

Stateline

A Newsletter For West Virginia State Government Employees

July 2009

Volume 20 Number 6

Attention All Drug Dealers: Operation Eviction is Coming to Your Town Soon!

Edited and reprinted from The Governor's Desk: A weekly column by Governor Joe Manchin.



Earlier this month, I met with federal, State, and local law enforcement officials, community leaders, and elected officials in Huntington to discuss the next steps in dealing with crime in Cabell County and across the State. During the meeting, we talked about current law enforcement issues in the county as well as the success of efforts to tackle crime in recent months. In addition, we announced Operation Eviction, a new initiative that is a collaborative effort between State and local law enforcements to get drug traffickers off our streets.

When I took office as Governor, my administration immediately began working with the members of our law enforcement community to target illegal drugs and enhance our drug eradication efforts. In July 2006, we dedicated an additional \$1 million to combat the drug problem in West Virginia.

This money allowed the West Virginia State Police, along with other law enforcement agencies throughout the State, to crack down hard on the State's drug trade.

We are seeing results from our hard work over the past few years. For instance, in 2004, the WV State Police's Bureau of Criminal Investigations (BCI) unit seized more than \$910,000 in drugs. Last year, the BCI unit alone took nearly \$13.7 million in drugs off the streets.

Working with county and local law enforcement, we have made great advancements in putting criminals behind bars during the past four years. And, this month, with the announcement and kick-off of Operation Eviction, we take our fight on drugs to the next level.

One department cannot remove all of the criminals from our streets, but when the State Police work with the county and local departments, then this effort becomes coordinated, stronger, and more effective. Operation Eviction will allow the use of State resources to combine with county and city agencies to continue this fight in illegal drug trade in our communities.

Operations such as this are no easy task. I am calling on the people of West Virginia to be courageous and support law enforcement in their efforts to take back our communities and restore our families. People in the affected communities have knowledge that if properly passed on to law enforcement, may become crucial in winning the battle. With your help, we can win this war.

If you are a drug dealer who is reading this, the choice is yours: You can leave or we are going to hunt you down and arrest you. Either way, you will be evicted from the streets of West Virginia!

Hey Shutterbugs!!

DEADLINE: OCT. 1, 2009

The Departments of Environmental Protection and Transportation invite you to put your photographic talent to work and submit entries for the seventh annual Operation Wildflower "Roadside in Bloom" calendar contest. Anyone can enter, but pics must be of flowers growing along a West Virginia road, and the road must be visible in the photo. Twelve winners will be selected. For complete rules and entry details, call the Adopt-a-Highway Program at 1-800-322-5530.

Fireworks Caution and Safety is a Must!

Edited from information contributed by Alice K. Carpenter of the State Fire Marshal's Office.

As Labor Day approaches in September, West Virginians are preparing to celebrate with cookouts, family reunions, and other get-togethers. Unfortunately, these celebrations can quickly turn disastrous when children and teenagers are injured, sometimes severely and permanently, by so-called “safe and sane” fireworks.

Permissible under West Virginia law are items called “Novelties and Sparklers,” which include “snakes” and “glow worms,” smoke devices that produce white or colored smoke, trick noisemakers which include

“party poppers, string poppers, and snappers or drop pops,” and wire sparklers, as well as other sparkling devices which emit showers of sparks and sometimes a whistling or crackling effect when burning.

BY STATE LAW, NONE OF THESE NOVELTIES, SPARKLERS, AND SPARKLER DEVICES ARE TO BE SOLD TO ANYONE UNDER THE AGE OF 16.

In West Virginia, the most dangerous types of fireworks **prohibited by law** include large reloadable shells, festival balls or shots, cherry

bombs, aerial bombs (skyrockets or Roman candles), daygo bombs, M-80 salutes, and firecrackers. Also banned are the mail-order kits designed to build fireworks.

ANY VIOLATION OF THE FIREWORKS LAW IS A CITABLE OFFENSE!

According to the National Fire protection Association (NFPA), fireworks consistently cause more property damage than all other outdoor fire causes combined for the Fourth of July (day) in the U.S. NFPA's 2008 report on fireworks states:

- ✱ The trend in fireworks-related injuries has been mostly up since 1996. In 2006, 9,200 fireworks-related injuries were treated in U.S. hospital emergency rooms, and the highest injury rates are for children ages 10-14.
- ✱ In 2006, 90% of emergency room fireworks injuries involved fireworks permitted for consumer use by the federal government.
- ✱ Risk of fire death relative to time used shows fireworks are the riskiest consumer product. The chances of someone dying in a fire caused by fireworks is three times greater than the corresponding risk for cigarette-related fires.
- ✱ “Safe and sane” fireworks are neither! Fireworks and sparklers are designed to explode or throw off showers of hot sparks. Temperatures may exceed 1200°F – that's hot enough to melt metal.
- ✱ Burns are the leading type of injury from fireworks, followed by lacerations and contusions, all primarily involving the hands, fingers, face, and eyes.

The West Virginia Fire Marshal's Office advises that, by far, the safest way to enjoy fireworks is to attend an outdoor public display put on by specially trained pyrotechnic professionals. However, if you insist on using permitted sparklers and novelties, you should observe the following:

- ✱ Read and follow ALL directions and warnings on the label. NEVER experiment with homemade fireworks.
- ✱ Use permitted devices only with extreme caution. Older children should be closely supervised; young children should not be permitted to play with or be near fireworks. No running or horseplay should be allowed.
- ✱ Light ALL items OUTSIDE in a clear area away from houses or yard debris such as grass, brush, leaves, etc., and away from ANY flammable materials (gasoline cans, cleaning products, newspaper stacks, etc.). NEVER set off more than one item at a time, and never ignite them in a container.
- ✱ ALWAYS KEEP A BUCKET OF WATER OR WATERHOSE nearby for emergencies and for pouring on malfunctioning fireworks (duds). NEVER try to relight or handle a dud. Douse and soak it with water, then properly dispose of it.
- ✱ DON'T KEEP fireworks “around;” however, if you insist, make sure they are stored in a cool, dry, secure location. Do not store near heat sources, and check the package instructions for special storage directions.



For additional information on consumer fireworks safety, visit:

www.nfpa.org

www.usfa.fema.gov

www.cpsc.gov

Changes Made in Procedure for Employee Suggestion Award Board

Information contributed by Denny Rhodes of the Employee Suggestion Award Board.

Effective July 6, 2009, the procedure by which to submit a cost-saving idea or suggestion to the Employee Suggestion Award Board has changed.

Instead of beginning the process by submitting ideas to the Agency Idea Counselor, employees should send their submissions directly to the Employee Suggestion Award Board at the following address (interdepartmental mail can be used if available in your agency):

Employee Suggestion Award Board
Building 1, Room W-314
State Capitol Complex
Charleston, WV 25305

Upon receipt of the suggestion, the Board will forward it to the appropriate agency head for review. Agencies will have 60 days to review the suggestion and provide the Board with an evaluation report. The Board will review the suggestion along with the agency evaluation report, and make a determination as to whether the suggestion should be accepted.

Turn your cost-saving ideas into a win-win situation: Cash for **YOU** and savings for State Government. The form is available on the internet (www.legis.state.wv.us/Joint/EMPSUG/esab.cfm) or by calling 304-347-4890. You may also call this number for more information.

Wells Fargo Issues New ID Cards

Article (edited) and graphic reprinted from the July 2009 issue of PEIA NEWS.

The Public Employees Insurance Agency's medical claims administrator, Wells Fargo, has issued new combined medical and prescription drug ID cards to PPB Plan members for Plan Year 2010, which began July 1. A sample of the card is shown below.

The new plastic cards will serve as ID when you seek medical services. They will include contact information for Wells Fargo TPA, ExpressScripts, and Aetna Signature Administrators PPO, the new out-of-state network.

You should destroy any and all old cards and begin using your new cards immediately. If you need a replacement card or additional cards, contact Wells Fargo TPA at 1-888-440-7342.

Medical & Prescription Drug Card

1234567890
EMPLOYEE IDENTIFICATION

SUBSCRIBER S DOE
EMPLOYEE NAME

Wells Fargo Medical Group #7770

EXPRESS SCRIPTS* RxBin 003858
RxCN A4 RxCrip WVAA

THIS CARD DOES NOT PROVE MEMBERSHIP NOR GUARANTEE COVERAGE.

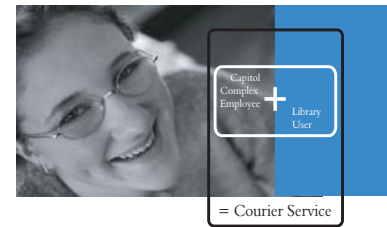
MEDICAL BENEFITS
For medical claims, benefit information, eligibility or precertification, call 304.353.7820 or toll free 888.440.7342. Please submit all medical claims to: Wells Fargo TPA, P.O. Box 2451, Charleston, WV 25329-2451 EDI #: 87815 <http://TPA.WellsFargo.com>

PRESCRIPTION BENEFITS:
Express Scripts: For drug claims information or to locate a participating pharmacy in your area, visit www.express-scripts.com or call member services at 877.256.4680. Please have this card available when you call.

PHARMACISTS:
Please obtain positive identification of the member presenting this card. For Pharmacist Help Desk 800.824.0898. Submit all prescription drug claims to Express Scripts, P.O. Box 66563, St. Louis, MO 63166

*Aetna Participating doctors and hospitals are independent providers and are neither agents nor employees of Aetna.

The front and back of your new ID Card should look like this.



Have you been missing all the latest professional and recreational materials because there isn't enough time to visit the library?

Then it's time to ask us to visit you!

The West Virginia Library Commission Courier Service is available to government employees working at the Capitol Complex.

It's simple, it's fast, and it's convenient. In three steps, we're on our way!

- Visit our website (www.librarycommission.lib.wv.us) to select materials from our online catalog.
- Email your request to our librarians at wvlcref@wvlc.lib.wv.us or click the for a form.
- Sign upon receipt of your materials.

If you aren't already a registered patron, we'll bring the registration card to you. Deliveries and returns are made once daily during normal business hours.

For additional information about Library services, please call 304.558.2045 or visit us in the Cultural Center.



WEST VIRGINIA LIBRARY COMMISSION

1900 Kanawha Blvd E
Charleston, WV 25305

Searching for low-cost health coverage for your kids?

Take a second look at CHIP!

The **NEW CHIP PREMIUM** program allows working families to purchase low-cost, comprehensive health coverage for their children at the rate of \$35/month for one child and \$71/month for 2 or more children.

Family Size	Premium Plan Max. Income/Yr.
2	\$36,425
3	\$45,775
4	\$55,125
5	\$64,475



Apply online at www.wvinroads.org or call 1-877-982-2447

Lakin Correctional Center Launches Mother-Infant Program

The Lakin Correction Center for Women (Lakin) began a new program on July 1 for inmates who deliver babies while incarcerated at the facility.

Called *Keeping Infant Development Successful (KIDS)*, the goal is to provide inmates the opportunity to establish loving bonds with their babies, as well as to help the women make successful transitions back into society *with their babies*, and hopefully reduce recidivism.

The KIDS program can take up to five women and their babies. When designed, the plans took into consideration the needs of both mothers and infants. Inmates who deliver while housed at Lakin will live in a special section of the facility and be able to provide 24/7 care to their children. In a safe, secure environment that encourages development and nurturing, the mothers will be provided with both educational and transitional programs so they can develop and build the skills needed to re-enter society and look for work. The babies benefit from the KIDS program by bonding with their mothers instead of being passed on to family or foster care.

There are program eligibility requirements. New moms and their babies can stay in the program for up to 18 months; therefore, the offenders must be within 18 months of parole or discharge. They must also have outside work clearance.

State law allows the Division of Corrections to accept gifts of money and property for this program, and help is needed on an ongoing basis. Furniture needs are met, but the program is in constant need of essentials such as:

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| Diapers in ALL sizes | Clothing and bibs in all baby/toddler sizes |
| Dishwasher detergent | Bath wash/shampoo, lotion, & other notions |
| Baby laundry detergent | Crib Sheets and Blankets |
| Wipes | Baby towels and wash cloths |

For the following, please call the center to see if needs have been met:

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 5 Diaper Genies | 3 Bouncy seats |
| 3 Swings | 5 Baby monitors |

Diapers are an immediate and constant need. Monetary donations are needed, too, for items like bottles, teething rings, car seats (to transport the children when their moms are released) and replacement of all items when supplies run low or items break. Donations can be sent to (make checks out to Lakin Correctional Center KIDS Program):

**Lakin Correctional Center for Women
KIDS Program
11264 Ohio River Road
West Columbia, WV 25287**

If you need additional information, please call Craig Roberts, Associate Warden of Programs, at 304-674-2440.

Lakin is a minimum security facility and West Virginia's only all-female institution.



Pencil In ...



The State Fire Marshal's Office reminds us that **September is National Campus Fire Safety Month**. Before your son or daughter heads off to the dorms, check that the building is fully sprinklered, has appropriate smoke detectors and alarms, has no obvious fire hazards, and that your young adult knows to take every alarm **SERIOUSLY**. To read additional campus fire safety facts and tips, visit www.firemarshal.wv.gov/Documents/College%20Fire%20Safety%20SEPT%202007_web.pdf.




WORKFORCE
West Virginia

Know someone out of work? Have him/her check the **job openings online** through WorkForce West Virginia at <https://public.workforcewv.org>. Click "Find A Job."



If you're looking for child care, a place to start could be the Bureau for Children and Families' website at www.wvdhhr.org/bcf/ece/cccenters/.

 is a publication of the West Virginia Department of Administration, Division of Personnel

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