

# The Big Picture



City of Benbrook

**2014**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**

The City of Benbrook enjoys a stable financial outlook, quality growth, and strong community support. The 'Big Picture' for Benbrook is a bright future, and we look forward to serving you. We invite you to browse these pages as we take a look back at the year 2014. We are happy to include original drawings of our city, submitted by our own aspiring young citizens.

## A Message from City Council

This annual report marks the eighth consecutive year Benbrook has provided a comprehensive update on the state of our City. We believe that you, our citizen-customer, deserve governance that is service-oriented, transparent, and committed to your quality-of-life. As we review the activities of the past year and look to the future, we are pleased to report that Benbrook continues to enjoy a stable financial outlook, safe streets and neighborhoods, a renewed commitment to exceptional education for our children, and responsible, quality growth and development of our physical environment.

As we look back on the year, we take stock of the many activities that changed the footprint



of our community and laid the groundwork for a brighter future. After many years of planning, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) project to reconstruct Benbrook Boulevard/US 377 finally began. While we collectively work to minimize

construction related traffic, City Council is excited about the ultimate aesthetic and functional improvements to our primary business corridor. In total, Benbrook strategically set aside nearly \$5 million in local match funding for this important TxDOT project.

Additionally, the much-discussed land exchange with the City of Fort Worth was formalized after almost 10 years of negotiation and work.

*(Continued)*

*The City of Benbrook endeavors to ensure that Benbrook remains a great City by implementing ordinances, policy, projects, and services that protect and enhance quality of life now and for future generations.*

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The agreement corrects numerous boundary issues, better correlating municipal jurisdictions with service delivery capacity and enforcement. Additionally, the exchange provides additional land south on US 377 for Benbrook to grow.

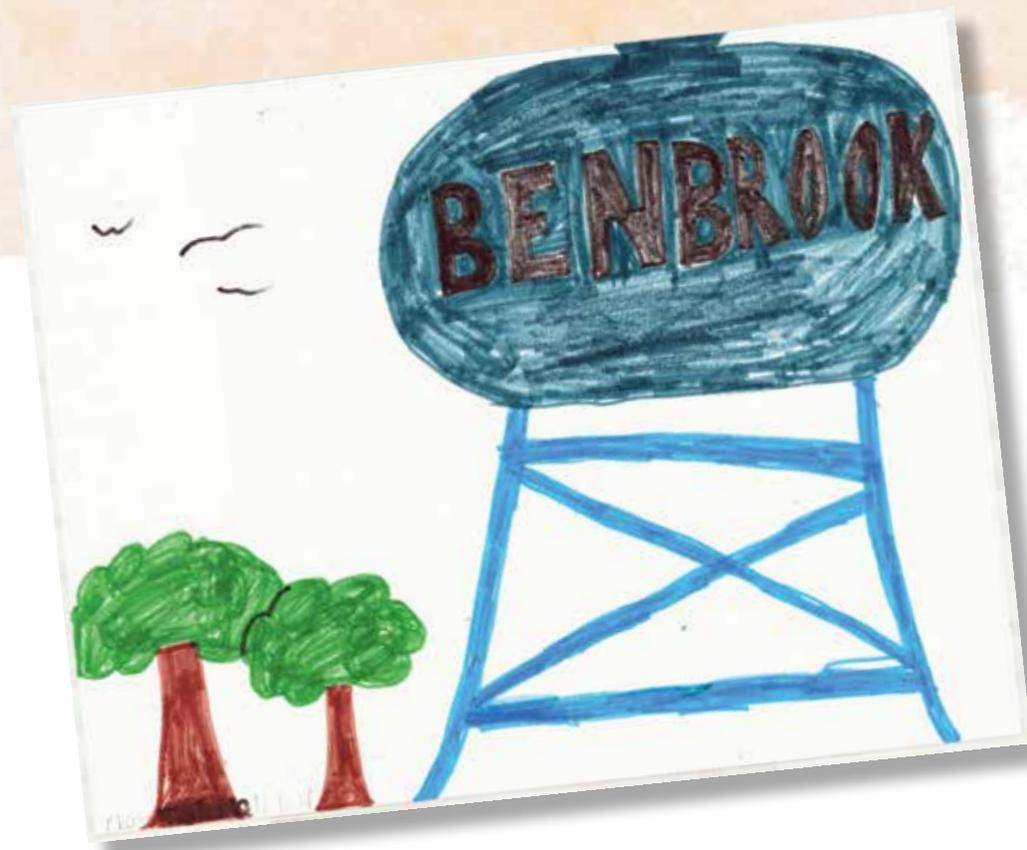
Also this year, Benbrook residents were busy painting fence pickets and preparing garden plots as we celebrated the opening of our first community garden with a ribbon cutting/ground breaking ceremony. Managed by the Benbrook Community Gardens volunteer group, the garden is located in Timber Creek Park, and boasts over 40 garden plots. The group has plans for a native plant demonstration garden, an orchard, a butterfly garden, and outdoor educational sessions. Look for tomatoes by spring 2015!

Thousands of residents and visitors enjoyed the annual events that serve to bring us together as a community; the Annual Easter Egg Hunt, Green Earth Day, National Night Out, Trash Bash, Heritage Fest, the annual Christmas Tree Lighting and Fireworks Show, and Winter Wonderland (see Special Events/Volunteerism, p.11). And, Benbrook residents never miss an opportunity to help a neighbor; Relay for Life, 4 PAWS Treasure Sale, the Benbrook Firefighters Food Drive, and the Spirit of Christmas program were the recipients of the generosity of our caring community.

We enjoy serving as your City Council, and we are pleased to provide this 2014 Annual Report for your review.

Thank you,

*Benbrook City Council*



*By Chase Taylor  
Age 10*

By Raegan Salazar  
Age 6



# City Awards

In 2014, the City of Benbrook received or maintained various awards and recognition for exemplary municipal services. These awards highlight Benbrook's commitment to exceed the expectations of our citizens.

## Voice of the People Award

For four consecutive study periods (2007, 2009, 2011, 2013), Benbrook has won various Voice of the People Awards for excellence in overall quality of municipal services and police services. These awards are announced each year by the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) and the National Research Center to jurisdictions with the highest rated services according to a representative sample of their own residents. **To win for excellence, the rating for service quality must be one of the top three among all eligible jurisdictions in the nation.**

## Texas Certified Scenic City

Benbrook is a Texas Certified Scenic City. The mission of the Scenic City Certification Program is to support and recognize Texas municipalities that implement **high-quality scenic standards for public roadways and public spaces**, with the long-term goal of improving the image of all cities. At the time of recognition, Benbrook was one of 11 cities in Texas to receive Gold/Platinum status.

## Planning Excellence

In 2014, Benbrook again received the Certificate for Planning Excellence from the Texas Chapter of American Planning Association. This award recognizes **cities that demonstrate professional planning standards, increase awareness of professional planning, and aide in economic development and community image.**

## Recognized Law Enforcement Agency

The Benbrook Police Department is a Recognized Law Enforcement Agency by the Texas Police Chiefs Association Law Enforcement Recognition Program. This award indicates the

department compares most favorably with the very finest in the state, regardless of department size. An agency becomes recognized by meeting or exceeding 163 best practices and voluntarily undergoing an exhaustive review of its operations by an independent assessment team. Benbrook was the 36th law enforcement agency in Texas and the first in Tarrant County to earn this coveted award.

## Community Rating System for Flood Insurance

The City of Benbrook participates in the Community Rating System for the National Flood Insurance Program, which rates communities on their efforts to prevent flooding occurrences and/or damage associated with flooding events. Benbrook received a rating of six (6), putting it **in the top 24% of cities in the nation for reducing flood hazards.**

## Storm Ready Community

The City of Benbrook is recognized as a Storm Ready Community. The National Weather Service presents this recognition to communities that demonstrate severe weather readiness through advanced planning, education, and awareness. **Less than 1% of cities in the United States receive this recognition.**

## Government Finance Officers Association Award

For the 30th consecutive year, Benbrook received the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) award for Distinguished Budget Presentation for its annual budget. In order to receive the award, a government unit must publish a budget document that meets criteria as a policy document, an operations guide, a financial plan, and as a communication device. Similarly, Benbrook also received the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting.

# Financial Summary

Vision, sound management, and fiscal responsibility are crucial to a stable community.

For 2014, Benbrook maintained the property tax rate at 65.75 cents per \$100 valuation. Two cents are allocated towards the payment of debt; the other 63.75 cents funds general operations.

Operating Fund expenditures for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2014 totaled \$17,144,328 – including the use of \$1,750,000 in reserves for the Benbrook Boulevard project and the transfer of funds to finance a fire truck in the near future. Netting out the planned use of General Fund reserves for these projects, the City ended the fiscal year with a positive operating balance of \$885,405. Public Safety expenditures represented 48.39% of total operating expenses.

Total revenues for the 2013-14 fiscal year were \$16,279,733; General Fund revenue was 101.91% of the budget projection. Property taxes accounted for 61.48% of total revenue collected. Sales tax provided 15.35% of revenue collected.

The City retained a strong credit rating of Aa3 from Moody's and maintained a AA+ rating from Standard and Poor's. These ratings are indications of the private sector's view of Benbrook's solid financial condition and future prospects. The City's sound credit rating results from Benbrook's ample reserves, proven financial controls, and professional staff.

For the 30th consecutive year, the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) recognized Benbrook with its Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the City's annual financial report. Benbrook again received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for excellence in municipal budgeting from GFOA.

In September 2014, City Council adopted the budget for the 2014-15 fiscal year based on a property tax rate of 65.75 cents. A summary of the revenues and expenditures approved by the City Council are depicted on the following page.

*By David Calderon  
Age 9*

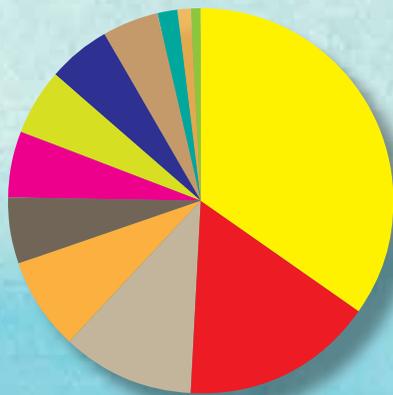
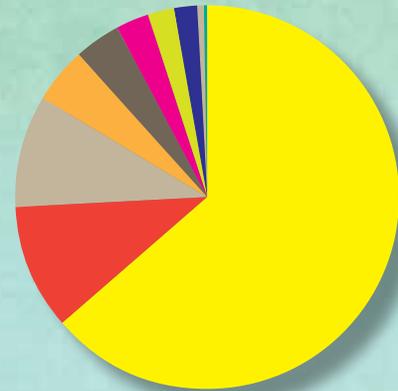


# Operating Funds

## 2014-2015 Budget

(October 1, 2014 – September 30, 2015)

Revenues by Source	Budget 2014-2015	% of Budget
Property Taxes	10,754,425	63.75%
Sales and Other Taxes	1,804,000	10.69%
Franchise Fees	1,555,500	9.22%
Service Charges	801,500	4.75%
Fines and Forfeitures	646,700	3.83%
Transfers	505,837	3.00%
Revenue from Other Agencies	375,000	2.22%
Licenses and Permits	318,000	1.88%
Use of Money and Property	85,200	0.51%
Other Revenue	25,000	.15%
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,870,662</b>	<b>100.00%</b>



Expenditures	Budget 2014-2015	% of Budget
Police	6,028,263	34.75%
Fire and Ambulance	2,814,278	16.22%
General Government	1,913,968	11.04%
Public Works	1,357,523	7.83%
Staff Services	985,662	5.68%
Debt Service	969,075	5.59%
Parks and Recreation	949,358	5.47%
Public Services	931,796	5.37%
Community Development	786,681	4.54%
Transfers	300,000	1.73%
Municipal Court	214,166	1.23%
Code Compliance	95,937	0.55%
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,346,707</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

# Public Safety

## Benbrook Police Department

The Benbrook Police Department provides patrol and criminal investigation services, crime prevention and education, animal control services, community volunteer programs, and community outreach. Recognized with numerous awards for exceptional municipal services (see 'Awards' on page 3), the Benbrook Police Department is a progressive, service-oriented law enforcement agency.

For 2014, there was a decrease in crime in the city. There were a total of 424 Part I crimes, down from the 537, or 21.04%, reported in 2013. The bulk of Part I crimes in Benbrook represent theft and burglaries. Crime rates in Benbrook remain lower than most Tarrant County communities.

Police Officer recruitment efforts are a high priority. As a nationally recognized department for exceptional service, priority is placed on recruiting

top-notch police officers who exhibit qualities that mirror those of the department. The department is expected to continue a robust recruitment campaign into 2015.

For 2014, the Patrol and Criminal Investigation Sections logged 280,941 miles and responded to 14,223 calls for police service. Average response time was 2.53 minutes per call; down from 2.65 minutes in 2013.

Vehicle accident investigations totaled 321, down from the 360 accidents of 2013. Accidents included 205 minor accidents (with no injuries) and 116 major accidents resulting in injuries. A total of 163 persons were injured, down from the 194 persons injured in the previous year. There were four fatality accidents in 2014. The department remains committed to reducing accidents through directed traffic enforcement.

In 2014, a traffic enforcement unit was initiated to increase compliance rates and reduce accidents. During the year, officers issued a total of 8,381 citations, up from the 6,934 of 2013.

A total of 1,089 arrests were made, an increase of 15 from the 1,074 arrests in 2013. Arrests included 972 adults and 177 juveniles.

Police Department personnel attended a total of 1,878 hours of specialized and advanced training. The Communications Section (Police and Fire 911 operations) dispatched 19,362 calls for service during the year.

For 2014, members of the Citizens on Patrol (COP) program logged a total of 2,637 hours of volunteer service. COP's logged 17,246 miles and filed 689 reports.



**Benbrook Police Department**  
1080 Mercedes Street

Non-Emergency Phone Number:  
817-249-2752

2014 Average Response Time:  
2.53 minutes  
(improved by 12 seconds)

*By Alana Fraizer Porck  
Age 5*

By Emily Burris, Age 7



## Benbrook Fire Department

The Benbrook Fire Department is charged with preserving and protecting lives and property from fire and/or other disasters. The Fire Department fights fires, performs rescue operations, controls hazardous spills and leaks, promotes fire prevention, conducts annual fire inspections of Benbrook businesses, and enforces City fire codes.

In addition, the Fire Department furnishes Emergency Medical Services (EMS/ambulance service), providing emergency medical treatment and transportation of sick and injured persons. Personnel also teach First Aid and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) classes to the community, as well as conduct special courses to train residents in life-saving techniques.

The City of Benbrook Fire and EMS Department serves the community with 19 full-time, 11 Auxiliary City

Fire Support Unit members, and three volunteers. Fire Department personnel inspected a total of 212 businesses, spent approximately 224 hours on fire prevention education, and spent 2,037 combined hours in training. During fiscal year 2014, Fire and EMS Divisions responded to a total of 3,154 calls for service.

The EMS Division responded to 2,383 calls, a 7.0 percent increase from the 2,226 calls in 2013. A total of 1,736 patients were transported to area hospitals.

During the year, the Fire Division responded to 610 calls, down by 60 calls from the previous year, with a total property fire loss of \$1,435,800. Calls requiring both Fire and EMS services totaled 221, a decrease from 255 calls in 2013.

**Benbrook Fire Department**  
528 Mercedes Street

Non-Emergency Phone Number:  
817-249-1727

2014 Average Response Times:

5.9 minutes in the city  
(the same as 2013)

10.4 minutes to the county  
(improved by 1.4 seconds)

The Fire Department purchased 12 sets of firefighting bunker gear, a fire hose testing machine, an ambulance, eight sets of fire supply hose, and nine laptops for ambulances and fire apparatus.

# Growing a Community

The City of Benbrook, in partnership with our community, works to see that our physical environment grows in a safe, responsible, and desirable way.

Benbrook City Council and staff work to see that our physical environment grows in a safe, responsible, and desirable way. City departments are tasked with assuring that infrastructure projects meet certain standards that protect the public, assure access, and meet the needs of our community, now and in the future. In 2014, several significant projects, some coming to fruition after years of careful planning and collaboration, moved forward:

## Benbrook City Limits Changed by Boundary Adjustment

In the works since 2005, a boundary adjustment between Benbrook and Fort Worth was finalized late in the year. Under the agreement, Benbrook received over 1,450 acres transferred as Extra Territorial Jurisdiction (ETJ), and approximately 100 acres transferred into Benbrook city limits. In exchange, Fort Worth received over 740 acres transferred to their ETJ, and about 40 acres into their city limits.

Since the first official meeting in 2005, representatives from both entities worked off and on to reach an agreement of mutual benefit. Benbrook staff prepared the initial draft Joint Ordinance in 2009, and final negotiations were finalized in September 2014.

The City of Benbrook will begin the process of creating an annexation plan for the orderly incorporation of the property, as required by State law.

For a map of the boundary adjustments, go to [www.benbrook-tx.gov](http://www.benbrook-tx.gov).

## Schools

In February, the City of Benbrook sold 1.66 acres of property located along Jerry Dunn Parkway to the Fort Worth Independent School District (FWISD) for the construction of a new elementary school. In partnership with Benbrook, FWISD reorganized Benbrook schools to better serve our growing student population. In school year 2014-2015, Benbrook Middle School became Benbrook Middle/High School, allowing for shifts in student populations. Benbrook Middle/High School and the current Westpark Elementary School building will eventually be part of an education complex, serving grades 6 through 12, while the new elementary school along Jerry Dunn will absorb the lower grades.

## Residential Development

Our city is enjoying stable growth in the form of construction, with new residences valued at nearly \$12 million for FY 2014, and new commercial buildings valued at more than \$3 million over the past two years. By late 2014, four new residential developments were completed or under construction: Whitestone Ranch, Phase 4; Brookside at Benbrook Field Addition, Phase II; La Cantera at Team Ranch, Phase II; La Cantera at Team Ranch, Phase III; and Palomino Estates, Phase II, adding a total of 307 new residential lots.

## Public Investments

Public investment projects use your tax dollars to build projects that benefit the public, such as parks and park improvements, drainage projects, and public buildings. In 2014, the following projects were started or completed:

### Started:

- Design to pave the alleyway from Usher Street towards Benbrook Boulevard/US 377 (construction anticipated to begin spring 2015)
- Extend Benbrook Parkway and Winbrook Drive to accommodate potential future economic development (construction anticipated to complete in 2015)
- Late in the year, parks crews began the final phase of a multi-year project to replace the wooden light poles in Dutch Branch Park. By 2015, 20 wooden poles around ball fields 5, 6, and 8, and eight wooden poles around the soccer field, will be replaced with galvanized steel poles, with the underground portion coated to prevent corrosion. To save on costs, the existing light fixtures and switch boxes are being re-used.

### Completed in 2014:

- The Hike and Bike trail from Benbrook Community Center/YMCA to the Dutch Branch Athletic Complex parking lot was completed, improving this valued park asset.
- Construction of an alleyway between Wade Hampton Street and Usher Street.
- In partnership with Tarrant County, the annual street asphalt overlay program covered two miles of roadway in Benbrook to improve street surfaces.
- To minimize the impact of potential flooding in the area, the Bryant Street drainage project now intercepts storm water and conveys it to an existing storm drain system in Childers Avenue.



*By Asiah Nieto, Age 7*

## **Benbrook Boulevard/US 377 Expansion Project**

In September 2014, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), in partnership with the City of Benbrook, started the \$19 million reconstruction of Benbrook Boulevard/U.S. 377 in Benbrook from Interstate 20 to Winscott Road/Lakeway Drive. The three-phase, 1.3-mile project will improve mobility and safety, consists of widening the corridor from four to six lanes, the addition of raised curb medians with left turn bays, and the installation of curbs and gutters. After construction, the City of Benbrook will beautify the area with additional landscaping.

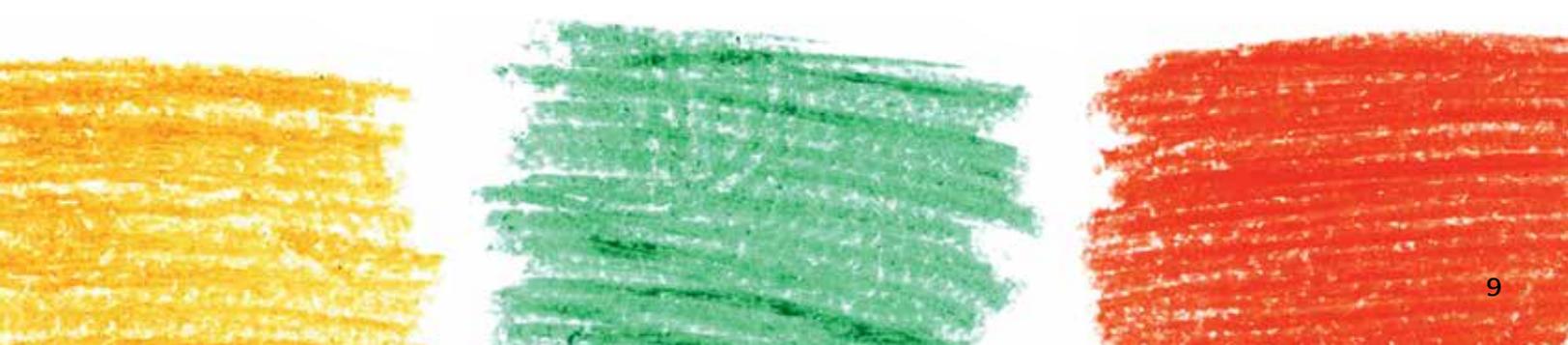
The Texas Department of Transportation, the City of Benbrook, and the Benbrook Economic Development Corporation are committed to alleviating the 'growing pains' of the project, with an emphasis on assisting businesses, residents, and commuters as we work to Build a Better Benbrook: [www.buildingabetterbenbrook.com](http://www.buildingabetterbenbrook.com)

## **RM 2871**

Another TxDOT project to improve mobility is nearing completion. In 2014, TxDOT began the re-construction of RM 2871, a major thoroughfare running north and south, intersecting at Benbrook Boulevard/US 377. Unanticipated drainage improvements and inclement weather delayed construction, but the project is scheduled to be completed by February 2015, weather permitting.

The completed project provides a new roadway, with widened shoulders in some areas from Benbrook Boulevard/US 377 to Aledo Road. Shortly after completion of the roadway surface improvements, a new traffic signal will be installed at Jerry Dunn Parkway.

A later phase of the project will include construction of a sidewalk from Jerry Dunn Parkway to Westpark Drive on the east side of RM 2871.



# Open for Business

A message from the Benbrook Economic Development Corporation

We are proud to call Benbrook home; and we'll gladly tell you why. While we are located adjacent to all the amenities of the larger Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex region, Benbrook retains its small-town appeal of friendliness, fun, and family. Our business-friendly environment, beautiful natural spaces, and exceptional city services offer a desirable community to live, work, play, and grow your business. We invite you to explore our city, support our local businesses, and learn more about the place we proudly call home.

Benbrook offers amenities that exceed those of our larger urban neighbors. From superb hike and bike trails, to over 1,000 acres of parkland, Benbrook is the place to play! We are proud of our parks, ball fields, tennis courts, golf course, and exceptional Benbrook Community Center/YMCA. Our residents consistently rate Benbrook as an excellent place to live, ranking top among hundreds of cities nationwide in the National Citizen Survey. Benbrook Economic Development Corporation (BEDC) is committed to responsible, quality retail, commercial, industrial, and residential growth.

Our city is meeting the challenge of growth with enthusiasm and a vision for an exciting future. In 2014, several new businesses opened, including Fancy Nails & Spa, NY Pizza & Pasta, Footworks 2 Dance Studio, Goodwell Yoga, Copeland Insurance Group, Eagle Martial Arts, Instant Tax, and a relocation of the Pizza Hut.

We want you to know that Benbrook is Open for Business. Working in partnership with the Benbrook Area Chamber of Commerce, we support our local businesses, and gladly welcome newcomers.

To facilitate commercial development along the northeast frontage area along I-20 at Winscott Road, the BEDC funded construction to extend two roadways, as well as to supply water, sewer, and electrical service. The work began in summer 2014, and includes completing the connection of Winbrook Drive, east of Winscott, and extending Benbrook Parkway southward from the Benbrook Industrial Park, intersecting Winbrook Drive, and connecting to the IH-20 frontage road. These improvements are intended to improve

access and infrastructure for future commercial and industrial development.

In exchange for funding the infrastructure project, Cassco Land Company deeded approximately 12 acres, located west of Winscott Road, near the Cracker Barrel restaurant, Days Inn and Comfort Suites, to the Benbrook Economic Development Corporation. The BEDC is working to facilitate retail development for this land.

In September 2014, the much-anticipated expansion of Benbrook Boulevard/US 377 began in earnest. The completion of this major construction project will offer more opportunities for businesses and developers with a vision to invest in sound retail and commercial opportunities. To assist and support our businesses along the corridor, the BEDC has contracted with the public relations firm, LCOMM Marketing. The *Building a Better Benbrook* campaign engages businesses and encourages commuters and local shoppers to continue to support our community during this time of transition and growth: [www.buildingabetterbenbrook.com](http://www.buildingabetterbenbrook.com)

While we have always enjoyed a location enticing to regional shoppers, Benbrook is benefitting from other significant transportation improvements that are enhancing access and providing exceptional opportunities for quality growth. In 2014, the Chisholm Trail Parkway, a 27.6-mile toll road from downtown Fort Worth south to Cleburne opened to travelers. More than 50 years in the making, the toll road eases traffic and provides easier access to our community.

We believe our loyal customer base, suitable space for retail, commercial and industrial growth, improved transportation, and regional accessibility offer an ideal location for the success of your business. The City of Benbrook, the Benbrook Economic Development Corporation, and the State of Texas offer a variety of incentives to assist new and existing businesses. Add to that our responsive municipal staff, low tax rate, and low crime rate, and it is clear that Benbrook is Open for Business.

Thank you for Building a Better Benbrook.



# Special Events/Volunteerism

Our community enjoys annual events that bring us together, thanks to the exceptional volunteer spirit of our citizens.





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# City of Benbrook **2014** ANNUAL REPORT



## City Council

Jerry Dittrich, Mayor  
Renee Franklin, Place 2  
Larry Marshall, Place 3  
Rickie Allison, Place 4  
Jim Wilson, Place 5  
Mark Washburn, Place 6  
Ron Sauma, Place 7

## City Hall

**817-249-3000**  
City Manager  
City Secretary  
Community Development  
Public Services  
Budget/Purchasing  
Finance  
Code Compliance  
Marketing/Visitor's Center  
Municipal Court

## Police Department

**817-249-2752**  
(Administration)  
**817-249-1610**  
(Dispatch)

## Fire Department

**817-249-1727**

## Benbrook Economic Development Corporation

**817-249-6990**



Get the free mobile app at  
<http://gettag.mobi>

The City of Benbrook now uses Quick Response (QR) code technology for use with smart phones and other camera-enabled mobile devices.

To learn more, go to [www.benbrook-tx.gov](http://www.benbrook-tx.gov) or scan the QR code above.

Benbrook City Council meets on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM at the City Hall Council Chambers, 911 Winscott Road.

*A special thank you to Holli Winn of the Benbrook Community Center/YMCA After School and Winter Camp programs for supplying children's artwork for this publication.*

Visit us on the web at [www.benbrook-tx.gov](http://www.benbrook-tx.gov)

