

The Bedford Citizen

THE NEWS YOU NEED TO GUIDE YOUR CITY

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[LIBRARY BLOG VISITS](#)

Bedford Public Library's blog at bedfordlibrarylink.blogspot.com/ has been online for about six weeks and has already been visited nearly 1250 times.

[STREET PRESERVATION PROGRAM UPDATE](#)

According to the City's website, crack-sealing on Bedford Road will be complete Saturday Dec. 8.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

This issue is devoted to an overview of the highlights of last Tuesday's City Council meeting. A more in-depth article about each item marked ** will appear in a future issue of The Bedford Citizen.

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FEATURES

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM CLASSES

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The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program invites anyone interested to sign up for the next series of classes. Slated to begin in January, the classes will provide training for Bedford's seventh group of CERT team members.

The CERT program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. Using the training learned in the classroom and during exercises, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help. CERT members also are encouraged to support emergency response agencies by taking a more active role in emergency preparedness projects in their community.

CERT graduates have a better understanding of the potential threats to their home, workplace and community and can take the right steps to lessen the effects of those hazards on themselves, their homes or the workplace. If a disaster overwhelms local response capability, CERT members can apply the training learned in the classroom and during exercises to give critical support to their

family, loved ones, neighbors or associates in their immediate area until help arrives. When help does arrive, CERTs provide useful information to responders and support their efforts, as directed, at the disaster site. CERT members can assist also with non-emergency projects which improve the safety of the community.

An application form for the upcoming series of classes is available at <http://bedfordccc.net/Misc%20Files/Cert%20Application.pdf>. For more information about the CERT program, visit <http://bedfordccc.net/index.htm> or contact Melanie Curl at 817/952-2500 or bedfordtxccc@yahoo.com.

LIBRARY BLOG VISITS

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Bedford Public Library's blog at bedfordlibrarylink.blogspot.com/ has been online for about six weeks and has already been visited nearly 1250 times. The site promises that "You'll find everything here, ranging from the latest news, events and services to books we're reading, DVDs we're watching and music we're listening to." The public is welcome to make comments, ask questions and generally take part in the conversation.

STREET PRESERVATION PROGRAM UPDATE

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According to the City's website, crack-sealing on Bedford Road will be complete Saturday Dec. 8. Work on Forest Ridge

*In-depth coverage of each item marked ** will appear in a future issue of The Bedford Citizen.*

Drive should be complete Tuesday Dec. 11, and then work will begin on Martin Drive. For information on the Street Crack Sealing Program, contact the Public Works Department at 817/952-2200.

DEC. 11 CITY COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Councilman Whistler was not present at this meeting.

PERSONS TO BE HEARD

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- ◆ Resident Lester Biggers proposed a line fee dedicated on the water bills for an optimal \$1 library donation. City Manager Beverly Queen described the issues that would need to be addressed in considering the request and explained that residents who do not want to pay the current Parks and Recreation Department donation may mark through the charge each time or contact the water department to request that the charge be removed permanently. Councilwoman Nail asked if staff could look into a mechanism for residents to make donations to a department of their choice, such as the Animal Shelter, rather than being limited to whatever is listed on the water bill.
- ◆ Resident Joyce Johnson expressed concern that having the notice period during a major holiday for a vital Town Hall Meeting would not

allow residents sufficient time to consider and research the issue in order to develop their questions and comments before that meeting. Councilmembers Cason, Turner and Nail indicated that they believed the timing was appropriate. When Mayor Story asked the City Manager to list the ways that the meeting is being advertised, she listed the following: *Bedford Connection* in 23,000 water bills and to all apartment complexes, posted on the City's website since late November, posted on the cable channel, portable signs at four major intersections in town, notice to Apartment Managers Association, emails through B.A.C.E., L.A.C.E. and P.A.C.E., notices to all Home Owners Associations, on the television screen at the library's check-out desk, advertising in the Northeast Times, and announcements at every Council meeting until the event.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR GAS ORDINANCE TABLED

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The Council voted unanimously to table the public hearing regarding the proposed ordinance amending the City's ordinance regarding gas/oil well drilling and production within the corporate limits

It had been advertised several weeks ago to comply with legal statutes but was tabled

because the final draft has not been completed.

TWO NEW COMPUTERS FOR POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS

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Council voted unanimously to authorize the City Manager to purchase two IBM iSeries computers from Prologic Technology Systems, Inc. (an IBM business partner), to replace the AS/400s now used by the Police and Fire Departments (\$52,464).

Councilman Orean requested a clarification of breakdown of the purchase price. That information was provided by City staff, and it was explained that the cost of the two new computers plus maintenance would prompt a four-year savings of \$52,708 over the cost of not replacing them and continuing to cover the cost of hardware and software maintenance on the old AS/400s (purchased in 1999). Of the \$52,464 total, \$41,000 would be paid out of the General Fund Maintenance Account and the rest out of the IT computer replacement fund.

APPOINTMENTS TO BEDFORD BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

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Twenty-one new applicants and two incumbents, re-interviewing due to attendance concerns, were scheduled for the November 30 interviews. Of those, one did not show up, one provided advance notice of inability to attend, and one withdrew application. Additionally, there

were several incumbents who reapplied for their current Board or Commission seat. Following the interviews, Council discussed and tentatively made appointments to Board and Commissions for the 2008 calendar year. The Council voted unanimously to approve those appointments.

PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE SIGN ORDINANCE

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Development Director Bill Syblon explained motivating factors which have prompted a comprehensive analysis of the City's Sign Ordinance. To reduce the challenges of enforcement and interpretation of the current ordinance, the regulations need to be revised to facilitate 'hands on' administration and enforcement for City staff. Also, the business community has indicated a need for relief from various regulations which make competing in the marketplace difficult. Staff has addressed the proposed revisions so as to maintain the quality of development and meet the aesthetic standards of which the City has grown accustomed.

Planning Consultant Dan Boutwell added that the revised ordinance includes changes approved by the recent legislature and then reviewed and explained the proposed changes.

Council deliberated the changes and related issues and then indicated areas for further development.

*In-depth coverage of each item marked ** will appear in a future issue of The Bedford Citizen.*

**COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS
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- ◆ Councilman Cason said that he had attended the previous night's Animal Control Board meeting and last month's Pet Adopt-a-Thon.
- ◆ Councilwoman Nail thanked the mayor for extending the invitation to the annual Tarrant County Mayor's Council Christmas banquet and said that she had enjoyed the event. She wished everyone a merry Christmas and safe New Year.
- ◆ Councilman Orea refuted the rumor that he is a candidate for the State Legislature in District 92.
- ◆ Councilman Turner announced that he'll be able to attend the Parks and Recreation Board meetings from now on because he has completed the Police Academy. He encouraged residents to attend the Academy, describing it as "very informative and well worth doing." He also attended the tree lighting ceremony and said that it was very well attended.
- ◆ Mayor ProTem Savage reported having attended and enjoyed the Senior Center's Christmas Dinner.
- ◆ Mayor Story mentioned the large crowd that showed up for a recent library celebration and the success of the City's first five-hour tree-lighting event.

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- ◆ Resident Joyce Johnson expressed concerns regarding the safety risks relative to gas drilling. She also expressed pleasure at hearing the mayor provide the invocation at the previous Council meeting.
- ◆ Resident Dorothy McWhorter pointed out that, during discussion of the July 23 Town Hall meeting at the previous Council meeting, "a statement was made that the people who supported the gas drilling did not speak during the Town Hall meeting. She produced a copy of the Star-Telegram article published about that meeting and referred to the lines that read, "City Councilman Bob Whistler asked people to raise their hands to gauge the support. About two-thirds supported the drilling." She asked, "When people vote, aren't they speaking? Aren't they making their wishes known?" She asked the mayor to consider having a two-minute limit per speaker in order to stop the filibustering.
- ◆ Resident Joyce Johnson expressed opposition to the two-minute limit.

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