



BEDFORD BUSINESS FIRST

News from Bedford County Office of Economic Development

December 2019

Wrapping up 2019 and looking ahead to 2020. Check out what we've been up to and what's to come in in the months ahead.

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.



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Shop local this holiday season!



The Office of Economic Development is reminding Bedford County citizens to shop local this holiday season by airing a TV

commercial on WFXR all December long. The short spot encourages you to shop local and find your treasure in Bedford County. When you buy from local businesses, you help your neighbors, reduce environmental impacts, and keep the money in the local economy. [Watch it here.](#)



Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation

The Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT), in conjunction with the Town of Bedford and Bedford and Franklin Counties, is conducting an important survey for the potential Virginia Amtrak service in the Town of Bedford. The survey will be active until January 6, 2020, and takes 10 minutes.

[Take the survey here.](#) [Read more here.](#)

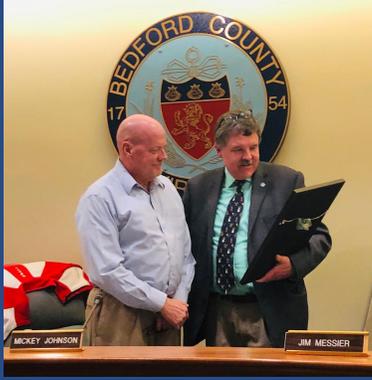


VDOT Survey

Make your voice heard and provide VDOT with input on long range transportation improvements in Bedford County (road improvements, adding sidewalks, bike lanes, etc...)

[Take the survey here.](#)

EDA Chairman Mickey Johnson Elected to Board of Supervisors



Thank you to our EDA Chairman, Mickey Johnson who will move on to the Board of Supervisors in January. He has served as a valuable voice on the Bedford County EDA since October 27, 2014. We appreciate his service to our board and look forward to seeing him serve on the Bedford County Board of Supervisors beginning in January 2020.

Vice Chairman Jim Messier (right) honors Mickey Johnson for his five years of EDA service.

Mark your calendars!

Save the following dates for our Business Roundtable events and our Business Appreciation Event:

February 12 - Business Roundtable at LU's Center for Engineering Research & Education

May 14 - Business Appreciation Event at Beale's

August 12 - Business Roundtable at National D-Day Memorial

December 10 - Business Roundtable at the Bedford Area Welcome Center

More details and invitations to follow.

Bedford ONE Tours wrap up for 2019



On November 14, several Bedford County Public Schools high school students toured the L3Harris Eagle Focus Factory and Liberty University's CERE in Forest as part of our Bedford ONE program. These tours allow students to explore career pathways and hear about opportunities available in their own backyard.



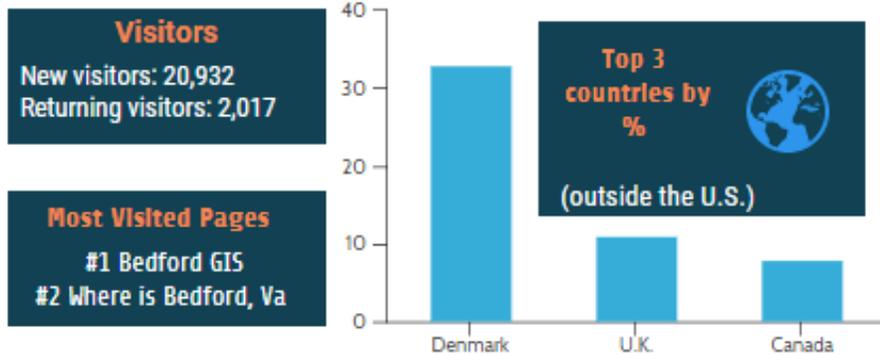
Students also toured the Southern Air fabrication shop, and a Coleman-Adams job site on December 12. All three high schools were represented, including students from BSTC's construction class. Both companies talked about career opportunities, including paid apprenticeships and paid tuition at CVCC.

Community Engagement STATS & DATA

A look back at the Office of Economic Development activities for 2019.



Website Visitor Stats



2019 Bedford County Office of Economic Development

EMPLOYMENT NUMBERS



39,276

LABOR FORCE



38,305

EMPLOYED



78,747

POPULATION
(July 2018)



\$36,972

MEAN AVERAGE
WAGE



2.5%

UNEMPLOYMENT



480

ADVERTISED JOB
OPENINGS

Sources: US Census Bureau, September 2019
VirginiaWorks.com, December 2019

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.

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 features 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

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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