

living lackawanna

Official Newsletter and Report to Lackawanna County Taxpayers

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Lackawanna County Gateway Provides One-Stop Shop

The Lackawanna County Commissioners announce the opening of the Gateway Center, a one-stop shop for land records, general county information, various county forms such as voter registration and absentee ballot applications, county attraction information and more. The Gateway is located in downtown Scranton on the first floor of 135 Jefferson Ave., formerly known as the Gas and Water Building, across from the Radisson at Lackawanna Station.

Visitors to the Gateway are greeted at the Information Desk. Depending on their request, they will be assisted there, directed to a line of computers loaded with detailed county land records information, including tax claim and assessment data, or sent to a representative from one of the county offices located in the Gateway. County offices include Assessment Appeals, Assessment, and Planning and Economic Development. The office of Lackawanna County Recorder of Deeds Evie Rafalko McNulty is also in the Gateway. All real estate-related transactions, such as filing deeds, conducting title searches or accessing maps, will take place at the Gateway, as well as recording and requesting veteran's discharge documents. The public will be served at the counter, in more private cubicles or in meeting rooms, depending on need. The Gateway also includes user work space and wireless Internet.

The office of Lackawanna County

Treasurer Edward Karpovich and the county Office of Tax Claims are opposite the Gateway, where the Department of Elections was formerly located. The two offices have separate counters to serve the public. Assessment appeals will be heard in a conference room located in the rear of the Gateway with a waiting room available in the building's entrance.

Previously, the public had to visit several different floors in rented space to access the departments now located within steps of each other on the ground floor of the Jefferson Avenue building. In addition, the Gateway puts a wide variety of other county information in one spot at the public's fingertips.

"This makes government more efficient by putting offices that work together in the same county-owned space," Commissioners Corey D. O'Brien and Michael J. Washo said. "All residents need to do is visit the first floor of the Jefferson Building for all of their county land record needs."



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INNOVATION STARTS HERESM

Lackawanna County

.....

in your corner

Commissioners' Message



Michael J. Washo

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael J. Washo".



Corey D. O'Brien

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Corey D. O'Brien".

One year ago, we presented information on Lackawanna County's space needs that explored which departments work best together and how much space each department requires. The objective was to determine the county's building needs for the future by working collaboratively with department heads to meet their needs.

The first stage of implementing the space study is now complete. The result is two-fold. First, the Gateway Center - a one-stop shop for various county information and public land record transactions - was developed in the county-owned building at 135 Jefferson Ave. Second, the Jefferson Avenue building has been transformed to house all land-records related departments.

We conducted the space study with three goals in mind. We wanted to maximize the use of county-owned buildings. We wanted to make government more efficient by relocating "affinity groups," or departments that frequently work together and so could benefit by being in close proximity to each other. And we wanted to provide taxpayers with a one-stop shop to access information.

The reconfigured Jefferson Avenue building accomplishes all three goals. It is owned by the county, and it places the land-records affinity group of Assessment, Tax Claim, Recorder of Deeds, Planning and Economic Development and Assessment Appeals in one location with convenient, ground-floor public access.

In addition, the Gateway Center will offer general county information, various county forms such as voter registration and absentee ballot applications, county attraction information and more, in a one-stop shop.

Previously, those involved in land records matters were forced to visit multiple floors in rented space to complete a single transaction. It was inefficient for both taxpayers and the departments, forcing duplication of maps and other information that in the long run also wastes money.

Now, those conducting business such as deed transfers simply move from one counter to the next in the Gateway, which includes representatives from deeds, assessment and planning. Payment is steps away at the Treasurer's Office across the hall. Need to check on a tax claim or attend an assessment appeals hearing? Public access for those departments is also on the ground floor of the Jefferson Avenue building.

These initial moves make sense because they make government more efficient, convenient and cost-effective for the taxpayers and the departments. Look for more changes in the future as we search for other innovative ways like the Gateway Center to better serve the public and save you money. As always, our ultimate goal is to make Lackawanna County a great place to live, work and play!



in the news

Departments Relocate to Better Serve the Public

Numerous Lackawanna County departments have moved to new quarters, offering better access to the public as a result. Among the moves is the Department of Elections, which is now conveniently located at 2400 Stafford Avenue in Scranton. The change allowed elections to consolidate all operations in one place, including voter registration, voting machines and poll worker training.

The building has plenty of free parking and is located on a COLTS bus route.



Marion Medalis, Director,
Department of Elections

Residents will also still be able to fill out voter registration forms and absentee ballot applications in downtown Scranton at the new Gateway Center on Jefferson Avenue. A complete listing of new department addresses is given below.

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

John Foley, Deputy Director for Assessment
Joseph Sheehan, Deputy Director for Appeals
135 Jefferson Ave.
Scranton, PA 18503

DEPARTMENT OF ELECTIONS

Marion Medalis, Director
Street Address: 2400 Stafford Ave.
Mailing Address: PO Box 4524
Scranton, PA 18505 Scranton, PA 18505-6524

HUMAN SERVICES OFFICE

Teresa Osborne, Director
200 Adams Ave.
Sixth Floor
Scranton, PA 18503

LACKAWANNA/SUSQUEHANNA OFFICE OF DRUG AND ALCOHOL PROGRAMS

Jeff Zerechak, Administrator
The Scranton Electric Building
507 Linden Ave.
Fifth Floor
Scranton, PA 18503

MENTAL HEALTH/MENTAL RETARDATION

Stephen Arnone, Administrator
The Scranton Electric Building
507 Linden Ave.
Eighth Floor
Scranton, PA 18503

PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Harry Lindsay, Director
135 Jefferson Ave.
Scranton, PA 18503

RECORDER OF DEEDS

Evie Rafalko McNulty, Recorder of Deeds
135 Jefferson Ave.
Scranton, PA 18503

TAX CLAIMS OFFICE

Ron Koldjeski, Deputy Director
135 Jefferson Ave.
Scranton, PA 18503

TREASURER'S OFFICE

Edward Karpovich, Treasurer
135 Jefferson Ave.
Scranton, PA 18503



DEPARTMENT COLOR KEY:

- = PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ("PLANNING")
- = RECORDER OF DEEDS ("DEEDS")
- = TAX ASSESSMENT AND TAX APPEALS ("ASSESSMENT")
- = TAX CLAIM BUREAU
- = TREASURER

did you know?

Moosic, which officially became a borough in 1899, took its name from the herds of moose that roamed in the Lackawanna Valley. An early significant business was the Moosic Powder Mills, important because it supplied black powder for blasting rock and coal.



innovation starts here

Simplex Industries



Simplex Industries is a national success story based in Scranton's Keyser Valley Industrial Park. The local facility includes 150,000 square feet of manufacturing space and corporate offices. The company is unique in its field in that it maintains in-house design and engineering teams as well as an in-house stair-shop, tile shop, custom kitchen shop, and more. Simplex is also a true custom builder with the ability to build from almost any plans.

Founded in 1971 by the Fricchione family, the firm is still family owned and operated and is a nationally recognized leader in building very high quality modular homes. The company's abilities can be found in the numerous national building and design awards they have won over the years, including awards for "Green" building design. The company was featured on the national television program "Home Again" hosted by Bob Villa. Bob followed the complete design and construction of a Simplex Home for an entire television season.

Simplex sells through builders located from Maine to Georgia. But there's more to Simplex, than Simplex! The company also has a number of sister companies including Cornerstone Building Solutions (local home construction in N.E. PA), Modern Architectural Modular (building architect designed ultra modern homes) and the newest addition to the Simplex family of companies, Simplex Solar. Simplex Solar offers four-season solar systems that can reduce or eliminate electric bills for both home owners as well as commercial property owners.

To learn more about Simplex, visit www.simplexhomes.com



in your parks Programs Growing in Lackawanna County Parks

Participation in Lackawanna County Parks and Recreation programs has more than doubled since the current administration took office in 2008. New programs added for 2010 include a summer youth basketball camp, women's golf clinics and an evening women's basketball league. The initial session of the women's golf clinic proved so popular that another section was added. Coming soon is an adult tennis league.

Lackawanna County Parks and Recreation Programs

PROGRAMS	2007 Participants	2010 Participants
Winter Golf Clinic <i>(adults and children)</i>	80*	236
Children's Fishing Derby <i>(McDade Park)</i>	102	321
Children's Fishing Derby <i>(Merli Sarnoski Park)</i>	68	125
Youth Tennis Clinics	280	325
Summer Youth Golf Clinic	•	92
Youth Soccer Clinic <i>(McDade Park)</i>	•	87
Youth Soccer Clinic <i>(Merli Sarnoski Park)</i>	•	113
Youth Basketball Clinics <i>(Various Locations)</i>	135	195*
Women's Golf Clinic	•	152
Women's Basketball League	•	65
Youth Basketball Camp <i>(Merli Sarnoski Park)</i>	•	79
Adult Tennis League <i>(Coming Soon!)</i>		
TOTAL	665	1790

* Estimate

• Program was created after 2007



In addition to the programs listed above, the parks department offers two children's fishing derbies, summer youth tennis, golf and soccer clinics, fall youth basketball clinics, and winter golf clinics for children and adults. Programs are either free or kept affordable so everyone can take part. All this comes as the parks department budget has decreased, in keeping with the Commissioners' philosophy to do more with less. In addition to recreation programs, the Department of Arts and Culture's free Art in the Park days are drawing hundreds of children and their parents for crafts, music, games, magic and more!

For complete program information, call the McDade Park Office at 570-963-6764 or go to www.lackawannacounty.org.

in the spotlight

Roads and Bridges Department Improves County Infrastructure, Saves on Construction Costs



Several bridges that were damaged in the 2006 flooding have been replaced using \$1.3 million in funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency thanks to the diligence of the Lackawanna County Roads and Bridges Department. The bridges are the Lake Spangenburg Bridge in Jefferson Township, Bridge Lane in Newton Township and the Aston Mountain Road Bridge in Springbrook Township, according to Larry Lukasik, who oversees Roads and Bridges. Mr. Lukasik completed the paperwork for the federal Damage Survey Report, which allowed the county to collect the federal reimbursement.

Meanwhile, the county crew will replace the wood-deck Plank Road Bridge in Clifton Township this fall, Mr. Lukasik said. The in-house job will save taxpayers money on construction costs.

Bridge work is not the only construction project that the Roads and Bridges crew has taken on. County workers have constructed all three Boundless Playgrounds located at county-owned McDade Park, the Abington Area Community Park in South Abington Township and McHale Park in Dunmore. Because money was saved on construction costs by doing the work in-house, more funds were available to invest in playground equipment and landscaping. Roads and Bridges will continue the effort by building three additional Boundless Playgrounds at Aylesworth Park, Covington Park and a Lower Valley site.

The busy county crew also found time to complete a road widening and sidewalk installation project at the intersection of Boulevard Avenue and county-owned Main Avenue in Dickson City. Not only did the in-house project save money; it also helped beautify the area.

"Roads and Bridges will continue to look for innovative ways to save money and improve infrastructure in order to make Lackawanna County a great place to live, work and play," Commissioners Michael J. Washo and Corey D. O'Brien said.

in your town

Work is completed on a pocket park at the corner of Salem Road and Church Street in Archbald that memorializes those who sacrificed their lives for our country. The Lackawanna County Commissioners awarded \$45,000 from the Lackawanna County Environmental Conservation and Outdoor Recreation grant program for construction of the \$276,232 Archbald park. Under the grant program, \$564,500 was allocated from the Landfill Trust to 19 local communities and agencies to help fund 20 projects totaling over \$4.6 million.



The High School Plaza, Archbald Memorial Park, on the site of the former Archbald High School, is a project of the Aylesworth Creek Reservoir Park Authority. The park includes graceful winding paths, benches, period lighting and a picturesque gazebo with tables that feature an imbedded game board for checkers or chess. At the corner is Veterans Memorial Plaza, a monument to borough residents who gave the ultimate sacrifice in World War I, World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. The plaza features various flags, including those representing the branches of the military.



in our past



In 1867, Joseph Hand Scranton commissioned Russell Sturgis, Jr. to oversee construction of the three-story masonry and wood-frame family mansion that is known today as the Estate. Mr. Sturgis chose the French Second Empire style and built the house using locally quarried granite.

The Estate served as the Scrantons' home until they donated it to the University of Scranton in 1941. When the Jesuits assumed administration of the University in 1942, they used the building as their residence. In 1987, the Jesuits moved into Campion Hall, and the University completely refurbished the interior and exterior of the Estate. Over the years, the Estate has held various administrative offices, social areas and a faculty and staff dining area. In 2008, the Estate underwent another transformation to become the new home of the University's Office of Admissions.

The interior still retains original woodwork, marble fireplaces and tile floors. The ground floor, featuring a solid mahogany staircase with 13-foot columns capped with a leaded Tiffany-style glass skylight, now serves as a welcome center for visitors to campus.

For more information, contact the University of Scranton at 570-941-7400 or www.scranton.edu.

information

- :: Airport (570) 602-2000
- :: Adult Probation (570) 963-6876
- :: Area Agency on Aging (570) 963-6740
- :: Arts & Culture (570) 963-6590
- :: Assessors (570) 963-6728
- :: Child Care Information Services (570) 963-6644
- :: Children & Youth (570) 963-6781
- :: Coal Mine Tour (570) 963-6463
- :: COLTS (570) 346-2061
- :: Commissioners' Office (570) 963-6800
- :: Controller (570) 963-6726
- :: Coordinated Transportation (570) 963-6795
- :: Court Administrator (570) 963-6773
- :: District Attorney (570) 963-6717
- :: Domestic Relations (570) 963-6721
- :: Drug & Alcohol Commission (570) 963-6820
- :: Emergency Services 911
- :: Housing Authority (570) 342-7629
- :: Human Resources (570) 963-6771
- :: Judicial Records (570) 963-6723 - Civil (570) 963-6759 - Criminal
- :: Juvenile Probation (570) 963-6887
- :: Office of Environmental Sustainability (570) 963-2017
- :: Parks & Recreation (570) 963-6764
- :: Penn State Cooperative Extension (570) 963-6842
- :: Planning & Economic Development (570) 963-6830
- :: PNC Field (570) 969-2255
- :: Public Defender (570) 963-6761
- :: Purchasing (570) 963-6767
- :: Recorder of Deeds (570) 963-6775
- :: Recycling Center (570) 963-6868
- :: Register of Wills (570) 963-6702
- :: Roads & Bridges (570) 496-7733
- :: Sheriff (570) 963-6719
- :: Tax Claims (570) 963-6734
- :: Toyota Pavilion (570) 961-9000
- :: Treasurer (570) 963-6731
- :: Trolley Museum (570) 963-6590
- :: Veterans' Affairs (570) 963-6778
- :: Visitors' Bureau (570) 963-6363
- :: Voter Registration (570) 963-6737



WWW.REDISCOVERSCRANTON.COM




Lackawanna County Attraction Hours



Lackawanna Coal Mine Tour
 McDade Park, Scranton
570-963-6764
 Open Daily 10am-3pm | April 1st - November 30th
 Closed Easter & Thanksgiving



Electric City Trolley Museum & Station
 Cliff St. on the grounds of Steamtown
 National Historic Site, Scranton
570-963-6590
 Open Daily 9am-5pm | May 1st - December 31st
 Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas & New Year's Day



Lackawanna County Visitors Center and Whistle Stop Shoppe
 99 Glenmaura National Boulevard, Scranton
1-800-22-WELCOME x5
 Open Daily 9:30am-4:30pm



Lackawanna County Convention & Visitors Bureau
 For more information on area attractions, hotels and restaurants, please visit www.visitnepa.org or call **1-800-22-WELCOME x5**

This newsletter is paid for by the Hotel Room Rental Tax.



The Lackawanna County Office of Environmental Sustainability encourages everyone to do their part for a greener tomorrow by recycling. Here are a few recycling tips:

Please Recycle:

- ▲ Bottles & Jars (Glass and Plastic)
Rinse out and throw away lids
- ▲ Cans (Aluminum, Steel & Tin)
Rinse out throw away lids
- ▲ Newspapers, Phone Books, Magazines, Catalogs & Brown Bags
Stack in a brown bag or tie
- ▲ Office Paper
If you can write on it, you can recycle it!
Must be kept separate from newspaper.

Do Not Recycle:

- ▲ Margarine Tubs, Deli & Yogurt Cups
- ▲ Plastic & Foam Dishes; Drinking Glasses
- ▲ Plastic Bags, Tyvek Envelopes & Bubble Wrap
- ▲ Bakery & Cereal Boxes; Food Wrappers
- ▲ Plate & Window Glass; Light Bulbs
- ▲ Ceramic Cups, Plates & Cookware
- ▲ Flower Pots
- ▲ Motor Oil & Chemical Containers; Paint Cans
- ▲ Books

Questions about what to do with hard to recycle items? Call 570-963-2017