

# MEMORANDUM

To: Bedford Town Council  
From: Rick Sawyer, Town Manager  
Date: February 16, 2022  
Re: **Manager's Report**

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## News & Noteworthy:

- 1) Absentee ballot applications and sample ballots for the March 8<sup>th</sup> Election are available from the Town Clerk or her website: <https://bedfordnh.org/491/Election-Information>
- 2) The Library team has completed a Voter's Guide based on responses provided by the candidates for the open town and school positions. Copies are available at the Library and Town Office Building or online at: <https://bedfordnhlibrary.org/sites/bedfordnhlibrary.org>
- 3) The Budgetary Town Meeting will be conducted on March 9, 2022 at 7 PM at the Bedford High School Auditorium. The Budgetary Handout has been completed and is available on the Town Website at: <https://bedfordnh.org/DocumentCenter/View/5630/2022-Town-Meeting-Handout>
- 4) Zoning Amendments - The Planning Board has moved 3 zoning amendments to the March 8, 2022 ballot. The amendments can be viewed on the Town Website at: <https://bedfordnh.org/DocumentCenter/View/5531/2022-Zoning-Amendments>
- 5) The last day to register to vote or to make name and address changes prior to the March 8<sup>th</sup> Election is Saturday, February 26, 2022. The Supervisors of the Checklist will conduct a session and the Town Office Building will be open on Saturday, February 26, 2022, 3:00 – 3:30 PM for the purpose of voter registration and changes only. Residents may also register to vote at the polls on Election Day.
- 6) As a reminder political signs are not permitted in any traffic island or on any town owned land without approval of the Town Council.
- 7) COVID-19 Pandemic – Bedford thankfully has seen a drop in our number of cases with **58 current COVID-19 positive residents**. Bedford has had a total of 4,916 cases. 56.2% of NH residents are currently vaccinated with Bedford having 59.7% fully vaccinated residents and 66.2% with one dose. There are 151 current hospitalizations and NH has experienced 2,316 COVID related deaths. I want to thank the Bedford Fire Department for conducting an additional 6 vaccination clinics for the community over the last 6 weeks.
- 8) 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.

2022  
Bedford Voter's Guide  
For Town Elections



This pamphlet was compiled by the Bedford Public Library's Reference Department in conjunction with Town Clerk Kelly Kester. All the matter contained in this packet was prepared and sent to the printer.

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](https://www4.des.state.nh.us/nh-pfas-investigation/?page_id=307)

- 9) The Bedford Recreation Department is again sponsoring the "Spread the Love" event until February 28 where residents are encouraged to drop off 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.
- 10) The Bedford Winter Parking Ban began on November 1<sup>st</sup>, which requires no parking on public roads between midnight and 8 AM.



### **Project Updates:**

- 1) 2021 Financial Audit – The audit team was on site this week and our Finance and HR teams responded to all of their requests without issue. The audit will continue into the spring with another on site visit April 11-15, 2022.
- 2) The Stevens Buswell Building lease has been completed with the Historical Society that will allow them to proceed with the opening of a Community Center provided Planning Board approval is obtained. The lease lot plan has been completed and will be recorded.
- 3) Security System Upgrades – The project has been initiated and rough wiring has been completed at most buildings and the Safety Complex should be completed next week. Door controls and cameras are being installed as soon as the materials arrive. Staff training and will be completed as the buildings are ready to swap over to the new systems.
- 4) The Police Computer Aided Dispatch and Records Management System project committee has been preparing for their initial meeting with the consultant that will be scheduled soon.
- 5) DPW Accreditation – The DPW team has been working towards APWA Accreditation and a site visit by the review team has been scheduled for the week of May 21, 2022.
- 6) Library Parking Lot – The DPW team continues to advance the design for the expansion of the Library parking lot that is intended to be completed this year.
- 7) PFAS Grants – The DPW team and Town Manager continue to advance the final PFAS mitigation grant applications for a water line extension along Bedford Center Road and for private point of entry treatment system reimbursements outside of the Saint-Gobain consent decree area.
- 8) Personnel – There are currently 4 openings in the Highway Department including the Highway Superintendent and 1 other is out on extended leave. Head Mechanic position has been filled with the person starting in early March and interviews for the Superintendent are being conducted this week. The Police and Fire Departments are fully staffed, except two firefighters are out on extended leave. The Library clerk positions are now filled bringing them to full staffing again when the employees start in the next few weeks. 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. Applications are being accepted for part time summer camp and lifeguard positions.
- 9) Collective Bargaining Agreements – The Police, Fire, and DPW agreements all expire at the end of 2022 and the management team for each department is having meetings with the

Town Manager, HR Director, and Town Labor Counsel to review potential management requests to be outlined and reviewed with the Town Council on April 13, 2022 in anticipation of initial meetings with the unions in the coming months.

**Events:**

- 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 6 – Concert & Cookies Series, 2:30 PM “Jeff Snow – Celtic Music & Stories” at the Library. Please register in advance on the Library website.
- **March 8 – Local Election Day, 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM, Bedford High School.**
- March 9 – BeBold Bedford – Duckin’ Dodgeball Tournament, 5-7 PM, NH Sportsplex, 68 Technology Drive. See [www.beboldbedford.org](http://www.beboldbedford.org) for more information.
- **March 9 – Budgetary Town Meeting, 7:00 PM, Bedford High School.**
- March 13 – Cinema Sunday, “Citizen Kane”, 1:30-4:30 PM, Bedford Library. Please register in advance on the Library website.
- March 19 - NH Big Tree Program Introduction and Winter Tree Identification Workshop, 1:30 – 3 PM, Bedford Library Lower Parking Lot. Please register in advance on the Library website.
- April 16 – Clean up Bedford Spring Event, 9 AM - 1 PM.
- May 29 – Memorial Day Parade, 1 PM, Bedford High School to McKelvie Intermediate School via County Road with a theme of “Freedom Through Unity”.
- June 25 – Household Hazardous Waste Day, 8:30 AM – 3 PM, Highway Garage, 19 Chubbuck Road.

**Upcoming Meetings:**

- February 22 – 7:15 AM, Highway Safety Committee
- February 22 – 7:00 PM, Conservation Commission
- **February 23 – 7:00 PM, Town Council**
- February 24 – 7:00 PM, Energy Commission
- February 25 – 9:00 AM, Telecommunications Committee
- February 28 – 7:00 PM, Planning Board
- March 1 – 7:00 PM, Historic District Commission
- **March 8 – 7:00 AM-7:00 PM, Elections/Voting**
- **March 9 – 7:00 PM, Budgetary Town Meeting**
- March 10 – 7:45 AM Water & Sewer Committee
- March 10 – 9:00 AM, Poles & Wires Committee
- **March 14 – 7:00 PM, Town Council**
- March 15 – 7:00 PM, Zoning Board
- March 16 – 7:00 PM, Parks & Recreation Commission

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