



Bedford Business First

A bi-monthly update from the Bedford County Office of Economic Development - Jan./Feb 2012

Message



Welcome to Bedford Business First

Welcome to our first edition of Bedford Business First. Bedford County is committed to building opportunities for your company to grow and flourish. We do that by providing a low cost for doing business, strong support services for existing businesses, and maintaining a diversified industry base and skilled workers.

- Traci Blido



Business Roundtables to return on Feb. 16

We want to hear from our Bedford Area businesses. We will begin quarterly Business Roundtable Meetings this year beginning with our first one on February 16 at CVCC Bedford Campus at 8 a.m.

Traci Blido, Director of Economic Development will discuss the county's economic development goals and plans for the coming year and you will have an opportunity to update the group on your business news and any concerns. Please RSVP by contacting [Diana Cocke](mailto:diana.cocke@bedfordva.gov) via email or at 540-587-5670.

Our Business Roundtable Meetings will be held quarterly on the following dates in 2012: Feb. 16, May 17, Aug. 16, and Nov. 15. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.



Bedford One Program continues

Thank you to all the businesses that have participated in the Bedford One Program. Thanks to you, hundreds of high school students have learned about the latest career choices in our region and have been inspired to further their education to meet our county's workforce needs.

The One Program Steering Committee is looking for companies to participate in 2012. If you are willing to host a group of Bedford County students on an educational tour at your company this spring, please contact Existing Business Coordinator [Diana Cocke at 540-587-5670](mailto:diana.cocke@bedfordva.gov).

Quick Links:

[Our webpage](#)

[Our business incentives](#)



How will reversion affect you?

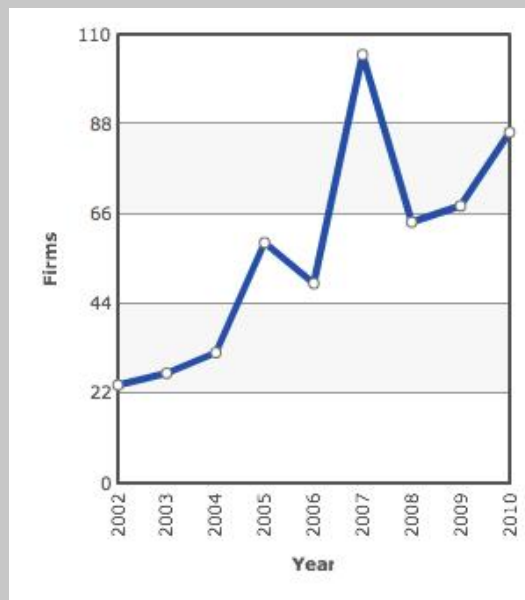
The City of Bedford is currently planning to revert to town status under state law. Once reversion occurs (the entire process takes 18-24 months), the town's economic development assets will be moved under the county and marketed as such.

The Office of Economic Development is pleased to work hard to bring new business investment and quality jobs to the entire geographic area that encompasses both the city/town and county.

Know someone who's looking to expand their business or locate to this region? Tell them to consider Bedford Center for Business, New London Business & Technology Center, Montvale

Center for Commerce, Little Otter Business Park, or any parcel that's available to fit their business needs in the Bedford region!

Learn more about these business parks [here](#).



Starting a business in Bedford County? You are not alone!

Bedford County tops the region in the number of start-ups

According to the Virginia Employment Commission's most recent data available, 22 residents from Bedford County started companies during the first quarter of 2011 and a total of 86 individuals started companies during calendar year 2010. That's higher than any other locality in our region with Lynchburg at 81 startups, Campbell

County with 51, Amherst County with 27, and Appomattox County with 26. Nearby Franklin County had 53 companies that opened in 2010.

Need assistance in starting your business? Here is a list of free resources that you may utilize at any time.

[Region 2000 Small Business Development Center](#)

[Virginia Business One Stop](#)

[Greater Lynchburg SCORE](#)



Ag Corner

With 200,000 acres of farmland and 1,400 farms, Bedford County is home to a strong agriculture industry and a growing local food movement with more than \$23.6 million in annual farm sales (*2007 U.S. Census figure) and 2,889 ag-based jobs.

The Bedford area has three farmer's markets located in Moneta, Forest and Bedford, as well as a grass-roots network of farmers meeting under the name of [Land & Table](#), who are promoting local food events and educating the public on the benefits of sustainable farming and buying local foods, products and services.

To learn more, visit Bedford County's Agriculture website [here](#).

>>Forest Farmer's Market sets schedule for upcoming season

Nearly 20 vendors and organizers of the Forest Farmer's Market gathered on January 10 to set the schedule for the upcoming season of community sales.

The Market, based behind the Forest Library, will be open from 8 a.m. - Noon each Saturday from April 28 through Oct. 31. The market opened for the first time last season bringing in more than \$200,000 in sales.

For more info, please contact Forest Farmer's Market Director [Dorothy McIntyre](#).

Bedford County Office of Economic Development
Traci Blido, Director
540-587-5670

