



**MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 2020**

Tarrant County Public Health reported an additional 68 new cases overnight with 2 additional deaths. This brings the County-wide totals to 4,711 positive cases, 132 deaths, and an estimated 1,716 recoveries to date. According to hospital statistics, of the available hospital beds in the County, 6% are currently being occupied by confirmed COVID-19 patients. 4% of available ventilators are currently being occupied by those same patients.

I wanted to take a moment to address some concerns brought to City Council in recent days regarding changing the name Bedford Boys Ranch to Generations Park. Before I begin, I want to say thank you to everyone. We are grateful for your input, your complaints, your complements, and your ideas and suggestions regarding the name change. The fact that you have and are taking the time to let us know your feelings regarding this matter tells us that you are interested in what is going on in our City. So, thank you for this.

The passing of the park revitalization project/bond in November 2017 not only brought forward ideas of how best to renew the center of our community, it also created a discussion on updating all aspects of the Boys Ranch Park. This included, but was not limited to, the renaming the park as well as the future multi-generational community center.

These discussions took place during City Council Work Sessions, Town Hall meetings, and various public events over several years. These conversations ultimately fostered our decision to seek a new name for the park and recreation center. Council and staff recruited a marketing firm to assist with a possible name change, as well as marketing opportunities for our new park. Council created a subcommittee consisting of Mayor Pro Tem Sabol, and Council members Fisher and Sartor who met with the marketing firm and brainstormed name ideas. Afterwards, the subcommittee returned to Council on April 28, 2020 with name suggestions. After reviewing options, Council unanimously agreed to accept Generations Park as the new moniker.

We all recognize that change is difficult. Especially now more than ever. For many people, the name Bedford Boys Ranch elicits a nostalgic remembrance of the rich history and heritage of what Bedford once was. This history includes the years 1949 to 1957 when the Variety Club of Dallas operated the Boys Ranch as a location for troubled boys. Bedford's history is unique and worth telling. We don't tell our history enough.

It is because of this heritage that Council selected the name Generations Park. We have a special opportunity to change the look of our City for all generations, both young and old. The Phase Next park plan, approved by the voters, provides us with the opportunity to create a refreshing new park with amenities. The Boys Ranch has become dated, as well as the name. As generations change, so do their needs. What was once considered new in 1949 is not considered the same today. Lifestyles change. Expectations change.

In pushing this project forward and in opting to change the name of the Boys Ranch, it is the desire of the City Council to seize the initiative in creating a new revitalized park for every resident to be proud of. Council has consistently asked for wow. Council has consistently asked for the best for our residents. In choosing the name Generations Park, it is the Council's desire to honor all the generations that have contributed to making Bedford our home and what it is now. In addition, want to honor future Bedford generations with a first-class facility that is, and will continue to be, the center of our town. A change in the name of the park cannot take away that rich history. It is the story that matters.

Please stay tuned in the coming weeks. Working with our consultants, Council and staff will continue the discussion of turning the Boys Ranch into Generations Park. And in so doing, we will seek ways to honor this part of Bedford's history and tell the story of the Boys Ranch.