

The Bedford Citizen

THE NEWS YOU NEED TO GUIDE YOUR CITY

Vol. 1 No. 5

June 15, 2007

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ABOUT THIS E-NEWS

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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COMMENTS FROM OUR SUBSCRIBERS

This is GREAT! Everyone uses a computer...well, just about everyone! What a great concept of involving citizens to be responsible to each other about issues so close to us. It DOES take a community....to borrow a coined phrase. Great job! I'll be passing this on!!

Thank you for sending the first two newsletters; they were very informative.

This, my friend, is too cool.

Bravo! Looks great.

I think this is a very good idea and the content of the attached files was very well written.

Very nice. I'm impressed with all the links inside the PDF and the format is well laid out.

Great job!

I like it!! Sign me up

Thank you for sending the first two newsletters; they were very informative. Though I am a public sector employee, do vote in all elections, and currently serve on a Bedford board, I do not always have the time to stay current on our local council actions and other important issues. And by the time I read about them in the paper, I am already behind the eight ball!

This is a great idea! Love the way you qualify the "comments," as well it should be.

Well done!

We applaud your efforts! Please count us in ...

Thanks and best of luck! We've been sorely needing this type of news - hurrah!

Thanks for what you are doing.

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

FEATURES

GAS DRILLING ORDINANCE

By Stu Updike

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This article is a follow-up on the June 12 City Council meeting.

Councilman Whistler opened the discussion noting that the staff had developed a matrix containing the basic guidelines that other metroplex cities have put in place. He stated his belief Bedford's ordinance should be more liberal than conservative in order to allow our citizens to take maximum advantage of this opportunity. He said that Fort Worth has established many guidelines which, to him, seem appropriate, and he indicated a preference for the distance to a residential structure to be the 300' minimum that Argyle uses rather than the 1000' minimum that Colleyville uses. He suggested Meadow Brook Park, which he said belongs to HEB ISD, as a possible drilling site.

Councilman Orean agreed that the City needs to help the residents capitalize on this opportunity, but he cautioned that the ordinance must protect the City's infrastructure.

Councilman Whistler stated that he would like to see staff move forward on this and the residents have a chance to comment at a public hearing. Councilwoman Nail stated her preference for a town hall meeting which would include a presentation about the procedure. Councilman Whistler said he did not object

as long as it did not cause undue delay. Councilman Whistler asked that information from the city of Granbury be added to the matrix since they had experienced already some damage to their infrastructure.

Prior to retiring in April, 2007, Stu Updike completed 27 years as a regional airline pilot. He has lived in Bedford since 1993.



LIBRARY COMMUNITY FOCUS GROUP

The Bedford Public Library Advisory Board invites you to participate in a Community Focus Group for the library Tuesday, June 19, 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Help us identify the Bedford Public Library's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and obstacles to progress.

Information gathered will be used to develop library services for the citizens of Bedford.

Free activities for school-aged children will be available in the Bonnie Finn Room to allow parents to participate in the Community Focus Group.

REVIEW OF THIRD LIBRARY RFP

By dona Weisman

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At the June 12 City Council Meeting, Councilman Oreaan opened the review of the Request for Proposals for outsourcing of the management of the library by stating that the City Attorney had added a new approach to the way in which the cost would be presented. In the original RFP, the bidder would bid only on the first year and then receive a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for each subsequent year. Under the newly proposed method, the bidder would submit a bid for the total cost for either a three, four or five-year term. Councilman Oreaan said that this would have the advantage of eliminating a low-ball bid but would make it difficult to compare a bid for a three, four or five-year term against the City's budgeted operations for a one-year term. He stated that, for this reason, he preferred to go back to the one-year term with the COLA.

Mayor Story mentioned that he felt there should be a requirement for background checks for those who would be working at the library, and Councilwoman Nail recommended that the background checks should be repeated at some interval since an employee's record can change during the time that he is employed.

Discussion of termination clauses and of the length of the contract became intertwined when "termination without cause" was involved. It was decided that the RFP should indicate that termination without cause would be an option for either

party as of the end of the second year of outsourcing with the same company. Councilman Whistler pointed out that terms for some of the current council persons could end during the two-year period.

It was clarified that the Library Manager will not actually submit a bid. Instead the bids received will be compared with the library's budget.

In a discussion of timing for the next step, Councilman Oreaan pointed out that the RFP originally was to have been distributed by May 2007. He proposed distribution of the RFP by July 1, 2007, with bids due by August 1, 2007.

Mayor Story asked if there would need to be a motion to approve distribution of the RFP. He also asked if the Council felt that the issue is important enough that Councilman Turner should be here. Councilwoman Nail said it was because Councilman Turner did send out a memo stating his position on the RFP. Councilman Whistler interjected that it was his understanding that, before Councilman Turner was elected, the Council had agreed that an RFP would be drafted and sent out.

When Councilman Savage said, "No we haven't," Councilman Whistler continued, "I would say the matter is closed. We agreed to that." Councilman Savage responded, "No we didn't. I didn't. I have not agreed to an RFP or anything else in outsourcing this library. I said from the get-go I would not back it, and I won't."

Mayor Story concluded the discussion with a statement that they would check the minutes to verify the exact wording of the

motion Councilman Orean made regarding the RFP.

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The following is quoted from the official minutes for the Jan. 9, 2007, Council Meeting: "Motioned by Councilman Orean, seconded by Councilman Whistler to proceed with preparing a request for proposal to outsource the operations of the Bedford Public Library and that the Council appoint Mr. Orean to coordinate the development of the RFP with input from the citizens, Bedford Library Board, Bedford Library Staff, and City Staff, and that City Staff provide administrative support for the final RFP, and that the RFP be brought back before Council within 120 days to vote upon.

"Motion approved 4-3-0. Mayor Story declared the motion carried.

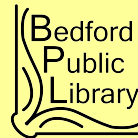
"Council members voting in favor of the motion include: Mayor Story, Councilman Orean, Councilman Whistler and Councilman Cason.

Council members voting in opposition to the motion include: Councilwoman Nail, Councilman Savage and Councilman Chambers."

[http://www.ci.bedford.tx.us/council/council\\_minutes/CC070109.pdf](http://www.ci.bedford.tx.us/council/council_minutes/CC070109.pdf)

*dona weisman has been a Bedford resident since 2000 and a member of the Bedford Library Advisory Board since 2003. She has been a degreed librarian for 25 years and served as a public library consultant with the Texas State Library System for over a third of that time.*

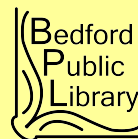
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## FREE TUTORING

Children, ages 4 through 13 can get free tutoring from our team of high school and college students in the Library Monday through Friday during June & July.

Registration is required for this valuable free service. Call the Kids Help desk at 817.952.2372.



## BE COMPUTER SAVVY

The Bedford Public Library is pleased to present free computer classes on Monday nights from 7:00 pm to 8:20 pm.

June 18 Computer Basics (No computer experience is necessary.)

Registration is required for these free classes. Contact the Information Desk at 817.952.2342 to sign-up.

## 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](mailto: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:

- ◆ 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](mailto:Be.A.Citizen@earthlink.net) and must include the author's name, address, email address and phone number.

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