

Around the Town with Denise Honeycutt

Benbrook Lions Dish Out Chili and Community Pride at Annual Fundraiser



Gary and Donna Addison received the Heart of a Lion Award.



Karen Baldwin and David Calton happily served the hot dogs.



Mike and Beth Bond enjoyed their bowls of chili!

The aroma of homemade chili, the buzz of conversation and the spirit of giving filled the room as the Benbrook Lions Club hosted its 59th Annual Chili Supper recently at Benbrook United Methodist Church.

The beloved community tradition once again brought neighbors, families and friends together for an evening centered on good food and a good cause. Guests lined up for hearty bowls of all-you-can-eat chili, piled high with their favorite toppings, along with hot dogs, drinks and a tempting spread of homemade desserts.

But the night was about more than just great food.

Throughout the evening, attendees joined in the fun with prize drawings, a lively 50/50 raffle, and both silent and live auctions. Laughter, friendly bidding and the thrill of winning prizes added to the festive atmosphere, all while helping raise funds to support the Lions Club's many service projects in the Benbrook community.

(continued on page 5)

Benbrook Council Action by John English

Benbrook Council Reviews Finance Report, Hears Citizen Concerns at March 5 Meeting

The Benbrook City Council meeting was held on March 5 as scheduled. Mayor Pro Tem Laura Mackey 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 meeting held on Feb. 19 were then unanimously approved with an amendment to the contract with Freese and Nichols for the Dutch Branch Park improvements to reflect that project is funded with \$621,600 from the General Fund reserves and \$266,400 from the storm water utility fund. The minutes and amendment were approved unanimously.

The first item of the evening *(continued on page 4)*

**City of Benbrook to host
E-Waste & Shred Event Saturday! See Page 4!**

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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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From the Sports Desk with John English

Cougars Earn Must-Win Soccer Victory as Benbrook Finds Success on Field and Diamond

The Western Hills boy's soccer team picked up a crucial victory over Carter-Riverside last Tuesday to give the Cougars a major boost in their playoff aspirations.

Coach Matt Collins said his team executed perfectly.

"The Carter Riverside game was a must win for us," Collins said. "We played really hard, followed the game plan and got a two to one win."

Collins said that Yeferson Tovar and Jacob Gutierrez "played really well," and said the potential post-season scenario is an interesting one.

"As far as the playoff go, we have a really good chance, but we need to win our next three games," Collins said. "We got off to a

bit of a slow start, and had some roster turnover. But since then we've been playing really well."

Over at Benbrook, the Bobcats defeated Eastern Hills last Tuesday following a 2-2 draw at the end of regulation.

Benbrook has won five straight matches and is 8-3 in district competition.

On the girl's side, Benbrook defeated Eastern Hills by a score of 9-1 last week to remain unbeaten in district competition, and Western Hills defeated Carter-Riverside by a score of 4-0, to make it 7 wins in their last 8 games.

On the diamond, the Benbrook baseball team wrapped up the tournament season with a 3-1-1 performance in it's home tournament last weekend, and coach Justin Chavez said it was strong effort for his team.

"This was probably our toughest tournament schedule that we have ever put together so coming out at .500 is about where we expected to be with all the 5A and 6A opponents," Chavez said.

The Benbrook coach said he had a number of strong efforts in the tournament.

"We had some really good pitching by Sebastian Martinez, Trentin Hornbeck, Tanner Madara, and Jakim Velasquez," Chavez said. "Madara and Martinez hit the ball well this weekend along with Giuliano Martinez. Hudson Stockton had a big hit against Arlington Heights to get us going. We tied them 3-3, but that felt like a playoff atmosphere and it was a fun game for us."

District opens tomorrow night at Diamond Hill-Jarvis, and Chavez said it should be a good series.

"They have a talented lefty that we are going to have to compete against," Chavez said. "I think our lineup is better than theirs, but you never know. They are coached well and they will be ready to compete against us. We have to bring positive energy and great effort next week but it starts at practice."

From the Waverly Park Garden Club

Garden at Hwy 377 & Mercedes Chosen as WPGC's Yard of the Month



Pictured: Benbrook Economic Development Corporation Board – Phyllis Harkins, Kristen Melton, Kent Williams, Bruce Leach with Russell Feed & Supply's Gary Lindsay, Omar Aguilar, and Jessica James.

The Waverly Park Garden Club is pleased to award Yard of the Month to the Benbrook Economic Development Corporation (EDC) and Russell Feed & Supply for their exemplary partnership in beautifying the west intersection of Mercedes and Hwy 377.

These two community partners commenced a three-year labor of love, forging a space that showcases community spirit with a desire to maintain beauty in celebration of the fast-growing Benbrook community, while honoring the city's roots in horse country. Completed in October of last year, this garden space features the new City of Benbrook Marquee with exquisite mare and foal sculptures from artist Kelly Graham, a windmill, and lighting fixtures, all accented with beautiful landscaping.

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Benbrook News Staff Reporters
**City of Benbrook to host Free
E-waste, Document Shred
Event Saturday**

Benbrook residents will have an opportunity to safely dispose of old electronics and sensitive documents during a free E-Waste and Shred Event scheduled for Saturday, March 14.

The event will take place from 8 a.m. to noon, or until trucks reach capacity, at Dutch Branch Park in the back parking lot behind the Benbrook Community Center/YMCA.

The event is open to Benbrook residents only, and proof of residency, such as a driver's license or utility bill, will be required.

Community members are encouraged to bring a variety of common household electronic items for recycling. Accepted items include televisions, radios and telephones (no CRT units), computers, monitors and printers, as well as fax machines and copiers. Larger household electronics such as microwave ovens, dishwashers, washers, dryers and refrigerators will also be accepted.

Other items that can be recycled include gaming systems such as Xbox or PlayStation consoles, vacuum cleaners, VCR players and smoke detectors.

Event organizers noted that hard drives from computers brought to the event will be destroyed as part of the recycling process.

On-site document shredding will also be available through Sierra Shred, with a shredding truck available to securely destroy personal documents. Residents are asked to limit materials to a reasonable household amount and avoid bringing large quantities of business records.

Officials also remind participants not to place plastic items, including credit cards or compact discs, with the documents they plan to shred.

City leaders say the event is designed to make it easy for residents to protect their personal information while responsibly recycling electronics that might otherwise end up in landfills.

For more information, residents may contact Cecilia Ventura at 817-249-6008.

Council Action (continued from page 1)

was a motion to approve the finance report ending Jan. 31. Revenues for the General fund for the month of January totaled \$5,118,083, while year-to-date revenues totaled \$15,640,015. Expenditures for the month of January totaled \$2,401,236, while year-to-date expenditures totaled \$8,725,314.

For the Economic Development Corporation (EDC), revenues for the month of January totaled \$330,241 and year-to-date revenues totaled \$915,087. Expenditures for the month of January totaled \$283,746, while year-to-date expenditures totaled \$1,149,067. Investments for the City of Benbrook totaled \$38,482,238, while investments for the EDC totaled \$7,451,156. The finance report was accepted unanimously.

Time was then allowed for informal citizen comments.

Resident Andrea Arabie approached the podium and discussed her organization called Benbrook 4 Paws that works in coordination with the Benbrook Animal Shelter.

Next Cheryl Fortner, a member of Citizens on Patrol, came to the podium and discussed her concerns about a local building that was described as "unsafe" close to her.

Mackey informed that the city would follow up about the issue.

Time was then allowed for council member and staff comments, and member Dustin Phillips complimented the annual report and thanked the city staff for their work and all the awards received by the city of Benbrook.

Member Sean Moore then informed attendees about a grant offered through Lowes to renovate a place in need of renovating, saying he nominated the local VFW and reminding residents that they can nominate places that they feel are deserving.

Keith Tiner then thanked the principal and teachers of Rolling Hills Elementary school for welcoming him to read to students, and reminded residents of some local events that have already passed.

The meeting was then adjourned.



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Spring Break
March 16 - 20
FWISD
Professional Learning Day
Monday, March 23
(no students)

Around the Town (continued from page 1)

The Benbrook Lions Club is part of Lions Clubs International, the world's largest service club organization, which includes more than 1.3 million members in roughly 45,000 clubs across more than 200 countries and geographic areas. The organization's mission is to empower volunteers to serve their communities, meet humanitarian needs, promote peace and encourage international understanding through local Lions clubs.

Founded in 1952, the Benbrook Lions Club has been serving the community for more than 70 years through charitable programs, local outreach and longstanding events such as the chili supper fundraiser.

Year after year, the event continues to highlight what makes Benbrook special, neighbors coming together, sharing a meal, sharing a laugh and supporting efforts that help make their community stronger.



Three generations of preparing chili! Pictured are: (l-r) David Petersen, Heather Sloan and Phil Petersen.



Dominic Wallace, David Wallace, Brenda Wallace, Kim Aibon, Toby Blair, Brandi Tabor and Jacob Rich gathered around the dinner table for good food and fellowship.



Chris Thuemmel presented a \$3,000 check to Mike McFadden from Scout Troop 95 for their continued service to the community, with Ray Swilick and Renee Franklin.



Whitney Vasquez, Tammi Cauthen, Robby Moore and Alyson Lee enjoyed their evening!



4Paws volunteers (l-r) Rick Hunter, Lynda Monaco, Ursula Olson, Ricky Henry, Andrea Arabie, Collin Arabia and Renee Franklin.

From Tarrant Regional Water District Register Today for the 2026 Trash Bash



Volunteers across Tarrant County are gearing up to make a difference as the Tarrant Regional Water District invites the community to roll up their sleeves for the annual Trash Bash cleanup events.

The initiative brings together thousands of volunteers each year to remove litter from local waterways and surrounding areas, helping protect the environment while keeping North Texas beautiful.

This year, volunteers can lend a hand at two upcoming cleanup events!

The first will take place from 8 to 10 a.m. on Saturday, March 28, at Marine Creek Lake.

A second cleanup is scheduled from 8 to 10 a.m. on Saturday, April 18, along the Trinity River.

Participants of all ages are encouraged to join the effort.

Volunteers will work together to collect trash and debris from shorelines and surrounding areas, making an immediate impact on the health of local waterways.

Trash Bash reflects TRWD's ongoing commitment to litter prevention and environmental stewardship.

By organizing community cleanups, the district hopes to inspire residents to take pride in their local water resources and keep them clean for future generations.

TRWD Trash Bash T-Shirt Deadlines

- Marine Creek Lake: Register by March 13
- Trinity River locations: Register by April 3

Those interested in participating can [register online](#) for a cleanup event.

From North Central Texas Council of Governments NCTCOG Rallies Communities for Cleaner Air as Ozone Season Arrives

Longer days and rising temperatures mark the return of spring and the start of ozone season in North Texas.

With ozone season officially underway, NCTCOG is kicking off community air quality outreach efforts across the region.

On Saturday, March 28, NCTCOG will take part in Earth Party at Trinity Park. Hosted by Keep Fort Worth Beautiful, the event follows the 2026 Cowtown Great American Cleanup and is aimed at bringing together residents to celebrate caring for the community.

Attendees will have the opportunity to learn more about local air quality initiatives and simple steps they can take to make a difference.

Additional outreach events are planned throughout April, providing more opportunities for North Texans to celebrate and learn more about cleaner air.

These events coincide with a critical time for the region.

Ozone season runs annually from March 1 through Nov. 30. With higher temperatures, sunlight and heat interact with precursor pollutants, creating favorable conditions for the formation of ground-level ozone, a harmful air pollutant that negatively affects air quality and public health.

The 2025 season ended with a design value of 83 ppb at two regulatory monitors and as a result, the region remains in nonattainment of both the 2008 and 2015 National Ambient Air Quality Standards for ozone – classified as “severe” and “serious,” respectively – with a deadline to reach compliance by 2027.

Improving air quality is a shared responsibility. NCTCOG offers various online resources to help individuals,

businesses and local governments stay informed and take action.

The 2025 Air Quality Handbook provides a full breakdown of the region's air quality and air quality initiatives, and individuals and businesses can stay informed about daily air quality initiatives and strategies to reduce emissions by signing up for air quality alerts at Air-NorthTexas.org/sign-up-for-alerts.

From 4PAWS & Benbrook Animal Shelter

Dog of the Week!



Lady is a petite and friendly shepherd who is looking for a new home to call her own. She is approximately 10-12 months old and weighs 40 pounds. She is super smart and loves to go on walks.

Adoptions are available at the Benbrook Shelter, located at 469 Winscott Rd., on Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., or on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Visit 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.

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Texas History Minute by Dr. Ken Bridges

R.L. Thornton: The Mayor Who Helped Build Modern Dallas

Sometimes the men dismissed for their failures early in life can become the greatest successes.

The story of R. L. Thornton is the story of a man raised in poverty and with barely an eighth grade education became synonymous with the success of Dallas in the 1950s.

Robert Lee Thornton was born in 1880 in Hamilton County, just west of Waco. His parents were farmers.

In 1887, the family had their land stolen from them in a title dispute. As a result, they lost absolutely everything and were left in deep poverty.

They moved to Ennis, just south of Dallas, where the young Thornton helped the family by picking cotton and taking whatever work he could find. As a result, his education was sporadic, and he quit school after the eighth grade. He continued to work odd jobs until he was hired as a store clerk.

Determined to make something of his life, Thornton attempted to restart his education by taking a business course in Dallas. After one course, around 1904, he tried his hand at sales, becoming a traveling salesman in Oklahoma for a candy company. His success was lackluster, so he tried to start his own business. Thornton's first attempt, a stationery business, folded quickly. He quickly started a mortgage company, but it, too, failed.

Thornton tried again in 1916, starting a bank with two other partners. Thornton served as president of the Dallas County State Bank, later the Mercantile National Bank, for 30 years.

The bank found early success by capitalizing on a new type



of consumer loan for bankers – automobiles. America had fallen in love with the car by the 1920s, and Thornton became an immense success by becoming one of the first North Texas bankers to offer car loans. Soon, other businesses were asking him to serve as an executive with their businesses as well.

By 1933, the business community honored him by naming him president of the Dallas Chamber of Commerce. He was intensely active in Dallas civic affairs, serving with many charitable organizations.

He helped bring the 1936 Texas Centennial Exposition to Dallas's Fair Park area, adding permanent exhibits to the area.

From 1945 to 1960, he also served as president of the Texas State Fair.

In 1952, at the age of 72, Thornton was ready for new adventure as he ran for Dallas mayor. Already known as "Mr. Dallas" for his many accomplishments for the city, he won the election easily.

Though Dallas and neighboring Fort Worth were intense business rivals at this time, the need for a modern highway connecting the business districts of the two growing cities was clear.

Thornton pushed through the Dallas-Fort Worth Turnpike, which later became Interstate 30, which opened in 1957 and became an immediate success.

In 1957, the city also completed the new Dallas Memorial Auditorium, which eventually became one of the largest convention centers in the world. The city completed important renovations and expansions to Love Field.

Housing construction boomed while business leaders unveiled a string of ambitious development plans. "Keep the dirt flying" became Thornton's slogan for an ambitious city. Dallas's population increased dramatically, from just over 450,000 at the beginning of his term to nearly 700,000 by 1961.

In 1960, at the age of 80, he declined to seek another term as mayor. He entered into a quiet retirement in 1961 before his death three years later.

Thornton today is perhaps best remembered in the North Texas area as the namesake for the R. L. Thornton Freeway, a stretch of Interstate 35 East through Dallas as well as the city's R. L. Thornton Elementary School.

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Weekend Forecast



Friday, March 13:

AM - Sunny, with a high near 79. South wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.
PM - Clear, with a low around 53. South wind around 10 mph.



Saturday, March 14:

AM - Sunny, with a high near 82. South wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.
PM - Mostly clear, with a low around 63. South wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.



Sunday, March 15:

AM - Mostly sunny, with a high near 85. South southwest wind 15 to 20 mph becoming north in the afternoon. Winds could gust as high as 30 mph.
PM - Partly cloudy, with a low around 39.

Extended Forecast [Click Here](#)