



Benbrook News

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Benbrook City Council Action by John English

Benbrook City Council Approves Monthly and Annual Finance Reports

The Benbrook city council meeting on March 18 was again conducted via telephone conference, although Benbrook residents are allowed to attend at city hall as long as social distancing is observed.

Mayor Dittrich was the only council member present in person. The meeting was called to order. Time was allowed for citizen comments, but there were no calls.

The minutes from the council meeting held on March 4 were then approved.

The first item was a recommendation to approve the finance report for the period ending on Feb. 28.

For the general fund for the month of February, the City of Benbrook had revenues of \$3,343,558 and expenditures of \$1,300,157, with a variance of \$2,043,401.

The Economic Development Corporation (EDC) had \$119,388 in revenues and \$58,368 in expenditures, with a variance of \$61,020.

Investments for the City of Benbrook totaled \$23,777,212 and for the EDC were \$5,065,302.

The motion to accept the finance report carried unanimously.

The next item discussed was the Comprehensive Annual Finance Report for the fiscal year ending on Sept. 30, 2020.

This report received a clean audit from an independent auditor.

The general fund ending balance was \$9,982,620, with expenditures of \$2,053,133 less than budget.

The net position (assets over liabilities) is \$69,743,787 for 2019-20, a net increase of \$4,969,914 compared to fiscal year 2018-19.

“We have auditors come in to test all of our internal controls, making sure that all of the accounting was (continued on page 2)

From the Sports Desk with John English

BMHS and WHHS Boys Soccer Teams Playoff Bound; Bobcat Baseball Currently Ranked No. 4 in State

As the Western Hills boys soccer team prepares for their opening round playoff game, coach Matt Collins said he is anticipating a tall order against Midlothian Heritage.

“I expect them to be a powerhouse,” Collins said. “The last time the UIL allowed the playoffs to be held, Heritage was the state runner up. They are again the district champion and will be tough to beat. It’s going to be a test for us to compete with them.”

The time, date and location for the game have yet to be determined.

The Benbrook boys soccer team are also playoff bound, and coach Jared Spoon said Life Waxahachie will present a serious challenge in today's game.

“It will be a great match up from a very competitive district,” Spoon said on Sunday. “So we are looking forward to working hard this week to get ready for play.”

For the Benbrook girls soccer team, Godley and Venus had a played-in game on Tuesday after the paper had gone to press to determine who will play Benbrook in the first round.

“Based on their previous results, both teams will present a challenge to us in the playoffs,” coach Robby Roberts said.

On the diamond, the Benbrook baseball team went 2-0 this past week, with an 11-4 victory over Alvarado last Tuesday and 1-0 gem against Southwest Christian School on Friday.

The Bobcats have climbed to No. 4 in the state rankings among 4A programs according to (continued on page 4)

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City Council Action (continued from page 1)

done correctly and look for errors,” Finance Director Rick Overgaard said. “Then we compile this year-end report that shows all the activity for the fiscal year; a lot of people look at this report to see the

financial health of the city.”

The report was accepted unanimously. There were no informal citizen comments or staff comments.

Assistant City Manager Jim Hinderaker then informed that as of March 18 Tarrant County had 248,317 total COVID 19 cases, and 3,160 COVID-related deaths.

In Benbrook, there had been 2,012 total COVID cases and 47 deaths to date.

The meeting was then adjourned.

From Fort Worth ISD

FWISD Announces

Spring 2021

Commencement Schedule

The Fort Worth ISD will host spring 2021 commencement ceremonies this June at the following locations and times:

Friday, June 18, 2021

Benbrook High School, Clark Stadium, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, June 20, 2021

Western Hills High School, Clark Stadium, 7:30 p.m.



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From Local Patriotic Societies

Patriotic Societies Awards Luncheon March 25

The Honorable Philip Livingston Chapter Daughters of the American Colonists, General Edward H. Tarrant Chapter United States Daughters of 1812, Governor Thomas Hinckley Chapter Colonial Dames of the XVII Century, and the Texas Society Daughters of Colonial Wars will meet Thursday, March 25, at 11:30 a.m. at Ridglea Country Club located at 3700 Bernie Anderson Avenue in Fort Worth. Scholarships will be presented at this Annual Awards Luncheon.

For information, call 817-448-0608.

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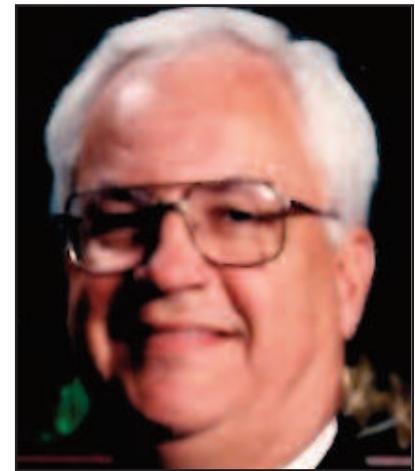
The City of Benbrook is accepting applications for a Part-Time Senior Citizens Center Director. Complete job description and applications are available online at www.benbrook-tx.gov or at Municipal Complex, 911 Winscott Road, Benbrook, TX 76126. Positions open until filled. EOE

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Obituary



James D. "Jim" Fittz

James D. "Jim" Fittz, 78, went to be with his Savior on March 12, 2021.

Born in Dallas to Kline and Aline Fittz, Jim spent the majority of his life here in Fort Worth. In the spring of 1965, Jim married the love of his life, his Annie, and was faithful to her for 56 years. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1965 to 1968 with ComServPac in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Jim was awarded a Navy Commendation Medal for his design of sophisticated computer systems that were critical to the war in SE Asia.

He was a successful businessman in the insurance industry for 48 years and was known for his integrity and impeccable service to his clients.

Jim had two daughters, Andrea and Jennifer. Out of all his accomplishments he was most proud of his family. They were always his top priority. Strong in his faith until his last breath, Jim was a great source of encouragement and strength to so many. He faithfully served the body of Christ in his local church community and was always looking for ways to serve others.

He loved his family, hunting and fishing with his grandkids, donuts, and a good burger! Most of all, he loved Jesus and his family takes great comfort knowing he is with his Heavenly Father!

He is preceded in death by his parents, his brother, Olan Fittz, and his son, Jeffrey.

Survivors: He is survived by his wife, Ann; daughters, Andrea and Jennifer; sons-in-law, David Hendrix and Todd Gonzalez; grandchildren, Ryan, Taylor, Reid, Ali, Samantha and Max; brother, David Fittz; sister-in-law, Carol Fittz; and many beloved nieces and nephews.

Celebration of Life was held at the First Baptist Church of Benbrook.

Memorials: Donations in his name may be sent to Beautiful Feet Ministries, in Fort Worth, where Jim spent many years serving.

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High School Sports Wrap Up (continued from page 1)

www.txhighschoolbaseball.com and they are a disciplined team at the plate," coach Justin Chavez said the shut out versus SCS was fun to watch.

"I thought our pitching and defense was on point," Chavez said. "We allowed no runs in nine innings by Devin Bennett (7IP, 12Ks, 3 H and Payton Poole 2IP, 2Ks, 1H) and defensively Tyler Madara and Maddox McKinley had big games for us."

Bennett scored Dee Kennedy in the ninth for the win.

Over at Western Hills, the Cougars defeated Valley View High School by a score of 8-5 on a complete game effort from Edwin Loya, and Reagan Smith improved his batting average to over .400 with the win.

The Cougars opened up district on Tuesday against Diamond Hill-Jarvis with the second leg of their 2-game series coming to tomorrow night.

"Diamond Hill always plays hard and

coach Brady Ribinskas said. "These are important games to kick off district to already start thinking about playoff seeding. Hopefully, we carry our strong practices from last week and pick up the wins."

The Benbrook softball team came up a little short against Kennedale on Friday, and coach Becca Wessels said she did see some good signs from her offense later in the 7-4 loss, but not quite enough.

"We are capable of more at the plate, and we are determined to get the bats hot again," Wessels said.

The Benbrook coach said she did have a stand out performance in the game.

"Mia Clark made impressive plays at third base and has been consistent at putting the ball in play and making great things happen on offense," Wessels said.

"Her hustle and determination leads our team well."

From the Tarrant Area Food Bank

Tarrant Area Food Bank Distribution Tomorrow at Herman Clark Stadium

Tarrant Area Food Bank (TAFB) has resumed their Mega Mobile Markets with a Clark Stadium from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

TAFB will continue to hold Mega Mobile Markets every Friday at Herman Clark Stadium until further notice.

In addition, TAFB will once again have the help of the Army National Guard, which will be deployed to TAFB for at least the next 30 days. Now more than ever, TAFB is seeking volunteers to assist with registration, traffic control and food distribution. Sign up to volunteer [here](#).

These events are designed to serve any and all residents of the Tarrant area community who are in need of food assistance, and anyone whose access to nutritious food has been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Friday, March 26 - 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. - Herman Clark Stadium, 5201 CA Roberson Blvd., Fort Worth, TX 76119.

The House Fort Worth church is hosting a food drive and an ID/drivers license is required:

Saturday, March 27 - 9 a.m. to noon - former Toys-R-Us parking lot, 7606 West Fwy., White Settlement, TX 76108.



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From Tarrant County Clerk's Office

Birth and Death Certificates; Marriage Licenses

The Vital Records Division of the [County Clerk's office](#) is the registrar of birth and death records, issues and maintains all marriage licenses, and records assumed name certificates and military discharge records for 28 cities and eight precincts in Tarrant County.

Birth and death certificates are available to immediate family members. A valid government-issued picture ID is required.

The County Clerk issues and maintain all marriage licenses in Tarrant County. A marriage license requires a 72-hour waiting period and the marriage ceremony must take place within 90 days from date of issuance.

An assumed name/DBA (doing business as) should be filed with the Clerk's office in the county where business is to be conducted. An applicant may conduct business under multiple assumed names but each name must be filed separately.

Military discharge records or DD214s can be recorded and will be kept confidential for 75 years. This service is provided at no charge to our veterans.

Note All Vital Records services are available at our downtown location or seven neighborhood offices.*

From the City of Benbrook

Free Rides to COVID-19 Vaccination Sites

The Tarrant County Commissioners Court approved an agreement to pay up to \$50,000 to support the complimentary rides.

The current vaccination sites are the Tarrant County Resource Connection, which is served by bus routes 3 and 25; the Hurst Conference Center, which is served by a modified route 23; and the Bob Bolen Public Safety Complex (505 W Felix St, Fort Worth, TX 76115), which is served by route 5a.

Customers may also use ACCESS paratransit to these sites or connect to these bus routes by riding another bus route, TEXRail, Trinity Railway Express (west zone only) or ZIPZONE.

To obtain a free ride, passengers will need to show the operator or train conductor the appointment text or email from Tarrant County Public Health.

As part of this agreement, riders can also ride for free to vaccination appointments on Tarrant County Transportation Services (TCTS) and Northeast Transportation Services (NETS), both operated by Catholic Charities Fort Worth.

From the City of Benbrook

Benbrook City Council Election Filing Period to Begin July 17

The City of Benbrook General Election is scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 2, to elect members of the Council for Mayor-Place 1 and Places 3, 5 and 7.

Candidate packets, information and calendars for the Nov. 2 election will be available from the City Secretary's Office and by download around mid-June 2021.

Applications for a place on the ballot will be accepted from July 17 through Aug. 16 at 5 p.m.

To file for candidacy, you must meet the following qualifications:

- shall be a citizen of the United States;
- shall be 18 years of age or older on the first day of the term to be filled at the election;
- shall not have been determined mentally incompetent by a final judgment of a court;
- shall not have been finally convicted of a felony from which you have not been pardoned or had your civil rights restored by other official action;
- have resided continuously in the State for of Texas for 12 months and in the City for 12 months immediately preceding the date of the election;
- be a registered voter of the City of Benbrook, Texas.



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Texas Educator, Philosopher and Diplomat - Sidney Mezes

by Dr. Ken Bridges

The early 1900s was a formative time for education in Texas. Sidney Mezes, a one-time president of the University of Texas, rose to the forefront to serve as such a leader as well as a diplomat and a thinker. In the process, the son of a pioneer gold prospector in California became one of the most respected philosophers in the nation and a leader in Texas education.

Sidney Edward Mezes was born in September 1863 in Belmont, California, then a tiny village nestled between San Francisco and San Jose in the years after the Gold Rush. His parents were both immigrants, with his father having arrived from Spain and his mother from Italy. His father, Simon M. Mezes, was an attorney who arrived with the early wave of gold prospectors and other fortune-seekers and co-founded what is now Redwood City.

Mezes graduated from what was then the University of California in 1884 (now the University of California at Berkeley) with a degree in engineering. After his father's death that year, Mezes took a different path and began studying philosophy. He enrolled at Harvard University in 1889, receiving a second bachelors degree in 1890 and a masters degree in philosophy in 1891. While he was completing his doctorate, he spent the 1892-93 school year teaching philosophy at Bryn Mawr College in Pennsylvania. After finishing his Ph.D. in 1893, he spent a year teaching at the University of Chicago.

He was offered an adjunct teaching position at the University of Texas in 1894. In 1898, he wrote about ideas and perceptions of God with *The Conception of God*. He took on questions of spirituality and the existence of God. At the same time, he touched on ideas of time, memory, and reality. Mezes argued that God lives in an eternal state of the present, with all things happening in one everlasting moment and that time as mortal men understand it, is meaningless to God. "Time is no reality; things seem past and future, and, in a

sense, non-existent to us, but in fact are just as genuinely real as the present is," Mezes wrote. "Every reality is eternally real, pastness and futurity are merely illusions." He became a full-time professor in 1898. In 1901, he wrote an influential work on ethics, titled *Ethics, Descriptive and Explanatory*. He earned a promotion to dean in 1902, serving as a philosophy professor simultaneously.

In 1908, Mezes was appointed president of the university, the fifth person to hold the position. He was widely respected for his work as a scholar and administrator. The college expanded steadily. He added a new library and a new Department of Economic Geology. Within five years, enrollment expanded 20 percent, from 2,500 students to 3,000.

In 1913, the newly-inaugurated President Woodrow Wilson asked him to become U. S. education commissioner, but he declined. Instead, Mezes decided to take a new position as the fourth president of the City College of New York. He assumed his new post in 1914. He left the university on good terms, and the board of regents asked him his opinions on the direction of the university. He published this as *The Future of the University of Texas* in 1914, which helped form a blueprint for expansion.

The same spirit of innovation he brought to UT he brought to CCNY. Here, the college added schools of civil administration, business, education, and engineering, becoming a respected institution in New York.

At the request of Wilson, Mezes became the director of a committee of scholars informally called "The Inquiry" to investigate the causes of the war and to identify and evaluate possible solution to prevent a future war. These suggestions were later formulated into Wilson's Fourteen Points, which he outlined in a speech in January 1918. At the end of the war, Mezes served as a diplomat as part of

the American delegation negotiating the Treaty of Versailles, the shape of the peace to come. He wrote a section from a 1921 series of recollections titled *What Really Happened at Paris*.

By the mid-1920s, Mezes began experiencing serious health problems. The situation became so bad that he retired as the CCNY president in 1927 at the age of 64, having seen enrollment quadruple from 5,200 to more than 20,000. He returned to California; and when his health permitted, he traveled to Europe and different parts of the U. S. The University of Texas honored him with the special title of president emeritus in 1929. He died at his home in Pasadena, California, in 1931.

The university remembered his many contributions and dedicated a new building in his memory in 1953. Mezes Hall today is a multi-use classroom building used by various departments and organizations on campus, including the Texas Politics Project, the Spanish Department, the Government Department, and the European Studies Department.

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Residential Refuse/Recycling, Bulk and Brush Collection

The City of Benbrook contracts with Allied Waste/Republic Services for residential garbage and recycling services. To promote safe, sanitary, and efficient conditions, the City of Benbrook requires by ordinance (Ordinance No. 642) that all residents subscribe to the refuse service provided by Allied.

To report a problem, please contact Allied Waste/Republic Services directly at 817-953-7214.

Refuse Collection

- Household refuse and recycling is collected once per week on Wednesdays and must be placed at curbside by 7 a.m. Brush and bulk materials placed at curbside on Wednesdays by 7 a.m. will be collected by Allied/Republic within 72 hours (Saturday by 7 a.m.)

- Please contain all refuse in closed plastic bags, whether or not a garbage can is used.

- It is a violation of City Ordinance to place plastic bags on the curb earlier than Tuesday evening at 5 p.m.

Yellow Bag Collection

Residents may obtain a second garbage collection during the week by purchasing special yellow bags. A roll of 10 yellow bags may be purchased at City Hall located at 911 Winscott Road or at Benbrook Water Authority located at 1121 Mercedes Street for \$5.64. Boxes of 50 yellow bags are available at City Hall for \$27.09. Prices include the cost of the bags as well as the cost of collection.

The yellow bag program allows Benbrook residents to receive twice per week garbage collection without incurring an increase in the monthly Allied rate. Yellow bags should be placed at curbside on Saturday mornings by 7 a.m. and no earlier than Friday evenings at 5 p.m., and are collected on Saturdays.

Recycling Collection

Residents may obtain a blue recycling

bin; limit two per household, at City Hall or at Benbrook Water Authority. There is no charge for the bins or for bin lids. The City recommends that residents mark their names/addresses on the bin with a water-proof marker. The following items may be placed in bins for recycling:

1. Plastics - Number 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 7 plastics such as milk jugs, liter bottles, shampoo bottles, etc. No butter tubs or containers with openings as large as the container. No plastic bottles that have contained oil or petroleum by-products.

2. Newspapers, catalogs and magazines are acceptable.

3. Glass - All colors of glass may be recycled. No plate glass, ceramic or mirrors.

4. Metal - All metal food and beverage cans (tin, aluminum, and steel) may be recycled. It is not necessary to remove labels, but please remove lids and food from containers.

5. Cardboard - All cardboard must be broken down to fit the blue bin. Large boxes may be flattened and placed under the bin.

No tissues or wet paper. No contaminated food items. No Styrofoam products.

Brush and Bulk Collection

- Brush and bulk materials placed at curbside on Wednesdays by 7 a.m. will be collected within 72 hours (Saturday by 7 a.m.)

- If possible, loose brush should not exceed 4 feet in length, 6 inches in diameter, or 100 pounds.

- Large brush and bulk materials are collected with a special brush truck designed to be used for collecting cardboard boxes, furniture, and appliances (50lb. weight limit).

Note: Federal laws prohibit the collection of refrigerator or freezer units unless certification is provided that a certified technician has removed CFC's. (Check yellow pages under "Appliances-Repair & Service" to locate a certified technician.)

- Allied will not pick up construction materials such as sheetrock, tile, roofing, or earthen materials.

- Due to EPA restrictions, Allied will not pick up used tires; batteries; petroleum products; or containers of paint, herbicide, pesticides, or other hazardous chemicals and solvents.

Note: Each spring and fall, the City of Benbrook provides a Household Hazardous Waste Collection day in which citizens can drop off hazardous items at a mobile unit at a designated site. Please check the City's website, www.benbrook-tx.gov for the next collection day.

Benbrook residents may take household hazardous waste to the Fort Worth Environmental Collection Center, 6400 Bridge Street (817-392-EASY) during their business hours throughout the year (be prepared to present identification as proof of Benbrook residency).

From Fort Worth ISD

YMCA of Metropolitan Fort Worth Grab-and-Go Meals

The YMCA of Metropolitan Fort Worth is currently offering Grab & Go Meals at the Eastside YMCA located at 1500 Sandy Lane, on Fridays from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

This service will be offered until the end of the 2020-21 school year.

This is open to all youth 18 and under, no qualifications required.

For more information contact Centralized Youth & Family Programs at 817-571-3371.

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Send Us Your Bluebonnet Pictures!

It's that time of year again! Springtime in Texas means lovely fields showing off the Texas state flower!

Bluebonnet is a name given to any number of purple-flowered species of the genus *Lupinus* predominantly found in southwestern United States. The shape of the petals on the flower resembles the bonnet worn by pioneer women to shield them from the sun.

On March 7, 1901, *Lupinus sub-carnosus* became the only species of bluebonnet recognized as the state flower of Texas. In 1971, the Texas Legislature made any similar species of *Lupinus* that could be found in Texas the state flower.

We want to see your smiles with the bluebonnets! Submit photos to suburbannews@sbcglobal.net and be sure to list names.



Voter Information

Voter registration applications are available at City Hall, 911 Winscott Road, Benbrook, TX 76126 or by [download](#).

Completed applications should be sent to Tarrant County Elections, 2700 Premier Street, Fort Worth, TX 76111.

For additional voter information, visit the [Tarrant County Elections website](#) or [Texas Secretary of State website](#).

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Three Day Weekend Forecast



Friday, March 26:

AM - Sunny, with a high near 74. South wind 10-15mph increasing to 15-20mph in the afternoon. Winds could gust as high as 25mph.

PM - Clear, low around 52.



Saturday, March 27:

AM - Sunny, with a high near 81.

PM - Mostly clear, with a low around 53.



Sunday, March 28:

AM - Sunny, with a high around 74.

PM - Mostly clear, with a low around 51.

[Extended Forecast Click Here](#)