

MEMORANDUM



To: Bedford Town Council
From: Rick Sawyer, Town Manager
Date: June 18, 2020
Re: **Manager's Report**

News & Noteworthy:

- 1) COVID-19 Pandemic Update – Bedford remains one of most impacted communities with **115 current COVID-19 positive patients** with impacts in some of our long term care facilities as well as the general community. I strongly encourage all residents to follow the CDC and State of NH recommendations for protecting yourself when out completing necessary travel during the Stay at Home 2.0 Order. Those recommendations include wearing a face covering and washing hands as often as possible. Our emergency personnel are continuing to respond to multiple COVID-19 calls a day.
- 2) The Town Office Building is open 8 AM – 4 PM. At risk members of our community or anybody else who is not comfortable coming in with the general public can make an appointment for 4 PM by contacting the department they need to see. We do encourage people to continue taking advantage of online or mail in options whenever possible as maximum occupancy in our lobby is 4 customers. **Please wear a face covering and keep a 6 foot separation to others when coming to the building.** Offsite payment options can be found on our website <https://www.bedfordnh.org/819/Online-Bill-Payment>.
- 3) Public Library – The Library is offering contactless pickup of library materials for cardholders 10 AM – 2 PM, Monday – Saturday and Wednesdays 5-7 PM.
- 4) Bedford Cares – continues to provide an incredible service to members of our community who are in need of assistance with such things as shopping and picking up of prescriptions while also making donations to the Bedford Food Pantry that now exceeds well over 1,000 pounds of food. If you need their support please reach out to them at 792-1319 or on <https://www.facebook.com/BedfordNHCares/>. I can't thank Councilor Ricciardi enough for her continued relentless efforts.
- 5) Summer Concert Series – Starts on July 1st and runs every Wednesday night through August 12th at 6 PM at the Bedford Village Common.

July 1	Manchester Community Music School
July 8	Tattoo (American Roots Dance Music)
July 15	Paul Bordeleau Reunion Trio
July 22	Sixties Invasion (Show band featuring music of the 60's)
July 29	Bel Airs (Doo Wop Vocal Quintet)
August 5	Amherst Town Band
August 12	Timmy Brown

- 6) Tennis Courts, basketball courts, the skateboard park, playgrounds are open in keeping with of the Governor's Safer at Home guidelines. The pool and splash pad will remain closed as the initial guidance was too restrictive to open and the new guidance would be difficult to enforce and came so late that by the time we would be able to hire and train staff plus get the facilities operational the season would be short and therefore now worth the cost.
- 7) Tax bills have been mailed with a July 1st due date. The first bill of the year is based on the tax rate set in 2019 with property valuation updates made for any changes to the property completed by April 1, 2020. If you have not received your bill you should contact the tax office.
- 8) The Bedford Farmers Market continues on Tuesdays from 3-6 PM through September at the Harvest Market parking lot.

- 9) Drought – Our dry start to the year now has expanded to having nearly all of NH in the condition defined as “abnormally dry” which is predicted to continue to worsen to where drought is likely. I would encourage all residents to implement water conservation measures now like only watering vegetable garden crops, watering no more than every other day, and watering in the morning or evening where less water is lost to evaporation.

**U.S. Drought Monitor
New Hampshire**

June 16, 2020
(Released Thursday, Jun. 18, 2020)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Intensity:
 None
 D0 Abnormally Dry
 D1 Moderate Drought
 D2 Severe Drought
 D3 Extreme Drought
 D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

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- 10) 2020 Census – Bedford currently has a response rate of 80.1% which is third in the State. I would love to see Bedford be the first community to reach 100%. Please complete the Census by going to <https://my2020census.gov/> It truly takes less than 10 minutes to complete.

Project Updates:

- 1) 2020 Roads Program – Final paving of Beaver Lane, Blanford Place, and Rice Lane took place this week and work continues on Hitching Post Road. The crew will next be moving to the Pine Crest area. The South River Road project is scheduled to start at the end of June.
- 2) Village Common Fence Replacement – As part of the Route 101 widening project the Town Council agreed to use funds received from the sale of Town owned land for the project to replace the fence along the Common. Work was originally expected to be completed by now, but we have been notified that it will be delayed due to supply problems with the manufacturer. The fence will be similar in style to the existing fence but be vinyl for ease of maintenance and will also match fencing to be installed by the State along the roadway in certain areas.
- 3) 2019 Audit – The Finance team is working to complete our 2019 financials and CAFAR with no significant issues identified. We expect to have the final CAFAR by the end of June and present it to the Council in August.

- 4) Personnel: Fire Chief Scott Hunter has received the designation of Chief Fire Officer, one of only 1.439 designees worldwide. The Designation program is a voluntary program designed to recognize individuals who demonstrate their excellence in seven measured components including experience, education, professional development, professional contributions, association membership, community involvement and technical competence.

Events:

- June 27th – Household Hazardous Waste Day, 8:30 AM – 3 PM, Highway Garage, 19 Chubbuck Road.
- July 3rd & 4th – Bedford Town Offices, Library, and Transfer Station Closed for Independence Day.

Upcoming Meetings:

- June 22nd – 7:00 PM, Planning Board
- ~~June 23rd – 7:15 AM, Highway Safety Committee~~
- June 23rd – 7:00 PM, Conservation Commission
- **June 24th – 7:00 PM, Town Council**
- June 25th – 7:00 PM, Energy Commission
- **June 27th – 8:00 AM, Town Council Retreat**
- July 7th – 7:00 PM, Historic District Commission
- July 9th – 7:45 AM, Water & Sewer Committee
- July 9th – 7:00 PM, BCTV-WBNH Board of Overseers
- **July 15th – 7:00 PM, Town Council**
- July 20th – 7:00 PM, Planning Board
- July 21st – 7:00 PM, Zoning Board
- July 16th – 11:30 AM, Telecommunications Subcommittee
- July 23rd – 7:00 PM, Energy Commission
- July 28th – 7:15 AM, Highway Safety Committee
- July 28th – 7:00 PM, Conservation Commission

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