

State Agencies/Workers Assist with Flood Relief

Compiled with information provided by Amy Shuler Goodwin of the Governor's Office and Matt Sturgeon of Environmental Protection. Photos provided by Matt Sturgeon.

It's no secret that when West Virginians see a need, they spring into action, especially when it involves our own. After flood waters ravaged through northern and southern West Virginia communities in July, State Government agencies and employees got busy immediately.

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) took an active role at the start, assisting those affected by the flooding and then continuing to ensure that the cleanup of debris and possible contaminants is completed.

"The first thing we did after the flood - there was concern about mining - so the Division of Mining and Reclamation inspected mines for damage and to ensure the impoundments were intact," said Tom Fisher, DEP's Field Operations Program Manager. "The dams we inspected were intact and stable. Dam Safety (a program within DEP's Division of Water Resources) did likewise on non-coal related dams."

The scope of DEP's involvement was far-ranging and included Environmental Enforcement inspecting and helping sewage treatment plants get back online and operational. The Division of Waste Management, in conjunction with the Environmental Protection Agency, identified hazardous materials problems, such as tanks and drums being washed down streams and rivers.



Flood waters raged through Mullens, WV on July 8, 2001, washing away homes, businesses, and even the U.S. Post Office. The entire town was devastated.

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PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER!!!

In Charleston and around the Mountain State, we've been busy, busy, busy planning and preparing for West Virginia State Government's celebration of Public Service Recognition Week (PSRW). PSRW is a time when we can profile to our citizens the fantastic work we do to provide the services they need, and also, to honor our dedicated public servants.



PSRW will be held here in West Virginia the week of September 24-28, 2001. We're still tidying up some loose ends, but at the Capitol, we've got a wonderful Awareness Fair for agencies to show their stuff, the Governor's Awards Ceremony to honor employees who have 30/35/40/45/etc. years of service, and individual agency celebrations and recognition ceremonies. We've got some fun things planned too, including the ever-popular Goodies Bake-Off. **In addition, we'll be celebrating the West Virginia State**

Employees Combined Campaign Kick-Off during PSRW (September 26).

For information about PSRW in West Virginia (including this year's Schedule of Events, a list of agency contact individuals and committee chairpersons, and the winning recipes from last year's Bake-Off!), visit the link on Division of Personnel's website (<http://www.state.wv.us/admin/personnel/empcom/PSRW/default.htm>). The website information is updated as items are confirmed, so check back often. If you need more information, call Jane Fouty, PSRW Coordinator, at 558-3950, ext. 206.

SAVE MONEY ON YOUR PRESCRIPTIONS!

If you take maintenance medications, there are 2 ways by which you can get a discount on them:

1. **Use PEIA's Retail Maintenance Network Pharmacies** - for a list of participating pharmacies, visit www.wvpeia.com/rxlist.htm.
2. **Use the Merck-Medco Mail Service program.** For forms and information, call 1-800-711-3808.

The discount amounts to receiving a 90-day supply of medicine for the 60-day supply co-pay – a sort of buy-2-get-1-free deal. It saves both you and PEIA money!

DRS Employees Receive Governor's Commendation

Contributed by Deena Ellison of the Division of Rehabilitation Services.

Interim Director Janice Holland of the West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services held a special awards ceremony in her office on July 19, 2001 to honor 3 individuals with a Certificate of Special Commendation from the Governor's Office. DRS employees Judy Neal, Wanda Gore, and Fran Ingram were recognized for their service to West Virginians with disabilities.

Former client Nelson Ossorio was so impressed with the support received from these 3 ladies that he not only called the Director, he called Governor Bob Wise to express his appreciation for the quality and timeliness of their assistance. Ossorio commented, "...these 3 individuals were absolutely terrific. They helped me during the time of my greatest need."

The supervisors of these individuals were asked to be on hand to witness the presentation of the awards. Judy Reed, District Manager and supervisor of both 5-year employees, Judy Neal, Master Level Homemaker/Independent Living Counselor and Wanda Gore, Senior Rehabilitation Counselor, stated that these counselors work very hard for all of their clients to assist them in getting what they need. Steve Hill, Hospital Administrator and supervisor of Fran Ingram, a 29½ year veteran and Chief of Occupational Therapy, said that Fran truly cares about her clients.

Holland stated in her presentation, "You are all to be commended for your 'Five Star' contribution to our organization and to the individuals with disabilities whom we serve." Congratulations ladies!



Three DRS Employees were honored on July 19 with a Special Commendation from the Governor's Office for their outstanding service to State citizens with disabilities. STANDING (L-R): Steve Hill, Janice Holland, and Judy Reed. SEATED (L-R): Wanda Gore, Fran Ingram, and Judy Neal

Looking to furnish a home office? The Surplus Property Unit of the State Purchasing Division conducts public auctions as a method to dispose of State Surplus Property (typewriters, computers, printers, desks, chairs, file cabinets, tools, vehicles - you name it!).

When State agencies purchase new equipment or furniture, any old items that are not passed down to other workers are sent to Surplus Property. Surplus Property then offers these good, usable items for public auction, selling them for less than new purchases.

If you're interested in attending the next public auction, mark your calendar for September 15. You can obtain additional information from the Surplus Property website (<http://www.state.wv.us/admin/purchase/surplus/default.htm>) or call them at 766-2626.

**SURPLUS PROPERTY
PUBLIC AUCTION
SEPT. 15, 2001**



Looking for a Quiet, Friendly, Kid-Tolerant Pet? Why Not ...



Adopt a Greyhound!

Although thousands of retired racing greyhounds are euthanized each year, much progress has been made in placing these quiet, lovable dogs in homes. With a lifespan of 9-14 years, they have a lot to give when they retire at ages 3 and 4 years.

Though they love to run, greyhounds are equally at home on the couch. They are clean animals with short, smooth coats. They are gentle, patient, and tolerant with kids and other pets, and they rarely bark.

The greyhound has a colorful history – it's the only breed specifically mentioned in the Bible. It was highly valued in ancient Egypt and Arabia, where it was used to catch game. When a greyhound died, owners mourned as if they'd lost a child. In the 11th century, by English law, a greyhound could only be owned by people of nobility. It was the favorite breed of Alexander the Great and Queen Victoria.

Caring for a greyhound is considerably easier than for other breeds. They're not prone to genetic problems and are easy to groom. One drawback: They cannot be allowed to run unleashed because they are sighthounds and will run far and fast to follow their instinct to chase.

Rescued greyhounds seem to know they've received another reason for their life and are pleased to settle into it and live in gratitude. According to *DogFancy* magazine, all they want is a soft blanket, an occasional chance to run, and lots of petting and cuddling.

So – if you're considering a pet for your family and are interested in checking out a greyhound, visit www.adopt-a-greyhound.org (you'll find West Virginia agencies in Cross Lanes, Wheeling, and Charlton Heights at this site).

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“The most immediate thing was getting people’s basements pumped out. A lot of them had heating oil tanks and we hired several contractors to pump those out,” Fisher said. “We’ve collected 4,400 gallons of liquid - fuel oils from houses and property all over flooded portions of West Virginia. We’ll make sure it’s incinerated at a proper disposal facility. We’ve also collected 11,000 gallons of oil-contaminated sludge and 90 tons of contaminated soil.” Fisher praised DEP’s involved, saying that everyone he’s dealt with has been totally cooperative.

In addition to DEP, many other State agencies and employees took part in the relief efforts. Although not all-inclusive, the following is a list of agencies and the assistance and/or services they provided:

Corrections: Provided inmate labor to assist in cleanup efforts. Mount Olive Correctional Center is commended for its extraordinary water conservation measures, which allowed the limited available water to be used by the flood victims.

Criminal Justice Services: Provided staff to assist relief agencies.

Emergency Services (ES) : Coordinated emergency response and flood relief efforts; operated 24-hour Emergency Operations Center; served as a central organizing point for the relief efforts of FEMA, the American Red Cross, the National Guard, and other agencies; and purchased and provided supplies, water, cleaning kits, and other items.

Employment Programs: Gave special considerations for a number of services to those in affected areas.

Fire Marshal’s Office: Provided teams to evaluate structures and perform condemnations, and worked closely with FEMA, the National Guard, ES, and other agencies.

General Services: Provided space for storage and staff to load collected supplies for delivery.

Governor’s Office of Technology: Created a website that allows flood victims to request items and donors to contribute (www.wvgives.org).

Health and Human Resources: Provided individuals with emergency food stamps; assisted individuals with reissuances of vital statistics information and other program benefits.

Juvenile Services: Provided vans and jeeps for emergency relief personnel as they were needed.

Motor Vehicles: Provided duplicate titles, license plates, decals, and other documents without charge to those in affected areas; verified personal property tax payments with courthouses; and temporarily waived certain trip permits, authorizations, or license requirements for commercial vehicles operating in West Virginia.

Parole Board: Provided staff to assist relief agencies.

Personnel: Coordinated flood relief drive to collect cleaning and repair supplies.

Protective Services: Provided extra security at Capitol Complex for employees working long, late hours on relief efforts.

Purchasing Division: Worked with ES to expedite emergency purchases.

Regional Jail and Correctional Facility Authority: Provided inmate labor to assist in cleanup efforts.



The water rose fast and deep, with little time to collect more than family members, pets, or a few items of clothing.

Senior Services: Provided quick information distribution on how to contact FEMA and steps needed to recover losses; worked with counties on grant applications; provided emergency meal and transportation services; assisted a senior center with reimbursement for lost property and repairs.

Transportation: Provided trucks and drivers for delivery of donated items.

Veterans Affairs: Worked with the Veterans Administration and the American Legion to locate possible VA-guaranteed home loans for qualified individuals; served as a central distribution point for veteran-specific relief information.

West Virginia National Guard: Over 1,300 soldiers activated and assisted flood victims; conducted damage assessments, removed debris, delivered supplies, etc.; and directed and worked with Guard members from other states.

West Virginia State Police: Assisted local law enforcement officers and provided extra security in flooded counties.

Workers Compensation: Extended filing deadlines for employer reports to those in affected areas.

To all who played a part in assisting our citizens, especially individual employees who donated time, money, supplies, and physical labor, Governor Bob Wise extends a sincere, well-deserved thank you.

State Fair Awards \$19,000+ in Scholarships

The State Fair of West Virginia is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2001 Equine, Junior Show, 4-H/FFA Youth Exhibit, and Dairy Scholarships. Winners are:

Leslie H. Gordon of Bland, VA, and Jordan R. Tully of Mt. Nebo, WV, are Equine Scholarship winners. Each will receive a \$1,187.50 one-year scholarship derived from funds raised in the Equine Scholarship and Promotional Fund. Contributions to the scholarship fund have been made by the following donors: Farmers Home Fire Insurance Company, Heiner's Bakery, Inc., Bank of Monroe, Grassy Run Farm, Arabian Horse News, Miller Concessions, Whispering Oaks Farms and Reynolds Oil.

Junior Show Scholarships winners are: John F. Erwin of New Milton, WV; Stacey D. Hamric of Glendon, WV; Richard Hawver of Ronceverte, WV; Laura E. Hawver of Ronceverte, WV; Helen R. Haynes of Trout, WV; Cassidy L. Kimble of Petersburg, WV; David M. Simmons of Hillsboro, WV; Whitney N. Simmons of Franklin, WV; Deanna J. Vaughn of Caldwell, WV; and Benjamin M. Wilfong of Cass, WV. Each winner will receive a \$1,325 scholarship derived from funds accumulated through the 4-H and FFA Junior Show Scholarship Fund. Contributors to this fund include: American Legion of West Virginia, Carhartt, City National Bank, West Virginia Veterinary Medical Association, First National Bank in Ronceverte, Gabriel Brothers, Inc., Allegheny Power; British United Turkeys of America, BB&T, Reithoffer Shows, Inc., Southern States Cooperative, Inc., Televac Personality Computers, and Tuscawilla Farms, Hillcroft Farms, Sysco Food Services of Virginia, Silo Ice, Inc., Blake and Boone.

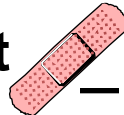
Lewis Honaker of Ronceverte, WV, and Erica Tuckwiller of Clintonville, WV, are winners of 4-H and FFA Youth Exhibit Scholarships. Each will receive a \$1,000 scholarship for accomplishments with non-livestock projects. Contributions to the scholarship fund have been made by Strawberry Shortcake & Apples N Cream Concessions and Spa World of Beckley, WV.

Stephanie J. Echols of Union, WV, is the winner of the Junior Dairy Show Scholarship. She will receive a \$1,400 one-year scholarship derived from the sale of milk by dairy exhibitors at the State Fair.

Congratulations to all recipients, and the State Fair thanks the contributors to the scholarship program, who gave a combined amount of \$19,025 towards helping young exhibitors reach their educational goals.

For more information about becoming involved as a sponsor for this important program, contact publicrelations@wvstatefair.com.

News From the Medical Front



A study led by Harvard researchers shows that prostate removal is the best choice for men with prostate tumors at an intermediate- or high-risk stage. Pellet implants have proven to be less effective than doctors hoped.

Also, on the topic of gastric reflux, an article published in the American Journal of Medicine tells that research shows surgery to relieve heartburn caused by this condition may not eliminate the need for medication or prevent throat cancer. The study found that 62% of patients still need medicine to control severe gastric reflux.

For these or any other medical conditions, you should discuss your concerns and options with your doctor, and make an informed decision.

Pencil In ...




West Virginia is proud to host the **World Rafting Championships** Sept. 21-25 on the New and Gauley Rivers. This event brings together the world's top rafting nations to compete in an exciting white water event of global proportions! For more information, dial 1-800-CALLWVA.



New River Gorge Bridge Day will be held Saturday, October 20, 2001, with a multitude of festivities going on all around the area. Base jumpers are permitted this one day each year to parachute from the New River Bridge. The event attracts hundreds of jumpers from around the world, and even more spectators. If you're interested in this year's event, visit the Division of Tourism's website for information about events and times: www.callwva.com/travelplanner/calendar.asp.



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