



# Benbrook News

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*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 tranquillity, 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*

### *Benbrook Council Action*

## Mayor Pro Tem Selected at Nov. 17 Meeting *by John English*

The Benbrook city council meeting on Nov. 17 was conducted as scheduled. Mayor Jason Ward called the meeting to order. An invocation was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Ward allowed an opportunity for citizen comments on any agenda item, but there were none.

Minutes for the meeting held on Nov. 3 were then approved.

The first item of the evening was to administer the oath of office to the newly elected council members.

Next up was the selection of Mayor Pro Tem.

Council member Renee Franklin nominated fellow council member Laura Mackey for Mayor Pro Tem, and member Keith Tiner recommended council member Dr. Larry Marshall. Following a verbal vote, Marshall was selected Mayor Pro Tem.

The next item was a proposal to accept the finance report ending Oct. 31. Since October is the first month of the fiscal year, revenues for General Fund for the (continued on page 5)

## Happy Thanksgiving!

**Wishing our readership good health and happiness!**

**From the staff of the Benbrook News:**

**Bo Underwood, Publisher; Emily Moxley, Editor**

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

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From Carter BloodCare

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

This holiday season, residents are invited to give a gift that makes a lifesaving difference for neighbors in need. Donating blood helps local patients in urgent need of transfusions because of surgeries, severe trauma, cancer treatments, organ transplants, difficulties during childbirth, and age-related health issues.

The need for blood is nonstop, even during the holidays. In fact, every two seconds, someone needs a lifesaving transfusion.

The Friends of the Benbrook Library will host a Carter BloodCare community blood drive on Friday, Dec. 9 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).

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From the White House Historical Association

## A History of White House Presidential Turkey Pardons

Beginning with George Washington, many presidents declared their own days of thanksgiving before Abraham Lincoln made it an official holiday in 1863 and Franklin D. Roosevelt signed legislation in 1941 designating the fourth Thursday in November as the federal Thanksgiving Day holiday.

Reports of turkeys as gifts to American presidents can be traced back to the 1870s.

Turkey presentations at the White House became national news in the 1920s with accounts of turkeys taking exciting cross-country trips to the White House and arriving dressed for the occasion in goggles and sweaters, inside their decorated coops.

John F. Kennedy was the first to unofficially pardon a turkey by telling attendees at the presentation, "Let's keep him going."

Patricia Nixon sent gifted turkeys to Oxon Hill Children's Farm, while Rosalynn Carter sent some to a Evans Farm Inn to live in a miniature zoo.

In 1989, the formalities of pardoning a turkey became a White House Thanksgiving tradition when George H.W. Bush remarked, "Let me assure you, and this fine tom turkey, that he will not end up on anyone's dinner table, not this guy -- he's granted a Presidential pardon as of right now -- and allow him to live out his days on a children's farm not far from here."

Since then, each year the president has pardoned a turkey or two in an official ceremony.

**Happy Thanksgiving**

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From the Sports Desk with John English

# BMHS Cats and WHHS Cougars Hoop it Up on the Court

The Benbrook girls basketball team came up just short against Lake Worth on Thursday night and coach Leta Lofton said she was proud of the way her team rallied to stay in the game.

"I think we played well and we were able to cut a 10 point half-time deficit to almost winning at the buzzer," Lofton said. "It was a great effort by the team." Benbrook lost 43-42 to the Lady Bullfrogs.

Lofton said Xiahannah Madison "played well offensively with her drives to the basket." Benbrook will play Springtown following the Thanksgiving break.

"Springtown will be fundamental, and we will have to play smart basketball," Lofton said.

On the boy's side, Western Hills competed in the Bullfrog Classic this past weekend and coach Blake Dunson said, overall, he was pleased with how his team performed.

"We got off to a great start," Dunson said. "We were able to bounce back and edge out Poly 41-37 after losing to them Tuesday. We were able to have more success in the afternoon against a familiar foe, Dallas Molina, by winning 53-38. I liked our energy and contribution we got from our bench in both games. Friday, we played a Paschal team that is playing very well at the moment. It was an 8-point game going into the final quarter of play. We had to take some chances and foul at the end of the game to have a shot, but we're unsuccessful. Final score was 60-45. I thought we made some good adjustments on both ends of the floor after the first quarter, but Paschal made some big shots down the stretch."

Tyreke Lewis was named to the all tournament team.

"He had solid performances every game," Dunson said. "His defense and rebounding were key to our success."

Western Hills will face Springtown in its first game back from the break.

"I expect a very competitive game from a scrappy team in Springtown," Dunson said.

Over at Benbrook, the Bobcats had strong week as well, defeating Diamond Hill-Jarvis and Lake Worth.

"Diamond Hill is always a scrappy group to play against," coach Blake Mendez said. "They play hard regardless of the score so you can't overlook them. Lake worth is a tough out because they're always extremely athletic and they use their athleticism to apply pressure for four quarters. We were clicking on all cylinders when we played those two teams and we're able to come out with two big wins."

Mendez said he had a couple of strong performances this past weekend in the Lake Worth Tournament.

"Our point guard Anthony Landrum made the all tournament," Mendez said. "He had an incredible tournament. Corbin Dilday and Justin Green also helped us get into the championship game."

Benbrook will take on Alvarado following the Thanksgiving break, and Mendez said his team will be in for a challenge.

"Alvarado is going to be ready to play," Mendez said. "They play physical, and we're going to have to be ready for that. We have gotten some momentum coming off the Lake Worth tournament so I expect it to be a competitive game."

From Stardom Entertainment

## Tupelo to Vegas Liberty Hall

*Tupelo to Vegas* produced by Stardom Entertainment features Elvis Tribute Artist Ben Thompson (Vegas Elvis), Moses Snow (Tupelo Elvis), David Allen (Emcee) plus Shake Rattle & Roll, and backed by the World-Famous Tribute Band, Fever The Band. Combine all these talents together into one performance, you'll have one Rock'n'Roll production for everyone from age 6 to 106.

Stardom Entertainment's newest production *Tupelo To Vegas* takes you through a musical ride of the dynamic career of Elvis Aaron Presley. *Tupelo to Vegas* begins in 1954 at Sun Records in Memphis, Tenn. where Elvis recorded his first song for his mom, Gladys Presley, continues to the Louisiana Hayride 1954-1956 era, then the rock'n'roll era of the late 50s. The journey continues to the movie years, 1956-1969, and closes with the glitz and glamor of Las Vegas & Elvis On Tour years 1969-1977.

*Tupelo to Vegas* is a musical journey from 1954 to 1977 created by the talents of 2018 Ultimate Elvis Tribute Artist Champion, Ben Thompson and 2021 Images of The King Champion, Moses Snow backed by Fever The Band, with special guest, Shake Rattle & Roll.

Multi-award-winning Elvis Tribute Artist Ben Thompson from London, England is one of the select few who has the ability to successfully recreate all the eras of Elvis.

Maintaining the authentic high energy performances and the charming charisma that Elvis was known for, has led the 27 year old to travel the world keeping Elvis' legacy alive. Ben's performances are truly respectful and authentic to represent such a name as Elvis Presley. He was crowned Graceland's Ultimate Elvis Tribute Artist Champion in 2018.

He has performed with Elvis' original backing singers on 30 occasions, which gave Ben the chance to experience one of his dreams. He also starred as Elvis Presley in the blockbuster film *Bladerunner 2049* alongside Harrison Ford.

Moses Snow, winner of the Images of The King Champion 2021, is from Haslet. Moses is a one-of-a-kind Young Elvis Presley Tribute Artist (ETA). He started his journey in the Elvis music world at the young age of 13 and is considered by many to be the future of the Elvis Tribute World! Moses has entertained both nationally and internationally. With his swift moves and boyish charm, you will make you think you are genuinely watching Elvis in the early career of the 1950s.

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***Council Action*** (continued from page 1)

month and year-to-date were \$907,703 and expenditures for the month and year-to-date were \$1,345,892. Revenues for the month and year-to-date for the Economic Development Corporation were \$214,433, while expenditures for the month of October and year-to-date were 99,595. Investments for the City of Benbrook were \$48,274,264, while investments for the EDC were \$6,283,864. The finance report was accepted unanimously.

Next up was a motion to approve the Hotel/Motel Occupancy Tax Distribution for the fiscal year 2022/2023. The request for the visitor center is \$100,926, for Heritage Fest is \$33,549 and for the Christmas Light Exhibit is \$15,000. The advertising budget is \$22,037 for total requests amounting to \$171,512. The proposal was approved unanimously.

Next was a motion to receive applications for boards and commissions. Staff recommended that the city council determine the process for applicant evaluations for the boards and commissions and schedule that process or make appointments to the various boards and commissions with terms beginning Dec. 31, 2022 and ending Dec. 30, 2024, as well as making an appointment for the unexpired term for Place 3 on the EDC, which expires on Dec. 30, 2023. Council member Franklin recommended that Joanna King begin the process of the board interviews scheduling Dec. 6, starting at 6 p.m. The recommendation was approved unanimously.

Next was a proposal to approve the Tarrant County Fire/EMS Contract. According to the council meeting agenda, the contract is beneficial to the city for the following reasons: the 2022/23 rate of compensation (\$148,000) compensates the City for services rendered, provisions of the County provided tanker and brush truck precludes the purchase of this apparatus by Benbrook citizens, the 2022/23 rate of compensation from points is estimated to be \$260,000, the 2022/23 contract includes a grant from the district of \$25,000 for the purchase and replacement of firefighting equipment, and additionally, we will be receiving \$1.7 million in funds through the ARPA agreement towards 3 ambulance replacements. The total current fiscal year cash reimbursement from Tarrant County to the City would be approximately \$433,000. Staff recommended that City Council approve the proposed contract for fire and EMS services for the assigned area of

Tarrant County Emergency Services District #1 for fiscal year 2022-2023. The recommendation was approved unanimously.

Next up were informal citizen comments, and resident Sunnae Hiler approached the podium. She started by thanking the mayor and council members for their service to the city.

“I had a mentor tell me, 'do not bring me problems, bring me solutions,’” Hiler said. “Tonight I’m standing here with both.” Hiler said the problem was northbound motorists on Benbrook Blvd. are passing drivers on the right shoulder to turn right onto Winscott Road. “It is dangerous,” Hiler said. “It is illegal.” Hiler suggested that Ward facilitate a conversation with TxDot to address the situation.

Resident Terry Roach then approached the podium and called for a “negotiation,” regarding body cam footage of a prior incident in which he was detained by the Benbrook Police Department.

Time was then allowed for council member comments, but there were none. The meeting adjourned.

*From Fort Worth ISD*

***Fort Worth ISD Board***

# *Approves Resolution Supporting Incentive Payment for Employees*

During the Nov. 8 board meeting, trustees unanimously approved a resolution that supports a \$2,000 incentive payment for every full-time and 180-day substitute employee.

There will also be a \$1,000 incentive payment for qualifying part-time and other substitute employees who are not categorized as 180-day substitutes. The payments were presented to the Board on June 28, along with the 2022-23 budget. However, the resolution underscored the need to both hire and retain employees in today's competitive public education environment.

Part of the document commends “...all District employees ... [who] are contributing to the success of the District’s operation and the continued accelerated delivery of instruction for the 2022-2023 school year.”

The incentive will be paid in two installments: December 2022 and June 2023. Employees hired and working as of Sept.1, 2022, are eligible for the December payment and employees hired and working as of Jan. 4, 2022, are eligible for June 2023 payment.

The payments are being funded by ESSER money.

Employees with questions may call the Compensation Department at 817-814-2080 or email [compensation@fwisd.org](mailto:compensation@fwisd.org).

## Public Notice

**AFFIDAVIT OF ADVERSE POSSESSION AND AFFIDAVIT OF HEIRSHIP  
IN THE REAL PROPERTY RECORDS OF TARRANT COUNTY, TEXAS  
NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS HAVING AN INTEREST  
IN THE PROPERTY OF ELIZABETH SIMS**

Notice is hereby given that Affiant filed, in the Tarrant County Real Property Records on October 14, 2022, the Affidavit of Adverse Possession and Affidavit of Heirship for the property of Elizabeth Sims legally described as:

Sims legally described as:

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*All persons having interest in the property of Elizabeth Sims located at 2119 Harrison Avenue, Fort Worth, Texas 76110 are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Dated this 10th day of November 2022. /s/ Robert Sims. Sr. Robert Sims.*

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# Congressman Jack Brooks *by Dr. Ken Bridges*

The machineries of government can be used for good or ill. Some politicians abuse their offices or use them strictly to destroy their political opponents while others try to uplift their communities and make life better for others.

With his more than four decades in Congress, Jack Brooks became an iconic figure who instituted many changes for Southeast Texas.

**Jack Bascom Brooks** was born in Crowley, Louisiana, in the southern part of the state, in 1922. His family moved to the Beaumont area in 1928. The family struggled in the midst of the Great Depression while Brooks attended Beaumont schools. He earned a scholarship to attend Lamar Junior College when he graduated high school in 1939, majoring in journalism. In 1941, he transferred to the University of Texas where he earned his bachelors degree in 1943.

The nation was in the midst of World War II when Brooks graduated. He enlisted in the Marines in November 1942 as a private while still a student and was sent to the Pacific after graduation. He saw action in some of the fiercest battles of the Pacific Theater, including Guadalcanal and Okinawa. He was honorably discharged as a first lieutenant in 1946. He would later return to the Marine Reserves and serve until his retirement as a colonel in 1972.

Brooks was part of the wave of veterans turning to public service after the war. He was elected to represent Jefferson County in the Texas House of Representatives later in 1946. While serving in the state legislature, he started attending law school at the University of Texas in order to better understand the lawmaking process and to become a better legislator. He earned his law degree in 1949. That same year, he successfully pushed through legislation making Lamar Junior College a four-year college as Lamar University.

He decided not to seek re-election in 1950, instead building a law practice and operating a farm he had bought near Beaumont. In 1952, the ailing Congressman Jesse Combs announced he would not be seeking re-election to the seat he had held since 1945. Brooks jumped into the race to succeed Combs and defeated an army of 12 other candidates to win the Democratic nomination. He went on to win the general election with 79 percent of the vote and was unopposed for re-election in 1954, 1956, and 1958.

As a congressman, Brooks was an early protégé of Sam Rayburn, who ultimately became Speaker of the House. He was also a strong supporter of the oil industry and worked to bring federal projects to the Texas Gulf Coast. In 1963, he was part of the tragic motorcade that included President John F. Kennedy, Vice-President Lyndon Johnson, and a host of other Texas dignitaries in Dallas when Kennedy was assassinated. Brooks was aboard Air Force One later that day when Johnson was sworn in as president by Judge Sarah T. Hughes.

Brooks was a strong supporter of Johnson's Great Society programs, helping write groundbreaking civil rights legislation, voting for



the establishment of Medicare and Medicaid, and expanding federal aid for college students. During his years in Congress, he served on many committees and ultimately came to chair the House Judiciary Committee and the Committee on Government Operations.

As the Watergate Scandal unfolded during the presidency of Richard Nixon, Brooks became an outspoken investigator into the crimes Nixon had committed, including Nixon's collusion in the break-ins of the offices of his political opponents and subsequent cover-ups. It was Brooks who drew up the five articles of impeachment that the House Judiciary Committee voted on in July 1974, which led Nixon to refer to Brooks as his executioner. The committee rejected two articles, one related to Nixon's acceptance of bribes and related income tax evasion and the other for Nixon's illegal bombing of Cambodia in 1970. Instead, the three articles of impeachment dealt strictly with the events surrounding the break-in of Democratic headquarters at the Watergate complex. Nixon resigned rather than face the humiliation of impeachment.

In 1994, Steve Stockman faced off against Brooks in a rematch for the seat. Though Brooks had defeated Stockman comfortably in 1992 with 56 percent of the vote, the unpopularity of the Clinton administration, coupled with the 1994 ban on semiautomatic weapons, cost Brooks. He narrowly lost the race with 49 percent of the vote. It was his only electoral defeat. He had one of the longest tenures of service in Congress ever and the second-longest for any Texas Congressman, second only to Sam Rayburn. After 42 years in Congress, Brooks moved into a quiet retirement.

Brooks became a respected figure in the region. A statue of him was erected at Lamar University. A park in Galveston was named for him. In 2010, Jefferson County renamed the Southeast Texas Regional Airport near Port Arthur in honor of Brooks.

In 2012, he died just shy of his 90th birthday.

*From Benbrook Water Authority*

## 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 (Jan. 1, 2023).

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 p.m. on Dec. 9, 2022.



# Five Steps to Prepare for Natural Disasters

There’s no better time than right now to prep yourself and your family for the unexpected. Don’t wait until torrential rain and high winds beat on your windows or wildfire flames glow on the horizon. In those moments, your only thought will be getting your family to safety.

According to the Association of International Certified Public Accountants, nearly 30 percent of people have not taken any steps to prepare their family for a natural disaster, yet more than 60 percent of Americans believe they will likely be impacted by one in the next three to five years.

While no one likes to dwell on worst-case scenarios, taking time now to prepare your family for any unexpected event will save you precious time when a disaster strikes, and help you evacuate at a moment’s notice if need be. Here are a few ways to start.

• **Pack Your “Go Bag”.** A “Go Bag” is a disaster kit that ensures that you and your family have everything you may need in an emergency. The American Red Cross recommends packing an emergency radio, water container, food supply for three days, a personal hygiene kit, a first aid kit and any medications your family needs. If you have a pet, ensure you have enough food, medications, a leash, collar, ID tags and even a crate or kennel in case you need to evacuate to a public shelter. Some other items to include are a flashlight, batteries, multi-tools, duct tape, exam gloves and hand sanitizer.

• **Know What Natural Disasters Could Affect You.** According to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), 90 percent of disasters within the United States involve flooding and an estimated 1,000 tornadoes touch down every year. Knowing what natural disasters your region is prone to can help you best prepare.

• **Stay Informed.** There are various apps and alerts you can sign up for to stay on top of any weather developments. You can get the latest storm forecasts online from NOAA’s National Weather Service and the National Hurricane Center. You can also download the Federal Emergency Management Agency app to send notifications to loved ones, locate emergency shelters in your area and more. T-Mobile and Metro by T-Mobile customers can call 611 or visit T-Mobile.com to stay up to date on response and recovery

efforts.

• **Use Tech to Protect Your Essentials.** Using technology to store all your important documents on a secure jump drive or in cloud storage can help keep you protected during an emergency. There are several apps available like Google Scan Drive that allow you to use your phone’s camera as a scanning device. The DHS recommends you capture important documents like insurance policies, identification documents, medical records and pet information. You can also scan memorabilia like family photos in case the physical copies are destroyed.

• **Stay Charged.** To stay connected during a storm, keep your phone fully charged. Make sure you have fully charged portable power banks to keep your smartphones charged and the correct charging cables. Doing so will help you reach loved ones and find safety when disaster strikes. To maintain an optimal battery level, set your phone to power saving mode and use airplane mode when your phone is not in use.

Don’t wait until an emergency is looming to prepare. Taking key actions now can help you stay safe, informed and connected during a natural disaster, and help you recover in the aftermath.

ALTA MERE AUTO CARE

3120 Alta Mere, Fort Worth, Texas 76116 • 817-244-9911

Synthetic Blend OIL CHANGE

\$27.95 (tax included)

BRAKES

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A/C SERVICE

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FREE DIAGNOSTIC

\$144 VALUE!

TIRE PACKAGES

4 - 15" Tires = \$350 (tax included)

4 - 16" Tires = \$400 (tax included)

4 - 17" Tires = \$450 (tax included)

4 - 18" Tires = \$500 (tax included)

All tire packages include alignment!

\*Excludes truck and SUV tires





Brad Osborne,  
Store Manager

HOURS: Monday - Saturday 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. • Closed Sunday

Benbrook's 31st Annual  
Christmas Tree  
Lighting and  
Fireworks Show

Watch Santa and Mrs. Claus ride in on the Fire Truck, take pictures in the old-time sleigh, and enjoy hot cocoa during the lighting of the tree and fireworks show!

Saturday, December 3, 2022  
7:00 p.m.  
Dutch Branch  
Park  
1899 Winscott Rd.



# BUSINESS DIRECTORY



**SUBURBAN NEWSPAPERS, INC.**  
*White Settlement Bomber News • Benbrook News • River Oaks News*  
7820 Wyatt Drive Fort Worth, TX 76108  
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## Three Day Weekend Forecast



### Friday, Nov. 25:

**AM** - A 20% chance of showers. Partly sunny, with a high near 54. North wind 15-to-20mph, with gusts as high as 30mph.  
**PM** - A 20% chance of showers. Partly cloudy, with a low around 43.



### Saturday, Nov. 26:

**AM** - Mostly sunny, with a high near 59.  
**PM** - Mostly clear, with a low around 44.



### Sunday, Nov. 27:

**AM** - Sunny, with a high near 63.  
**PM** - Mostly clear, with a low around 45.

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