

The Bedford Citizen

THE NEWS YOU NEED TO GUIDE YOUR CITY

Vol. 1 No. 28

Friday

August 10, 2007

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[**AUG 10 CITY COUNCIL BUDGET WORK SESSION**](#) Page 2

The Executive Session, which is not open to the public will begin at 9:00 a.m. The Work Session, which is open to the public will begin immediately afterward.

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The following quote is from the summary of the actual effective and rollback tax rate calculations provided by the Tarrant County Tax Assessor-Collector.

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[**HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATIONS MEET WITH COMMUNITY AFFAIRS**](#) Page 3

Last night, the Volunteer Community Affairs Commission hosted a joint meeting with representatives of the Bedford Home Owners Associations and Assisted Living Centers at the Bedford Public Library.

[**COME AND MEET COUNCILMAN TURNER**](#) Page 3

Councilman Roy Turner will be available in the Starbucks at the corner of Central and Airport Freeway on Aug. 18 from 10 a.m. to noon.

ABOUT THIS E-NEWS Page 4

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

FEATURES

AUG 10 CITY COUNCIL BUDGET WORK SESSION

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To view the proposed budget for FY 2007-2008, go to:
http://www.ci.bedford.tx.us/News/news_pdf/2008_budgetoverview.pdf. Complete Council agendas and background information are available for review at the library.

AUG 14 CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

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To view the agenda, go to:
<http://www.ci.bedford.tx.us/council/agendas/cc070814.pdf>

2007 PROPERTY TAX RATES

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The following quote is from the summary of the actual effective and rollback tax rate calculations provided by the Tarrant County Tax Assessor-Collector. The numbers in braces [] were provided from the report for the reader's convenience.

"This notice concerns 2007 property tax rates for CITY OF BEDFORD. It presents information about three tax rates. Last year's tax rate is the actual rate the taxing

unit used to determine property taxes last year. [0.446882/\$100] This year's effective tax rate would impose the same total taxes as last year if you compare properties taxed in both years. [0.438692/\$100] This year's rollback tax rate is the highest tax rate the taxing unit can set before taxpayers can start tax rollback procedures. [0.462137/\$100] In each case, these rates are found by dividing the total amount of taxes by the tax base (the total value of taxable property) with adjustments as required by state law. The rates are given per \$100 of property value."

The full report can be viewed at:

http://www.ci.bedford.tx.us/News/news_pdf/2007property_tax_rate.pdf

SUNSET PROVISION ORDINANCE

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City staff discovered this week that in 2002 the City Council approved an ordinance creating a sunset review every two years for the Beautification Commission, Community Affairs Commission, Library Board and the Parks and Recreation Board. This renewal did not take place at the end of 2006, as required by the ordinance. Therefore, the City Council must take action to reauthorize these Boards and appoint members.

Reauthorization has been placed on the City Council Agenda for Tues. Aug. 14 so that this can be rectified immediately.

Ordinance 04-2776 amended Boards and Commissions by extending the sunset provision an additional two years. It was originally presented and passed Dec. 14, 2004, by a 7-0-0 vote at a regular meeting

of the City Council while R.D. "Rick" Hurt was mayor. The ordinance provides a date on which each of those four Commissions and Boards will cease to exist unless specifically continued by the City Council.

HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATIONS MEET WITH COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

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Last night, the Volunteer Community Affairs Commission hosted a joint meeting with representatives of the Bedford Home Owners Associations and Assisted Living Centers at the Bedford Public Library. The purpose of the meeting was, "to ensure all residents are informed of what is going on in the City and to know that their feedback and suggestions are desired. We wanted to foster a greater sense of community and see if there are other suggestions for making life better in Bedford."

It was evident that a lot of care had gone into the preparation for this meeting. It was well executed and very well attended.

After introductions, the City's new B-Service was discussed. This is a system available from the City's web site for use by the citizens in reporting their concerns to the City. The system is intended to, "streamline the handling of citizen concerns, requests, suggestions and complaints in the most effective and responsive way."

The Beautification Commission presented information on a "theme" for the City similar to the themes in our neighbor cities. They also described the Adopt-a-Street program and encouraged a voluntary biannual Bedford Clean Up Day.

Citizens were encouraged to keep their eyes open and report suspicious events to the police by Sergeant Randy Gardner. He said that the best number to use to contact the police when it is not an emergency is 817-952-2127. He said this number will take the caller directly to the police dispatcher. Sergeant Gardner and City Fire Marshall Kirt White encouraged the citizens to attend the Fire Academy for Citizens and the Citizens Police Academy.

It was agreed that more joint meetings will be held quarterly.

COME AND MEET COUNCILMAN TURNER

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Councilman Roy Turner will be available in the Starbucks at the corner of Central and Airport Freeway on Aug. 18 from 10 a.m. to noon.

This is your chance to come and share a cup of coffee and your views with him.

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.