

March is Census Month and Where is Spring?

Reprinted (with edits) from the First Lady's Desk: A Monthly Message by First Lady Gayle C. Manchin.



West Virginia First Lady Gayle C. Manchin urges all citizens to complete their census forms. Photo from the First Lady's page on the Governor's Office website (www.wv.gov.org).

I am sure that by now you have read in the newspaper, heard on the radio, or seen on TV all of the information around the Census being taken during the month of March. The U.S. Census counts every resident in the United States, and is required by the Constitution to take place every 10 years. It is vitally important to West Virginia that every resident be counted. Census information affects the numbers of seats our State will have in the U.S. House of Representatives. Many national groups will use census data to advocate for causes, to set up rescue for disaster victims, to provide medicines for disease prevention, to locate research markets, and to promote numbers of skilled workers and much more.

It's easy to see what an accurate count of residents can do for each of our communities. It can create a source for better infrastructure and more comprehensive services. In fact, the information from this year's census will determine how over \$400 billion dollars of federal funding each year is spent on entities like hospitals, job training centers, schools, senior centers, public works projects like bridges and tunnels, and emergency services. This census is the shortest in history, with only 10 questions, so please fill it out and mail it back. If you don't, a census worker will come to your house to complete it – be sure to ask for proper identification.

A sure sign of spring is when we begin planning our annual Easter event for children. Joe and I are very excited with the ideas that have been incorporated this year from our staff and our agencies. **We are hosting an Easter Carnival on Saturday, April 3, from 1 PM to 4 PM on the North Plaza of the Capitol.** There will be a variety of games with prizes, and plenty of food, drinks, snow cones, and cotton candy. In addition, there will be several roving clowns creating balloon art and face painting. As always,

the Easter Bunny has promised to be there for pictures and there will very possibly be some live animals, and maybe even a magician!

There will certainly be something for children and families of all ages. In addition to an abundance of Easter eggs that will be handed out, extraordinary door prizes for children 12 and younger will be awarded at 3:30 PM. While tickets are not necessary, prize tickets will be distributed to the children as they arrive, and the children must be present to win. As with all of our previous Easter events, we will be hosting this fun afternoon, rain or shine. The stately Capitol Rotunda becomes our alternative if the weather does not cooperate. However, Joe and I are beginning to do our Spring Sunshine Dance, so hopefully we will have a warm, sunny day and the grounds will be filled with beautiful spring flowers and a multitude of happy, laughing children celebrating spring, enjoying the carnival, and making us all feel a little younger! Please come and join us!

CENSUS SAFETY

If you are visited by a U.S. Census Worker, that person should have with him/her:

- ◆ An identification badge
- ◆ A handheld data device
- ◆ A Census Bureau canvas bag
- ◆ A Confidentiality Notice

New Veterans Cemetery Slated for West Virginia

On February 18, 2010, Governor Joe Manchin joined U.S. Senator Jay Rockefeller, West Virginia Veterans Affairs Director Keith Gwinn, and Dow Chemical representatives to announce a land transfer deal between Dow and the State of West Virginia for the purpose of establishing a new Veterans cemetery for the State. Many local Veterans Affairs officials were also present for the announcement.

“Our veterans and their families have put everything on the line for our security and freedom, and I am pleased that this agreement was made possible. This will allow us to properly honor those heroes who have given the ultimate sacrifice,” Manchin said.

In December, 2007, the Division of Veterans Affairs (at the direction of the West Virginia Veterans Council) prepared a feasibility study for Governor Manchin’s approval. During the following legislative session in 2008, the West Virginia Legislature enacted legislation to allow lottery proceeds to provide operation funding for the cemetery.

The agreement between Dow Chemical and the State for the donation has been signed, with transfer of the deed expected sometime in March, 2010.



West Virginia
GOVERNOR'S
INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

College students looking for summer work may apply to the Governor's Internship Program. The program offers high-achieving students an opportunity to get real-world experience. For information and requirements, or to apply, visit

www.wv.gov/gip/

PEIA Open Enrollment: April 1-30, 2010

This is the time to make changes to your insurance. PEIA's benefits fairs will be held as follows:

- April 5 - Charleston (2 sessions)
- April 6 - Parkersburg
- April 7 - Martinsburg
- April 8 - Morgantown (2 sessions)
- April 12 - Wheeling
- April 13 - Beckley
- April 15 - Huntington

Specific times and locations can be obtained from PEIA's website at www.peia.wv.gov or by calling 304-558-7850

Benefit fairs that have not been previously well-attended have been eliminated to reduce costs. Shoppers Guides will be sent to everyone; tobacco affidavit forms will not. To change your tobacco use status, download a form from PEIA's website or call them at 304-558-7850.

NEW EEO POSTER AVAILABLE

The EEOC has revised its "Equal Employment Opportunity is the Law" poster.

This new version reflects current federal employment discrimination law (including the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008). The poster was revised to add information about the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008, which became effective November 21, 2009. The revised poster also includes updates from the Department of Labor.



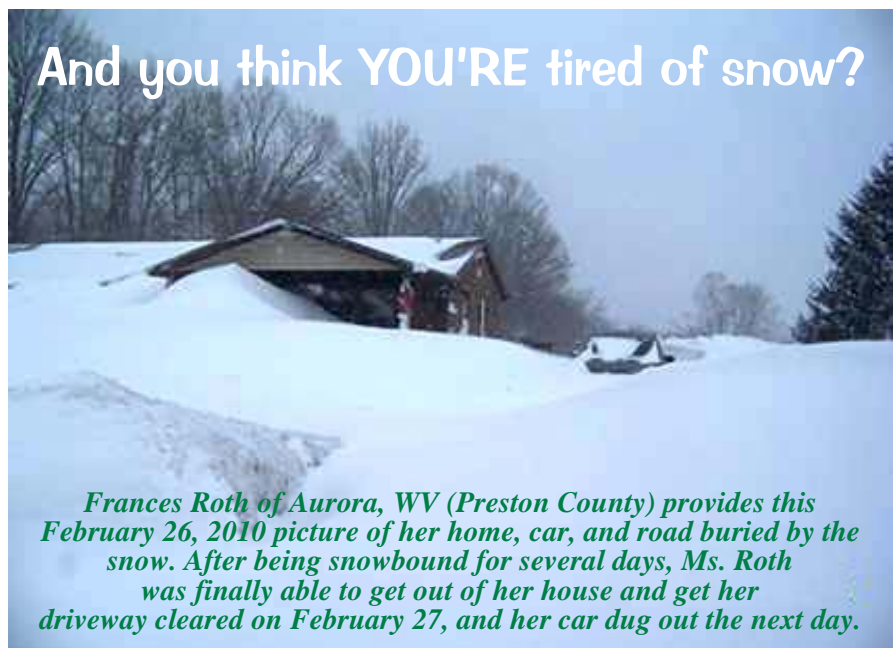
You can download the new poster at:

www.eeoc.gov/employers/upload/eeoc_self_print_poster.pdf

You'll find additional information or to order posters from the EEOC:

www1.eeoc.gov/employers/poster.cfm

And you think YOU'RE tired of snow?



Frances Roth of Aurora, WV (Preston County) provides this February 26, 2010 picture of her home, car, and road buried by the snow. After being snowbound for several days, Ms. Roth was finally able to get out of her house and get her driveway cleared on February 27, and her car dug out the next day.

Art Museum of WVU Selections on Display at Culture Center

Article (with edits) and graphic contributed by Terri Marion of the Division of Culture and History.

The West Virginia Division of Culture and History unveiled a new exhibit in the Commissioner's Gallery and the West Virginia State Museum's Lobby Gallery on Tuesday, February 23, at the Culture Center, State Capitol Complex in Charleston. The show, entitled *PreView: The Art Museum of West Virginia University – Selections from the Collection*, features works from the school's world class collection of artwork. An opening reception was held in the Great Hall with music provided by a four-man West Virginia University (WVU) Steel Drum Ensemble.

The exhibit is held in honor of WVU's new first lady, Beth Clements. She and her husband, Dr. James P. Clements, the president of WVU, spoke in the Norman L. Fagan West Virginia State Theater at 6:30 P.M. Visitors were then lead on a tour of the exhibit by Culture and History Commissioner Randall Reid-Smith.

Beth Clements discussed the importance of art in her family. Her mother is an artist who inspired a love of art in Beth and the Clements' four children, emphasizing how it can be used to communicate. Beth believes that art is a universal cultural connector that allows people to relate regardless of lifestyle or occupation.

The exhibition comprises 42 pieces in a wide variety of media, with works by West Virginia artists Blanche Lazzell and Grace Martin Taylor as well as a lithograph by Jasper Johns, a black and white etching by Pablo Picasso, serigraphs by Andy Warhol and Roy Lichtenstein, and photographs by Ansel Adams, among others.

The Art Museum of West Virginia University's Collection currently contains some 2,500 works of art and was created through private gifts, alumni donations, and purchases. Its scope is international and

includes paintings, prints, works on paper, historic and contemporary ceramics, art from West Virginia and the surrounding region, as well as works from Asia and Africa. The collection holds the largest public assemblage of American Modernist Blanche Lazzell.

After years of planning, the Art Museum at WVU is becoming a reality with an expected opening date in the spring of 2012. The new museum, which will be near the Creative Arts Center, will present both touring exhibitions and displays drawn from the university art collection in two galleries with approximately 5,300 square feet of space. The building is being designed to be energy-efficient while controlling light, humidity, and temperature levels within the ranges required to protect the works of art. Plans include a print study area, spacious lobby, climate-controlled art storage space, and exhibit work area.

For more about the exhibition, contact Charles Morris, Collections and Exhibits Manager for the Division, at 304-558-0220.



This color woodblock print by Blanche Lazzell is one of 42 art pieces on display at the Culture Center from the Art Museum of West Virginia University.

West Virginia Public Radio Adds 10th Station

Information contributed by Shawn Patterson of West Virginia Public Broadcasting.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has issued a construction permit for an FM transmitter in the Bluefield/Princeton area for West Virginia Public Broadcasting (WVPB), which will allow the addition of West Virginia Public Radio's 10th station.

Executive Director Dennis Adkins says that WVPB has been working for nearly three years to obtain all the needed funding and permits. According to Adkins, "The new station fills in a big area of the State, including Mercer and McDowell counties. It also encompasses our Concord University News Bureau in Athens." Adkins estimates the addition of up to 100,000 listeners.

Work on the new transmitter will begin when the weather breaks and is expected to be completed sometime during the summer of 2011. Call letters are not yet assigned, but the station will broadcast on 88.5 FM.

To review the other stations in the WVPB network and their coverage area, visit:

www.wvpubcast.org/about.aspx?id=724&linkidentifier=id&itemid=724

DMV's eCDL Program Wins State and National Awards



Article and photo contributed by Natalie Harvey of the Division of Motor Vehicles.

The West Virginia Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) created a progressive alliance in 2005 with the Rahall Transportation Institute (RTI) that won a national award regarding its Electronic Commercial Driver's Licensing Testing Program (eCDL). The winners of the 2009 Innovations Award, Southern Region, were announced Tuesday, August 18, 2009 in Winston-Salem, North Carolina at the Southern Legislative Conference. The award



WV eCDL Award Winners
 Mike Gordon, Steve Shelton,
 Commissioner Joe Miller, Governor Joe
 Manchin, Dempsey Totten, Wilbur
 Thaxton, Mark Holmes, and Mike Myers

was presented to the DMV at the Annual National Meeting in La Quinta, California, on November 14, 2009. DMV employees also promoted the eCDL Program throughout the conference with an informational booth.

Additionally, the eCDL Program won a West Virginia Office of Technology 2009 Information Technology Award for the category "Information Communications Technology Innovations." This award was presented on November 5, 2009.

DMV employees who continue to be an integral part of the implementation and success of the West Virginia eCDL Program include: Dempsey Totten, Wilbur Thaxton, Steve Shelton, and Mark Holmes.

WV eCDL is an original program developed by the DMV to make the testing aspect of getting a Commercial driver's license free of fraud and paperless by utilizing laptop computers with a Global Positioning System (GPS) to track CDL tests. Other benefits of the program include savings of \$500,000 annually to the State, a reduction in licensing errors, and the decrease of the DMV State Fleet by 60 percent through the improved efficiency of the test monitoring process.

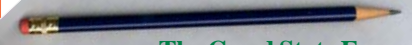
Interested in How to

Keep Your Child Away from Tobacco Use?

The Alcohol Beverage Control Administration has several links on their website to information that can help you steer your kids away from using tobacco. Visit

www.abca.wv.gov/education/Pages/Tobacco.aspx

Pencil In ...



The Co-ed State Employees' Softball League

is gearing up for the new season. Eligible participants include full- and part-time State employees, current interns, legislative per diem employees, and State contract employees. Spouses are eligible too, as are those who played in the league for one full season prior to the upcoming season even if he/she is no longer employed by the State. For more, email Jordan Kirk by April 30 at Jordan.Kirk@wvsao.gov.



What's the difference between a tax credit and a tax deduction?

Both help save money. A tax credit reduces the tax owed dollar for dollar; a tax deduction reduces the amount of income that is taxable.



In winter, I get up at night and dress by yellow candlelight. In summer, quite the other way: I have to go to bed by day.



Robert Louis Stevenson

Stateline

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