending on June 30. For the General Fund, revenues for the month of June were \$991,614 and year-to-date were \$26,135,437. Expenditures for the month of June were \$1,943,933 and year-to-date were \$15,627,920. For the Economic Development Corporation, revenues for the month of June were \$191,230, while year-to-date revenues totaled \$1,948,282. Expenditures for the month of June were \$78,496 and year-to-date expenditures totaled \$351,587. The finance report was accepted unanimously.

Next up was a motion to accept the quarterly investment report. Investments for the City of Benbrook totaled \$38,806,710 and for the EDC were \$9,356,137.

Next was a proposal to accept Amendment 1 to the Tarrant County Emergency Services District FY2023/24 Contract.

According to the agenda, on Oct. 19, 2023, the Benbrook City (continued on page 3)

Around the Town with Denise Honeycutt

American Legion Post 297 Installs 2024-2025 Officers

A ceremony for newly installed officers was held at American Legion Post 297 on July 27 at the facility. Distinguished individuals from the area and past and present officers were in attendance for this occasion. A delicious dinner completed the event.



Legionnaires are: (front to back) Commander **Lora McGee**, 1st Vice Commander **Louise Riley**, Adjutant **Michelle Garcia**, Chaplain **Ron Hand**, Asst. Sgt. At Arms **Philip Casey**, Sgt. At Arms **Dwight Saunier**, Executive Board Members **Danny Davis**, **Steven Christoff** and **Tom Barnicle**. (photos continued on page 4)

From the Sports Desk with John English

2024-2025 Benbrook Middle-High School and Western Hills High School Cross Country Preview

With cross country season right around the corner, the distance runners of Benbrook and Western Hills are gearing up for another competitive year on the trails.

Benbrook had an outstanding season in 2023, and coach Syna Donart is expecting more of the same this year.

“We are looking forward to another great season this year,” Donart said. “Our program is continuing to grow in numbers, and we have a solid returning group of experienced runners. We finished last season with district championships in all four divisions, boys and girls JV and Varsity and the boys finished 15th in 4A Region 2 and the girls finished 13th in 4A Region 2.”

Donart said one of the best parts about this season is that she has a number of athletes back.

“Our returning varsity runners for the girls are seniors Bella Aranda, Kourtney Brown, and juniors Hannah Anderson, Kira Cleveland and Ruth Walker,” Donart said. “For the boys we have juniors Hudson Felker, Andrew Herrill, Daniel Viola and Casey Wilson and sophomore: Elijah Lopez. We also have a strong group of young runners joining us this year.”

Donart said a successful season for the Bobcats would include a few accomplishments.

“Our program always strives to win district and qualify for regionals, but we also would love to have some state qualifiers,” Do-

nart said. “We do return to Region 1 where there is some very tough competition.”

To repeat on the success the team enjoyed last year, Donart said her team will need to focus on two things.

“We need to continue working hard in practice and push each other to be our best,” Donart said. “We have had a great turnout at summer workouts, and we have some tough meets leading up to district that will only make us better.”

On the girls is Diamond-Hill Jarvis will be Benbrook's biggest challenge and on the boys side it will be Carter-Riverside and Diamond Hill-Jarvis.

Over at Western Hills, the Cougars return last year's regional qualifier Michelle Gutierrez.

Alexis Yakobo is a top returner on the boy's side for Western Hills.

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Council Action (continued from page 1)

Council approved the FY2023-24 Emergency Services Contract with the Tarrant County Emergency Services District No. 1 for the Benbrook Fire Department to provide Fire and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) to portions of unincorporated Tarrant County. The contract included a \$25,000 grant to the City of Benbrook for Bunker Gear, payable via a reimbursement request received by the District on or before June 30, 2024. Proposed Amendment #1 grants the City sufficient time to submit the proper reimbursement documentation to Tarrant County.

Staff recommended that City Council approve the District's proposed amendment to the FY2023-2024 Emergency Services Contract extending the reimbursement deadline to Aug. 31, which was approved unanimously.

Time was then allowed for informal citizen comments, but there were none.

Time was then allowed for council member and staff comments and Council Member Larry Marshall then announced that Benbrook has a new city secretary, Beth Fischer, and welcomed Fischer to her new position.

The meeting was then adjourned.

From City of White Settlement

Special Needs Event at Splash Dayz Aug. 15

Splash Dayz is excited to announce a family friendly event for our special needs community on Thursday, Aug. 15, from 5 to 8 p.m.

Families with special needs individuals are invited to join us for a private, supervised swim time on this day.

The park will not be open to the public so this is a great opportunity to experience the water park without the crowds and noise.

Those with special needs get into the waterpark for free for this event and tickets for the rest of their family and guests can be purchased at the front gate only (not available online) for just \$10 each, so bring the family and the siblings too!

For questions, visit the website at <https://www.splashdayzws.com/contact>.



Around the Town (continued from page 1)



SAL Adjutant **Bill Kuehner** (left) and Finance Officer **John Ashton** (back) Past Department Commander **Jeff Perkins**.



American Legion Riders are: (l-r) Director **John Ashton**, Secretary **Susan Ashton** and Finance Officer **Steve Paladin**.



Auxiliary officers are: (front to back) President **Christi Barnicle**, Vice President **Theresa Byers**, Treasurer **Shay Kuehner**, Chaplain **Bobbie Jackson**, Sgt. At Arms **Lora McGee**, Asst. Sgt. At Arms **Michelle Garcia**, Executive Board Members **Nancy Wyatt**, **Susan Ashton** and **Lynda Sutton**.



Certificate recipients are: (l-r) **Bill Kuehner**, **Philip Davis** and **Dwight Saunier**.



Juan Garcia



Louise Riley



Laurel Weaver



Shay Kuehner

From StatePoint Media

Quick Indoor Organizing Projects to Tackle Now

From leaving on vacations and weekend getaways to heading out for a hike or to a sporting event, frequent in-and-out traffic in summer can leave our spaces a mess. While a deep clean can be reserved for fall, home organizing expert Abby Lawson of the popular *Abby Organizes* blog says there are quick ways to tidy up the home now.

- **Easy Entrance and Exit:** A new survey by Duck brand finds 76 percent of people feel “overwhelmed” by their family members’ mess. To help control clutter near the entryway, install Duck brand Easy Mounts Interior Drywall J Hooks to give items like beach bags, hats and umbrellas a designated spot. Lawson says she also likes to put a basket by the door, so her kids have a place to toss their shoes.

“Helping everyone adopt a routine when they come in the door encourages tidiness,” Lawson explains. “If you have little kids, move the hooks to their level, so hanging their bag becomes part of their routine.”

- **Medicine Cabinet Makeover:** The outdoor season brings its fair share of challenges like sunburn, bug bites, bee stings and rashes. Stock a cabinet with must-have emergency supplies. Lay a shelf liner on the shelf, so surfaces stay clean and dry from leaking bottles and sticky spills. Lawson keeps these essentials on a shelf near her entryway, so it’s easy for her family to apply sunscreen or bug repellent quickly on their way to the park or pool.

- **Order for Overflow:** More than half of the people surveyed

say clutter in the living room is the “most annoying” mess their family members make on a regular basis. Lawson says she uses hooks on the inside wall of her hall closet to hold an organizer. This creates extra storage for small toys as well as hand soap and toilet paper. She also recommends that households establish a consistent cleanup time to “reset” the room.

“No matter how much we try to clean up, staying organized will come down to the habits that we have,” Lawson says. “Institute a daily or weekly reset where everyone in the family works together to get everything back to where it goes. That will keep the clutter from piling up.”

- **Gather Your Gadgets:** From tongs to skewers, we often use the same tools to cook in the summer. Lawson suggests storing go-to grilling gadgets in a caddy, so they can easily be taken from inside to out. She also says to divide drawers with small trays and use shelf liner with fun prints and patterns under the trays to add a pop of color to the area.

Additionally, put bulky items like egg, pineapple and watermelon slicers in a basket on a higher shelf, so they don’t take up drawer space.

- **Car Clean-Out:** Whether you’re heading on a day trip or a road trip, the car can easily get chaotic. Lawson recommends putting an organizer on each of the back seats, so kids’ snacks, electronics and car games are easily accessible. These pockets can also be a handy place for hand sanitizer, trash bags and water.

Setting up these simple organizing systems with the help of useful products and organizing tools will encourage tidy habits for a neat home all season long.

BACK TO SCHOOL SALES TAX HOLIDAY TAX FREE WEEKEND

AUGUST 9 - 11

SHOP LOCAL

This year's sales tax holiday begins Friday, August 9, and goes through midnight Sunday, Aug. 11. The sales tax exemption applies only to qualifying items you buy during the sales tax holiday.

Comptroller.Texas.gov

HOLIDAY COUNTDOWN

84 Days Until HALLOWEEN

112 Days Until THANKSGIVING

139 Days Until CHRISTMAS

145 Days Until 2025!

Texas History Minute, by Dr. Ken Bridges

Former President of Peru - Fernando Belaúnde Terry



Texas universities have produced many interesting political figures. Perhaps one of the most unusual journeys was that of University of Texas graduate Fernando Belaunde. Belaunde earned a Texas architectural license, became a noted architect, and was twice elected president of Peru, surviving a military coup in the process.

Fernando Belaunde Terry was born in Peru in 1912 into a prominent family. His father had been a professor and prime minister, and his great-grandfather had been president of the country. As a child, and for most of his life, he would be caught up in the chaos of South American politics. When the military overthrew the civilian government in 1924, Belaunde and his family fled the country in a panic. They soon settled in France. In 1930, his father got a job as a professor at the University of Miami, the family moved to Florida, and Belaunde began taking architecture classes there.

After a few years at the University of Miami, Belaunde wanted a better architectural school. In 1935, he enrolled at the University of Texas. He honed his skills as he learned from the most respected architectural minds in the South. He soon graduated with a bachelors degree and earned a Texas architectural license.

After finding work in Mexico as an architect, he left Texas. Shortly afterward, he returned to Peru and began publishing a noted magazine on architecture and began designing houses. He soon became a renowned consultant on housing issues and eventually became a professor of architecture and urban planning by 1943. He was elected to the national congress in 1945 on a reform ticket. But the congress was shut down when yet another dictator came to power in 1948.

When the military allowed elections in 1956, he attempted to run for president on the new party ticket of the New Front of Democratic Youth. The military would not give up power easily. They refused to let him onto the ballot and engineered the election toward their own hand-picked successor. After leading a series of protests, he was finally allowed onto the ballot but finished a distant second. He and his supporters soon founded a new political party, the Popular Action Party. Popular Action was meant to be a centrist party by the standards of Peru, between the extremes of the handful of elites and military juntas that had previously controlled the economy and the political system and the extremists such as the socialists and the communists. The party advocated free market reforms, economic development, and anti-corruption measures.

Belaunde won the 1963 presidential election with 39% of the vote in a deeply divided contest. He immediately began working to expand college education opportunities across the country, allowed the return of free municipal elections, and pushed for new agricultural and business development. He also instituted a construction program for new highways to be built into the most remote parts of Peru. But in spite of his successes, his popularity dropped with a series of economic crises in 1967 and 1968. The situation was made even worse with a vastly unpopular settlement with a Standard Oil subsidiary to return control of Peruvian oil production to Peru.

With his unpopularity increasing among the public, the military again took control. In October 1968, Belaunde was forced from office by the army.

He was forced to return to the United States, fearing for his life. He spent the next several years teaching architecture at Harvard University and George Washington University. The Peruvian military proved completely inept at running the economy and agreed with civilian politicians to allow a new constitution and for free elections in 1980. Belaunde returned to Peru and won the presidential election with 45 percent of the vote in a divided field with 14 other candidates.

However, the Peru that Belaunde returned to was very different. Peru, like most of Latin America, was devastated by years of unrest and dictatorships in the 1970s that left deep economic and social scars. Though he was able to complete important and popular highway projects, he was unable to do much more.

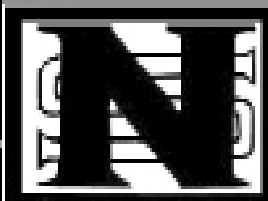
During the Falkland Islands War between Argentina and Great Britain in 1982, he attempted to broker a peace agreement between the two. The plan, however, was rejected by Argentina's military dictators, who subsequently lost the war with Britain and were overthrown.

However, Peru's economic problems were only accelerating. The economic problems caused by the dictatorship of the 1970s worsened, with increases in inflation and unemployment and declines in income. Foreign debt increased sharply. A series of weather disasters wrecked the fishing and agricultural industries. Unrest increased as a result, leading to communist uprisings in southern Peru.

Belaunde declined to run for re-election in 1985, and his Popular Action Party was dealt a devastating defeat. He served in a ceremonial position in the Peruvian Senate until 1992 when the position was abolished and he retired.

He died in 2002 at the age of 89.

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Weekend Forecast



Friday, Aug. 9:

AM - Sunny and hot, with a high near 100. East wind 5 to 10 mph.

PM - Mostly clear, with a low around 78. East wind 5 to 10 mph.



Saturday, Aug. 10:

AM - Mostly sunny, with a high near 98. East wind around 5 mph.

PM - Partly cloudy, with a low around 76. East southeast wind 5 to 10 mph.



Sunday, Aug. 11:

AM - Mostly sunny, with a high near 97. South southeast wind 5 to 10 mph.

PM - Mostly clear, with a low around 78.

[Extended Forecast Click Here](#)