

Stay connected with McDowell

McDowell County is an American story that deserves a new chapter—one filled with promise, with goodwill, with the type of shared commitment that offers solid reasons to believe in a brighter future. Be a part of this historic partnership and show your support for McDowell's children and the greater community by joining the effort at www.ReconnectingMcDowell.org.

Save Our State Tour Pushes for Coalfields Highway

Reconnecting McDowell supported West Virginia Gov. Jim Justice's Save Our State Tour kickoff event in Slab Fork in Raleigh County in February. The governor organized the tour to highlight the need to complete the Coalfields Expressway (U.S. Route 121). If plans are successful, the completed highway from Mullens to Welch would

create 2,200 jobs, which would help fulfill two of Reconnecting McDowell's covenant commitments to address transportation needs and further economic development.

Reconnecting McDowell worked on outreach for the event, which was attended by approximately 300 people. Gov. Justice said he would do

everything in his ability to actualize plans to complete the Coalfields Expressway and build the King Coal Highway because the two major projects will breathe new life into the southern part of the state. The Save Our State fund would be created from the governor's budget and tax revenue measures.

Gov. Jim Justice shared his plan to enable the completion of King Coal Highway and Coalfields Expressway.



More than 300 West Virginians gathered in Slab Fork to listen to Gov. Jim Justice lay out his plans to revitalize the state.

Help Mount View High School Track Team Participate in the State Meet

Last year, the boys track and field team from Mount View High School advanced to the state meet for the first time in two decades. Mount View didn't have a track team until a transfer student inspired his classmates to jump-start the team. The basketball coach volunteered to coach the boys who ran wearing their basketball uniforms. The high school is seeking donations, which will be used to purchase

uniforms, track shoes and to help cover fees to participate in the state meet. Help these young men continue the Golden Knight pride by returning to the state meet in Charleston. Checks should be made out to Mount View High School with "track team" in the memo line and mailed to: Mount View High School, 950 Mount View Road, Welch WV 24801: Attn: Felicia Newbill.

River View Girls Basketball Team Represents the County at State Tournament



With the help of union members, Reconnecting McDowell raised funds to send more than 200 River View High School students to Charleston to cheer on the girls basketball team in a state tournament game against Bluefield High School. The game was held at the Charleston Civic Center, and Bluefield advanced with a 53-41 win over the River View Raiders. Congrats to the River View team for making it to the tournament!

Partner Spotlight: McDowell County FACES

McDowell County FACES (Families, Agencies, Children Enhancing Services) is a Reconnecting McDowell partner that plays an integral role in the County. FACES is a nonprofit organization comprising working people whose goal is to improve the lives of McDowell children and families by providing informational resources and facilitating access to services. FACES also lends support to individuals and organizations through the development of strategic plans, mobilization, grant-writing assistance, and facilitating workshops, among other services.

The McDowell County Health Opportunities for Positive Education (HOPE) Coalition is an arm of FACES. The HOPE Coalition is dedicated to strengthening its partners' capacity to create and maintain safe, healthy, drug-free communities, with a focus on reducing substance-abuse rates among young people. The HOPE Coalition meets the fourth Monday of every month at 10:30 a.m. in the FACES office, 25 Bank St., in Welch. FACES publishes monthly newsletters, which you can read at <http://bit.ly/facesfrn>.

Partners to Convene in May

The Reconnecting McDowell Partners Meeting will be held May 22-23 at Twin Falls State Resort Park in Mullens. To RSVP and receive additional details, go to <http://bit.ly/rmcdowell>. The meeting will convene partners and board members to assess the project's direction and how to continue to support Reconnecting McDowell.

Community Events

The next Family Advisory Council meeting will be held May 23 at the Phoenix Center in Welch at 10:30 a.m. The monthly meetings are organized by the McDowell County Schools for parents and community residents to encourage parent involvement and provide family learning tools, including information on literacy and good nutrition. A light lunch will be provided. For more information, contact Amanda Fragile at afragile@k12.wv.us or call 304-436-8441, ext. 250.

Social Media

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-  Like us on Facebook: [facebook.com/ReconnectMcD](https://www.facebook.com/ReconnectMcD)

For a list of Reconnecting McDowell partners, visit www.ReconnectingMcDowell.org/partners

Want to get involved or learn more?

For more information about Reconnecting McDowell or to find out how you can get involved, contact Kris Mallory, kmallory@aftwv.org, or Debra Elmore at delmore@aftwv.org or 304-552-5766.

