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Promoting Pride in Princeton & Mercer County

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MISSION STATEMENT

"The Princeton-Mercer County Chamber of Commerce promotes economic development and advances professional and educational growth to our businesses and communities"

To receive information on how you can become a Chamber member contact us:
Princeton-Mercer County Chamber of Commerce
1522 North Walker Street – Princeton, WV 24740 – Phone: (304) 487-1502, Fax: (304) 425-0227
Web site: www.pmccc.com – E-Mail: pmccc@frontiernet.net

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Welcome and Introduction

Robert Farley President & CEO

From the Princeton-Mercer County Chamber of Commerce

On behalf of the Princeton-Mercer County Chamber of Commerce, I want to welcome you to Princeton, Mercer County, West Virginia. We are proud of the area we serve including portions of southern West Virginia. The region is

deeply rooted in railroading and coal mining. The region has some of the richest seams of coal and is recognized for its high quality. Over the years the economy has changed to a service based economy. There are only a few manufacturing businesses and very few coal mines. Healthcare and education are the driving forces that push our area.



Keith Circle Executive Assistant

Many people feel that, to find opportunity, you have to live in a large city. The residents of Princeton and Mercer County would like to prove these people wrong. We personally know that opportunities can be found in small areas. We also know that you can find low crime rate, lower taxes, friendly people and an overall lower cost of living in a small community.

The highway system in Mercer County has helped move our economy forward. Exit 9 (I-77 & Route 460) is flourishing with new businesses which include motels. restaurants, retail, college, banks, and car dealerships. This is one of the major intersections in the state and is still growing.

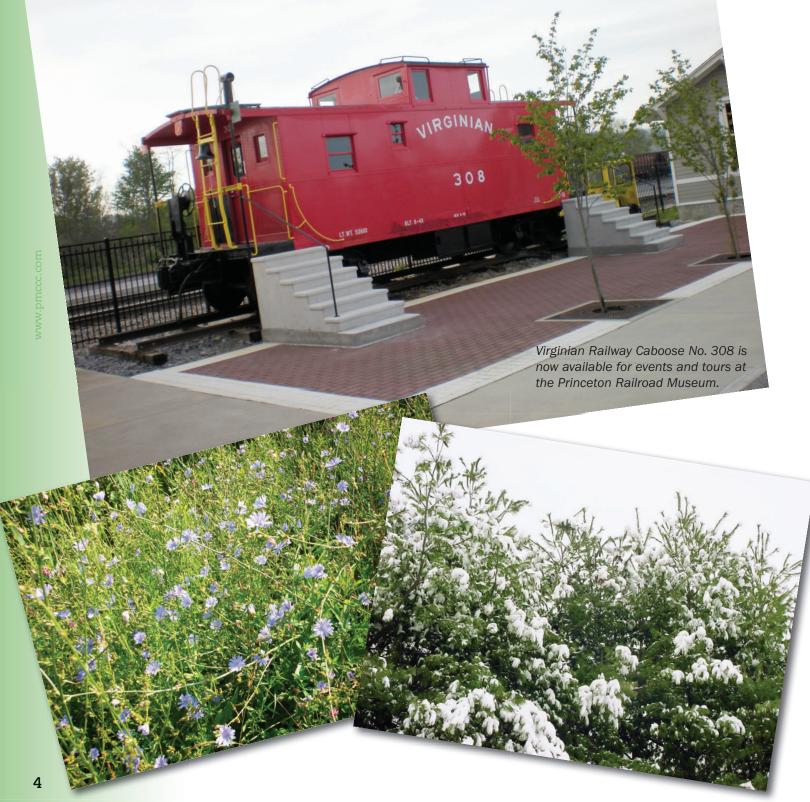
I would be remiss if I didn't mention our workforce. Some of our core businesses over the years have demanded hard work, and that work ethic has been handed down from generation to generation. Businesses that want to locate here will benefit from this type of workforce.

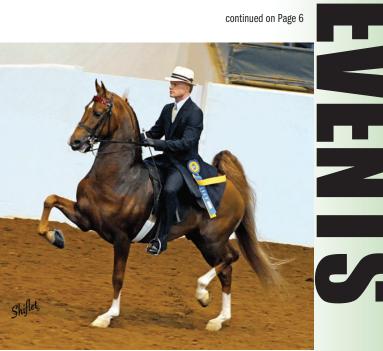


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This publication is the first for Princeton-Mercer County Chamber of Commerce. We have never produced a directory that highlights our entire membership, businesses & community. This publication would not have been possible without the support and help from many volunteers, advertisers, and the sales and editorial staff of the Bluefield Daily Telegraph.

Take a moment to look at this booklet. We hope you find it informative and helpful, and we invite you to browse through the pages and save the resources for future reference. If you want more information, check our web site www.pmccc.com or contact us for more details on what our area has to offer. Chances are that you are going to discover that one of the areas located in Princeton or somewhere in Mercer County is the right place for you. �





JANUARY

 Princeton-Mercer County Chamber of Commerce's Annual Dinner

FEBRUARY

 Concord University Annual Ground Hog Day Breakfast

MARCH

- Greater Bluefield Chamber of Commerce's Four Seasons Women's Conference
- All Together Arts Week

APRII

Greater Bluefield Chamber of Commerce's Better Living Show

MAY

- Princeton-Mercer County Chamber of Commerce's Shrimp Feast
- Princeton-Mercer County Chamber of Commerce's Golf Tournament
- Greater Bluefield Chamber of Commerce's Cole Chevy Mountain
- Bramwell Spring Home Tour

JUNE

- June August Princeton Rays Baseball
- June August Bluefield Jays

JULY

Pipestem's Summer Outdoor Amphitheatre Series

AUGUST

- Athens/Concord Town Social
- Mercer County Fair
- Lemonade Days in Bluefield
- Blue-Gray Shriner's Horse Show

SEPTEMBER

- Greater Bluefield Chamber of Commerce's Coal Symposium (biennial event)
- Greater Bluefield Chamber of Commerce's Coal Show (biennial event)
- Princeton-Mercer County Chamber of Commerce's Princeton AutumnFest

continued from Page 5

OCTOBER

- Bramwell Octoberfest
- Italian Heritage Festival
- Shriner's Oyster Dinner
- Princeton-Mercer County Chamber of Commerce's Women's Expo

NOVEMBER

- Bluefield's Holiday of Lights
- Princeton-Mercer County Chamber of Commerce's Christmas Parade

DECEMBER

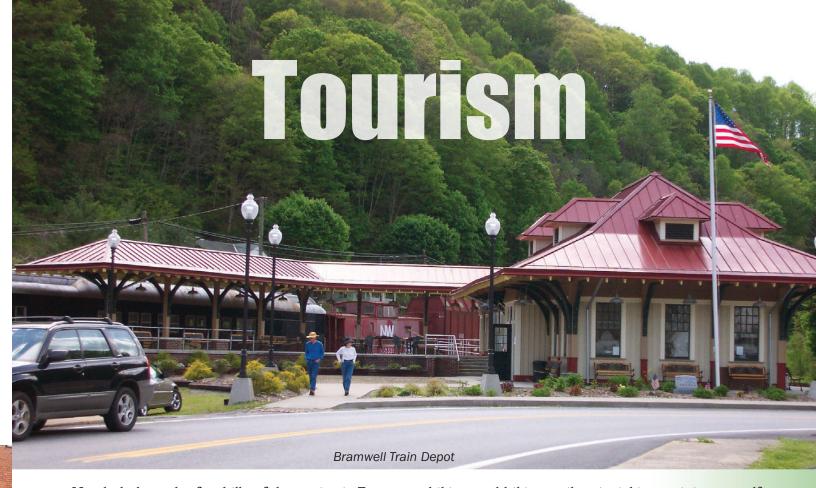
 Princeton-Mercer County Chamber of Commerce's Open House-McNutt House



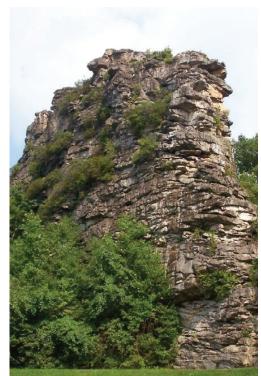
Above Right: Community Connections Executive Director Greg Puckett rallies the crowd at an ESPN All-Stars game.



Above: Crowds enjoy the annual Princeton AutumnFest



Nestled along the foothills of the majestic East River Mountain is Mercer County-West Virginia's Southern Gateway to unsurpassed scenic beauty and an unexpected variety of attractions. The glorious mountains surround the contemporary, but quiet small towns. The area, known for its rich coal heritage, antique and mall shopping, quaint B&Bs and local attractions, is nestled in a tranquil environment with charming people.



Nearby state parks including Pipestem, Pinnacle Rock, Camp Creek, and Bluestone, provide picturesque settings to enjoy beautiful scenery.

Mercer
County operates
Glenwood
Recreational
Park which
offers a 55-acre
lake, fishing,
playgrounds,

hiking and biking trails, picnicking, miniature golf, tennis courts and paddleboats. Princeton City Park offers an Olympic-size pool with water slide, an exercise trail, skate park, playground and picnic shelters.

Mercer County is home to a magnificent coal story. Rich deposits of coal were discovered deep in the mountains. Princeton is home to the Princeton Railroad Museum, housing artifacts from The Virginian Railway known as the "Richest Little Railroad in the World." This railway eventually merged with what we now know as Norfork & Southern Railway.

"Dedicated to Those Who Served," The Mercer County War Museum located in Princeton is filled with articles and true wartime memorabilia from the Civil War to present day wars. The McNutt House, a Civil War Era home located on the Civil War Trail in West Virginia, was the last known standing structure when the town of Princeton was burned during the Civil War. The Chuck Mathena Center, the newest performing arts theatre is host to a Rotunda Art Gallery, a Grand Hall and a beautiful proscenium theatre with plush stadium seating for 1,000. Mercer County recently designated a Certified Arts Community, includes the cities of Princeton and Bluefield.

continued on page 8

continued from Page 7

In the historic town of Bramwell, one may view the statuesque mansions once occupied by famous coal operators. In the early 1900s, 14 trains a day stopped in Bramwell, once considered the richest small town in America. During that time, it was home to as many as 19 millionaires and their families, who made their fortunes in the abundantly rich Pocahontas Coalfield.

Baseball lovers can enjoy the action of two professional baseball franchises in Mercer County. The Princeton

Rays is an affiliate of the Tampa Bay Rays. Enjoy their games at Hunnicutt Field, a modern new stadium in the Appalachian League. Bowen Field is now the home of the Bluefield Blue Jays, an affiliate of the Toronto Blue Jays.

We invite you to enjoy all that Princeton and Mercer County have to offer. �

Top right: ATV riders ready for a Poker Run. The area is an ATV enthusiast's dream with a natural terrain that hosts miles of challenging as well as beginner trails.

Above: A scene from the annual Mercer County Fair

Right: The Railroad Heritage Museum.













Lodging Restaurants

There is a large variety of restaurants, motels and bed & breakfasts in Princeton and the surrounding area. Exit-9 at the I-77/Route 460 intersection has a majority of the restaurants and motels. In most of the cases, the motels and restaurants are in walking distance of each other. Exit 9 is about halfway from major hubs in Ohio and the Myrtle Beach area, making it a convenient location to stop and get something to eat and take a break or just stop and spend the night.

There are approximately 100 restaurants in Princeton and the surrounding area. A wide variety dining options are offered from fast foods, Mexican, Italian, seafood, Oriental, to good old down-home Southern cooking. •





In March of 2010, Mercer County was named one of West Virginia's five Certified Arts Communities by the West Virginia Division of Culture and History. The distinction is an honor to all those around the county who created our thriving arts community: educators, artists, musicians, writers, dancers, singers, volunteers, and patrons.

Princeton and Mercer County are alive with venues for the performing arts, art galleries,

museums, coffee houses and local night clubs. Bluegrass, country, pop, jazz, gospel and blues music keep the past alive and tell the story of who we are.

There are two state-of-the-art centers in Mercer County – the Chuck Mathena Center in Princeton and the Performing Arts Center in Bluefield. Each one brings in a large variety of entertainment including the theatre, ballets, concerts and other nationally acclaimed artists.



Art galleries displaying the talent of young artists in the area are located throughout the county.

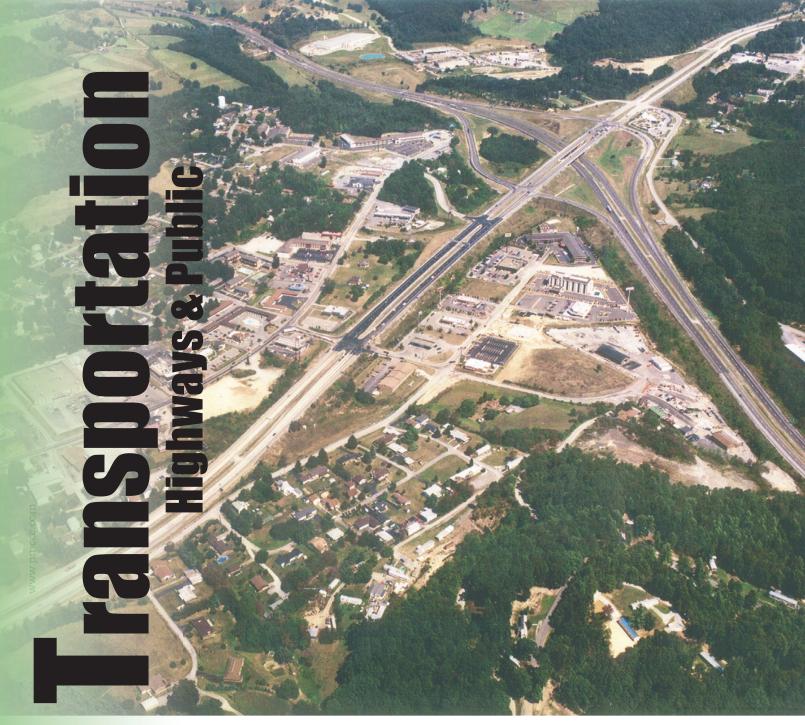
Museums that are located in Mercer County really tell the story of our past culture. The Princeton Railroad Museum displays all types of photos, books, artifacts and railroad material that will take you back in time. The "Those Who Served" War Museum located in Princeton displays artifacts back to World War I. Bramwell, West Virginia houses the Coal Heritage Trail Interpretive Center where you can learn how coal

played an important part of our culture today.

The music in our area also tells a story of who we are in Princeton, Mercer County, West Virginia. Mountain music, gospel, bluegrass, and country tell where we all came from and the challenges we faced getting here. You can hear this music at local coffee houses, concerts that are hosted periodically by Appalachian Highlands Music Association, Culturefest, and other venues. Local nightclubs also play rock, jazz and pop for those that enjoy that type of music. �

> May - August Tuesday-Saturday: 12-5 pm





Princeton, Mercer County, West Virginia lies at the hub of several major transportation routes serving the eastern United States. Not only does the network facilitate excellent intra-regional transportation links, but it also offers outstanding intra-regional networking potentials. I-77 provides an ideal link with major northern population centers like Cleveland,

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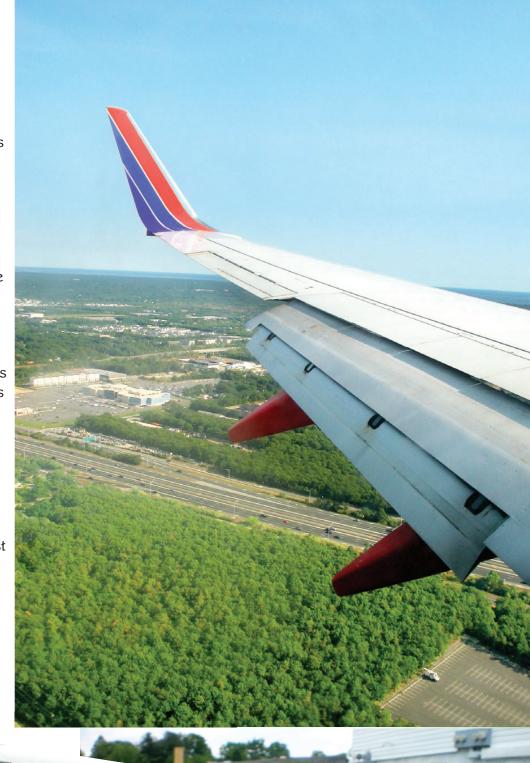
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Ohio, and via I-79, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. I-77 also offers excellent access to major centers in Virginia, North and South Carolina.

I-64, east of Beckley, provides access to the Midwest, and with U.S. Route 460, the area has excellent service to the East Coast. I-64, I-77, and U.S. Route 460 provide convenient links with I-81, which extends from Tennessee to New England.

If you would rather have someone else drive, then there is public transportation available as well as local taxi service. Mercer County Airport is available for private planes and the Norfolk Southern offers rail service to several states. Greyhound bus service will get you anywhere nationally.

Princeton, Mercer County, West Virginia lies within 500 miles of 50% of the population of the United States. •







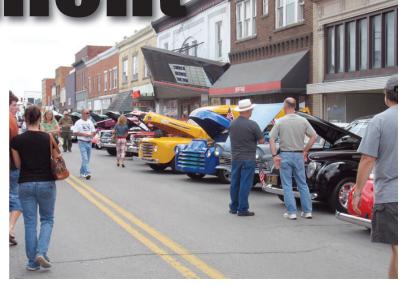
John Denver said it best in his song "Take Me Home Country Roads." Princeton, Mercer County West Virginia is the place to go with its majestic mountains, lazy rivers, unique arts and crafts, and friendly neighbors.

Princeton and Mercer County, West Virginia are just conductive to family life. There is a friendly atmosphere here that you won't find anywhere. There is a relaxed pace with no long rush hours of traffic.

Based on the West Virginia Department of Commerce, we enjoy a low cost of living which is 4.5% below the national average. Housing costs for an average home is 64% below the national average. We enjoy one of the lowest crime rates in the country. We lead the nation in home ownership because of our low property taxes.

For retirees our region has a lot to offer in terms of religious activities and volunteer opportunities. Through organizations like the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program, CASE of West Virginia and the Mercer County Commission on Aging, our senior citizens can devote their time and energy to a wide variety of activities.

Our area offers some of the finest medical care you can find anywhere. Three hospitals and several clinics are within a short driving distance. There are also three facilities that offer long-term care. Our highway systems can get you anywhere you want to go in a short period of time. Recreation opportunities are everywhere. Whatever your leisure activities are, you'll be able to find something that you will be able to enjoy. ❖



The average home cost in our area is 64% below the national average.









Experiential Learning



- ~ Job Shadow
- ~ Industry Project
- ~ Job Skills Project
- ~ Internship
- Community Service Learning
- ~ Clinicals/Co-op Education
- ~ JROTC III
- ~ Work-Related Experience



Career Connections Mercer County Schools 1403 Honaker Avenue • Princeton, WV 24740

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Housing in Princeton, Mercer County, West Virginia is very desirable. We have top notch custom builders that can build any thing your imagination desires. We also have a very low property tax in Mercer County that really makes it desirable to build your dream home here. �



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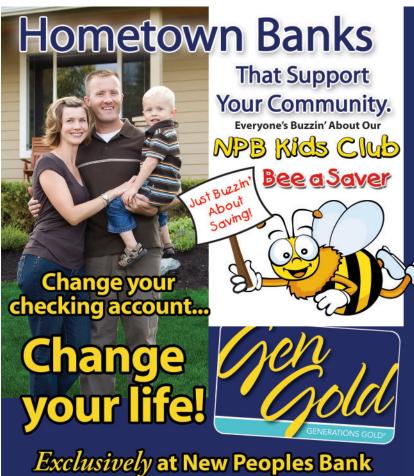
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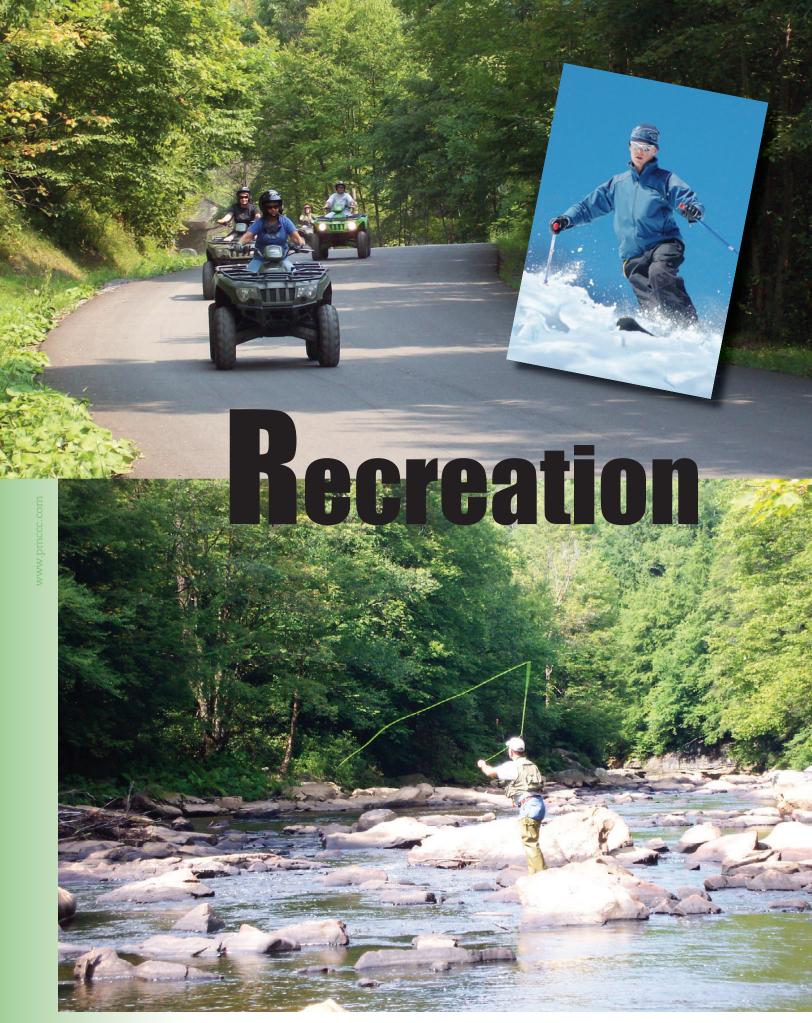


Princeton Branch Office 1221 Stafford Drive Princeton, WV 24740 (304) 487-9800 Bluefield Branch Office 514 Commerce Drive Bluefield, VA 24605 (276) 326-2265

Bluewell Branch Office 3996 Coal Heritage Road Bluewell, WV 24701 (304) 589-5500 Tazewell Branch Office 157 Tazewell Mall Circle Tazewell, VA 24651 (276) 988-2300

Bland Branch Office PO Box 39, 427 Main Street Bland, VA 24315 (276) 688-0300

û DIC







Before there was a Princeton and Mercer County, there were Indians using the rugged terrain as a hunting ground. Mercer County was created in March, 1837 out of the counties of Giles and Tazewell by the General Assembly of Virginia.

Mercer County was named after General Hugh Mercer, and since Mercer was killed by the British at the Battle of Princeton, New Jersey (1777), Princeton was chosen as the Mercer County Seat.

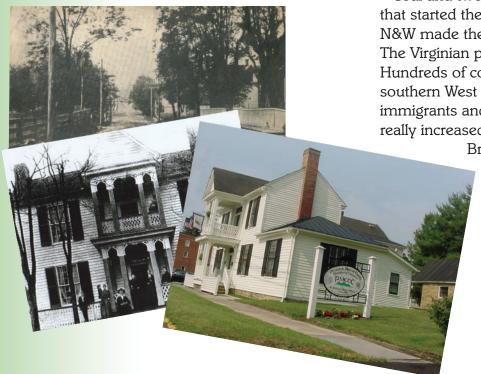
The Civil War came to Princeton in 1862. The town at that time consisted of the Court House and

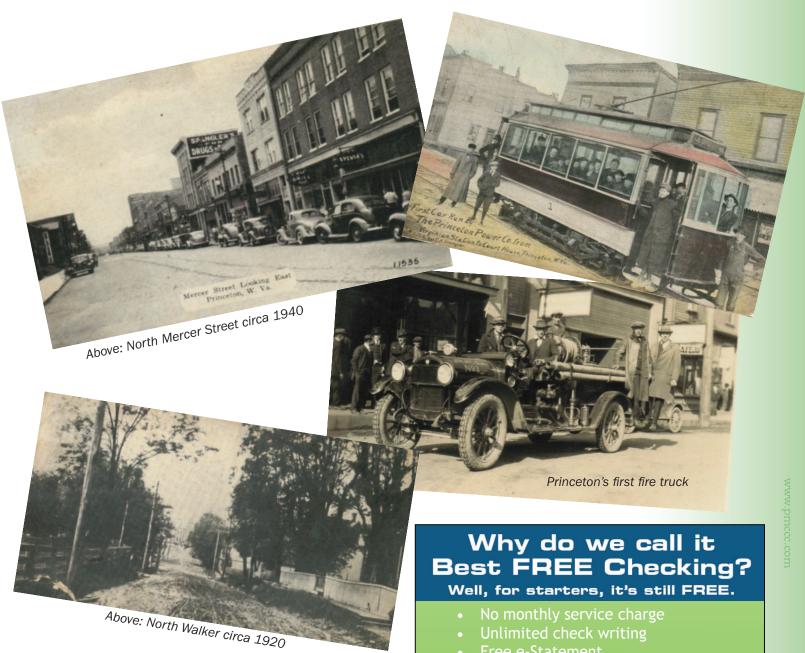
approximately 40 homes located nearby. The Confederate Army, hearing that the Union Army was on its way down from Ohio, decided to burn the town so they wouldn't have a place to set up camp. The Dr. Robert McNutt house is the only house left standing in Princeton that wasn't burned because Dr. McNutt agreed to provide care for the soldiers if they didn't burn the house. The house was used as a hospital for about 30 days. Today it is the home of the Princeton-Mercer County Chamber of Commerce.

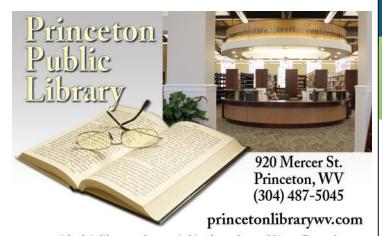
Coal and two railways were the moving forces that started the growth in Mercer County. The N&W made their headquarters in Bluefield, and The Virginian put a big operation in Princeton. Hundreds of coal mines started opening up in southern West Virginia, bringing thousands of immigrants and African American coal miners that really increased the population.

Bramwell, West Virginia, was a product of the coal boom in southern West Virginia. At one time it had more millionaires per capita than any town in America. •

Mercer County traces its name back to the Revolutionary War and the Battle of Princeton, New Jersey in 1777.







A book is like a garden carried in the pocket. ~Chinese Proverb

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There are approximately 200 churches located in Mercer County. Catholic, Greek Orthodox, Muslim and Protestant are the traditional churches along with a few contemporary churches.

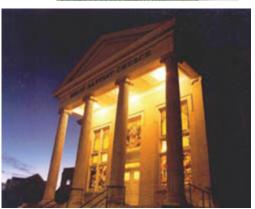
The early 1800's brought a lot of religious activity to Mercer County. Initially Divine Worship was held by itinerant ministers of all denominations when they passed through at

different intervals. Church worship in the early days was primitive and devoid of ostentation.

Today churches are located everywhere and each one provides a variety of religious beliefs. So anybody that is seeking a religious home will be able to find one in Mercer County. •







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City of Princeton, WV

WELCOME BUSINESSES

- Princeton is well-known throughout the State as one of West Virginia's bright spots because of our progressive attitude and immeasurable potential. The City of Princeton is uniquely positioned to take advantage of major opportunities that other municipalities can only dream about.
- The signs of economic prosperity, growth, expansion, and progress are everywhere. The public and private investments in our city have proved, once again, that Princeton's future is worth their confidence.
- CHUCK MATHENA CENTER
- Princeton remains West Virginia's "business friendly" city with our policy to encourage businesses to locate in our city by providing assistance as well as opportunity. The City of Princeton has been recognized for our regional planning initiatives as we focus on business recruitment, growth and development, as well as quality of life issues.
- © Princeton will take its place in the development of this part of the State of West Virginia as a leading city. Our city is a symbol of hope and promise in southern West Virginia and a success story for the whole state.



WELCOME RESIDENTS AND VISITORS

- Blessed with beautiful surroundings in the southern part of the state, Princeton offers a special quality of life for families and an ideal location for business and industry. We realize our importance as a strategic location for the entire area.
- The City of Princeton continues to attract newcomers as we offer progressive development in a fine community where families can live safely and serenely. We are preparing this city to be an asset for future generations, to provide a secure home for developing families,

a comfortable haven for the elderly, and a location worthy of settlement by industry and new citizens alike.

The City of Princeton provides municipal services second to none which are performed with precision and efficiency under sound fiscal management. Please contact us to get further information on what Princeton has to offer!

City of Princeton 100 Courthouse Road Princeton, WV 24740

Phone: (304) 487-5020 Fax: (304) 487-5030 www.cityofprinceton.org

Business Lindustry

Princeton and Mercer County West Virginia is a service-oriented economy with very little manufacturing. It would be our hope that some day we could draw in some manufacturing and operate in a more stabilized economy.

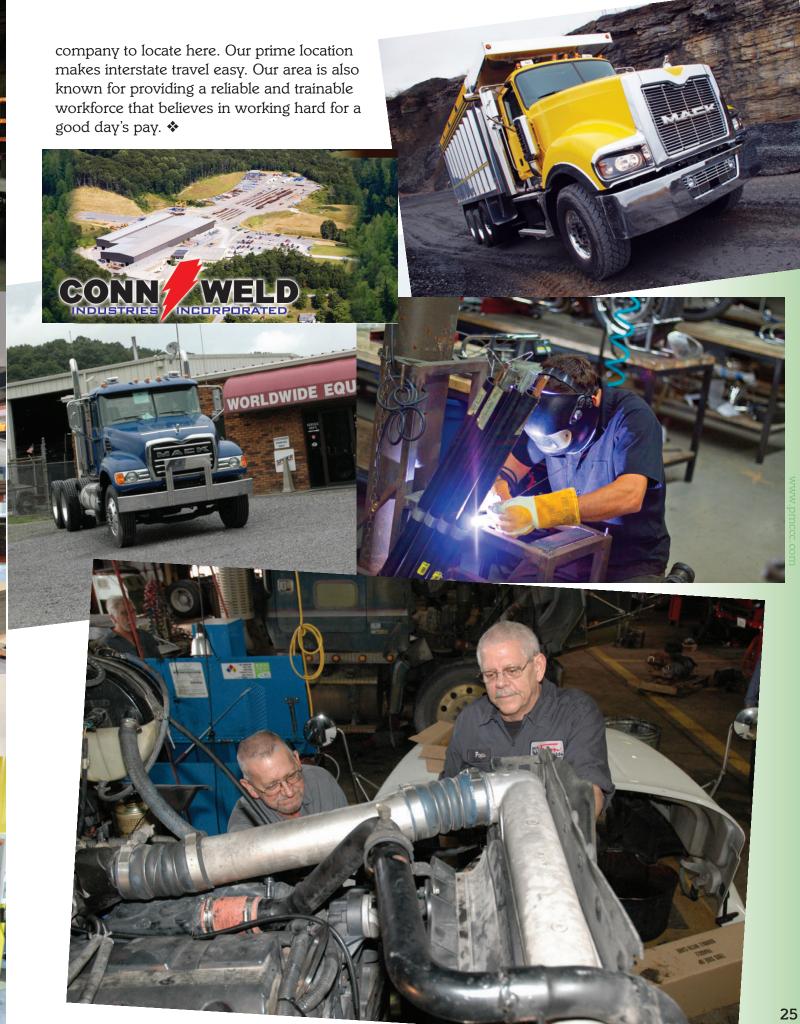
We have always been a coal-driven area. There are no coal mines in Mercer County, but there are several businesses in our county that support the coal mining industry. The railroad has a big presence in Mercer County. It not only moved coal, but also moved timber. At one time there were two railroad companies located in Mercer County. A merger in the mid-50's brought that to an end. Norfolk & Southern sits on one of the main lines going from Hampton Roads, VA, to Chicago, IL.

Today, with the highway system that we have, and our scenic beauty, it is a big benefit for a





QUALITY



Mercer County

PRINCETON & MERCER COUNTY POPULATIONS

	2005	2007	2010
County	64,980	62,070	61,921
Princeton	7,043	6,222	6,432

MERCER COUNTY LABOR FORCE

YEAR	WORKFORCE	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
1998	28,230	5.3%
2000	28,246	4.3%
2008	24,280	3.4%
2010	23,240	7.9%

PER CAPITA/INCOME AVERAGE

CLIMATE

		MONTHLY
	ANNUAL	AVERAGE
TEMPERATURE	52.0	JAN. 30.9
		JULY 70.2
RAINFALL (inches)		38.4
SNOWFALL (inches)		35-45

TAXES

MERCER COUNTY PROPERTY TAX MULTIPLIER

INTANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY CLASS I	.1.1380
RESIDENTIAL CLASS II	.2.2760
COMMERCIAL CLASS IV	.2.2760

UTILITIES

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GAS: MOUNTAINEER GAS

WATER: WEST VIRGINIA-AMERICAN WATER COMPANY

TELEPHONE: FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS
CABLE: SUDDENLINK COMMUNICATIONS







The City of Princeton was founded in 1837 to serve as the county seat of Mercer County which was named after Revolutionary War General Hugh Mercer. Princeton was the first organized town in Mercer County. Princeton was incorporated on February 20, 1909.

Princeton City Government consists of 7 councilmen who include a Mayor and Vice Mayor elected by their peers and a city manager hired by the council. Other government officials consist of a police chief, fire chief, city clerk, code enforcer, public works director and a recreation director.

Mercer County elected officials include three commissioners, sheriff, circuit Court clerk, county clerk, assessor, three circuit court judges, three family law judges, five magistrates and a prosecuting attorney. •







I Gation

This year's theme for Princeton-Mercer County Chamber of Commerce is "The Keys to our Future: Education/Economic Development." We are blessed in Princeton, Mercer County, West Virginia with a high quality public & private K-12 secondary school system. The most important resource we have is our children. Our area schools are equipped with the latest teaching technology to prepare our students for the global world we now live in.

For those students that want to further their education after high school, we have several higher education institutions with diverse educational programs to fit each student's needs.

The following schools are located in our area:

Bluefield College

Bluefield State College

Concord University

Mercer County Technical Education Center (secondary & post secondary)

National College

New River Community & Technical College

Valley College

These schools offer a variety of learning fields which give the student the flexibility to pursue his/her area of interest. You can earn anything from one-year certificates to Master's degrees. All-in-all, there is something for everyone. •







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New River is an Equal Opportunity Institution





"Life is not merely being alive, but being well and happy." -Martial

Healthcare

We are an aging community. Healthcare is of prime importance to the citizens who live in Princeton and Mercer County. We are blessed with quality healthcare in our area. Several medical facilities serve our citizens: Princeton Community Hospital, The Behavioral Health Pavillion of the

Virginias, HealthSouth Rehabilitation Center, Southern Highlands, Bluefield Regional Medical Center and several small clinics.

Whether you are already living here or looking for a place to retire, quality healthcare is one of the major decisions that brought you here.





Our medical community is well established and operates on cutting-edge technology. There are approximately 150+ physicians in Mercer County. We have everything from general practitioners to specialist, to serve your every need.

Other areas of healthcare include a state-of-theart fitness center. Princeton Health and Fitness Center opened its doors in 1997. Their mission is to help the community live healthier lives. They offer clinical programs designed to improve quality of life and reduce symptoms and risk factors associated with major chronic diseases. It is a 44,000 square foot facility that holds two racquetball courts, group exercise studio, strength training, cardiovascular fitness, basketball court, swimming pool, and therapy pool.

Our area also houses the Princeton Rescue Squad. It is rated one of the top recue squads in the state. �













SPECIALITY:
Critical Care Transports • 911 Emergencies
•Auto Accidents • Extrication • Swiftwater Rescue • Physician's Office Transports •Interfacility Transports •Disaster Response •Ambulatory Transports

EDUCATION:

Offering in house training • Recertification for paramedics/EMTs • First Aid • Community CPR • First Responder Continuing Education • PEPP • GEMS
• PHTLS • AMLS • National Registry Paramedic Program.

SPECIAL:

Always accepting applications for EMTs and Paramedics • Registered nurses for non-volunteer • All paid professional staff.





spread throughout the county. �



Promoting Pride in Princeton & Mercer County



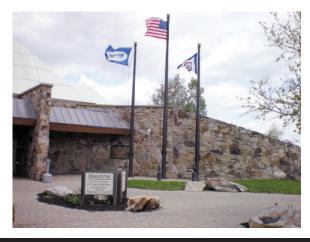
ADVANCING PROFESSIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL GROWTH TO OUR BUSINESSES



- The history of the Princeton-Mercer County Chamber of Commerce speaks for itself. Throughout time, our main goal has been to help businesses in Princeton and Mercer County grow and succeed. We try to promote some type of networking year-round for our members.
- Our membership consists of businesses of every type, from nationally and internationally recognized companies to local establishments, all finding our Chamber the best way to make their business grow.
- We provide contacts with others and are very active in our community.
- All of this means not only success for the businesses, but continuing success and growth for our community and our Chamber.
- Contact the Princeton-Mercer County Chamber of Commerce today and find out how we can help you.



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...what it means to YOU

The 2010 report of the Surgeon General contains important new information about the following dangers of smoking & exposure to secondhand smoke:

RESPIRATORY: Smoking and breathing secondhand smoke. Poisons in tobacco smoke harm your body from the moment they enter your mouth.

CHILDREN: Smoking harms reproduction and your children's health. Smoking or breathing secondhand smoke can make it harder for you to conceive.

DIABETES: Smoking makes diabetes harder to control. Smoking increases your chance of having type 2 diabetes.

FAMILIES: Secondhand smoke causes immediate harm to nonsmokers. Do not allow anyone to smoke anywhere in or near your home or vehicle.

POISON: Tobacco smoke is a toxic mix of more than 7,000 chemicals. About 70 of these can cause cancer and they reach every organ in your body.

ADDICTION: Cigarettes are designed to be addictive.

Cigarettes today deliver more nicotine and deliver it quicker than ever before.

CANCER: Exposure to secondhand smoke is linked to breast, cervical, lung, and bladder cancer in

CIRCULATORY: Smoking causes immediate damage to your arteries. Cells that line your body's blood vessels react to the poisons in tobacco smoke.

The Southern Coalfields Tobacco Prevention Network Office will help your business write and implement a tobacco-free worksite policy. We also provide free 'quit tobacco workshops' for local businesses. Call us today at 304-320-9990.

To read the full report and its related materials, go to www.surgeongeneral.gov.

WV Tobacco OuitLine: 877-966-8784

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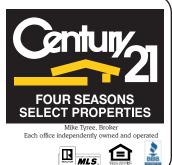


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