



# BEDFORD BUSINESS FIRST

News from Bedford County Office of Economic Development

January 2022

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. Call our office for more information.



Pam Bailey  
Economic Development Director  
540-587-5670 ext. 1375  
[email](#)



Holley Scheffel  
Business Programs Coordinator  
540-587-5670 ext. 1475  
[email](#)



## Holley Scheffel joins Bedford County Economic Development Team

The Bedford County Office of Economic Development is pleased to announce that Holley Scheffel has been hired as Business Programs Coordinator. She started the position on January 3, 2022 and brings more than 20 years of public sector education experience. She most recently served as a special education teacher for Roanoke County Public Schools. Holley is also a licensed real estate agent in Virginia.

Holley's primary responsibilities include coordinating the Bedford One program industry tours that link high school students with local businesses based on their career interests, as well as providing support to the EDA and coordinating economic development programs for the County, both for existing and prospective businesses.

[Read the full release here.](#)

## Save the Date! Business Roundtable on February 15

Join us at CVCC Bedford Center on Tuesday, February 15 beginning at 8:30 a.m. for our first Business Roundtable of the year. We'll be joined by Randy Dunton with Legacy Education Center where he'll talk about his program and work study opportunities with local companies.

RSVP to [Holley Scheffel](#) by February 10.

Coffee and refreshments will be served.



## TIME IS TICKING! - APPLY TODAY

Have an idea for a business?

Have a business that you want to grow?

Make a product and want to scale to the next level?

An artisan or creator who wants to turn it into a career?

Innovators, Entrepreneurs, Developer, etc.?  
**This is for YOU!**

APPLY TODAY for Virginia's largest business program and competition. Virtual Classes Begin February 1, 2022  
**Visit The Advancement Foundation and apply today!**

**THE TIME IS NOW!** 

**LOOKING FOR A SIGN**

**THIS IS IT!!**

**The GAUNTLET Business Program & Competition™**

Virtual Classes Begin February 1st



## Applications open for AFID Infrastructure Grant

The Governor's Agriculture and Forestry Industries Development Fund (AFID) Infrastructure Grant Program provides grants of no more than \$25,000 per grant to political subdivisions for community infrastructure development projects that support local food production and sustainable agriculture. The grants are awarded competitively, paid out as reimbursements, and require matching funds.



**Priority project types include processing facilities, Farmers markets, and food hubs.**

Interested businesses should submit their application to the Office of Economic Development for review by **February 4, 2022**. Visit the [VDACS website](#) for full details as well as the application forms.

## Bedford lays tracks for possible Amtrak stop

A study released in October by the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) examining the feasibility of providing an Amtrak stop in Bedford left supporters optimistic. "I feel quite confident we'll have a station there," says state Del. Terry Austin, R-Botetourt. The DRPT study included a ridership analysis that predicted a Bedford Amtrak stop might draw more than 10,000 new riders per year. **Read the full story here.**



## Next Generation: Youth Farmers Market is Back!

Did you see them at the market last year or just wonder how to get involved?

Next Generation is a collaborative effort between the Bedford Farmers Market and the Bedford Cooperative Extension to offer a youth-led makers and growers market for young entrepreneurs ages 8 - 15. The goal is to encourage youth to create and showcase their business talents and trades through entrepreneurial education and hands-on experiences. The program begins in April. Apply today!

Contact [MariBeth Martin](#) for registration details.



**2022 MARKET DATES: MAY 28 | JUNE 25 | JULY 23**  
SATURDAY 8:00AM - 12:00PM  
BEDFORD FARMERS MARKET  
220 W. WASHINGTON STREET | BEDFORD, VIRGINIA 24523



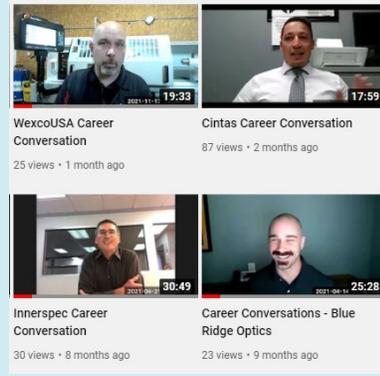
Next Generation is a collaborative effort between the Bedford Farmers Market and Bedford Cooperative Extension to offer a youth-led makers and growers market for young entrepreneurs ages 8-15. Its goal is to encourage youth to create and showcase their business talents and trades through entrepreneurial education and hands-on experiences.

**ENTREPRENEUR PROGRAM DATES:**  
APRIL 26 & MAY 3 | 6-7 PM & MAY 17 & 24 | 4-7 PM  
CONTACT [MARIBETH@VT.EDU](mailto:MARIBETH@VT.EDU) FOR REGISTRATION INFORMATION OR WITH QUESTIONS/DETAILS



## Join the Conversation!

In partnership with Bedford County Public Schools, Bedford ONE Career Conversations are a way for companies to engage with local high school students. Due to the pandemic, we have not been able to do in person tours, so we are hosting Career Conversations via WebEx and the videos are posted on our YouTube channel. Take a look and let [Holley](#) know if you would like to be featured on an upcoming segment.



## Bedford Feral Cat Shuttle

Help control the cat population by spay and neutering feral cats. Do you have outdoor feral cats roaming your property? Bedford CARES is offering help with trapping, transporting, and neutering feral cats in Bedford County. The cats will be released back to the colony once they are "fixed". Call 540-266-8485 for more information.

### Bedford Feral Cat Shuttle *We aren't catin' around!*

But we are fixin' to help!  
By fixin' free-roaming  
community cats.



**Presenting a Low-Cost Feral Spay/Neuter Shuttle From Bedford to Roanoke for outdoor cats!**

Sponsored by: Angels of Asahi, Bedford Care, Bedford Feline Sanctuary

The shuttle will leave Bedford at 8 a.m. March 14, 2022  
Returning at 8 p.m. - Location to be announced.

**TNR for free-roaming cats on your property**

Bedford Care and TNR groups in your area can help with trapping, transport and hands-on training.  
Call 540-266-8485 for volume.

- Cats must be in TNR live traps or transfer cages. **No adoptions.**
  - Traps available from local rescue organization.
- Shuttle is not for personal pets - outdoor feral cats **ONLY**.
  - Limited space - first come, first serve.
- Colors: caretakers, independent trappers, rescue groups welcome! For details, Email: [bedford@innerspec.com](mailto:bedford@innerspec.com)

**Reserve space NOW! 540-266-8485**

# EMPLOYMENT NUMBERS

January 2022



**37,010**  
Labor Force



**36,116**  
Employed



**79,462**  
Population  
(April 2020)



**\$40,040**  
Average Annual  
Wage



**2.4%**  
Unemployment



**1,053**  
Advertised Job  
Openings

The labor force and employment numbers both increased by nearly 2% since August of 2020. Unemployment numbers dropped and the mean wage also increased since last summer. Read the latest [Community Profile](#) data as provided by the Virginia Employment Commission. Information includes population trends and demographics, commuting patterns, economic profiles, as well as employment and unemployment data.

## Expanding? We have Business Ready Sites 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 460W 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](http://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!



Bedford County Office of Economic Development  
540-587-5670