

# The Bedford Citizen

THE NEWS YOU NEED TO GUIDE YOUR CITY

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On July 17, the Bedford City Council met in special session to begin work on the 2007-2008 budget.

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A newcomer to the Bedford community may wonder about the origin of the beautiful city park with the unusual name – Bedford Boys Ranch Park.

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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.

[Read more](#)

## 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.*

## FEATURES

### COUNCIL SPECIAL SESSION

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On July 17, the Bedford City Council met in special session to begin work on the 2007-2008 budget.

#### Health Insurance

The City's employee health plan consultant said that the City's premiums with Cigna were, "a little over a million dollars" in 1999 and had increased to almost \$1.5 million by 2002. Following a change to Aetna in 2003, premiums soon increased by 30% and 25%, so the City changed back to Cigna. The increase Cigna is proposing for this year is 34.8%.

According to the report, health care costs are increasing due to:

- ◆ An increase in the use of costly new technology
- ◆ Advertising of prescription drugs generating a demand for higher priced drugs.
- ◆ Aging of the population
- ◆ The insured seldom knowing what the costs of health care services are since he or she is not the one paying for health care.
- ◆ Ever increasing utilization of health care facilities.

"If the claims continue in the way that they are this year, we will end up this year at \$3 million, but we are only scheduled to pay

Cigna \$2.5 million this year."

The consultant is proposing a Health Savings Account (HSA) with a buy-up option for an HMO. HSA's are required by law to have a high-deductible health plan.

Contributions to the HSA are pre-tax and withdrawals to pay medical expenses are tax free. The account always belongs to the individual.

Councilman Turner asked what the difference in out-of-pocket expense would be. The consultant responded that under the current HMO, there are co-pays which are, \$25 for a primary care doctor and \$35 for a specialist. The pharmaceutical co-pay for generics is \$10, formulary is \$25 and \$45 for non-formulary drugs.

Under the HSA plan, there is a \$1500 deductible per person or \$3000 for family. When the deductible has been met, the insurance pays 90% up to the maximum of \$3500 for an individual or \$7000 for family. After that, the insurance will pay 100%.

#### Capital Improvement Projects

A review of the remaining 2005 projects was conducted. The Park Service Center is now complete. Fire stations one and two are ahead of schedule with occupancy expected in approximately 30 days.

An authorization of \$438,000 was passed for the construction of apparatus bays at Fire Station number three. Of that, bonds have been sold for \$100,000 to fund design costs, but none of this money has been spent.

There was general agreement that the City should go ahead and upgrade or replace older traffic signals and to synchronize 33 of the City's traffic signals.

The intersection of Murphy Drive and Pebblestone Lane will now be upgraded during the construction of the new water main. The design has been paid for.

Dora Street needs a complete re-construction due to a previous resurfacing which left a very high crown.

After the purchase of the land for the new library, the balance available for building is \$7.8 million. Councilman Orea observed that the Council has already expressed a desire to move forward on building the new library.

Fire Department training center is complete when the building is finished.

Four residents from the Stonegate Addition, just south of Route 121 and across Bedford-Eules road from Albertson's, came to make the Council aware that during the recent rains, their yards flooded. More on this topic on Monday.

It was recommended that the senior water and sewer rate be raised to be one step behind the standard rate.

New diesel Freightliner ambulances are quoted at \$250,000, which is viewed as too costly. However, ambulances complying with specifications drawn up by a committee of Bedford firefighters cost \$139,000. The Fire Chief requested that we move ahead with the purchase of two ambulances right away, using the reserve funds.

On Monday, we will discuss the FY 07-08 Budget recommendations and the charter review process.



**Summer Movie Madness  
@ Bedford Public  
Library!**

Every Tuesday afternoon during June and July kids can enjoy free movies at the Bedford Public Library.

Tuesdays in June & July  
2:00 pm to 3:30 pm

For more information, Contact Jeanne Green at 817.952.2370

## **BEDFORD BOYS RANCH HISTORY**

*Editor's Note: This is an update of an article that originally appeared in a 1999 issue of the Bedford Connection.*

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A newcomer to the Bedford community may wonder about the origin of the beautiful city park with the unusual name – Bedford Boys Ranch Park. With its main entrance near the corner of Forest Ridge and Harwood Drive, Bedford Boys Ranch Park was opened in 1949 by the Variety Club of Dallas as "Bedford Boys Ranch," a home for boys without homes who were wards of the court.

Patterned after Boys Town, Nebraska, the ranch spread over 232 acres of rolling hills. The "Ranch" contained a farm and dairy where food and livestock were raised. The

boys had access to a swimming pool, a lighted football field with bleachers built into a berm, a baseball diamond, a gymnasium and a lake.

Two brick dormitories housed up to 200 boys whose ages ranged from 10 to 14. The younger boys attended the old Bedford school, while the older kids had three choices: L.D. Bell High School in Hurst, Birdville High School (now Haltom H.S.) or Carter Riverside High School in Fort Worth. At one time, it was quoted that the football and baseball fields and gym at the Ranch were better than those of Bell High School. Other facilities included a cafeteria, laundry, water and sewage system, and five cottages for employees.

To raise operating funds for the ranch, the Variety Club sponsored an annual show in Dallas at the Municipal Auditorium. Chrysler Motors, which at that time was sponsor of television's Lawrence Welk Show, cooperated with Welk's appearance on the Variety Club shows.

Despite the Variety Club's best efforts, financial problems forced closure of Bedford Boys Ranch in 1957. The property lay vacant and vandalized until the early 60s, when it was sold to the North Texas District of the Assembly of God Church. The church developed land west of the lake into Shady Brook residential addition, and the remaining area was used as a campsite and for rental to other church groups. In 1969, the Assembly of God Church sold the remainder of the property to Claud R. McClennahan of Dallas for development.

The City of Bedford optioned the 52.6 acre tract in 1973, and the site officially became Bedford Boys Ranch Park on July 6, 1974. The cafeteria has become the Onstage Performing Arts Theater; the only remaining dormitory is currently the offices of ARTSNET, and the old gymnasium is now a 24,000 square-foot activities center which houses a full-court gymnasium, a fitness room, a meeting room, classrooms and dressing rooms. The Boys Ranch Activity Center, or BRAC, offers various programs for all ages. Options include arts and crafts, dance, free play basketball, Summer Day Camps for kids, fitness and athletic programs and more. For more information, call 817/952-2323 or go to [http://www.ci.bedford.tx.us/Departments/parks\\_recreation/recreation.htm](http://www.ci.bedford.tx.us/Departments/parks_recreation/recreation.htm).

The 68-acre park also includes the Bedford-Hurst Senior Citizens Center, SPLASH Aquatic Center, three youth baseball fields, three soccer fields, two sand volleyball courts, an outdoor roller hockey court, a large corporate pavilion and two small pavilions.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:Be.A.Citizen@earthlink.net) and must include the author's name, address, email address and phone number.