

# MEMORANDUM



To: Bedford Town Council  
From: Rick Sawyer, Town Manager  
Date: July 10, 2020  
Re: **Manager's Report**

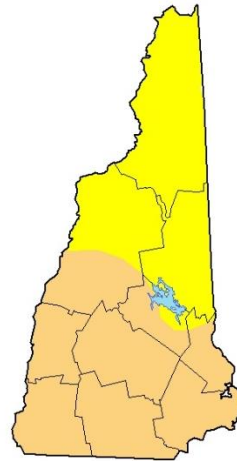
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## News & Noteworthy:

- 1) COVID-19 Pandemic Update – Bedford remains one of most impacted communities with **48 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. Those recommendations include wearing a face covering and washing hands as often as possible.
- 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. If you need their support please reach out to them at 792-1319 or on <https://www.facebook.com/BedfordNHCares/>.
- 5) 2020 Budget - July 1<sup>st</sup> Tax bill collections were at 93.9% as of July 5<sup>th</sup> which exactly matches collections at the same time in 2019. Revenues for the year continue to be down about 1% primarily from losses in ambulance billing, investment income, and motor vehicle registrations. We anticipate asking the Council to make some modifications to the 2020 budget at their August 12<sup>th</sup> meeting to reduce the previously anticipated 2020 tax rate increase where possible.
- 6) The Bedford Farmers Market continues on Tuesdays from 3-6 PM through September at the Harvest Market parking lot.
- 7) 2020 Census – Bedford currently has a response rate of 80.5% 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.

8) Drought – Our dry start to the year now has expanded to having all of southern NH in the condition defined as “moderate drought”. 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. Merrimack Village Water District has implemented an outdoor watering ban which impacts those in Greenfield Farms, Cabot Preserve, Jenkins Road, and the Brick Mill Road area who receive their water from Merrimack through Pennichuck Water Works.

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



**July 7, 2020**  
(Released Thursday, Jul. 9, 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 conditions. Local conditions may vary. Information on the Drought Monitor: <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About>

**Author:**  
David Miskus  
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC



[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)

**Project Updates:**

- 1) 2020 Roads Program – Work continues on the Pine Crest area and has also started on Grafton Drive, Wentworth Drive, and Gage Girls Road. The South River Road project is underway and the sewer line extension has been made it to the west side of the road.
- 2) Personnel: We have two police officers entering the police academy in August and are hiring one certified officer as well and when all in place we will be fully staffed again. I have an offer pending to fill our vacant dispatcher position.

**Events:**

- Summer Concert Series – Runs every Wednesday night through August 19<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM at the Bedford Village Common.
 

July 15	The Sunshiners (Music of 60's, 70's & 80's)
July 22	Sixties Invasion (Show band featuring music of the 60's)
July 29	Bel Airs (Doo Wop Vocal Quintet)
August 5	Judy Pancoast (Award Winning Children's Performer)
August 12	Timmy Brown
August 19	Tattoo (American Roots Dance Music)
- August 4<sup>th</sup> – National Night Out at 6 PM, Selvoski Field with a softball game between Bedford Fire and Police Departments.

**Upcoming Meetings:**

- **July 15<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 PM, Town Council**
- July 20<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 PM, Planning Board

- ~~July 21<sup>st</sup> – 7:00 PM, Zoning Board~~
- July 16<sup>th</sup> – 11:30 AM, Telecommunications Subcommittee
- July 23<sup>rd</sup> – 7:00 PM, Energy Commission
- July 28<sup>th</sup> – 7:15 AM, Highway Safety Committee
- July 28<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 PM, Conservation Commission
- August 4<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 PM, Historic District Commission
- **August 12<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 PM, Town Council**
- August 13<sup>th</sup> – 7:45 AM Water & Sewer Committee
- August 17<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 PM, Planning Board
- August 18<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 PM, Zoning Board
- August 20<sup>th</sup> – 11:30 AM, Telecommunications Subcommittee
- August 25<sup>th</sup> – 7:15 AM, Highway Safety Committee
- August 25<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 PM, Conservation Commission
- August 27<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 PM, Energy Commission

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