

Hi, just a reminder that you're receiving this email because you have expressed an interest in Bedford County Office of Economic Development. Don't forget to add tblido@bedfordcountyva.gov to your address book so we'll be sure to land in your inbox!

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Bedford Business First

News from Bedford County Office of Economic Development - May 2016

Bedford County by the numbers

Mar. 2016

Civilian Labor Workforce	37,576
Unemployment rate	4.3%
Unemployed Individuals	1,609
Advertised jobs	269*

*Advertised jobs in Bedford County - VEC May 2016

About our office

The Office of Economic Development is responsible for planning, developing, and directing business and economic development programs and services in Bedford County, Virginia.



Traci Blido
Director
540-587-5670 ext. 1371

Don't miss this event!

May is Business Appreciation month in Virginia, and we want to thank **YOU**, our Bedford County businesses, for making Bedford County a great place to live and work! Please join us at our Business After Hours event to enjoy a night of food, fun, door prizes, and a special thank you gift from the Bedford County Economic Development Authority!

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

Bedford Economic Development is teaming up with The Elks Lodge & The National D-Day Memorial to bring you

Virginia Business Appreciation After Hours

Thursday, May 26, 2016

5:30 - 7:00 PM

Leave with a Thank You gift from Bedford Economic Development. Remember to bring your business cards to enter for a chance to win great door prizes. Everyone is invited to attend this event at no charge!

The graphic features a dark blue background with a yellow crescent moon, white clouds, and yellow stars. The text is in white and yellow.

GP Big Island recognized for 125 years of business in Bedford County

On Monday, May 9, 2016, the Board of Supervisors recognized Georgia Pacific Big Island for its 125 years of

[email](#)



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business in Bedford County. GP Big Island makes an economic impact of \$133 million annually and is one of the few local businesses to have hired fifth generation employees. GP was also recognized this year by the Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce as Best Large Business of the Year at its Annual Excellence in Business Awards Dinner. Congrats GP Big Island!



Board Chairman Steve Wilkerson (right) presents GP's VP of Manufacturing Eldon Brammer (middle) and Public Affairs Manager Zoe Myers (left) with the proclamation.

Construction crews in Bedford, former Christmas Station and Archery Building come down

After several years of being vacant, the former Christmas Station and Archery buildings, which sat at the intersection of Washington and Bridge Streets, have been demolished. The seventy year old buildings were previously owned by the Economic Development Authority and suffered from several maintenance issues such as mold and asbestos that made them uninhabitable. A temporary parking lot will sit on the lot to be used by County employees until a new use is developed.



The former Archery Building was demolished on April 19, 2016.

State funding available to increase and support apprenticeship programs

New funding has now been made available through the Virginia Department of Labor and Industry (VDLI) to support registered apprenticeship programs for public and private sector occupations in which there have not been apprenticeships traditionally. The funds are intended to increase the number of RA programs within the public sector and key private sectors including Information Technology, Cyber Security, and Professional and Business Services. [Read more.](#)



Farmers Markets now open!



It's that time again- the Bedford County Farmers Markets are now open! Come join us at the Forest and Bedford Farmers Markets to buy fresh, local produce, meats, eggs, and more!

Did you know that the Bedford County Farmers Markets make an economic impact of more than \$350,000 a year? Even more reason to buy locally! Visit our

website for market hours, [here](#).

2016 Business Roundtable dates set

The Office of Economic Development has selected its 2016 Quarterly Business Roundtable event dates in order for our businesses to plan ahead.

- May 2016 (Bedford - Business Appreciation evening event)
- Sept. 22, 2016 (Forest)
- Dec. 8, 2016



Please plan to attend each of these events to stay connected with the county and business community! We will keep you updated as more event details emerge.

Bedford County Office of Economic Development

Traci Blido, Director

540-587-5670