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Bedford Business First

News from Bedford County Office of Economic Development - August 2015

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GP Big Island to unveil capital expansion and 125th Anniversary plans at next Quarterly Business Roundtable!



Zoe Myers

Please join us at our next quarterly business roundtable meeting on **Thursday, Sept. 10 from 8:30 - 10 a.m. at the Bedford Area Welcome Center** where **Georgia-Pacific's** Public Affairs Manager **Zoe Myers** will share some exciting plans from Big Island!

As the Mill prepares to celebrate its 125th anniversary in Bedford County, it also faces the future with a capital expansion project designed to upgrade its pulp mill. Don't miss this presentation.

We will also hear an update from **Megan Lucas, Region 2000 Alliance CEO** on how our region is preparing to raise its visibility worldwide as a great place to do business. And as always, you'll have a chance to shout out some news from your business too.

RSVP so we can have enough breakfast and coffee no later than Fri., September 4 to Jessica Hupp, Business Programs Coordinator, at jhupp@bedfordcountyva.gov or call 540-587-5670.

Lynchburg metro region adds 600 jobs



The Lynchburg metro area, which includes the City of Lynchburg, and Amherst, Appomattox, Bedford, and Campbell Counties, added 600 new jobs this past year, as reported in the *News & Advance*. Along with the increase in jobs, the Lynchburg region saw a decrease in the unemployment rate by 0.2%. [Read more.](#)

Bedford County Fair is back after 45 year hiatus!

Aug. 28, 29, and 30 at Glenwood Center, Huddleston



Everyone loves a fair and the Bedford County Fair will have something for everyone. Bring a friend or the whole family and come out on Friday, 1 - 9 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. - 9 p.m., and Sunday 1 - 6 p.m. for mid-way rides, livestock shows, a

farmers market, wine garden, concerts, and a car show, or enter a contest for that blue ribbon moment!

See the full schedule and entry [here](#).

Main Street seeks grant to assist Town businesses, EDA matches funds



The Bedford County Economic Development Authority (EDA) approved \$12,500 worth of matching funds at their June 26, 2015 meeting to support a Bedford Main Street, Inc. initiative to create a zero interest loan program for local business applicants in the

Town of Bedford. Bedford Main Street, a local non-profit organization with a vision of creating a vibrant Centertown Bedford, is applying for a Downtown Investment Grant from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD). [Read more](#).

Bedford CVCC adds handicap-accessible features at facility



Central Virginia Community College (CVCC) in Bedford, with assistance from the Bedford County EDA and County Maintenance, has made several improvements over the past year to prepare for the upcoming fall semester and to be more user friendly to a diverse student population. CVCC Bedford, which begins its fall semester on Aug. 24, has the largest enrollment among all of the region's satellite centers and expects a total enrollment this fall of more than 200 students. In addition,

85 students are enrolled in the region's largest Early College program as part of Bedford County Public Schools. [Read more](#).

Region 2000 SBDC offers great lineup of fall classes

The Region 2000 Small Business Development Center (SBDC), located at CVCC's main campus in Lynchburg, is an effective resource for customized counseling and education for small businesses in the region. Along with its one-on-

one free business counseling, the SBDC also offers classes including a great Fall lineup ranging in topics from launching a start up, to revamping your marketing message. [Read more.](#)



Bedford County Office of Economic Development

Traci Blido, Director

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