



# E NEWS

McDowell Chamber of Commerce

December 2010



**Happy Holidays from the Board of Directors  
and Staff of the  
McDowell Chamber of Commerce**

## Online Cost-of-Living Calculator

*How do McDowell County's prices for goods and services compare with other parts of the U.S.?*

As a member of the Center for Economic Competitiveness, the McDowell Chamber is one of 300+ chambers in the country which participates in cost-of-living surveys and has done so for over 15 years. Since 2008, the Chamber has offered an online Cost-of-Living calculator, an interactive tool which allows users to compare costs in other cities and regions of the country. McDowell's low cost-of-living is an asset which can be promoted for economic development purposes. E.g., the chamber supplies this data for inquiries from prospective businesses, retirees and others considering a relocation decision.

To view the interactive calculator go to  
[www.mcdowellchamber.net/relocate/calculator.php](http://www.mcdowellchamber.net/relocate/calculator.php)

## Six Local Businesses Recognized as Leading Entrepreneurs

The McDowell Chamber of Commerce and Johnson, Price & Sprinkle P.A., Certified Public Accountants, presented the second annual Tom Johnson Entrepreneurship Awards at the Chamber's "Holiday After Hours" on December 2. The awards program recognizes some of the county's fastest-growing small businesses and their contributions to the area's economy. *Over 100 attendees were present for the recognition of six local companies:*

**ANIMAL HOSPITAL OF MARION  
NEW HORIZON HOME CARE  
JOHNSON ROOFING CONCEPTS**

**JACK FROST DAIRY BAR  
DAK WOODWORKS  
SPENCER'S HARDWARE**



*Pictured: Beth Burluson, representing Johnson, Price & Sprinkle (award sponsor); Darrin Helton, DaK Woodworks; Chip Johnson, Johnson Roofing Concepts; Nancy Spencer, Spencer's Hardware; Barbara Andrews, New Horizon Home Care; Jim Burgin, Jack Frost Dairy Bar; and, Kevin Griffin (Chamber president), Johnson, Price & Sprinkle. Not pictured: John & Jennifer Owens, Animal Hospital of Marion.*

The award is named in honor of Tom Johnson, one of McDowell County's most visible and successful entrepreneurs. What Johnson began in 1967 with just a few pop-up campers in his front yard has evolved into one of the largest and most-respected RV dealerships, campgrounds and RV service centers in the nation.

## "Gearing Up for Economic Recovery"

This four-part seminar series led by Blueprints for Business, an Asheville-based business marketing/consulting firm, will begin on January 13. Registration is very affordable: Members: \$15 per seminar, \$40 for all four seminars, full refund for perfect attendance. Click here for registration form.

- \_\_\_ Jan 13: Coping With the Current Economy
- \_\_\_ Jan 20: Increasing Sales through Marketing
- \_\_\_ Jan 27: Deliver A Message With Oomph!
- \_\_\_ Feb 3: Social Media: The New Word-of-Mouth Advertising

Find Registration forms at [www.mcdowellchamber.com/events](http://www.mcdowellchamber.com/events)

## Duke Energy Citizenship & Service Award

*Nominations accepted until January 7.*

**History:** Began in 2004 to commemorate Duke Energy's 100th anniversary. One award is presented each year at the McDowell Chamber annual meeting in February.

**Purpose:**

- Recognize and reward leadership and/or involvement in volunteerism and community service.
- Encourage a culture of citizenship and service in our communities.
- Complement the efforts of those individuals and organizations in our community striving to improve our quality of life.

Find nomination forms at [www.mcdowellchamber.com/events](http://www.mcdowellchamber.com/events)

**Advertising  
Opportunity  
for Members**

**1-1/2" x 2-1/2"  
\$50 one run**

## Welcoming ...

Six new members of the Chamber's Board of Directors:

- **Jerry Broome**, JobLink Career Center
- **Chris Fowler**, Asheville Savings Bank
- **Kevin Givens**, Coats North America
- **David Hicks**, Auto Tech Collision Center
- **Joyce McCloskey**, Cranberry's and Lace
- **Amy Rymer**, Perfect Air Control

Rotating off the Board at the end of the year:

(Date when board service began is in parentheses.)

**Shirley Brown**  
(2006)  
McDowell Tech

**Keith Buchanan**  
(2008),  
AplusNetworking.com

**Bill Graham**  
(2006)  
Coats North America

**Debbie Moore**  
(2006)  
Columbia Forest Products

**Caroline Rodier**  
(2006)  
McDowell Partnership for Children & Families

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## Chamber Work Teams

### *Who does the work of the Chamber?*

Besides one part-time and two full-time employees [and two part-timers for weekend coverage], about 80 volunteers are heavily involved in the Chamber's operation. The end of the year is a good time for the membership to be aware of those who provide strategic thinking, decision-making, and resources for implementation of plans. (Opportunities for committee service are available to members.)

Most of those named below have remained involved in the same committee or activity for two or more years, a reflection of the chamber's commitment to substantial, multi-year projects. Chamber staff provides administrative support for each of these groups.

### Ambassadors

Chamber member-contact/visitation team; 20 ribbon-cutting events conducted since inception Mar. '10.

- Beth Burlison (Chair)-Johnson Price & Sprinkle, PA
- Steve Brown - SL Brown Financial
- Chris Fowler - Asheville Savings Bank
- Gerald Greene - First Citizens Bank
- Kevin Griffin - Johnson Price & Sprinkle, PA
- Laurie Kehler - Black Diamond Realty
- Bobbie Young - Marion Business Association
- Miranda Lewis – Manpower
- Mariah McKinney – Hill Evans, PA
- Sylvia Scott - Rock-Tenn Co.
- Nancy Spencer – Spencer's Hardware
- Todd Statton - JPS Wealth Management
- April Westmoreland - Johnson Price & Sprinkle, PA

### Broadband Expansion

*See September E-News for description.*

- Harold Walker (Chair) – First Citizens Bank
- Chuck Abernathy – McDowell County Mgr.
- Keith Buchanan – AplusNetworking.com
- Jim Edwards – Isothermal Planning & Dev. Commission
- John Howell (telecom consultant) – The Howell Group

### Business Development

*Shop Local campaign; Secret Shopper; website upgrade; Entrepreneurship awards; business surveys & workshops; member promotions*

- Tami Newman (Chair) – ERA Mountain View Prop.
- Jan Allison – Alumay Design
- Gloria Bagwell – Arbonne International
- Steve Brown – S.L. Brown Financial
- Keith Buchanan – AplusNetworking.com
- Dean Kanipe – McDowell Tech Small Business Ctr.
- Mae Lackey – Grace Designs [webmaster]
- Rob Noyes – Countryside Barbeque
- Nancy Spencer – Spencer's Hardware
- Harold Walker – First Citizens Bank
- Kevin Griffin – Johnson Price & Sprinkle, PA

### Community Collaboration

*Chamber grant program and Duke Energy Citizenship Award*

- Amy Johnson (Chair)– McDowell Cornerstone Credit Un.
- Caroline Rodier – McD. Partnership for Children/Families
- Shirley Brown – McDowell Technical Community Coll.
- Sylvia Scott – Rock-Tenn Co.
- Bill Graham – Coats North America
- Harriett Thomas – City of Marion

### Conference Center Development

*Sixteen prospective sites have been visited during 2009-10; property to be selected in 2011.*

- Steve Brown (Chair) - SL Brown Financial
- Gloria Bagwell – Arbonne International
- Shirley Brown - McDowell Technical CC
- Amy Johnson – McDowell Cornerstone Credit Union
- Mae Lackey – Grace Designs
- Tami Newman – ERA Mountain View Properties
- Kevin Griffin - Johnson Price & Sprinkle, PA
- Carol Price – McDowell Tourism Development

### Events Management

*Annual Member Banquet; Spring Golf Tournament; New-Member Reception; Evening at the Lake;*

- Debbie Moore (Chair) – Columbia Forest Products
- Jan Allison – Alumay Design
- Sherry Carroll - Manpower, Inc
- Russ Laney – Baxter Healthcare
- Martha Poteat – Tom Johnson Camping Ctr.
- Caroline Rodier – McD. Partnership for Children/Families

### Executive Committee – Chamber officers

- Kevin Griffin (Pres.) - Johnson Price & Sprinkle, PA
- Amy Johnson (VP) McDowell Cornerstone Credit Union
- Debbie Moore (Treas.) – Columbia Forest Products
- Steve Brown (Immediate Past Pres.) -S.L. Brown Fin.

### Financial Management

- Debbie Moore, Treasurer – Columbia Forest Products
- Steve Brown - S.L. Brown Financial
- Lucille Huffman – General Accounting Services
- Amy Johnson – McDowell Cornerstone Credit Union

## Membership Campaign

*Thirty-one new members recruited during campaign; 61 for the year ~*

- Jan Allison – Alumay Designs
- Tim Blenco – Corpening Memorial YMCA
- Steve Brown - S.L. Brown Financial
- Sherry Carroll – Manpower, Inc.
- Chris Dobson – Edward Jones
- Kevin Griffin - Johnson Price & Sprinkle, PA
- Ed Hannon – The McDowell Hospital
- Karen Hannon – The McDowell Hospital
- Rusty Owen - Johnson Price & Sprinkle, PA
- Caroline Rodier – McDowell Partnership for Children & Families
- Beth Walker – Carolina First Bank
- Teresa Washburn – Manpower, Inc.
- Andrea Webb – Grace Designs

*Runners: Susan Allgood and Dee Koegel*

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## Visitor Center Receptionists

*(Month/year volunteer began is shown in parentheses.)*

**Over 20,000 visitor contacts in 2010 ~**

Wanda Brown (11/04)  
Betty Coleates (4/02)  
Ingrid Conner 10/07)  
Diane Eaton (7/07)  
Pam Finlayson (3/10)  
Jamie Green (2/09)  
Mary Goodson (6/95)  
Bev Homberger (8/10)  
Mary Ann Huskins (7/02)  
Helen Kehler (5/02)  
Laurie Kehler (6/07)

Delette Klutz (5/03)  
Dee Koegel (4/09)  
Anne Long (11/02)  
Norma Mauney (11/04)  
Alice Muller (5/95)  
Connie Griffith (8/96)  
Nancy Stewart (3/02)  
Eileen Torrence (11/04)  
Curt Wheeler (1/01)  
Jan Wheeler (1/03)  
Forrest White (10/95)

### ***Mailings, rally packets, etc.:***

Doris Burgin (1/10)  
Carolyn Fender (2/06)  
Mary Ann Guier (2/06)  
Carolyn Hall (6/10)  
Nancy Hodges (9/08)  
Dee (4/09) & Gerry Koegel (3/10)  
Judy Patton (1/08)  
Angela Scarborough (10/07)  
Donna Stevens (4/06)  
Rosa Stevens (1/08)  
Mary Francis White (1/96)

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