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Board of Supervisors
John Sharp, Chair, District 4
Charla Bansley, Vice-Chair, District 3
Mickey Johnson, District 1
Edgar Tuck, District 2
Tommy Scott, District 5
Bob Davis, District 6
Tammy Parker, District 7

County Administration
Robert Hiss, County Administrator
Amanda Kaufman, Deputy County Administrator
Patrick Skelley, County Attorney

Contact Us
Main Tel: (540) 586-7601
Fax: (540) 586-0406
www.bedfordcountyva.gov
122 E. Main Street, Suite 202
Bedford, VA 24523
2020 MEETING CALENDARS

Board of Supervisors:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>Worksessions at 5:00 pm; Regular Meeting at 7:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Worksessions beginning at 5:00 pm (VDOT)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>23</td>
<td>Regular Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Work Session 5:00 pm; Regular Meeting at 7:00 pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Board of Supervisors meets on the second Monday at 5:00 pm for Worksessions and the fourth Monday at 7:00 pm for Regular Board Meetings (unless otherwise noted) in the Boardroom of the Bedford County Administration Office, 122 E. Main Street, Bedford, Virginia. Board information, agendas, minutes, etc., can be found HERE.

You can watch the Board meetings (regular meetings, not worksession) online HERE, as well as view previously recorded meetings and other informational videos.

Planning Commission:

Planning Commission meetings are held the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm in the Bedford County Administration Building Boardroom, 122 East Main Street Bedford, Virginia.

- October 20
- November 17
- December 15
- January 19, 2021

You can find agendas, minutes, and other information for the Planning Commission HERE.
### Economic Development Authority:

- **Nov. 5** Regular Meeting
- **Dec. 3** Regular Meeting

2021
- **Jan. 7** Regular Meeting (Thursday)

All **regular meetings** are held at **5:30 p.m.** in the Board of Supervisors Meeting Room unless otherwise noted.

The annual joint meeting with the Board of Supervisors will be held at **5:00 p.m.** in the Ground Floor Training Room. Short EDA Business Meeting to immediately follow, if needed. The Economic Development Authority reserves the right to modify this schedule as necessary. Special meetings, such as a Planning Day, may be added as necessary.

You can find agendas, minutes, and other information for the Economic Development Authority [HERE](#).

### Agricultural Economic Development Advisory Board:

- **Nov. 4** Regular Meeting
- **Dec. 2** Regular Meeting

Meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month at 7:30 pm from April to October; and 7:00 pm from November to March. When a holiday falls on the first Wednesday, the meetings are generally held the following Wednesday. Meetings are held in the Peaks Rooms of the Parks and Rec/Coop Extension Building (Falling Creek Center), 1257 County Farm Road, Bedford, Virginia unless otherwise noted. See [Calendar](#) for latest information.

You can find the agendas and minutes from each meeting on our [Ag Board Agendas & Minutes](#) page.
BEDFORD COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION

DRIVE THRU HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR

October 31, 2020 | 4:00 PM-6:00 PM | Falling Creek Park

*Music

*Candy stops will be setup to hand out candy.

*Decorate your car for a unique car costume contest.

If you or someone you know would like to setup a candy stop please contact parks and recreation. Space is limited so please call (540) 586-7682 or email ssaunders@bedfordcountyva.gov for more information.
Options for Voting – THREE WAYS YOU CAN PARTICIPATE!

1 Absentee voting by mail – You do not have to have a reason for requesting an absentee ballot by mail. You must submit a Virginia Vote by Mail Application Form. The application can be submitted in person, by mail, fax, e-mail, or online at the Department of Election’s citizen portal. After your application is processed, you will receive your ballot by mail (Ballots are mailed out starting on September 18). Ballots may be returned in person by the voter, by mail, to a County Ballot Drop Box*, or to a polling place on Election Day. Ballots must be returned by 7 p.m. on Election Day or postmarked on or before Election Day and received by noon on the third day after the election.

* Ballot drop-off locations will be located at the Registrar’s Office (321 N Bridge Street, Bedford, VA 24523) and at the Vote Center (1059 Turning Point Road, Bedford, VA 24523). These are the Only Official Ballot Drop-off Locations in Bedford County.

- Military and overseas voters can find specific information here.

2 Absentee/early voting in person – You do not have to have a reason or fill out an application to vote early in person. Absentee/early voting began on September 18. Bedford County will be operating a satellite Vote Center for the purpose of early voting. The Vote Center will be located in the County Gym at 1059 Turning Point Road in Bedford (across the road from the Bedford Regional Water Authority on Falling Creek Road). The Vote Center will operate from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, and the same hours on Saturday, October 24 and October 31.

- Voters will check in at the Vote Center, provide their name and address and show an acceptable form of ID. If acceptable ID is not provided, you must sign an ID Confirmation Statement or you will be offered a provisional ballot.
- Once checked-in, you will be given your ballot, mark your ballot, and cast your ballot on the voting equipment just as you would do at your regular polling place on Election Day.

3 Voting at your polling place on Election Day (November 3rd) – Regular polling places will be open for in person voting on Election Day. Please check your voter information notice to determine where your polling place is located or contact the Voter Registrar’s Office at 540-586-7649. Polling places will be open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Election Day.

- Voters will check in at their polling place, provide their name and address and show an acceptable form of ID. If acceptable ID is not provided, you must sign an ID Confirmation Statement or you will be offered a provisional ballot.

The Bedford County Registrar’s Office is located at 321 N. Bridge St., #200, Bedford, VA 24523. The contact number is (540) 586-7649; office hours are 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday - Friday.
**Sample Ballot #1, Front of Ballot (5th Congressional District)**

Commonwealth of Virginia, Sample Ballot  
Ballot Style 1

**County of Bedford**  
**General and Special Elections**  
**Tuesday, November 3, 2020**

**Instructions to voters:**  
To vote for a candidate, fill in the oval next to the name like this: ●  
To vote on an issue, fill in the oval next to Yes or No.  
To write in a candidate who is not already on the ballot, fill in the oval and write the name of the person on the line provided.  
If you want to change a vote or if you have made a mistake, ask an election worker for another ballot.  
If you make marks on the ballot besides filling in the oval, your votes may not be counted.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>President and Vice President</th>
<th>Member United States Senate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vote for only one</td>
<td>Vote for only one</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● Democratic Party</td>
<td>● Mark R. Warner - D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electors for</td>
<td>● Daniel M. Gade - R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph R. Biden, President</td>
<td>○ Write-in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kamala D. Harris, Vice President</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● Republican Party</td>
<td>Member House of Representatives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electors for</td>
<td>5th District</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donald J. Trump, President</td>
<td>Vote for only one</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael R. Pence, Vice President</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● Libertarian Party</td>
<td>○ B. Cameron Webb - D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electors for</td>
<td>○ Robert G. &quot;Bob&quot; Good - R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joel Jorgensen, President</td>
<td>○ Write-in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeremy F. &quot;Spive&quot; Cohen, Vice President</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>○ Write-in</td>
<td>Clerk of Court</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>for unexpired term to end</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>December 31, 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Vote for only one</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>○ Judy E. Reynolds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>○ Write-in</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**VOTE BOTH SIDES OF BALLOT**
Proposed Constitutional Amendments

Constitutional Amendment #1
Should the Constitution of Virginia be amended to establish a redistricting commission, consisting of eight members of the General Assembly and eight citizens of the Commonwealth, that is responsible for drawing the congressional and state legislative districts that will be subsequently voted on, but not changed by, the General Assembly and enacted without the Governor’s involvement and to give the responsibility of drawing districts to the Supreme Court of Virginia if the redistricting commission fails to draw districts or the General Assembly fails to enact districts by certain deadlines?

- Yes
- No

Constitutional Amendment #2
Should an automobile or pickup truck that is owned and used primarily by or for a veteran of the United States armed forces or the Virginia National Guard who has a one hundred percent service-connected permanent, and total disability be free from state and local taxation?

- Yes
- No
**Commonwealth of Virginia, Sample Ballot**  
**County of Bedford**  
**General and Special Elections**  
**Tuesday, November 3, 2020**

**Instructions to voters:**
- To vote for a candidate, fill in the oval next to the name like this: •
- To vote on an issue, fill in the oval next to Yes or No.
- To write in a candidate who is not already on the ballot, fill in the oval and write the name of the person on the line provided.
- If you want to change a vote or if you have made a mistake, ask an election worker for another ballot.
- If you make marks on the ballot besides filling in the oval, your votes may not be counted.

### President and Vice President
#### Vote for only one
- **Democratic Party**  
  Electors for  
  - Joseph R. Biden, President  
  - Kamala D. Harris, Vice President
- **Republican Party**  
  Electors for  
  - Donald J. Trump, President  
  - Michael R. Pence, Vice President
- **Libertarian Party**  
  Electors for  
  - Jo Jorgensen, President  
  - Jeremy F. "Spive" Cohen, Vice President
- **Write-in**

### Member United States Senate
#### Vote for only one
- **Mark R. Warner - D**
- **Daniel M. Gade - R**
- **Write-in**

### Member House of Representatives
#### 6th District
#### Vote for only one
- **Nicholas A. Betts - D**
- **Ben L. Cline - R**
- **Write-in**

### Clerk of Court
#### for unexpired term to end December 31, 2023  
#### Vote for only one
- **Judy E. Reynolds**
- **Write-in**

Vote both sides of ballot.
Proposed Constitutional Amendments

Constitutional Amendment #1

Should the Constitution of Virginia be amended to establish a redistricting commission, consisting of eight members of the General Assembly and eight citizens of the Commonwealth, that is responsible for drawing the congressional and state legislative districts that will be subsequently voted on, but not changed by, the General Assembly and enacted without the Governor's involvement and to give the responsibility of drawing districts to the Supreme Court of Virginia if the redistricting commission fails to draw districts or the General Assembly fails to enact districts by certain deadlines?

- Yes
- No

Constitutional Amendment #2

Should an automobile or pickup truck that is owned and used primarily by or for a veteran of the United States armed forces or the Virginia National Guard who has a one hundred percent service-connected, permanent, and total disability be free from state and local taxation?

- Yes
- No

Authorized by Electoral Board of the County of Bedford
321 North Bridge St., Suite 209
Bedford, VA 24523

The authority statement printed above must be removed and replaced with the appropriate authority statement for the candidate, committee, individual or group using this ballot for their own purposes.

Constitutional Amendment #1:

For state requirements, see §52.1-13.1 of the Code of Virginia. For federal requirements, call the Federal Election Commission, 1-800-424-9530.

END OF BALLOT

VOTE BOTH SIDES OF BALLOT
**Commonwealth of Virginia, Sample Ballot**

County of Bedford  
General and Special Elections  
Tuesday, November 3, 2020  

**Instructions to voters:**  
To vote for a candidate, fill in the oval next to the name like this:  
To vote on an issue, fill in the oval next to Yes or No.  
To write in a candidate who is not already on the ballot, fill in the oval and write the name of the person on the line provided.  
If you want to change a vote or if you have made a mistake, ask an election worker for another ballot.  
If you make marks on the ballot besides filling in the oval, your votes may not be counted.

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<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vote for only one</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| ◯ Democratic Party Electors for Joseph R. Biden, President  
Kamala D. Harris, Vice President | ◯ Mark R. Warner - D |
| ◯ Republican Party Electors for Donald J. Trump, President  
Michael R. Pence, Vice President | ◯ Daniel M. Gade - R |
| ◯ Libertarian Party Electors for Jo Jorgensen, President  
Jeremy F. "Spike" Cohen, Vice President | ◯ Write-in |
| ◯ Write-in |  |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member House of Representatives</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5th District Vote for only one</td>
<td>Vote for only one</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>◯ B. Cameron Webb - D</td>
<td>◯ Robert G. &quot;Bob&quot; Good - R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>◯ Write-in</td>
<td>◯ Write-in</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Clerk of Court**  
for unexpired term to end  
December 31, 2023  
Vote for only one  

| ◯ Judy E. Reynolds  |
| ◯ Write-in  |
**Sample Ballot #7, Back of Ballot (5th Congressional District with Town)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member Town Council Town of Bedford</th>
<th>Proposed Constitutional Amendments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vote for not more than four</td>
<td>Constitutional Amendment #1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Should the Constitution of Virginia be amended to establish a redistricting commission, consisting of eight members of the General Assembly and eight citizens of the Commonwealth, that is responsible for drawing the congressional and state legislative districts that will be subsequently voted on, but not changed by the General Assembly and enacted without the Governor's involvement and to give the responsibility of drawing districts to the Supreme Court of Virginia if the redistricting commission fails to draw districts or the General Assembly fails to enact districts by certain deadlines?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>○ Stacey L. Hailey</td>
<td>○ Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>○ Bruce Erik Hartwick</td>
<td>○ No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>○ C. S. Stanley, Jr.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>○ Timothy W. Black</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>○ F. Bryan Schley</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>○ Write-in</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>○ Write-in</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>○ Write-in</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member Town Council Town of Bedford</td>
<td>Constitutional Amendment #2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vote for only one</td>
<td>Should an automobile or pickup truck that is owned and used primarily by or for a veteran of the United States armed forces or the Virginia National Guard who has a one hundred percent service-connected, permanent, and total disability be free from state and local taxation?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>○ Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>○ No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>○ Bruce M. Johannessen</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>○ Write-in</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Authorized by Electoral Board of the County of Bedford
321 North Bridge Street, Suite 209
Bedford, VA 24523

The authority statement printed above must be removed and replaced with the appropriate authority statement for the candidate, committee, individual or group using this ballot for their own purposes.

For state requirements, see § 24.2-926.1 of the Code of Virginia. For federal requirements, call the Federal Election Commission, 1-800-424-9530.

END OF BALLOT

Vote Both Sides of Ballot
Farmers Markets Meet Community Demand for Local Foods

Bedford Farmers Market exceeds 450 attendees for season
Forest Farmers Market tops $400,000 in local sales

The Ag Board heard a report this month from the Market Managers of the Forest Farmers Market and the Bedford Farmers Market. They stated they have seen increased visitors at the markets this year due to the rising awareness of the health benefits of locally grown foods. For the Bedford Market, Erika McFaden, said her market had 20-25 vendors this year and 450 attendees so far this season. She is looking at hosting a Saturday market on November 14 and possibly one in December as well. For the Forest Farmers Market, Dorothy McIntyre distributed a report to Ag Board members that showed total combined sales at her market near $400,000 so far this season. This is money that helps local farmers and their families. She has an average of 28 vendors a week and donates any leftover produce to the Society of St. Andrew to distribute to those less fortunate. She will hold a monthly Winter Market as well this year. Congratulations to the Bedford and Forest Farmers Markets on a successful summer season of local sales.

Learn more at Forest Farmers Market and Bedford Farmers Market.

Bedford ONE Industry Tours Go Virtual

We held our very first virtual Bedford ONE tour this past week. Our guest speaker was Beth Murtha of Framatome who spoke to nine Bedford County high school students about the Framatome technician program. Interested students can apply for the program and be trained while being paid as a Framatome employee (including benefits!) Upon graduation, students become field technicians. The students also learned about internships available for rising college juniors and seniors.

You can follow Bedford County Economic Development on
**Office of Economic Development**

**BEDFORD COUNTY HAS PROVIDED NEARLY $400,000 TO SMALL BUSINESSES**

As of this week, close to 100 applications have been received in the Office of Economic Development for the Back to Business Grant through the CARES Act. Of those, about 10 are still under review and a handful didn’t qualify due to not meeting the criteria as posted. The deadline for this first round closed on October 1 but staff will continue to accept applications until the funds are depleted or until the end of the year. “We are glad to have assisted so many small businesses that have been negatively impacted by the Coronavirus,” said Traci Blido, Economic Development Director. “We are looking at opening a second round in November with the remaining funds to help slightly larger businesses impacted by COVID-19.”

“I cannot thank you enough for letting us apply and receive this money. It will help so much in the next few months with payroll. Thank you again.” — Winey Chicks

“*If we were to receive this loan, we would use these funds for marketing and advertising. It is important for us to remind the community who we are and what we do. We are so unique in what we do and the services we have to offer, so any help we can get to spread the word is very crucial.*”

— Gates Flag and Banner

“We’re a food business that depends heavily on foot traffic. We lost LU students due to the school closing early which is 70% of our market share. We had to take on extensive debt to cover our commitments and this money will help us consolidate that debt.” — Rookies

---

**Traci Blido, Director**

Contact Information:
County Administration Building
122 E. Main Street
Suite 202
Bedford, VA 24523

Phone: (540) 587.5670

Website

Office Hours:
Monday - Friday
8:30 am - 5:00 pm

You can follow Bedford County Economic Development on

[Facebook] [Twitter] [Instagram] [YouTube]
Office of
Economic Development

THREE BEDFORD COUNTY MANUFACTURERS
FOCUS ON GLOBAL SALES THROUGH VEDP
INTERNATIONAL TRADE PROGRAM


To say 2020 has been challenging for businesses would be an understatement. Thanks to you and your team for all the support you have provided to companies in Bedford County during this unprecedented time. We have entered our new fiscal year and our outreach efforts are in full swing. I wanted to reach out and share with you the support VEDP International Trade was able to provide, with your help, to companies in Bedford County in the last 12 months. With your support, Bedford County companies received a total of $30,000 in grant money in the last year to support the growth of their international sales. Each one has been a pleasure to work with and I appreciate the opportunity to support their international efforts.

- **Innerspec** – Innerspec graduated from VALET and is currently looking at next steps in international markets.
- **NanoTouch Materials** – We conducted market research for NanoTouch materials to identify markets with strong commercial real estate segments.
- **Sentry Equipment** – Sentry continues to be a part of our VALET program and is scheduled to graduate this January. They have been actively pursuing multiple markets.

If your business is looking to branch out or strengthen international sales, we would like to connect you with the Virginia Economic Development Partnership’s International Trade office. Learn more at [www.ExportVirginia.org](http://www.ExportVirginia.org)

IN OTHER NEWS:

- **Sentry Equipment celebrates 40 years in Bedford County!**
- **Retired Nuclear Engineer Rhonnie Smith is appointed to EDA**
- **USDA to provide additional direct assistance to farmers and ranchers impacted by the Coronavirus**
October is National Cybersecurity Awareness Month... Are You Prepared?

As school, socializing, and many aspects of life have moved online this year, it’s more important than ever that you protect your digital devices and steer clear of cyber-criminals. So during National Cyber Security Awareness Month, observed each October, the FBI and partner agencies remind you to do your part and #BeCyberSmart all year long.

Cyber Safety Tips

- Keep software systems up to date and use a good anti-virus program.
- Examine the email address and URLs in all correspondence. Scammers often mimic a legitimate site or email address by using a slight variation in spelling.
- If an unsolicited text message, email, or phone call asks you to update, check, or verify your account information, do not follow the link provided in the message itself or call the phone numbers provided in the message. Go to the company’s website to log into your account or call the phone number listed on the official website to see if something does in fact need your attention.
- Do not open any attachments unless you are expecting the file, document, or invoice and have verified the sender’s email address.
- Scrutinize all electronic requests for a payment or transfer of funds.
- Be extra suspicious of any message that urges immediate action.
- Confirm requests for wire transfers or payment in person or over the phone as part of a two-factor authentication process. Do not verify these requests using the phone number listed in the request for payment.
- Keep Yourself and Your Systems Safe

Visit the National Cyber Security Alliance website for technical tips and guidance on how to stay safe online. Among the most important tips is to create a strong, unique passphrase for each of your accounts and institute a multi-factor authentication process for all account changes.

(Source: https://www.fbi.gov/investigate/cyber-national-cybersecurity-awareness-month)
The BPLS added 329 new customers in the month of September 2020 – that is an increase of 20% from last year’s numbers. During National Library Card Signup month, the Library introduced a new online card sign up process to attract students and promote our online resources. Throughout the current pandemic, the BPLS has been continually adapting to how people want to use the library and offering this touchless method of getting a card and using the online e-resources is just another step in that evolution.

In order to help bridge the digital divide and fill in gaps where broadband service is not available yet, the BPLS has started lending mobile hot spots to Bedford County residents. This new service allows library card holders, in good standing, to check out a hot spot for 14 days. After 14 days the device is automatically disabled until it is returned to the library.

Hotspots from Mobile Beacon can connect multiple computers or other Wi-Fi-enabled consumer electronics like smartphones and tablets to Mobile Beacon’s mobile broadband Internet service. The hotspot offers unlimited data usage and can be used at any location within the coverage area, which is provided on T-Mobile/Sprint’s 4G LTE network. Coverage maps can be found HERE. Its download speeds average 6 to 8 megabits per second, with peak speeds of 25 megabits per second in well covered areas. Mobile Beacon products are available only to qualifying nonprofits with 501(c)(3) designation and to public libraries. Call the Bedford Central Library at 540-586-8911 for more information.
It’s almost time to hang the holiday greens! Make a stunning first impression at your doorstep with a homemade pinecone wreath this winter with the Bedford Public Library System. The Bedford Area Master Gardeners will be conducting workshops this fall as the schedule reflects below. All wreath-making materials will

Some programs will be held outside, so dress appropriately. Seats are also limited, so please sign up online according to preferred location and date. You can register in the events calendar tab on our website at https://bedford.librarycalendar.com/. Participants must be ages 12+. **Please wear a mask and social distancing protocols will be enforced.** The Montvale, Stewartsville, and Moneta/SML library programs are already full and are not listed here.

**Bedford Central:** Saturday, October 31 @ 10:30 am  
**Big Island:** Tuesday, November 17 @ 2:30 pm  
**Forest:** Saturday, November 21 @ 10:30 am
Fall is off to a great start in Destination Bedford! The tourism department continues to push the “WanderLove” campaign with advertising via print, online, broadcast, and radio. The campaign, combined with our advertising strategy, is generating excellent results with website traffic to DestinationBedfordVA.com having increased by 66%. A majority of users are finding the site via Google which means they likely saw or heard a Destination Bedford commercial. Users are also finding us from other websites such as Virginia.org, digital ads, and Facebook. Website traffic is up via nearly every channel that feeds our website. “People Reached” is up 28%, “Post Engagement” is up 148%, and “Page Likes” is up 204% over the last 30 days (this data is for the Destination Bedford page).

The top feeder markets to the Destination Bedford website include:

- Roanoke-Lynchburg, VA
- Washington, DC
- Norfolk-Portsmouth-Newport News, VA
- Richmond-Petersburg, VA
- Charlottesville, VA
- Raleigh-Durham, NC
- Baltimore, MD
- New York, NY
- Columbia, SC
- Madison, WI
- Philadelphia, PA
- Charlotte, NC

The department has also fulfilled many online requests to receive brochures and information by mail, which means they are considering a trip to Bedford!

You can find Destination Bedford featured in the following publications this month:

- Blue Ridge Outdoors Magazine (online article highlighting some of the many adventures one can have when visiting Bedford)
- Richmond Traveler Fall/Winter 2020
- Shenandoah Valley & Beyond
- Blue Ridge Country
- The Roanoker
- Discover SWVA Living
Department of Tourism

Bedford is mentioned in this travel article featured in the Ponte Vedra Recorder, serving the Jacksonville Beach, FL community.

The Welcome Center and National D-Day Memorial are featured in this blog post written by a mother from Staunton, VA, “For the LOVE Project: Needing to find the LOVE.

October is one of the peak travel months and there is a lot going on in Bedford. Go to our event calendar to find out about some of the events and activities taking place! Upcoming events that Destination Bedford is sponsoring include the Mountain View Vintage Market on October 17 and Centerfest in the Park on October 24.

October is also Virginia Wine Month, and four local wineries are open and ready to serve you! Ramulose Ridge, Peaks of Otter Winery, Hickory Hill, and LeoGrande.

According to WDBJ7 and comments from local tree expert Dr. John Seiler, Professor of Tree Biology at Virginia Tech, the conditions are setting up for 2020 to be one of the best years in recent memory for fall foliage! The Virginia Department of Forestry map indicates that our area should see peak color around October 15-25.

Virginia Peak Periods:
- October 10 - 20 (Left Side of Map)
- October 15 - 25 (Center of Map)
- October 20-31 (Right Side of Map)
Department of Tourism

The Bedford Area Welcome Center recently received two 5-star reviews on TripAdvisor:

**Outstanding Visitor Center for VA area and more** (October 2020, Gene in Silver Spring, MD) “This is one of the best visitor centers we’ve seen in our travels over the entire U.S. The friendly helpful staff can provide information on most places in the southeast with a score of display areas with brochures, maps and booklets and a small theater with movies on the local area and Normandy. In addition; spotless restrooms, a wing devoted to Bedford firefighters with their fully restored 1927 Seagrave firetruck (cast iron wheels & gold leaf trim), a scale model of the D-Day Memorial, gift shop, an electric charging station, picnic tables with a view to the memorial, and a RV Dump Station.”

**Great visit** (October 2020, Debbie in Graham, NC) “Very helpful welcoming staff. We stayed overnight on Site 3 with full hookups. Clean beautiful center with lots of information and informed pleasant staff. Gorgeous flowers all around the center with rocking chairs on several porches with beautiful views. Such a nice place to visit. Bedford is a place with a lot of beauty and pride and it is on show at the Welcome Center!”

Tourism staff - Michelle, Anita, and Nicole - attended the Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce Business Expo held at the Forest Fire Department on October 1, 2020.

Stay tuned! On October 30 around 3:30 p.m., Blue Ridge Outdoors Magazine will announce the winners of the Top Adventure Town Contest! We’ll be posting updates on our Facebook page.
The Bedford Area Welcome Center LOVES their Volunteers!

We need you... ❤️

If you are outgoing, enjoy speaking with visitors from all over the world, and are knowledgeable about Bedford area attractions and events, this opportunity is for you!

This position provides support in the Bedford Area Welcome Center. Our volunteers greet visitors and provide information about the area, sell gift store merchandise, and answer visitor inquiries both in-person and by phone.

We are open 7 days a week from 9AM to 5PM. Volunteer shifts are 9AM to 1PM and 1PM to 5PM. You can volunteer as little as eight hours (two shifts) per month.

Every day is a beautiful day to be in Bedford – will you consider joining our awesome team of volunteers?

For more information, contact Anita Dengel, (540) 587-5681, adengel@bedfordcountyva.gov
Tourism revenue for Bedford reached $121.9 million in 2019, a 3.4% increase over 2018. Local tourism-supported jobs totaled 1,271 while local tourism-related taxes were $3,644,767, also an increase over 2018. Data is from the U.S. Travel Association and is based on domestic visitor spending from trips taken 50 miles or more away from home.

The travel industry in the Commonwealth has continued to grow 10 years in a row with a compound annual growth rate of 3.9 percent since 2010. However, these figures do not account for the devastating impact that COVID-19 has had on the tourism industry.

According to Bedford County Tourism Director, Nicole Johnson, most businesses, including the Welcome Center, were closed for at least two months. “This definitely hurt. We reopened the Welcome Center on May 18, exactly two months after closing. We still see a lot of visitors come in, but not at the level that we’re used to. We ask people where they are traveling from, and it’s interesting to see that since reopening, we’ve had visitors from almost all 50 states,” said Johnson. “Website clicks and social media engagement has significantly increased,” she added.

As the Commonwealth continues to grapple with the impact of COVID-19, the pandemic has further emphasized the stark contrast in 2019 and 2020 and that statewide economic revival cannot occur without the recovery of the travel industry.
Bedford tourism has experienced a very strong past few years and was looking forward to a big 2020 in terms of visitor numbers and tax revenues. Because of the pandemic, the tourism staff had to rethink their marketing strategy for 2020 and even 2021. Destination Bedford received a WanderLove marketing grant from VTC in July, and has been using that to help with advertising. The WanderLove campaign focuses on outdoor attractions and recreation, small towns, and scenic beauty and road trips. Bedford is the type of destination people are looking for right now, and is located within a day’s drive of most locations in the Mid-Atlantic. There is more information at http://www.destinationbedfordva.com/wanderlove.

While the coronavirus has had a significant impact on Virginia’s tourism economy, the industry remains hopeful for a robust return to 2019 numbers in the future. Tourism will be key to economic recovery as the pandemic stabilizes and leisure and business travel resumes. As Americans begin to travel again, Bedford intends to help restore the tourism economy into the economic engine it always has been.

“We are fortunate in Bedford to have so many outdoor assets to promote. That is a big draw for visitors right now and will be well into the foreseeable future,” said Nicole Johnson. Smith Mountain Lake vacation rentals for June through August were solid, and while reservations typically begin to fall off in mid-August, this year bookings are going well into September. And, according to data from Virginia State Parks, camping during June and July was up more than 17 percent at Smith Mountain Lake State Park. The Peaks of Otter Lodge reopened at the end of June and projects a very good September and October in terms of occupancy. Some local restaurant owners have claimed their business has been better this year than in year’s past. Many had to pivot and begin to offer curbside service, delivery, and additional outdoor seating.

“Our marketing plan for 2021 will be to continue promoting everything that Bedford has to offer, but will also focus on the outdoor adventure aspect of Destination Bedford, which includes the Peaks of Otter, Smith Mountain Lake, and our mountain biking trails and disc golf courses, among other things,” Johnson added. The county parks alone include more than 30 miles of multiuse trails, a bike park, more than 90 holes of disc golf, fitness stations, and a skate park.

Go to www.DestinationBedfordVA.com to learn more.

The tourism office manages three Facebook pages – Destination Bedford VA, Bedford Area Welcome Center and Bedford Wine Trail. If you are on Facebook, please “like” and follow these pages. We are also on Instagram, Twitter, Pinterest, YouTube, and TripAdvisor.
The Bedford Area Welcome Center Presents The 12th Annual

Festival of Trees

November 24, 2020 through January 3, 2021

The Bedford Area Welcome Center
816 Burks Hill Road
(Route 480 at Route 122 adjoining the National D-Day Memorial)

Christmas Through the Decades

Trees Decorated by Community Organizations and Businesses -
Vote for your favorites! Only $1 per vote!
Open seven days a week from 9:00 AM until 5:00 PM
- Extended Hours until 8:00 PM -
December 3rd - 6th and December 10th - 13th

The Welcome Center will be closed Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year’s Day

(540) 587-5681 | www.destinationbedfordva.com