

WAYNE TOMORROW!

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Wayne Tomorrow! A county-sponsored, community-based collaboration focused on the projects, resources and infrastructure needed to move Wayne County, its people, its culture and its economy into a vibrant future.

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SHINE Program Engages Young Students, Empowers Families



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Honesale High School Greenhouse Growing Next Entrepreneurs



Census 2020

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SHINE Program Engages Young Students, Empowers Families, Too



As the days and now weeks tick by in the new reality of the COVID-19 pandemic, more than a few students miss their classrooms. But there's one group of students who were really getting charged up about their education: the 130 students, spread across the Wallenpaupack, Wayne Highlands and Western Wayne Schools Districts, who participate in the first year of the new SHINE Program.

Developed by schools in Carbon County, PA, SHINE targets elementary students who are disengaged from school. SHINE Director Pantea Shademani said the program involves students in academically challenging, Science-Technology-Engineering-Art-Math-based projects and fundamental skill-building, and it also engages the families.

The program operates under the auspices of the Wayne-Pike Workforce Alliance. The collaboration born of Wayne Tomorrow! helped generate the data to support a \$2 million grant over five years from the Commonwealth Finance Agency and other groups to fund the program.

However, the most impressive part of the program, is the excitement it generated among the students it serves. "These are kids who would have fallen through the cracks," Shademani explained.

To learn more, including how to financially support the project, visit [the website](#) or call the office at 570-390-7613.

Community Steps Up to Help Meet Needs During COVID-19 Pandemic



"During the COVID-19 Public Health Crisis, our community has demonstrated, yet again, how willing people are to help others," said Wayne County Commissioner Jocelyn Cramer.

With schools and most businesses shuttered in the effort to contain the COVID-19 pandemic, many people in the community are feeling the financial pinch and no small amount of anxiety.

"The county has made a list of all the food assistance programs that we are aware of, and we will continue to update this list as we learn of other offerings," Cramer explained.

The [Food Assistance Plus](#) page on the County and the Wayne Tomorrow! Websites contains details about local pantries, the "grab & go" lunches at all of the local school districts, help offered by the local faith-based organizations and more.

There is a printable version that can be requested by contacting Community Network Specialist Kim Rickard at 570-493-0080 or via email at KRickard@WayneCountyPA.gov.

If you or someone you know is struggling with mental health issues during the crisis, there are resources available. The Disaster Distress Helpline, 1-800-985-5990, provides immediate counseling to those seeking help in coping with the mental or emotional effects caused by developments related to the coronavirus pandemic.

www.WayneTomorrow.com

HHS Greenhouse Grows Entrepreneurs

HONESDALE – The pride and joy of the 100 or so students in the Agricultural Science Program at Honesdale High School, the 2,300-square-foot greenhouse made of plastic panels and an aluminum frame sits just outside the cafeteria.



Instructor Kayla Hack said the freshman students are learning some of the plant basics on the soil side of the operation, while the third-year Horticulture students often work independently in modeling a commercial greenhouse operation.

“They make more of the decisions than I do,” she joked, sort of. “They have really taken ownership of this greenhouse” and what it produces.

The planting began just after Christmas, when the greenhouse was completed, and students cycled through two four-week harvests of lettuce, kale and a variety of herbs, before the school was shuttered in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Horticulture students operate, manage and troubleshoot the Aquaponics System. Unlike hydroponics, which adds nutrients that sustain the plants, Aquaponics systems get their nutrients from fish waste. Specifically, hundreds of medium to small Koi fish, whose ammonia-rich waste is used to produce the nitrate that feeds the plants.

The students, with Ms. Hack’s help, plan out what plants will grow best where, and how many should be propagated, when they may need to be transplanted and how and when they should be harvested.

Like any commercial greenhouse, the goal here is continuous harvest, which would be required to meet contractual obligations for the products. Real world experience is the name of the game for Ms. Hack, who is a member of the Science Department and the Career & Technical Education Department.

The Horticulture Class consists of 10 students, who have been divided into three groups – Marketing, Fish and Plants. They cycle through them, so each student has a chance to learn about all three facets of the operation, which includes responding to circulation alarms, weighing the koi to be sure they are eating as well as caring for the plants.



Current marketing team member Suzanna Kuta talked about how they remove the fish from the tank and weigh the koi each week. “We are soaked by the end, but it’s the only way to do it,” she explained.

She said the Marketing team has been responsible for the community and business visits to the site, including visitors from local restaurants and the Middle School.



The learning doesn’t end at the greenhouse either. The students are also involved in selling their products, which were being sold to members of the HHS faculty and staff, prior to the COVID-19 closure. All of the proceeds, like in any other business, are being reinvested in seeds, plugs, plants and other things like fish and worms and stone, etc.

Ms. Hack offered this update: “The greenhouse is still in full bloom during the quarantine period, with limited access. Produce is still being grown and the school district and community partners are brainstorming ways to still have produce in distribution. As with everyone we want to put safety first during this time and hope to be up and running sales in the future. “

The students had planned a community Open House at the end of the month, which had to be postponed, along with many other school events and activities.

The revitalization of the high school Ag Science curriculum plays a crucial role in the Wayne Tomorrow! strategy of cultivating the region’s agricultural heritage into a brand that can sustain our current and future farm families and create opportunities throughout the broader economy.

Use “Stay at Home” Time to Complete 2020 Census Online

It has never been easier to respond to the census on your own – whether online at www.2020census.gov, over the phone at 844-330-2020 or by mail – all without having to meet a census taker. Wayne County’s self-response rate in the first few weeks since the 2020 Census invitations went out in the mail lags behind the state and national averages. Across the country as of March 31, 34.6 percent of households have responded to the 10-question survey, and Pennsylvania had a response rate of 36 percent. In Wayne County, 22.8 percent of households logged in, called or mailed in the Census questionnaire.

