

MEMORANDUM

To: Bedford Town Council
From: Rick Sawyer, Town Manager
Date: May 5, 2022
Re: **Manager's Report**



News & Noteworthy:

- 1) PFAS Contamination – NHDES held a virtual public information meeting on May 4th where they described their recent agreement with Saint-Gobain that provides for point of entry treatment systems and a few public water connections for properties south of Country Road and East of Liberty Hill Road. To see if your specific property has been identified for a solution, please see the agreement on the NHDES website or the Town website at: [NHDES-Press-Release-on-partial-PFAS-mitigation-4-18-2022](#) No information has been provided for the remaining properties in the Saint-Gobain consent decree area. A video recording of the meeting will be available through BCTV on demand and the NHDES YouTube site.

Saint Gobain is continuing to test a large number of private wells in southeastern Bedford. 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/> NHDES is also sending letters to residents in this area that are within 500 feet of a well that has tested above the PFAS limits requesting to test your well.

The Department of Public Works has submitted a \$1.5M grant request with NHDES in hopes of being able to extend a public water main down Bedford Center Road to Primary Plaza to address PFAS contamination in that area.

The Town has also submitted a grant that would allow for the reimbursement of property owners up to \$6,500 who are outside of the Saint-Gobain consent decree area that have PFAS readings above State standards who install treatment systems or connect to public water.

- 2) During the Month of May we celebrate International Firefighters' Day on May 4th, National Police Week May 11-17 with the theme of "Honor, Remembrance, and Peer Support", National Peace Officers Memorial Day on May 15th, National EMS Week May 15-21 with the theme of "Rising to the Challenge", National Public Works Week May 15-21 with the theme of "Ready and Resilient". There is no question that these themes represent our employees in these roles very well and I thank them for their service and commitment to Bedford.



- 3) The Bedford Historical Society Annual Clothing Drive runs through May 26th and donations can be placed in the U-Haul bin placed in front of the Stevens Buswell Building during the day.

- 4) Bedford Little League will host a parade on Saturday, May 7th at 3:00 PM traveling from the Town Pool to the Little League Complex on Nashua Road. Please expect delays for 20-30 minutes and avoid the area if possible.
- 5) The Bedford Library Foundation Annual Russell Leen Lecture Series will virtually host author Ed Webster on Sir Ernest Shackleton's 1914 Endurance Expedition to Antarctica, which is one of history's most famous survival stories on May 12, 2022, 7:00 PM. Please register in advance on the Library website at: <https://bedfordnhlibrary/calendar/>
- 6) The Bedford PTG Color Blast Fun Run will take place on Sunday, May 22nd at 9:30 AM at the High School and running down Nashua Road to Hamilton Way. Please avoid the area if you are not participating.
- 7) The 100th Anniversary of the formation of the Bedford Fire Department is being celebrated this year and they are announcing a save the date for a traditional muster to take place on June 25th starting at 11:00 AM at Legacy Park as part of the celebration.
- 8) Please register your dog(s) prior to June 1st in order to avoid any late fees for 2022.
- 9) Tax bills are on schedule to be issued by the end of May with a July 1st due date. The first bill of the year is based on the tax rate set in 2021 with property valuation updates made for any changes to the property completed by April 1, 2022.
- 10) Registration for Camp Witzel summer camp and other summer camp programs are now open and information is available through the Recreation page of the Town Website <https://bedfordnh.myrec.com>



Project Updates:

- 1) 2022 Roads Program – Is underway with crews working on Dam and Beaver Brook Roads. A neighborhood meeting was held with the residents of Polly Peabody Road which is scheduled to be upgraded to a paved road this year.
- 2) Security System Upgrades – The project remains ongoing and is nearing completion. The only hold up in completing the project is computer switching components that are backordered. Staff training will be completed as the buildings are ready to swap over to the new systems.
- 3) Fire Department Vehicles – The long awaited new ladder truck now has an approximate one month delay for delivery due to supply chain issues pushing it back to July. The Squad is scheduled to arrive in October. Unfortunately our ambulance delivery has been pushed back until spring of 2023. We continue to have numerous maintenance problems with the ladder truck and Engine 4.
- 4) Personnel – We have been able to hire another truck driver leaving 1 opening and 1 other is on extended light duty in the Highway Department. The Police and Fire Departments are fully staffed except for the positions approved at town meeting and two firefighters who are out on extended leave. Interviews have been taking place for the Deputy Town Clerk position which can only be filled by Bedford residents. Those interested should contact the Town Clerk for more information. Applications are being accepted for the Director of Strategic Initiatives, Police Accreditation Manager/Analyst, Payroll Accounting Clerk, Truck Driver, Police Officer,

Firefighter, and part time Library Clerk, Part-time Transfer Station Attendant, Summer Camp Counselor, and Library Page positions.

- 5) Collective Bargaining Agreements – Initial meeting has been held with the Fire union and the DPW meeting had to be rescheduled to next week due to illness.

Events:

- May 8 – Bedford Library Closed for Mother’s Day.
- May 12 – Bedford Library Foundation Annual Russell Leen Lecture Series (virtual), author Ed Webster on Sir Ernest Shackleton's 1914 Endurance Expedition to Antarctica, 7:00 PM. Please register in advance on the Library website.
- May 15 – Cinema Sunday, “Rear Window”, 1:30-4:30 PM, Bedford Library. Please register in advance on the Library website.
- May 22 - The Bedford PTG Color Blast Fun Run at the High School, 9:30 AM.
- May 29 – Police Department Bicycle Rodeo at the High School, 10:00 – Noon
- May 29 – Memorial Day Parade, 1 PM, Bedford High School to McKelvie Intermediate School via County Road with a theme of “Freedom through Unity”.
- May 29 – Bedford Library Closed for Memorial Day.
- May 30 – Bedford Town Offices, Library, Transfer Station, & BCTV Closed for Memorial Day.
- June 4 – Bedford High School Graduation, 10 AM.
- June 14 – Bedford Farmers Market opens for the season, Tuesdays, 3-6 PM, 393 Route 101 Murphy’s Taproom.
- June 25 – Household Hazardous Waste Day, 8:30 AM – 3 PM, Highway Garage, 19 Chubuck Road.
- June 25 - The 100th Anniversary of the formation of the Bedford Fire Department is being celebrated with a traditional muster at Legacy Park, 11 AM.

Upcoming Meetings:

- ~~May 9 – 7:00 PM, Planning Board~~
- **May 11 – 7:00 PM, Town Council**
- May 12 – 7:45 AM, Water & Sewer Committee
- ~~May 12 – 9:00 AM, Poles & Wires Committee~~
- May 17 – 7:00 PM, Zoning Board
- May 23 – 7:00 PM, Planning Board Workshop
- May 24 – 7:15 AM, Highway Safety Committee
- May 24 – 7:00 PM, Conservation Commission
- **May 25 – 7:00 PM, Town Council**
- May 26 – 7:00 PM, Energy Commission
- May 27 – 11:30 AM, Telecommunications

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