

# The Bedford Citizen

THE NEWS YOU NEED TO GUIDE YOUR CITY

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Natural gas development creates value for many people. Certainly, natural gas development companies invest significant capital with the expectation of making an economic return on that investment.

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The Beautification Commission will meet at 6:30 p.m. Monday at the library to elect officers, make committee assignments and hear reports of the subcommittees.

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As of Jan. 1, 2008, all U.S. households are eligible to request up to two coupons, worth \$40 each, to be used toward the purchase of up to two digital-to-analog converter boxes.

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## FEATURES

### TONIGHT'S COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMISSION MEETING

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The Community Affairs Commission will meet at 6 p.m. tonight at the Old Bedford School. An Economic Development update and reports from the committees - Business Development and Retention, Residential Community Support, and Communications. The meeting is open to the public.

### TRUTHFULLY, WHO BENEFITS FROM BARNETT SHALE NATURAL GAS DEVELOPMENT IN BEDFORD?

By Jim Wilkes

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Natural gas development creates value for many people. Certainly, natural gas development companies invest significant capital with the expectation of making an economic return on that investment. This is by no means assured. A recent study by Berman and Carson published in World Oil magazine (November 2007 page 114) estimated that at current drilling costs and natural gas prices that only 28% of 1,966 horizontal wells drilled in the Barnett Shale would produce a rate of return in excess of 10% per year, a minimal rate of return criteria for gas developers.

Mineral owners will also benefit. The typical royalty rate on new leases in the Barnett Shale is 25%. This means that 25% of the revenues produced are paid to the mineral owners. In Bedford many residents own the

mineral rights under their property. The largest mineral owners are most likely H-E-B School District and the City. Lease bonuses can also be substantial. In certain urban areas of Fort Worth mineral owners have received \$15,000 per acre.

Our local economy will benefit because of the demand for labor, services and supplies that are required to develop the gas. There is a compound effect on the economy as those who receive the wages and gas revenues spend and invest in the local economy.

The State of Texas will receive 7.5% of all gas revenue in the form of a severance tax. This amount is deducted from gross revenue and applies to both gas developers and mineral owners.

Local tax authorities will also take a portion of the revenues. These include H-E-B ISD, the City of Bedford, Tarrant County, Tarrant Co. Hospital, and Tarrant County College. In total these entities collected a tax of 2.39% of the appraised value of properties in Bedford last year. Mineral value is appraised each year by Tarrant Appraisal District and is included in the property tax base just like your homes and businesses. By having a larger tax base, the tax authorities could lower tax rates to maintain the same revenue to fund their budgets. Typically, 3 to 5% of oil and gas revenues are paid for property taxes and are paid by both gas developers and mineral owners.

Gas development revenue will also flow to the United States Treasury. To the extent that the gas revenue produces taxable

income, it will be taxed by the Federal Government.

The truthful answer to the opening question is **we all benefit**. This is because we all enjoy reliable and low cost energy. We need gas from the Barnett Shale to fuel our power plants and heat our homes. Gas produced here reduces gas imports from Canada and other countries. It also reduces the need for more coal fired power plants in Texas. The energy produced, revenue, tax collection, and economic activity will benefit all citizens of Bedford.

*Jim Wilkes has been a resident of Bedford for 24 years. He graduated from Texas A&M University with a BS degree in Petroleum Engineering and is a registered professional engineer in the State of Texas. His company, Texland Petroleum, LP is not active in Barnett Shale gas development.*

## **BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION MEETING MONDAY EVENING**

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The Beautification Commission will meet at 6:30 p.m. Monday at the library to elect officers, make committee assignments and hear reports of the subcommittees. Also on the agenda are an Annual Report, the Long Range Planning strategy and the City-Wide Vision.

## **DIGITAL-TO-ANALOG CONVERTER BOX COUPON PROGRAM**

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As of Jan. 1, 2008, all U.S. households are eligible to request up to two coupons, worth \$40 each, to be used toward the purchase of up to two digital-to-analog converter boxes. Consumers may use the coupons to

purchase certified converter boxes for their analog televisions, which rely on over-the-air broadcasts, to continue functioning after Feb. 17, 2009, the date when all full-power TV stations will convert to all-digital signals. Units connected to cable, satellite or other pay TV services won't need converters.

A total of 33.5 million coupons are available under this program. Retailers estimate that converters will cost between \$50 and \$70. Until March 31, 2009, households may request coupons – while funding remains available – in one of four ways:

Apply online at [www.dtv2009.gov](http://www.dtv2009.gov)

Call the 24-hr. hotline 1-888-DTV-2009 (1-888-388-2009), TTY 1-877-530-2634

Mail a coupon application to:  
PO Box 2000; Portland, OR 97208-2000

Fax a coupon application to:  
1-877-DTV-4ME2 (1-877-388-4632)

For more information about the Television Converter Box Coupon Program, visit [www.DTV2009.gov](http://www.DTV2009.gov) or call **1-888-DTV-2009** (1-888-388-2009). For more information about digital transition, visit [www.dtv.gov](http://www.dtv.gov).

The Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) announced last week that more than 250 retailers, representing more than 15,000 outlets nationwide, are certified to participate in this program, intended to aid in the transition to digital television. Also, 19 converter box models are eligible for purchase with the coupon and more are being tested as part of the certification process. More than a million households requested two million coupons during the first week of the program.

## CITY-SPONSORED SPECIAL EVENTS

### ***Murder Mystery Dinner and Show***

Reality gets turned upside down when famous "Reality Show" celebrities turn up for what they think is a taping of their new shows. When reality show star and billionaire Ronald Rump ends up dead, the simple life of these celebrities turns into a game of survivor! [U.S. Actor's Company](#), a Bedford business, will perform "Real Murder," and [Sweet Memories Cakes & Catering for All Occasions](#) will cater the Old Bedford School's January Murder Mystery Dinner and Show. Tickets are \$45/person; \$80/couple or \$40/senior; groups of 20 or more qualify for senior rates. 817/952-2290 <http://www.oldbedfordschool.com/performances/mystery.htm>  
Saturday Jan. 19, 7-10 p.m.

### ***An Afternoon of Romance***

Join the Friends of the Bedford Public Library for *An Afternoon of Romance* at Barnes & Noble of North Richland Hills. Meet and get autographs from successful romance authors Candace Havens (*Like A Charm*), Cindy Dees (*The Medusa Seduction*), Judy Christenberry (*A Randall Hero*) and Karen Kelley (*Cosmic Sex*). The event will include a Romance Author Panel Discussion, a reception, book signing and drawings for romantic prizes. If you will pick up a special voucher at the library, or download it from [www.bedfordlibrary.org](http://www.bedfordlibrary.org), and then present it before you make a purchase at Barnes and Noble/NRH that day, 10% of the net sale will be donated to the Friends of the Bedford Public Library. (Note: Some restrictions apply; see voucher for details.) That bookstore is

located at 8525 Airport Fwy. 817/952-2370 or 817/281-7042 [jgreen@ci.bedford.tx.us](mailto:jgreen@ci.bedford.tx.us)  
Saturday Feb. 2, 1-4 p.m.

### ***La Cage aux Folles ONSTAGE***

ONSTAGE in Bedford will present a Special Valentines Day performance of *La Cage aux Folles* Thursday Feb. 14 as part of its Feb. 8-23 performances of the PG-13-rated musical comedy known also as *The Birdcage*. Performances are Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Saturdays at 2 p.m. in the Trinity Arts Theater at Boys Ranch Park. Evening tickets are \$15/person for the general public, with a \$5 discount for senior citizens, Bedford residents and students; matinee tickets are \$10/person for everyone. Online tickets: [www.ONSTAGEInBedford.org](http://www.ONSTAGEInBedford.org). 817-354-6444. To receive email updates about ONSTAGE In Bedford performances: [ONSTAGEinBedford@yahoo.com](mailto:ONSTAGEinBedford@yahoo.com)  
Feb. 8-23

### ***13<sup>th</sup> Annual Valentine's Dance at BRAC***

The annual Father/Daughter Mother/Son event includes dancing, light refreshments, a flower for your loved one and a photo to commemorate the event. Tickets must be purchased by Wednesday Feb. 6 \$20/couple; \$15/individuals 817-952-2323 [http://www.ci.bedford.tx.us/Departments/parks\\_recreation/recreation.htm](http://www.ci.bedford.tx.us/Departments/parks_recreation/recreation.htm)  
Saturday Feb. 9, 6:30 - 9:30 p.m.

### ***ONSTAGE Auditions for Terra Nova***

Auditions take place in the lobby of the Trinity Arts Theater at Boys Ranch Park. If possible, those auditioning should bring a picture or headshot and resume. The Theater needs backstage crew volunteers, too. ONSTAGE Audition line 817-354-6444

or [onstageinbedford@yahoo.com](mailto:onstageinbedford@yahoo.com)  
Monday Feb. 11, Tuesday Feb. 12, 7 p.m.

**Murder Mystery Dinner and Show**  
[U.S. Actor's Company](#), a Bedford business, will perform the comedy *Dinner, Drinks and a Murder*, and [Sweet Memories Cakes & Catering for All Occasions](#) will cater the Old Bedford School's February Murder Mystery Dinner and Show. Tickets are \$45/person; \$80/couple or \$40/senior; groups of 20 or more qualify for senior rates. 817/952-2290  
<http://www.oldbedfordschool.com/performances/mystery.htm>  
Saturday Feb. 16, 7-10 p.m.

## REGULARLY SCHEDULED CITY-SPONSORED ACTIVITIES

**Friends of the Bedford Public Library**  
Library, PUBLIC INVITED, 817/952-2332  
[mredburn@ci.bedford.tx.us](mailto:mredburn@ci.bedford.tx.us)  
Thursday Jan. 17, 7 p.m.

**Community Affairs Commission Mtg.**  
Old Bedford School, OPEN TO PUBLIC,  
817-318-1233 or [Raymond@rjcenter.com](mailto:Raymond@rjcenter.com)  
Thursday Jan. 17, 6 p.m.

**Senior Computer Class**  
Library, FREE, 817/952-2370  
[jgreen@ci.bedford.tx.us](mailto:jgreen@ci.bedford.tx.us)  
Monday Jan. 21, 8:30-9:30 a.m.

**Book Buddies Tutoring** for ages 4-13  
Library, FREE, Appointment: 817/952-2370  
Monday Jan. 21, after school

**Beautification Commission Meeting**  
Library, OPEN TO PUBLIC, 817/952-2300  
Monday Jan. 21, 6:30 p.m.

**Internet Basics Part 1 Computer Class**  
Library, FREE, 817/952-2342  
[tnew@ci.bedford.tx.us](mailto:tnew@ci.bedford.tx.us)

Monday Jan. 21, 7-8:30 p.m.

**Senior Computer Class**  
Library, FREE, 817/952-2370  
[jgreen@ci.bedford.tx.us](mailto:jgreen@ci.bedford.tx.us)  
Tuesday Jan. 22, 8:30-9:30 a.m.

**Sprouts Story Time** for the active child  
Library, FREE, 817/952-2370  
Tuesday Jan. 22, 10-10:20 a.m.

**Story Book Club** for the child who's ready to sit and listen  
Library, FREE, 817/952-2370  
Tuesday Jan. 22, 11-11:20 a.m.

**Charter Review Commission Meeting**  
Library, OPEN TO PUBLIC, 817/952-2101  
Tuesday Jan. 22, 5:30 p.m.

**City Council Meeting**  
City Hall, OPEN TO PUBLIC, 817/952-2101  
Tuesday Jan. 22, 7 p.m., work session precedes

**Basics of Spanish**  
Library, FREE, 817/952-2370  
[jgreen@ci.bedford.tx.us](mailto:jgreen@ci.bedford.tx.us)  
Wednesday Jan. 23, 8:30-10 a.m.

**Basics of Spanish**  
Library, FREE, 817/952-2370  
[jgreen@ci.bedford.tx.us](mailto:jgreen@ci.bedford.tx.us)  
Wednesday Jan. 23, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

**Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting**  
City Hall, OPEN TO PUBLIC, 817/952-2125  
Thursday Jan. 24, 7 p.m.

**Deadline to sign up for Spring 08 CERT**  
(Community Emergency Response Team)  
817-952-2500 [Bedfordtxccc@Yahoo.com](mailto:Bedfordtxccc@Yahoo.com)  
[http://fire.ci.bedford.tx.us/EMO\\_Cert.htm](http://fire.ci.bedford.tx.us/EMO_Cert.htm)  
Monday Jan. 28

**Senior Computer Class**

Library, FREE, 817/952-2370

[jgreen@ci.bedford.tx.us](mailto:jgreen@ci.bedford.tx.us)

Monday Jan. 28, 8:30-9:30 a.m.

**Book Buddies Tutoring** for ages 4-13

Library, FREE, Appointment: 817/952-2370

Monday Jan. 28, after school

**Internet Basics Part 2 Computer Class**

Library, FREE, 817/952-2342

[tnew@ci.bedford.tx.us](mailto:tnew@ci.bedford.tx.us)

Monday Jan. 28, 7-8:30 p.m.

**Senior Computer Class**

Library, FREE, 817/952-2370

[jgreen@ci.bedford.tx.us](mailto:jgreen@ci.bedford.tx.us)

Tuesday Jan. 29, 8:30-9:30 a.m.

Sites for additional information:

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](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](http://www.ci.bedford.tx.us/Departments/general_government/sc_calendar.htm)