



# WEST VIRGINIA HUMANITIES COUNCIL

## ***PRESS RELEASE***

*For Immediate Release*  
*October 6, 2021*

*Contact: Kyle Warmack, 304-346-8500*  
*warmack@wvhumanities.org*

### **SMITHSONIAN COMES TO WESTON**

WESTON, WV — After a kick-off stint at Moorefield High School in Hardy County, the Smithsonian traveling exhibit *Crossroads: Change in Rural America* opened with a ribbon cutting at the Museum of American Glass in Weston this Wednesday, October 6.

The exhibit's stay in the Lewis County seat will be accompanied by over a month of original local programming. "The community of Weston has put together an amazing slate of exhibits, presentations, panels, and more," says Program Officer Kyle Warmack of the West Virginia Humanities Council, which is sponsoring the exhibit's tour through the state. "Anna Cardelli, the Weston Historic Landmark Commission, and the City of Weston have really found great ways to weave nearby history and culture into the exhibit's themes."

The exhibit examines the present-day turning point at which many rural American towns find themselves. Since the early 1900s, rural America has experienced significant changes in demographics, educational opportunities, access to services, and economic viability. Today, the population of the nation's rural areas is less than half of what it was in 1900, yet America's small towns continue to creatively focus on new opportunities for growth and development. Economic innovation, including investment in cultural and creative economies, has helped many communities create their own renaissance.

A partial event list is below. Those interested in attending should check the Weston Historic Landmark Commission Facebook page at [facebook.com/historicbuildingsmatter](https://facebook.com/historicbuildingsmatter); contact Anna Cardelli at [annakmitchell@gmail.com](mailto:annakmitchell@gmail.com), (304) 594-6607; or call the City of Weston at (304) 269-6141 for more details. Dates, times, and locations may be subject to change. COVID precautions such as masking and social distancing are being observed at *Crossroads* events. Contact the Weston Historic Landmark Commission to learn more about any applicable health precautions.

The *Crossroads* tour is made possible through the Museum on Main Street (MOMS) program, an alliance of the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service, the Federation of State Humanities Councils, state humanities councils across the country, and cultural organizations in small, rural communities.

## **EVENTS**

- 10/10 – 3pm, Holt Square on Main Ave. Heritage music by Dan Vaughn, Greg St. Clair & friends.
- 10/10 – 4-6pm, Trans-Allegheny Lunatic Asylum. Mental Health History in Lewis County panel discussion.
- 10/16 – 5pm, Louis Bennett Library, 148 Court Ave. Literary reading of local works.
- 10/16 – 3pm, Museum of American Glass parking lot, Main Ave. Appalachian square dancing with Rock Garton.
- 10/23 – 3pm, Museum of American Glass, Main Ave. Heritage fiber art demonstration with local artisan Julia Bragg.
- 10/29 and 10/30 – 12pm, 2:30pm, 5pm, Museum of American Glass, Main Ave. Guided downtown historic walking tours.
- 11/6 and 11/7 – 1pm, 133 Center Ave. Exchange Bank robbery historical reenactment.
- 11/6 and 11/7 – 9:30am-5pm, Holt Square on Main Ave. Living history encampment. Learn about a Civil War soldier's daily life.
- 11/6 and 11/7 – 11am, Trans-Allegheny Lunatic Asylum. Historic tea party as it might have been experienced in 1861 (tickets required).

## **ONGOING EVENTS**

- Self Guided Historic Walking Tours / Use the Clio app to enjoy our 40 stop Clio walking tour across downtown Weston <https://www.theclio.com/tour/1774>
- Weston Historic Scavenger Hunt - Self guided scavenger hunt of historic downtown Weston. [www.cityofwestonwv.com](http://www.cityofwestonwv.com)

#####

***The West Virginia Humanities Council, an independent nonpartisan nonprofit, is the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Council is supported by the NEH, the State of West Virginia, and contributions from the private sector. The purposes of the West Virginia Humanities Council are educational, and its mission is to support a vigorous program in the humanities statewide in West Virginia.***