

# The Bedford Citizen

THE NEWS YOU NEED TO GUIDE YOUR CITY

Vol. 1 No. 22

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OPEN FORUM\*\*

## 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. [Read more](#)

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## FEATURES

### TREE MEMORIAL CEREMONY FOR LEAHMON CHAMBERS

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Friends of the late Leahmon Chambers, former Bedford City Councilman, are invited to join members of the Bedford Beautification Commission, the Parks and Recreation Board and the family of Mr. Chambers at 10 a.m. tomorrow (Sat. July 28) at the Memorial Tree Walk. In a special ceremony, an inscribed plaque will be placed at the base of a tree designated to recognize his service to the Beautification Commission and to the City itself.

Mr. Chambers had served as City Council Liaison to the Beautification Commission and the Parks and Recreation Board. "His support of our group and pride in our work efforts was always evident," says Beautification Commission Chair Deborah Chaney.

The living meditative Memorial Tree Walk, which provides a way to remember special people in one's life, is located between the Senior Citizens Center and Boys Ranch Lake.

### BUSINESS RECOGNITION AWARD CEREMONIES

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Three Bedford businesses are being recognized as winners of the Bedford Beautification Commission's Business

Recognition Awards during ceremonies at each business location Sat. Jul. 28.

Ceremonies begin at 9:15 a.m. at the Todd Smith Law Firm, 1608 Airport Fwy. The business is being recognized for Overall Appearance because, according to the nomination, "the grounds are beautifully landscaped with varieties of plants and color, and trees were carefully preserved in the construction of this building."

At 10:45 a.m., Carl's Steak House. 337 E. Pipeline Rd., will be recognized for the categories of Overall Appearance and Best Improved. The nominating resident noted "extensive work on the property (repainting and new awnings), plus continuously producing beautiful flower beds and shrubs, and use of a fountain and large decorative rocks to make this a pretty spot to visit."

Ceremonies at Razzoo's Cajun Café, 2504 Airport Fwy. will begin at 11:30 a.m. to recognize the restaurant for both Overall Appearance and Superior Landscaping. The Bedford resident who nominated this property pointed out that "the landscaping is varied and well suited to the property with great spots of color. Multiple fountains and sculptures enhance the look of the property."

A resolution authorizing the Beautification Commission to recognize the three Bedford businesses under their Business Recognition Program was passed unanimously by the City Council during the June 26, 2007, meeting.

## CITY COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

### CITY COUNCIL'S DIRECTION ON HANDLING CODE ENFORCEMENT

\*\*\* Item requested by Councilman Whistler

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Councilman Whistler expressed his concern that code enforcement appears not to be handled uniformly. Some are cleared almost immediately, while others linger on for a long time. Mayor Story offered that a reasonable delay should be accepted in order to allow the person time to correct the non-compliance. Councilman Orean expressed his view that the City is too liberal in its code enforcement. Councilman Turner weighed in on the side of reasonableness. City Manager Beverly Queen talked about several code enforcement complaints, explained all that was done, and concluded with the observation that just because the casual observer does not see activity does not mean that activity is not occurring. She went on to say that the Code Enforcement department worked over 2,200 cases this fiscal year, and 69.3% of these were pro-active. Chief Flory explained that the Police Department is limited by judicial interpretations and tries to be reasonable in their enforcement efforts.

Councilman Turner requested clarification regarding the RV parking issue that has been before the Council "for seemingly ever". He said it was his understanding that there were no complaints from anyone who

lived within a mile or two mile radius of the property. He said he wanted to know how this issue ever got to this point. Mayor Story turned to Councilman Orean and said, "You know the answer to this." To which Councilman Orean responded, "Yes, there was a complaint." Councilman Turner asked, "Was it from somebody that lived in the neighborhood?" "Within a mile or two," replied Councilman Orean. "Well, I'd like to know who that was." said Councilman Turner. "It's not important." responded Councilman Orean. "It is to me." replied Councilman Turner. Mayor Story recognized Councilwoman Nail. "Doctor Turner, if my memory serves me well and my other Council members can correct me, there was not a citizen that made a complaint on that. It was a City Council member that's sitting on this board with us right now that brought it before us as a concern. Our Mayor, I believe, went and met with many of the residents around there and asked if they had some concerns and issues with it and I think he met with, 'No, we have not had a problem.'" She then pointed out that the agreement reached in the 1990's allowed a set number of vehicles to be parked on the property and the concern now is that they have far exceeded that number.

No changes to the City's code enforcement policies were agreed to.

## **CONVENIENCE FEES ASSOCIATED WITH ON-LINE BILL PAYMENT**

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The Council considered charging a convenience fee for bills paid on-line.

After a lengthy discussion, Councilman Orean asked if a paper could be written with a paragraph describing each option with this question being considered after a review of the paper. This was agreed to.

## **DISCUSSION OF INCENTIVE PAY FOR COLLEGE DEGREE**

\*\*\* Item requested by Councilman Orean

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There was a substantial discussion, which ended in a three to three tie with Mayor Story not expressing an opinion, so Councilman Orean asked for the Mayor's opinion. Mayor Story said he would give some token amount even for an un-related degree.

## **COUNCIL RECOGNITION OF LOQUITA TRAILER**

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Loquita Trailer began her 35 years of service to Bedford in 1972 as a receptionist. She worked in that position for one year before being promoted to Building Inspection secretary for one year. She worked with payroll and insurance for several years, and in 1977, she transferred to the Water Department. She knows all the history and knows everybody. She's the

go-to person and our most valuable asset.

## **GREG WAMPLER ON WI-FI MUNICIPAL NETWORKS**

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He is a Bedford resident, an investor, and an employee of Net Logic that provides Wi-Fi networks for municipalities. He reviewed the benefits of such networks and the associated costs.

The pilot program would include 10 radios free, site survey, engineering design work, installation and one year of monitoring the network for \$80,000.

Mayor Story advised Mr. Wampler to contact staff members Bill Cooper, Tom Ross and Bill Syblon. He said that if the staff liked what they saw, they'd be in touch with the Council.

## **MIKE ROZELLE ON THE DRAGON'S BREATH**

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Appeared to answer concerns whether he is operating his store in compliance with City ordinances, and federal and state laws. Two issues in particular were mentioned to him: the tattoo and piercing parlor; and the tobacco water pipes. Mr. Rozelle recapped the certification of his shop and his compliance with all relevant ordinances and laws. Council questioning appeared to confirm that fact.

## **CURTIS SANDERS ON RV STORAGE**

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Mr. Sanders did not appear.

## **COUNCIL MEMBER'S PROCEDURES AND RULES**

\*\*\* Item requested by Councilwoman Nail

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Councilwoman Nail expressed her concern that on several occasions a Council member took it upon himself to go after a situation and bring it to the forefront. She pointed out that in the Council's code, the Council must request information, not a single Council member. After discussion of several concerns and options, the only action taken was to add a three consecutive term limit for committees, boards and commissions with the present term being the first term. Passed unanimously.

## **CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE**

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A public hearing was held to discuss and consider a resolution to appoint a Charter Review Committee to make recommendations to the City Council for amendments to the City Charter. The resolution passed unanimously.

## **CIVIL OFFENSE TO RUN RED LIGHT**

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The Council considered a proposed ordinance of the City of Bedford, Texas,

making it a civil offense to run a red light; amending Bedford Code of Ordinance Chapter 114, Article II, Traffic Control Devices; providing for a civil penalty; providing for certain defenses; providing for severability; and declaring an effective date. Passed unanimously.

## **CONTRACT WITH REDFLEX TRAFFIC SYSTEMS**

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The Council considered a resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with Redflex Traffic Systems, Inc. for the installation of photographic traffic monitoring systems. Passed unanimously.

## **CONSIDERATION OF ADULT ORIENTED BUSINESSES IN BEDFORD**

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In the Open Forum portion of the June 26 Bedford Council Meeting, a resident expressed his concern over the locating of "Adult" oriented businesses in Bedford.

After some discussion, Councilman Orea asked for staff to research our ordinances and make recommendations to ensure that we are up-to-date. He proposed that we should be as restrictive as state law allows. He clarified that he does not want to close any current businesses. He would grandfather them. Agreed to by consensus.

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## 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:

- ◆ *The Bedford Citizen* does not share or sell its mailing list information.
- ◆ 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.