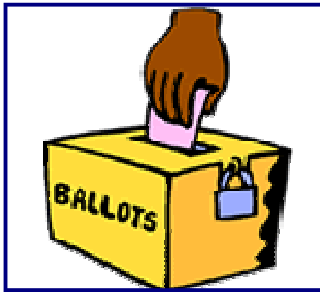




RIC Messenger

A publication of the Regional Intergovernmental Council

Summer 2016



Newly Elected Officials

- City of Marmet: Mayor David Fontalbert
- Town of Poca: Mayor Jane Caruthers

Current RIC Officers

Chairman
1st Vice-Chairman
2nd Vice-Chairman
3rd Vice-Chairman
Treasurer
Secretary

Jerry Linkinoggor, Clay County Commission
Buck Chestnut, Town of Belle
James Hudnall, Town of Cedar Grove
Terry Greenlee, City of Dunbar
Dick Callaway, City of St. Albans
S. K. Miller, Workforce Investment Board



Community Development Project Updates

The Regional Council is administering the 8 million dollar Nitro Regional Wastewater Authority Project, acting as the Labor Compliance Officer. The project is over halfway completed and is progressing within the projected time frame.

TechConnectWV's EDA Planning Initiative for providing assistance to new high-tech businesses is moving forward. With the assistance of sub-recipients in Morgantown, South Charleston, Huntington and Bluefield, mentoring the entrepreneurs in this industry is vital to West Virginia businesses.

The Kanawha-Charleston Housing Authority contracted with the Regional Intergovernmental Council to provide environmental clearance assistance involving the acquisition and rehabilitation phases for various projects.

The Clay Roane Public Service District-Camp Creek Water Storage Tank and Booster Station project is currently awaiting approval from the Public Service Commission of West Virginia. This approval will be necessary for consideration to receive formal construction bids. The project is anticipated to be completed within nine months from the starting point of construction.

The following projects in Region 3 are in the development stages: the Boone County Public Service District sewer plant upgrade, the BCPSD Morrisvale/Cameo Waterline Extension, and the Belle Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The Regional Intergovernmental Council assisted four municipalities/agencies in applying for HUD-Community Development Block Grants. Those four entities included the Town of Clay, the Town of Cedar Grove, the Kanawha County Commission and the Putnam County Commission.

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Update

RIC completed the annual Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Update for FY 2016, as required by the Economic Development Administration. The 2016 Update captures new development and other economic changes that took place within the Region in the last year. The Update also revisits the goals, strategies and projects list included in the plan. RIC's CEDS Committee approved the 2016 CEDS Update at their meeting on May 19, 2016, followed by the RIC policy board approval at the June 9, 2016 quarterly meeting. The FY 2016 CEDS Update is posted on the RIC website. (www.wvregion3.org) for public viewing.



RIC staff members, Scott Ferry, Andy Martin and Kelsey Harrah are participating in the 2016 Leadership Kanawha Valley program, sponsored by the Charleston Area Alliance.

Colt Sandoro, Scott Ferry and Andy Martin attended the APA National Planning Conference in Phoenix, Arizona, April 2nd-6th.

SoJuana Ellis and Joyce Rockwell attended the NADO/DDAA and EDA conferences in Washington, D.C., April 3rd-8th.

RIC Staff attended the West Virginia Regional Planning & Development Councils Annual Conference hosted by Region 4 at Adventures on the Gorge in Lansing, West Virginia May 22nd-25th. This year's conference focused heavily on community engagement and grass-roots economic development efforts, including a visit and presentation by Linda Cruz-Carnall, the newly appointed Regional Director of the U.S. Economic Development Administration's Philadelphia Regional Office. Sessions were also held on changes on legal issues surrounding water and waste water development and transportation issues. We would like to extend a thank you to Executive Director, John Tuggle and his "awesome" staff at Region 4.

On June 21st and 22nd, Kelsey Harrah, SoJuana Ellis and Terry Martin attended a HUD Section 3 training session to gain knowledge of revised HUD guidelines and regulations.

Joyce Rockwell, who has been employed at RIC for 24 years, has retired as of April 29th. She and her husband, Hugh, will soon be moving to North Carolina, to be closer to their family. We wish her the very best!





We would like to welcome, Kelsey Harrah to our staff as our Executive Assistant. Kelsey is a Charleston native and a graduate of West Virginia University. She is looking forward to her new career at the Regional Council. We would also like to welcome Adam Gillepsie, our Summer Intern. Adam is a native of St. Albans and a graduate of Alderson Broaddus University, and will be attending Carnegie-Mellon University starting in the Fall for Graduate School.



Local Devastation, The Flood of June 2016

Beginning on June 23, 2016, areas spanning across several counties in West Virginia, some of them located within Region 3, were left devastated as flood waters rose to extremely high levels. Thousands of residents from Clay and Kanawha counties were affected by this tragic disaster, leaving many families displaced, with many homes and businesses either damaged or completely destroyed. The flood claimed the lives of over twenty West Virginians and has left the affected areas in a state of distress. The initial damage assessment from Kanawha County speculated that an estimated 800 structures were destroyed, leaving 1,100 people homeless. In Clay County, and other affected counties, the total estimated loss of structures is still being determined. Volunteers from around the affected communities, throughout the State, and across the nation, are helping aid in the recovery and relief efforts. FEMA, along with the American Red Cross, and other various agencies stationed themselves in the affected areas to assist the victims of the disaster. There is still much work to be done, which may take years, for the affected communities to completely rebuild and restore what once was.



Photos by Charleston Gazette-Mail and ClayBerry.org

If you would prefer to receive our newsletter electronically, OR if you wish to be taken off our mailing list, please email Kelsey Harrah at kharrah@wvregion3.org

Regional Transportation Projects Update

Several transportation improvement projects and studies are underway around the region. Below is a list of projects and studies that continue to progress or are in still the planning stages:

U.S. Route 35: Bizzack Construction has begun major grade and drainage work on the remaining 14.6 mile section of U.S. 35 in Putnam and Mason counties. Construction is anticipated to be completed by 2018.

Jefferson Road: The environmental assessment of alternative alignments for widening and improvements to Jefferson Road (WV 601) in South Charleston is complete. A public meeting to present the alternative alignments was held on July 11th from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm at the South Charleston Recreation Center.

Kanawha Blvd. Charleston Bicycle Lane: The City of Charleston is awaiting approval from regulatory agencies for a proposed bicycle path to be constructed along Kanawha Boulevard in Charleston, located between Magic Island and Patrick Street. Construction is anticipated to begin in the spring of 2017.

Interstate 64 Widening between Scott Depot and Nitro: The environmental assessment for the widening of Interstate 64 from four to six lanes between Scott Depot and Nitro is complete. The West Virginia Division of Highways anticipates soliciting bids for the project in the fall of 2016 and awarding the contract before the summer of 2017.

We are currently in the process of updating the RIC Directory for 2016-2017. Mailings which include last year's directory information will soon be sent to all County Commission offices, Regional Development Councils and municipalities to ensure all information is up to date. Please return any changes by e-mail, fax or mail to kharrah@wvregion3.org by July 29th.

Fax: (304) 744-2534

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Regional Intergovernmental Council

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South Charleston, WV 25303



30-Year-Olds: Then and Now

1975

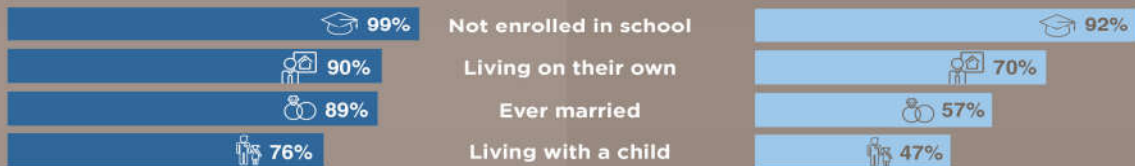
71%

2015

32%

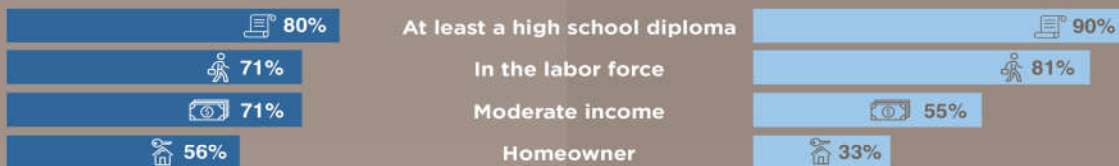
In 1975, nearly 3 in 4 30-year-olds had married, had a child, were not enrolled in school, and lived on their own.
In 2015, just 1 in 3 30-year-olds have these characteristics.

Characteristics of Young Adults* (In percent)



Today, more 30-year-olds have earned at least a high school diploma and are in the labor force, while fewer are earning a moderate income or are homeowners.

Selected Socioeconomic Characteristics of Young Adults** (In percent)



* Enrollment status is independent of labor force participation. In 1975, we can only identify whether the young adult lives with a child under 18, and not necessarily whether they are the parent of the child.
** A moderate income is defined as a household income between 66 percent and 200 percent of the national median household income. Women who were out of the labor force because they reported taking care of home or family were still counted as having all four socioeconomic characteristics, as long as they met the other three characteristics (diploma, income, and homeownership). To be a homeowner, the 30-year-old must be the householder or spouse of the householder who owns or is buying their home (i.e., not renting).

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, 1975 and 2015.

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Upcoming RIC Meetings:

September 8, 2016

December 8, 2016

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Chairman: Jerry Linkinoggor

Executive Director: Colt Sandoro

Newsletter prepared by Kelsey Harrah

The preparation of this newsletter is financially aided by grants from the Economic Development Administration, the U. S. Department of Transportation and the Appalachian Regional Commission.