

The Bedford Citizen

THE NEWS YOU NEED TO GUIDE YOUR CITY

Vol. 1 No. 43

Thursday

September 20, 2007

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FEATURES

BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION INVITATION

By Deborah Chaney
Chairperson
Beautification Commission

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In September of 2006 the Bedford Beautification Commission initiated a project with the stated purpose of identifying a vision for the city in terms of architecture, landscapes, and hardscapes. We invited a landscape architect to our initial meeting to assist us in beginning this at times overwhelming idea.

I am pleased to see that The Bedford citizen is asking residents to submit their ideas of what a vision for Bedford's future might be. We on the Beautification Commission would be pleased to join hands with this publication to encourage input. We have surveyed some of the city's residents, have had brainstorming sessions within our Commission, and are finalizing steps for "what to do next"--who to bring in, who to involve, etc. At present this is an internal process, but the eventual goal is to go to the city staff and ultimately the City Council with our proposals.

We invite interested residents to join us at our monthly meetings to provide input. We meet the third Monday of each month at 6:30 in the library and would welcome your ideas!

LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

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During the Library Advisory Board Wednesday, Sept. 19, the five board members present reviewed the Community Focus Group Analysis and determined which items could be approached in the coming months and which need to be considered in conjunction with development of the new library. The group also created a new, short and to-the-point Mission/Vision Statement which was approved by consensus. Members whose term ends in December were reminded to reapply next month if they wish to remain on the Board.

In his report, Chair Ralph Chaney mentioned the Vision for Bedford that Claire Kamego submitted to *The Bedford Citizen* in response to a request for resident input on the topic. (See the Monday, Sept. 17 issue for that article.) He indicated support for the concept Ms. Kamego described.

WHERE IN BEDFORD ... is an old wooden windmill?

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Bedford has at least one remaining wooden windmill. It is to the far west side of the south lawn of Old Bedford School.

OPINIONS AND EDITORIALS

LETTER TO THE EDITOR: HANK HENNING

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John Hogg has most of his facts right in his Letter to the Editor in Monday's issue. The biggest issue revolving around the two schools of thought involves the city's 1/2 cent sales tax dedication. The city did pass the sales tax increase to "offset" property taxes. It was intended to allow us to keep our taxes lower by collecting money from retail transactions. So, while it does add to the city budget (I'd have to go look up the numbers), it only adds the portion of the burden to a Bedford resident on the TAXABLE items he/she buys in the city. You cannot take the 1/2 cent sales tax, apply it to the TAD value of your home and say you are paying that much more tax. I'm fairly certain that we don't purchase 100% of our goods in Bedford. That is where John starts to lead us astray from the fact.

Property taxes in Grapevine are lower than Bedford, and they have a 20% Homestead Exemption, but Grapevine is a HUGE money making city, in sales tax, airport taxes, commercial taxes, the list there is HUGE. All of the airport terminals and all three of the hotels are within Grapevine city limits. Grapevine funds their entire CVB department just from the hotel bed tax, and they have the fourth largest CVB in the STATE! Hurst and Euless have higher tax rates, but they also have homestead exemptions that help lower the effective rate that John is talking about. But, both

cities have huge tax generating business centers, Hurst has the mall, Euless has airport revenue and the entire rental car base from the airport. Those cities have used those income generators to assist the homeowner tax rate, somewhat. But we are comparing an apple, an orange and a grapefruit.

So yeah, there is a lot of truth in John's message, but I don't agree with him on the method of making it right. Taking the frustrations of the past out on the current services the city offers is the wrong direction to take. We need to look at finding city staff, and a council that supports them, that can revitalize our commercial areas. Business and entertainment are the keys to putting the city on an even keel with other cities in the area, not reducing services and running off potential residents from the lack of city amenities and services. We have entire corridors of Bedford that look like the inner-cities of the northeast sections of our country. It takes money to make money and in Bedford we are afraid to try that theory out. We need to attract more business and we do that poorly. We recently changed some of the zoning laws to attract restaurants and it did a fairly good job, not enough, but a start. We need to find developers, offer them some incentives and work WITH them, not against them to re-develop Bedford.

Hank Henning

CITY OF BEDFORD'S UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

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Free Scrapbooking Class

Sponsored by the Bedford Parks and Recreation Dept, and Scrapbook Warehouse, this hands-on class will explain such scrapbooking basics as where to start and which tools, supplies and techniques will save time and money. Participants will produce a completed scrapbook page and be prepared to develop additional pages independently. Participants should bring simple basic supplies, such as adhesive, cutting tools and pens. Pre-registration is required, either by phone at 817/952-2323) or in person at the Boys Ranch Activity Center. The class will meet inside the Old Bedford School.

Thursday SEPT. 20, 6-9 p.m.

Zach King – Classic Rock and Roll Music

Twilight Thursdays, an eclectic concert series staged by the City of Bedford in conjunction with Artsnet, continues through the end of September. The free programs begin at 7 p.m. each Thursday outside the Old Bedford School. Sponsored by the Bedford Hotel Association, the series is open to the public. Registration is not required.

Thursday SEPT. 20, 7 p.m.

10th Annual Bedford-Hurst Senior Center Health & Benefits Fair

Over 40 vendors will provide information to

help seniors to live healthier and wealthier lives. The free event, which will take place at the Bedford-Hurst Senior Center, will feature booths on health, housing, lifestyles, hospice, volunteerism and more. In addition to free blood pressure checks, free blood sugar and cholesterol tests, and vision and hearing screenings there will be lots of door prizes and promotional items. Library staff will be on hand to demonstrate the ZoomText Software that has been added to some of the library's computers and to promote the large print books, books on cassettes and book on CDs that can be checked out at the library.

Friday SEPT. 21, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Bedford Beautification Commission Award Ceremony

In appreciation of the property's exceptional visual appeal and well-maintained landscape, City officials will present Hearthstone at Bedford representatives a Certificate of Recognition for Overall Appearance and Superior Landscaping in ceremonies at the facility, 3800 Central Drive. The Bedford Beautification Commission recommended the business for this award following receipt of a nomination from the community.

Saturday SEPT. 22, 9 a.m.

First Annual Old Bedford School Days Festival

Celebrate Bedford's rich history with a fun, family-oriented event featuring Model T cars, entertainment, food vendors and lots of children's activities including several vintage-style activities. For more

information, call the Old Bedford School (817/952-2290) or visit www.oldbedfordschool.com.

Saturday SEPT. 22, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Identity Theft Program

Scams happen every day. Technical Sergeant Randy Gardner of the Bedford Police Department will discuss preventative measures that can help you protect your identity. The program is free and open to the public. Registration is not required. For more information contact Jeanne Green at 817/952-2370 or jgreen@ci.bedford.tx.us.

Thursday SEPT. 27, 7 p.m.-8 p.m.

Texas Connection – Country Music

Twilight Thursdays, an eclectic concert series staged by the City of Bedford in conjunction with Artsnet, continues through the end of September. The free programs begin at 7 p.m. each Thursday outside the Old Bedford School. Sponsored by the Bedford Hotel Association, the series is open to the public. Registration is not required.

Thursday SEPT. 27, 7 p.m.

Artoberfest

This two-day festival features art, music and children's activities. King Creole (Pop Top 40), Sidemen (Blues), Stoney Larue and Josh Gracin (Country) will perform Saturday, and Johnny Reno (Swing Dance), Me and my Monkey (Beatles Cover Band), Everlife (Radio Disney) and Three Dog Night (60's Band) will perform Sunday. Hip Pocket Theater Puppet Shows, InflataFUN and D&D Rockin' Rods

add to the fun. General Admission is \$5/person (kids under 5 admitted free). For online ticket purchase, go to <https://tix.extremetix.com/tix/SilverStream/Pages/pgIndex.html?siteID=1574>. There will be a \$10 charge for on-site parking and a \$15 fee of an InflataFUN wristband. For more information, visit www.bedfordartoberfest.com.

Saturday-Sunday, OCT. 6-7

Living with Low Vision Fair

October is Blind Awareness Month. The Bedford Public Library is partnering with various sponsors to provide a special event to increase public awareness of the resources available to persons with low vision, failing vision and no vision. Goals of the Living with Low Vision Fair are to

Demonstrate assistive technologies that can improve quality of life

Promote resources and organizations that offer help to individuals with low vision

Educate employees and employers about programs designed to help with job training and job technology

The event will take place in the Bonnie Finn Room of the library. Sponsors include Books on Tape – Random House, Easter Seals – Disability Services, National Federation for the Blind, Prevent Blindness Texas, Reading and Radio Resource, and the Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services. The program is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Cher'e Bradford or Maria Redburn at 817/952-2330 or mredburn@ci.bedford.tx.us.

Saturday OCT. 13, 2-4 p.m.

UPCOMING REGULARLY SCHEDULED EVENTS

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Bedford Bookworms

Library, FREE, 817/952-2370
Thursday Sept. 20, noon - 1:30 p.m.

Friends of the Bedford Public Library Meeting

Library, Open to Public, 817/952-2332
Thursday Sept. 20, 7 p.m.

Basic Computer Classes at the Library

Library, FREE, 817/952-2373
Monday Sept. 24, 8:30-9:30 a.m.

Internet Searching Classes at the Library

Library, FREE, 817/952-2373
Tuesday Sept. 25, 8:30-9:30 a.m.

Sprouts Story Time for the active child

Library, FREE, 817/952-2370
Tuesday Sept. 25, 10-10:20 a.m.

Story Book Club Story Time for the child

who's ready to sit and listen
Library, FREE, 817/952-2370
Tuesday Sept. 25, 11-11:20 a.m.

City Council Meeting

City Hall, Open to Public, 817/952-2101
Tuesday Sept. 25, 7 p.m.

Basic Computer Classes at the Library

Library, FREE, 817/952-2373
Monday Oct. 1, 8:30-9:30 a.m.

Internet Searching Classes at the Library

Library, FREE, 817/952-2373
Tuesday Oct. 2, 8:30-9:30 a.m.

Sprouts Story Time for the active child

Library, FREE, 817/952-2370
Tuesday Oct. 2, 10-10:20 a.m.

Story Book Club Story Time for the child

who's ready to sit and listen
Library, FREE, 817/952-2370
Tuesday Oct. 2, 11-11:20 a.m.

Deadline to Sign Up to Speak

At the Oct. 9 City Council Meeting
Wednesday Oct. 3, noon

Unless otherwise noted, find more informa-
tion at these sites:

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

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

Old Bedford School activities
<http://www.oldbedfordschool.com/index.htm>

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