

The Bedford Citizen

THE NEWS YOU NEED TO GUIDE YOUR CITY

Vol. 1 No. 13

July 6, 2007

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ABOUT THIS E-NEWS

The mission of this electronic newspaper (e-news) is to increase citizen awareness of current events and thereby increase their involvement in our government's decision-making process.

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EARLY LITERACY BEGINS WITH YOU!

A 30-minute presentation designed to help very young children become successful readers, offered by Bedford Public Library earlier this summer, will be offered again this Sunday, July 8, 2:30-3 p.m., and repeated on Thurs. Aug. 2, 7:30-8 p.m.

During the presentation, BPL librarians will share materials to teach parents/caregivers and early childhood providers the six pre-reading skills that can help prepare every child to be a successful reader. In addition, two books will be awarded free to each family attending the program. The endeavor is funded by a "Texas Reads Grant" awarded to the Bedford Public Library based on a proposal written by Library Manager Maria Redburn.

Registration is not required for this free library program.

For more information, call Jeanne Green at 817/952-2370.

If you find this e-news helpful and informative, please help us grow by passing it along to others.

CRITERIA FOR GAS DRILLING ORDINANCE

By Stu Updike

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During their Jun. 26 meeting, the City Council discussed the criteria for a gas drilling ordinance. The Council was provided a table, inside their packets, that listed the ordinances of 9 other cities: Argyle, Arlington, Colleyville, Euless, Fort Worth, Granbury, Grapevine, Hurst and North Richland Hills.

Councilman Whistler opened discussion of the gas drilling ordinance criteria by saying that Fort Worth's ordinance is a good place to start and noting that they have a public notice and an appeal process. He suggested that there be a board to hear those appeals, made up of the City Manager, the Fire Marshal and a hired inspector or specialist.

"When it comes to variances on distances, I think we need to be rather liberal, again because we are so small," said Councilman Whistler. He acknowledged that operations near churches, etc., would require variances and continued, "Drilling should be permitted on public land. We need to consider drilling on park land, and we would definitely want to bring that up at the Town Hall meeting to see what type of reaction we get from the citizens."

Turning his attention to protecting the City against damage to our streets and against liability, Councilman Whistler recommended a separate road repair agreement tied to the master contract. He recommended the maximum liability

insurance levels.

He closed with the recommendation that, with regard to distances, Bedford should do what they have done in Argyle.

Councilman Savage spoke next, stating his preference that the limits on insurance agree with the statute.

Mayor Story followed, saying, "I'm guessing that when we have the Town Hall meeting, there will be extensive discussion on public land simply because we don't have a lot of public land."

Councilman Orea said he felt there should be a proposed ordinance available for citizen comment at the Town Hall meeting.

Recommending that drilling be handled as a zoning matter, City Attorney Stan Lowry explained that doing so would put final approval in the hands of the Council and eliminate the need for an appeal process. He pointed out that the Council will not have any recourse if drilling is handled as a permitting matter. Councilman Whistler agreed.

Discussion concluded with a decision to have Staff draft an ordinance and to allow drilling in all zones of the City.

Prior to retiring in April, 2007, Stu Updike completed 27 years as a regional airline pilot. He has lived in Bedford since 1993.

BEDFORD'S MEMORIAL TREE WALK

By Deborah Chaney

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Have you been looking for a way to memorialize or honor a loved one? The City of Bedford offers a unique living

meditative Tree Walk as a way to remember those special people in your life. The Memorial Tree Walk is located between the Senior Citizens Center and Boys Ranch Lake.

Bedford's Beautification Commission began work on the Memorial Tree Walk in 1994, with a dedication ceremony on May 20, 1994. In 1998 the Commission further developed the area within the Boys Ranch with full irrigation to ensure that the trees would survive our Texas summers as they took root and grew.

The planting of a tree is a gift of generosity and kindness and a wonderful way to celebrate a special occasion or pay a tribute. A tree benefits everyone in this and future generations, as trees are active participants in nature's plan. Trees are planted by professional landscapers, and an inscribed plaque may be placed at the base of the memorial tree.

If the idea of planting a lasting tribute to someone special interests you, get additional information about fees and types of trees and plaques from City Hall, by contacting any Beautification Commission member or by contacting the Parks and Recreation Department.

Deborah Chaney is a retired educator, having spent 18 years as an elementary and high school librarian in New York and Irving, and 12 years in library administration for the Irving and Birdville school districts. She has lived in Bedford since 1981 and is the current chair of the Beautification Commission.

WEBWORM TREATMENT OPTIONS

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There was some confusion at the Jun. 26 City Council Work Session regarding the

item *How mosquitoes and bagworms should be treated*. The confusion was over whether the concerned resident who wrote to ask if there's "a city wide issue for treating (bagworms)" actually *meant* bagworms or, possibly, was referring to webworms. Councilman Whistler, who had requested that the item be added to the agenda, indicated that he assumed the writer was referring to webworms and then proceeded accordingly.

The terms can be confusing. Bagworms are those one-to-two-inch long conical things, enclosed in pine needles, twigs, leaves and/or grass that seem to "grow" on evergreens. We *do* have them in Texas, but they aren't really a problem in Bedford.

A very informative two-page *Fall Webworm* publication of the Texas Agricultural Extension Service/Texas A&M University System/Tarrant county, which can be found at [http://tarrant.tamu.edu/garden/K-31WebwormFall\(L-1811\).pdf](http://tarrant.tamu.edu/garden/K-31WebwormFall(L-1811).pdf), explains that "fall webworms are known for the large, unsightly webs they produce. Heavy infestations are rarely fatal, but if they occur repeatedly over several years they can stress trees and make them more susceptible to drought, disease or other insect pests."

According to that publication, there are two to four generations of fall webworms in Texas each year, but "the last generation of the year, which occurs in the fall, is usually the most damaging and gives the insect its name."

When insecticides must be used to control fall webworms, "insecticide sprays must penetrate the web, where the larvae hide,

to be effective," according to the publication. "For best control, apply insecticides after eggs hatch and before larvae develop dense webs."

Effective insecticides, including those which are effective on the pests yet don't kill beneficial insects are suggested and the publication closes with a warning that, "The pesticide user is always responsible for the effects of pesticides on his or her own property, as well as problems caused by drift to other properties. Not all insecticides are registered for fall webworm on all sites and commodities. It is up to the user to read the label to make sure the insecticide is cleared for the site and commodity."

To help residents and business owners control the problem in their own trees, City staff recently added some Webworm Tips to its home page at <http://www.ci.bedford.tx.us/>.

OPINIONS AND EDITORIALS

ARGYLE'S DRILLING ORDINANCE

By Stu Updike

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Given Councilman Whistler's often-complementary comments regarding Argyle's drilling ordinance, we decided to give it a closer look ourselves. We found the following especially interesting.

Paragraph 4.703 B reads, "No drilling shall be permitted within six hundred (600') feet of any residential structure or public building, institution, school, or commercial building; provided, however, that drilling

shall be permitted as close as three hundred feet (300') if all property owners within six hundred (600') feet agree in writing."

Section 4.715 not only discusses various security issues but also requires that "Permanent cedar fences with masonry columns spaced not less than sixteen feet (16'), nor more than twenty-four feet (24') surrounding operation sites shall be a minimum of eight feet (8') in height or higher than the enclosed equipment and shall remain locked at all times when no one is present. For security purposes, all permanent fencing structures shall have a wrought iron gate to allow visibility into the well site."

Paragraph 4.716 B deals with site lighting, stating that "No person shall permit any lights located on any drill or operation site to be directed in such a manner so that they shine directly on public roads, adjacent property or property in the general vicinity of the operation site. To the extent practicable and taking into account safety considerations, site lighting shall be directed downward and internally so as to avoid glare on public roads and adjacent dwellings and buildings within three hundred (300') feet."

Paragraph 4.716 D permits internal combustion engines during drilling but, after drilling is complete, "Only electric motors shall be used for the purpose of pumping oil wells. Electric motors shall be used for compressors located at gas well sites."

It's evident that the architects of Argyle's ordinance paid considerable attention to

reaching a balance between their desire to permit drilling and their obligation to protect from the noise, bright lights and the associated hazards those residents who would be closest to the drilling site. They were sensitive, also, to the need to maintain the aesthetic quality of the area.

Surely all of us would like to see our City and its residents benefit from gas drilling, but we must not let our zeal for royalty money blind us to our responsibility to balance the interests of the majority with consideration for those who will live closest to the drilling sites. To achieve a successful balance, we must proceed with care, caution and the best information we can gather. We must be mindful of worst case scenarios and devise a plan that will help prevent them.

In our June 18 issue, we included a link to a *Fort Worth Weekly* article that we believe paints the worst case scenario. That link is <http://www.fweekly.com/content.asp?article=4418>.

As you review that article, you'll see that Argyle's ordinance blocks many of the problems experienced in Fort Worth. However, neither the article nor the Argyle ordinance provides any guidance on zoning, which is of significant concern since the Council has decided that the draft ordinance should designate all zones, including residential, as eligible for drilling. This decision seems to go against the fundamental purpose of city zoning. As residents, we need to be sure that the approach that ultimately is chosen is one we can live with on a day-to-day basis.

HERE'S A REALLY COOL COOKING TIP!

If you've ever used one of those indoor grills that are supposed to cook most of the fat out of your meats, you have probably learned from experience that the "non-stick" coating is a relative term and actually getting the grilled-on substance off of the grill is not so easy.

The next time you finish grilling, unplug the grill and allow it about 10 minutes to cool. Then, fold a couple of paper towels in half and wet them under the sink. Squeeze them out, put them on the grill and close the lid for about 20 minutes. When you return, that baked-on substance will have turned to liquid and can be easily wiped off with a damp sponge.

Do you have a cool tip? If you send it to us, we'll pass it along.

ABOUT THIS E-NEWS

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The mission of this electronic newspaper (e-news) is to increase citizen awareness of current events and thereby increase their involvement in our government's decision-making process. As a result, *The Bedford Citizen* will focus on providing Bedford's residents with the information they need in order to cast an informed vote. We also will include occasionally some helpful and entertaining information.

The Bedford Citizen is currently a volunteer effort which we expect to be circulated from friend to friend via email in its PDF format. If you find it helpful and informative, please feel free to pass it along to others.

During this introductory period, the subscriptions are free. This will allow us to gauge the demand and work out the bugs. Eventually, we plan to charge a fee for subscriptions. This will allow us to avoid the conflicts of interest that can arise from accepting paid advertising.

Initially, we plan to publish an issue every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, subject to volunteer availability and the amount of news to report.

To subscribe, please send us an email at Be.A.Citizen@earthlink.net Please include your name, address and email address.

The Bedford Citizen welcomes free of charge:

- ◆ News articles from any volunteer writers, provided we judge the articles are relevant to our readers and the facts can be substantiated

- ◆ Position papers from political incumbents and candidates provided these position papers clearly state that person's position and they do not attack any other party

Our policies are as follows:

- ◆ *The Bedford Citizen* does not share or sell its mailing list information.
- ◆ Paid advertising is not accepted.
- ◆ Except when identified as editorials, letters to the editor or opinion pieces, stories will contain only facts that can be verified. Writers should expect to be asked to provide documentation before articles are published.
- ◆ All submitted articles must deal with issues relevant to Bedford's residents and not exceed two pages, as published in this format.
- ◆ Only one letter to the editor or opinion piece will be accepted from a single household during any 30-day period.
- ◆ Public service announcements will be included as space allows.
- ◆ The staff of the Bedford Citizen will be the final judge.
- ◆ Submissions must be received at least 72 hours prior to publication.
- ◆ Submissions should be sent to Be.A.Citizen@earthlink.net and must include the author's name, address, email address and phone number.