

The Bedford Citizen

THE NEWS YOU NEED TO GUIDE YOUR CITY

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Monday

July 30, 2007

FEATURES

[OVERVIEW OF LIBRARY REPORT REGARDING COMMUNITY FOCUS GROUP INPUT](#)

During the July 24 City Council Meeting Work Session, Library Manager Maria Redburn reported on the status of input items received from participants at the June 19, 2007, Community Focus Group meeting which was sponsored by the Library Advisory Board.

[COUNCIL LIAISONS TO BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES](#)

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ABOUT THIS E-NEWS

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HOMEOWNER'S ASSOCIATION BOARD MEMBER ROUNDTABLE

The City of Bedford's Volunteer Community Affairs Commission cordially invites all Board Members of Bedford Home Owners Associations (HOA) to meet other associations in Bedford.

WHEN: 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Thursday, August 9, 2007

WHERE: Bedford Public Library, 1805 L. Don Dodson Dr. (across from City Hall)

WHO: HOA Board Members, Volunteer Community Affairs Commission representatives, Volunteer Beautification Committee representatives, City of Bedford representatives

WHY: To discuss issues of neighborhood interest and to foster a greater sense of community and see if there are suggestions for making life better in Bedford.

For more information, contact Karla Setser at 817-283-9869 or karlasetser@aol.com or Raymond Champney at 817-318-1233 or Raymond@rjcenter.com.

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

FEATURES

OVERVIEW OF LIBRARY REPORT REGARDING COMMUNITY FOCUS GROUP INPUT

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Already proposed for the 2007-2008 library budget

- ◆ Increase available number of Large Print books, DVDs and downloadable books
- ◆ Provide comfortable seating areas
- ◆ Create a directory and searchable database of BPL volunteer opportunities

Referred to the City Council

- ◆ Lack of branch library
- ◆ A city services/activities plan to give prominence to the library's location
- ◆ Grant researcher/writer
- ◆ Lack of money; inappropriate funding
- ◆ Effect of increased rental property on the tax roll and city demographics
- ◆ Perception of the library as a core service, not as a revenue-producing

opportunity

- ◆ Outsourcing-prompted distraction from planning and forward movement
- ◆ Storefront in 76022 area
- ◆ Opportunity to work off library fines through volunteering

Referred to the City Council and to The Friends of the Bedford Public Library:
Nominate a neighbor for hometown hero

Referred to the City Manager

- ◆ Hesitant City staff
- ◆ Morale of BPL staff

Referred to the City Manager

- ◆ Risky turns out of the parking lot, especially onto L. Don Dodson
- ◆ Tie-in with bookstore (naming opportunity)
- ◆ Marketing
- ◆ Lack of communication among the city's Boards and Commissions

Referred to the City Manager and to other City departments

- ◆ Economic Development – The library as a source of visibility for the city; quality of life; attractive to businesses (high tech)
- ◆ Facilities – Facility itself; poor lighting
- ◆ Senior Ctr.; Parks & Recreation – Field trips
- ◆ Parks & Recreation – Book-themed playground

“New Facility” Issues

- ◆ Increase parking; address safety issues
- ◆ Need space - at least 25,000 – 30,000 sq. ft.
- ◆ Need study rooms, more and larger meeting rooms, separate Children’s Area, game room, coffee shop
- ◆ Need a full-service drive-up book drop/window which is covered, well lit/safe at night
- ◆ New building should face Bedford Rd. to create a sense of “Municipal Area” with the fire station and Old Bedford School

Deferred to a Wish List

- ◆ Not enough databases
- ◆ More manipulatives for preschoolers
- ◆ Information kiosk
- ◆ Lack of outside marquee and inside electronic board
- ◆ Lack of outreach/bookmobile
- ◆ Homebound delivery and book return service
- ◆ PA system to announce library programs
- ◆ Genealogy research
- ◆ More computers
- ◆ Not enough outlets for wireless laptop users
- ◆ Automated self-checkout for library users

Need additional research

- ◆ Library Foundation to raise money
- ◆ Additional program options: coffeehouse night; educational movies; local living history documentation and lectures
- ◆ Improved access for the homebound and for nursing home residents
- ◆ Use of MySpace, Facebook and blogs for marketing to digital natives
- ◆ Online auction

Completed: Update the fiction collection

Not recommended

- ◆ Provide artwork for checkout
- ◆ Provide a library computer center across the street

No action taken at this time

- ◆ Resolve parking lot and space issues caused by programs at the library
- ◆ Need research area
- ◆ Need meeting rooms for scouts
- ◆ Need online web links to videos of library activities
- ◆ Need English-as-a-Second-Language classes

Bedford Public Library already does, is planning to do or has been investigating the remaining 41 suggestions made by participants at the Community Focus Group Meeting.

A summary of comments made during that meeting is available at

http://www.bedfordlibrary.org/assets/PDFs/CFG_comments.pdf , and an analysis of that input is available at http://www.bedfordlibrary.org/assets/PDFs/CFG_analysis.pdf .

BACK TO SCHOOL BASH YOUTH NIGHT AT SPLASH

Come say goodbye to the summer with games, music, and fun Fri., Aug. 3. Intended for ages 8-13, this event will begin at 6:30 p.m. and end at 9:30 p.m. For more information, call 817/952-2300.

COUNCIL LIAISONS TO BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES

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At its July 24, 2007 meeting, the City Council appointed Council Liaisons to boards, commissions and committees.

Mayor Story opened discussion of this item by saying that some other municipalities do not have liaisons to boards and commissions because they want those groups to be independent entities to research, develop conclusions and bring them to the Council. They do not want them to be unduly influenced by the Council. He also suggested considering term limits on the liaisons.

During discussion of the relative merits of having Council liaisons to those groups versus not having liaisons, comments that

those groups should be independent entities and provide independent assessments of issues were countered with comments that Council liaisons can help the groups develop recommendations within City regulations.

Mayor Story suggested that the Council fill the empty liaison positions that evening and develop, during the coming month, a City policy on liaisons for inclusion in the *Council Member's Procedures and Rules*. The Council agreed by consensus.

When the Council addressed liaison appointments, a fairly lively discussion developed regarding Councilman Orea's position as Council Liaison to the Library Advisory Board.

Eventually, the following appointments were made or reaffirmed:

Mayor James Story

- ◆ Audit Committee
- ◆ Industrial Development Authority

Councilman Jeff Cason

- ◆ Animal Control Board
- ◆ Animal Shelter Advisory Board
- ◆ North Central Texas Council of Governments/Regional Training Advisory Committee
- ◆ Trinity River Authority

Councilwoman Lori Nail

- ◆ Industrial Development Authority
- ◆ Street Improvement Economic Development Corporation

Councilman Charles Orean

- ◆ Audit Committee
- ◆ Hotel/Motel Association
- ◆ Library Advisory Board
- ◆ Street Improvement Economic Development Corporation

Councilman Roy Savage (Mayor Pro Tem)

- ◆ Audit Committee
- ◆ Economic Development Foundation
- ◆ Investment Committee
- ◆ Senior Citizen Advisory Board
- ◆ Street Improvement Economic Development Corporation

Councilman Roy Turner

- ◆ Beautification Commission
- ◆ Parks and Recreation Board
- ◆ Street Improvement Economic Development Corporation

Councilman Bob Whistler

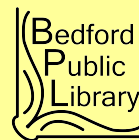
- ◆ Community Affairs Commission
- ◆ Teen Court Advisory Board

The appointments were approved with a vote of 6 to 1, with Councilman Turner providing the sole "No" vote.

DEADLINE

Anyone who intends to speak at next week's City Council Meeting as a "Person to Be Heard" must submit a written request no later than this coming Wednesday at noon. The request must include name, address, phone number and 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 Dr.
Bedford, TX 76021



**Summer Movie Madness
@ Bedford Public Library!**

Kids can enjoy a free movie at the Bedford Public Library tomorrow, July 31, at 2 p.m.

This week's movie hint is: *These penguins can dance circles around the competition!*

Guess the movie and come dressed as your favorite character or thing from that movie.

For more information, call Jeanne Green, BPL Community Services Supervisor, at 817/952-2370.

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 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 and must include the author's name, address, email address and phone number.