



City of Benbrook ★ A Texas Star City

# Benbrook News

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*Around the Town with Denise Honeycutt*

## Bicyclists Gather at VFW Post 10429



Streams and Valleys (S&V) along with Friends of the Trinity River met at VFW Post 10429 on Wednesday, Oct. 18 to conduct a safety trail bike ride. On this ride was former Mayor of Fort Worth, Betsy Price. She, along with several other fellow cyclists participated in the approximately one hour course.

Since 1969, (S&V) has been a passionate voice for the Trinity River. They are a non-profit organization that helps to educate our community, raise money for vital projects, improve community access and beautify the River and trails. S&V also bring together The River Partners and others to work for the common good.

This organization has decades of progress behind them and now, so much more opportunity with the completion of *Confluence: The Trinity River Strategic Master Plan*.

As the river evolves, Streams & Valleys change too! S&V focuses on five key areas where they are making significant impacts:

### Community Awareness

Utilizing strategic communication, education and programming to promote trail safety, water quality and river access.

(continued on page 3)

*Benbrook Council Action*

## Oct. 19 Meeting Review

*by John English*

The Benbrook City Council meeting held on Oct. 19 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, and resident Terry Roach approached the podium. Roach discussed his thoughts on the meeting's agenda and said he was comfortable with it, stating multiple times that it was reasonable and appropriate.

Minutes from the previous meeting held on Oct. 5 were then approved unanimously.

The first item of the evening was to consider accepting the finance report ending on Sept. 30, the last month of the fiscal year.

For the General Fund, revenues for the month of September were \$594,598 with expenditures of \$1,761,755 and year-to-date revenues were \$24,785,637 with year-to-date expenditures totaling \$20,845,186.

For the Economic Development Corporation, revenues for the month of September were \$152,695, with expenditures for the month totaling \$27,769, while the year-to-date revenues were \$2,400,899 and year-to-date expenditures totaled \$823,160.

The finance report was accepted unanimously.

Next up was a proposal to approve the quarterly investment report for the period ending Sept. 30.

Investments for the City of Benbrook totaled \$40,217,946 and for the EDC investments were \$7,758,119.

The investment report was accepted unanimously.

Next was a motion to approve the Administrative Regulation F5- Investment Policy.

There were no proposed changes to the policy and it was approved unanimously.

Next was a motion for the renewal of funding for an interlocal

(continued on page 2)

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# Obituary



**Donna Uptmore Holt**

Donna Uptmore Holt passed peacefully at home on Oct. 16, 2023 surrounded with love by her beloved husband, Jackie Holt and daughters Rakisha, Alison and Shea.

Donna was born Sept. 15, 1948 to Alvin and Estelle Uptmore. She shared her childhood home with siblings, Dianne Pilotte, Debbie Deatherage and Clifford Uptmore.

Despite having beautiful, handmade dolls and dresses, she was a tomboy at heart and preferred jeans and a BB gun.

She met the love of her life Jackie Roy Holt in high school, and they were married on April 6, 1968. Their love is like no other, a rare kind of love. He adored her and she would do anything for him. Their first born, Rakisha Chenault, made her appearance on Oct. 21, 1971 in Irving, Texas.

Shortly after, they moved to their lifelong home in Fort Worth, Texas. They were later blessed with the births of Alison Holt-Fuller on Sept. 17, 1974 and Shea Holt July 3, 1980. Motherhood was her passion. Her daughters were her first and final thoughts of the day. She raised them to know that they could do anything. She always had time to help with an art project, or to raise their spirits. She had all the answers, and if she didn't, she would figure it out. Most importantly, she raised them with unfaltering love, sacrifice and the knowledge that family is everything. Her love had no boundaries and was extended through her immediate family to those who came to know them. By setting the stage and having an open-door policy the family gatherings were always abundant with good food and genuine laughter.

She not only raised three beautiful and successful women, but she also contributed to much of their children's growth. She showered her grandchildren, Holt and Haden Chenault and Stella and Sadie Lamb with love and attention. Her tender-hearted nature and steadfastness for what is right prevailed as a guiding path and as an example of how to love and care for others. She gave much grace, courage, and support to her children and her grandchildren to chase their dreams and to never shy away from a hard fight. She nourished the parts of us that we typically tend to overlook or not entertain, our imagination, our creativity, and our ability to be great. Donna led this life with the grace of God and raised a family to know and trust in Christ.

## Benbrook Council Action (continued from page 1)

agreement with Tarrant County to construct Westpark Drive and Timbercreek Drive.

The motion carried unanimously.

The next item was a proposal to award a contract for employee dental service. United Health Care currently provides coverage to the City's full-time and eligible employees. Benbrook changed carriers to Cigna Healthcare at a savings of 2.95 percent effective Nov. 1. The estimated cost is \$69,781.

The contract was approved unanimously for a one-year period.

Next up was a proposal to renew a contract with Tarrant County ESD for Fire and Emergency Medical Services. The contract was approved unanimously for a one-year period.

Next was informal citizen comments, and Southlake resident Gary Losada came to the podium and discussed the Tarrant Appraisal District (TAD) and informed the council members that he was running for the TAD board of directors and asked them for their votes. Losada said he had three goals, to hire a new chief appraiser, to conduct an audit to determine why TAD's software system has not been functioning since its incep-

tion in 2016 and third to change the culture at TAD.

"It's been adversarial," Losada said. "It's been a situation where they don't serve the public, and with the hiring of a chief appraiser, hopefully, we will change that culture to be more responsive."

Roach then approached the podium again stressing the need for civilian oversight of the Benbrook Police force.

Next, Benbrook resident Jennifer Harper spoke and invited people to attend the ribbon-cutting event at the Benbrook Library on Oct. 26.

Time was then allowed for council member and staff comments, and council member Renee Franklin reminded residents of several upcoming events, including a Trunk or Treat at the YMCA from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Oct. 27 and Trunk or Treat events at Black Rifle Coffee Company on Oct. 29 and First Baptist Church of Benbrook and the Church at Benbrook on Oct. 31.

Member Gary Addison then reminded residents that early voting begins on Oct. 23 at the Benbrook Lion's Club.

The meeting was then adjourned.



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Bicyclists at VFW Post 10429 (continued from page 1)

Advocacy and Consensus Building

Serving as a trusted advocate for environmentally sensitive development and responsible use of the Trinity River and its trail network by providing a meeting ground for City officials, agencies, property owners, developers, local businesses, and community members to come together and plan for the future.

Events and Programs

Developing and producing high-quality, high-impact events and programs to strengthen community cohesion and connections to the river and to obtain a stable

source of funding.

Special Projects

Managing and coordinating projects that would otherwise fall outside the purview or capacity of public agency partners.

Resources for the River

Conducting a wide range of fundraising activities, including pursuit of private donations, grant writing, and sponsored events and programs.

After the ride, the Post hosted a meal for all those who participated at this at this event that was enjoyed by everyone in attendance.



Event attendees included: (l-r) S&V Board Member **Chad Cline**; Former Mayor of Fort Worth **Betsy Price**; Commander **Troy Collum**; Community Relations Director **Jamie Bengford**; Immediate Past VFW State Commander **Lynn Toomer**; S&V Executive Director **Stacy Pierce** and VFW/S&V Member **Karen Toomer**.



S&V Ambassador **Mike Crow** prepares for the event.



**Ruben Arreola** and riding buddy **Charlotte** were on the course.

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The White Settlement Independent School District (WSISD) is accepting proposals for BMS East Parking Lot The Request for Proposal document RFP #2324-06 can be obtained on the WSISD website, [www.wsisd.com](http://www.wsisd.com) and go to: Business Services/Purchasing/Bid Information/Current Offline Bid Opportunities. Please contact Nancy Escobar at [nancy.escobar@wsisd.net](mailto:nancy.escobar@wsisd.net) for inquiries. The deadline for inquiries and questions is November 14, 2023 by 2:00 pm. Proposals are due by November 16, 2023 by 2:00 pm. Proposals must be sent to: White Settlement ISD, Attn: Nancy Escobar, 8224 White Settlement Road, White Settlement, TX 76108. Faxed or e-mailed proposals are not accepted.

White Settlement ISD reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals.

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The White Settlement Independent School District (WSISD) is accepting proposals for Kitchen Equipment. The Request for Proposal document RFP #2324-04 can be obtained on the WSISD website, [www.wsisd.com](http://www.wsisd.com) and go to: Business Services/Purchasing/Bid Information/Current Offline Bid Opportunities. Please contact Nancy Escobar at [nancy.escobar@wsisd.net](mailto:nancy.escobar@wsisd.net) for inquiries. The deadline for inquiries and questions is November 9, 2023 by 2:00 pm. Proposals are due by November 16, 2023 by 2:00 pm. Proposals must be sent to: White Settlement ISD, Attn: Nancy Escobar, 8224 White Settlement Road, White Settlement, TX 76108. Faxed or e-mailed proposals are not accepted.

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# 31st Annual Benbrook Trash Bash a Success



Benbrook Mayor Jason Ward (far right) with the Benbrook High School Student Council (a.k.a. The Mayor's Crew) prepare to collect trash.



Preparing lunch from different organizations are: (l-r) **John Larson**, Scout Troop #95; **Rick Hunter**, 4Paws; **Yvonne Kirby**, Lions Club; **Monica Molina**, 4Paws; **Nancy Ashcraft**, 4Paws; **Lynda Monoco**, 4Paws; **Donna Sauma**, 4Paws and **Raymond Switlik**, Lions Club.



Members from the Waverly Garden Club came out to support the event. They are: (l-r) **Jacqueline Branum**, **Nancy Smith**, **Carol Stewart** and **Veronica Wingen**.

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Pictured below:  
**Thornton** and **Ruth Schwenk** helped out at the function.



Benbrook residents, visitors, groups and organizations gathered behind the YMCA to volunteer and take part in a fun cleanup party on Saturday, Oct. 21. The event began at 9 a.m. and volunteers were assigned to specific areas in the park to pick up litter and debris. Supply bags were distributed with safety vests, gloves and trash bags. Prizes were awarded and a free hot dog lunch was served to all those who participated. The event was a huge success and enjoyed by everyone who came out.



JCC members from Benbrook Middle school came out to support the event.



JROTC from Benbrook High School assisted with the cleanup. Members are: (l-r) **Jackson Morris**, **Joshua Ordonez**, **Tatum Barbee**, **Sawyer Saddlewhite**, **Yesnia Jimenez**, **Madison Williamson**, **Jason James**, **Alexander Crawley**, **Michael Saed**, **Benjamin Norris**, **Caden Martinez**, **Jacob Vaughn** and JROTC teacher MSgt. **Tony Watson**.

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From the Sports Desk with John English

# Benbrook Football Boys Defeat Ferris, BMHS Volleyball Girls Claim 3-1 Win over YWLA

The Benbrook MHS football team won its second straight game on Friday night, defeating Ferris by a score of 45-27.

Coach Cody Slater said it was exactly the kind of victory his team needed.

"I cannot say enough about the resiliency that our kids played with," Slater said. "I am so proud of the toughness and determination our team displayed. It was a total team win."

Brennan Barton was 10 of 13 for 205 yards passing and three touchdowns and Carlos Harris had 23 carries for 160 yards and two rushing touchdowns and three receptions for 64 yards and one touchdown.

Defensively, Jake Lindsey had 16 tackles and caused a fumble, while Jacob Carpenter had 10 tackles, two tackles-for-loss.

Christian Gleason finished the game with 11 tackles, one hurry, and one sack and Santiago Merino had six tackles, and one interception for a touchdown.

Benbrook will play Glen Rose next and Slater said his team will have their work cut out.

"Glen Rose is a really good football team," Slater said. "They are undefeated in district play,, and we will need to have a good week of practice to give ourselves an opportunity to be successful on Friday night."

On the court, Benbrook defeated the YWLA on Friday night by a score of 3-1, and coach Frances Davies said it was a hard-fought win.

"Overall, I was very pleased with the outcome," Davies said. "They (YWLA) came out swinging and ready to push us, which is what we need moving into playoffs. We need to be at a faster speed. We started a little slow, I think in part to the emotions, it was our senior night and I think the reality of it being possibly their last home match kind of shook us. But they battled like I know they can and we took the win 3-1."

Davies said she had an especially strong effort from one player in particular on Friday.

"Angela Montano truly stepped in and stepped up," Davies said on Saturday. "She's new to us this year and is more of a role player, and last night I needed her big. She never hesitated, stayed focused and was a major part of our win."

With the playoffs about to get underway, Davies she believes her teams is ready to compete.

"I think district has really helped us play and focus on the out of system plays and being able to work on our energy and team connections," Davies said. "With the re-build, we need all the time we can get to polish setter/hitter connections or defense communications. Unfortunately, the speed of district isn't quite as fast as what we'll see in playoffs, but it does give us the opportunity to work on fun plays, or to speed up the offense."

While Benbrook's opening playoff opponent is not yet set in stone, Davies said she has a pretty good idea about who it could be.

"Right now, we are matching up with Alvarado," Davies said. "We don't have time, date or location set just because it can still change on their end. If not them, possibly Kennedale. I expect touch swings, scrappy defense and for either team to push us. At the playoff level, no-

body is just going to give you the win, so we need to be mentally ready to play whoever steps on court and control the speed of the game."

Over at Western Hills, the Cougars lost to Lake Worth last week, and coach Blake Moilan said his team needs to work on consistency throughout the entire game.

"We played really well in three of the four quarters," Moilan said. "We did not play well in the second quarter and it snowballed on us. We need to play four quarters. I was very proud of the kids coming out after the first half and playing hard. We made it interesting in the second half, but we dug too big of a hole in the first half."

Moilan said his defense played really well even with several short fields and that Love Willis led the team defensively.

Western Hills will take on Kennedale next, and Moilan said his team will need to make sure it has consistency throughout.

"Kennedale is a very good team," Moilan said. "We hope to put four quarters together and play a full game. If we are able to put together four quarters, we feel we can compete."

---

From the City of Benbrook

## Benbrook City Council Applications Deadline Nov. 6 for Boards and Commissions

The Benbrook City Council is accepting applications from citizens interested in serving on various Boards and Commissions. These positions include:

- Planning and Zoning Commission
- Zoning Board of Adjustment/Appeals Commission
- Parks and Recreation Board
- Benbrook Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors

Appointed members of the Boards and Commissions serve a two-year term and must meet the following qualifications

- Be a registered voter of the City;
- Have resided in the City for one year;
- Continue residency in the City during the term of office;
- Not hold a public elective office within the State; and
- Serve without compensation.

Planning and Zoning Commission members must also own real property within the City.

Tax Increment Finance Reinvestment Zone No. 1 Board of Directors qualifications:

- Be a resident of the City or own a business within the City
- Serve without compensation

Applications and information on each board/commission is available at City Hall, 911 Winscott Rd., or on the Government page of the City's Website [www.benbrook-tx.gov](http://www.benbrook-tx.gov).

The application deadline is Nov. 6, 2023.



## Legal Notice

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Wine and Beer retailer on Premise Permit by Keith Armand DBA Louisiana Seafood and Fish Market to be located at 1505 E. Berry, Fort Worth, Tarrant, Texas  
Owner Keith Armand



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Around the Town with Denise Honeycutt

# American Legion Post 297 Auxiliary Unit Hosts Craft Fair



Shopper Faith Ayala (left) checks out Pixie Wetmore's homemade products.



Louise Riley (left) shows Sarah Lanier an array of items at her station.



Pam Woodard (left) examines a Cross from Kim Neighbors table.

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An interesting and diverse Craft Fair was recently held at American Legion Post 297 hosted by the Auxiliary Unit.

Over 20 local artisans displayed their merchandise with a variety of beautiful handmade crafts and baked goods.

The indoor venue was enjoyed by everyone who participated.



Bobbie Jackson and her "Table of Treasures".



Rene Vester with one of her many handmade crochet and knitting items.



## American Composer and Pianist, Scott Joplin *by Dr. Ken Bridges*

Scott Joplin was an early musician who transformed much of the landscape of popular music in the early 1900s. Though many details of his short life are uncertain, his impact on early American music is undeniable.

Joplin was born just after the Civil War in 1867 or 1868 possibly in East Texas, though even his place of birth is not entirely certain. His parents had been slaves. When he was young, the family moved to nearby Texarkana where his father worked on the railroad that effectively created the city. As a child, he learned piano and classical music from a variety of tutors in Texarkana.

In 1885, he left home, travelling across the country and playing piano in bars and houses of ill repute or anywhere he could find work. Joplin also attended college briefly to further study music theory and composition. Between 1895 and 1917, he published more than 80 songs, including classical music, operas, and a new form of popular music, ragtime.

Ragtime was known for its upbeat tempo, often played on piano or accompanied by fiddles, banjos, or trumpets. Joplin tied this new music in with classical musical theory with far less improvisation and turned it into an art form. By the mid-1890s, he was touring with his own group, the Texas Medley Quartet. His band performed at the 1893 Chicago World's Fair to wide acclaim. Music historians believe his performances started a ragtime craze

in the country. In 1899, the *Maple Leaf Rag*, was published and became the most popular sheet music sold that year.

He moved to St. Louis in 1900 with his new wife, where he concentrated on teaching and composing. However, a string of tragedies began to unravel his life. An infant daughter died not long after his arrival in St. Louis, and he and his wife divorced. One of his operas, *The Guest of Honor* (1903), was a failure. His second marriage to Freddie Alexander of Little Rock ended when she died just 10 weeks after their 1904 wedding.

Joplin moved to New York in 1907 and remarried. In 1910, he completed his next opera. *Treemonisha* was set in Rondo, just east of Texarkana, in the 1880s. In the story, a young woman on a plantation learns to read and write and discovers that education is a defense against fear and superstition that crippled her community. Crushed by poor reception of his opera, bankrupt, and his physical health collapsing, he had a nervous breakdown and was committed to a hospital in early 1917. He died three months later, not yet 50 years old.

After Joplin's passing, his influence only grew. Many musicians continued to imitate his style, and ragtime music remained extremely popular, ultimately inspiring the genre of jazz by the 1920s and the big band music of the 1930s and 1940s. His *Maple Leaf Rag* was used often for the soundtracks of several movies made in the 1920s and 1930s.

In 1973, composer Marvin Hamlisch adapted Joplin's popular song from 1902, *The Entertainer*, for the musical score for the film *The Sting*, which starred Robert Redford and Paul Newman. The next year, Joplin was awarded a special posthumous Academy Award for Best Song. Portions of *Treemonisha* also began to be performed for audiences in the 1970s.

In 1976, he was awarded an honorary Pulitzer Prize for his contribution to American music. Joplin's music came to embody the early 20th century for many Americans as they looked back to the seemingly simpler times of nearly a century before.

Overall, the nation again came to appreciate the unheralded artistic genius of Scott Joplin, the man who inspired so much of the music that America has enjoyed through the years.



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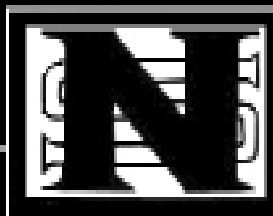
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# Three Day Weekend Forecast



## Friday, Oct. 20:

**AM** - Showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm after 1pm. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 80. South wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60%.  
**PM** - Showers likely. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 65. South southeast wind 5 to 10 mph becoming north northwest after midnight. Chance of precipitation is 70%.



## Saturday, Oct. 21:

**AM** - A chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1pm. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 75. North wind 5 to 10 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60%.  
**PM** - A 40% chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 52. Northeast wind 10 to 15 mph becoming southeast after midnight. Winds could gust as high as 20 mph.



## Sunday, Oct. 22:

**AM** - Mostly cloudy, with a high near 61. Southwest wind 10 to 15 mph becoming north 15 to 20 mph in the morning. Winds could gust as high as 30 mph. Chance of precipitation is 70%.  
**PM** - Showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm before 1am. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 37. Chance of precipitation is 70%.

[Extended Forecast Click Here](#)