

MEMORANDUM

To: Bedford Town Council
From: Rick Sawyer, Town Manager
Date: January 19, 2022
Re: **Manager's Report**



News & Noteworthy:

- 1) **PFAS Public Meeting regarding Cancer Concerns** – The Department of Health and Human Services has announced that they will conduct a public information meeting virtually on **Thursday, January 27, 2022 at 6:30 PM, advanced registration is required at: www.bit.ly/3tih5dT** This meeting is being conducted as a result of testing of those who have consumed water from the Merrimack Village Water District (MVD) having higher than average results for some cancers. In Bedford those in the areas in and around Greenfield Farms, Cabot Preserve, and Brick Mill Road are served by Pennichuck Water Works with the water coming from MVD. Anyone in these areas or who has a well impacted by PFAS should attend this meeting.



Public Information Meeting to Address Cancer Concerns

When: **Thursday, January 27, 2022 6:30 PM**

Where: **Zoom Meeting Registration Required**

Registration: **bit.ly/3tih5dT**

YOU ARE INVITED to join an informational meeting for residents of Merrimack, Litchfield, Bedford and Londonderry to provide updates on the status of cancer in the community and address the community's questions hosted by NH Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

The agenda will include background on the DHHS protocol for responding to community concerns about cancer, history of the response in Merrimack, most recent data analysis, discussion of next steps in the investigation, and a question and answer session.

For more information about this meeting, please contact the DHHS Cancer Program at 803-271-4959. For additional information on the DHHS' on-going investigation into cancer concerns in Southern New Hampshire, please visit the NH Comprehensive Cancer Control website (www.dhhs.nh.gov/cphs/ccpc/nhcccpc.htm).



- 2) **PFAS Contamination** – NHDES and Saint Gobain are testing a large number of private wells in southeastern Bedford but unfortunately they have not announced any remediation steps yet while they wait for more data. If you have received a request for well testing from Golder Associates it is critical that you sign the agreement and return the paperwork as soon as possible.

Outside of the Saint-Gobain area of responsibility (generally north of Route 101) residents can request that their well water be tested by submitting an application through the NHDES website at: https://www4.des.state.nh.us/nh-pfas-investigation/?page_id=307 Our request for a grant to reimburse residents for treatment systems in this area is still under review by NHDES. We have been told we can move our grant request to extend the water main down Bedford Center Road to the next phase which requires a final application and information be submitted to NHDES for action. It is anticipated that if the grant is approved construction will start as soon as possible.

- 3) **COVID-19 Pandemic** – **Bedford currently has 333 COVID-19 positive cases with significant spread occurring in the community.** Bedford has had a total of 4,259 cases. 56.1% of NH residents are currently vaccinated with Bedford having 59.7% fully vaccinated residents and 65.6% with one dose. The State continues to experience a very high number of cases and hospitals remain at maximum capacity. I strongly encourage anyone who can be vaccinated or who is eligible to receive a booster to do so. **The Bedford Fire Department is providing free clinics for vaccinations every Wednesday in January from 3-7 PM for**

those eligible 5 years of age and older, first dose, second dose, or booster for Pfizer. Appointments are required and can be scheduled by emailing educlos@bedfordnh.org

Our organization continues to be very highly impacted across all departments and we continue to adjust as needed and assist employees who test positive, become ill, or have exposures. It is possible that a department you need to interact with will be closed or short staffed at this time.

- 4) The registration period for open elected positions is January 19, 2022 through 5 PM January 28, 2022.

Open Town Elected Positions:

- Two Town Council positions (3-year terms)
- One Town Council position (2-year term)
- One Library Trustee (3-year term)
- One Trustee of the Trust Fund (3-year term)
- One Supervisor of the Checklist (6-year term)
- One Town Moderator (2-year term)

Open School District Positions:

- One School Board position (3-year terms)
- One School District Moderator (3-year term)
- One School District Clerk (3-year term)
- One School District Treasurer (3-year term)

Any Bedford registered voter wishing to file for Office must do so by contacting Town Clerk Sally Kellar at 472-3550. The Town Clerk will be available during office hours at the Town Office Building, 24 North Amherst Road and until 5 PM on the last day of filing.

As per RSA 669:19 candidates who file on the last day of the filing period shall do so in person before the Town Clerk.

- 5) As a reminder political signs are not permitted in any traffic island or on any town owned land without approval of the Town Council.
- 6) The Planning Board will hold the second and final public hearing on 3 proposed zoning amendments on January 24th at 7 PM. The amendments can be viewed on the Town Website at: <https://www.bedfordnh.org/DocumentCenter/View/5531/2022-Zoning-Amendments---Legal-Notice-and-Full-Text>
- 7) The Planning Board will hold a public hearing on January 24th at 7 PM to consider an amendment to the Land Development Control Regulations regarding updated Impact Fees. The amendment can be viewed on the Town Website at: <https://www.bedfordnh.org/DocumentCenter/View/5553/2022-Impact-Fee-Update> and those with questions should contact the Planning Department at 472-5243 or planning@bedfordnh.org

- 8) The Bedford Recreation Department is again sponsoring the "Spread the Love" event February 1-12 where residents are encouraged to drop jars of peanut butter, jelly, and or jam at the Recreation Department in the Town Office Building in support of the Bedford Community Food Pantry.
- 9) Family Snowman Challenge – build a snowman in your own yard and submit a picture to the Recreation Department by January 31st. Be sure to challenge your friends and neighbors!
- 10) The Bedford Library is now closing on Thursdays at 5 PM due to staffing limitations.
- 11) The Bedford Winter Parking Ban began on November 1st, which requires no parking on public roads between midnight and 8 AM.



Project Updates:

- 1) 2021 Financial Audit – The audit has been initiated and the team is expected to be in the Town Office Building on February 14-15 and April 11-15, 2022.
- 2) Security System Upgrades – The project has been initiated and rough wiring has been completed at the Library and should be completed at the Town Office Building, Town Hall, and BCTV this week and the Highway Garage next week.
- 3) Personnel – There are currently 5 openings in the Highway Department including the Highway Superintendent, Head Mechanic position and 1 other is out on extended leave. The Police Department has 2 patrol, 1 Captain, and the Animal Control Officer positions open and have 4 pending appointments. The Fire Department is fully staffed, except two members are out on extended leave. A Library clerk position is open with interviews ongoing. The Deputy Town Clerk position is vacant which can only be filled by Bedford residents. Those interested should contact the Town Clerk for more information.

Events:

- **February 9 – School System Deliberative Meeting, 7 PM, Bedford High School.**
- February 10 – Candidates Forum (likely Town Council), hosted by the Bedford Men’s Club, 7 PM, BCTV Meeting Room.
- February 13 – Cinema Sunday, “It happened One Night”, 1:30-4:30 PM, Bedford Library. Please register in advance on the Library website.
- February 16 – Candidates Forum (likely School Board), hosted by the Bedford Men’s Club, 7 PM, BCTV Meeting Room.
- February 21 – The Town Office Building, Library, and Transfer Station will be closed for Presidents Day.
- February 27 – Concert & Cookies Series, 2:30 PM “Steve Blunt & Marty Kelly” at the Library. A kid’s concert with music and readings. Please register in advance on the Library website.
- **March 8 – Local Election Day, 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM, Bedford High School.**
- **March 9 – Budgetary Town Meeting, 7:00 PM, Bedford High School.**

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