



June 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.



Traci Blido, Director
540-587-5670 ext. 1371
email



Pam Bailey
Marketing & Business
Development
540-587-5670 ext. 1375
email

Click this link for COVID-19
business information.



Traci Blido accepts new position as Regional Workforce Development Director

Please join us in congratulating Traci Blido in her new position as Workforce Development Director for the Lynchburg region beginning July 1, reporting to the [Workforce Development Board](#) and Central Virginia Planning District Commission. Her office will be based in the Bank of the James building in downtown Lynchburg.

"I'm grateful for the opportunity to serve our region's industries and job seekers in this new capacity," said Blido. I believe my economic development background will help as we identify what is needed to further grow a qualified and skilled workforce, and help people gain more earning power overall."

Blido aims to work closely with educators, economic developers, and workforce development entities to meet the fast-growing labor force needs in the region. With the economy regaining its strength post-pandemic, there are a multitude of workforce shortages that must be addressed. There are also new opportunities to communicate, such as CVCC's G3 programming and its Career & Technical Education (CTE) Academy that opens this fall to students.

Traci will continue to support the Bedford County business community as part of her new regional role. Feel free to reach out to her with workforce needs or questions at 434-818-7612 beginning July 1 or via email at traci.blido@vcwcentral.com.

As Traci leaves her current position on June 30, Pam Bailey will serve as acting Director until a replacement is named.

Five Bedford County Businesses compete in The Gauntlet



and/or prizes valued from \$1,450 to more than \$17,000!

Five Bedford County businesses graduated on May 27 from The [Advancement Foundation's](#) The Gauntlet is a 10-week business development program that connects entrepreneurs to resources and mentors throughout Virginia. This is the seventh year of the program and the first for Bedford County businesses. Prizes were awarded at the Vinton War Memorial. Five local companies participated and were recognized including [The Well in Bedford](#), [ElectricCoArt](#), [LAT Personal Training](#), [Priss E. Nerd](#), and [Kasper UAV](#). Each won cash

Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce JOB FAIR is June 24

9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Forest Library
15583 Forest Road
Forest, VA 24551

FREE and OPEN to the public!

Check out the 30 vendors and stop the the Economic Development booth and use code word **SWEET** for a treat.



CVCC needs business community input

CVCC is gathering input from businesses for the development of its Regional Career and Technical Education (CTE) Academy and expanded workforce training efforts. Your responses to this short survey will play a vital role as CVCC works to make sure its programs are locally-focused and meeting the needs of our region's employers.

To complete the short survey, click [here](#).



Small Business Development Center launches the Bedford Business Game Plan July 29

Where can you find a plan to grow your business? The Bedford Business Game Plan is a multi-week seminar designed to help owners and leaders of businesses make positive adjustments to their business. Attendees will hear from professionals in various fields such as Legal, HR, Banking, Marketing and Finance, as well as advisors and coaches from the Virginia Small Business Development Center that serves the Lynchburg Region.



For calendar information and to register, [visit the SBDC Lynchburg Region's website](#).

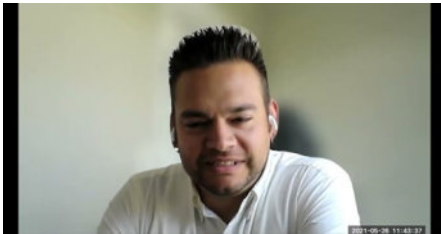
Congratulations to LiteSheet Solutions for the launch of its Gen 2 LED UV-C Disinfecting Cabinet

Higher powered and more efficient to kill surface pathogens in under 60 seconds.

The cabinet is fully qualified for funding provided under the Relief Authorization Act for education and is perfectly designed to meet the needs of teachers, students and administrators. For healthcare, the cabinet is designed to kill common HealthCare Acquired Illnesses such as MRSA, H1N1, and C-Diff.



Read more [here](#) and learn about [LiteSheet](#).



Bedford ONE hosts Career Conversations

The typical Bedford ONE in-person tours were put on hold for the 2020-21 school year due to COVID-19. However, we were able to hold virtual Career Conversations with local companies and employees to talk about their career pathways. These sessions were recorded and are all on our [YouTube channel](#).

Many thanks to [Blue Ridge Optics](#), [Innerspec](#), [Hurt & Proffitt](#), [Southern Air](#), [L3Harris](#), and [The Landing Restaurant](#) for all participating.

If your company would like to participate in a Career Conversation or an in-person tour with students for the upcoming school year, please contact [Pam Bailey](#).

New London area experiencing growth

We have several exciting projects happening in the New London Business & Technology Center park in Forest. [Damage Prevention Solutions](#)' 10,000 sq. ft. building is making great progress, [Nanotouch](#) is expanding its space which is almost complete, and [Belvac](#) is well underway with their build-out of the shell building. Soon we'll be grading lots 10A and 12A on West London Park Drive. Call for more information about your business expansion needs. 540-587-5670.



Two Lots to be graded in New London

Bedford County was awarded a Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission grant this month to grade a portion of lots 10A and 12A in the New London Business & Technology Center park. By grading these lots, it will make the property more attractive to businesses who are looking to locate or expand in Bedford County.

Cost-share Stream Buffer Program available to farmers

If you are a farmer and have stream exclusion fencing, you may be eligible for a 50% cost share rebate (\$125 max per producer) on purchases of

approved herbicides to manage vegetation on fence lines and spot treatment of non-native invasive plants in stream buffer areas. This program is restricted to stream exclusion areas installed to protect water quality. Applications due by September 30, 2021. If interested contact [Scott Baker](#), Extension Agent.



Need child care due to work, job search, work-related training or education? The Child Care Subsidy Program (CCSP) may be able to help! Program eligibility has temporarily expanded now through **July 31, 2021** to offer financial assistance to more families than ever before.

NEED HELP WITH CHILD CARE COSTS?

YOU MAY QUALIFY FOR ASSISTANCE UNDER THE FOLLOWING TEMPORARY AND EXPANDED CCSP ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

- If you have a child who is not yet in kindergarten and your household income does not exceed 85% of the state median income. Assistance is also available for other children in the family who are younger than 13. Your family must meet all other non-financial eligibility criteria.
- If you are searching for employment. Expanded eligibility criteria includes job search as a qualifying category, along with education and employment.
- As a permanent eligibility change, there is no longer a requirement to participate in child support enforcement.

HOW TO APPLY

You may apply now through **July 31, 2021** in one of the following ways:

- Online at [CommonHelp](#)
- Contact your **local department of social services**

You will be required to select a **child care provider** who participates in the CCSP. To learn more, visit [ChildCareVA.com](#)

STATE MEDIAN INCOME LIMITS	
Household Size	Maximum Monthly Gross Income
2	\$5,040
3	\$6,226
4	\$7,412
5	\$8,598
6	\$9,784
7	\$10,007
8	\$10,228

Child Care VA

1001 Commonwealth Center Blvd, Suite 1000, Alexandria, VA 22304
 1-800-858-8888
 www.childcareva.com

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

EDUCATION

Child Care Subsidy Program assists families with costs

Financial assistance is provided to eligible *families to help with the cost of child care so they can work or attend education programs.

The program includes children who are not yet in Kindergarten and the household income does not exceed 85% of the state median income. Assistance is also available to other children in the household who are younger than 13, and children with special needs under age 18 who reside with the applicant.

*Eligible family income ranges from family size of two with a monthly income of \$5,040 to a family of 10 with a monthly income of \$10,674

Please share with your employees who have small children. Learn more and apply [here](#).



Bridge Street goes GREEN at Elba Butcher Shoppe

It's amazing how these red buds and crepe myrtles have already transformed the corner at Washington and Bridge St. in Bedford. They brighten up the parking area and look nice for the neighboring homes and businesses. Funding for this project was provided by the EDAs of the Town of Bedford, and Bedford County, and a matching grant from the Virginia Department of Forestry.

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!



Bedford County Office of Economic Development
540-587-5670

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