

# living lackawanna

Official Newsletter and Report to Lackawanna County Taxpayers

## Our Pledge for a Fiscally Sound, Safe Future



Patrick M. O'Malley



Jerry Notarianni



Laureen A. Cummings

These are exciting times for Lackawanna County. Our community is on the cusp of moving forward and creating new opportunities for our residents and business community.

As our administration continues to roll-out its vision for the future, it does so on a solid foundation that will serve as a springboard for future growth.

Our Board of Commissioners is steadfastly committed to sound business practices, being fiscally responsible in all programming and building decisions, maintaining a world-class parks system that offers recreational opportunities for everyone, and doing more with less.

The time is now for Lackawanna County government to be under one roof and own its own building. Our vision is to have all departments housed in a centralized location, but this must be done in a facility that does not impose any additional tax burden. We are very interested in making Lackawanna County's services accessible in a "one-stop shop."

Government should not be "leased" out any more because it is not cost efficient, nor user-friendly for people who need to do business with the County. It is vitally important to fully serve the residents in one centralized location.

This was evidenced by the April 29th announcement that the former Globe Store will be purchased

and serve as the County's future Government Center.

We are also focused on holding the line on taxes and unnecessary spending, while also consolidating services for more efficient delivery. We are dedicated to providing a high level of Human Services initiatives for our youth, elderly and families in a safe, secure County that can respond rapidly in a crisis or time of need. Our support for the arts and culture remains a priority, as well.

While we are all in concert on the aforementioned items, there are also specific priorities each of us want to see accomplished that are above our joint mission.

For Commissioner Patrick M. O'Malley, fiscal accountability is the hallmark of his vision. This was documented by the County's audits being done on time, the surveillance fee being eliminated, and the bond rating being restored.

These are key elements that enable the operation to refinance older debt to save money and borrow for projects that will enhance the landscape of the community. Holding the line on taxes is vitally important as well because it strengthens the overall business climate of our area, making it more attractive to investors.

Creating family sustaining jobs and keeping our talented individuals here are vitally important. To achieve this we must make certain that the business environment is healthy for

attracting companies to join our corporate community, creating new opportunities or improving chances for advancement.

Lackawanna County is about family and that's why a County Fair would be perfect for our area's economy. Still in its infancy, this type of event would be a revenue generator for local and regional exhibitors; draw families back to the area for a visit; create a festive atmosphere; and offer a recreational amenity that everyone can afford.

Economic Development is the centerpiece of Commissioner Jerry Notarianni's focus. His goal is to tap into the resources of area residents who have moved to major metropolitan areas and run multi-national corporations. He believes that they would be happy to help their home communities.

While we may not secure the move of corporate headquarters to Lackawanna County, we may be able to land advanced back-office or satellite operations.

We must prove that we are committed to this type of growth by displaying our ability to follow through on projects. This will go a long way in restoring confidence in our government, helping to increase our tax base, creating jobs and possibly lowering taxes.

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*County*  
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
Patrick M. O'Malley • Jerry Notarianni  
Laureen A. Cummings

**Investing in Our Future**

# Commissioners' Message

## Serving Needs Key to Good Government

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To succeed, it is imperative for area economic development agencies to unite with the County and utilize everyone's resources to promote the area. Schools will be a vital part of this process, as well, in providing the skills training to prepare our workforce for the jobs that will impact our future.

Downsizing government by eliminating repetitive services, if possible, would streamline government and save valuable financial resources.

Small businesses are the backbone of our local and national economy and of great interest to Commissioner Lauren A. Cummings.

Promoting small businesses are a priority to Ms. Cummings because of their value to our local economy. To that end, she established a "Small Business Spotlight" at Commissioners' Meetings where owners are able to tout their operations. To date, The Van Brunt Grill, Freckles and Frills Inc., DePietro's Pharmacy, PA Hutchison, Nickie's Fabulous Hoagies and On & On Marketplace have been featured.

Reducing taxes is a major goal of Commissioner Cummings. Fiscal responsibility in the areas of County starting salaries and paying down the debt is a major concern. Providing tax relief to the residents once the



*Commissioner Lauren A. Cummings and members of her Drug Task Force, along with Commissioner Patrick M. O'Malley, met recently with Scranton School District officials, County law enforcement personnel and members of the community to discuss prescription drug abuse and the opioid epidemic sweeping our area and the nation.*

debt is retired is something the Commissioner would like to have happen.

Prescription drug and heroin abuse are rapidly becoming a nationwide epidemic, affecting our youth and adult populations. Utilizing the full resources of her office, Commissioner Cummings is focused on educating the community on this perilous issue.

She has formed a coalition, with the help of Commissioner O'Malley, who has also served as a Corrections Officer, comprised of representatives from the Federal government, the District Attorney's Office, the County's Drug & Alcohol Office and the Community Relations Department to address this important topic.

Utilizing the Scranton School District as a pilot site for this project, multiple presentations will be made to students, school boards and PTA groups to discuss the crisis, its health risks, and the means to combat it. Guidelines for properly discarding prescription drugs will also be outlined.

All of this work is vital to the well-being of Lackawanna County and its residents. This is good government in action. It is government the way it should be – serving everyone's needs.



The Scranton Cultural Center honored the Lackawanna County Commissioners and their Department of Arts & Culture with its Masonic Foundation Award at a gala reception on March 31st. The County was recognized for its commitment to and generous ongoing support of the arts, theater, music, heritage and cultural organizations in our community.

*Pictured from left to right: Commissioner Patrick M. O'Malley; Commissioner Lauren A. Cummings; Maureen McGuigan, the County's Deputy Director for Arts & Culture; and Commissioner Jerry Notarianni.*



## What is the Hotel Room Rental Tax?

### Tax Revenue Supports LCCVB, Marketing and County Events

The "Living In Lackawanna" newsletter is paid for by the Hotel Room Rental Tax. Readers may have noticed the tagline on the back panel of this publication in the "Lackawanna County Attractions" ad block.

Just what is the Hotel Room Rental Tax, you may ask?

The hotel tax was established by Ordinance 110 in August 1997 at a rate of 4%. The rate was increased to 7% by Ordinance 221 in August 2012.

The tax revenue is generated from each transaction of patrons who rent a room(s) in our local hotels, motels or inns. The hotel tax is imposed when a person rents a room or rooms for one (1) day or up to 30 days. For any stay over 30 days, the individual is considered a permanent resident.

The hospitality establishment operator is responsible for submitting payments on transactions of the preceding month on the 25th day of the month to the Lackawanna County Treasurer's Office, which is the designated collector of the Hotel Room Rental Tax.



The Treasurer's Office, in turn, transfers 40% of what is collected to the Lackawanna County Convention and Visitors Bureau, the area's Tourist Promotion Agency (TPA). The organization uses the funds to market the County as a tourist destination. It also provides funding for a number of civic, community and cultural events for residents and visitors to participate in.

The remaining 60% of the revenue is used for expenses associated with collecting and enforcing the tax and, more importantly, for County-sponsored events, marketing, publications, brochures, festivals, recreational activities and other related programs or promotional campaigns.

Aside from the newsletter, the County has used hotel tax funds for advertising our parks' events, billboards for the Coal Mine and Trolley Museum, a variety of printed handouts and marketing pieces, community awareness campaigns, and civic meetings and programs hosted or sponsored by the Commissioners.

## Senior Activity Centers' Schedules on County Website

The daily menus and schedule of events for the area's Senior Activity Centers are listed on the County's website.

To see "what's cooking" and the activities that you might be interested in, visit the County's website [www.lackawannacounty.org](http://www.lackawannacounty.org) and search for the Area Agency On Aging page to check-out what is being served and/or going on.

## Opioid Task Force Visiting Area Schools

Commissioner Lauren A. Cummings is on a mission. Her goal is to spread the message far and wide to parents, students, school administrators and the general public about the perils of prescription drug abuse and the opioid epidemic. Commissioner Cummings has delivered a presentation to students at Lakeland High School and has met with the Scranton Area Council PTA.

"Heroin use and prescription pain medicine abuse are rapidly becoming epidemics in our community and nationwide. People need to become aware of the debilitating health effects resulting from their use along with the crimes and punishment that could result when people break the law," explained Commissioner Cummings. "I want to do everything I can to alert our community about this and try to help people."

For her presentations, she has engaged Lackawanna County District Attorney Shane Scanlon and Lackawanna-Susquehanna Office of Drug & Alcohol Program Director William Hoban to explain the issues and facts about these community perils and how to secure support for combating these issues. Commissioner Cummings' talk centers on the fact that pain was added as the fifth vital

sign in 1992. This also coincided with the arrival of FDA approved Oxycodone (OxyContin) to treat pain. It was marketed as both effective and less addictive. Current statistics have proven that to be untrue.

Mr. Hoban focuses on what prescription drug abuse is along with a variety of myths and facts surrounding drug abuse. He provides statistical data on the epidemic along with the most commonly misused medications. Hoban also discusses the local prevention resources available to fight drug abuse and the reasons why youngsters use drugs.

Lackawanna County District Attorney Shane Scanlon talks about the public safety and law aspects of heroin and prescription drug abuse. He outlines the operation and structure of the County's Drug Treatment Court.

Commissioner Cummings' goal is to provide this presentation to as many area school districts as possible. She also expects to do a Roundtable later in the spring on ECTV.

Any group, organization or school that would like to schedule a presentation should contact Commissioner Cummings' office at 570-963-6800.

## Take the Trolley to a RailRiders Game

In 1866, Scranton's horse drawn cars were unable to keep pace with the growth of the new city. The hilly terrain, expanding population and a need for affordable public transportation gave birth to one of America's first Electric Trolley Systems, The Scranton Suburban Railway. What began as a maroon-colored trolley evolved into electric traction, giving Scranton the honor of having built one of the first electric trolley lines in America and branding Scranton as "The Electric City."

Today, we can relive the era of the trolleys at the Electric City Trolley Station and Museum located at the Steamtown Historic Site. Visitors can view some of the 23 car collection and take a 10-mile excursion on a 1920 era electric trolley. The trolley travels through the historic 4,747 foot-long Laurel Line Tunnel to the Trolley Restoration Shop located at PNC Field at Montage. The Restoration

Shop offers visitors an opportunity to see and learn about the ongoing restoration of the museum's collection.

This spring and summer, the Electric City Trolley Museum is once again offering nine trolley excursion runs to PNC Field for Scranton/Wilkes-Barre RailRiders games.

Select games, May through September, will offer fans an opportunity to "take the trolley" to the park. The price of the excursion is \$20 per person and includes the trolley fare, game ticket and a \$2 voucher for either the concession stand or team store. For those who have a game ticket and just want to ride the trolley, the cost is \$11. Reservations for both packages are required.

For more information, please visit the Lackawanna County website at [www.lackawannacounty.org](http://www.lackawannacounty.org) or contact the Museum at 570-963-6590.

## Parks & Recreation Events

### Free Swimming

McDade Park Pool  
Aylesworth Park Lake  
Covington Park Lake  
Merli-Sarnoski Park Lake  
Mid-June thru Mid-August  
Daily 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

### Gymnastics Clinics

United Sports Academy  
July 5, 12, 19, 26  
4 - 5 p.m. (Tuesdays)  
August 2, 9, 16, 23  
4 - 5 p.m. (Tuesdays)

### Bocce Tournament

McDade Park  
June 11

### Youth Tennis Clinics

For clinic locations visit  
[www.lackawannacounty.org](http://www.lackawannacounty.org)  
June 13 thru August 11  
Tournament is August 13

### Adult Tennis League

McDade Park  
June 7 thru July 28  
6 - 8 p.m. (Tuesdays & Thursdays)

### Summer Basketball Clinics

McDade Park  
June 20-23 (Ages 7-10)  
June 27-30 (Ages 7-10)  
July 11-14 (Ages 11-14)

### Junior Summer Golf Clinic

Scott Greens Golf Club  
June 17 & 24, July 1 & 8  
- Boys & Girls Ages 8-16  
9:30 - 11:30 a.m.  
- T-Golf Ages 4-7  
9:30 - 10:45 a.m.

### Youth Soccer Clinics

Covington Park  
June 20-23  
Merli-Sarnoski Park  
June 27-30  
McDade Park  
July 25-28

For information on these events, or on any County Park, please call (570) 963-6764.



## Our Cornerstone Community Events

*Lackawanna County Commissioners and organizers of the April Showers art project display the colorful umbrella designs that were on display during First Friday in April. Pictured from left to right: Justin Roach, Wayne Bank; Maureen Duffy of Duffy Accessories; Eli Tomlinson, Wayne Bank; Matt Swartz, Wayne Bank; Maureen McGuigan, Lackawanna County Arts and Culture Department; Cristin Powers, Director of ScrantonMade; Janine Baux, Ballet Theatre of Scranton; Lackawanna County Commissioner Patrick M. O'Malley; Samantha Nardelli, Shantytown Design; and Lackawanna County Commissioner Jerry Notarianni.*

April Showers do bring May flowers along with colorful umbrellas. On April 1, a new public art initiative called #scrantonlove Public Art Project was launched to create both temporary and permanent works of art that will beautify downtown Scranton, celebrate what is positive about the region, and engage the public in making and experiencing art.

The #scrantonlove Public Art Project, comprised of Lackawanna County, ScrantonMade, The Scranton Fringe Festival, First Friday Scranton, Shantytown Design, Pop Up Studio and the AFA Gallery, are coordinating a number of activities for the public to get involved in.

The consortium's first event was April Showers, with a goal of celebrating rain. Rain is responsible for creating our area's beautiful landscape and providing water.

Umbrellas are the perfect symbol for the rain aspect of living in Lackawanna County. Over 500 umbrellas in red, purple, blue and yellow were purchased for the event.

For the past several months local artists, members of the community, and organizations, such as Marywood University, Wayne Bank, Willard Elementary, ScrantonMade and Duffy Accessories, decorated umbrellas which were used for an arts installation designed by Pop Up Studio for the arch on the Linden Street side of Courthouse Square.

There were also installations at Duffy Accessories at 218 Linden Street, Needle Law Firm at 240 Penn Avenue, The Keys at 244 Penn Avenue, and Posh Restaurant at 404 N. Washington Avenue.

This month, the umbrellas were changed to flowers for a "May Flowers" theme.

The public is invited to participate in all Lackawanna County Arts & Culture projects and get involved in #scrantonlove by contacting Maureen McGuigan, Lackawanna County Deputy Director of Arts and Culture, at 570-963-6590, ext. 102 or mcguiganm@lackawannacounty.org.





# Lackawanna County

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
Patrick M. O'Malley • Jerry Notarianni  
Laureen A. Cummings

## Investing in Our Future

Commissioners' Office  
200 Adams Avenue, 6th Floor  
Scranton, PA 18503



## County Parks Have Something for Everyone

### McDade Park

- Inclusive Boundless Playground
- Swimming pool with bath house
- Children's fishing pond stocked several times a year
- Basketball and tennis courts
- Softball field
- Two pavilions
- Outdoor picnic areas with charcoal grills
- Two-mile cross country running course and hiking trail system
- Lackawanna Coal Mine Tour Complex with concession stand and gift shop
- Pennsylvania Anthracite Heritage Museum and gift shop
- Cancer Memorial Garden and arboretum
- Bocce courts

- Multipurpose field for soccer and lacrosse
- Free sports equipment rentals
- Large, open fields for Frisbee or cross country skiing

### Covington Park

- Inclusive Boundless Playground
- Little League field
- Pavilion
- Baseball and soccer fields
- Basketball and volleyball courts
- Fishing/Seven-acre lake

### Merli-Sarnoski Park

- 35-acre lake stocked by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission
- Two pavilions
- Large handicap accessible fishing pier
- Beautiful sandy beach area with bath houses
- Boat launch (electric motors only)
- 15 miles of hiking, mountain bike and nature trails
- Picnic areas with tables and charcoal grills
- Two playground areas
- Basketball and volleyball courts
- Regulation soccer fields
- Lackawanna County Sheriff's Department horse stables

### Aylesworth Park

- Four-acre lake with beach
- Fishing in lake stocked by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission
- Playing fields
- Inclusive Boundless Playground
- Pavilion complex that can be reserved for groups of up to 150 people
- Lake trail
- Numerous hiking trails
- Picnic tables and grills

## Upcoming Events

Bocce Tournament, McDade Park	June 11
Job Fair, PNC Field	June 16
Senior Fun Day, McDade Park	June 17
Family Fun Day, McDade Park	June 18
Youth Soccer Clinic, Covington Park	June 20-23
Youth Soccer Clinic, Merli-Sarnoski Park	June 27-30
Art in the Park, Merli-Sarnoski Park	July 5
Family Fun Day, Merli-Sarnoski Park	July 10
Art in the Park, Covington Park	July 12
Family Fun Day, Aylesworth Park	July 16
Art in the Park, McDade Park	July 19
Youth Soccer Clinic, McDade Park	July 25-28
Art in the Park, Aylesworth Park	July 26
Lackawanna County 3 on 3 Basketball	July 29-31
Family Fun Day, Covington Park	August 7

## Lackawanna County Attractions



### **Lackawanna Coal Mine Tour**

McDade Park, Taylor | **570-963-6463**  
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-4pm | 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 9am-5pm



### **Lackawanna County Convention and Visitors Bureau**

For more information on area attractions, hotels and restaurants, please visit [www.visitnepa.org](http://www.visitnepa.org) or call **1-800-22-WELCOME**

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