

S U M M A R Y

With the severe budget crisis facing the Commonwealth and the already distressed economy of our region, it is critical that citizens of the New River Valley plan and work together to build a viable and livable economy here at home. This economy certainly must be linked to the State, nation, and world.

Clearly our educational institutions and skilled and motivated workforce provide an important and powerful basis upon which to enhance our future. Additionally, our regional commitment to collaboration supports the model of partnerships and teamwork that is crucial in this highly competitive and connected economy. This regional community recognizes that the businesses and entrepreneurs that are growing and expanding expect a vibrant and progressive community in which to live and work. The New River Valley has the assets and values to support this as well.

Our local manufacturing industry will always be an important piece of this region, however, it can no longer provide the number of jobs and spin-off companies it did so well in the past. We must build on our local talents and strengths, support strong communities, and individual initiatives that are obvious assets to the New River Valley.

Partnership is an important element of harnessing change. We are a community with very real and powerful connections. In any gathering within this region you would be hard pressed to find an individual who does not wear more than one organizational hat. We are also a community of individuals: raising families, running businesses, hiking the trails, driving, riding the buses, seeking resources, sharing stories. Yet, we are more than that; we are connected by geography, school districts, shared experiences and a love of this community.

The people in the area are proud of the quality of life in the New River Valley. Here, surrounded by natural beauty, is a spirit of cooperation to get things done. The priorities are clear: develop and maintain a growing economy and provide jobs and personal enrichment opportunities for everyone. The vision of the New River Valley is to provide opportunities to grow and prosper in an atmosphere of cooperation while maintaining our environmental quality. We are making this vision a reality and thus creating a region worthy and enjoyable for living and visiting.

EVERYTHING YOUR BUSINESS NEEDS TO SUCCEED IS HERE

In

VIRGINIA'S NEW RIVER VALLEY