

## WVCHIP Board Approves Governor's Program Expansion Request

With encouragement from Governor Joe Manchin, the West Virginia Children's Health Insurance Program (WVCHIP) Board has approved a financial plan to expand its program to families who live on up to 250 percent of the federal poverty level.

The Governor asked WVCHIP leaders to file the request with U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Mike Leavitt to make sure the proposed expansion won't conflict with or be affected by a directive issued in August 2007 by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

"This is about making health care available to more West Virginia children who otherwise might fall through the cracks ...," said Governor Manchin.

The income eligibility increase would mean that a family of four








with income up to \$53,000 annually can participate by paying a monthly premium of \$35 for one child or \$71 for two or more children. This should result in coverage for over 400 additional children during the first expansion year, and more than 700 over a four-year period.

To implement the program expansion, WVCHIP must make amendments to its State plan and receive federal approval from the CMS. This approval will permit the program to receive approximately 4 to 1 matching funds.

Once the expanded program is in place, families must enroll in the premium plan and pay the monthly premiums. Insurance coverage for the children begins the first full month after the first payment is received.

The proposed effective date is January 1, 2009, and the approval process may take up to 90 days.

### Those Eligible for WVCHIP Must:

-  Reside in West Virginia
-  Be age 18 or younger
-  Have no current health insurance, nor any for the previous 12 months
-  Be ineligible for West Virginia Medicaid
-  Meet the WVCHIP Income Guidelines
-  Be able to pay the established monthly premium
-  Be U.S. citizens or qualified aliens (non-citizen children must provide verification of their alien status)



### ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ Let's Celebrate! ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**West Virginia's  
Public Service  
Recognition Week  
will be held  
Sept. 29 - Oct. 3**

**The  
Governor's Awards Ceremony  
will be held on Thursday,  
October 2 and is by  
invitation only.**



*The Ohio River is calm and tranquil on a warm, lazy summer afternoon. Pictured is the bridge connecting West Virginia and Ohio at St. Marys, WV.*

# Federal DOE/EPA Offers Help for Fuel Economy

Gas prices, fuel economy, hybrids, pollution control ... these and other terms related to our transportation needs and usage lead us to a myriad of questions.

Should I buy a more fuel efficient vehicle? Is diesel a better choice than a hybrid? How does my present vehicle stack up? How can I improve my gas mileage? Trying to analyze and make sense of it all can send the average consumer into a total tailspin!

Fear not! The U.S. Department of Energy and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency have come to our rescue with a website designed to explain and answer your fuel and transportation questions and concerns.

Operated jointly by these two agencies, [www.fueleconomy.gov](http://www.fueleconomy.gov) helps fulfill their responsibility to provide accurate MPG information as required by the Environmental Policy Act of 1992. This assists consumers in making informed decisions when purchasing new vehicles, and in achieving the best fuel efficiency from their current cars, trucks, SUVs, etc.



At the website, you'll find all kinds of information – things like real-world fuel economy statistics, a vehicle side-by-side comparison feature, tax incentive information, tips to improve your mileage, and more. If the answer to your question isn't on the site itself, there's probably a link to a good source. For instance, if you're looking for the best gas price in your area, click on the "Gasoline Prices" link, and follow the prompts.

Check out the website. You'll save yourself some cash, and help make the world greener for us all!

**Don't forget about West Virginia's Rideshare Program: [www.wvdo.org/community/rideshare.html](http://www.wvdo.org/community/rideshare.html)**

## DHHR Out-Stations Save Customers Time/Gas

Pilot out-station programs in Fayette and Nicholas Counties have been so successful in providing services to clients that the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources is considering expanding the program to other counties.

According to Louis Palma, Deputy Commissioner, Bureau of Children and Families, it's about doing what makes sense for their customers. According to Palma, "Technology in the workplace allows us to do work in different ways. ... We want to make a difference in people's lives."

Customers to the out-stations have noticed up to 90 minutes of travel time saved, and many clients have expressed that, if not for the out-stations, they would be unable to access services.

## 'Taters & 'Maters & Beans, Oh My!

These and an additional assortment of fresh and delicious fruits and vegetables await you at the 4th Annual Capitol Market at the State Capitol. Each Wednesday and Friday, from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM, State employees and Capitol visitors can purchase healthy foods that are both good for the body and tasty to the palate.



On Wednesdays, the Purple Onion will also offer salads and wraps.

The market operates as a partnership of the wellness programs in Buildings 3 and 6 (Division of Natural Resources, Division of Motor Vehicles, Public Defender Services, Department of Health and Human Resources and the West Virginia Division of Energy), the Capitol Market, and the Department of Agriculture, with additional support provided by the Department of Administration. The activity is endorsed by the First Lady and the Office of Healthy Lifestyles.

**Save Gas and Time –  
Visit the Capitol Market at the State Capitol!**

# Respiratory Rally for COPD Patients Set for September 6

Rally details provided by Neva Maynor of Legislative Services.

If you or someone you know suffers from Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), or if you are a medical provider who regularly deals with COPD patients, you'll want to mark your calendar for September 6, 2008.

A Respiratory Rally, featuring two nationally recognized speakers, will be held on that date at the Charleston Civic Center from 10 AM to 4 PM. The rally is being sponsored jointly by the American Lung Association of West Virginia and the Respiratory and Allergic Disease Foundation.

## Meet Your State Board of Education Members

There are over 830 elementary and secondary schools in the State of West Virginia. Managing and implementing rules, guidelines, and laws is a big job and serious responsibility. That task falls to our State Board of Education (the Board).

West Virginia's State Board of Education is comprised of 12 members. Nine are citizens appointed by the Governor, and the remaining three are non-voting, ex-officio members. Board members serve staggered nine-year terms, and no more than five members can be of the same political party at one time.

Citizens currently serving on the Board of Education are:

Delores W. Cook	President	Robert W. Dunlevy	Member
Priscilla M. Haden	Vice President	Barbara N. Fish	Member
Ronald B. Spencer	Secretary	Burma Hatfield	Member
		Lowell E. Johnson	Member
		Gayle C. Manchin	Member
		Jenny N. Phillips	Member

The Board's ex-officio members are:

- Dr. Brian E. Noland  
Chancellor, WV Higher Education Policy Commission
- James Skidmore  
Chancellor, WV Council for Community and Technical College Education
- Dr. Steven L. Paine  
State Superintendent of Schools

The Board meets each month to discuss and decide on educational policies and rules that incorporate State law regarding education. In addition to jurisdiction over the State's elementary and secondary schools, the Board also has general control, supervision, and management of operations for the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and Blind.

To view information on any of the Board members, or to read about its mission, goals, policies, and meeting minutes, visit the State Department of Education's webpage at <http://wvde.state.wv.us/boe/>.

COPD is a term for serious progressive and irreversible lung disease that, over time, makes breathing more and more difficult. It includes a broad class of illnesses such as emphysema, bronchitis, and bronchiectasis, and 80-90% of those affected are smokers.



In the lungs of COPD patients, the airways are partially blocked, making it hard to breathe air in and expel it out. The National Institutes of Health states that there are over 12 million people in the country who currently suffer some form of COPD, and it estimates that an additional 12 million people have it and don't know it. COPD is the fourth leading cause of death in the U.S.

To help both patients and care providers improve treatment and quality of life, the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) has developed a nationwide campaign called *Learn More Breathe Better*. This campaign is aimed at men and women over age 45 (especially if they smoke or have smoked), as well as those at risk due to genetic or environmental conditions, and anyone already diagnosed with COPD. The Respiratory Rally is part of this campaign.

The two speakers will be Dr. Stephen D. Nathan, M.D. and Len Geiger, a COPD patient. Dr. Nathan serves as the Director of the Advanced Lung Disease Program and Medical Director of the Lung Transplant Program at Inova Fairfax Hospital in Falls Church, Virginia. He is widely published in several peer-reviewed journals and publications, including *Chest* and the *Journal of Heart and Transplantation*. Geiger

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received a life-saving double-lung transplant in 2002, and has since been featured in *Runner's World* and *Sports Illustrated* magazines. He has also been a guest or documentary subject on CNN, the Today Show, The Discovery Health Channel, HBO's *Real Sports with Bryant Gumbel*, and *World News Tonight with Charlie Gibson*.

In addition to the speakers, medical professionals will be present to assist patients with the proper way to use inhalers and oxygen, and an informative *Ask the Doc* session will be conducted.

The Respiratory Rally is open to healthcare professionals for an admission fee of \$25, and continuing education units will be provided for Pharmacists, Respiratory Therapists, and Registered Nurses. **Patients may attend free and are permitted to bring up to two friends or relatives.** Lunch will be provided for all, and supplemental oxygen will be available to any patient who may need extra oxygen in order to attend (please contact your health care provider for a copy of your prescription). Patients who register will be eligible for vendor door prizes and giveaways.

For more, call the American Lung Association at 342-6600 or toll-free at 1-800-586-4872 (1-800-LUNGUSA). You can also view information on the *Learn More Breathe Better* campaign at [www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/public/lung/copd/index.htm](http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/public/lung/copd/index.htm).

### Let's Hear It for Oatmeal!

We've long known that eating oatmeal helps lower cholesterol, but did you know that eating it can also reduce the risk of high blood pressure, Type 2 Diabetes, weight gain, and hardening of the arteries? Ask your doctor!



## 2008 Swiggy Award Nominations Sought

Contributed by Mary Behling of the WV Geological and Economic Survey.

For the second year in a row, the Statewide Internet Group (also known as "SWIG") is holding its Swiggy Award competition to recognize excellence in State website design and development.

The "Swiggy" is awarded to the top three websites nominated from within State government, K-12 schools, or higher education. The purpose of the Swiggy Awards is to recognize State organizations' efforts in creating and maintaining well-designed, helpful, accessible, and easy to use websites for the citizens of West Virginia.

An award-winning website should be aesthetically pleasing and easy to use. For State and federal organizations, websites must also be accessible, meaning they can be used by people with all types of disabilities. Websites must be nominated by the organization owning the website and should be visible to the public.

The SWIG is a user group of the State Information Technology Council (ITC). Participation in SWIG is diverse and includes people from across West Virginia responsible for maintaining, developing, or coordinating websites at State agencies, in the K-12 school system, or in higher education.

To nominate a website and for more information on the contest, visit <http://swig.wv.gov>. Nominations will be accepted until October 1, 2008.



## Pencil In ...



WV Public Broadcasting, in cooperation with The Mountaineer Sports Network, will televise **three men's and two women's WVU soccer matches.**



### MEN'S GAMES:

Aug. 31, 2 PM  
Oct. 15, 8 PM  
Oct. 21, 8 PM

### WOMEN'S GAMES:

Sept. 28, 1 PM  
Oct. 19, 1 PM



Congratulations and welcome to **Dr. Gregory F. Aloia**, the new President of Concord University.

**Kanawha Co. high school students** who participate in any of the following community arts organizations **may earn credit for their participation:**



Charleston Ballet  
River City Youth Ballet  
WV Youth Strings  
WV Youth Orchestra  
Appalachian Children's Chorus  
Kanawha Players

Contact your director or the Kanawha County Board of Education at 348-6152.