

The Bedford Citizen

THE NEWS YOU NEED TO GUIDE YOUR CITY

Vol. 1 No. 61

Monday

November 19, 2007

FEATURES

DEADLINE WEDNESDAY FOR SPEAKING AT COUNCIL NEXT WEEK

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.

TONIGHT'S BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION MEETING

The agenda for tonight's Beautification Commission Meeting, scheduled for 6:30 p.m. at the library, includes several items. The meeting is open to the public.

PUBLIC HEARING AT TONIGHT'S ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

The Texas Department of Transportation acquired a portion of property through eminent domain for the widening of State Highway 121. As a result, the remaining property no longer conforms to the requirements of R-7500.

TOMORROW'S TURKEY TRUCK AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

The Turkey Truck will pick up donated frozen turkeys tomorrow, Nov. 20 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Fire Station #1 on Bedford Road.

CITY HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING

The annual Holiday Tree Lighting Celebration at the Old Bedford School is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 1 from 3-8 p.m. this year.

STREET PRESERVATION PROGRAM UPDATE

According to the City's website, the street sealing crews began grouting the cracks on Forest Ridge Drive Nov. 12. Sealant will continue to be placed on Bedford Road and Harwood Road.

DECEMBER LIBRARY EVENTS

OPINIONS AND EDITORIALS

RECOMMENDED READING: GAS DRILLING

On Nov. 14, *Fort Worth Weekly* ran an article discussing how the signing bonuses have been increased from \$2,500 per acre to \$15,000 per acre in areas where the residents were originally not so willing to sign mineral leases.

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

FEATURES

DEADLINE WEDNESDAY FOR SPEAKING AT COUNCIL NEXT WEEK

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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.

TONIGHT’S BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION MEETING

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The agenda for tonight’s Beautification Commission Meeting, scheduled for 6:30 p.m. at the library, includes several items. The meeting is open to the public.

Among the agenda items for the meeting are a recap of Paper Shredding Day, review of the revised household waste and tree walk brochures and discussion of the December meeting and of City gardens. Reports from the Business Recognition, Communication, Plant Sponsorship/Landscaping, Recycling, Tree Walk, Workday Schedule and Citywide Vision subcommittees will be heard. The Commission’s next work day will be Saturday Dec. 15.

PUBLIC HEARING AT TONIGHT’S ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

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The Texas Department of Transportation acquired a portion of property through eminent domain for the widening of State Highway 121. As a result, the remaining property no longer conforms to the requirements of R-7500.

The regular session of the Zoning Board of Adjustment, scheduled for 6 p.m. in the council chambers at City Hall, will include a public hearing for Variance Case V-052, request of Ronald and Debra Dickens for property located at 99 Regents Park Street, (lot 7, block 15, Stonegate Addition). The meeting is open to the public.

The Texas Department of Transportation acquired this property through eminent domain for the widening of State Highway 121. As a result, the applicant has virtually no backyard. The taking of the property has caused the property to fall into nonconformity with the zoning requirements for the R-7500, single residential detached district. The applicant is requesting that a variance be granted from Section 5.1.A Height and Area Schedule for rear yard depth and minimum area of lot requirements. The property is generally located south of State Hwys 183/121 and east of Brown Trail.

During the work session which will precede the regular session and begin in the City Hall conference room at 5:30 p.m., the Board will review the item scheduled for the public hearing. The work session is open to the public, also.

TOMORROW'S TURKEY TRUCK AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

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The Turkey Truck will pick up donated frozen turkeys tomorrow, Nov. 20 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Fire Station #1 on Bedford Road. Frozen turkeys for donation to the Tarrant Area Food Bank may be delivered to that fire station anytime after 7 a.m.

The City's annual holiday food drive, spearheaded by the Bedford Fire Department, began Nov. 1 and continues through Dec. 31. 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 contact Emergency Management Coordinator Chief Rick Nash at 817/952-2500.

CITY HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

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In observance of the Thanksgiving holiday, the Bedford's non-emergency departments will be closed Thursday and Friday Nov. 22-23. Thursday trash service has been moved to Friday Nov. 23.

HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING

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The annual Holiday Tree Lighting Celebration at the Old Bedford School is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 1 from 3-8 p.m. this year. The event will feature

singing, stories, refreshments and more! The lighting will follow Santa's 6 p.m. arrival at the school. For more information, call the Boys Ranch Activity Center at 817-952-2323.

STREET PRESERVATION PROGRAM UPDATE

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According to the City's website, the street sealing crews began grouting the cracks on Forest Ridge Drive Nov. 12. Sealant will continue to be placed on Bedford Road and Harwood Road. Harwood Road is very near completion, with only a few areas along the curb and gutters still needing sealant. For information on the Street Crack Sealing Program, contact the Public Works Department at 817/952-2200.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT *The*
Bedford Citizen,
PLEASE GO TO:
WWW.BEDFORDCITIZEN.COM

The Bedford Citizen will not be published on Thursday so that we may enjoy the holiday with our friends and family. We wish you a happy Thanksgiving.

DECEMBER LIBRARY EVENTS

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Miss Carrie's Christmas Story Time will be an enchanted evening for the whole family. Santa's elf, Christmas Carol, will visit us all the way from the North Pole on Thursday **Dec. 6**, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Children may bring letters for Santa Claus, and Christmas Carol will deliver them directly to Santa. *Parents: Each letter will receive a personal reply from you-know-who!* Parents are encouraged to bring cameras to preserve the memories of their children meeting Santa's elf, Christmas Carol, of the surprise visitor (a Sugar Plum Fairy with pretty wings) and other precious moments. No registration is required. This free story time and craft event is sponsored by the *Friends of the Bedford Public Library* and *Starbucks of Bedford*.

Between now and Dec. 15, children are invited to send bring their letters to Santa to the library or send them to the library via email or U.S. mail. *Parents: Please include a separate letter listing address, brothers/sisters names, pets, hobbies, sports and the child's recent accomplishments.* Each child's letter will receive a personal reply from Santa.

The City's annual holiday food drive, spearheaded by the Bedford Fire Department, began Nov. 1 and continues **through Dec. 31**. 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.

The City Animal Shelter and Bedford Public Library are asking you to help to provide a safe and healthy environment for the lost and forgotten animals that come to the shelter. Any of the following may be dropped off at the Bedford shelter or its library **before the end of December**:

- ◆ 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

Remember that pets at the shelter are available for adoption. Consider giving a furry friend the gift of a loving home.

Between Dec. 8 and Dec. 22, anyone who has an outstanding library fine can get \$1 of that fine waved for each non-perishable food item he or she delivers to the library for the Tarrant Area Food Bank and/or the Bedford Animal Shelter.

Bedford Public Library will show free movies for the kids Monday through Thursday, **Dec. 17-Dec. 20** at 2 p.m. Registration is *not* required for this program. The scheduled movies are *Meet the Robinsons*, *Evan Almighty*, *Ratatouille* and *Shrek the Third*, respectively.

For more information about any of the events listed above, contact Jeanne Green at 817/952-2370.

OPINIONS AND EDITORIALS

RECOMMENDED READING: GAS DRILLING

By Stuart Updike

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On Nov. 14, *Fort Worth Weekly* ran an article discussing how the signing bonuses have been increased from \$2,500 per acre to \$15,000 per acre in areas where the residents were originally not so willing to sign mineral leases. In addition, some communities have used their leverage to obtain a 600 foot minimum between any well and their community. They have also been able to negotiate noise and light restrictions.

The *Fort Worth Weekly* article also mentions articles in the Denton Record-Chronicle that discuss radioactive waste and quotes reporter Peggy Heinkle-Wolfe as saying, "two decontamination companies have cleaned up 25 Barnett Shale sites of about 1,000 barrels of radioactive waste in the past two years." This is a concern that has been mentioned several times by Joy Johnson at our City Council meetings. The *Fort Worth Weekly* article is available at:

<http://www.fweekly.com/content.asp?section=News&type=Metropolis>

In the Aug. 3 issue of *The Bedford Citizen*, we wrote, "If you have not already signed a lease, you would be wise to get together with the other residents of your neighborhood and hire an attorney skilled in oil and gas leases to advise you *before*

you sign anything." Whether you favor drilling or not, the increased signing bonuses mentioned in the *Fort Worth Weekly* article are an indication of what can be obtained through shrewd bargaining and raise the question of why our City Council has not been more helpful in providing our citizens with more balanced information? Why have they not held a town hall meeting for the purpose of educating our citizens on what the hazards are and on how to obtain the most favorable terms in their mineral leases?

The Aug. 3 issue of *The Bedford Citizen* can be found at:

http://www.bedfordcitizen.com/BACK_ISSUES/070803F_25_Bedford_Citizen.pdf