

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.

Renaissance Village



Renaissance Village is now under construction in downtown Welch and will be completed this spring.

Construction of Renaissance Village is continuing to make great progress and on track to be completed this April. The multiuse building is Reconnecting McDowell's direct response to the housing crisis in the County and the effect it's had on the teacher shortage in the school system. Renaissance Village will have two floors of residential space and two floors of commercial and community space.

How you can support Renaissance Village

In the 1960s, the coal industry began pulling out of McDowell County, decimating the economy. But, we believe that together we can build on our strengths and offer a strong and vibrant community for our children and future generations. Renaissance Village is one major step toward building that community. To support construction costs and create a fund to help subsidize teachers' rent as well as to ensure a space for a community room, Reconnecting McDowell has launched a fundraising campaign. Donors will have an opportunity to buy a brick, ranging in price from \$500 to \$5,000, and inscribe it with a message of their choice. The bricks will surround the building and serve as a reminder of each donor's commitment to McDowell County's residents. To make an online contribution, visit the [buy-a-brick for McDowell page](http://buy-a-brick-for-McDowell.page). Alternatively, you may also complete the donation form at <http://bit.ly/brickform> and write a check payable to "Reconnecting McDowell" and mail them to Reconnecting McDowell, Attn: Bob Brown, 1615 Washington St. East, Suite 300, Charleston, WV 25311. **The deadline to purchase a brick is Feb. 29.** All donations are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.



USDA Funds Reconnecting McDowell's Go Growcery Project

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has awarded Reconnecting McDowell a \$250,000 capacity-building grant to support the Go Growcery Project. The USDA has awarded \$9 million in grants to various organizations and projects. Funding will be disbursed to 126 selected projects across 42 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

The Go Growcery Project will develop a mobile farmers market that will visit 10 to 15 communities, two senior centers, and all 10 McDowell County schools. A market manager will work with partners like the West Virginia Food and Farm Coalition and West Virginia University Extension service. They will implement agritourism activities that will promote and consequently bolster the health and economic impact of the Go Growcery Project. Complementary events, such as nutrition classes and tastings, will also be held in the County. The USDA has funded the project over a three-year span, and it is expected to return \$125,000 in sales to local growers and small producers.



MAIER SCHOLARSHIPS

The Maier Foundation is continuing its support of McDowell County students; the foundation has awarded \$40,000 to Reconnecting McDowell to fund scholarships for county students. The scholarships will be given to graduating seniors entering four-year institutions in West Virginia. This is the third year the Maier Foundation and Reconnecting McDowell's partnership has supported students entering and/or continuing postsecondary education in the state.

Let's Connect

Follow Reconnecting McDowell on social media to receive the latest updates and news. We share information on webinars, job-training opportunities and upcoming community events. We also highlight our partners and their work in McDowell County and the state.

Social Media



Follow us on Twitter:
[@ReconnectMcD](https://twitter.com/ReconnectMcD)



Follow us on Instagram:
[@ReconnectMcD](https://www.instagram.com/ReconnectMcD)



Like us on Facebook:
facebook.com/ReconnectMcD

Want to get involved or learn more?

For more information about Reconnecting McDowell or to find out how you can get involved, contact Chad Webb (cwebb@aftwv.org) or Debra Elmore (delmore@aftwv.org or 304-552-5766).

