



# BEDFORD BUSINESS FIRST

News from Bedford County Office of Economic Development

**April 2021**

Do you need assistance in determining what programs and loans are available for your business? Please visit the [Office of Economic Development's website](#) for available loans and grants and click Covid-19 Business Resources at the top of the page. Call our office for more information.



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Click this link for more information and the County's response to COVID-19.



## Bedford One Career Conversations:

April 14: Blue Ridge Optics

April 21: Innerspec Technologies

April 28: Hurt & Proffitt

May 5: L3Harris



## Belvac to begin build-out construction this month

The Bedford County Economic Development Authority (EDA)

[announced in early March](#) that

Belvac is expanding its container

and engineering services with a significant investment in Bedford County. Belvac is building out the 40,000 sq. ft. shell building owned by the EDA in the New London Business & Technology Center park in Forest. The company recently signed a lease with the EDA and build-out is expected to begin this month. "Increased consumer demand for more environmentally friendly aluminum beverage cans and bottles, which better meet environmental standards and regulatory conditions are driving growth throughout the can-making industry. Belvac anticipated this increased demand for our products and services and has been investing to expand our manufacturing capabilities, product offering, and support services. These most recent investments ensure that Belvac now has full-line equipment capabilities to provide full plant integration services, mitigating risk at installation and startup," said David Mammolenti, Executive Vice President, Belvac. The company hopes to be fully operational in the new space later this year. [Read the full story here.](#)

## Damage Prevention breaks ground in New London



We are happy to have officially broken ground on Damage Prevention Solutions site for its new headquarters in our premier New London Business and Technology Center park in Forest. The company is investing \$2 Million in a 10,000 square foot manufacturing building on Lot 3B and will add up to 45 jobs over the next five years. Company CEO, Ryan Dunn was part of the

**SAVE THE DATE:**

September 15  
Business Roundtable  
Location TBD

ground breaking ceremony along with Supervisor Charla Bansley, County staff, EDA representatives, Coleman-Adams Construction, other tenants in the park, and Megan Lucas from the Lynchburg Regional Business Alliance. *Photo by Brigitte Luckett.*

WSET story here: <https://wset.com/news/local/bedford-county-officials-break-ground-for-new-company-inside-business-park>



### Wondering about loans and grants available to businesses this year?

The **SBA offers** several different [relief options](#) to help businesses, nonprofits, and faith-based organizations recover from the impacts of COVID-19.

**Restaurant Revitalization Grant (RRG):** Restaurants impacted by the economic fallout of COVID-19 are eligible for a grant up to \$10 million to cover eligible expenses going back to February 15, 2020. This grant will be available in early April.

**Shuttered Venue Operator Grant (SVOG):** This grant will be available on April 8, 2021 to eligible entities including live venue operators or promoter, theatrical producers, live performing arts organization operators, museums, zoos, aquariums, talent representative, etc. Must have been in operation as of February 29, 2020. For more details about eligibility, [visit this website](#), or [watch this video to learn more](#).

Both of the above programs will require applicants to be registered with SAM.gov and have a DUNS number. You should complete these steps prior to the application process for the grant programs. Learn more at [How to request a DUNS number](#) and [How to Register in SAM.gov](#).

**PPP First Draw Loans:** If you have not received a PPP loan before, First Draw PPP Loans may be available to you.

**PPP Second Draw Loans:** If you have previously received PPP loan, certain businesses are eligible for a Second Draw PPP Loan.

**COVID-19 Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL):** This loan provides economic relief to small businesses and nonprofit organizations that are currently experiencing a temporary loss of revenue.

The **Business Development Centre** in Lynchburg has loan funds available to help small businesses.

**Business Development Centre Loan Fund:** Loans range from \$1,000 to \$35,000 for independently owned businesses with 50 or fewer employees.

**Venture for Enterprising Women Loan Program:** Loans range from \$1,000 to \$35,000 for independently women owned businesses with 51% majority ownership and 50 or fewer employees.



### Join us Friday at Pro Disc Golf Course ribbon cutting

The Bedford County Parks and Recreation Department in cooperation with the Bedford County Economic Development Authority, is pleased to announce a ribbon cutting for the newly constructed Championship Disc Golf course at the New London Business and Technology Center park on Friday, April 9, at 10 a.m.

The ribbon cutting will be held at Trail Head 1, located just beyond the roundabout, at the end of Meade Rd. Paul McBeth, five-time Disc Golf World Champion, designed the course and will be the honored guest to officially open the 18-hole pro level course to the public.



### Mariner's Landing gets complete makeover

Recently, the Economic Development office went with Tourism to sit down with Waller Perrow from [Mariner's Landing](#) and Tiffany Silva from [The Landing](#) to help them address hiring, training and expansion plans in the resort community. Since taking over last May, Mariner's Landing Development Company consolidated the golf course and resort amenities, designated the club as all-inclusive for property owners and instituted dozens of cleanup and beautification projects of the facilities and grounds, which include a clubhouse, indoor and outdoor pools, beaches,

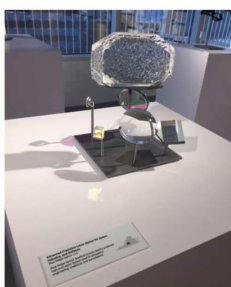
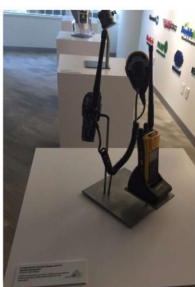
fishing piers, hiking and biking trails and tennis/pickleball courts in addition to an 18-hole golf course designed by architect Robert Trent Jones Sr.

Several new restaurants including The Landing, Chubby's, Bottle's and Bites, Bruno's Gastro Truck, The Turn, and a Tiki Bar are all underway and expected to open on May 1.



### Minimum Wage Increases on May 1

The minimum wage in Virginia will increase to \$9.50/hour beginning May 1. As of that day, all employees must be paid either the State or Federal Minimum wage – whichever is higher. On January 1, 2022, it will go up to \$11/hour. Then \$12 on Jan. 1, 2023. The increase to \$13.50 on January 1, 2025, and \$15.00 on January 1, 2026, will be contingent on the General Assembly's enactment by July 1, 2024.



### Local companies on display in Richmond

Blue Ridge Optics and L3Harris each have products proudly on display at the Virginia Economic Development Partnership (VEDP) office in Richmond. This impressive gallery located in the VEDP lobby area features Virginia-made products.

Blue Ridge Optics produces advanced precision laser optics used in aerospace engineering, medicine, and surveillance. L3Harris produces mobile communication devices for public safety and security.

### Latest employment numbers

As compared to numbers in December 2020, the labor force in Bedford County is down by 166 and the employed number is down by 278. Unemployment increased to 4.2% from 3.8% in December with fewer job openings available.

However, initial unemployment claims are down to 64 from a high of 986 in April of last year. Regionally, continued claims for unemployment, which are filed by those who made an initial claim in a previous week and are now making subsequent claims to receive ongoing benefits, declined to 1,695 during the week of March 20. This was the lowest number of continued claims



recorded in one week across the Central Virginia LWDA since the week of March 28, 2020. [Learn more.](#)

## Expanding? We have space for you.



Our premier **New London Business and Technology Center** park in Forest features pad-ready and cleared lots for sale ranging from 7.5 to 48+ acres for whatever size facility suits your needs. Prices are negotiable based on jobs and investment. **Download the flier here.**

The **Bedford Center for Business** has land ready for development including a graded lot, and it lies within the Town's Enterprise Zone and Virginia's Opportunity Zone. **Download the flier here.**

In **Montvale Center for Commerce**, two lots are available with nearly 20 combined acres ready for grading. Conveniently located on 460 W and close to I-81. **Download the flier here.**



Call the Office of Economic Development to learn how we can help your business grow in Bedford County. **540-587-5670** **BedfordEconomicDevelopment.com**

**Did you know we have other commercial listings available on our website?**  
[Check them out here.](#)

## Like what you see?

We post regularly to keep you up to date on projects taking place in the community, continuing education opportunities, and more!



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