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Bedford Business First

News from Bedford County Office of Economic Development - April 2019

Bedford County by the numbers

Population: 77,724

Labor Force	38,009
Employed	36,805
Unemployment rate	3.2%
Advertised jobs	564

Source: VirginiaLMI.com
January 2019 report

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

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New Administrator begins tenure



Robert Hiss, Bedford County Administrator

On February 25, 2019, Robert Hiss began his tenure as the Bedford County Administrator. He hit the ground running on his first day and hasn't slowed down. We are excited to have him on board and have enjoyed working with him in this first month.

We held a Business Roundtable on March 24 at the Center for Energy Research & Engineering where nearly 50 of you had the chance to hear from Robert and network with each other. Thanks to all of you who came out and to Liberty University for hosting us!



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Bobblett Gap to expand regional rail truck business

The Bedford County Office of Economic Development, in partnership with the Economic Development Authority, is pleased to announce that



Bobblett Gap, Inc. will construct an 8,000 square foot repair shop in the Montvale Center for Commerce. The new site will help the company meet the growing needs of its truck repair business that serves the regional rail industry from as far South as Raleigh, as far East as Norfolk, and points West in Christiansburg, Bluefield, and Front

Royal. [Read more >>](#)

Bedford ONE wraps up the 2018-19 school year

The Bedford ONE (Offering New Experiences) program, sponsored by the Bedford County Economic Development Authority will wrap up another school year of industry tours this month following a final tour at the University of Lynchburg with Anatomy students.

In total, we have toured 18 area businesses/industries and nearly 200 students have participated in tours this school year.

Below, students in the Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) program at Bedford Science and Technology Center (BSTC) toured the **Community Action Network, Free Clinic, and the Centra College of Nursing** in Lynchburg in March. All of these ladies will be certified CNAs, and most of them will go on to complete their LPN, RN, or BSRN after high school.



BSTC Nursing Students tour Centra College of Nursing

Nearly 30 students interested in manufacturing jobs toured US Pipe and Delta Star in March. Our students were guided through the process of making municipal water pipes at US Pipe. From molten metal to the final inspection process, the students (and teachers) were all impressed with the operation.



BCPS students tour US Pipe in Lynchburg

At Delta Star in Lynchburg, students were shown the precision handwork involved in making power transformers. At the end of the tour, students heard from Virginia Senator Steve Newman, VP of Sales and Marketing at Delta Star. He spoke about the types of job opportunities at the company and the education and/or certification that you need for various levels of employment.



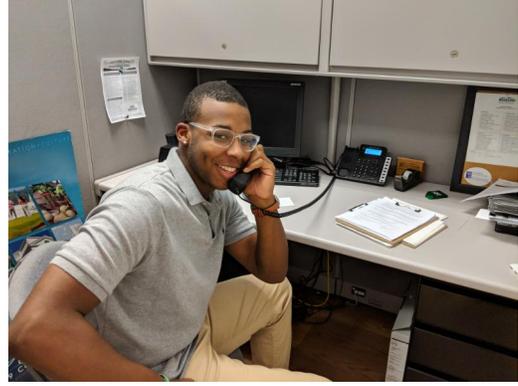
Students at Delta Star pose with Senator Steve Newman

Workforce

Development Opportunities

Is your company able to offer internships to High School students? Bedford County high schools are seeking companies that are willing to mentor a student intern for a few hours a week as part of an unpaid internship class.

Please contact [Dr. Tony Francis](#) 540-586-1045 to sign up for the program.



Percy Payne is a Senior at Jefferson Forest High School and is an intern for the Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce

EMPLOYMENT NUMBERS



38,009

LABOR FORCE



1,204

UNEMPLOYED



79,931

PROJECTED
POPULATION IN 2020



\$36,972

MEAN AVERAGE
WAGE



3.2%

UNEMPLOYMENT



564

ADVERTISED JOB
OPENINGS

Sources: US Census Bureau, December 2019
Virginia Labor Market Report, January 2019

From December to January our unemployment rate rose from 2.4% to 3.2%, the labor force numbers decreased, the number of people who are employed decreased, and the average wage remained steady.

In the News: Broadband, History and Racing

Broadband Expansion in Bedford County

- [Governor Northam Announces Over \\$4.9 Million in Virginia Telecommunication Initiative Grants](#)

History Comes Alive in Bedford

- [Paying tribute to the Bedford Boys at the former Green's Drug Store](#)

- [National D-Day Memorial Prepares for 75th Anniversary](#)

Taste of the Trails Gears up for Second Annual Event

- [Runners and walkers alike can sign up for this four-part series](#)

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



Our premier [New London Business and Technology Center](#) park in Forest has *freshly graded and cleared lots for sale* ranging in size from 4 acres to 15+ acres. We also have a 40,000 square foot shell building under construction on Lot 7.

The [Bedford Center for Business](#) also has a graded lot ready for development and it lies within the Town's Enterprise Zone and Virginia's Opportunity Zone.

In [Montvale Center for Commerce](#), we are working with the Lynchburg Regional Business Alliance to apply for a grant that will move us one step closer to a pad-ready site after Bobblett Gap begins construction.

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

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