



BEDFORD BUSINESS FIRST

News from Bedford County Office of Economic Development

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David Wells joins the EDA

On Friday, June 23, David Wells took his oath as the newest member of the Economic Development Authority (EDA).

Mr. Wells was sworn in by long-time family friend and Clerk of the Court, Judy Reynolds. Mr. Wells brings many years of law

enforcement background coupled with several years working for the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT). Mr. Wells replaces Rhonnie Smith who resigned from the EDA in May for personal reasons.



Bramble Hollow Farm receives AFID grant

A Montvale farm is one of 11 recipients of the Governor's Agriculture and Forestry Industry Development (AFID) Fund Infrastructure Grants. Bramble Hollow Farm will receive \$9,000 to complete a commercial kitchen that will give them the ability to produce and sell value-added products.

Established in 2004 by Brent and Anna Wills, Bramble Hollow Farm specializes in the production of heritage breeds of chickens and pigs. They sell their products to local customers and small businesses in Bedford County and the surrounding area. [Read more >>](#).

Bedford ONE plans for 2022-23 school year

Planning and prepping for the 2022-2023 school year for Bedford ONE tours is well underway. Tours will be held on the last Wednesday of each month beginning September 2022 and running through May 2023. However, there will be no tour in December due to the shortened month of school. The purpose of these tours is to provide high school students with an opportunity to learn about different industries within our county in hopes that they might seek



an internship or pursue coursework that prepares them for those career fields. The Office of Economic Development is currently seeking businesses that are interested in hosting students for these special event tours. If your company is interested in hosting an industry tour, please contact Holley Scheffel, Business Programs Coordinator at hscheffel@bedfordcountyyva.gov or by phone at (540) 587-5670 ext. 2 to coordinate scheduling.

Also be sure to check out all of our Career Conversations on our [YouTube channel](#). Want to join in the conversation? Contact [Holley](#) Scheffel if you would like to be featured on an upcoming segment.



Source4 expands in Forest

The Bedford County Office of Economic Development, in partnership with the Economic Development Authority (EDA), is pleased to announce that Source4, an integrated business and marketing solutions provider, will invest more

than \$4.5 million and add 30 new jobs in Bedford County over the next five years.

"We have enjoyed our experience in Bedford County and look forward to increasing our presence even further. The Bedford County Office of Economic Development and the Economic Development Authority has been very supportive and helpful throughout our expansion process," said Dan Siadak, Chair and CEO of Source4. "Due to strong growth in the assembly and fulfillment industry, we are continually expanding to keep up with demand." [Read more >>](#)



Growing our workforce here in Bedford County – We need YOU!

Most businesses report that lack of staffing is one of the major concerns when it comes to the workforce. Now Hiring signs can be found on virtually every storefront across every locality. Lack of training also is an area of concern. To assist our growing county with these challenges, the Office of Economic Development is seeking local Bedford County businesses that are interested in giving

back to their community.

Our office is working closely with Bedford County Public Schools to identify businesses that are willing to train 11th and 12th-grade students who are interested in participating in student internship programs. Several businesses already have this successful partnership in place, but we have more students than we have internships, and this is where we need help. Internship programs benefit the community in several ways. Businesses receive assistance with keeping themselves staffed and students receive training or specific skills that help prepare them for life after high school. If you are a business owner or manager and would like to help grow your own talented workforce, please contact the Office of Economic Development for more information.



SBDC hosting Family Day Home business cohort

Do you provide childcare in your home? Do you want to learn about reducing stress and improving profitability? The Small Business Development Center is holding sessions beginning on September 10 to address several business issues directly related to Family Day Homes. The program is FREE!

For more information visit the [SBDC website](#).



Liberty University holds first Civic Recharge Innovation Challenge

Liberty University's School of Business partnered with Bedford County for its inaugural Civic Recharge Innovation Challenge. In late 2021, Dr. Roger Bingham, Residential Chair with the School of Business, approached the Bedford County Office of Economic Development with a program that would be open to all LU students and benefit Bedford County in some way. The Office Economic Development, Social Services, and Bedford Community

Health Foundation brainstormed a social problem to solve that impacts our community. After many discussions and reviewing the Health Needs Assessment, we determined that Transportation would be the problem to solve. [Read more >>](#)

Liberty High School shines at FFA Convention

The 96th Annual Virginia FFA Convention was recently held at Virginia Tech. The Liberty FFA Vet Science Team consisting of KayLi Lindsay, Maegan Cash, Anna Grohs, & Natalie Corbin took 1st place in the state. They will compete at the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis in late October.



There were also many individual accomplishments to recognize:

State Proficiency Awards:

Makenna Garrett - Diversified Horticulture

Charlie Moser - Veterinary Science

Kevin Painchaud - Nursery Production

State Degree Recipients:

Hailey Carhart

Parry Dooley

Makenna Garrett

Alexis Hensley

Brooke Hodges

In addition, Makenna Garrett, the 2021-2022 Liberty FFA President was nominated and conferred Virginia FFA State Secretary.

As a chapter, Liberty FFA earned South Ridge Area Star Chapter, Superior Chapter, and Gold Rated National Chapter awards.

DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

Current through May 2022



37,749
Labor Force



57%
Participation
Rate



79,462
Population



\$34,758
Median income



2.9%
Unemployment



589
Advertised Job
Openings*

*listed on Indeed.com July 2022

The unemployment rate for Bedford County, Virginia was 2.9% as of May 2022 which is lower than the national rate of 3.6%. In May of 2021, the unemployment rate in Bedford County was 3.6% and 4.1% in Virginia.

According to the 2020 census, the population of Bedford County is nearly 80,000 people and that is expected to continue to grow to nearly 92,000 by 2040.

Read the latest [Community Profile report](#) from the Virginia Employment Commission.

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 50+ 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

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!



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