

WAYNE TOMORROW!COM

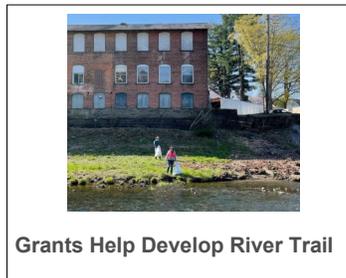
A monthly e-newsletter brought to you by the Wayne County Commissioners

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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.

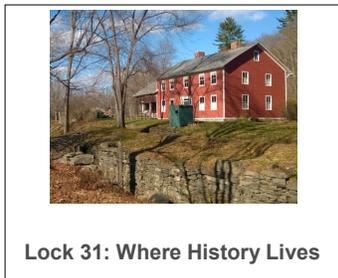
Top Stories . . .



Grants Help Develop River Trail



Summer Fun At the Farm Series



Lock 31: Where History Lives



SEEDS Creates New Podcast

Fish & Boat Grants \$300,000+ for Lackawaxen Small Craft River Access Points



The PA Fish & Boat Commission (PFBC) recently approved grant funds for two projects in Wayne County. The grants, totaling \$313,972, will help create a river trail from Honesdale to Hawley with official access points for paddlers, anglers, and everyone to enjoy the Lackawaxen River.

The Wayne County Commissioners applied for the grant, partnering with the Wayne Pike Trails & Waterways Alliance, which helped raise the necessary matching funds for the grants. Together, the Commissioners and the Alliance volunteers would like to thank everyone who has contributed funding so far, including the Villaume Foundation, the Human Resource Foundation, the Wayne County Community Foundation, Wayne Bank, The Dime Bank, Honesdale National Bank, and many local businesses and individuals.

Several local trails advocacy and others groups joined forces into the Trails & Waterways Alliance, which came to the Wayne Tomorrow! Initiative seeking support and assistance in creating a trail linking the two towns. The Alliance helped raise the funds for the feasibility study as well. Wayne Tomorrow! strategic documents recognize the economic and quality of life value of the county's natural and culture assets.

The idea of a river trail has been floating around for a number of years but took shape during a feasibility study, which was completed and released in May 2020. Complaints by private property owners regarding trespassers trying to get to the river during the study process, supported the goal to create public access points that would provide parking, boat ramps, and walking trails.

The PFBC was excited to learn of the feasibility study and the tentative plan. Staff members came to Wayne County three times in 2020 to help evaluate the potential list of sites and narrow the focus to five of the 10 to 12 sites mentioned in the study. The grant funding supports projects at Industrial Point (12th Street in Honesdale) and at White Mills. Construction will include concrete boat ramps, ADA parking, ADA-compliant walking trails to the river, and dry compost restrooms. Industrial Point will also include picnic tables and benches. Both sites will have signage with the PFBC rules and enforcement and interpretative information on local nature and history.

[To learn more about the Lackawaxen River Trails, follow them on Facebook.](#)



Summer Series Showcases Three Unique Operations with 'At the Farm'

You can reserve a spot for "At the Farm," a mini series offered this summer by The Cooperage Project and a trio of community-minded farmers. "Our local farms do an amazing job of feeding their community, and we think you should get to see it in action," said Jenna Mauder, Agriculture and Food Program Director at The Cooperage Project in Honesdale.

Avid patrons of farmers market, those who have sampled local products, or folks who would like to know what makes small farms so special, are invited join the fun on the second Saturday of June, July and August at, well, the farm!

[June 12, 1pm: At the Farm with Camp White Stag at White Stag Farms, Tyler Hill](#)

Camp White Stag will highlight their farm camp aimed to instill an appreciation for the environment, animals, land, and food systems among the next generation. We'll explore the meaning of regenerative agriculture on a tour with activities for younger learners. Take home a farm fresh product donated by White Stag Farm.

[July 10, 10am: At the Farm w/Farm Arts Collective at Willow Wisp Organic Farm, Damascus](#)

Attendees will be given a greenhouse tour followed by a farm activity. This Farm Arts Collective program is well-suited for families and children. Taste farm fresh products, and take home a sample provided by The Cooperage Project.

[August 14, 10am: At the Robinson Family Farm, Waymart](#)



The Robinson Family will storytell about the history of their 5th generation family farm on a tour with activities for younger learners. We'll see how land use has evolved and how they're expanding their market business. Take home a farm fresh product provided by The Cooperage Project.

This year The Cooperage Project's Romping Radishes program, for children in pre-K through grade 2 and their families, will occur during "At the Farm" programs! Let them know your early learners are coming during registration.

"At the Farm" is a community program series that connects the community to local food producers and the foodscape of the region through engaging and entertaining activities for all ages. Each program showcases the unique features of each operation, and how you can support their small business.

Program descriptions will be available at www.thecooperageproject.org and on The Cooperage Project's Facebook events page. For more information, contact info@thecooperageproject.org or call 570-253-2020.



SCAN ME

Partner Profile

Wayne County Historical Society Engages Visitors, Residents in Fascinating Local History



The Wayne County Historical Society provides a platform from which people who are passionate about the history of this place can pursue their dreams of preserving it, says Society Executive Director Carol Dunn,

It is a fact that remains as true today as when the organization was founded 104 years ago.

In May 1917, a group of residents formed the Wayne County Historical Society to preserve the stories of those who had lived the experience of the Delaware & Hudson Canal, which dominated Wayne County for more than 70 years. It all started with some storage space in one half of the D&H Canal Co. Office, where you enter their Main Museum at 810 Main Street in Honesdale today.

Eventually taking over the entire building, the Wayne County Historical Society opened it as a museum in the early 1930s. Designated a National Historic Landmark, it has undergone several expansions, including one to house the replica of the famed Stourbridge Lion Steam Locomotive. In 1981, the Society added the historic Torrey Land Office to the campus after saving it from demolition elsewhere in town.

Although Dunn says the Historical Society has completely built out the Main Street property, they have expanded their footprint to include the JB Park Farm Museum at the Wayne County Fairgrounds. In this joint endeavor, the Fair Association maintains the recently expanded building and the Historical Society provides and curates the exhibits and artifacts devoted to the agricultural history of the county.

In addition, through an agreement with the Wayne County Commissioners, the Historical Society also provides seasonal programs at two county-owned historic sites: the Old Stone Jail on the Courthouse Campus in Honesdale and the Bethel One-Room School on the County Farm property in Berlin Township.

In 2001, the past and future began to come together when the Wayne County Historical Society acquired the 1820 Daniels Farm House, the adjacent Lock 31 and one mile of towpath along the old D&H Canal just west of Hawley.

Now known as the D&H Canal Park at Lock 31, the 16-acre tract along the Lackawaxen River continues to be developed by the Society. "Mostly powered by our volunteers," Dunn said the project has received about \$900,000 in grants that many of which required a local match. Those volunteers have done whatever it takes to clean up and restore the property as well as painstakingly follow an architectural plan designed to restore it to 1870.

The latest addition to the Canal Park has been a pavilion, which actually sits between the hand-laid stone walls of the former canal. Dunn noted it will eventually be topped by the replica of a canal boat from the era. "When you drive onto the property," she explained, "it's going to look like the boat is floating on the canal."

A lot has changed in 20 years since the Wayne County Historical Society acquired Lock 31, including the visitors. "When you're at Canal Park you are immersed in history. You're walking on it," Dunn said of the heavily used towpath trail, which stretches for a mile along the former canal and the Lackawaxen River.

Soon, likely 2023, the Canal Park will also be home to a small craft launch, where you can bring canoes, kayaks or paddleboards to gain access to the developing Lackawaxen River Trail (see page 1). Dunn said collaborating with the Wayne Pike Trails & Waterways Alliance and Wayne Tomorrow! to join the network of access points will make the D&H Canal Park at Lock 31 the perfect interface between the area's rich local history and outdoor recreation.

"That's what today's tourists want. They don't want to go to a museum. They want an experience," Dunn explained.

Outdoor recreation attracts a lot of people to Wayne County, and Wayne Tomorrow! wants to capitalize on that exposure by introducing them to our fascinating history in the hopes of luring companies and entrepreneurs to help us cultivate a vibrant future with diverse opportunities for everyone.

Spencer Steam Tractor Returns to Pleasant Mount Parade July 3rd



The Spencer Steam Tractor was invented by David Spencer in Pleasant Mount in the late 1800s and had its public debut on July 4, 1889 for a church picnic that Wayne County Historical Society

Executive Director Carol Dunn said has morphed in the popular Independence Day celebration there. A grassroots volunteer-led restoration, supported by a generous community, has brought it back to life. Nearly 142 years, to the day, the restored Spencer Steam Tractor will make its first public appearance at this Pleasant Mount Parade and celebration on July 3. You can learn more at www.WayneHistoryPA.org.

SEEDS Launches Weekly Podcast Aimed at Helping Put Local Foods on Local Tables



SEEDS of Northeast Pennsylvania has launched a new podcast, "Today's Main Ingredient: Bringing Farm Food to Your Table," which focuses on local farms and food businesses one ingredient at a time. In this weekly series, listeners hear the inside story from farmers themselves about how each episode's featured ingredient is grown and produced... local chefs, caterers and food entrepreneurs demystify what to do with that ingredient once you get it into your kitchen. Finally, a certified nutritionist/dietitian weighs in on that in-

redient's healthy-eating properties.

"Today's Main Ingredient" (TMI) is a 15-minute program posted on the SEEDS website (www.SEEDSGroup.net). It also airs on radio on Sunday mornings on 95.3 DNH-FM and Classic Hits 105 at 7:05 and 7:20 a.m. respectively. A podcast segment has also aired in a recent "Farm & Country" program on WJFF Radio Catskill. All three stations post episodes on their own podcast sites.

Creator and producer, Jane Bollinger, co-chair of the Wayne Tomorrow! Agriculture Task Force and a SEEDS board member, wrote the original grant to the Greater Pike Community Foundation to fund the project. Since then, additional funding has been received from the Wayne/Pike Farm Bureau and the Overlook Estate Foundation. Two local farms—Fertile Valley Farm and Wolfe Spring Farm—sponsor the radio programs. Each week, host Mikki Uzupes welcomes a local farmer and a local chef or food entrepreneur, interviewing them about that episode's main ingredi-

ent. She also is responsible for editing and mixing the program. SEEDS board member and volunteer Jack Barnett curates the fact-filled TMI webpage at www.SEEDSGroup.net. Bollinger said she created the weekly series to feature a vegetable or fruit when it is locally in-season and available at local farmers' markets. "Our goals not only are to encourage people to buy fresh and buy local and support our local farmers but also to inspire them to try a new vegetable or other local farm product by learning something about how to prepare it." In recent years, increasing numbers of health- and taste-conscious eaters have decided they want to know what's in the food they are eating and where it comes from. Many have found their answers by turning to local farmers— through farmers' markets, on-farm stores, roadside farm stands and regular farm-box subscriptions called CSAs, often filled with the "farmer's choice" of that week's harvest.

You can learn more about the guests and the ingredient, check out recipes and listen to the show online at www.SEEDSGroup.net or TodaysMainIngredient.org.

SEEDS (Sustainable Energy Education and Development Support) of Northeast Pennsylvania promotes energy efficiency, renewable energy and sustainable living. Programs include virtual and physical community forums and workshops, residential and non-profit energy assessments, and environmental education. SEEDS also serves as a platform for sustainability information and news.

