



Benbrook News

Established 1939 • A Publication of Suburban Newspapers, Inc.

86th Year, No. 1 • 7820 Wyatt Drive, White Settlement, Texas 76108 • suburban-newspapers.com • January 1, 2026

Benbrook Council Action by John English

Benbrook Sports Teams Open Season Strong

The Benbrook girl's soccer team is looking to continue upon the success it enjoyed in 2024-25, but this year under new leadership. Coach Kristen Martinez is taking the reins from Luz Castillo, who led the Lady Cats to a 20-4-1 overall record last season and trip to the regional quarterfinals.

Martinez said as the season gets underway, she is optimistic about how things are coming together.

"I feel good about the way things are shaping up for the season," Martinez said. "The girls have bought in and are working hard. We have a great shot to make some noise this year."

Among the players to watch for Benbrook this season include Sydney and Lily Chavez, Lily Carias, Randee Slater, and Jessica

Anzaldua.

"We are excited to have Judith Jimenez back this season for her senior year after taking the last couple of years off," Martinez said. "She brings us physicality in the back and is a great addition to our defensive line."

"We also have a freshman goalkeeper, Zoe Clark, who brings high level club experience to the pitch. Her communication and leadership in the back bring a sense of calm that definitely helps the team."

Martinez comes to Benbrook from Aledo, where she served as assistant coach of the Lady Bearcats for 10 years. Benbrook finished 14-0 in district and won the 7-4A championship

Benbrook Council Action by John English

Benbrook City Council Approves Board Appointments, Park Upgrades at Dec. 18 Meeting

The Benbrook City Council meeting was held on Dec. 18 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 Dec. 4 were then approved unanimously.

The first item of the evening was to consider approval of the Resignation from Place Alternate B on the Zoning Board of Adjustment and Appeals Commission from Carol Stacy. The resignation was accepted unanimously and Ward thanked Stacy for her years of service.

Next up was a motion to make appointments to boards and commissions. The terms for the odd-numbered positions on the City's Boards and Commissions expired on Dec. 30, 2025. Applications for these positions were received and presented to the City Council at its Nov. 20, 2025 meeting, and candidate interviews were conducted on Dec. 1 & 2. The recommendation presented at the Nov. 20, 2025 meeting to appoint a representative to an unexpired term for Place 6 on the Planning and Zoning Commission was incorrect.

No vacancy existed for Place 6; therefore, both the recommendation and its resulting action are void. *(continued on page 4)*

**Benbrook City Council Meets
Monday, Jan. 5
7 pm @ City Hall • 911 Winscott Rd.**

From the Benbrook Public Library

Guilt Free Gift Swap Jan. 2-3

The Benbrook Public Library will host a "Guilt-Free Gift Swap" on Friday and Saturday, Jan. 2-3, offering residents a simple way to pass along unwanted holiday gifts.

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For more information, call 817-249-6632.

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Emily Moxley, Editor: suburbannews@sbcglobal.net

7820 Wyatt Drive, Fort Worth, TX 76108

suburban-newspapers.com

These newspapers are published and delivered digitally every Thursday.

Deadlines are Friday at 4 p.m., prior to the following Thursday's edition.

The publisher/editor reserves the right to reject or edit all copy submitted for publication. Advertising and Letters to the Editor do not necessarily reflect the opinions, editorial policies or beliefs of the Publisher, Managing Editor or staff of Suburban Newspapers, Inc.

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- **Obituaries** are limited to 250 words and cost \$100.

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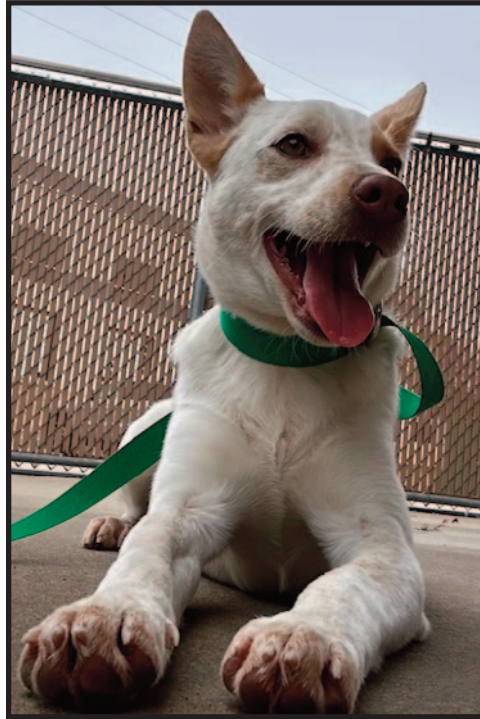
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Benbrook City Council Meets Jan. 5!
7 pm @ City Hall • 911 Winscott Rd.
[click this link to view the Jan. 5 Agenda](#)

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Council Action (continued from page 1)

Laura Mackey recommended the following appointments beginning Dec. 31:

Planning and Zoning Commission Place 1 - Wes Myers; Place 3 - Charles Marino, Place 5 - Matthew Wallace; Place 7 - Joshua Harville and Place 9 - John Adelman.

For the ZDA Appeals commission, Place 1 - David Gattis; Place 3 - Joshua Strange; Place 5 - Lizbeth Sowell; Alternate A - Malcom Wetsel; Alternate C - Jeremiah Smith.

For the Parks and Recreation Board, Place 1-Chad Skinner; Place 3-Tammy Fulcher; Place 5 Tiffany White; Place 7 Sunnae Hiler.

For the Economic Development Corporation, Place 1 - Gary Lindsey, Place 3 - Kristen Melton; Place 5 - Kent Williams and Place 7 - Omar Aguilar.

She also moved that the following be appointed to terms expiring on Dec. 31, 2026: Alain Jablonowski to the unexpired Place 2 on the Planning and Zoning Commission and Michael Anderson to the unexpired position in Alternate B on the ZBA Appeals Commission. The motion carried unanimously.

The next item was to consider accepting the finance report for the period ending Nov. 30. Revenues for the General fund for the month of November totaled \$1,743,850, while year-to-date revenues totaled \$2,368,019. Expenditures for the General fund for the month of November totaled \$1,780,499, while year-to-date expenditures totaled \$4,068,074. For the Economic Development Corporation, revenues for the month of November totaled \$212,722 and year-to-date revenues totaled \$384,361, while expenditures for the month of November totaled \$28,126 and year-to-date expenditures totaled \$316,483. Investments for the City of Benbrook totaled \$31,135,712 while investments for the EDC totaled \$7,607,298. The finance report was accepted unanimously.

Next up was a motion to consider an ordinance readopting tax abatement guidelines and criteria. The proposed ordinance continues to provide the option to negotiate tax abatements for new or expanded manufacturing facilities with more than \$3 million in new investment, or ten or more new employees. The guidelines also allow for tax abatements for new hotels with more than 50 rooms.

The ordinance was approved unanimously.

The next item was a proposal to update the Capital Improvement Program. The objectives for the program for fiscal year 2025-26 are to replace the playground equipment at Castle Park and Robot Park, to update Dutch Branch Park infrastructure, facilities and grounds, replace police vehicles and to replace public service vehicles. For FY 2026-27, it is to replace the fire station roof, Dutch Branch Park infrastructure, facilities and grounds, replace seven outdoor warning sirens, replace police vehicles and public service vehicles. For street improvements for 2026-27, the objectives are the 2027 annual street rehabilitation program, and the 53rd year community development block grant project. For drainage projects, for FY 2025-26 the objectives are Dutch Branch Drainage improvements and storm drain condition repairs with storm drain condition repairs also a goal for 2026-27. The program was improved unanimously.

Next was a motion to consider replacing Castle Park and Robot Park equipment. In 2024, staff started working with Kompan Group, the park equipment vendor. The City of Benbrook and Kompan develop a concept plan in 2025. Diagrams of both parks were then presented. The city will remove existing equipment and the Kompan group will construct the new park equipment. The equipment cost will total \$1,899,678.22 and the project cost will not exceed \$2 million. The new equipment will be installed in May and parks will open in June. The proposal was accepted unanimously.

Time was then allowed for informal citizen comments.

Sunnae Hiler approached the podium and Hiler said how much she enjoyed the fireworks and said she is really excited about Castle Park. Hiler said she was really impressed with the city's web site and how easy it was to navigate. She also thanked the council members for listening to resident's input.

Time was then allowed for council member and staff comments, and council member Keith Tiner complimented Principal Dr. Jason Oliver from Benbrook Middle High School, along with the fine arts department at the school for a recent performance at the Will Rogers Auditorium, saying it was "spectacular."

Tiner also applauded Mayor Ward's role in the production as the Grinch.

Renee Franklin reminded residents that the next council meeting following the New Year has been moved to Jan. 5 and wished everyone a happy holidays and encouraged residents to check on their neighbors.

Council member Sean Moore then thanked the local VFW for putting on a great Christmas and commemorative event along with people who supported the event.

The meeting was then adjourned.

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Sports Desk (continued from page 1)

in 2024-25, and Martinez said to have a successful season, her team will have to remain healthy.

“We've had a couple of girls suffer injuries early on, which means we've had to shift players around,” Martinez said. “This disrupts what we've been practicing, so it makes it difficult to get into a rhythm.”

On the mat, the Benbrook wrestling program had a strong showing in it's final competition before the Holiday break last week, defeating Eagle Mountain by a score of 57-15 and following that up with a 60-18 victory over Aledo.

Coach Wade Cribbs said he had a couple of stand out performances in the competition.

“Katie Loyd and Bella Johnson led the girls, with Desmond Chambers and Aiden Carpenter standing out for the boys,” Cribbs said.

Benbrook finished up 2025 with a combined 7-1 record in duals.

Cribbs said his team will definitely have its hands full in the new year.

“The second half of the season will be tough matching up against Brock, defending state Champions Azle, and State Runner-up Frisco, along with State Duals Teams,” Cribbs said.

Only the top eight teams in the state are invited to the State Duals.

In their final game before the holiday break, the Benbrook and Western Hills boy's basketball teams squared off in both team's district openers. Benbrook defeated Western Hills by a score of 59-39.

Benbrook's next game will be a non-district contest at Mineral Wells at 7:30 p.m. tomorrow night, and the Bobcats will resume district competition at 8 p.m. on Jan. 6 at Eastern Hills.

Western Hills will resume district competition at 7:30 p.m. on Jan. 6 when it hosts Carter-Riverside.

On the girl's side, Western Hills lost it's district opener to Eastern Hills by a score of 66-11 last week and will play at Carter-Riverside on Jan.6.

Over at Benbrook, the Lady Cats came up just short against Southwest in its district opener last week by a score of 53-51.

Benbrook will host Eastern Hills at 7:30 p.m. on Jan. 6.

Happy New Year!

From Benbrook News Staff Writers **Benbrook City Hall Closed** **Monday, Jan. 19**

Benbrook City Hall, located at 911 Winscott Road, will close all day on Monday, Jan. 19 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

City Hall will reopen on Tuesday, Jan. 20 at regular time.



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From Tarrant County

Avoid Penalties! Pay Property Taxes by Jan. 31

The deadline to pay 2025 property taxes without penalty or interest is Friday, Jan. 31, 2026, according to the [Tarrant County Tax Assessor-Collector's Office](#). Tarrant County has the largest number of property tax accounts in Texas.

Taxpayers can now use a newly updated online property tax payment portal designed to simplify searches and payments.

Links to the previous system have been deactivated, and users are encouraged to update bookmarks. Creating an online profile is no longer required to make a payment, though most existing profiles have been migrated and may require a new password.

Payments by mail must be postmarked by Jan. 31 to avoid penalty and interest.

The U.S. Postal Service cancellation stamp is considered the official postmark; metered postage dates do not qualify. Accepted forms include checks, cashier's

checks and money orders, payable to Rick D. Barnes, Tax Assessor-Collector. Mailed payments should be sent to PO Box 961018, Fort Worth, TX 76161-0018. A \$25 service charge applies to returned checks.

Taxpayers may also pay by phone by calling the county's third-party payment processor at 817-884-1110. Debit and credit cards, as well as electronic checks, are accepted.

E-checks do not carry a fee, though processing may take one to three days. Tax office staff cannot accept payments directly by phone.

Drop box payments are available during normal business hours outside the Arlington Subcourthouse, 700 E. Abram St., and the Mansfield Subcourthouse, 1100 Broad St. Checks only are accepted, and an account number must be included. A self-service payment kiosk is also available inside the

downtown Fort Worth tax office lobby at 100 E. Weatherford St.

Additional processing fees may apply depending on the payment method.

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From the Project Linus Blanketeers

First Monday Quilt Club

Project Linus Volunteers Needed

Start off the New Year by joining in the fun and fellowship of the First Monday Quilt Club which meets on the first Monday of each month at Bethany Christian Church, located at 1500 Meadow Park Drive in White Settlement from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Instead of a potluck lunch, ladies are asked to bring brunch or snack items. Their next meeting is on Monday, Jan. 5!

Project Linus is a non-profit service organization, and the members of this group are Tarrant County Chapter Project Linus volunteers who create handmade quilts and blankets that provide love, warmth, and comfort for local children who have suffered trauma, tragedy, or illness.

Volunteers also make coverlets for veterans, nursing home residents, and the homeless. Unfortunately, the need for these blankets increases each month. They desperately need volunteers with portable sew-

ing machines to help assemble the quilts.

No experience is needed - there is a place for you. Anyone can help if you can follow instructions, sew, tie a knot, crochet a blanket, or tell a good joke. Volunteers have lots of fun and develop fantastic friendships.

High school students can receive community service credits for participating. Materials (fabric, batting, thread, and yarn) are provided. Donations of fabric, yarn, thread, or money to purchase materials are greatly appreciated.

Come join the fun and have fellowship with the Quilt Club volunteers while you make a difference in our community by being a blessing to others.

For more information about the mission of Project Linus, visit www.projectlinus.org.

For more information on this group and meetings, call Virginia Biela at 817-244-1263.

Texas History Minute by Dr. Ken Bridges

Britain's Quiet Ally: Charles Elliott and the Diplomacy That Helped Shape the Republic of Texas



The movement of Texas from the territory of Mexico to independent country to statehood took careful diplomacy. The Republic of Texas found an unexpected ally in a dangerous time from the British ambassador, Charles Elliott. As the British representative in Texas, Elliott became one of the few friends that the Republic of Texas had in a time when it was cast adrift in the tides of diplomacy.

Charles Elliott was born in 1801 in Dresden in what became Germany. His father served British ambassador to Saxony. Raised with the idea of the importance of service to the English crown and love of country, he enlisted in the navy at age 14. Such youthful enlistments were not unusual for the time. He spent the next 13 years in the Royal Navy before entering the civil service.

In 1830, he was named to a special post in British Guiana overseeing slave sales and treatment of slaves. He was appalled by the brutality and sent his protests to London. Elliott became an important voice among the rising chorus of Britons determined to abolish slavery. As a result, in 1833, Great Britain banned slavery in all its territories across the globe. Elliott was commended by his superiors for his service and credited with helping slavery end in the British Em-

pire.

Soon afterward, Elliott was assigned to trade posts in China, eventually becoming Chief Superintendent of all British trade in the area. However, the British insisted he was too conciliatory toward China in the events leading up to the Opium Wars. Though he helped secure Hong Kong for Britain, Elliott was fired.

In 1842, he was given a chance to redeem himself. Britain had just recently recognized Texas independence from Mexico and established an embassy in Austin. The British saw great potential in establishing trade with the Texas Republic and hoped to derail Texas annexation to the United States. Elliott was named ambassador.

Like many politicians who had come to Texas in those years, Elliott arrived in disgrace and looked for another chance. For Elliott, the assignment to Texas was a demotion. For the people of Texas, being sent an ambassador from one of the world's most powerful nations was a great distinction. It was a sign that the plight of Texas was taken seriously in distant capitals around the globe. He quickly established a rapport with Texas President Sam Houston, and the two conversed on many different issues.

Trade was an invaluable lifeline to the world for Texas, and British factories bought huge amounts of Texas cotton, thanks to Elliott's efforts. Elliott also became an effective intermediary between Mexico and Texas when Texas had little clout with the Mexican government and even less military might to respond effectively to any use of force.

In 1843, he was able to secure the release of nearly two hundred renegade Texas troops from the disastrous Mier Expedition of 1842. The troops had disobeyed orders, raiding along the disputed Rio Grande border, and were captured by Mexico. It was a diplomatic and military embarrassment at a time when Texas could afford neither.

Elliott also pressed Texas to end slavery, but there were very few Texans interested

in ending it. The slavery issue increasingly dominated politics in the United States, imperiling Texas annexation as much as any potential war with Mexico.

By 1844, Texas was moving toward an annexation treaty with the United States. For Britain, a Texas leaning on British support offered far more potential rewards than a rival United States with the many resources of Texas added to it. Houston, and his successor, President Anson Jones made preparations for Texas to move in either direction depending on the outcome of annexation.

Elliott tried to impress the advantages of Texas independence on both, hoping offers of British trade and protection could dissuade them. Jones carefully considered Elliott's words in his correspondence with him, but events were moving too swiftly between Texas and the United States.

Elliott negotiated a treaty offer with Mexico in 1845. In this proposal, Mexico offered permanent recognition to Texas independence and peace between the two in exchange for the promise of Texas not to seek annexation. Texas officials declined the treaty and instead cited it as Mexican recognition of Texas independence.

Texas was officially annexed and granted statehood on December 29, 1845, as the 28th state.

As J. Pinckney Henderson took the oath of office as the first governor of the new State of Texas on February 19, 1846, Great Britain quietly closed its embassy.

Elliott was recalled to London in the process, but he did not stay out of service for long. Within months, he was sent back to the New World as governor of the British colony in Bermuda. He was assigned to two other colonial posts and eventually given the honorary rank of admiral.

In 1869, Elliott retired from the civil service and returned to Britain to enjoy his retirement.

He died at his home in England at the age of 74 in 1875.

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Weekend Forecast



Friday, Jan. 2:

AM - Sunny, with a high near 73. W/SW wind 5 to 10 mph becoming NW in the afternoon. Winds could gust as high as 20 mph.

PM - Mostly clear, with a low around 45. North wind around 5 mph.



Saturday, Jan. 3:

AM - Sunny, with a high near 67. North wind around 5 mph.

PM - Mostly clear, with a low around 43. North wind around 5 mph becoming calm.



Sunday, Jan. 4:

AM - Mostly sunny, with a high near 69. Light and variable wind becoming S/SE 5 to 10 mph in the morning.

PM - Partly cloudy, with a low around 50. South wind 5 to 10 mph.

Extended Forecast [Click Here](#)