

The Bedford Citizen

THE NEWS YOU NEED TO GUIDE YOUR CITY

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ABOUT THIS E-NEWS

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

FEATURES

JULY 24 OPEN FORUM

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One speaker expressed his concern about the relationship between the Council liaison and one of the boards, and several others expressed their concerns regarding the proposed change to the gas drilling ordinance.

Ralph Chaney, who is a member of the Library Advisory Board, spoke about the situation between the Board and their Council liaison and offered suggestions regarding how the issue might be handled.

Roger Gallenstein expressed his appreciation for the previous night's Town Hall meeting regarding Gas Drilling in Bedford. He encouraged the Council to do due diligence and get the word out and said that he met with a member of City Staff and determined that there are no major gas pipelines in the City. There are only the pipelines which supply our homes.

He was concerned about the suggested 300' setback from a residence and pointed out that Colleyville requires a 1,000' distance. He also expressed concern about the noise produced by some of the compressors used to assist in the collection of gas and force it into the take-away pipelines. He feels these issues should be brought to the forefront.

A gentleman whose name we did not get expressed his position that the Council's proposal to install red light cameras is not about safety but only about money. He said

he would prefer better code enforcement and fewer drug houses.

Michelle Stringer explained that the Council might remember her as the person who wanted all kinds of statistics at the Town Hall meeting. She explained that, in her work as a data analyst, she sees the importance of statistics. She said that she had spent the day driving to various gas drilling sites in order to learn more about the space they take, their appearance initially and once gas is being retrieved, and how much noise is involved. She recommended that everyone who can take the time to do the same so that they will know what they are enabling or rejecting for Bedford.

She said that Bedford, which is at least 97% built-out, doesn't have the large, open spaces available that Fort Worth has for drilling and repeated her original concern that she didn't want the drilling anywhere near her own home and didn't want to push it off on other residents, either.

Explaining that this was the first City Council meeting she has attended, she said that things she had just heard had increased her concern. She referred to comments made earlier regarding code violations such as vehicles parked in driveways yet blocking sidewalks. If those codes were not being enforced consistently, she said, then what was there to make her believe that a drilling ordinance would be enforced?

Stuart Updike pointed out that the table comparing gas drilling ordinances, which was distributed at the Town Hall meeting on July 23 and is now posted on the City's

web site, is incorrect with regard to the 300' setback from a residential structure shown for Argyle. He said that a copy of the ordinance obtained from Argyle requires a 600' setback unless all of the owners within 600' agree in writing to reducing the setback to 300'.



EARLY LITERACY BEGINS WITH YOU!

A 30-minute presentation designed to help very young children become successful readers will be offered Thurs. Aug. 2, 7:30-8 p.m. at Bedford Public Library.

During the presentation, BPL librarians will share materials to teach parents/caregivers and early childhood providers the six pre-reading skills that can help prepare every child to be a successful reader. In addition, two books will be awarded free to each family attending the program. The endeavor is funded by a "Texas Reads Grant" awarded to the Bedford Public Library based on a proposal written by Library Manager Maria Redburn.

Registration is not required for this free library program.

For more information, call Jeanne Green at 817/952-2370, or go to <http://www.eventkeeper.com/code/events.cfm?curOrg=BEDFORD>.

ANSWERS FROM THE TEXAS RAILROAD COMMISSION

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In response to concerns that the city's gas might be stolen if it does not move rapidly to change its gas drilling ordinance, *The Bedford Citizen* contacted Ramona Nye, Media Relations Representative for the Texas Railroad Commission. Here are *The Citizen's* questions and Ms. Nye's answers.

Citizen:

If no one inside of the City has leased their mineral rights, can anyone drill under the City?

Nye:

No. An operator must have a valid mineral lease to drill for oil and gas. Anyone drilling into unleased land from the surface to the subsurface commits a subsurface trespass.

Citizen:

How close can a horizontal well bore come to land that is not included in the driller's mineral lease?

Nye:

The proximity depends on field rules established for a specific field. If you are asking about field rules for the Newark East (Barnett Shale) field, the rules are as follows for a horizontal well bore:

A horizontal well bore, at its penetration point of the Newark East (Barnett Shale) formation and its end point (terminus) may come within a few feet of a mineral lease line. However, the well bore's perforations (through which gas or oil is obtained) may be no closer than 330' from a lease line.

Citizen:

Is that distance generally believed to be far enough to prevent capture of the minerals of the other party?

Nye:

Field rules are established to protect correlative rights and to prevent waste of hydrocarbons.

OPINIONS AND EDITORIALS

LETTER TO THE EDITOR: MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL SHOULD SERVE THE RESIDENTS

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I believe a member of the Bedford City Council should serve the residents of Bedford and not use the position for furthering personal interests.

At the Bedford City Council Work Session on July 24, 2007, Library Manager Maria Redburn presented the Bedford Public Library Community Focus Group Analysis. Councilman Orea pointed out that the group was made up of only 42 residents. Mr. Orea said, in so many words, that he wanted the City Council to appreciate the limited number of individuals (in the focus group), not to minimize it, but to point out that community support is not widespread (in the focus group).

At the Bedford City Council Work Session on November 14, 2006, a Eules resident presented a petition from an outside-of-Bedford, private interest group. There were 41 signers of the petition. Councilman Orea fully supported those

signers, rewrote the petition into a Resolution and had it before City Council that night, where it passed. There was no comment from Councilman Orea cautioning the City Council to appreciate the limited number of signers of this petition, but only to emphasize the need for expediency.

What is the difference in the two groups of about 40?

The Library Focus Group is a Bedford city function, held in the Bedford Public Library, supported by library staff and Library Advisory Board. The results of the Focus Group Focus Group Analysis would be helpful in charting the future direction of the library.

The November petition was a function of a special interest group, the Right-To-Life group. Of the 41 participants, 31 were from outside Bedford. Of the 32 churches on the petition, 26 churches (81%) were outside Bedford. There were 10 other cities represented. This was an out-of-Bedford special interest group.

Note Councilman Orea's responses to the two instances above. I believe Councilman Orea is letting his personal interests dictate his actions on the City Council.

Claire Kamego
Librarian for for over 30 years.
Resident of Bedford since 1976.

EDITORIAL: THE SALES PITCH

By Stu Updike

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Some years ago a salesman rang my

doorbell. My wife and I answered the door and, after a brief introduction, let him in. He was pitching a "buyers club." It sounded like a pretty good deal, but my wife and I asked for a little more time to think it over. The salesman replied that the limited-time special was good only during this visit. Reluctantly we both decided we should give it a try. Not long after we became members of the "buyers club" we realized that we had been rushed into something we really didn't want. Now, whenever anyone tells me now that I must hurry and make a decision, I remember that experience.

From the very beginning of the gas drilling odyssey, we have been hearing that we must move quickly to protect our minerals. Since Ms. Nye has explained that no one can drill under Bedford without having leased the mineral rights, moving quickly makes no sense.

In the preceding 24 months, there have been three gas well/gas pipeline explosions in the Barnett Shale area:

An explosion in Palo Pinto County created a crater 30 feet deep and 300 feet in diameter. The explosion occurred near a new well that had experienced a "gas kick," or surge in pressure. (*The Epoch Times/Reuters story* Dec. 16, 2005)

The April 2006 explosion of a well in Forest Hill, a suburb on the south side of Fort Worth, killed a man who was working on the well and shot a plume of fire 300' long. This accident was the catalyst that caused Fort Worth's gas-drilling ordinance task force to change their recommended 300' setback to 600'. (*The Fort Worth Weekly,*

Nov. 29, 2006)

And when a back-hoe operator struck a gas pipeline one mile north of Lake Weatherford, the resulting explosion could be seen for miles. (May 12, 2007 [AP story](#))

These stories do not mean that we should not permit drilling in Bedford, but they do tell us that we should take the time to evaluate the risks, determine whether or not they are acceptable and if there are mitigations that can bring the unacceptable risks down to an acceptable level. As Michelle Stringer and Roger Gallenstein said during Open Forum last week, we need to look at the statistics, and we must do "due diligence."

Instead of rushing, now is the time to slow down and fully consider the ramifications of each of the changes to our drilling ordinance. Once drilling begins, hindsight will be worthless. We must ensure now that the new ordinance will protect all of us from unintended and unacceptable consequences while enabling the drilling to proceed.

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

UPCOMING BEDFORD ACTIVITIES

Monday, August 6 – Wednesday, August 15

Deadline to Sign Up

for Aug. 14 City Council Agenda
Wed. Aug. 8, noon

Bully Storytime

Library, FREE, 817/952-2370
Thurs. Aug. 9, 1:30-2 p.m.

Community Affairs Commission/HOA Board Member Roundtable Meeting

Library, Open to the public, 817-283-9869
or karlasetser@aol.com, 817-318-1233 or
Raymond@rjcenter.com,
Thurs. Aug. 9, 6:30-8 p.m.

Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting

City Hall, Open to Public, 817/952-2125
Thurs. Aug. 9, 6:30 (Work Session) & 7
p.m. Regular Session

Second Saturday Stitchers

Library, FREE, 817/952-2370
Sat. Aug. 11, 10 a.m. - noon

City Council Meeting

City Hall, Open to Public, 817/952-2101
Tues. Aug. 14, 7 p.m.

Library Advisory Board Meeting

Library, Open to Public, 817/952-2332
Wed. Aug. 15, 7 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

PARK AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING

The Board will meet Thurs., Aug. 2, at 7
p.m. at Old Bedford School. Agenda
items include:

- ◆ Update on Central Pool
- ◆ Update on project list
- ◆ Projects for FY 07-08
- ◆ Individual park committee reports
- ◆ Updates on recreation programs

The meeting is open to the public.

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.