



BEDFORD BUSINESS FIRST

News from Bedford County Office of Economic Development

November 2020

Do you need assistance in determining what programs and loans are available during the COVID-19 crisis 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.



Please mark your calendar:

December 10 -
Virtual Business Roundtable

Bedford County expands Back to Business CARES grant program for small businesses

Phase 2 eligible companies will be able to apply online November 5 - December 1, or until funds are depleted.

On October 26, the Bedford County Board of Supervisors approved an expansion of the county's Back to Business CARES Grant Program to begin on November 5. This new phase will assist a wider range of businesses that have experienced losses from pandemic closures or disruptions.

The Phase 2 grants will be in the amount of \$7,000 (25 or fewer employees), \$10,000 (26-50 employees), or \$15,000 (51-100 employees.) The funding will be provided to eligible businesses on a first-come, first-served basis. The deadline is December 1, 2020, or until funds are depleted.

[Learn more about eligibility here.](#)



Rebuild VA grant program expanded to help more small businesses

Rebuild VA Grant Fund (Rebuild VA) has expanded its eligibility criteria to allow more small businesses and nonprofits to apply. Any small business or nonprofit with \$10,000,000 or less in gross revenue OR 250 or fewer employees may now apply.

Approved Rebuild VA applicants may receive grants of three (3) times their average monthly recurring eligible operating expenses, plus COVID Related expenses (if applicable), up to a maximum of \$100,000.

For more information visit:
<https://www.governor.virginia.gov/rebuildva/>

Bedford County launches CARES assistance program for meat processors

At its October 26 meeting, the Bedford County Board of Supervisors allocated the \$250,000 previously set aside for other business support as part of the CARES

act funding to now assist the local meat processing industry. This grant funding will be in the form of reimbursements for items that were purchased during the pandemic, up to \$100,000, since March 1, 2020, that expand or support meat processing and production in Bedford County. [Read more here.](#)



Newest EDA member sworn-in

We'd like to welcome **Rhonnie Smith** to the Bedford County Economic Development Authority representing District 1. Mr. Smith believes that economic development is the life blood of any municipality and that growth in good paying jobs provides the existing population opportunities for a better standard of living, gives people on welfare an opportunity to better their lives, and facilitates the means for population growth, which all result in higher tax revenues for the County. [Read the full story here.](#)



Annual EDA/BOS Joint Meeting held October 13

The Economic Development Authority and Office of Economic Development staff held its annual joint meeting with the Board of Supervisors last month where they unveiled that Bedford County is showing signs up an upturn following the peak of the Coronavirus closings and disruptions.

[Read the full article here.](#)



Bedford wins Top Small Town in the Blue Ridge Outdoors Magazine contest

Blue Ridge Outdoors magazine readers selected the region's best adventure hubs in its 10th annual Top Adventure Towns contest and Bedford won in the Top Small Town category!

[Read the full announcement here.](#)

Bedford County Businesses in the News



Nanotouch launches Light Switch Covers

Self-cleaning silicone caps pop on and off

Another great NanoTouch product is on the market and we think it will really catch on! NanoTouch is currently expanding their business to keep up with the interest in their continuous cleaning products. These silicon covers are now on the market. Easy to install and sold in packets of 25. More information is available on the [Nanoseptic website.](#)



Beale's earns bronze medal for Plumpricot at the 2020 Great American Beer Festival

Beale's Beer was awarded a bronze medal at the 2020 Great American Beer Festival (GABF) competition, presented by the Brewers Association.

[Read the full story here.](#)



Virginia Tech completes testing of LiteSheet UV-C Disinfecting Cabinet

A team from the [Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine](#) in Blacksburg tested the efficacy of LiteSheet's disinfecting cabinet against the novel coronavirus, or SARS-CoV-2, the cause of the COVID-19 pandemic. The cabinet, which uses UV light to

decontaminate surfaces, has practical applications in disinfecting equipment in offices, nursing homes, medical facilities, schools, restaurants, hotels, and other locations.

[Read the full article here.](#)



Sentry Equipment honored at Salute to Manufacturing

The Lynchburg Regional Business Alliance recently recognized five area companies at its Salute to Manufacturing Workforce Summit Event. Congratulations to [Sentry Equipment](#), selected from Bedford County, and to the other four winners, American Hofmann Corporation, DB Designs, Swissomation Virginia, and Vector Space. Sentry is celebrating 40 years in Bedford County and is our third largest employer.



Bedford County's continued unemployment claims drop, initial claims tick-up

The overall number of people filing claims for unemployment on a weekly basis continues to trend down in the Lynchburg region. Bedford County shows 565 continued claims for unemployment and 59 initial unemployment claims were filed in the Central Virginia Workforce Development Area during the week of October 24, according to VEC figures released Friday, October 30. [Read the full release and view the dashboard here.](#)



USDA to provide additional direct assistance to farmers and ranchers impacted by the Coronavirus

President Donald J. Trump and U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue recently announced up to an additional \$14 billion dollars for agricultural producers who continue to face market disruptions and associated costs because of COVID-19. Signup will run from September 21 and through December 11, 2020, for this next round of Coronavirus Food Assistance Program payments (CFAP 2). [Read more.](#)



Farmers Markets meet demand for local foods

The Ag Board heard a report recently from the Market Managers of the Forest Farmers Market and the Bedford Farmers Market. They stated they have seen increased visitors at the markets this year due to the rising awareness of the health benefits of locally grown foods. Learn more about the local farmers markets and their success [here.](#)

EDA grant still available for PPE

The Economic Development Authority of Bedford County is providing up to \$300.00 in grant funds to local companies that have had to purchase PPE and cleaning supplies related to the COVID-19 crisis. At its May 2020 EDA meeting, the authority agreed to set aside \$5,000 to help any local businesses that needs extra help in covering some of these unforeseen expenses.

[For more information, visit our website.](#)



Expanding? We have space for you.



Our premier [New London Business and Technology Center](#) park in Forest features a 40,000 sf shell building (expandable to 80,000 sf) is ready to purchase or lease and build out the inside to your needs. In the park, we also have pad-ready and cleared lots for sale ranging from 4 to 15+ 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

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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