

The Bedford Citizen

THE NEWS YOU NEED TO GUIDE YOUR CITY

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Monday

October 29, 2007

FEATURES

DEADLINE WEDNESDAY FOR SPEAKING AT COUNCIL NEXT WEEK

Anyone wishing to speak as a "Person to Be Heard" at next week's City Council Meeting must submit a written request no later than noon Wednesday.

FREE MICROSOFT WORD BASICS CLASS TONIGHT

Bedford Public Library is offering a class tonight, from 7 to 8:30 p.m., for those who want to learn the most commonly used features of the powerful word processing program.

APPLICATION DEADLINE FOR CITIZEN BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Wednesday Oct. 31 is the deadline to apply for a position on one of the City's Citizen Committees, Boards and Commissions. Application forms are available at City Hall and, for download, at <http://www.ci.bedford.tx.us/council/assets/Board%20Application.pdf>.

INFORMATION ABOUT BEDFORD'S CITIZEN BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

For those who are trying to decide which Board, Commission or Committee to apply for, here's a list of the groups, numbers of members appointed to represent the general public, terms, number of meetings per year and regular meeting dates.

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DEADLINE WEDNESDAY FOR SPEAKING AT COUNCIL NEXT WEEK

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Anyone wishing to speak as a “Person to Be Heard” at next week’s City Council Meeting must submit a written request no later than noon Wednesday. The request must include the speaker’s name, address and phone number as well as the topic of discussion. It may be emailed to the City Secretary at: sjennings@ci.bedford.tx.us or mailed to:

Bedford City Hall
ATTN: City Secretary Shanae Jennings
2000 Forest Ridge Drive
Bedford, TX 76021.

FREE MICROSOFT WORD BASICS CLASS TONIGHT

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Bedford Public Library is offering a class tonight, from 7 to 8:30 p.m., for those who want to learn the most commonly used features of the powerful word processing program. Participants must have completed the “Computer Basics” Class or have mastered basic Windows and mouse skills before joining this class. Registration is required; call 817/952-2342 to register.

APPLICATION DEADLINE FOR CITIZEN BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

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Wednesday Oct. 31 is the deadline to apply for a position on one of the City’s Citizen Committees, Boards and Commissions. Application forms are available at City Hall and, for download, at <http://www.ci.bedford.tx.us/council/assets/Board%20Application.pdf>.

According to the City’s website, the application form is used by the City Council for the purpose of selecting individuals for appointments to serve on duly constituted Committees, Commissions and Boards which have been established to assist and advise the City Council on specific issues. Applications should be typed or clearly printed and filed with the City Secretary.

The following description of some of the City’s Boards and Commissions comes directly from the City’s web pages.

- ◆ The Beautification Commission makes recommendations to the City Council regarding:
 - Landscaping of city right-of-ways and city property,
 - Programs to recognize businesses and residential areas that beautify their surroundings through landscaping, maintenance, litter cleanup, etc.,
 - Joining state or nation-wide groups focused on beautification,
 - Volunteer recycling – including recycling promotion and education, and

- Involving schools, business and homeowners in a beautification program.
 - ◆ The Building Standards Commission has separate areas of responsibility which include the quasi-judicial enforcement of City ordinances: for the preservation of public safety, relating to the materials or methods used to construct a building or improvement; relating to the fire safety of a building or improvement; relating to dangerously damaged or deteriorated buildings or improvements; and relating to conditions caused by accumulations of refuse, vegetation, or other matter that creates breeding and living places for insects and rodents. The Commission may submit to the City Council recommendations for the improvement and revision of the construction codes as it may, from time to time deem necessary and proper in light of the development which would result in a better and more economical installation.
 - ◆ The Bedford Community Affairs Commission focuses on various aspects of business and residential concerns. The Commission:
 - Serves in an advisory capacity and provides the City Council with feedback on business and residential concerns,
 - Provides specific input on any items that make doing business with the City of Bedford difficult and points out areas of concern,
 - and
 - Explores issues of public interest as identified and designated by the City Council, collects information on these issues and makes constructive recommendations to Council and staff if any action should be taken by the city to satisfy those issues.
 - ◆ The Library Board serves as a consulting and advisory body to the City Manager and City Council. The Board considers and recommends policies relating to the operation, promotion, enlargement and future planning of the Bedford Public Library.
 - ◆ The Parks and Recreation Board acts as an advisory body to the City Council in the procurement, development, supervision and administration of city public recreational activities.
 - ◆ The Planning and Zoning Commission:
 - Recommends a plan for the physical development of the city,
 - Advises the City Council regarding approval of proposed changes in the zoning plan, and
 - Controls the platting or subdividing of land within the corporate limits to the extent authorized by law.
- It is responsible to and acts as an advisory body to the City Council and has and performs additional

duties as may be prescribed by ordinance.

- ◆ The BEH Teen Court Advisory Board:
 - Acts as an advisory board to the governing bodies of Hurst, Eules and Bedford,
 - Provides a community-base alternative to the formal court process for youth offenders,
 - Involves families in the administration of alternative court processes, and
 - Recommends actions to provide support for the alternative court process to the governing bodies of Hurst, Eules and Bedford.
- ◆ Powers and Duties of the Zoning Board of Adjustment include Administrative Review: To hear and decide appeals where it is alleged there is error in any order, requirement, decision, or determination made by the administrative official in the enforcement of the zoning ordinance.

Special Exceptions:

- To hear special exceptions as specifically authorized by the terms of the zoning ordinance;
- To grant or deny special exceptions as appropriate according to the zoning ordinance.

Variations: To authorize a variance

from the terms of the zoning ordinance in specific cases:

- ◆ Owing to special conditions, a literal enforcement of the provisions of the original ordinance must result in unnecessary hardship;
- ◆ The variance must not be contrary to the public interest.

Decisions of the Board of Adjustment

- ◆ So long as the action is in conformity with the terms of the zoning ordinance, the board may reverse, affirm or modify any order, requirement, decision or determination from which an appeal is made;
- ◆ It may make such an order, requirement, decision or determination as ought to be made, therefore having powers of the administrative official from whom the appeal is taken.



**TRICK-OR-TREAT
AT THE LIBRARY**

Come to the library in costume
Wednesday Oct. 31, between 10 a.m.
and 9 p.m. and trick-or-treat in each of
the departments of the library.

**INFORMATION ABOUT BEDFORD'S
CITIZEN BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

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For those who are trying to decide which Board, Commission or Committee to apply for, here's a list of the groups, numbers of members appointed to represent the general public, term limits, number of meetings per year and regular meeting dates.

Information in the chart comes from the application form, from a document included in the Council packet for their July 14, 2007 meeting and from the City's website at http://www.ci.bedford.tx.us/council/boards/board_agendas/boards_Commish.pdf. The Council packet document was revised July 10, 2007. Question marks after data indicate that information differs among the sources.

Citizen Board, Commission or Committee	Public Reps	Term	Meetings Per Year	Regular Meeting Days
Animal Control Board	1	2	3?	Semi-Annual?
Animal Shelter Advisory Board	1		3	Not available
Beautification Commission	19	2	11	3 rd Mondays, 6:30 p.m.
Building and Standards Commission	6	2	6?	As called?
Community Affairs Commission	6	2	6?	Monthly? Quarterly?
Ethics Commission	7	2	2?	Once a year
Library Advisory Board	10	2	12	3 rd Wednesday, 7 p.m.
Parks and Recreation Board	12	2	12	1 st Thursday, 7 p.m.
Planning and Zoning Commission	9	2	24	2 nd & 4 th Thursdays
Bedford-Hurst Senior Citizen Advisory Board	4 (Bedford)	2	4	Quarterly
Street Improvement Economic Development Corp.	3	2	2	3 rd Tuesday, Jan. & June
Hurst-Eules-Bedford Teen Court Advisory Board	4 (Bedford)	2	12	1 st Thursday, 5:30 p.m.
Zoning Board of Adjustment(s?)	7	2	12	3 rd Monday, 6 p.m.

BLOOD DRIVE AT THE LIBRARY

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Every three seconds, someone is needing blood. Three lives can be saved by one pint of donated blood.

The Carter BloodCare Mobile Unit will be parked in the library parking lot Wednesday, Oct. 31 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. to facilitate blood donations.

Call 817/852-2342 to schedule an appointment, or stop by the library's parking lot while the mobile unit is there.

FREE WEDNESDAY MORNING SPANISH CLASSES

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When Ms. Bianca Zayas recently offered to teach Basic Spanish language classes at Bedford Public Library as a volunteer, Library Manager Maria Redburn assured her that the classes would be very popular. In fact, since those free Wednesday morning classes began Oct. 10, the first class attracted 15 participants, the second 35 and the most recent 45.

Although the classes are designed in a six-week course structure, new participants may join at any time. Registration isn't required, but classroom seating space in the Bonnie Finn room limits class size to 45 participants. Both Ms. Redburn and Ms. Zayas hope to add Wednesday evening classes beginning in January.

There will be no classes on Nov. 7 and Nov. 14 because the instructor will be unavailable on those dates.

The classes begin at 8:30 a.m. and end at 9:30 a.m.

THURSDAY'S HEB TEEN COURT ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

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The HEB Teen Court Advisory Board will meet in the City Hall Conference Room Thursday, Nov. 1 at 6 p.m. The group plans to:

- ◆ Discuss last year's scholarship banquet for ideas to pass to the committee,
- ◆ Establish Scholarship/Banquet Committee members,
- ◆ Discuss changing the scholarship cap, and
- ◆ Hear the coordinator's report and the financial report.