

Bedford

Ohio



★ ★ ★
★ Home to the Spirit of ★
★ '76 ★
★ ★ ★

AMERICA'S 250 CELEBRATION & COMMEMORATIVE EVENT GUIDE



City of Bedford



City of Bedford

The United States of America will celebrate its semiquincentennial (that's 250 years) in 2026. The City of Bedford has joined the America 250-Ohio Commission and has planned several events to share stories of our rich past-time and Ohio's unique contributions to America's history and future!

American Flag Giveaway: Stars & Stripes at Home

In celebration of America 250, Bedford residents are invited to take part in this special community program honoring patriotism and civic pride by proudly displaying American flags throughout the community. Beginning May 1, residents may receive one American flag per household by presenting proof of residency at the Ellenwood Center.

Participants must have, or create, a household account with the Bedford Parks & Recreation Department. Acceptable proof of residency includes a valid government-issued photo ID (driver's license, state ID) or a utility bill (water, electricity, gas) dated within the last 30 days.

Pole and mounting hardware included. Limited to the first 100 households and available on a first-come, first-served basis while supplies last.

Join us for a Flag Retirement Ceremony on Flag Day, Sunday, June 15, at the Bedford Commons during the Strawberry Festival. The ceremony will take place from 3:00pm to 3:30pm as our local Scout Pack 699 and Troop 233 carry out this time-honored tradition with dignity and respect.



Memorial Day Parade

The annual Bedford Memorial Day parade will be on Monday, May 25 at 10:15am. The parade will begin at Bedford City Hall and proceed on Center Road to Broadway Avenue, halting at the Bedford Commons where the raising of the flag and decorating of Memorials occurs. At the conclusion of these ceremonies, the parade will reassemble and proceed south on Broadway to the Bedford Cemetery for the concluding ceremonies. This year's speaker is Greg White, a highly decorated Marine from the 9th Regiment. The Memorial Day Parade is sponsored by the Bedford Veterans Memorial Day Parade Committee.



Fourth of July Parade

The Cities of Bedford and Bedford Heights are hosting their 41st annual Independence Day Parade on Saturday, July 4th beginning at 10:00am. The parade starts at Columbus and Washington Street, proceeds east on Columbus Road to Perkins Road, disbanding at Bedford Heights City Hall. For more information or to participate, please visit www.bedfordoh.gov or call Bedford City Hall at 440-735-6502.

Pre-order Limited Edition City of Bedford merchandise for our America's 250 Celebration designed by CLEveland Clothing Co.



Online pre-order sales open May 1 and ends May 31. Guarantee your Commemorative Gear!
Not all items will be stocked and sold by the City at later dates/events. Prices may increase starting June 1.

Ship to your home for a fee or choose free pick up from Ellenwood Center. Orders will be available for pick up from Ellenwood Center starting July 1. Ellenwood Center building hours are Monday thru Friday 8:00am—4:30pm. Evening pick up hours are only available by appointment.

Pre-order by scanning the QR Code below or visit our online store at bedfordoh.myrec.com/info/products/



Hoodie \$55

Available for Pre-Order only. No stock will be carried.



20 oz. Tumbler \$25



Tote \$20



Uni-Sex Tee \$32



Enamel Pin \$10

SCAN ME!



Point your camera at the QR Code



City of Bedford's
Liberty Days
 Honoring 250 Years of America



FRIDAY, JULY 10

Movie on the Square: Hamilton

Location: Bedford Commons 730 Broadway Avenue
 Time: Pre-show 4:30pm / Movie 7:00pm

Disney's *Hamilton* brings the hit Broadway musical to the screen, blending hip-hop, R&B, and traditional show tunes to tell the story of American Founding Father Alexander Hamilton—his ambition, legacy, and the birth of a nation.

FREE EVENT & PARKING! Bring a blanket and enjoy an evening of film and fun with friends and family. Pre-show activities and music begin at 4:30pm. Meet Alexander, Schuyler Sisters and King George! America & Hamilton trivia! DJ and music from Jul Big Green! Movie starts at 7:00pm and will be projected on a large video wall. Fresh popcorn available for purchase at the Bedford Historical Society Museum.



SATURDAY, JULY 11

America Celebration on the Square

Location: Bedford Commons 730 Broadway Avenue
 Time: Opening 11:00am / Finale 9:40pm

11:00am Flag Raising Ceremony by VFW
 National Anthem by Bedford Alumni Band

11:00am—10:00pm FOOD VENDORS



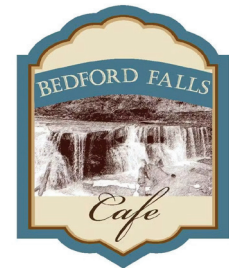
11:00am—10:00pm



4:00pm—10:00pm



11:00am—4:00pm



11:00am—10:00pm



Celestial Treats CLE

11:00am—10:00pm



11:00am—10:00pm

The Bedford Rotary Foundation will host a beer truck serving Miller Lite, Leinenkugel's Summer Shandy, Sun Cruisers, Twisted Tea and more!

Proceeds go to academic scholarships for Bedford High School students.

11:30am—3:30pm Music and interactive games from Terry Macklin Entertainment

11:30am—6:00pm Free Carnival Games and activities hosted by the Bedford Senior Club and Bedford Parks & Recreation.

11:00am—5:00pm Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities Sensory Truck (adult changing station located near former Nature Stone)

11:00am—7:00pm Community Groups
Bedford Garden Club
Bedford Rotary Club
Bedford Historical Society
Bedford Lions Club
Bedford Downtown Alliance
Bedford Branch Library
Bedford Education Association Teacher's Union
Bedford City Schools Foundation
Girl Scouts Troop 70667

11:00am—9:00pm Bedford Historical Society Museum open for guided tours. View the American Flag Exhibit.

12:00pm—3:00pm Balloon Twister

12:00pm—6:00pm Carvings by Chris



2:00pm—4:00pm America 250 Mural Artist
Living Statue of Liberty

3:00pm—6:00pm Airbrush Artist

3:30pm—9:30pm LIVE MUSIC
3:30pm The Avenue
8:00pm Moonlight Serenaders



The Avenue

3:30pm-7:30pm

A young, fresh sound that stylishly performs decades of music.



Moonlight Serenaders

8:00pm-9:40pm

Big band hits from the Great American Songbook.

6:00pm—8:00pm Free Euclid Beach Rocket Car rides

8:00pm Bring your chairs/blankets for concert

9:40pm Closing Remarks and Finale

SUNDAY, JULY 12

Elmer Flick's Baseball Classic

Location: Ellenwood Center 124 Ellenwood Avenue
Time: Opening 12:00pm—9:00pm

12:00pm **BURNING RIVER BOYS**

National Anthem by the Burning River Boys
Barbershop Quartet

12:00pm—6:00pm Food Cart

12:00pm—3:00pm Free Fresh Popcorn

12:05pm Opening pitch for Old Time Baseball



2:30pm—6:30pm Youth Baseball Games

4:00pm—6:00pm Free Snow Cones

7:00pm City of Bedford Employee Charity Softball Game for Bedford Meals on Wheels

Elmer Flick was a professional baseball outfielder who played in Major League Baseball from 1898 to 1910 with the Philadelphia Phillies, Philadelphia Athletics, and the Cleveland Bronchos/Naps. A native of Bedford, Ohio, he was one of the top hitters of the Dead Ball Era and was inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1963.





American Icons, Innovation & Infamy

Join us for lunch and a meaningful historic presentation celebrating the stories and milestones that define America's rich history. Lunch will be served promptly at noon, followed by the presentation at 12:30pm. Registration will close the Friday before the program or once all seats are filled. Walk-ins will not be accepted. Menu is subject to change.

Location: Ellenwood Center Gym, 124 Ellenwood Ave.
Time: Doors open 11:30am, Lunch 12:00pm

Fee: Free to Bedford Senior Club members
\$15 for non-members

The Articles of Confederation: America's First Government

Date: Wednesday, June 3, 2026

Presented by Carl Quatraro, Speaking on Q

Join us for an informative Lunch & Learn exploring America's first experiment in self-government. From 1781 to 1789, the Articles of Confederation guided a young nation as it worked to balance independence with unity. This presentation examines the successes and challenges of this early governing framework and how it ultimately shaped the creation of the United States Constitution and the republic that followed. Guests will enjoy a colonial comfort lunch featuring pot roast, root vegetables (carrots and potatoes), a dinner roll, and molasses cookies.

Hometown Heroes: Celebrating Ohio's Famous Figures

Date: Wednesday, July 1, 2026

Presented by Susan Cannavino with Presentations with Pizzazz

Discover the inspiring stories of remarkable Ohioans who left their mark on history. Explore the enduring Olympic friendship between Jesse Owens and Luz Long, a powerful testament to sportsmanship and humanity. Celebrate the lasting contributions of Paul Newman and Erma Bombeck, whose talents enriched lives through film, philanthropy, and humor. Be captivated by the astonishing interview between Dorothy Fuldheim and Adolf Hitler, and uncover fascinating facts about other notable hometown heroes who shaped our world. We'll enjoy a Cleveland-style lunch featuring a classic Polish Boy (grilled kielbasa sausage in a bun, loaded with French fries, sweet BBQ sauce, and creamy coleslaw), mac and cheese and kolaczki (jam-filled cookies).

American Traitor: Benedict Arnold

Date: Wednesday, August 5, 2026

Presented by Carl Quatraro, Speaking on Q

Once hailed as one of Colonial America's most brilliant battlefield generals, Benedict Arnold became the most infamous traitor in American history. This Lunch & Learn explores the rise, fall, and lasting legacy of a man driven by ambition, pride, and resentment. Examine how Arnold's quest for honor and recognition led to betrayal—and how his story reflects the complexities and personal conflicts of America's fight for independence. Enjoy a "Colonial Fare" meal of herb-roasted chicken, mashed potatoes, green beans and apple crisp.

A More Perfect Union

Date: Wednesday, September 16, 2026

Presented by Largely Literary Theater Company

To commemorate our nation's 250th, the Largely Literary Theater Company offers a tribute to the writing and the writers who inspired the cause of American independence, who took 13 very different colonies and made them united states, and who then convinced those states to adopt a constitutional republic in order to form a more perfect union -- from Thomas Paine's "Common Sense" and Patrick Henry's speeches to Thomas Jefferson's "Declaration of Independence" and the Federalist Papers of Alexander Hamilton and James Madison. It took the blood, sweat and tears of a wide variety of people, of many backgrounds, temperaments and beliefs, all fighting for a common cause to make the dream of America come true. Lunch brings together classic American flavors, celebrating unity through variety: roast beef with savory jus, mashed potatoes, vegetable medley and mixed berry pie.





A 100-Year Americana Tribute to Route 66

Date: Wednesday, October 21, 2026

Presented by The Victor Samalot Duo

The Victor Samalot Duo celebrates 100 years of Americana with a lively musical tribute to the legendary Mother Road—Route 66. Blending live music, engaging storytelling, and rich history, this dynamic program brings the spirit of the open road to life. “Get your kicks” as you journey through essential road songs, captivating visuals, and fascinating backstories from one of America’s most iconic highways. Discover Route 66’s rich history, cultural impact, kitschy-cool nostalgia, and must-see stops along the way. Part of the 100-year celebration of Route 66 and America 250, this unforgettable experience will have you tapping your toes, reminiscing about classic road trips, and maybe even planning your own adventure down the Mother Road. As we travel Southwest along Route 66, lunch will reflect the flavors of the region. Enjoy a delicious Southwestern chicken wrap, paired with a Southwest pasta salad tossed with peppers and a light chipotle dressing. We’ll finish our stop with a sweet treat—churros dusted in cinnamon sugar!

From Apollo to Artemis: America’s Journey Back to the Moon

Date: Wednesday, December 2, 2026

Presented by the Cleveland History Center

Between 1969 and 1972, twenty-one American astronauts broke free of Earth’s orbit and set their sights on the Moon as part of NASA’s legendary Apollo Program. Twelve of them made history by walking on its surface—an achievement that redefined what humanity believed was possible. Explore the bold ambition, high-stakes risks, and groundbreaking innovations behind Apollo. Go beyond the headlines to uncover the stories of the astronauts, engineers, and spacecraft that carried humanity farther than ever before. Then, fast-forward to today: how the lessons of Apollo are shaping Artemis Program—NASA’s mission to return humans to the Moon, establish a lasting presence, and pave the way for the next giant leap: Mars! Lunch will be out of this world! “Mars Red Rocks” Meatball Sub, chips, pickles and moon pie for dessert!



Veterans Celebration Brunch – Sponsored by Home Instead

SAVE THE DATE! Join us for a special Veterans Celebration Brunch honoring the brave men and women who have served our country. Presented by Home Instead, this event is a heartfelt thank-you to our veterans for their service and sacrifice. Enjoy a delicious brunch, meaningful conversation, and a time of recognition and community. Limited to 120 participants.

Location: Ellenwood Center Gym

Date: Friday, November 6, 2026

Time: 10:30 am – 12:30 pm (Doors open at 10:00 am)

Fee: Free to veterans and guest; Registration required.

Bedford Resident registration opens September 1. Non-Resident registration opens October 1.

Registration deadline 10/30.



To register and view our full listing of programs: bedfordoh.myrec.com

Registration can also be completed by phone at 440-735-6570 or in-person.

Questions? Contact the Bedford Parks & Recreation Department

Dates, times, fees subject to change without notification



Bedford Celebrates America 250: Special Speaker Series

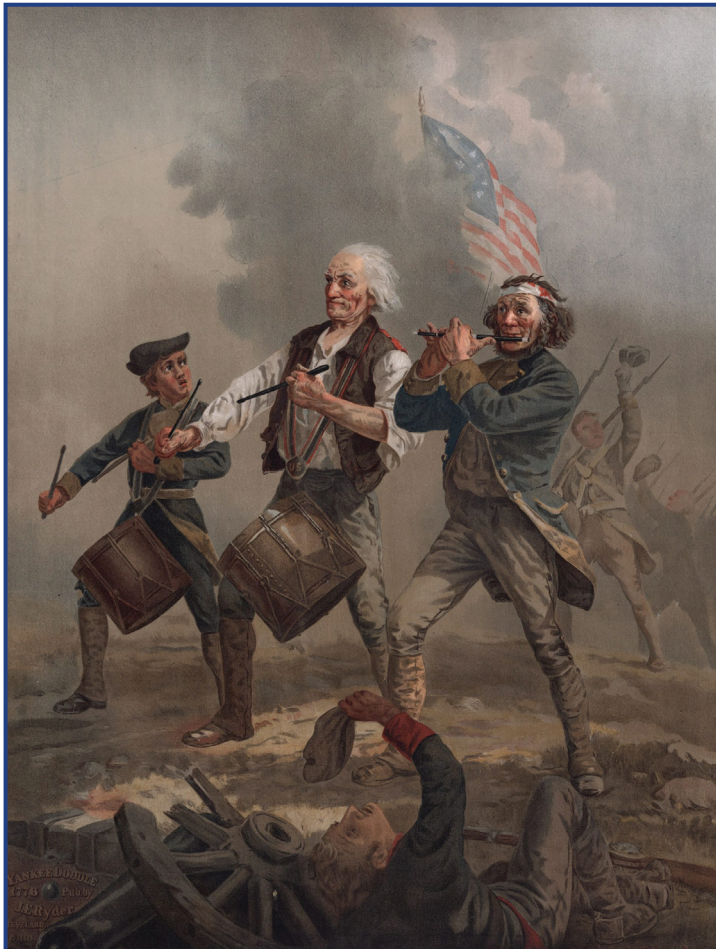
Join the Bedford Historical Society, in collaboration with the City of Bedford, for a special America 250 Speaker Series hosted at Ellenwood Center. This program features premiere topics and distinguished guests highlighting America's 250th birthday and the important role Bedford and Northeast Ohio have played in our nation's history. Light refreshments will be served.

Location: Ellenwood Center Gym, 124 Ellenwood Ave.

Time: Doors open 6:30pm; Presentation starts 7:00pm

Fee: FREE! Reserve a seat. Walk-ins welcome if space permits.

Donations accepted for Bedford Historical Society.



Archibald Willard and *The Spirit of '76*

Date: Friday, May 8, 2026

Presented by Mary Manning, Western Reserve Historical Society

This program examines the life and legacy of Archibald Willard, the Bedford-born artist behind the iconic painting *The Spirit of '76*. First exhibited during the nation's Centennial celebration in 1875, the painting emerged as a powerful symbol of American patriotism, resilience, and unity. Depicting the determination of Revolutionary War musicians, the work resonated deeply with a country still recovering from the Civil War and helped shape how generations would remember the nation's founding. Widely reproduced in textbooks, posters, popular culture, and proudly featured as the City of Bedford's official logo, *The Spirit of '76* demonstrates the enduring influence of art on national identity. The program also traces Willard's artistic journey and his strong connection to Bedford, where he was born and spent much of his life. Celebrated as one of the city's most significant historical figures, Willard's legacy is preserved through local landmarks, commemorations, and lasting community pride. Through art, history, and local heritage, this program connects a world-renowned image to the hometown that inspired it, illustrating how Bedford's story is woven into the broader American experience.

Declaration 250: Commitment Renewed

Date: Friday, June 5, 2026

Presented by Lake Erie Heritage Foundation

In 2026, the United States will commemorate the 250th anniversary of its founding through Declaration 250: America's Commitment Renewed, a national observance focused on the moment the Declaration of Independence became a binding act. While July 4, 1776, marks the document's adoption, August 2, 1776, marks the day when the signers placed their names upon it. That act transformed revolutionary ideals into personal commitment. By signing the Declaration, the founders committed an act of treason against the British Crown, knowingly pledging their lives, fortunes, and sacred honor to the cause of independence. On August 1 and 2, 2026, Americans will be invited to take part in a National Signing Ceremony in Put-in-Bay, at the Perry's Victory & International Peace Memorial—a site that uniquely connects the defense of American independence with the enduring pursuit of peace. Overlooking Lake Erie, the memorial stands as a powerful symbol of sacrifice, unity, and international cooperation. Ohio's role in this commemoration is both intentional and fitting. Throughout American history, the state has quietly provided leadership, industry, and military strength at critical moments. Declaration 250 places Ohio at the heart of the nation's 250-year story.

Camp Cleveland: Civil War Training Ground

Date: Friday, August 14, 2026

Presented by Kit Whipple, author of "Cleveland's Colorful Characters"

This program explores the remarkable and often overlooked history of Camp Cleveland, the largest Civil War training ground in Ohio. Located in what is today Cleveland's Tremont neighborhood, Camp Cleveland played a critical role in the Union war effort and left a lasting imprint on both the city's landscape and its historical legacy. During the Civil War, Camp Cleveland served multiple functions essential to the conflict. Thousands of Union soldiers trained on its grounds before heading south to battle, while a large military hospital cared for wounded and sick troops returning from the front. The site also operated as a Confederate prisoner-of-war camp, adding another complex layer to its history. Camp Cleveland stands as a site of national significance—where training, healing, hardship, and history converged during one of the most defining periods in American history.

The Bedford Historical Society will host the following Friday Speaker Series topics on the listed dates in the Community Room in the lower level of the Old Church on the Bedford Commons, 750 Broadway Avenue.

September 11 – Grandma Moses, American Primitive Artist: A Life of Simple Beauty

October 9 – Old Time Bedford Residents

November 13 – The Making of *It's a Wonderful Life*

BEDFORD



PARKS & RECREATION



Cozy Creations Workshop

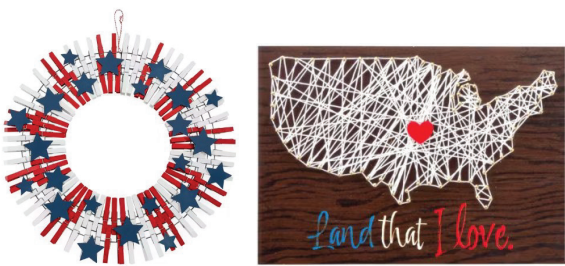
Join us for a fun, hands-on class where you'll stuff your very own cozy creation! Each participant will receive an unstuffed animal/pillow and polyester stuffing. No sewing is required—just hand-stuffing and creativity. Every friend also comes with a special heart and birth certificate to make it truly yours. **Grades 1-5**



Dates: **American Eagle**—Monday, May 11
American Flag Fleece Tied Pillow—Monday, June 1
 Location: Ellenwood Center Room 3
 Time: 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm
 Fee per class: \$10 Resident/\$15 Non-Resident

Get Crafty

A social and creative experience for older adults to experiment with various art materials and make fun seasonal crafts.



Dates: **Patriotic Clothespin Wreath**— Wednesday, June 3
Land that I Love String Art — Wednesday, July 1
 Location: Ellenwood Center Room 3
 Time: 2:00 pm—4:00 pm
 Fee: Bedford Senior Club members only. Registration required.

Painting with So-So Artsy

Join Melinda with So-So Artsy for painting your own patriotic porch leaner and gnome! Participants follow step-by-step instructions. No experience required. All supplies included. This program is for adults & older teens.

Instructor: Melinda, So-So Artsy
 Location: Ellenwood Center Room 3



Freedom Gnome Painting
 Date: Wednesday, June 17
 Time: 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm
 Fee: Free to Bedford Senior Club members
 \$15 for non-members

Patriotic Porch Leaner
 Date: Monday, May 11
 Time: 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
 Fee: \$45 per porch leaner



To register and view our full listing of programs: bedfordoh.myrec.com

Registration can also be completed by phone at 440-735-6570 or in-person.

Questions? Contact the Bedford Parks & Recreation Department

Dates, times, fees subject to change without notification

City of Bedford's

JUNETEENTH COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

FRIDAY | JUNE 19 | 12PM-5PM | ELLENWOOD CENTER
OUTDOOR EVENT 124 ELLENWOOD AVE

Celebrate freedom, community, and fun!

Bedford residents are invited to a vibrant Juneteenth celebration filled with music, activities, and family fun!

***FREE inflatables and activities for Bedford families from 12-4 PM
Proof of residency required for activity wristbands.***

*Guests of Bedford residents are \$10 for each wristband. Limit of 2 guests per family.
Children 11 and under must be accompanied with a Resident adult.*

***Delicious eats from Smokin' Babes Barbeque Food Truck
and Feed Myyy Bellyyy Food Truck available for purchase.***

*Delicious southern homemade cuisine and American comfort food with a Caribbean twist!
Food available from 12:00-4:00pm*

Live music from resident and artist Jul Big Green from 12-1:30 PM

***Cool off with open swim at Bedford Pool from 1-5 PM
Complimentary snow cones for pool attendees from 2-4 PM***

*Pool membership or \$5 daily resident admission required with proof of residency.
Guests are \$10 and must be accompanied by a Bedford pool pass holder on a 1-1 ratio.*

MUSIC GAMES FOOD TRUCKS

**VERIFY YOUR RESIDENCY AND RESERVE
YOUR WRISTBANDS IN ADVANCE!**

**VISIT BEDFORDOH.MYREC.COM OR CALL 440-735-6570
FOR MORE DETAILS.**





2026 EVENTS

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

BEDFORD COMMONS
Wednesday Evenings
7:00 - 9:00 P.M.

JUNE 10

JUNE 24

JULY 8

JULY 22

AUGUST 5

AUGUST 19

(DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

440-735-6570

RECREATION@BEDFORDOH.GOV

MAY 25
MON

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE & CEREMONIES
10:15 A.M.

MIKE GUYER
440-773-2835
mguyer@msn.com

JUNE 12 - 14 **BEDFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL**

BETSY LEE
216-536-0093
georgesmom25@yahoo.com

JULY 4
SAT

4TH OF JULY PARADE
10:00 A.M. | COLUMBUS ROAD

BEDFORD CITY HALL
440-735-6502
azgrabik@bedford.gov

JULY 10 - 12 **CITY OF BEDFORD'S LIBERTY DAYS HONORING 250 YEARS OF AMERICA**

PARKS & RECREATION
440-735-6570
recreation@bedfordoh.gov

JULY 17 - 19
FRI - SUN

BEDFORD ROTARY RIB FESTIVAL

CHRIS BULANDA
216-338-7124
chrisb@bervynotech.net
www.bedfordrotary.org

AUG 8
SAT

BEDFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY FLEA MARKET
9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

CHRIS SWEET
440-439-7470
cms1776@hotmail.com

AUG 14 - 16
FRI - SUN

CLEVELAND PAGAN PRIDE

MATTHEW STEWART
440-439-4372
clevelandpaganpride@yahoo.com

SEP 12
SAT

COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE
9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M. | CITY WIDE

BEDFORD CITY HALL
440-735-6530
www.bedfordoh.gov

OCT 3
SAT

CITY OF BEDFORD CHILDREN'S FALL FEST
10:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

BEDFORD CITY HALL
440-735-6502
azgrabik@bedford.gov

NOV 25
WED

TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY
6:00 P.M.

BEDFORD CITY HALL
440-232-1600

VISIT WWW.BEDFORDOH.GOV FOR UPDATED INFORMATION

COMMUNITY SHRED DAYS

BEDFORD CITY HALL PARKING LOT

SATURDAY, MAY 16 &

SEPTEMBER 12
9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

BE SURE TO VISIT THE CITY OF BEDFORD WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS FOR FURTHER AND CURRENT INFORMATION.

WWW.BEDFORDOH.GOV
f @BEDFORDOH
x @CITYOFBEDFORD

BEDFORD PARKS & RECREATION

124 Ellenwood Avenue
Bedford, Ohio 44146

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City of Bedford's
Liberty Days
Honoring 250 Years of America



*Pre-order Limited Edition
City of Bedford merchandise for
our America's 250 Celebration!*

3-DAY SPECIAL EVENT! JULY 10, 11, & 12