

living lackawanna

Official Newsletter and Report to Lackawanna County Taxpayers

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Additional Improvements Coming to Lackawanna County Parks

The Lackawanna County Commissioners are continuing to develop the county's park system this summer using state grants and Landfill Trust money. At Covington Park in the North Pocono area, \$1.6 million will be invested to upgrade an existing playing field and build a new Little League field, multipurpose field, basketball court, playground, parking areas and pavilion/office complex. Aylesworth Park in the Upper Valley will see construction of a new playground, softball and soccer fields, completion of the lake trail, landscaping and new signage for \$400,000. A new \$500,000 park office and pavilion facility was completed there at the end of 2009.



"We are ensuring that each region of the county has easily accessible, high-quality recreation areas," Lackawanna County Commissioners Michael J. Washo and Corey D. O'Brien said. "It is part of our commitment to make Lackawanna County a great place to live, work and play!"

For information on recreational programming, see the **In Your Parks** section in Living Lackawanna or go to www.lackawannacounty.org. Meanwhile,

remember to take advantage of the amenities at McDade Park and Merli-Sarnoski Park, including swimming, fishing, hiking, playing on McDade's handicapped accessible Boundless Playground and more!

Boundless Playground Program Expands

Lackawanna County's award-winning Boundless Playground Program will expand this year to three additional sites – Covington Park, Aylesworth Park and a third site in the Lower Valley. Boundless Playgrounds serve children of all abilities and needs. Wheelchair-bound youngsters are able to access the slides. Swings are designed to accommodate children with physical disabilities. Boundless Playgrounds are already open at McDade Park, the Abington Area Community Park in South Abington Township and McHale Park in Dunmore.



In 2009, McDade Park's Boundless Playground received a Pride & Progress Award from the Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce. Bill Davis, Lackawanna County Parks and Recreation Deputy Director, recently accepted a 2010 Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society Award on behalf of Commissioners Corey D. O'Brien and Michael J. Washo for the category, "Excellence in Programming – People with Disabilities in a Community Setting."

The NEPA Center for Independent Living is planning an event at the Boundless Playground at McDade Park on July 23 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The event will include music, art and an American Sign Language story hour. We hope you can stop in for a fun-filled day of activities for both children and adults!

be **in** the know
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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".

There was a new twist this year to decorations for the annual St. Patrick's Day parade – orange and green signs swirling with shamrocks that warned of the consequences associated with public drunkenness and underage drinking, including a \$300 fine and 90 days in jail.

The eye-catching signs were the result of a partnership between the Lackawanna County Commission on Drug and Alcohol Abuse, the Scranton Police Department and the Lackawanna County District Attorney's Office to promote parade day as more of a family event. The signs also kicked off a new state-funded prevention program that targets underage and binge drinking among college students and high school juniors and seniors.

The new prevention program is one of many efforts by the Commission that are designed to assist county residents in resisting or overcoming addiction. In addition to prevention, the Commission, overseen by Administrator Jeffrey Zerechak, offers treatment assistance within funding constraints to those without health insurance.

The Commission's on-going prevention programs, funded through federal block grants, include assisting with drug and alcohol education for students in grades K through 12, co-facilitating at-risk youth support groups, overseeing drug and alcohol cessation programs, and generally disseminating information on drugs and alcohol to the public, said Prevention Supervisor Michele Smith.

Besides the St. Patrick's Day campaign, the new prevention program has hosted a Town Meeting and two Teen Talks focusing on underage and binge drinking. Parents are also being targeted through posters, magnets and informational material to remind them "you're not done yet" when it comes to talking to their graduating seniors about the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse.

Meanwhile, the Commission is gearing up for fall celebrations of the 25th anniversaries for both the national anti-drug Red Ribbon Campaign and the local anti-drinking and driving Holiday Campaign. The two campaigns involve local students, with the Holiday Campaign featuring a

poster contest. Winning entries are displayed on billboards and in an annual calendar.

The treatment side is kept busy each day with people looking for help. Commission case management workers field self-referrals and court referrals, conducting evaluations and getting treatment for those without resources. The case managers stick with the individual throughout the process, including follow-up after rehab.

On another front, the Commission is partnering with Susquehanna County to eliminate duplication in the area of administration so that scarce dollars can be channeled into services.

We urge anyone who is struggling with addiction to contact the Commission for assistance. Community groups can take advantage of educational tools offered by the Commission's highly-trained staff. Contact the Commission at 570-963-6820. Together, we can reduce the problems of drug and alcohol abuse to make Lackawanna County a better place to live, work and play!

Arts and Culture Schedules Free Events for All Ages



The Lackawanna County Commissioners and Deputy Director for Arts and Culture Maureen McGuigan are offering a wealth of outdoor events that take advantage of sunny skies and warmer temperatures.

The popular Noon-Time Concerts on the Square resume Friday, June 4 and run through Friday, Aug. 27. The rain date for all performances is the following Wednesday. The county also sponsors music at the Scranton Farmer's Market on Mondays. The series begins in July and runs through October. More music opportunities are in the works. For complete information, including updates of additional concerts, go to www.lackawannacounty.org.

The Art in the Park program, which offers free arts activities and music for families, will again take place on four Wednesdays this summer from 10 a.m. to noon. The events will be held at McDade Park on July 14 and Aug. 4 at the pavilion by the pond and at Merli-Samoski Park on July 28 and Aug. 18 at the pavilion by the lake.

Veterans Eligible for Benefits

Veterans or their surviving spouse are urged to contact Lackawanna County's Office of Veterans Affairs to determine if they are eligible for various types of monetary benefits. Veterans Affairs, under the leadership of Robert Tuffy, Director for Veterans Affairs, has increased the amount of claim benefits administered by the county from approximately \$14,000 five years ago to over \$1 million today.

"We have grown the Veterans Affairs staff to its highest level ever to ensure

Environmental Office Celebrates Earth Day

The Lackawanna County Office of Environmental Sustainability, under the direction of Manager Marnie Palmer and Education Specialist Barbara Giovagnoli, celebrated Earth Day this year with two programs designed to increase awareness of recycling and reduce the amount of paper in the county's waste stream.

The office sponsored the spring Greensylvania paper recycling competition between seven Lackawanna County schools. Students at Frances Willard Elementary School in the Scranton School District were the winners, recycling 3.66 pounds of paper per person. The seven schools recycled 4.26 tons of paper, which



is equivalent to saving over 72 trees. The Office of Environmental Sustainability piloted the Lackawanna County program in the fall of 2008. The competition has since gone statewide.

On April 21, the Office of Environmental Sustainability partnered with Diamond K, Inc. to sponsor "Shred Day on the Square" at Courthouse Square. The event collected household files and other personal papers from county residents that were then sent to Diamond K for shredding and recycling.

County Seeks Grant Funding for Technology

The Lackawanna County Commissioners recently approved a grant application that would be used to improve the county's technology infrastructure through the creation of a high-speed, wireless data network. The network would have far reaching uses. For instance, the secure wireless network would allow police to monitor live camera feeds from wireless

cameras strategically located around hospitals or schools from within their police cars. Numerous municipalities, school districts, businesses and others have signed on as supporters.

The \$6 million project, overseen by Jeff Mando, Lackawanna County Information Technology Deputy Director, would receive 70 percent of its funding from grants and 30 percent from county matching funds. The county match would come from annual savings on the cost of existing data and voice network lines.

did you know?

The Abington Community Library Association is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. The library serves the community by providing a wealth of programs for all ages, from story hours to adult book clubs to teen discussion groups, in addition to offering reading material, computer access, and video and audio selections!



veterans get the benefits they deserve," Commissioners Michael J. Washo and Corey D. O'Brien said.

In addition to benefits, Veterans Affairs works with local veterans' organizations to ensure that the graves of every deceased veteran have a flag and the

appropriate marker on military days of remembrance.

For more information on Veterans Affairs, including veterans programs, contact the office at 570-963-6778 or check the Veterans Affairs page at www.lackawannacounty.org.

innovation starts here

Live Nation Entertainment



Live Nation Entertainment, Inc. is the largest live entertainment company in the world, consisting of five businesses: concert promotion and venue operations, sponsorship, ticketing solutions, e-commerce and artist management. The company is responsible for booking and operating the Toyota Pavilion at Montage Mountain, which is owned by Lackawanna County under the Lackawanna County Performing Arts Authority.

Starting in 1992 when a temporary facility was constructed each summer behind the lodge at Montage Mountain Ski Area to the current world-class permanent amphitheater that was built in 1999 and now known as Toyota Pavilion at Montage Mountain, some of the biggest names in the entertainment industry have performed each summer, playing to over one million music lovers along the way.

With a current seating capacity of 7,000 reserved seats and room for another 10,500 on its vast lawn, the facility hosts 12 to 16 shows each concert season. In June 2005, the Dave Matthews Band became the first concert to ever completely sell out the pavilion, attracting over 17,000 people. As of press time, six concerts were scheduled for 2010 – including a July 14 performance by the Dave Matthews Band - with more to be announced. See a listing on Living Lackawanna's back cover.

Live Nation seeks to innovate and enhance the live entertainment experience for artists and fans before, during and after the show. In 2009, Live Nation sold 140 million tickets, promoted 21,000 concerts, partnered with 850 sponsors and averaged 25 million unique monthly users of its e-commerce sites. For additional information, visit www.livenation.com/investors.

in your parks

Recreation Programs Abound at County Parks

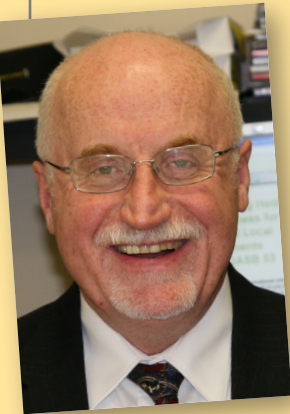
The Lackawanna County Parks and Recreation Department overseen by Deputy Director Bill Davis has a full slate of fun, low-cost recreation opportunities throughout the summer for county residents of all ages. Programs range from tennis, soccer and golf to cross country and the annual spring and fall Children's Fishing Derbies. For complete information, call the McDade Park office at 570-963-6764 or go to www.lackawannacounty.org.

- Lackawanna County Youth Tennis Clinics, ages 8 to 16, \$15 for six sessions, various locations, June 14 to Aug. 13
- Lackawanna County Youth Soccer Clinic, ages 5 to 13, \$40, June 28, 29, 30 and July 1 from 9:30 a.m. to noon, Merli-Sarnoski Park
- Lackawanna County Youth Soccer Clinic, ages 5 to 13, \$40, July 26, 27, 28 and 29 from 5:30 to 8 p.m., McDade Park
- Lackawanna County Youth Outdoor Basketball Clinics, \$40, ages 7 to 10, June 14 through 17 from 9:30 a.m. to noon, McDade Park, and ages 11 to 14, June 21 through 24 from 9:30 a.m. to noon, McDade Park
- Lackawanna County Youth Golf Clinic, ages 8 to 16, \$50, July 9, 16, 23 and 30 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., Scott Greens Golf Club
- Lackawanna County Junior Golf Tournament, Aug. 4, Scranton Muni Golf Course
- Lackawanna County Amateur Golf Tournament, Aug. 7 and 8, Scranton Muni Golf Course
- Lackawanna County Commissioners Cross Country Invitational, Sept. 18 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., McDade Park
- Lackawanna County Women's Golf Clinic, \$50, June 15, 17, 22 and 24 from 10 a.m. to noon, Scott Greens Golf Club
- Lackawanna County Women's Basketball League, \$20 including t-shirt, Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. from May 20 through July 29, McDade Park



in the spotlight

Accounting Professional Monitors County Finances



As Lackawanna County's Chief Financial Officer and Director of Administrative Services, Thomas Durkin is a key player in managing county finances, overseeing departments including finance, budget, tax claims, purchasing, and insurance and risk management, as well as information technology and

human resources. Mr. Durkin also works closely with the county's private sector financial advisor, scrutinizing county bond issues and debt with an eye towards reducing debt service costs.

The Green Ridge resident and father of three has a strong accounting background in both the private and public sectors. Starting in 1989, Mr. Durkin worked for 10 years as controller for the Lackawanna County Multi-Purpose Stadium. As the stadium's first controller, he was responsible for establishing a financial accounting system and related financial procedures. Mr. Durkin brought that experience to the county when he was hired as CFO in 2004.

"The single most significant thing I've done is implement Lackawanna County's financial accounting system in 2005," he said. "The system that was previously in place was rudimentary at best. There was no general ledger. It was based on cash receipts and cash disbursements."

The New World financial system allowed the county's finance department to easily run reports of various accounts, gave departments the ability to maintain their own budgets, and allowed the county to develop an annual budget electronically rather than using a manual system. In addition, New World assists in conducting more timely annual audits.

Mr. Durkin is also spearheading a project to improve the county's time and attendance system, which was a priority for Commissioners Michael J. Washo and Corey D. O'Brien. Departments such as emergency services and the Lackawanna County Prison that had been punching a time clock were upgraded to a new finger-punch system. The system has also been extended to other county departments that were not using a time clock. The goal is to enhance employee accountability.

in your town

The Lackawanna County Commissioners, in conjunction with Lackawanna County Parks and Recreation Deputy Director Bill Davis, is assisting Old Forge with the development of a new public park near the Old Forge Elementary School. Mr. Davis worked with Old Forge officials on the planning of the facility. The park will feature a playground, walking track, tennis courts, basketball court and multipurpose field.

To help with costs, the county will donate existing playground equipment from McDade Park. Slides, swings and climbing apparatus geared for children ages 3 to 12 will be disassembled and erected at the new site. The mint-condition equipment at McDade Park is being removed so that the focus there is on the Boundless Playground that opened last September.

"The donation of equipment to Old Forge is part of our commitment to help



communities throughout the county provide additional recreational opportunities to their residents," Commissioners Corey D. O'Brien and Michael J. Washo said. "In 2009, we awarded over \$500,000 in competitive grants from the Landfill Trust that assisted 20 conservation and recreation projects in 19 communities totaling over \$4.6 million. The county also used Landfill Trust money in 2009 to build Boundless Playgrounds in the Abingtons and Dunmore."

in our past



Located near the Steamtown National Historic Site, the Scranton Iron Furnaces represent the early iron industry in the United States. The four massive stone blast furnaces are the remnants of a once extensive plant operated by the Lackawanna Iron & Steel Company. Started in 1840 as Scranton, Grant & Company, the firm had the largest iron production capacity in the United States by 1865. By 1880, it poured 125,000 tons of pig iron, which was converted in its rolling mill and foundry into T-rails and other end products. In 1902, the company dismantled the plant and moved it to Lackawanna, New York to be closer to the high-grade iron ores coming out of the Mesabi Range.

On June 19, the Anthracite Heritage Museum, which oversees the historic site, will hold "Arts on Fire," an iron pour that will be part of Scranton's first industrial arts festival! The festival is from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and it will feature various artists, vendors, historical organizations and more. The pour itself will begin at 1 p.m. Sponsors include Lackawanna County's ARTS Engage! program, a Keystone Iron Works Grant and Keystone College.

The Scranton Iron Furnaces is open April through October from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, go to www.anthracitemuseum.org.

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
- :: 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
(570) 963-2017
- :: 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.



Toyota Pavilion at Montage Mountain 2010 Concert Season

Kings of Leon – June 8 at 7:30 p.m.
Sugarland with Luke Bryan & Danny Gokey – Saturday, June 12 at 7:30 p.m.
Dave Matthews Band with Amos Lee – July 14 at 7 p.m.
2010 Vans Warped Tour – July 15 at noon
John Mayer with Train – Saturday, July 24 at 7 p.m.
Creed – Aug. 18 at 7:30 p.m.

All dates, support artists and ticket prices are subject to change without notice. Parking and additional fees may apply.

Additional shows to be announced soon!

Ticket Information: Tickets for announced events are on sale now and can be purchased at LiveNation.com, the Toyota Pavilion Box Office or by phone at **1-800-745-3000**.