



## News

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### For Immediate Release

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## Georgia-Pacific's Big Island Mill Kicks Off 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

*Year-long, month-to-month commemoration will celebrate mill's founding in 1891*

**Big Island, Va., (January 5, 2016)** – The year was 1891. President Benjamin Harrison was in the White House. The average household income in the country was around \$400. Thomas Edison patented his motion picture camera. Milk costs 4 cents a quart. There were 44 stars on the U.S. flag.

And in Big Island, Virginia, a new paper mill took shape on the banks of the James River.

To mark the historic occasion of the mill's 125 years of continual operation, Georgia-Pacific is launching a year-long commemoration throughout 2016 designed to honor the mill's long history, celebrate generations of employees and thank the community for its enduring support.

"The Big Island mill is Bedford County's oldest business, and we are putting together a fitting tribute to our 125-year relationship with a community that has helped sustain and support us for more than a century," said Eldon Brammer, vice president, Big Island operations. "We look forward to a year ahead filled with special events and memories as well as monthly celebrations that showcase our work and commitments in many different areas."

The commemorations will begin in January celebrating the mill's safety focus throughout its history. Subsequent months will highlight the mill's employee history, including employees whose parents, grandparents and great-grandparents also worked at the mill. Other months will honor the mill's customers, suppliers, retirees, environmental sustainability, our history of recycling, and our relationship with the James River.

In August 2016, an invitation-only golf tournament befitting the Blue Ridge Area Foodbank will be held at Boonsboro Country Club.

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Culminating the commemoration will be a community event at the Sedalia Center in Bedford County on Saturday, October 8. The event – Fine & Dandy Day – will feature throwback elements to the turn of the century, including automobiles, machinery, historical figures, music from the era and more. The event will also reflect the present day with live music, food trucks, children’s activities, a beer garden and more.

“The marking of our 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary is an occasion for telling the many and varied stories of the mill – stories of resiliency and progress, of family and community,” Brammer said. “Most importantly, they are the stories not only about the people of our past, but also of those who will help take us to the next century of our operations and who will continue our abiding relationship with the community.”

**About Georgia-Pacific Big Island**

Georgia-Pacific is one of the world’s leading makers of tissue, pulp, paper, packaging, building products and related chemicals. Headquartered in Atlanta, it is a subsidiary of Koch Industries, employing about 35,000 people at more than 200 facilities worldwide. Located about 15 miles north of Lynchburg on the James River, the Big Island mill employs about 330 people.

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