

# WAYNE TOMORROW!

A monthly e-newsletter brought to you by the Wayne County Commissioners

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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.**

## Top Stories . . .



Stourbridge Project Positions County for Future Successes



Trails Alliance Works on Lackawaxen River Water Trail



Wayne Memorial Uses Grant for Healthy Food for Chronic Illnesses



County Pantry Expands For COVID-19 Relief ([hyperlink to story](#))

## The Stourbridge Project Positions Wayne County for Future Successes



The COVID-19 Pandemic has forced epic changes in the way people live their lives and do business, but with great change comes great opportunity, and Wayne Tomorrow! is positioning itself to take that advantage.

As the first major collaboration of Wayne Tomorrow! The Stourbridge Project has been at the center of efforts to strengthen the local economy and the people who power it.

The Pandemic simply emphasized the important role of not just the facility but the culture it supports.

Director Susan Shaffer said the award-winning coworking space and business incubator flourishes on innovation, which soon had “makers” producing elements of Personal Protective Equipment for front-line healthcare workers on the 3-D printers.

For example, the design of a strap to spare workers the irritation from masks was posted online by a Boy Scout then adapted for use on the Stourbridge Project printers. (Photo shows Wayne Memorial Hospital CEO Dave Hoff with the straps) “That’s what the maker community is all about,” said Shaffer. “We protect our intellectual property, but we share what is for the common good.”

During the worst of the pandemic, the facility was closed to the public, and the former open door policy has since been replaced with a pass system. Shaffer said individuals who need access to the coworking space for a specific purpose, like looking for employment, can arrange for a pass into the building. The pass costs \$25, but the money is returned when you return the fob. There is still a minimal \$25 per month subscription for remote workers and others relying on high speed internet to access the space. [For more information, visit their website.](#)

Several businesses in the incubator continued to operate, including Print Elements which sources prints and shipping materials for various companies. Considered essential, the company saw what Shaffer called a churning of their clientele with some online business customers thriving and new customers replacing those that suffered downturns.

Another company in the incubator may just hold the key to a prosperous and vibrant future for Wayne County. Called “Build My Team,” the company helps other businesses acquire talent and they help individuals by evaluating the skills they use in their present job and looking for other industries where similar skills are needed.

Shaffer said this skills-based approach may be just the ticket for helping workers in hospitality and retail industries increase their earnings power by using their skills in a different industry or by adding some technical skills that can land them a better paying position.

The Stourbridge Project’s influence stretches beyond the former 1928 elementary school it occupies on Park Street all the way to Main Street. Shaffer said some local retailers, Ghiggerri’s Olive Oils & Balsamics and Gather in Honesdale, saw the opportunities and sought assistance in moving to a digital platform that helped sustain them through the shutdown.

Even an agile, young company like Yoga International, which was already web based, found a new source of revenue in live streaming their classes.

In the coming months, and indeed years, businesses all over the world will need that entrepreneurial mindset to grow and even survive. “Innovation never stops,” explained Shaffer. “Businesses need to always be looking at what is happening now and how to position the business to grow. In times like these, when businesses can pivot, they can prosper.”

Even The Stourbridge Project has pivoted in the face of the pandemic as it creates online and hybrid training programs to replace the face-to-face education programs. Shaffer said there are also plans in the works for an Innovation Institute that would align with higher education certification or credits.



## Trails Alliance Works w/Fish & Boat Commission on Lackawaxen Water Trail



Members of the [Wayne & Pike Trail & Waterways Alliance](#) met with a representative from the PA Fish & Boat Commission (PFBC) to discuss the designation of the Lackawaxen River as a [PA Water Trail](#).

Right now, the Alliance is focused on creating a series of small craft launches along the river between Honesdale and Hawley, that should be relatively easy to develop.

PFBC suggested four sites for immediate attention: Bingham Park in Hawley (pictured); Lock 31 just to the west of Hawley; a plot near CVS as well as Industrial Point, both in Honesdale. A fifth site in White Mills is also under discus-

sion. To that end, the Alliance is seeking two grants. One will be used to make improvements to the site, which are relatively minimal in most cases. The second grant is designed to recruit new fisherman.

The Alliance will be partnering with Trout Unlimited to implement the education grant which will teach 11-14 year olds about fly fishing and river conservation. The Alliance will also work with PFBC and the Wayne County Conservation District on signage about rules and river ecology.

The Hawley Borough Recreation Commission already received its own grant and developed a launch site at Bingham Park, shown above.

## Wayne Memorial Uses Grant to Supply Healthy Food for Chronic Disease



Through important patient research, Wayne Memorial Hospital and Wayne Memorial Community Health Centers showed there is more to being healthy than going to the doctor. Factors such as low income, food insecurity, a lack of transportation and more can impact how well a person responds to medical treatment.

In an effort to help individuals with chronic condition like diabetes and congestive heart failure better manage their conditions, Wayne Memorial Hospital Community Health Manager Carol Kneier said a nearly \$300,000, three-year grant from the AllOne Foundation will help the hospital target these patients for nutritional support.

She said in the first year, 100 patients will be selected for the program, which will include a meeting with a dietitian for a consultation and a weekly box of food designed to provide one healthy meal a day.

The patients will receive ongoing support including nutrition education, healthy eating advice and follow up with their doctor. The program would serve another 150 to 200 people in the subsequent years.

Kneier said most of that funding will be used for the purchase of fresh, nutritious and local food.

Wayne Memorial Hospital and Wayne Tomorrow! share the goal of addressing the social determinant of health to promote wellness across the community.

## County Pantries Expand for COVID-19 Relief



HONESDALE – All five locations of the Wayne County Pantry program have been including local produce, milk and eggs at the pantries for the month of June. Thanks to a grant from the Weinberg Foundation to the Wayne County Community Foundation to support local COVID-19 recovery efforts, these local products will be offered in July and August as well.

The Wayne County Community Foundation has raised over \$200,000 from individuals, private foundations, community groups and businesses since the beginning of April to support emergency food relief efforts county-wide.

"We're thrilled to be able to continue to support local emergency food relief efforts as well as support the local farming community here," said RYANNE JENNINGS, executive director of the Wayne County Community Foundation. "We're extremely grateful to the support of the Weinberg Foundation for Wayne County as we work together to recover from Covid-19 and its impacts on food access and our local businesses and nonprofits."

The twice-monthly pantry allocations represent the next phase of the Wayne County Emergency Food Relief Program as the county continues to move through recovery.

To receive food assistance from the Wayne County Food Pantry, call the Area Agency on Aging Office at 570-253-4262 to register. Due to COVID-19, there are special protocols in place regarding social distancing and other mitigation measures. The details are available at [www.WayneCountyPA.gov](http://www.WayneCountyPA.gov).

The Wayne County Community Foundation continues to accept donations to the Wayne County Emergency Food Relief Fund. Secure donations can be made online by visiting [the Foundation website](#).



**WAYNE COUNTY RESIDENTS**  
"IN THIS DIFFICULT TIME"  
Please reach out to us. We are here to help!  
IF you are not already registered- You MUST call 570-253-4262 to register & obtain your pantry assignment.  
EACH PANTRY LOCATION WILL HAVE 2 DISTRIBUTION DATES IN JULY.  
Please remember--  
YOU CAN ONLY GO TO YOUR ASSIGNED LOCATION.

**COUNTY FOOD PANTRY DISTRIBUTIONS**

Available for any Wayne County residents. Applicants must register for the county food pantry by calling 570-253-4262. Two distributions in July.

Damascus - Thursdays, July 2 & 16 - Damascus Township Building 1 to 3 PM  
Honesdale - Tuesdays, July 14 & 28 - 216 Willow Avenue (rear of Tri-Co. Beverage Bldg.) 10 AM to 1 PM  
Lakeville - Thursdays, July 9 & 23 - Paupack Township Building 11 AM to 2 PM  
Lakewood - Wednesdays, July 1 & 15 - Northern Wayne Family Health Center - 12:30 to 2:30 PM  
Newfoundland - Fridays, July 10 & 24 - Dreher Township Building - 11 AM to 1 PM

Through at least August, the County Food Pantries will continue to distribute groceries twice per month. Look for the August dates in the new Wayne Tomorrow! Newsletter.

[www.WayneTomorrow.com](http://www.WayneTomorrow.com)