

The Bedford Citizen

THE NEWS YOU NEED TO GUIDE YOUR CITY

Vol. 1 No. 15

July 11, 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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HELP TEXAS CHILDREN WIN!!!

With just one daily visit to <http://www2.firstbook.org/whatbook/index.php> between now and July 31, you can help Texas win 50,000 brand new books for children in its low-income communities.

OneBook, an organization which has been providing brand new books to children in low-income communities nationwide for the past 15 years, will award 50,000 new books to the state receiving the most votes in their "What Book Got You Hooked?" contest.

Go to <http://www2.firstbook.org/whatbook/index.php> to read more about the contest, see what titles are being shared, which state is in the lead, and - of course! - to cast your vote. As of midnight last night, Texas was in 3rd PLACE, so be sure to tell your friends about the contest. Visitors are permitted to vote once every 24 hours through July 31, so hurry! The sooner you vote, the sooner you can vote again!

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

OPINIONS AND EDITORIALS

MEASURING DISTANCES

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I just wanted to mention that we need to be careful when defining space limits on drilling. Your articles mention 300 and 600 foot standoffs for drilling in ordinances from other cities. Let me enlighten you about how those distances are measured. When Papa G's Sports Bar and Grill was trying to get a license and open over on Highway 121 and Harwood Blvd. I wrote to the Council questioning the distance from my Church, Concordia Lutheran at 3705 Harwood. The City Council, mostly, deferred my question to the City Manager. She was very quick to let me know that the City of Bedford adheres to the TABC policies for the serving of alcohol within 300 feet of a church or school. I mentioned that the back door of this bar opened onto our church parking lot. Well, the criteria for measuring this 300 feet is from front door to front door, using the most direct route, BY SIDEWALK OR ROADWAY! So the bar that you see sitting next to the parking lot of Concordia Lutheran Church here in Bedford is actually, according to the City of Bedford, 588 feet away!

Hank Henning

TOWN HALL MEETING: SOME FOOD FOR THOUGHT

By Stu Updike

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The town hall meeting to discuss the

Barnett Shale and a proposed gas drilling ordinance for Bedford is scheduled for 7 p.m. Mon. Jul. 23 at the Old Bedford School.

Since that's less than two weeks away, this seems like a good time to do a brief recap of some of the information we've presented in previous issues and to suggest a few questions that Bedford residents may want to ponder.

At the June 26 City Council meeting, Councilman Orea said that he felt there should be a proposed ordinance available for citizen comment at the town hall meeting. We agree, and we encourage the Council to ensure that a draft of the ordinance is available for download from the City's web site and for photocopying at the library several days prior to the town hall meeting so that residents can have ample time to review the document and prepare questions or comments.

At the same meeting, the Council began considering whether to allow drilling in all zones, including residential. Residents need to consider whether or not to support that concept and whether or not eminent domain might be used to clear residences from a target drilling site.

On several occasions Councilman Whistler has mentioned his desire to see drilling in Stormie Jones Park. If the Official Zoning Map, purchased from the City, is accurate, Stormie Jones Park is 600' by 600', excluding its narrow southern panhandle. Bedford residents, especially those who live near there, may want to consider whether or not allowing a 300' by 300'

gravel pad to replace about 50% of that park is really what we want.

Also, Councilman Whistler has stated his desire to go with a minimum 300' distance between the drilling and nearby structures. The drilling ordinance established by the City of Argyle states that "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." We need to give careful thought to the distance and to what restrictions, if any, we can live with for the years to come.

Since our city is 97% built out, the number of potential drilling sites is fairly limited. Is there any reason that the Council cannot specifically identify for the residents which pieces of public and private land it considers as potential drilling sites and what routes the associated pipelines will use?

Bedford belongs to all of us, and with that sense of ownership comes the responsibility of involvement in the decision-making process. It's important, then, that we educate ourselves on the pros and cons of this situation and then attend the July 23 town hall meeting to ask questions, get answers and share our preferences and concerns.

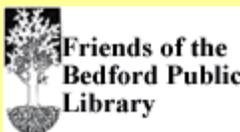


AN EVENING WITH THE AUTHOR: TIM MADIGAN

It's a beautiful day in this neighborhood ... and Saturday, July 27, will be a beautiful evening in our neighborhood when the Friends of the Bedford Library Tim Madigan, author of *I'm Proud of You: My Friendship with Mr. Rogers*, at the Old Bedford School. Mr. Madigan will talk about the life-altering friendship which began in 1995 when he profiled the children's icon for the *Star-Telegram*.

The evening will begin at 6:30 p.m. with refreshments and a reception honoring the author. Advance tickets are available at the library through 5 p.m. July 27 for a special rate of buy one at full price of \$10 and get the second for \$5. Tickets will be available at the Old Bedford School on the evening of the event for \$10 each with no discount for the second ticket. Copies of *I'm Proud of You* will be available for purchase at the event.

The event is sponsored by The Friends of the Bedford Public Library, Bedford Public Library, the Old Bedford School and Starbucks of Bedford.



For more information, contact Jeanne Green at 817/952-2370 or jgreen@ci.bedford.tx.us.

CALENDARS

CITY COUNCIL, COMMISSION, BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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All of these meetings are open to the public in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act.

Bedford City Council – 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, monthly

Animal Control Board – meets semi-annually

Animal Shelter Advisory Commission – meets 3 times a year

Audit Committee – dates vary

Beautification Commission – 3rd Mon., monthly

Bedford Hotel/Motel Association – meets as necessary

Building and Standards Commission – meets as necessary

Community Affairs Commission – monthly, dates not available at press time

Economic Development Foundation – meets as necessary

Ethics Commission – meets once a year

Investment Committee – dates vary

Library Advisory Board – 3rd Wed., monthly

Lone Star Transportation Authority – meets as necessary

Parks and Recreation Board – 1st Thurs., monthly

Planning and Zoning Commission – 2nd and 4th Thurs., monthly

Senior Citizens Advisory Board – meets quarterly

Street Improvement Economic Development Corp. – 3rd Tues. of January and June

Teen Court Advisory Board – 1st Thurs., monthly

Zoning Board of Adjustment – 3rd Mon., monthly

For meeting agendas, check the glass-enclosed bulletin board on the outside wall at City Hall!!



THURSDAY CLUB HOUSE @ THE LIBRARY

Weekly Club House programs this month are sure to entertain, amaze and even educate kids. The free, hour-long programs, intended for school-aged children, begin at 1:30 p.m. in the library's Bonnie Finn Room each Thursday. Registration is not required.

Tomorrow, MadScience presents **Fire & Ice**.

For more information, contact Jeanne Green at 817/952-2370 or jgreen@ci.bedford.tx.us.

UPCOMING BEDFORD ACTIVITIES

Monday, July 16 – Sunday, July 22

Beautification Commission Meeting

Library; Open to Public; 817/952-2300
Mon., July 16, 7 p.m.

Zoning Board of Adjustment Meeting

Open to Public
Mon., July 16

Sprouts Story Time for the active child

Library; Open to Public; FREE
Tues., July 17, 10-10:20 a.m.

Story Book Club Story Time

for the child who's ready to sit and listen
Library; Open to Public; FREE
Tues., July 17, 11-11:20 a.m.

Summer Movie Madness

Library; Open to Public; FREE
Tues., July 17, 2-3:30 p.m.

City Council 4-B Meeting & Budget Session

Library; Open to Public; 817/952-2101
Tues., July 17, 6 p.m.

Deadline to Sign Up

for July 24 City Council Agenda
Wed., July 18, noon

Library Advisory Board Meeting

Library; Open to Public; 817/952-2332
Wed., July 18, 7 p.m.

Bedford Bookworms

Library; Open to Public; FREE
Thurs., July 19, noon - 1:30 p.m.

Zooniversity presents *The Traveling Zoo*

Children's Summer Reading Club Activity
Library; Open to Public; FREE
Thurs., July 19, 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

Friends of the Bedford Public Library Meeting

Library; Open to Public; 817/952-2332
Thurs., July 19, 7 p.m.

Saturday Matinee @ BPL

Library; Open to Public; FREE
Sat., July 21, 2-4 p.m.

Murder Mystery Dinner & Show

Tickets available for purchase;
Old Bedford School; 817/952-2291
<http://www.oldbedfordschool.com/performances/mystery.htm>
Sat., July 21, 7 p.m.

Unless otherwise noted, find more information at these sites:

Boys Ranch Activities Center activities
http://www.ci.bedford.tx.us/Departments/parks_recreation/recreation.htm

Bedford Public Library activities

<http://www.eventkeeper.com/code/events.cfm?curOrg=BEDFORD>

Senior Center activities

http://www.ci.bedford.tx.us/Departments/general_government/sc_calendar.htm

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.