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Midland Trail Scenic Highway



November 14, 2011



Gauley Bridge Beautification



Ruth Neal, Gauley Bridge town council member, is

Pumpkin House Attracts National Attention



Kenova's iconic [Pumpkin House](#) made its humble debut in the year 1978 with only 5 carved pumpkins for a Halloween display. Over the years, with the help of hundreds of volunteers,

the number of hand-carved pumpkins has grown exponentially, reaching a lofty 3,000.

Does a house with 3,000 hand-carved pumpkins attract attention? You betcha! Each year Ceredo and Kenova welcome nearly 30,000 visitors to the Pumpkin House. This year, however, the Pumpkin House attracted a little something different: a film crew.

According to Ric Griffith, owner and organizer of the Pumpkin House and Midland Trail Scenic Highway Association Board Member, HGTV will air a program next fall featuring "extreme" Halloween celebrations. When he asked why the Pumpkin House was included, Griffith was told, "I hate to break it to you, Mr. Griffith, but 3,000 carved pumpkins is a little extreme for most folks."

spearheading a project to spruce up downtown Gauley Bridge through the use of decorative murals. Artist Nancy Lane has been commissioned to paint a train mural located near the intersection of Route 39 and Route 60. This mural will celebrate Gauley Bridge's rich rail history. A quilt mural is also being planned.



Upcoming Events:

****Don't see your event?**

Send event info to kathryn@midlandtrail.com to be added to the Midland Trail web calendar and to be promoted through our newsletter and Facebook page!

[Manhattan Jazz Quartet,](#) **[Greenbrier Valley Theatre](#)**

Lewisburg

Nov 15, 5:30 PM

Call 866-888-1411 for more information.

[Lewisburg Holiday Open House](#)

Lewisburg

Nov 20, 12-5 PM

The afternoon is jam-packed with holiday activities from carriage rides to carolers to a visit from Santa!

[A Christmas Carol](#)

West Virginia Public Broadcasting is aiding HGTV in this venture by shooting footage of the work in progress and interviews of Griffith and Pumpkin House volunteers, without whom the Pumpkin House would not be the "extreme" celebration that it is today.

New Bike Lane Underway on the Midland Trail

Travelling the Midland Trail can be a rewarding experience for motorists, and soon it will be for cyclists as well.

The Department of Highways (DOH) is working to complete a bike lane that will follow the Midland Trail between the intersection of Route 60 and Jefferson Road in South Charleston and Old Route 35 in St. Albans. The project is expected to be completed around the end of the year, weather permitting.



In addition to the bike lane, a Park and Ride has been constructed under the new I-64 interstate bridge in South Charleston and will serve as the trailhead. The project also includes improvements to the parking and the addition of bike rails at the Morgan's Kitchen historical site in St. Albans.

The bike lane expansion is jointly-funded with federal and state monies. According to Perry Keller, Bicycle Pedestrian Coordinator at the DOH, the hope is to tie this into future projects at the Patrick Street Bridge, the Trestle Bridge, and beyond. The current project, however, should make bicycle traffic on the Midland Trail safer and more accessible for community members and visitors alike.

WV Strategic Plan Tourism Regional Workshops

The Department of Commerce is developing a strategic plan for the long-range growth and development of the tourism industry. This is a result of SCR 31, which was passed during the 2010 legislative session.

Historic Fayette Theater,
Fayetteville
Nov 25-27, Dec 2-4
The classic Christmas tale
brought to life on stage. Fee.

Grant Opportunities:

[Transportation Enhancement and Recreational Trails](#) grant application deadlines have been announced by the DOH.

12/15 - Intent to apply
2/15 - Applications due

These grants can be used for projects such as providing facilities for pedestrians and cyclists, landscaping and scenic beautification, historic preservation, archaeological planning and research, constructing or restoring trails, and [many other projects](#).

The West Virginia Division of Tourism and AECOM will host four regional workshops in November to gather much needed input for the Tourism Analysis and Strategic Plan being developed by AECOM over the coming months. Stakeholders will have an opportunity to participate in the development of this plan, and Tourism is encouraging interested parties to assist in this effort.

If you would like to attend one of these workshops, please RSVP to Joe Black at joe.a.black@wv.gov. The locations and dates are listed below.

- **Blennerhassett Hotel, Parkersburg**

November 15, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

- **Stonewall Resort, Roanoke**

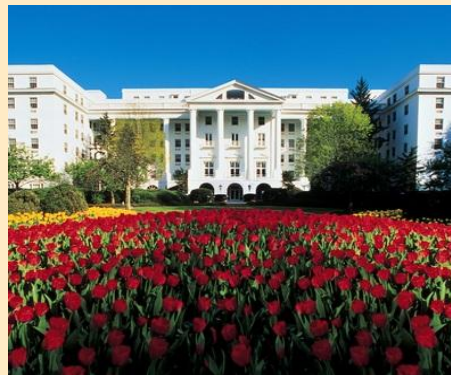
November 16, 9 a.m. – noon

If you can't attend one of these workshops, AECOM is still interested in your ideas regarding the future direction of tourism in the state. Please take a few minutes and complete [this survey](#). When finished, mail it to the address below.

West Virginia Division of Tourism

90 MacCorkle Ave., SW
South Charleston, WV 25303

Greenbrier Hotel Offering Special Rate Package



On select dates in November, December, January and February, the historic [Greenbrier Hotel](#) will be offering [deeply discounted rates](#), starting at \$59 (mid-week), plus resort fee and taxes. A limited number of

rooms are available at the special rates, and some exclusions apply. This is a great opportunity for travellers who want to experience WV's premier resort hotel on a budget.

Midland Trail Scenic Highway Association

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