



February 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. New information is added on a regular basis, so be sure to check back often and reach out to us at 540-587-5670.



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



Upcoming Bedford ONE Tours

March 3, 2021: Liberty University School of Nursing

March 24, 2021: Sam Moore Furniture

Bedford County joins Gauntlet for 2021

Bedford County businesses both aspiring and existing are now eligible to participate in Virginia's largest business competition, The Gauntlet.



The program is held on Tuesdays from 6-7:30 p.m. virtually, now through May 27. Participants will connect with hundreds of Gauntlet alumni, industry experts, investors and community leaders to build on their business idea or plan. Classes include business development and planning, financial analysis, operations, marketing, sales and retention, among others. The initial meeting was held earlier this week, but it's not too late to sign up. [Learn more and apply here.](#)



ElectricCoMarket underway on Depot Street in Bedford

Joining The Gauntlet for business development and mentorship is a new business in town. ElectricCoArt is under development at 207 East Depot Street in downtown Bedford. The owner, Wendy Witt, plans to encompass three different businesses:

- **ElectricCoMarket**, a 3,100+ sf market place of approximately 25 vendors, to include William Mauser, blacksmith and woodsmith;
- **ElectricCoBistro**, a casual dining bistro featuring creative comfort foods with an inviting atmosphere;
- **ElectricCoGallery**, an approximately 3,000 sf contemporary art gallery.

"I'm really looking forward to meeting like-minded entrepreneurs and hope to create relationships to help with marketing and HR and employment expertise," Wendy Witt explains, regarding her enthusiasm to join The Gauntlet program. "We intend to create a space that will be exciting to Bedford and well beyond...looking forward to adding to the destination aspects of our beautiful town."

Wondering what's available to businesses in 2021?



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

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.



Start Smart: Get your business up and running

Do you want to open your own business? Do you have an idea for a product or service that you want to bring to market? Maybe you have people ready to buy your products, or customers ready to sign up for your services, but you're not sure how to start getting paid. Join the Small Business Development Center's Start Smart initiative on Thursday, February 18 from 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. to learn more about starting your on business. [Register here.](#)



Damage Prevention to break ground in New London

Damage Prevention Solutions, LLC is locating to Bedford County and will invest more than \$2 million and add up to 45 new jobs. The company expects to break ground soon on its 10,000 square foot manufacturing facility equipped with laminators and digital production printing presses in

the New London Business and Technology Center park in Forest. [Read more here.](#)



Championship Disc Golf Course coming to New London

The Bedford County Parks and Recreation Department, in partnership with the Bedford County Economic Development Authority and Bedford Regional Water Authority, is pleased to announce that a new championship disc golf course is planned for the New London Business and Technology Center park in Forest.

"We are thrilled to partner with five-time world champion, professional disc golfer Paul McBeth who designed the course," said Kenny Palmer, Operations Coordinator for Bedford County Parks and Recreation. "With the addition of the New London Tech Disc Golf Course, Bedford County is one step closer to becoming the disc golf capital of Virginia with six courses throughout the County."

[Read the full story here.](#)

BEDFORD
AREA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Paul McBeth
Disc Golf Clinic
April 10th - 9 AM 11 AM 2 PM
Bedford Parks & Recreation
www.BedfordAreaChamber.com



Disc Golf Clinic with Paul McBeth

Ever wanted to learn how to play disc golf, or want to improve your game? Join the Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce and Bedford County Parks and Rec for a special Disc Golf Clinic with Paul McBeth on April 10 at Falling Creek park in Bedford.

[Register here.](#)



The Well opens at a new location in Bedford

The Well (formerly located on Independence Blvd.) has moved to its new home at 126 S. Bridge Street (the old Hardware store). The Well is a unique natural products store with quality products including herbs, vitamins & supplements, natural organic & bulk foods, aromatherapy and personal care products, fine teas, spices and coffees and accurate consumer information. They also offer local meats and produce. [Visit their website.](#)



Virginia's COVID-19 Workplace Standards become permanent

Virginia has become the first state in the country to enact permanent COVID-19 workplace safety and health standards. The standards mandate appropriate personal protective equipment, sanitation, social distancing, infectious disease preparedness and response plans, record keeping, training, and hazard communications in workplaces across the Commonwealth.

[Read the full list of standards.](#)

Continued unemployment claims drop

During the week of January 16, 109 initial unemployment insurance claims were filed in the Central Virginia Local Workforce Development Area (LWDA) for Bedford County residents. That number is down from 115 the previous week. Bedford County's continued claims dropped from 459 to 427.



Nearly 750 job openings in Bedford County are currently posted with Virginia Career Works. That's up from 529 listed in November 2020. Read the full release [here](#).

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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