

The Bedford Citizen

THE NEWS YOU NEED TO GUIDE YOUR CITY

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FEATURES

DEADLINE WEDNESDAY FOR SPEAKING AT COUNCIL NEXT WEEK

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The second City Council Meeting this month has been scheduled for Tuesday Dec. 18 instead of Tuesday Dec. 25.

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.

PUBLIC HEARING AT TOMORROW'S CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION MEETING

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The Charter Review Commission will meet in regular session tomorrow, Dec. 11, at 5:30 p.m. at the library. The meeting, which is open to the public, will include a public hearing to receive input from Bedford residents regarding recommendations for changes in the City Charter as well as discussion, recommendations and actions regarding changes to Articles of the City Charter.

TOMORROW'S CITY COUNCIL AGENDA TOPICS AT A GLANCE

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Work Session 6:45 p.m. (Open to the Public)

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

- ◆ Persons to be heard
 - Lester Biggers proposing a line fee dedicated on the water bills for an optimal \$1 library donation
 - Joyce Johnson discussing the notice period during major holiday for a vital Town Hall Meeting
- ◆ Public hearing: Proposed ordinance amending the City's ordinance regarding gas/oil well drilling and production within the corporate limits

NOTE: This item was advertised prior to the recent tabling of the gas drilling ordinance. As a result, it must remain on the Council agenda until it is addressed. According to City staff, a zoning ordinance defining gas drilling as a use ideally should be approved concurrent with or after the approval of an ordinance regulating gas drilling and production in the City.
- ◆ Resolution to be considered: Authorize the City Manager to purchase two IBM iSeries computers from Prologic Technology Systems, Inc., an IBM business partner, to replace the AS/400s now used by the Police

and Fire Departments (\$52,464)

- ◆ Other
 - Appointments to Bedford Boards and Commissions
 - Proposed revisions to the Sign Ordinance

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.

GAS DRILLING TOWN HALL MEETING

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Bedford residents are invited to participate in a Town Hall Meeting to discuss gas drilling within the City on Wednesday Jan. 9 at the Boys Ranch Activity Center. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m., and residents will have an opportunity to address the Council with questions or comments.

A copy of the most recent draft of a proposed City Drilling Ordinance, a 53-page document, is available at:
http://www.ci.bedford.tx.us/News/news_pdf/bedfordgas_fifthdraft.pdf .

OPINIONS AND EDITORIALS

LETTER TO THE EDITOR: CHRIS BROWN

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In Bedford, the best way for residents to understand what the city government is doing is to attend City Council meetings. Yet only a handful of people attend Council meetings regularly. Many people do not want to sit through a meeting that on occasion can go late into the night; other people are interested only in a certain portion of the meeting.

Contemporary technology offers a more accessible and more convenient way for residents to be informed. The City of Bedford already records the Council meetings and broadcasts them on cable TV. Bedford also maintains a city website. To reach the ever-increasing percentage who rely on digital technology for information, those recordings should be posted on the City's website. That way anyone can watch any part of the council meeting they want, at a time that is convenient.

A city works more efficiently with well-informed and awakened residents. Providing a unique outlet of information would be beneficial to both residents and the City Council. Posting clips of Council meetings on the city website is a way for the city to reach out to people who aren't currently taking advantage of the privilege of being involved in the political process and would let them know that they too are a valued part of the city.

**LETTER TO THE EDITOR:
HANK HENNING**[Back to the top](#)

It's time that we take a serious look at one of the items the Bedford City Council keeps mentioning when we talk about gas drilling here in Bedford. "What's in it for me?" A lot is being written about the citizens being able to make their money from the gas bonanza. OK, how much is it really going to be? Lot's of BIG signing bonuses being written about in the papers. \$15,000 all of a sudden. But is that \$15,000 for each owner signing a lease? Only if you have an acre. The typical Bedford home sits on about 1/6th of an acre. OK, still, that's \$2500, just for signing. OH, your home is mortgaged? Well, your mortgage company will want you to obtain a release from them for sub-letting what they also own... your property. Current cost? About \$500. Dang, the bonus is down to \$2 grand. Let's see, anything else hidden in there? Well, actually yes. The good old Tarrant Appraisal District will start taxing the amount of gas they ESTIMATE is under your lot. Hasn't been too big a bite, about \$18 to \$20 a year more on your property tax. Hey wait, wasn't that the magical number that the Bedford Citizens for Responsive Government said would start putting seniors out of their homes? So, we have a big \$2000 (well, minus Federal Income Tax) bonus check to put in the bank. Boy that will look good in the old retirement account hey? Now, that's if the big gas companies get to that \$15K bonus here in Bedford. The average signing bonus so far has been about \$4000 per ACRE. For those of you on that big 1/6

acre spread, that's more like \$666 each. Something ominous in that number isn't there? Ok, let's move on to that big fat royalty check that will be rolling in every month. IF you get lucky and somehow negotiate the royalty at 25%, the gas companies themselves will tell you, you can look for the payment to be about \$100 a month. Oh, that's per acre. So you and 5 of your closest neighbors get about \$16 a month. Yeah, that'll keep me out of the poor house won't it? Probably won't cover the water bill as that cost rises due to the big gas guys sucking up all our water to fire down those holes.

Had enough? Wait, don't you want to talk about water pollution, noise, lights, heavy trucks in and out every day? Land that can NEVER be reclaimed after the well runs dry. Don't think the wells will run out? The big guys are already looking at doubling the amount of wells by spacing them closer together to allow double or even triple the fracturing to occur to try and get more gas and less sand out of the holes.

Has the City Council told the citizens what the city plan is when they allow this drilling so close to homes, businesses and churches? Is there a plan? Maybe all that money will go to trying to keep up with road repair from the trucks hauling away the waste water, hope they don't spill over when they're driving it out, it is pretty toxic you know. Maybe our city fathers are going to let the big guys shoot that cancer causing water down into those wells they are talking about? I don't know about you, but that doesn't sound quite right to me.

CITY OF BEDFORD'S CURRENT AND UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

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Letters to Santa

Children are invited to bring their letters to Santa to the library or to send them to the library via email (SantaNorthPole@ci.bedford.tx.us) or U.S. mail (Santa Claus, c/o Bedford Public Library, 1805 L. Don Dodson Drive, Bedford, TX 76021). *Note: Santa requests that parents include a separate message or letter listing a mailing address, names of the child's brothers/sisters, pets, hobbies, sports and the child's recent accomplishments.* We've been assured that each child's letter will receive a personal reply from Santa. For more information: Jeanne Green (817/952-2370)
Now through Monday Dec. 17

Food for Fines

Bedford Public Library will accept non-perishable food items for the Tarrant Area Food Bank and/or the Bedford Animal Shelter. This *Food for Fines* program will waive \$1 of your fines for every acceptable item donated. For more information: Jeanne Green (817/952-2370)
Now through Saturday DEC. 22

Free Movies during the Holiday Break

Bedford Public Library will show free movies for the kids on four dates during the holiday break. Registration is *not* required for this program. All movies will begin at 2 p.m. in the Bonnie Finn room. For more information: Jeanne Green (817/952-2370)

Wednesday Dec. 26: *Meet the Robinsons*
Thursday Dec. 27: *Evan Almighty*
Friday Dec. 28: *Ratatouille*
Wednesday Jan. 2: *Shrek the Third*

Help Reduce Hunger

The Fire Department and Bedford Public Library are collecting food for the quarter-of-a-million-plus people who live in the communities served by Tarrant Area Food Bank (TAFB). Children account for 35% – more than a third – of those individuals. To participate, take non-perishable donations to the Bedford library or to any Bedford fire station. Nonperishable food items for the Tarrant Area Food Bank may be dropped off at any Bedford fire station or at the library. Suggested donations include canned goods (vegetables, chili, soups, spaghetti sauce, chicken and tuna) as well as jelly, peanut butter, crackers, powdered milk and coffee. For more information about TAFB, visit <http://tafb.org/>.
Now through Monday DEC. 31

Be a Bedford Animal Shelter Santa Paws!

You can help provide a safe and healthy environment for the lost and forgotten animals at the Bedford Animal Shelter. Any of the following may be dropped off at either the shelter or at Bedford Public Library:

- ◆ High quality adult dog and cat food: Iams, Science Diet, Eukanuba, etc. (At-risk animals require higher nutritional standards.)
- ◆ Non-clumping clay cat litter - *the cheap kind*
- ◆ High quality puppy and kitten food
- ◆ Bleach, dishwashing and laundry

soap

◆ Monetary donations

Don't forget that animals at the shelter are available for adoption to loving homes! Now through Monday DEC. 31

Christmas Tree Recycling

Bring your tree to the Meadowpark Athletic Complex to have it mulched! Wednesday Dec. 26-Sunday Jan. 13

January Murder Mystery Dinner & Show

Reality gets turned upside down when famous "Reality Show" celebrities turn up for what they think is a taping of their new shows. When reality show star and billionaire Ronald Rump ends up dead, the simple life of these celebrities turns into a game of survivor! U.S. Actor's Company, a Bedford business, will perform "Real Murder," and Sweet Memories Cakes & Catering for All Occasions will cater the Old Bedford School's January Murder Mystery Dinner and Show. Tickets, which are \$45/person or \$80/couple, are available now. For more information, call 817/952-2290 or visit <http://www.oldbedfordschool.com/performances/mystery.htm> .

UPCOMING CITY-SPONSORED ACTIVITIES

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Basic Computer Class

Library, FREE, 817/952-2373
Monday Dec. 10, 8:30-9:30 a.m.

Internet Searching Class

Library, FREE, 817/952-2373
Tuesday Dec. 11, 8:30-9:30 a.m.

Sprouts Story Time for the active child
Library, FREE, 817/952-2370
Tuesday Dec. 11, 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 Dec. 11, 11-11:20 a.m.

Charter Review Commission Meeting
Library, Open to Public, 817/952-2101
Tuesday Dec. 11, 5:30 p.m.

City Council Meeting
City Hall, Open to Public, 817/952-2101
Tuesday Dec. 11, 7 p.m. (work session precedes at 6:45 p.m.)

Basics of Spanish
Library, FREE, 817/952-2373
Wednesday Dec. 12, 8:30-9:30 a.m.

Deadline to Sign Up to Speak at the Dec. 18 City Council Meeting
Wednesday Dec. 12, noon

Basic Computer Class
Library, FREE, 817/952-2373
Monday Dec. 17, 8:30-9:30 a.m.

Zoning Board of Adjustment Meeting
Open to Public, City Hall
Monday Dec. 17, 6 p.m.

Beautification Commission Meeting
December meeting cancelled

Internet Searching Class
Library, FREE, 817/952-2373
Tuesday Dec. 18, 8:30-9:30 a.m.

Sprouts Story Time for the active child
Cancelled for Tuesday Dec. 18

Story Book Club Story Time for the child
who's ready to sit and listen
Cancelled for Tuesday Dec. 18

City Council Meeting
City Hall, Open to Public, 817/952-2101
Tuesday Dec. 18, 7 p.m. (work session
precedes)

Basics of Spanish
Library, FREE, 817/952-2373
Wednesday Dec. 19, 8:30-9:30 a.m.

Library Advisory Board Meeting
Library, Open to Public, 817/952-2332
Wednesday Dec. 19, 7 p.m.

Bedford Bookworms: *The Echo Maker*
Library, FREE, 817/952-2370
Thursday Dec. 20, noon - 1:30 p.m.

**Friends of the Bedford Public Library
Meeting**
Library, PUBLIC IS INVITED, 817/952-
2332
Thursday Dec. 20, 7 p.m.

City Offices Closed for the Holidays
Friday Dec. 21, noon

City Offices Closed for the Holidays
Monday-Tuesday, Dec. 24-25

Basics of Spanish
Library, FREE, 817/952-2373
Wednesday Dec. 26, 8:30-9:30 a.m.

Bedford Public Library Open
Monday Dec. 31, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

City Offices Closed for the Holiday
Tuesday Jan. 1

Basics of Spanish
Library, FREE, 817/952-2373
Wednesday Jan. 2, 8:30-9:30 a.m.

Bedford Bookworms
Library, FREE, 817/952-2370
Thursday Jan. 17, noon - 1:30 p.m.

Unless otherwise noted, find more
information 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