



BEDFORD BUSINESS FIRST

News from Bedford County Office of Economic Development

October 2019

Summer may be officially coming to an end, but the work didn't slow down during the summer months. Check out what we've been up to and what's to come in Bedford County.

About our office

The Office of Economic Development is responsible for planning, developing, and directing business and economic development programs and services in Bedford County, Virginia.



Traci Blido, Director
540-587-5670 ext. 1371
[email](#)



Pam Bailey
Marketing & Business
Development
540-587-5670 ext. 1375
[email](#)

Like what you see here?

We post regularly to keep you up to date on projects taking place in the community, continuing education

Bedford County Celebrates 10th Anniversary of its Bedford ONE Program



Bedford County high school students toured the Solar Farm in Bedford this month to learn about the power generated by the sun for the Town.

Bedford County celebrates 10 years of connecting local businesses with a young workforce through its Bedford ONE (Offering New Experiences) program. Over the years, more than 4,000 high school students have toured area companies to learn about career pathways and job opportunities, as well as education and training needs for various careers.

[Read the entire press release here.](#)

Bedford ONE tours scheduled for this school year so far include*:

September 11 – BRWA and Bedford Solar Farm

September 25 – Culinary Tour at The Landing and BSTC Kitchen at Falling Creek

October 1 – Liberty University School of Aeronautics

November 14 – L3Harris and LU CERE Labs

March 17 - Framatome and Innerspec

*Note: We are still planning tours for later this Fall and Spring, so let us know if you're interested in hosting a

opportunities, and more!

student group.

To learn more, please contact Pam Bailey at
pbailey@bedfordcountyva.gov or call 540-587-5670.



Apocalypse Ale Works to Launch Legacy Cider in Forest

Governor Ralph Northam on Friday, August 9, 2019 announced that Legacy Cider will invest \$300,000 to establish a new hard cider production facility in Bedford County. Located on-site with the owners' craft brewery Apocalypse Ale Works, the addition will also include improvements to the existing taproom and biergarten. [Read the entire press release here.](#)



SML Packaging has recently leased new manufacturing space on Venture Drive in Forest. The bottle machine manufacturer will invest \$650,000 in new equipment and add four new jobs in Bedford County over the next three years. [Read the full release here.](#)



Valtim recently announced it is expanding its operations and investing \$750,000 and adding eight new jobs over the next three years. [Read the full release here.](#)



Did you know that RIDE Solutions provides services to help employees find or share transportation? From carpool matching services to helping find public transit and bike routes, they can help you save money as you get to and from the workplace. The organization can even host a lunch-n-learn for your company to learn about the resources available. Contact [Kelly Hitchcock](#) to find out more.

EMPLOYMENT NUMBERS



38,529

LABOR FORCE



37,420

EMPLOYED



78,747

POPULATION IN
2018



\$36,972

MEAN AVERAGE
WAGE



2.9%

UNEMPLOYMENT



443

ADVERTISED JOB
OPENINGS

Sources: US Census Bureau, July 2019
Virginia Workforce Connection, September 2019

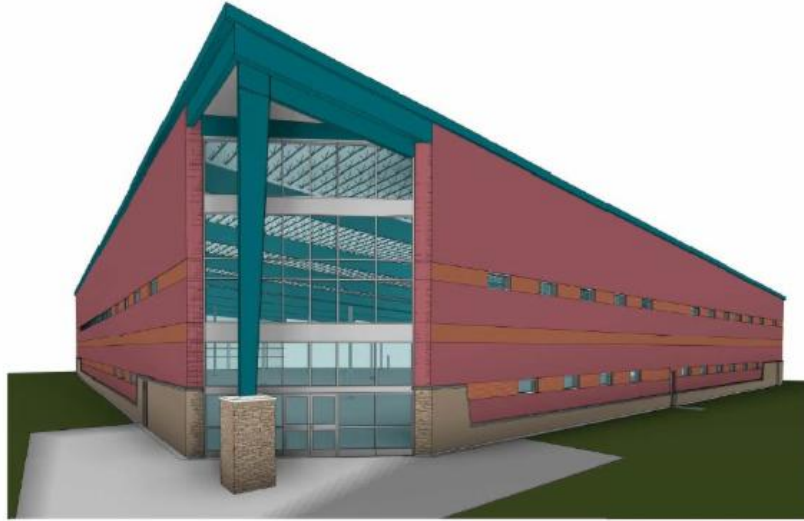
The unemployment numbers in Bedford County continue to remain below the national average. There are approximately 29 active job candidates available per current job opening* in the County.

According to the UVA Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service, the population is projected to increase to 86,594 by 2030. That's an expected 11.3% increase from 2017.

* Virginia Workforce Connection, July 2019

Expanding? Need to relocate?

We have pad-ready sites and a NEW shell building under construction.



BEDFORD COUNTY
EDA SHELL BUILDING
04/16/19



Our premier **New London Business and Technology Center** park in Forest will feature a 40,000 sf shell building (expandable to 80,000 sf) that is under construction on Lot 7. The construction is scheduled to be complete in February 2020 with the inside ready for **YOU** to build out. The park also has pad-ready and cleared lots for sale ranging in size from 4 acres to 15+ for whatever size facility suits your needs.

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.

In **Montvale Center for Commerce**, the Lynchburg Regional Business Alliance won a GO Virginia grant that will help us move the remaining two lots to "pad-ready".

Call the Office of Economic Development to learn how we can help your business grow in Bedford County. 540-587-5670 | BedfordEconomicDevelopment.com

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



Share



Tweet



Share