

Governor Encourages Service Through Volunteering

Text edited and reprinted from the Governor's Office website: www.wv.gov/sec.aspx?id=43&columnid=366.

The hustle and bustle of the holiday season is an exciting time of year. With all the decorations, gift giving, and Christmas parties, it truly is a wonderful time to spend with friends and family. But these joyous few weeks and the coming start of a new year should be a reminder to spread the cheer within your community and with those who are less fortunate.



*Governor Joe Manchin III
(website photo)*

West Virginians by nature are very giving, and opening our wallets for charity during the holidays is common practice. Our local roots run deep, and we tend to help each other when we need it. There are countless opportunities in your neighborhood and across the State where you can help by volunteering.

From ringing the bell for the Salvation Army to serving up food at a local soup kitchen, I'm sure you'll find the rewards are greater for you than just the time spent volunteering. Mahatma Gandhi perhaps described the ben-

efits of volunteering best when he said, "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."

Volunteering in West Virginia extends to the workplace, as well. Many West Virginia businesses are leading the way in developing programs that encourage their employees to become active in their communities. When companies become involved in their neighborhoods, they gain a greater understanding of their communities and their needs. It also helps them identify the best ways they might share their resources with their neighbors.

The West Virginia Commission for National and Community Service's involvement with the newly formed West Virginia Business Volunteer Council led to numerous business and labor partnerships last year. This statewide approach has become an award-winning national model, with the co-chairs mentoring other States' business volunteer programs.

I encourage every West Virginia business, large and small, to join and become involved with the BVC. I also want every West Virginian to volunteer ... to do something for their State or community. The place for businesses and individuals to start is the website, www.volunteerwv.org.

As the holidays approach, and the new year begins, there is no better time to raise your hand and be counted. I challenge us all to carry the great Christmas season spirit of giving throughout the year.

"When I grow up, I'm going to be ..."

Treasurer's Office to Announce Contest Winners

Edited and reprinted from the State Treasurer's website: www.wvsto.com.

On Wednesday, December 12 at 10:30 AM, the West Virginia State Treasurer's Office and The Hartford will announce the 15 winners of their "When I Grow Up..." essay contest. The contest was open to elementary school students around the State earlier this fall.

The winner of a \$5,000 SMART529 WV Direct college savings plan and 14 other winners of \$500 accounts will be announced in the State Cultural Center Grand Hall.

Other events that make up the agenda for the winners that day include a tour of the newly renovated Governor's Mansion, a media session, a luncheon, and a tour of the State Capitol Complex.

More than 1,000 entries were received in the contest. Congratulations in advance to all winners!





REFERENCE LIBRARY

LOCATION: Cultural Center
1900 Kanawha Blvd. E.
Charleston, WV 25305

HOURS: Monday-Friday
8:30 AM - 5:00 PM
Closed on State Holidays

ASK A LIBRARIAN

Convenient and fast! Our friendly, qualified staff is ready to assist you in person, over the phone (304.558.2045), and through the internet at www.librarycommission.lib.wv.us/askalibrarian.html. Telephone and internet inquiries can be filled through our courier services upon request.

COURIER SERVICES

Courier Services are available to State employees on the Capitol Complex. Delivery and pick up requests can be initiated by e-mail, by telephone or through our online catalog that is available 24 hours a day at <http://voyweb.lib.wv.us>. Couriers deliver during regular business hours.

ONLINE RESOURCES

Find full text articles from magazines and newspapers. Practice for civil service, career, school, academic, and basic skills exams. Find research starters, homework help, and current events.

WIRELESS INTERNET

A free high-speed wireless network allows users to access the internet from their own wireless-enabled laptops.

Request a user name, password or PIN to begin using the Online Databases and Wireless Internet

MORE INFORMATION?

Contact Library Services in-state toll free at 1.800.642.9021 #3 or locally at 304.558.2045.

West Virginia Library Commission
www.librarycommission.lib.wv.us

Location, location, location – <http://voyweb.lib.wv.us>

Division of Rehabilitation Services Honors Client Achievements

Contributed by Tracy Carr of the Division of Rehabilitation Services.

The Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) held its annual Ability Works Recognition Ceremony on October 18 in Institute, West Virginia. Through its 29 field offices, DRS operates the state and federal vocational rehabilitation program and specializes in helping people with disabilities who want to find a job or maintain current employment. The ceremony honored eight individuals who have achieved their vocational goals by means of their own perseverance and with assistance from DRS.

The 2007 Ability Works Recognition recipients were:

Joe Voloski, 25, recovered from a life-threatening car accident to become a Naval firefighter in Yorktown, Virginia (*State Winner*).

Khadira Taylor, 26, is a social service worker for DHHR's Bureau for Children and Families despite battling McCune-Albright Syndrome, a rare genetic disease (*Charleston District*).

Amie Becilla, 29, has insulin-dependent diabetes and teaches special education students at Westwood Middle School in Morgantown (*Clarksburg District*).

Sharon Hastings, 47, is a top salesperson for LiveOps, a virtual telemarketing firm, despite battling chronic fatigue syndrome, fibromyalgia and chronic lobular hepatitis (*Wheeling District*).

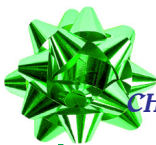
Steven Bennett, 31, returned to school and became a rehabilitation counselor for the Virginia Department for the Blind and Visually Impaired after losing much of his vision (*Beckley District*).

Sharon Jenkins, 53, works as an administrative assistant at the Lewis College of Business at Marshall University after recovering from an accident that nearly severed her hand (*Huntington District*).

Jeremy Hubbard, 27, has cerebral palsy and works as the associate director of education at Sylvan Learning Center in Martinsburg (*Martinsburg District*).

Dave Romine, 53, is a radiation technologist at the Center for Cancer Care in Fairlea. Degenerative disc disease forced him to leave his job as a lineman (*Lewisburg District*).

To read the full stories of the Ability Works winners, visit DRS' webpage at www.wvdrs.org/.



ENJOY YOUR LONG CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAY WEEKENDS!

Gov. Joe Manchin has graciously given State employees the additional half days for December 24 and 31 as time off. Consult your agency Human Resources/Payroll Office for details.

'A Gift of Memories' Could Be Your Holiday Shopping Solution!



Gift-giving can be difficult for some. Not sure what to get Mom and Dad? What about your brother and his family? And there's your best friend who has just about everything. The solution could be a mouse click or phone call away!

West Virginia State Parks and Forests now offers gift cards that can be used for lodging, meals, packages, and services. They're available in increments of \$25, can be ordered online, can be sent directly to your recipient if you desire, and have **NO expiration date!**

www.wvparks.com/ecom/giftcerts.cfm ✦ 1-800-CALL-WVA ✦ 558-2764

12th History Day at State Capitol Set for Feb. 21, 2008

Contributed by Terri Marion of the Division of Culture and History.

Local groups with an interest in history or genealogy are invited to participate in the **12th West Virginia History Day on February 21, 2008 at the State Capitol Complex** in Charleston during the regular session of the West Virginia Legislature. Local historical groups are expected to provide displays and reenactments in the Rotunda of the State Capitol.

Historians, genealogists, educators, preservationists, veterans, fraternal organizations, librarians, ethnic groups, and families and individuals with an interest in West Virginia's history are invited to provide exhibits featuring historical documents, photographs, artifacts, and publications. Other attractions will include reenactments of events in the State's history, music, story-

telling, and a ceremony honoring citizens from across the State who have made contributions to the history of West Virginia.

At an awards ceremony in the State Theater of the Cultural Center, "History Hero" awards will be presented to people who have made significant grass-roots contributions to the preservation of local or regional history. Local historical, genealogical, preservation, museum, patriotic, and other similar groups are encouraged to provide nominations for the awards. Authorized by the legislature, West Virginia History Day commemorates local groups' efforts to preserve, protect, and promote the study of the Mountain State's past.

The West Virginia Division of Culture and History joins the Ar-

chives and History Commission, West Virginia Historical Society, West Virginia Historical Association, Preservation Alliance of West Virginia, West Virginia Humanities Council, West Virginia Association of Museums, Friends of West Virginia Culture and History, and Mining Your History Foundation as organizers of this year's events. All West Virginia History Day events are free and open to the public.

History Hero nominations must be postmarked by December 31. Nominations also may be hand-delivered to the Archives and History Library at the Cultural Center in the Capitol Complex by that deadline. Applications from groups interested in setting up displays on history-related projects are due by January 28, 2008.

WHAT TO DO FOR A KITCHEN FIRE



In last month's *Stateline*, we provided you with information on how to prevent kitchen fires. Even with the best precautions, a fire can still spark. Here's some helpful information on what to do if happens to you. Clip this article and tape it to the inside of a kitchen cabinet for quick reference!

- * **Call 911 immediately.** You can always cancel the call if you get things clearly under control.
- * If the fire is, or becomes, large or out of control, do the smart thing and leave the residence immediately!
- * Keep three things handy: A pan lid (preferably one that fits multiple pans), baking soda, and an ABC-rated fire extinguisher. Make sure you know how to use the extinguisher. **Never use water or flour on cooking fires.**
- * If a small item is on fire and you can do it safely, put it in the sink and then extinguish it.
- * Unplug small appliances like toasters or coffee pots if you can do it safely.
- * Keep at least one working smoke detector in your home and test it monthly; change the batteries when adjusting your clocks for daylight savings time and eastern standard time.
- * Slide a pan lid over flames to smother a grease or oil fire in a pot or skillet. Turn off the heat.
- * For small grease/oil fires elsewhere, and for all other fires, **throw baking soda over the flames.**
- * For oven, broiler, or microwave fires, keep the oven door shut and turn off the heat or the microwave.
- * You remember the "stop, drop, and roll" training you received in school, right? Use it if your clothes catch fire.

GOOD NEWS FOR HOMEBUYERS

The State Credit Union is a participating lender with the West Virginia Housing Development Fund. This allows the credit union to offer affordability for home loans – especially for first-time buyers. The State Credit Union offers:

- Exceptionally low interest rates
- Lower monthly payments than rent
- Loans amortized for 30 years
- Up to 100% loan to value available
- Up to \$3,000 in closing costs available

FOR
INFORMATION:
CALL

558-0566



Limited Edition Governor's Mansion Ornaments Now Available

First Lady Gayle Manchin proudly announces that the 2007 Governor's Mansion Christmas Ornament, the third in a series of four, is now available for purchase at Tamarack.

Each limited edition ornament – 500 made each year – illustrates a different perspective of the mansion and is designed and carved by New Martinsville juried artisan, Doug Coleman. Each glass piece is individually hand-cut and sand-blasted in Coleman's studio, making each one a one-of-a-kind decoration.

This year's ornament features a view of the mansion looking toward the west, framed by West Virginia flora.

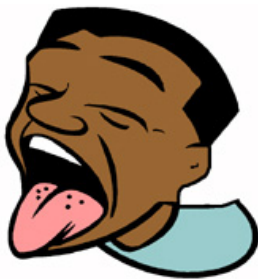
West Virginia Governor's Mansion is a 30-room Georgian revival structure overlooking the Kanawha River, designed by Charleston architect Walter F. Martens. It was started in 1924 and completed right before the gubernatorial inauguration in 1926.

A portion of the proceeds from the ornament sales benefits the West Virginia Governor's Mansion Preservation Foundation to ensure future generations will be able to enjoy the mansion's rich history.

Visit the following link to order yours today: www.tamarackwv.com/catalog/category/LimitedEditionSeries,254.aspx. You can still collect the whole set - a few ornaments for 2005 and 2006 are still available!



Photo from Tamarack website cited below



COULD IT BE A STROKE?

One way to identify a possible stroke is to ask the person to stick out his/her tongue. If the tongue goes crooked – to one side or the other – it could be a signal the person has suffered a stroke.

Other possible clues are to ask the person to smile, repeat a simple sentence (such as "The sun is shining today."), and/or to raise both arms. If he or she has difficulty with any of these tasks, call 911 immediately. Quicker treatment means better recovery.

ETHICS LOOPHOLE CLOSED

The State Ethics Commission has closed a loophole that permitted nonprofit groups to host receptions in Charleston during legislative sessions without having to report or designate them as lobbying.

www.wvethicscommission.org/lobby.htm



RED CROSS DONOR CENTER HAS NEW LOCATION

If you miss giving blood at any of the Capitol Complex Blood Drives, the Red Cross has made it easier for you to donate at their Charleston Donor Center. They've moved to

**4503 MacCorkle Avenue SE
Charleston, WV 25304**

You'll find convenient hours and easier parking. Schedule an appointment today at 1-800-GIVE-LIFE or online at www.redcrosslife.org.

Pencil In ...

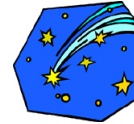


The 15th Annual West Virginia Public Broadcasting's Joy to the World Holiday Concert

with Bob Thompson, featuring guest vocalist Catherine Russell, is Thurs., Dec. 13 at 8 PM in the Cultural Center Theater. Tickets are \$20.50 plus a service charge, and are available by calling 800-594-8499, at Taylor Books in downtown Charleston, or online at: www.wvpubcast.org/joy.html.



Hope for clear skies so you can watch the **Geminid Meteor Shower** on December 13-14.



This is the peak time for this reliable and spectacular event, which can have 1-2 meteors every minute; often more! Visit www.space.com/spacewatch/geminid_meteors_021206.html for more.

Brrrr!!! Winter begins with the Winter Solstice on December 22 at 1:08AM EST.

