



# Benbrook News

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*Benbrook Council Action by John English*

## Nov. 16 Meeting Review

The Benbrook City Council meeting held on Nov. 16 was conducted 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.

Minutes from the previous meeting held on Nov. 2 were then approved unanimously.

The first item of the evening was a proposal to adopt a resolution to canvass the election results from Nov. 7.

Mayor Ward, council member Larry Marshall, council member Gary Addison and council member Keith Tiner were all re-elected to their places. The resolution to accept the results of the election was adopted unanimously by all members present. The Oath of Office was then administered to the newly re-elected members of the city council.

Next up was the selection of Mayor Pro-Tem, and members Laura Mackey and Marshall were both nominated, but neither carried a majority of votes, and the item was tabled until the next meeting.

The next agenda item was a proposal to accept the finance report for the period ending Oct. 31. For the General Fund, revenues for the month of October were \$1,130,188 and expenditures totaled \$1,290,348, while the Economic Development Corporation revenues for October were \$330,122 and expenditures totaled \$303,162. Investments for the City of Benbrook totaled \$39,477,766 and investments for the EDC were \$7,862,319. The finance report was accepted unanimously by all members present.

The next agenda item was a motion to approve a Hotel/Motel Occupancy Tax Distribution for fis-

(continued on page 6)

*From the Sports Desk with John English*

## BMHS Bobcat Boys Defeat Brownwood, WHHS Boys to Host Springtown

The Benbrook boy's basketball team defeated Brownwood 72-62 last week and coach Blake Mendez said his players had to gut it out to earn the victory.

"The Brownwood game was a bit of a roller coaster for us," Mendez said. "We started out really strong and took a double digit lead into half, but we knew they were going to come out aggressive in the second half and that's exactly what happened. They punched us in the mouth in the third and actually took the lead. In the fourth, we had guys that refused to let us lose the game, and we came out with the 10 point win."

Mendez said he had a stand out performance in the game.

"I couldn't be more proud of sophomore Jayden Bradshaw," Mendez said. "Before last season started, he had a pretty severe knee injury that cost him his freshmen year. He's come back stronger than ever and put up 20 points and 13 rebounds."

Benbrook plays at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday at Alvarado and Mendez said he expects a good game.

"Alvarado was a playoff team last year in a really tough district, so we know they have winners over there," Mendez said. "They beat us by 11 or 12 points last year so we know we can play with them. We just have to limit turnovers and I think we will have a chance to win it late."

Over at Western Hills, the Cougars lost a close one to R.L. Turner last week, and coach Blake Dunson said it was not for a lack of effort.

"I was very pleased with our effort versus a good R.L. Turner team last night," Dunson said on Saturday. "We were down a starter due to injury, but our bench stepped up and a few players answered the call. It was a tight game throughout and we fell just short at the end by a final score of 56-53."

Junior Jaylen James had a career high with 19 points, and junior Lyndon Ellis tossed in 10 points. Junior Brandon Hawkins made several great passes.

"Although we didn't get the outcome we wanted, I know we gained valuable experience and never questioned our effort," Dunson said.

(continued on page 2)

***Happy Thanksgiving!***

**May your family be blessed with prosperity, good health and happiness!**

**~ from the staff of the Benbrook News ~**

**Bo Underwood, Publisher**

**Emily Moxley, Editor**

**Vee Horn, Denise Honeycutt and John English**

## Sports Desk (continued from page 1)

Western Hills will host Springtown at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, and Dunson said his team will have it's hands full.

"Springtown will be a tough match up," Dunson said. "They're very physical and have been playing great basketball to start the season. We had some close games with them last year, so I know our guys are hungry to have another crack at them on our home floor."

On the girl's side, Benbrook lost to Lake Worth by a score of 52-42 on Saturday in the Lake Worth Tournament, but coach Leta Lofton said she had a good effort one player in particular.

"Hannah Madison was chosen to the Lake Worth Tournament All-Tournament team, scoring 33 points in the last 2 games," Lofton said. "She had 11 points versus Lake Worth and 22 points versus Northside."

Benbrook will host Springtown at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, and Lofton said she expects a good contest.

"The Springtown game will be a highly competitive game," Lofton said. "We should be evenly matched in all areas of the game. Our young team will once again put our talent together for a victory."

Over at Western Hills, the Lady Cougars competed in the Lady Frog Classic Tournament this past week and won the consolation bracket.

Coach Monica Gardner said her team completed well last Tuesday against South Hills in a 24-20 victory, and followed it with a second victory against the Lady Scorpions in the tournament.

"The South Hills game was a great game," Gardner said. "I thought we did a good job of rebounding and not letting them get as many second shots. I thought the girls played some of their best basketball of the season this weekend. They did a good job of working together and withstanding some adversity to win the consolation bracket, which saw us face South Hills again."

Gardner said she had a few players really step up this weekend.

"One of the most consistent players this weekend was Joann Taylor," Gardner said. "She did a great job of rebounding and mak-

ing her mid range shot. Braylah Brooks played good defense and was a beast on the boards. Anjell Smith was an offensive leader. Eliana played through sickness, and Samiyah Nicholas stepped up as a freshman and hit 2 clutch free-throw to put us up in the final seconds of final."

Western Hills will play A+ Academy at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, and Gardner said it will provide a good opportunity to shake some rust.

"A+ Academy gives us a chance to get back in action after the long Thanksgiving break before we head into the Venus tournament," Gardner said. "The hope is to keep improving as a team."

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## Legal Notice

### BWA Seeks Advisory Committee Applicants

The Board of Directors of the Benbrook Water Authority is accepting applications from citizens interested in serving on the Authority's Capital Improvements Advisory Committee. Applicants must be registered voters in the City of Benbrook, and must have resided in the City for one (1) year before the date of appointment (January 1, 2024). The Advisory Committee performs several functions including reviewing the capital improvements plan and filing written comments, and advising the Board of the need to update or revise the land use assumptions, capital improvements plan, and impact fee. Interested citizens can pick up an application at the Authority's office located at 1121 Mercedes St., Benbrook or download a form at [www.benbrookwater.com](http://www.benbrookwater.com) and return it to the BWA office. Residents involved in real estate, development, or building industries are encouraged to apply. Applications must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on December 8, 2023.



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**Notice**  
**Virtual Public Hearing with In-Person Option RM 2871**  
**From I-30 to US 377**  
**CSJ:] 2855-01-022**  
**Tarrant County, Texas**

The Texas Department of Transportation Fort Worth District is proposing to reconstruct and widen RM 2871 from I-30 to US 377 in Tarrant County, Texas. This notice advises the public that TxDOT will be conducting an online virtual public hearing on the proposed project with an in-person option. The virtual hearing will consist of a pre-recorded video presentation and will include both audio and visual components. The presentation will be posted online on Thursday, December 7, 2023, at 8 a.m. To log onto the virtual public hearing, visit [www.txdot.gov](http://www.txdot.gov), keyword search "RM 2871 Tarrant County" after the date and time indicated above. If you do not have internet access, you may call Ram Dhakal at (817) 370-3519 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, to ask questions and access project materials during the project development process.

Additionally, TxDOT is providing an in-person option for individuals who would like to participate in person. In-person attendees will be able to view the same pre-recorded presentation delivered in the online public hearing which will be playing on a screen, review hard copies of project materials, ask questions of TxDOT staff and/or consultants, and leave written comments. The in-person option will be held on Thursday, December 7, 2023, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at High Ridge Church located at 10100 Rolling Hills Drive, Fort Worth, TX 76126.

For both the virtual public hearing and in-person option, members of the public may call (817) 841-9241 to provide verbal testimony immediately following the conclusion of the virtual public hearing presentation at 7 p.m. on December 7, 2023, through 11:59 pm on December 22, 2023. Formal written comments may also be provided by mail or email as explained below. All verbally provided testimony and timely written comments will be considered by TxDOT and included as part of the official record. Responses to verbally provided testimony and comments will be prepared by TxDOT, included as part of the hearing and project record, and made available online at [www.txdot.gov](http://www.txdot.gov).

The proposed improvements to RM 2871 include reconstructing and widening the existing roadway to a four-lane divided urban roadway with a six-foot to 18-foot wide curbed median from US 377 in the City of Benbrook north to I-30 in the City of Fort Worth for approximately 5.08 miles along RM 2871. Additional proposed improvements include an overpass bridge on RM 2871 over the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) and Aledo Road; realignment of Veale Road Parkway and Chaparral Pass; left and right turn bays and intersection improvements throughout the corridor; and bicycle and pedestrian accommodations on both sides of RM 2871. The proposed project would enhance safety and mobility. The project would require approximately 10.27 acres of additional right of way.

The proposed project would, subject to final design considerations, require additional right of way and potentially displace one non-residential structure; no residential displacements are anticipated. Relo-

cation assistance is available for displaced persons and businesses. Information about the TxDOT Relocation Assistance Program and services and benefits for those displaced and other affected property owners, as well as information about the tentative schedule for right-of-way acquisition and construction, can be obtained from the TxDOT district office by calling (817) 370-6744.

The proposed project would involve construction in wetlands.

The proposed project would involve an action in a floodplain.

Any environmental documentation or studies, any maps and drawings showing the project location and design, tentative construction schedules, and other information regarding the proposed project are on file and available for inspection by appointment Monday through Friday between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. at the Fort Worth District Office, 2501 SW Loop 820, Fort Worth, TX 76133. Project materials are also available online at [www.txdot.gov](http://www.txdot.gov). These materials will also be available in hard copy form for review at the in-person public hearing.

The in-person public hearing option will be conducted in English. If you need an interpreter because English is not your primary language or you have difficulty communicating effectively in English, one will be provided to you. If you have a disability and need assistance, special arrangements can be made to accommodate most needs. If you need interpretation or translation services or you are a person with a disability who requires an accommodation to attend and participate in the in-person public hearing option, please call (817) 370-3519 no later than 4 p.m. CT on December 4, 2023. Please be aware that advance notice is required as some services and accommodations may require time for the Texas Department of Transportation to arrange.

Written comments from the public regarding the proposed project are requested and may be submitted by mail to the TxDOT Fort Worth District Office, Attn: Ram Dhakal P.E., 2501 SW Loop 820, Fort Worth, TX 76133. Written comments may also be submitted by email to [Ram.Dhakal@txdot.gov](mailto:Ram.Dhakal@txdot.gov). All written comments must be received on or before December 22, 2023. Additionally, as stated above, members of the public may call the voicemail line and leave a voicemail message at (817) 841-9241 from 7 p.m. on December 7, 2023, until 11:59 pm on December 22, 2023. Responses to written comments received and public testimony provided will be available online at [www.txdot.gov](http://www.txdot.gov) once they have been prepared.

If you have any general questions or concerns regarding the proposed project, virtual hearing, or in-person option, please contact Ram Dhakal, Project Manager, at (817) 370 3519 or [Ram.Dhakal@txdot.gov](mailto:Ram.Dhakal@txdot.gov).

The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried-out by TxDOT pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated December 9, 2019, and executed by FHWA and TxDOT.



**Aviso**  
**Audiencia pública virtual con opción presencial**  
**LA RM 2871**  
**Desde la I-30 hasta la US 377 CSJ: 2855-01-022**  
**Condado de Tarrant, Texas**

El Distrito de Fort Worth del Departamento de Transporte de Texas propone reconstruir y ampliar la RM 2871 desde la I-30 hasta la US 377 en el condado de Tarrant, Texas. Este aviso informa al público que TxDOT llevará a cabo una audiencia pública virtual en línea sobre el proyecto propuesto con una opción presencial. La audiencia virtual consistirá en una presentación en video pregrabada e incluirá componentes audiovisuales. La presentación se publicará en línea el jueves 7 de diciembre de 2023 a las 8 a.m. Para ingresar a la audiencia pública virtual, visite [www.txdot.gov](http://www.txdot.gov), busque las palabras clave “RM 2871 Tarrant County” después de la fecha y hora indicadas anteriormente. Si no tiene acceso a Internet, puede llamar a Ram Dhakal al (817) 370-3519 entre las 8 a.m. y las 5 p.m., de lunes a viernes, para hacer preguntas y acceder a los materiales del proyecto durante el proceso de desarrollo del proyecto.

Además, TxDOT ofrece una opción presencial para las personas que deseen participar en persona. Los asistentes presenciales podrán ver la misma presentación pregrabada realizada en la audiencia pública en línea que se reproducirá en una pantalla, revisar copias impresas de los materiales del proyecto, hacer preguntas al personal y/o consultores de TxDOT y dejar comentarios por escrito. La opción presencial se realizará el jueves 7 de diciembre de 2023, de 5 p.m. a 7 p.m. en High Ridge Church ubicada en 10100 Rolling Hills Drive, Fort Worth, TX 76126.

Tanto para la audiencia pública virtual como para la opción presencial, los miembros del público pueden llamar al (817) 841-9241 para brindar testimonio verbal inmediatamente después de la conclusión de la presentación de la audiencia pública virtual a las 7 p.m. el 7 de diciembre de 2023 hasta las 11:59 p.m. del 22 de diciembre de 2023. También se pueden enviar comentarios formales por escrito por correo postal o correo electrónico como se explica a continuación. Todos los testimonios proporcionados verbalmente y los comentarios escritos oportunos serán considerados por TxDOT y se incluirán como parte del registro oficial. TxDOT preparará las respuestas a los testimonios y comentarios proporcionados verbalmente, se incluirán como parte de la audiencia y el registro del proyecto y estarán disponibles en línea en [www.txdot.gov](http://www.txdot.gov).

Las mejoras propuestas a la RM 2871 incluyen la reconstrucción y ampliación de la carretera existente a una carretera urbana dividida de cuatro carriles con una mediana elevada de 6 pies a 18 pies de ancho desde la US 377 en la ciudad de Benbrook norte hasta la I-30 en la ciudad de Fort Worth por aproximadamente 5.08 millas a lo largo de la RM 2871. Las mejoras propuestas adicionales incluyen un puente elevado en la RM 2871 sobre la Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) y la Aledo Road; realineación de Veale Road Parkway y Chaparral Pass; espacios para girar a la izquierda y a la derecha y mejoras en las intersecciones a lo largo del corredor; y adaptaciones para bicicletas y peatones a ambos lados de la RM 2871. El proyecto propuesto mejoraría la seguridad y la movilidad. El proyecto requeriría aproximadamente 10.27 acres de derecho de vía adicional.

El proyecto propuesto, sujeto a las consideraciones de diseño final, requeriría derecho de vía adicional y potencialmente desplazaría una estructura no residencial; no se prevén desplazamientos residenciales. La asistencia de reubicación está disponible para personas y empresas desplazadas. Se

puede obtener información sobre el Programa de Asistencia de Reubicación de TxDOT y los servicios y beneficios para los desplazados y otros propietarios afectados, así como información sobre el cronograma tentativo para la adquisición de derecho de vía y construcción en la oficina de distrito de TxDOT llamando al (817) 370-6744.

El proyecto propuesto implicaría la construcción en humedales.

El proyecto propuesto implicaría una acción en una llanura aluvial.

Cualquier documentación o estudio ambiental, mapas y dibujos que muestren la ubicación y el diseño del proyecto, cronogramas de construcción tentativos y otra información sobre el proyecto propuesto están archivados y disponibles para inspección con cita previa de lunes a viernes entre las 8 a.m. y las 5 p.m. en la Oficina del Distrito de Fort Worth, 2501 SW Loop 820, Fort Worth, TX 76133. Los materiales del proyecto también están disponibles en línea en [www.txdot.gov](http://www.txdot.gov). Estos materiales también estarán disponibles en forma impresa para su revisión en la audiencia pública en persona.

La opción de audiencia pública en persona se llevará a cabo en inglés. Si necesita un intérprete porque el inglés no es su idioma principal o tiene dificultades para comunicarse eficazmente en inglés, se le proporcionará uno. Si tiene una discapacidad y necesita ayuda, se pueden hacer arreglos especiales para satisfacer la mayoría de las necesidades. Si necesita servicios de interpretación o traducción o es una persona con una discapacidad que requiere adaptaciones para asistir y participar en la opción de audiencia pública en persona, llame al (817) 370-3519 a más tardar a las 4 p.m. CT el 4 de diciembre de 2023. Tenga en cuenta que se requiere aviso previo ya que algunos servicios y adaptaciones pueden requerir tiempo para que el Departamento de Transporte de Texas los organice.

Se solicitan comentarios escritos del público sobre el proyecto propuesto y pueden enviarse por correo postal a la Oficina del Distrito de Fort Worth de TxDOT, a la atención de: Ram Dhakal P.E., 2501 SW Loop 820, Fort Worth, TX 76133. Los comentarios escritos también pueden enviarse por correo electrónico a [Ram.Dhakal@txdot.gov](mailto:Ram.Dhakal@txdot.gov). Todos los comentarios escritos deben recibirse a más tardar el 22 de diciembre de 2023. Además, como se indicó anteriormente, el público puede llamar a la línea de buzón de voz y dejar un mensaje de voz al (817) 841-9241 de 7 p.m. el 7 de diciembre de 2023, hasta las 11:59 p.m. del 22 de diciembre de 2023. Las respuestas a los comentarios escritos recibidos y al testimonio público proporcionado estarán disponibles en línea en [www.txdot.gov](http://www.txdot.gov) una vez que hayan sido preparados.

Si tiene alguna pregunta o inquietud general sobre el proyecto propuesto, la audiencia virtual o la opción presencial, comuníquese con Ram Dhakal, Gerente de Proyecto, al (817) 370 3519 o [Ram.Dhakal@txdot.gov](mailto:Ram.Dhakal@txdot.gov).

La revisión ambiental, consultas y otras acciones requeridas por las leyes ambientales federales aplicables para este proyecto, están siendo o han sido realizadas por TxDOT de conformidad con la Reglamentación 23, Sección 327 del Código de Estados Unidos y un Memorando de Entendimiento con fecha del 9 de diciembre de 2019, ejecutado por la FHWA (Administración Federal de Carreteras) y TxDOT.





*from Founders Online, National Archives and Records Administration*

## Thanksgiving Proclamation

*New York, 3 October 1789*

*By the President of the United States of America, a Proclamation.*

Whereas it is the duty of all Nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey his will, to be grateful for his benefits, and humbly to implore his protection and favor - and whereas both Houses of Congress have by their joint Committee requested me “to recommend to the People of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many signal favors of Almighty God especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness.”

Now therefore I do recommend and assign Thursday the 26th day of November next to be devoted by the People of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being, who is the beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be - That we may then all unite in rendering unto him our sincere and humble thanks - for his kind care and protection of the People of this Country previous to their becoming a Nation - for the signal and manifold mercies, and the favorable interpositions of his Providence which we experienced in the course and conclusion of the late war - for the great degree of tranquility, union, and plenty, which we have since enjoyed - for the peaceable and rational manner, in which we have been enabled to establish constitutions of government for our safety and happiness, and particularly the national One now lately instituted - for the civil and religious liberty with which we are blessed; and the means we have of acquiring and diffusing useful knowledge; and in general for all the great and various favors which he hath been pleased to confer upon us.

And also that we may then unite in most humbly offering our prayers and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations and beseech him to pardon our national and other transgressions - to enable us all, whether in public or private stations, to perform our several and relative duties properly and punctually - to render our national government a blessing to all the people, by constantly being a Government of wise, just, and constitutional laws, discreetly and faithfully executed and obeyed - to protect and guide all Sovereigns and Nations (especially such as have shewn kindness unto us) and to bless them with good government, peace, and concord - To promote the knowledge and practice of true religion and virtue, and the encrease of science among them and us - and generally to grant unto all Mankind such a degree of temporal prosperity as he alone knows to be best.

Given under my hand at the City of New York the third day of October in the year of our Lord 1789.

*George Washington*



# Council Action (continued from page 1)

cal year 2023-24. The city of Benbrook had Marketing and Promotion budgeted at \$116,112 and Heritage Fest was budgeted at \$33,500. The advertising budget was \$26,500 with a total request of a budget of \$176,112. The requests as proposed for the Hotel/Motel Occupancy Tax Budget were approved unanimously by all members present.

Next up was a proposal to receive applications for boards and commissions. The odd-numbered positions on the various boards and commissions will expire on Dec. 30. Staff recommended that the city council determine the process for application evaluations and schedule that process. A motion was made by Council Member Mackey to interview all the candidates on Dec. 5, and Council Member Renee Franklin recommended that only new candidates should be interviewed. It was approved unanimously by all members present.

Next was a proposal to approve an Interlocal Agreement and Ordinances reaffirming the Tarrant County Health Department as

the designated provider of health code services. The proposal was approved unanimously by all members present.

Time was then allowed for council member and staff comments, and council member Franklin thanked the Benbrook and Western Hills bands and ROTCs for participating in the Veteran's Day parade as well as the local VFW post and American Legion post.

She then reminded residents that Western Hills High School is having a toy drive from Nov. 27 to Dec 15. There will also be pictures with Santa and Mrs. Claus on Dec. 1 at the Benbrook YMCA from 6 to 8 p.m., which benefits the Benbrook Fire Department.

There will also be Christmas Pop Up shops from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Dec. 2 at the Church of Benbrook and the 32nd Annual Christmas Tree Lighting and Fireworks Show on Dec. 2 at 7 p.m. at Dutch Branch Park.

The Benbrook Holly-Jolly Event will be held on Dec. 9 at the Benbrook Library from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The meeting was then adjourned.

[Click Here](#) to subscribe to the *Benbrook News* for free today!

From Carter BloodCare

## Friends of the Benbrook Library to Host Community Blood Drive in December

When you give this holiday season, you also receive, as Carter BloodCare hosts local blood drives in December.

Even during the holidays, the need for blood is nonstop. But, it only takes less than an hour to donate blood that can save three local lives.

As a special thank-you gift for giving in December, each person who donates blood with Carter BloodCare will receive a brand-new fleece blanket, available while supplies last.

By donating blood this month, Texans help people involved in serious car accidents, heart surgery patients, children fighting cancer, organ transplant patients, mothers experiencing difficult childbirths, and older adults with age-related health issues.

“Many local families spend the holidays in the hospital, often waiting for blood that’s necessary for surgery or treatment,” said Andrea Sign with Carter BloodCare. “It’s literally within each of us to help these families by donating the gift of blood. It takes less than an hour to give someone a lifetime.”

The Friends of the Benbrook Library will host a Carter BloodCare community blood drive on Friday, Dec. 8 from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Carter BloodCare Bus in the parking lot of Library located at 1065 Mercedes Street in Benbrook.

Those wishing to donate are requested to select a time slot when you [sign up online](#).

For more information, email [friends@benbrooklibrary.org](mailto:friends@benbrooklibrary.org).

**BENBROOK CAFE**  
Breakfast★Lunch★Dinner

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**Ginger Brown's**  
Old Tyme Restaurant & Bakery

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Saturday and Sunday: 6 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
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Texas History Minute by Dr. Ken Bridges

# A History of Thanksgiving

The nation will mark Thanksgiving once again on this fourth Thursday in November. It is part of a long tradition that has spanned many generations, including historical parallels in Texas.

Perhaps the most notable Thanksgiving feast was that of the Pilgrims at the Plymouth Colony on Nov. 22, 1621. It had been a difficult year for the English settlers who had arrived in Massachusetts the previous November. The Wampanoag tribe, which controlled most of Massachusetts and Rhode Island, made offers of friendship to the Pilgrims, sharing their food as the colonists struggled through the winter and then taught them about raising crops in the area.

After a bountiful harvest that fall, the Pilgrims decided to organize a feast to give thanks to God for their good fortune. In the spirit of gratitude, the Wampanoags were invited to join them in what became a three-day feast. The meal was quite different than the usual fare seen on American tables today. Using what was available locally, they ate swans, seals, deer, fish, and lobsters.

Such celebrations to give thanks to God were not unusual among Europeans in general during that time period. By the time of the famous 1621 Thanksgiving at the Plymouth Colony, other feasts to give thanks had occurred already in other parts of the nation.

In 1541, Spanish conquistador Francisco Vazquez de Coronado had a special Thanksgiving Mass held for him and his men not far from what is now Amarillo and the Palo Duro Canyon in celebration of their good fortune.

In 1565, Spanish conquistadores led by Pedro Menendez de Avile at the settlement of St. Augustine, Florida, held a special Roman Catholic mass and later a feast to give thanks to God for their safe arrival. They invited members of the local Timucua tribe to join them.

In 1598, more than 500 Spanish colonists led by Don Juan de Onate arrived at San Elizario, near modern-day El Paso, and had a special day to give thanks for their own good fortune. This has led some to claim San Elizario as the site of the First Thanks-

giving.

As for the Pilgrims, the Plymouth colonists and the tribes did not repeat the occasion in 1622. In 1623, after a difficult year of droughts that threatened the crops, late rains rescued the harvest. As it proved to be much more bountiful than expected, the colonists again had a celebration to give thanks that November. Tragically, relations with the Wampanoag tribe deteriorated in the ensuing decades with the initial gestures of friendship forgotten and the tribe shattered by war. Nevertheless, New England residents would continue to have periodic Thanksgiving observances in the years afterward, often organized by the local churches.

In spite of a few instances of Thanksgiving observances in the South, it did not catch on as an annual observance as it did in New England. The tradition, however, spread northward into the British colonies in Canada, where observances remained mostly local until the late 1800s. It was established as an official national holiday in Canada in 1957, and because of Canada's shorter growing season, on the second Monday in October.

New York became the first state to declare Thanksgiving a holiday, starting in 1817. Efforts were made to make it a national holiday in the 1820s, led by noted writer and educator Sarah Josepha Hale of New Hampshire. Up until the Civil War, the date of Thanksgiving was left to the states and made more of a local observance. Dates for Thanksgiving ranged from early October through the end of December.

In 1863, Secretary of State William H. Seward convinced President Abraham Lincoln to make it a national holiday on the last Thursday in November. Lincoln announced the holiday as a day to give thanks to God for the blessings the nation had and added that all Americans should remember the widows and orphans the war created.

In 1941, the holiday officially became the fourth Thursday in November from that point onward. President Harry Truman started the tradition of pardoning one turkey

for Thanksgiving in 1947.

Other nations have also adopted Thanksgiving, inspired by the American example. Liberia, which was founded by former American slaves, marks Thanksgiving as the first Thursday in November, dating back to 1821. Brazil made the fourth Thursday in November its Thanksgiving holiday in 1966 after their ambassador to the United States saw the American holiday firsthand.

Turkey sales have topped \$1 billion annually in the past few years. Many churches and communities still continue with the initial spirit of Thanksgiving by reaching out to the poor and homeless with food drives and community Thanksgiving meals prepared and served by volunteers.

Though the coronavirus pandemic may dampen many travel plans and gatherings out of precautions for public health, millions of Americans will still pause to consider what they are thankful for.



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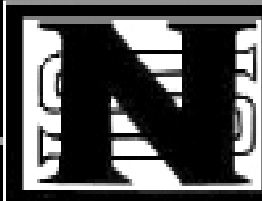


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## Three Day Weekend Forecast



### Friday, Nov. 24:

AM - Mostly sunny, with a high near 61. East wind 5 to 10 mph.  
PM - Partly cloudy, with a low around 41. East wind 5 to 10 mph.



### Saturday, Nov. 25:

AM - Partly sunny, with a high near 60. East southeast wind 5 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.  
PM - A 40% chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 45. East southeast wind around 10 mph becoming north after midnight.



### Sunday, Nov. 26:

AM - Mostly cloudy, with a high near 52. North wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.  
PM - Mostly cloudy, with a low around 36.

[Extended Forecast Click Here](#)