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BEDFORD BUSINESS FIRST

News from Bedford County Office of Economic Development

February 2023



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Familiar names reappointed to the Economic Development Authority

Congratulations to Mrs. Vicki Gardner and Mrs. Kristy Milton for their recent reappointments to the Economic Development Authority (EDA) board.

Mrs. Gardner was first appointed to the EDA in January 2020, while Mrs. Milton is in her third term on the board. Both terms expire in January 2027.

Appointments were also made to the Agriculture Economic Development Authority Board (Ag Board). Sam Gardner, who was first appointed to the board in 2016, and Ken Newman, who has been serving since the board's inception in 2007, were both re-appointed by their respective Board of Supervisors. Mr. Gardner's and Mr. Newman's terms expire on December 31, 2026.



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Local business owner hires Bedford ONE student and breathes new life into creative learning options for students

Wicked Diesel owner, Josh Weeks, has been busy exploring different ways to offer work-based learning and job-shadowing opportunities for youth interested in the auto tech field. As a graduate of Susie G. Gibson (formerly BSTC), Josh knows first-hand the benefits of his training. He is now looking to pay that training forward while also growing his business.

In November, one of the stops on the Bedford ONE industry tour was to Wicked Diesel. Recently, Josh hired a Susie G. Gibson student who was on that exact tour! This week he is

having another student job shadow for a few days before committing to a part-time paid employment opportunity. Weeks is very supportive of students in Career and Technical (CTE) programs and is pictured here (far right) with two of his newest team members.

Upcoming business roundtable focuses on Apprenticeship and Youth

Registered Apprentice programs

On Thursday, February 23, Crystal Thrower and Sherie Fulcher with the Department of Labor and Industry will team up with Southern Air President Paul Denham and his staff to discuss the value and importance of Registered Apprentice and Youth Registered Apprentice Programs. This educational roundtable is sponsored by the Office of Economic Development and

**LEARN ABOUT REGISTERED
APPRENTICE AND YOUTH REGISTERED
APPRENTICE PROGRAMS**

Presentations by:
Crystal Thrower, Department of Labor
and Industries (DoLI)
Paul Denham/Sierra Phillips, Southern Air

FEBRUARY 23RD
8:30 - 11:30 AM
CVCC/BEDFORD
CAMPUS

Coffee and light refreshments provided

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?
*HR DIRECTORS
*BUSINESS OWNERS
(RECOMMENDED THAT HR DIRECTORS AND
BUSINESS OWNERS ATTEND TOGETHER)

Registration Required
Space is limited!

Offered by
Bedford County Office of Economic Development




available to Bedford County and Town of Bedford business owners and their human resources team.

If you are interested in learning more about Apprenticeship programs, see the links below.

[Registered Apprenticeship Program Information](#)
[Youth Registered Apprenticeship Programs \(YA\)](#)

Town of Bedford receives state grant to restore brownfield site

The Town of Bedford is one of four Virginia localities receiving grant money to support the restoration of “brownfield” sites, the governor’s office announced.

Bedford will receive \$316,374 for the former Winoia USA plant, according to a recent news release. “The former steel foundry officially shut down in late 2020”, said Mary Zirkle, Town of Bedford economic development coordinator. The site has a 60,000-square-foot building sitting on about 15 acres, and Zirkle said the town EDA hopes to eventually use it as a workforce training center, which was a goal identified in the town’s strategic plan from 2021.

Brownfields are defined in the news release as “properties in which redevelopment or reuse is complicated by the presence of hazardous materials, pollution, or contaminants.” The grant money provided through the commonwealth is to help remediate these sites so they can be safely cleaned up, restored, and made ready for use of something new, usually under the umbrella of economic development.

Read here for the full [article](#)

Bedford County high school students get hands-on emergency service experience through Bedford ONE program

Thirty-one students from all three Bedford County Public Schools (BCPS) had a treat on a recent Emergency Services Tour.

[Read more here.](#)



If your company is interested in hosting an industry tour, please contact Holley Scheffel, Business Programs Coordinator at hscheffel@bedfordcountyva.gov or by phone at (540) 587-5670 ext. 2 to coordinate scheduling.

With new grant, Bedford County EDA aims to further develop New London Business and Technology Center

With new grant money awarded, the Bedford County Office of Economic Development hopes to find the highest and best use for about a third of the New London Business and Technology Center, potentially preparing space there for new businesses.

The county EDA was recently awarded a \$63,750 Virginia Business Ready Sites Program (VBRSP) grant to study 174 acres in the 500-acre business park, which the office of economic development calls Phase 2 of the center's overall development plan, according to a news release.

Some of the multi-use park, owned by the EDA, already is developed and home to businesses including Simplimatic Automation, NanoTouch Technologies, Damage Prevention Solutions, Belvac Production Machinery and Liberty University's 28-acre tech campus. Walking trails and a championship-level disc golf course are additional amenities on the property, open to the public and also used by employees who work on site.



Coworking space needs survey

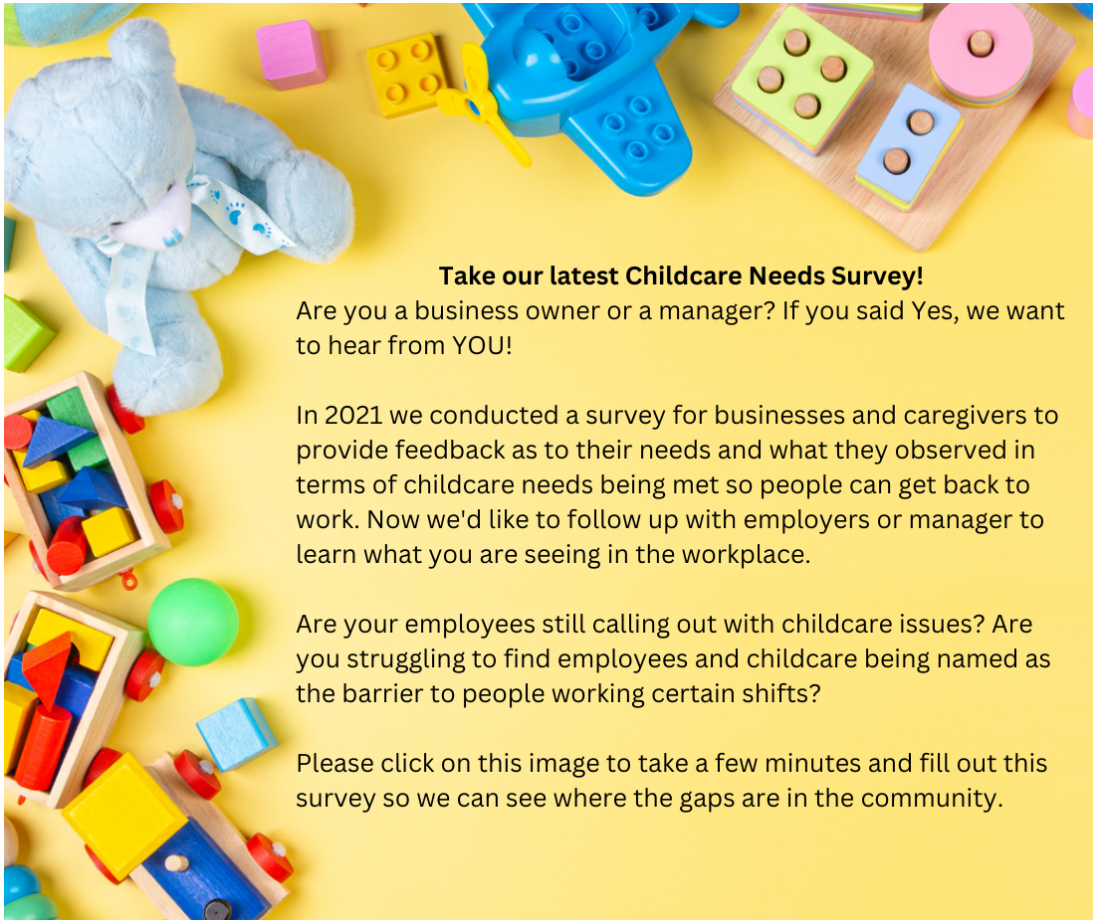
Are you a small business owner, freelancer, entrepreneur, or remote worker and currently working from home? Would you benefit from being in a space with shared amenities, and collaborative and productive work areas?



A local business is planning a coworking space in the Town of Bedford, and would like to hear from you! Please [fill out this survey](#) form, if you might be interested and to learn more.

Take the survey and save the date!

If you are a business, please take this [updated childcare survey](#).
And save the date for a childcare roundtable discussion on March 7, 2022.
 Location, time, and agenda will be shared later.



Take our latest Childcare Needs Survey!

Are you a business owner or a manager? If you said Yes, we want to hear from YOU!

In 2021 we conducted a survey for businesses and caregivers to provide feedback as to their needs and what they observed in terms of childcare needs being met so people can get back to work. Now we'd like to follow up with employers or manager to learn what you are seeing in the workplace.

Are your employees still calling out with childcare issues? Are you struggling to find employees and childcare being named as the barrier to people working certain shifts?

Please click on this image to take a few minutes and fill out this survey so we can see where the gaps are in the community.



2024 Brings Professional Disc Golf Association World Championships to Bedford and Lynchburg

Ledgestone Group, in conjunction with the Professional Disc Golf Association (PDGA), announced in December that the 2024 PDGA Professional Disc Golf World Championships will be held in Bedford County.

This will be the first PDGA Professional Disc Golf World Championship held in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Former Bedford County resident and six-time PDGA World Champion, Paul McBeth was the initial inspiration for an event of this caliber to be held here and worked with Ledgestone Open CEO, Nate Heinold, and the City of Lynchburg to make it [happen](#).



Your small business matters!

If you need some first-rate coaching on how to get started or grow, check out the training offered at the **Small Business Development Center - Lynchburg Region**.

[Visit their website to see the classes offered.](#)

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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