

The Bedford Citizen

THE NEWS YOU NEED TO GUIDE YOUR CITY

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Monday

September 10, 2007

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TOMORROW'S CITY COUNCIL AGENDA TOPICS AT A GLANCE

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OPINIONS AND EDITORIALS

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FEATURES

CORRECTION

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Joyce Johnson spoke during the public hearing on the proposed 2007 tax rate at the Aug. 28 City Council meeting. We summarized her remarks on page 4 of our Sept. 3 issue. The last sentence in the second to last paragraph should have read:

"I hope and pray that Council will not be making any decisions that would pre-commit tax payers ahead of a vote for covering the liabilities that actually have traditionally always belonged to the drilling companies that do damage to roads and land and property."

TOMORROW'S CITY COUNCIL AGENDA TOPICS AT A GLANCE

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Work Session 6 p.m. (Open to the Public)

- ◆ Review of draft Gas Drilling Ordinance

Regular Session 7 p.m. (Open to the Public)

- ◆ Council recognitions:
 - Proclamation in observance of National First Responder Appreciation Day (Sept. 25, 2007)
 - Consider a resolution authorizing the Beautification Commission to recognize a Bedford business that maintains, improves, and/or

keeps their property visually attractive to the community

- ◆ Persons to be heard:
 - Joyce Johnson – Taxation and drilling permit matters
 - Kim Brown – Be Bedford Prepared
 - Eric Davis – Next year's budget for the Storm Sewer system
 - Dorothy McWhorter
 - Clarification of statements made during the Aug. 28 City Council meeting
 - Outsourcing of the library
- ◆ Second reading of Ordinance adopting the City's budget for Oct. 1, 2007 through Sept. 30, 2008; levying taxes for 2007; providing for intra-fund and/or intra-departmental transfers; providing for investment of idle funds; and declaring an effective date
- ◆ Resolutions to be considered:
 - To authorize the City Manager to enter into a contract with Castro Roofing of Texas L.P. to perform roofing repairs to the City Service Center Building (\$41,200.00)
 - To ratify the property tax increase as reflected in the 2007/2008 City of Bedford Program of Services (Budget)
 - To accept bids and authorize the City Manager to enter into a contract for the construction of

sidewalks on Forest Ridge Drive, Shirley Way and Circle Lane (\$29,352.30)

- To authorize the purchase of a ¾-ton truck through the Tarrant County Cooperative Purchasing Program
- To authorize the City Manager to enter into an agreement between the City and Motorola, Inc.
- To authorize the City Manager to enter into an agreement between the City and the North Richland Hills Radio Frequency (RF) Consortium
- To authorize the City Manager to enter into an interlocal agreement for Household Hazardous Waste Collection for Oct. 1, 2007 – Sept. 30, 2008
- To authorize changing the Dec. 25, 2007 meeting date to Dec. 18, 2007

Open Forum

Note: The public is invited to address the Council on any topic at this time. However, in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, the City Council cannot discuss issues raised or make any decisions at this time. Issues raised may be referred to City staff for research and possible future action.

DRAFT OF GAS DRILLING ORDINANCE

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In order to draft the Gas Drilling Ordinance, City Staff reviewed the Gas Drilling

Ordinances of the cities of Arlington, Argyle, Colleyville, Euless, Forest Hill, Fort Worth, Granbury, Grapevine, Hurst and North Richland Hills. Bedford's proposed draft ordinance incorporates several of the components of the Euless version; however, it has been altered to allow for administrative authority to approve Gas Drilling Permits with the City Council determining the gas drilling locations, or land use, via a Specific Use Permit process.

The purpose of the Sept. 11 Council work session item is to receive feedback on the first draft of the Gas Drilling Ordinance. Specifically, Staff would like direction concerning the setbacks, distance requirements, gas drilling permit and ongoing inspection fees as well as general comments concerning the other ordinance components.

According to the background information in Council packets for the Sept. 11 City Council meeting, the first draft of the Gas Drilling Ordinance was distributed at the Sept. 4 Council meeting.

OUTSOURCING, LSSI, AND REMOVAL OF MEMBERS OF THE LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD

We are planning a special Saturday issue to deal with these topics. If you would like to share your opinions for use in this issue, please send to:

comments@bedfordcitizen.com

You must include your name and mailing address. Please show one of the three topics above in the subject. Also, please avoid personal attacks on other parties.



BECA RECIPIENT BILLY MASON

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Billy Mason, IT Specialist III, was honored during the Aug. 28 City Council Meeting as recipient of a Bedford Employee Commitment Award (BECA) for “above and beyond the call of duty” conduct or actions. In addition to public recognition of his deed, Billy received a commemorative award and a nominal monetary gift.

What happened, on a recent Saturday morning when Billy wasn’t scheduled to work, began when Billy was monitoring radio traffic from the Fire Department and became aware that personnel there were unable to contact the dispatch center. Taking the initiative to go to the Law Enforcement Center (LEC) and investigate the situation, Billy first found out that the LEC was running on a generator. Then he

discovered that the T-1 circuits for the trunked radio system and the telephone system were down. Upon further investigation, he realized that an electric power line was on fire, and TXU had to shut down the power grid.

Once LEC’s power was back to normal, Billy headed out of the building but suddenly heard more power explosions coming from the direction of the Park Service Center. Again, all of the LEC power went dead, including the two T-1 circuits. Within about an hour, power to the LEC once again was restored.

Aware that there had to be a reason that the LEC continued to have problems when there were back-up batteries, Billy contacted AT&T Special Services (9-1-1 repair) for answers. A second AT&T tech, called in as a result of Billy’s persistence, discovered that AT&T’s equipment had gone bad and was causing all of the

services to be dropped immediately each time the power was lost.

Billy ensured that AT&T employees located batteries for their equipment at the LEC before he left the building. He also arranged to have an AT&T employee scheduled to replace all of the AT&T batteries the following Monday.

Part of the City's employee recognition program, the BECA award is given to Bedford employees whose conduct or action goes "above and beyond the call of duties" of their daily job function or for other types of meritorious actions or conduct. Any citizen, business owner or employee may nominate a City employee for a BECA by completing a nomination form, available at City Hall. The nominations are reviewed by the City's senior management team, and recipients are determined by a vote among that group.

HIGHLIGHTS OF LAST WEEK'S PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING

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The Parks and Recreation Board covered several topics during their Sept. 6 meeting.

Central Pool – The group agreed that it should be open by the beginning of summer '08. James Hughes, Director of Parks, Recreation and Special Events, believed that it would be open by then.

Stormie Jones Park – The new trail has been added.

Fee increase - The board is suggesting an increase in city fees for softball, soccer, and basketball, in rental fees for field, and in summer day camp. The suggestion will

be presented to the council Sept. 11.

Fund balance – The current balance is around \$62,000 plus interest.

10-year proposed projects – The board prioritized the projects one through nine as the most important things to get done and left the others alone for the time being.

Topping the list were:

- ◆ Replace Concession/Restroom at Stormie Jones and Boys Ranch
- ◆ Expand Meadow Park trail
- ◆ Replace trail lighting
- ◆ Re-light the ballfields at Boys Ranch

Payment for all of these items is expected to come from bond funding.

FIRST-EVER PAPER SHREDDING EVENT IN BEDFORD

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The Bedford Beautification Commission will sponsor a PAPER SHREDDING event, conducted by Brink's Document Destruction Oct. 27, 2007, from 8 a.m.-noon, at the Meadow Park Athletic Complex. This event is for private residences only, and proof of residence will be required. Bedford residents may bring up to three boxes of paper documents to be shredded. Paperclipped and stapled documents will be accepted. There is no limit on the size of the boxes, and there is no charge for this event. Reminders will appear in the September water bill, on the City's web site at:

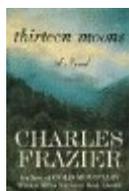
<http://www.ci.bedford.tx.us/> and on B-TV (Cable Channel 16).

BEDFORD BOOKWORMS

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Enjoy reading? Enjoy lively conversation? Then you would love the BookWorms book discussion group! The group meets from noon to 1:30 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month, except August, to discuss a specific book. Thanks to the Friends of the Bedford Public Library, copies of the selected titles may be purchased at the library for the discounted price of \$5 each. This program is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Jeanne Green at 817/952-2342 or jgreen@ci.bedford.tx.us.

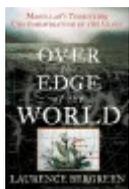
Here's the schedule for 2007-2008:



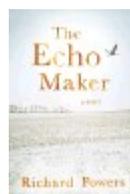
Sept. 20 ***Thirteen Moons*** by Charles Frazier



Oct. 18 ***Water for Elephants*** by Sara Gruen



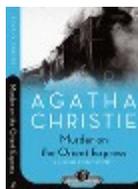
Nov. 15 ***Over the Edge of the World: Magellan's Terrifying Circumnavigation of the Globe*** by Laurence Bergreen.



Dec. 20 ***The Echo Maker*** by Richard Powers



Jan. 17 ***The Widow of the South*** by Robert Hicks



Feb. 21 ***Murder on the Orient Express*** by Agatha Christie



March 20 ***March*** by Geraldine Brooks

WHERE IN BEDFORD ...

Can you get a hard copy of the City Charter?

We'll share the answer on Thursday.

OPINIONS AND EDITORIALS

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On Sept. 6, the Star-Telegram ran three Bedford-related Letters to the Editor. They can be viewed at:

<http://www.star-telegram.com/244/story/225283.html>

We have received two responses to those letters.

COUNCILMAN ROY TURNER

To the citizens of Bedford:

I hope you have had an opportunity to read the recent letters to the editor. They are a classic example of what is wrong with Bedford. The city has for too long been run by a loud, sinister group of people who have grown accustomed to getting their way. The library outsourcing issue is a classic example. The voice of the real majority in Bedford finally made itself heard. The people, with full knowledge of the financial implications, spoke loud and clear on the issue, and the council responded to the will of the people and to the facts of the situation. The issue of the library is over. The council has agreed to debate and disagree and vote and then to move forward as a unified body. It is time for that to happen. We must move forward with the serious issues that are facing Bedford.

Hooray for the real majority in Bedford. Don't let your enthusiasm and interest in Bedford affairs diminish. You can make a difference.

Roy W. Turner MD
Bedford City Council

MARJORIE MARY HARTWELL

I'm not living in Bedford to put it down - which certainly seems to be the modus operandi these days. In November my husband and I will be here for 27 years - that's a long time. And I don't think that McWhorter and her group have any more "rights" to dictate what happens here than anybody else. Maybe I missed something - where did it all go wrong? And why can't we all do what's best for Bedford. As the S.T. described Bedford "once the darling of the Mid-Cities" - and it was. We were delighted to be here in 1980, and that feeling passes with every year. The city council has got to LISTEN UP. We're taking our money to Hurst, Southlake, Keller and Grapevine. Until we get rid of the bean counters and start implementing plans with a vision - we're just going to be a route from Ft. Worth to the airport. What does it take????? Where are the leaders????? I want a library, but, criminy, is that the ONLY thing on the agenda????? Why can't we combine the library into one - the HEB Library?? Or is that heresy?? My message to the city council is "lead, follow, or get the hell out of the way."

Marjorie Hartwell
Bedford, TX

Editor's Note: Now that you've had a chance to read Mr. John Hogg's letter to the Editor of the Star-Telegram, we thought you might like to see how Bedford's tax rate stacks up against our neighbors. Please see the table on the next page.

2006 TAX RATES PER \$100 VALUATION

Jurisdiction Name	Tax Rate	State Mandated			Local Option		
		HS	O65	DP	HS	O65	DP
Arlington	0.648000				20%	60000	60000
Bedford	0.446882					50000	
Colleyville	0.347400					65000	65000
Eules	0.489500				20%	35000	
Fort Worth	0.860000				20%	40000	40000
Grapevine	0.362500				20%	60000	10000
Haltom City	0.566600				10%	50000	40000
Haslet	0.290311				20%	50000	
Hurst	0.518000				20%	35000	35000
Keller	0.432190				1%	40000	10000
N Richland Hills	0.570000				15%	36000	36000
Richland Hills	0.442094					30000	
Southlake	0.462000					75000	75000

Exemption Values: HS = Homestead; O65 = Over 65; DP = Disabled Person

Source: http://www.tad.org/WebPages/2006_tax_rates.htm

EDITORIAL: WHAT IS YOUR VISION?

By Stu Updike

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Mrs. Hartwell used that magic word "vision". In one of my other lives, we defined "vision" as a two-part thing: a goal and the path to get there. Is there a vision for the City of Bedford? Once a vision has been developed, it is very important to hold that vision up for all to see and work toward. I can't swear that there is not a vision for Bedford, but I have not seen it. What would you like Bedford to be?

When I first moved to Bedford there were lots of open spaces, so the critical shortage of park land was not so apparent. There

was a large open field with trees next to my apartment. It has been covered over with concrete office buildings. There were horses grazing in the pasture across the street from me. Townhouses have been built there now. The list goes on. Is the re-population of the present strip malls our only goal, or would we like to see the development of a central "downtown" district? My point is that without that vision in front of us, we will continue making decisions that will determine the future of Bedford without that guidance. We would like to hear what your vision for Bedford is. Please send it to:

comments@bedfordcitizen.com

Please show "Vision" in the subject line.