



# Benbrook News

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*Benbrook Council Action by John English*

## ***Benbrook City Council Incumbents Unopposed for Nov. 5 Election***

The Benbrook City Council meeting was held on Sept. 5 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 Aug. 15 were then approved unanimously.

The first item of the evening was a motion to accept certification of unopposed candidates and consider and ordinance canceling the Nov. 5, 2024 General Election. The filing period for the Nov. 5, 2024 General Election ended on Aug. 23. Following the deadline, candidates in Place 2 (Renee Franklin), Place 4 (Dustin Phillips) and Place 6 (Laura Mackey) were unopposed and there were no propositions to appear on the ballot. State law allows governing bodies to declare each unopposed candidate elected to the office and to cancel the general election. The motion to cancel the General Election passed unanimously.

Next was a presentation by the Planning and Zoning Commission to consider adopting an ordinance rezoning 2.546 acres of land, legally described as Lot 1, Block 1 of the A.D. Jackson Addition, Benbrook, Texas (4632 Williams Road) from "C" multiple-family district to "A" one-family. The property is generally located Northwest of the intersection of Williams Road and Meadows Drive.

A public hearing followed and a Benbrook resident approached who said he has a property between the church and apartment complex in the area and said he did not understand what the future land use was. Ward informed the gentleman that the future use would keep the property as a single-family home. No other citizen spoke, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Next up was a proposal to approve the finance report ending on July 31. Revenues for the General Fund for the month of July totaled \$957,745 and year-to-date were \$27,093,182. Expenditures for the month of July totaled \$4,212,845 and year-to-date were \$19,841,085.

For the Economic Development

(continued on page 2)

*From the Sports Desk with John English*

## **Benbrook Improves to 2-0; Western Hills to Take on Dallas Hillcrest**

The Benbrook football team improved to 2-0 on the season on Friday with a victory over Whitney, and coach Cody Slater said he could not have been happier with his team's performance.

"I was super pleased with our team and the way we played," Slater said. "We could have lost our composer after the way the first half ended, but we came back, stayed focused, played together and came away with the victory."

Benbrook defeated the Wildcats by a score of 35-26 and Slater had a number of stand out efforts in the game.

Offensively, Brennan Barton was 16-20 for 246 yards and one touchdown, Brady Gordon had 28 carries for 200 yards rushing, Carlos Harris had nine carries for 64 yards and three touchdowns, Kade Cross had four receptions for 120 yards and Deshawn Deane one touchdown reception for 8 yards.

Defensively, Jacob Carpenter had 14 tackles, one tackle-for-loss and three sacks, Waylin Barton had two tackles and one interception, Jayce Donart had seven tackles and one hurry, and Jack Roberts controlled the defensive line and was on five tackles.

Benbrook will play Holliday at 7:30 p.m. on Sept. 13, and Slater said it will be another big challenge.

"Holliday is a good football team," Slater said. "They are 2-0 on the season. Currently they are ranked in Class 3A top 10 at number 5. We expect it to be a physical ball game."

(continued on page 4)

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# Benbrook Council Action (continued from page 1)

Corporation, revenues for the month of July were \$223,452 and year-to-date revenues were \$2,171,735. Expenditures for the month of July were \$361,305 and year-to-date expenditures were \$712,892. Investments for the City of Benbrook totaled \$35,823,686 and for the EDC totaled \$9,444,314. The finance report was accepted unanimously.

The next item to consider was adopting a resolution approving the negotiated settlement between the Atmos Cities Steering Committee and Atmos Energy Corp., Mid-Tex Division regarding the 2024 rate review mechanism filing.

The Rate Review Mechanism (RRM) tariff was adopted by the ACSC in 2007 as an alternative to the Gas Reliability Infrastructure Program (GRIP), the statutory provision that allows Atmos to bypass the City's rate regulatory authority to increase its rates annually to recover capital investments. The monthly impact on a typical residential customer would be \$5.52 or a 6.84 percent increase.

For commercial customers, it would be a \$13.39 or a 3.44 percent increase. The effective date would be Oct. 1. Staff recommended that the city council adopt the resolution approving a negotiated settlement between the Atmos Cities Steering Committee and Atmos Energy Corporation Mid-Tex

Division regarding the company's 2024 Rate Review Mechanism filings. The resolution was adopted unanimously.

Next up was a motion to award a contract for the Timberline Drive Drainage project.

Bids opened on Aug. 15, and the low bid was Patcon Services, LLC, at \$284,936.30. The project would start in the next few weeks, and would last three to six months. Patcon was awarded the contract in a unanimous vote.

Next up was a public hearing for the proposed budget for fiscal year 2024-25. The current tax rate is 0.5650 and the proposed tax rate is 0.5550. For the General Fund, the city had a beginning fund balance of \$25,643,021, revenues and transfers in totaled \$26,532,454, expenditures were \$24,897,454, expansion of the overlay project was \$1,335,000 and transfer out totaled \$300,000. The projected ending fund balances for the General Fund was \$25,643,021, for the Debt Service Fund was \$435,411 and Operating Funds were \$26,078,432.

At the next council meeting on Sept. 19,

the city will adopt the fiscal year 2024-25 budget, the 2024 property tax rate and ratify the property tax revenue increase.

Time was then allowed for citizen comments on the public hearing, but there were none.

Time was then allowed for informal citizen comments, and a resident of Colleyville approached the podium to discuss a couple of elections outside of Benbrook for which she was running.

Another non-resident approached the podium who is associated with John McQueeny who informed the council members that she will be at each council meeting if any members had any questions for her about him.


Time was then allowed for council member and staff comments, but there were none.

The meeting was then adjourned.

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From North Central Texas Council of Governments

# NCT9-1-1 Educates About Accidentally Dialing 9-1-1



## North Central Texas Council of Governments

Accidental 9-1-1 calls happen more often than you might think. Whether it's a toddler playing with your phone, an unintended pocket dial, or a technical glitch, these calls can easily occur.

While it's understandable to feel embarrassed or worried, the best thing you can do is not hang up. Staying on the line and explaining the situation is crucial for ensuring that emergency services can focus on real emergencies.

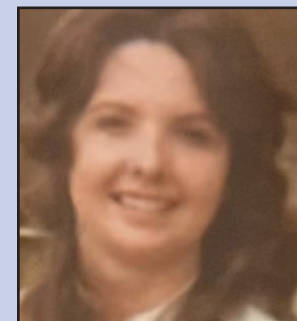
When you hang up after an accidental call, the 9-1-1 call taker is obligated to call you back to ensure there isn't an emergency.

If they can't reach you, they might dispatch emergency services to your location to make sure everything is okay, which can divert valuable resources from real emergencies and cause unnecessary stress for everyone involved. Staying on the line allows the 9-1-1 call taker to quickly ascertain that there is no emergency and ensures the efficiency of the system.

For more information on this and other safety tips, visit [www.nct911.org/latest-news](http://www.nct911.org/latest-news).

## Obituary

*Marietta F. Winfrey*



Marietta F. Winfrey passed away on Aug. 28, 2024, in Lawrence, Kansas.

Memorial services for Marietta will be held at the Lawrence First Church of the Nazarene (1470 N 1000 Road) on Friday, Oct. 4, 2024, at 2 p.m.

Marietta was born to Louis and Phyllis Ferguson in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, on Dec. 11, 1948. Marietta married John Winfrey in Fort Worth, Texas, on July 19, 1969. Marietta and John had known each other all their lives, having attended kindergarten together in Texas. Marietta was a loving and good wife and mother who supported John in his teaching and many careers, beginning in Kitzingen, Germany, where John served in the U.S. Army as a young officer. It was there Marietta gave birth to her first two children. After Germany, John became a public School teacher in Texas for 8 years. From there, they moved to Ada, Oklahoma, where John worked for Army ROTC at East Central Oklahoma State University. The next move took them to St. Louis, Missouri, where John worked in the U.S. Army Records Center. Then, finally, in the summer of 1987, the family moved to Lawrence, Kansas, where John worked in Army ROTC at the University of Kansas before they put down root for good.

In 1989, Marietta and her good friend Deb Danielson established the Little Lambs Daycare in the Indian Hills Neighborhood of Lawrence. For 18 years Little Lambs provided quality and professional home day care for many Lawrence children. In 2006, Marietta closed her business before spending the next 5 years working for Childcare Aware, a non-profit organization dedicated to helping Kansas families find solutions for their childcare needs, connecting families and expecting mothers with helpful information and community resources, and assisting early learning programs.

Marietta, a woman of deep faith, was a member of Cornerstone Baptist Church for over 20 years and, in 2011, became a member of First Church of the Nazarene (both of Lawrence, KS). Through emotional and spiritual coaching over the years, Marietta has influenced and impacted many people, especially young people. Though shy as a young woman, Marietta became quite vocal about social and personal freedoms, individual rights, and equality, and she was unafraid to speak up about what she believed in when she thought it was right.

Upon her retirement in 2010, Marietta and John hit the road crisscrossing the United States in their RV. Marietta loved the ocean and the Rocky Mountains. She and John stayed frequently at Jamaica Beach and Port Aransas, Texas, and Golden Gate Canyon State Park in Colorado, where she and John stayed 29 different times between 1978 and 2018.

Sadly, over the last few years, Marietta dealt with various illnesses but showed courage and bravery throughout. Above all else, Marietta was deeply devoted to her family. She passed peacefully in her home with her loving husband and children at her side. Just as she wanted. She was a wonderful wife, mother, friend, mentor, and caregiver to so many. She will not be forgotten.

Marietta is survived by her husband of 56 years, John; five children, Jennifer (Carlo Washington) Younger, Bryan (Lori) Winfrey, Shannon (Freddie) Hammonds, Kristen (Drew) Woods, and Jeremy Winfrey; ten grandchildren, Shelby Winfrey, Jaiden Younger, Breckin Younger, Saylor Winfrey, Kalli Winfrey, Bailey Hammonds, Shayne Hammonds, Elijah Chaffin, Rose Naramore-Winfrey, and Sophia Naramore-Winfrey; and her brother, Stephen (Marianela) Furgerson.

Memorial contributions may be made in Marietta's name to Childcare Aware of Eastern Kansas and may be sent in care of Warren-McElwain Mortuary, 120 W. 13th Street, Lawrence, KS 66044. For more information or to post a condolence, go to [warrenmcelwain.com](http://warrenmcelwain.com).

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## Sports Desk (continued from page 1)

Over at Western Hills, the Cougars lost to Krum by a score of 55-12 on Friday night, and coach Blake Moilan said his team actually showed some strong improvement.

“We got better against a really good Krum team,” Moilan said. “We fixed some of the mistakes that we made week one and didn’t have nearly as many penalties. We are excited about the improvements that we have made. We have to be running at full throttle once we get to district play.”

Moilan said he had a couple of stand out performances against Krum.

“EJ Jones rushed for two touchdowns and had another 200 yard night,” Moilan said. “His hard work in the off season has propelled him into a great start of the season. Of course, he can’t rush for those yards without the O-line doing their job. Lester Cole had a big night from his linebacker spot and is getting better each week.”

Western Hills will host Hillcrest at 7 p.m. tonight, and Moilan said he expects another tough game.

“Dallas Hillcrest had a tough loss against a team from Oklahoma this week and will be ready to play,” Moilan said. “We will need to come out and continue to get better and improve in all aspects of the game. It should be another good learning experience for us.”

On the court, the Benbrook volleyball team defeated Lake Worth 3-0 on Friday night to improve to 10-10-1 for the non-district season and coach Frances Davies said her team has shown steady improvement.

“I’m pretty satisfied with our current standing in pre-season,” Davies said. “Of course, there’s a couple of those losses I’d like to erase from memory, but each one has fully taught us some lessons on what we need to focus on to be better than we were. We lost three big pieces in the last graduating class; however, the girls have really stepped up and are all fighting for the opportunity to be in those leader/captain roles. I’m very optimistic for our performance in district play!”

Benbrook will host Diamond Hill-Jarvis at 6 p.m. tomorrow night in it's district opener, and Davies said she believes the non-district schedule has her team ready for the district season.

“Every year, we intentionally schedule a tough pre-season with a mixture of 5 and 6A teams and back-to-back play to help prepare and get us ready for district,” Davies said. “I believe nothing gets you ready faster than trial by fire. Knowing we were in a big rebuild going into district, and not knowing what all the schools are returning, receiving or even a new school added to the district, we like to just prepare for any and everything. I think the girls know the expectations, both by the community and by the program itself, and I feel that they are prepared and ready to do what it takes to maintain the tradition.”

From Fort Worth ISD

## FWISD College Night 2024

Mark your calendar for Fort Worth ISD's annual City and District-Wide College Night on Tuesday, Sept. 17 from 6 to 8 p.m.

College night is open to all middle and high school students in Fort Worth. [Click here for Student Registration](#)

College Night provides students and parents an opportunity to visit with college and university representatives to discuss post-secondary plans.

Workshops are provided for students and parents to learn more about financial aid, scholarships and admissions. These workshops are given in English and Spanish.

Parking at Amon Carter Jr. Exhibit Hall is \$12.

However, free parking is available at Farrington Field, where there will be a ride shuttle to and from the event location.

FWISD bus transportation is also provided for students to and from school.

For more information, contact your campus Post Secondary Specialist.

From the City of Benbrook

## Application Deadline Extended for Heritage Fest Events

Applications for the stick horse race, corn on the cob eating competition, dog costume contest, and ticket sales for the chuckwagon dinner have been extended to Monday, Sept. 16.

[Click here to apply.](#) Call 817-249-6091 to purchase chuckwagon dinner tickets.





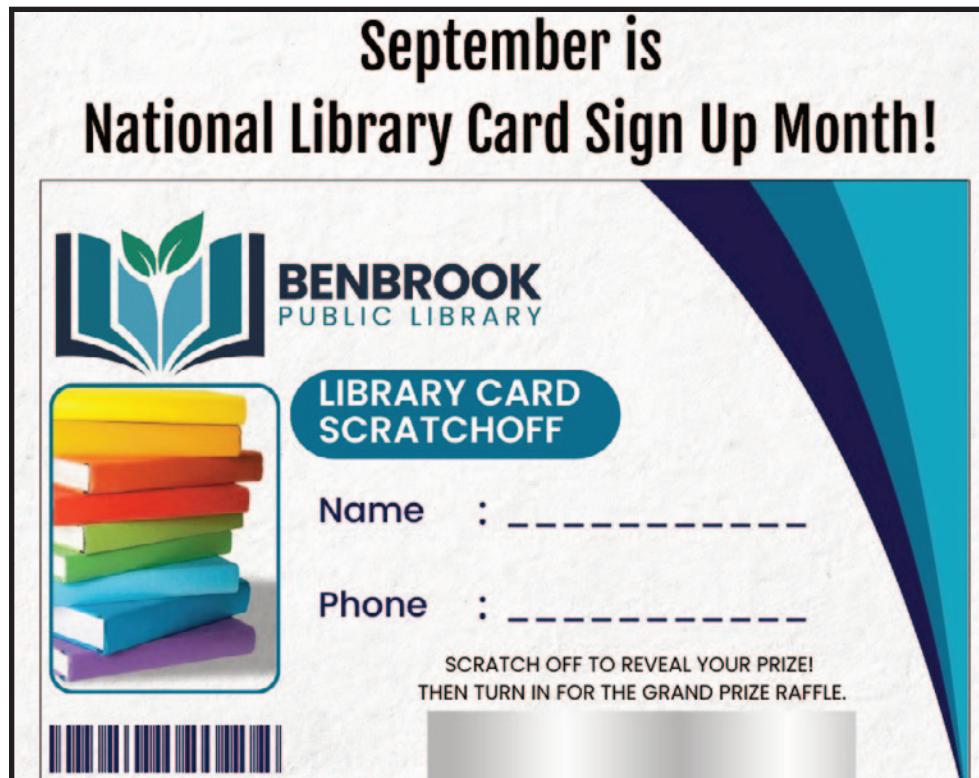
## September is National Library Card Sign-Up Month

For the entire month of September, every new library card, renewal, and referral gets a chance to play the Benbrook Public Library Card Scratch-Off Game!

How it works: Every cardholder gets a scratch-off ticket for signing up, renewing, or referring a friend!

Each ticket is an instant winner with awesome prizes like library swag, books, and more!

Plus, all participants will be entered into the Grand Prize Raffle for the chance to win a Benbrook Public Library Swag Bag! Grand prize drawing will be announced at the end of the month! [Click here](#) to find out how to get your library card.



From Benbrook Public Library

## Dog Adoption Event Sept. 21

Ready to find your new best friend?

Join us Saturday, Sept. 21 from noon to 3 p.m. for a Dog Adoption Event at Benbrook Public Library, located at 1065 Mercedes St, Benbrook, TX, Texas 76126.

Everyone is invited to come meet adorable pups from 4Paws Benbrook eager to find their forever homes.

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From the City of Benbrook

## Benbrook Trash Bash Returns

### Saturday, Sept. 21

The 32nd Annual Trash Bash clean-up event will be held Saturday, Sept. 21, at Dutch Branch Park.

Registration opens at 8:30 a.m., and cleanup begins at 9 a.m.

A free hotdog lunch is provided to all volunteers.

This event offers an opportunity for Benbrook residents, volunteers, visitors, groups, and organizations to help during a fun cleanup!

Participants will gather at the pavilion located behind the concession stand, in the rear parking lot behind the YMCA at 1899 Winscott Rd.

The City is providing giveaway items and prizes. Advance registration is requested. We all want to keep Benbrook looking beautiful, and every "litter bit" helps!

For more information, call Cecilia Ventura at 817-249-6008

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From Fort Worth ISD

## School Board Meeting Sept. 24

The Fort Worth Independent School District Board of Education will hold their next regular meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 24 at the Fort Worth ISD District Service Center, located at 7060 Camp Bowie Blvd, Fort Worth TX 76116.

The meeting is scheduled to be held from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

For questions or more information, visit <https://www.fwisd.org>.



# The One and Only, Gene Autry



He was called “America’s Favorite Cowboy” and the “Singing Cowboy.” Though he was not the first western star of either movies or music, Texas native **Gene Autry** became a favorite across the nation from the 1930s through the 1950s. He became so popular that a host of communities across North Texas and southern Oklahoma scrambled to proclaim themselves his hometown. Autry’s heartwarming songs and movies became a staple for generations of Americans and helped craft the image of how Americans see the Old West.

Orvon Grover Autry was born outside Tioga in Grayson County in 1907. His grandfather was a Methodist preacher, and his parents were ranchers. They would all have a profound impact on his outlook on life. The family moved several times, eventually ending up owning a ranch in southern Oklahoma.

He graduated high school in 1925 and took a job as a telegraph operator. He had an opportunity to play minor league baseball, but he declined and took up music instead. He often practiced guitar and singing while manning his telegraph station late at night, a move that eventually cost him his job. In 1928, he traveled to New York to audition for a record label. He failed. He returned to

Oklahoma and picked up a job singing on a Tulsa radio station. By the next year, Columbia Records signed him to a contract.

Autry recorded 640 songs and wrote more than 300. Ultimately, more than 100 million copies of his albums were sold. He appeared in his first movie, “*In Old Santa Fe*,” in 1934. He would appear in more than ninety films, usually portraying a light-hearted singing cowboy.

From 1936 to 1942, he was the top western actor in the country. Autry co-wrote “*Back in the Saddle Again*” with Ray Whitley in 1939. It immediately became a hit, and Autry performed it for the rest of his career. This followed with a popular radio program, *Gene Autry’s Melody Ranch*, which ran from 1940 to 1943 and from 1945 to 1956.

He was nominated for an Academy Award in 1942 for Best Original Song for the 1941 melody “*Ridin’ on a Rainbow*” from the film of the same name.

In 1941, the small community of Berwyn, Oklahoma, renamed itself Gene Autry in honor of the star who had spent some of his formative years in nearby communities. Autry performed his radio show for the community at the dedication in appreciation for the honor.

Autry prided himself on his patriotism. In 1942, during World War II, and at the height of his fame, Autry decided he needed to do his part for his country at war. He enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Force, eventually becoming a C-109 transport pilot. He rose to the rank of tech sergeant and flew many difficult missions through the Himalayas to deliver supplies to allied Chinese troops fighting Japan.

As World War II came to a close, he began recording a string of his most iconic songs, popular decades later. In 1945, he released “*Don’t Fence Me In*” and released “*Here Comes Santa Claus*” in 1948. One of his most popular songs was his rendition of “*Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*.” Autry initially declined to record it, but his wife convinced him otherwise, believing that children would enjoy it. The song shot up to the top position on the charts for the 1949 Christ-

mas season. His Christmas songs were so popular that they are inescapable part of the season even decades later.

In 1950, his radio show was adapted to TV as *The Gene Autry Show*, which ran until 1956 on CBS. After the early 1960s, he largely retired from performing to concentrate on his business interests. He owned several radio stations and bred horses for rodeos. In 1963, he bought Los Angeles television station KTLA for \$12 million. He sold it for \$245 million in 1982.

In 1961, he became owner of the Los Angeles Angels as Major League Baseball expanded to the West Coast. The team won the division three times but never won the World Series while Autry owned the team. “Win one for the cowboy!” became a popular rallying cry for Angels fans for years.

He released his autobiography, “*Back in the Saddle Again*,” in 1976. In honor of his stewardship of the Angels, Autry became vice-president of the American League starting in 1983. He founded the Gene Autry Western Heritage Museum in Los Angeles in 1988.

He died at his home in California in 1998 at age 91. His songs have been featured in nearly 200 movies and television shows, leaving a long legacy of music for fans around the world.

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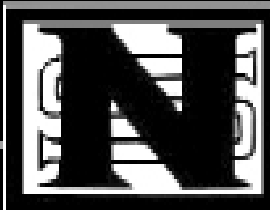
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## Weekend Forecast



### Friday, Sept. 13:

**AM** - Sunny, with a high near 96. Calm wind becoming S/SW around 5 mph in the morning.  
**PM** - Mostly clear, with a low around 74. South wind around 5 mph.



### Saturday, Sept. 14:

**AM** - Mostly sunny and hot, with a high near 99. South southwest wind 5 to 10 mph.  
**PM** - Partly cloudy, with a low around 75. South wind around 5 mph.



### Sunday, Sept. 15:

**AM** - Mostly sunny and hot, with a high near 99. South southwest wind around 5 mph.  
**PM** - Mostly clear, with a low around 74.

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