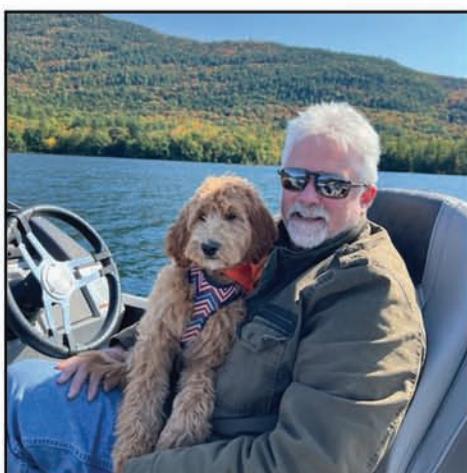
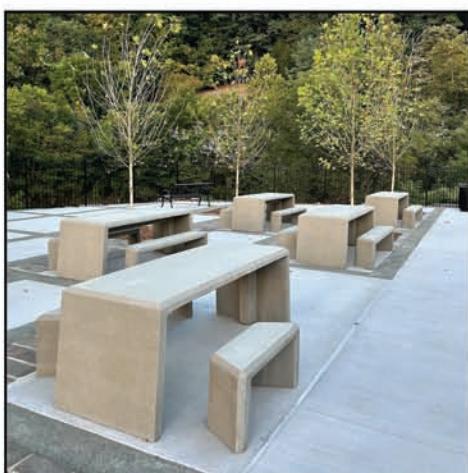
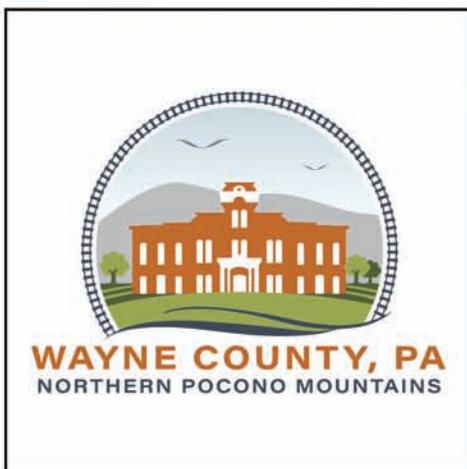


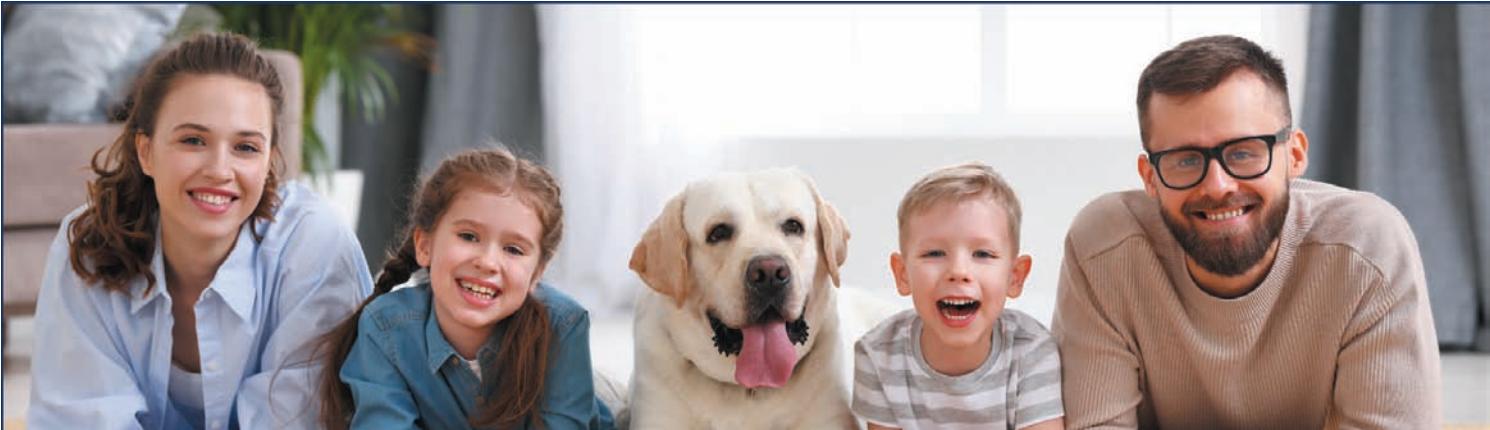
# Wayne County NEWS *for* YOU NEWSLETTER



## FEATURES

PennDOT Funded Transportation Garage  
Sycamore Point Park

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**Wayne County NEWS for YOU** was designed to help you learn more about who the Wayne County Commissioners are, what they do for your community, and give you more ways to communicate with them.



Commissioners, Chair Brian Smith, Jocelyn Cramer and James Shook.

You may email them @

[bsmith@waynecountypa.gov](mailto:bsmith@waynecountypa.gov)

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The current Board of Wayne County Commissioners wishes to share more information about county programs and services to help property owners better understand how their county tax dollars are spent and to showcase the incredible staff that serve our community in very meaningful ways. With an increase in online news stations, podcasts, satellite radio stations and a decrease in printed newspapers, it is increasingly more difficult to connect with our local community and yet more important than ever. **THIS NEWSLETTER WAS CREATED TO HELP BRIDGE THE KNOWLEDGE GAP AND COMMUNICATE DIRECTLY WITH YOU, WHILE PROVIDING YOU MORE WAYS TO COMMUNICATE WITH US.**

The Wayne County Board of Commissioners is made up of three elected persons, each serving 4-year terms. Your current Board consists of: Chairman Brian Smith, Jocelyn Cramer and James Shook. We oversee the entire fiscal operations of the county, while representing the best interests of each of the citizens within our county. We also oversee Elections, the Wayne County Correctional facility, the 911 Emergency Operations Center, Tax Claim and Tax Assessment, a wide array of human services and more. We will feature departments in each of our upcoming issues. Additionally, we are responsible for administering the budget for the Court of Common Pleas and the Magisterial District Courts.

It is a true pleasure to serve the vibrant community of Wayne County, a place adorned with natural beauty and abundance. From our scenic landscapes and charming, friendly towns to the wealth of unique family-owned shops with their welcoming shopkeepers, there is much to appreciate. Our places of worship, local banks, medical facilities, as well as the many talented artists and craftsmen all contribute to the strong sense of community. With so much to offer, it's no wonder why our area is such a welcoming place for us all to call home. It is an honor to serve the great people of Wayne County.



*Brian W. Smith  
Jocelyn Cramer James Shook*

# TAX CALENDAR for WAYNE COUNTY

## Property Owners

### WHAT YOU PAY AND WHEN

Every Wayne County property owner receives a tax bill from the three separate taxing authorities – the municipality, the county, and the school district – each governed by elected officials who set the millage rates that determine your tax liability.

The first tax bill of the year arrives by the first week of March. This bill is a combination of both your municipal and county taxes; the current county millage is .003483. It is comprised of the county tax of .003223 and the county debt tax of .00026, totaling .003483. Millage simply means “multiplier”. If you multiply your property’s assessed value by this millage, you can calculate your 2025 county tax liability. This spring tax bill has a discount period if paid in full, from



April 1st to May 31st. If payment is received in June or July, then the full amount is owed. If payment is received after August 1st, penalties are added. **IF YOU HAVE NOT RECEIVED YOUR TAX BILL BY APRIL 1st EACH YEAR, PLEASE MAKE SURE TO CALL YOUR MUNICIPAL TAX COLLECTOR.**

Each July, school tax bills are sent. These tax bills also offer a discount period from August 1st to September 30th. If payment is received in October or November, then the full amount is owed. If payment is received after December 1st, penalties are added. **IF YOU HAVE NOT RECEIVED YOUR SCHOOL TAX BILL BY AUGUST 1st EACH YEAR, PLEASE MAKE SURE TO CALL YOUR MUNICIPAL TAX COLLECTOR.**

All tax payments go directly to your local tax collector, an elected official serving a four-year term, whose contact information is provided on your bill. The complete list of municipal tax collectors and their contact information can be found on the county tax assessment page at: <https://waynecountypa.gov/161/Tax-Assessment>. If you can,

take advantage of the early payment discounts to save money, but be sure not to miss due dates – delinquencies can lead to penalties or even eventual tax sales of your property.

Let our staff help you if you have questions. Call or visit the tax office in the Wayne County Courthouse at 925 Court Street, Honesdale from 8:30 am - 4:30 pm. (570) 253-5970 x4010. The tax assessment website is

<https://waynecountypa.gov/161/Tax-Assessment>.

The tax claim website is <https://waynecountypa.gov/168/Tax-Claim>.



**EVERY JOB** at the County serves the community in meaningful ways, and offers an excellent benefits package. There are currently openings in several departments, and some require no previous experience. You can look up the current job opportunities on our website, or just call (570) 253-5970 x4050 to learn how to begin your exciting career with Wayne County!





**DID YOU KNOW** that Wayne County is home to a locally owned & operated industrial park that focuses on centralized distribution for specialty manufacturers?

Located within 2 hours of NYC, Philadelphia, Harrisburg, and parts of New England, the **STERLING BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY PARK** sits along Interstate 84, with access to over 60% of the nation's population within one day's travel. It's the perfect place for companies that value the outdoor / recreational lifestyle for their executives and employees.

Ready to build sites, complete with all the necessary infrastructure and competitive incentives, make this Wayne County gem the ideal place to grow a business! National and International companies like **SUTPHEN** (fire trucks) from Ohio and **SALAE** (sustainable food packaging) from Spain have found tremendous growth opportunities in the **STERLING BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY PARK**. And new investments from the Lehigh Valley coming soon will result in the construction of 800,000 sq. ft. of Class A Warehousing space! The Sterling Business and Technology Park began in 2008

# STERLING BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY PARK

and is owned by **Wayne Economic Development Corporation (WEDCO)**. **WEDCO** is a non-profit organization and Wayne County's lead economic development organization. WEDCO staff works closely with the county and plays a lead role in the Wayne Tomorrow! initiative. **WEDCO** has been committed to bringing higher wage paying manufacturing jobs to the area. A preliminary estimate of up to 800 new jobs, once fully operational. If you know a company looking for a new home, in a business-friendly atmosphere, with more than reasonable operating costs... put them in touch with **WEDCO**!

**WAYNE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION:**  
570-253-5334 / [JustinTaylor@wayneeconomic.com](mailto:JustinTaylor@wayneeconomic.com)



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<sup>1,2,3</sup> Annual Percentage Yields (APY) apply to interest compounded and credited back to the respective accounts, where applicable. Rates are effective as of April 14, 2025. Other fees may apply. Please consult an HNB representative for full details. <sup>1,2</sup> Rates may change after account opening. <sup>1</sup> \$100 minimum to open. For balances below \$2,500, the interest rate will drop to 0.00% APY until the threshold is met again. Maintaining an HNB Select or Premier Checking account in good standing is required to receive the stated interest rate. <sup>2</sup> For balances below \$25,000, the interest rate will drop to 0.00% APY until the threshold is met again. An HNB Premier Checking account must remain in good standing to receive the stated interest rate. Rates may change after account opening. <sup>3</sup> A minimum investment of \$1,000 per CD is required to receive the promotional rate. At maturity, CDs will automatically renew at the nearest preceding term unless otherwise specified by the account holder. Early withdrawals may incur penalties. HNB does not accept CDs from brokers, financial institutions, or non-customers outside of our immediate market area.

# WAYNE COUNTY OFFICE *of* HUMAN SERVICES

The mission of Human Services is to aid and strengthen the individuals, youth and families of Wayne County through an accessible social services system that is based upon the needs and resources of our community. The department oversees many agencies including Area Agency on Aging, Children and Youth Services, Housing, Transportation, Behavioral and Developmental Programs, Early Intervention, Dietary Services, Drug and Alcohol, as well as System of Care/Integrated Services. A significant portion of each of the human service budgets is provided by state funding. In future issues, we will feature each of the human service departments, to share the benefits these programs provide to Wayne County residents, and to acknowledge and support our incredible county staff whose compassion strengthens our community every single day.



## FOOD PANTRY PROGRAM

Another integral part of the Human Services Department is the County's Food Pantry Program. With 5 strategic locations throughout the county, they help bridge the gap for those that are food insecure. There is an income requirement as well as a registration process to participate. Since Covid-19, additional grant funding has been secured to include local farm products whenever possible, aligning with the Commissioner's efforts to help revitalize the agricultural industry. Clarissa Wimmers runs this program extremely well and it is a complicated, challenging job. Our food pantry is supported by a small army of amazing volunteers and donors. Like so many efforts to support those in

need, in our community, it is very common to find a great deal of support and compassion where it is needed. It's a Wayne County thing. To contact Clarissa, you may email: [cwimmers@waynecountypa.gov](mailto:cwimmers@waynecountypa.gov) or call 570-253-4262.

Visit: <https://waynecountypa.gov/169/Food-Pantry-Program> for the full schedule of the pantry and more details.

Stay tuned about the upcoming grant-funded **FOOD LOCKER PILOT PROGRAM**. With climate-controlled storage lockers strategically placed in Waymart, Lakewood and Hawley, anyone can benefit from food/grocery delivery. This program is specifically designed to support local farmers, increase demand for local food production and save busy families some time and fuel costs. In the short term, it may expand the pantry food system. In time, it will expand to serve restaurants, our local grocery stores and their customers.

For additional information on any of the above-mentioned agencies, visit: <https://waynecountypa.gov/101/Human-Services> or contact Human Services Director Michelle Valinski or Deputy Director Pam Wilson at 570-253-6758.



A PARTNERSHIP AND  
A WAY OF THINKING

## WORKING TOGETHER *for a* BETTER TOMORROW

Did you know that Wayne County has a collective of county government officials, nonprofit directors, small business owners and economic development organizations that all work together, voluntarily, creating a group called **Wayne Tomorrow!**? Partnering with other residents of Wayne County, this group is working to ensure our community is perusing positive long-term outcomes.

**Wayne Tomorrow! (WT!)** is not an entity, but a partnership and a way of thinking. We strive to exceed the status quo, seeking out opportunities that create and implement solutions for the betterment of our community. In order to effectively make progress, the idea of task forces was created. Task forces are formed as new focuses arrive, and can be dissolved as challenges are met with enough valid solutions. **Our current task forces include: Agriculture, Housing, Transportation and Workforce.**

Since **WT!**'s inception in 2012, our successes include The Stourbridge Tech Hub, formerly known as the The Stourbridge Project, the Newfoundland Food Pantry, Lackawaxen River Trail expansion, the Agolegacy brand creation and many others. So far, **WT!** has secured \$18.17 million dollars in grants and funding to support both our completed projects and those currently in progress.

The newest and only paid positions, of the **WT!** Community Development team are Operations Specialist Jenny Mann and Outreach Specialist Kelli Connor. As **WT!** grows and gains traction, we anticipate moving at a faster pace, increasing community communication as well as approaching challenges from different angles.

To learn more or get involved, contact us at:

Email: [jmann@waynecountypa.gov](mailto:jmann@waynecountypa.gov) & [kconnor@waynecountypa.gov](mailto:kconnor@waynecountypa.gov)

Phone: 570 - 253 - 5970 ext. 4050



# SYCAMORE POINT PARK

## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS AND GRANTS TURN CONDEMNED BUILDING AND LOT INTO BEAUTIFUL PARK.

The Lackawaxen River, once a bustling route for coal and lumber transport, has transformed into a scenic haven for anglers, paddlers, and nature lovers. With the opening of Sycamore Point Park in October 2024, Honesdale has its own gateway to the river. The Lackawaxen River Trail Alliance has planned a total of four access points by the end of 2025, with three currently established locations in Honesdale, White Mills, and Hawley.

Tucked away on the corner of 12th Street where the Lackawaxen River and Dyberry Creek meet, Sycamore Point Park offers something for everyone. Whether you're casting a fishing line, watching the eagles soar from the viewing benches, kayaking, or enjoying a picnic beneath the peaceful shade of the trees, this park is designed to bring us closer to nature. A thoughtfully crafted walkway provides a handicapped accessible path right to the river's edge for visitors of all abilities, while educational panels offer insight into the area's rich history and diverse wildlife. The park's "Riverwalk" was designed over a six-month period with input from the Wayne County Commissioners, Lackawaxen River Trails Alliance and many others. Built with flooding in mind, the walk way along the river's edge can withstand high water events. Originally, the old Krantz and Sell Cut Glass Company factory sat on the property, so badly deteriorated that it risked falling into the river below. It had last been used by Honesdale Volunteer Ambulance Corps before being condemned. Graciously, Wayne Memorial Health System donated the property to the County in 2021, helping expedite the transition from an abandoned structure to a vibrant community park.



When talk of these projects began, local grants and private donations poured in, reflecting the excitement and support for public access to the river. The Wayne County Community Foundation was another great community partner supporting the project and raising additional funds. In 2020, the County partnered with the Trails and Waterways Alliance on a Wayne County Trails Feasibility Project. As a part of this study, the County also cleared the new trail at Park Street, which acts as the starting point of a system of trails that connects to downtown Honesdale. This trail was developed by Woodland Design Associates and the work was completed thanks to the Work Release staff from the Wayne County Correctional Facility, and our county maintenance staff.



Between 2020-2023, Wayne County received grants from the PA Fish & Boat Commission, the Trails Alliance and DCNR, as well as local donations, totaling close to \$631,000 towards the demolition of Industrial Point Park and its drastic transformation into our spectacular Sycamore Point Park. What was once an overlooked corner of town has turned into a welcoming space for residents and visitors alike. Now the river is accessible and celebrated again! Everyone is encouraged to embrace the serenity and recreation of our newest jewel of Honesdale.



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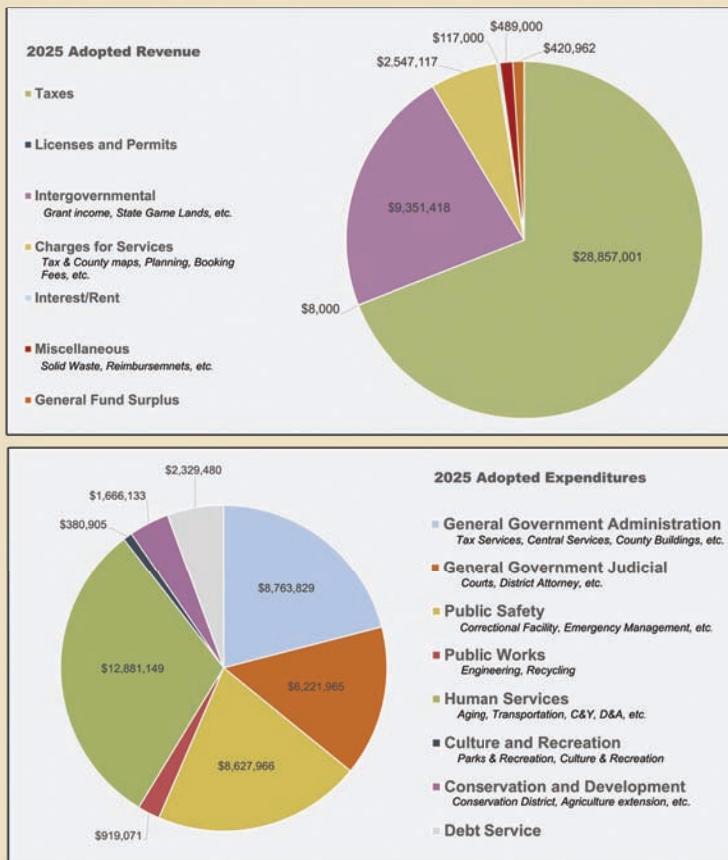


## PENNDOT FUNDS NEW GARAGE FACILITY FOR WAYNE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

Almost 50 years ago, the Wayne County Transportation System began with just two drivers and a station wagon. Since then, we have grown slowly but surely, and last year we were able to provide over 63,000 trips and over a million miles of service to Wayne County residents. Providing each rider with the same personal touch and door-to-door service now takes a full team of about 65 full and part-time employees and a fleet of 36 vehicles.

Nearly all of the operating and capital costs for our Transportation Service are covered by state grants. In fact, our Transportation System brings significant economic benefits to the County, including locally purchased fuel, jobs for local citizens, vehicle repairs at local garages, and overall support for the local

*Continued on next page.*



## 2025 WAYNE COUNTY GENERAL FUND & DEBT SERVICE BUDGET

The 2025 Wayne County budget totals \$41,790,497. The County continues to bear the cost of mandated services, with decreases in state reimbursement funding for many programs. County costs have increased due to rising costs of goods, fuel and wages. The 2025 Budget includes a 7.5% tax increase, setting the 2025 millage rate at .003483. This increase equates to approximately \$2.00 per month for every \$100,000 in assessed value for our property owners.

economy in the form of our state-funded budget of over \$2 million, as well as a convenient service and a way to contribute to our economy for seniors, persons with disabilities, citizens with limited income, and many others, including the general public. The Transportation System is a shared ride system, and open to anyone, with subsidies for the elderly and individuals with disabilities. **All residents may register and use this public transportation option. For more info, visit <https://waynecountypa.gov/218/Transportation> or call (570) 253-4280.**

On many weekdays, we provide over 4,000 miles of passenger service—the same driving distance from here to Alaska mostly on backcountry roads. The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation has recognized the work we are doing here and has offered Wayne County a grant that would fund the construction of a new garage, administration building and rinse area. The total cost for the project will be provided by the Commonwealth of PA.

The new facility is slated to be built just uphill from the Wayne County Recycling Center and next to the Wayne County Emergency Operations Center. This location will also enable close coordination of resources in the event of an emergency.



With its rolling hills, scenic waters, and lush countryside, each drive through Wayne County offers so much beauty for our riders, an opportunity for social interaction, and the fulfillment of practical needs, such as receiving medical care and purchasing groceries. We are happy to contribute to this decades-long tradition, to have the honor of taking our neighbors to where they need to be. We are grateful for the opportunity to improve our operational facility, and we thank the people of Wayne County, the Wayne County Commissioners, and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, as well as the Pennsylvania Department of Aging and the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services, for trusting us with these great opportunities and responsibilities. We also thank each of our residents, for all that you do to help Wayne County achieve its awesome potential.



## SEE YOU DOWN THE ROAD

Carl Albright  
Transportation Director



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# THERE'S A NEW K9 in town!

"Onyx has been a true blessing to the department as well as the community and I am so blessed to have such a remarkable partner and so glad she picked me." – Chief Deputy Van Horn

When the Wayne County Sheriff's Department decided that it was time for another K9, Chief Deputy Danene Van Horn made it her mission to pick out the perfect partner. During her search, she traveled to West Virginia to meet with Mike from Mountaineer K9 Service. Mike presented several dogs to showcase their talents; some dogs were better suited for a life of service work, while others were best suited for detection and apprehension work. Once Chief Deputy Van Horn had narrowed her selection, she was then shown exactly what each of the pups could do. **Among this smaller group was "Purple,"** a 6-month-old, purebred, black German Shepard. Purple, renamed Onyx, demonstrated her excitement and enthusiasm best when working. She truly won the heart of Chief Deputy Van Horn when she decided to make herself comfortable sitting directly on her foot and leaning right into her.

Onyx joined the Wayne County Sheriff's Department on January 11, 2024, recently celebrating her one-year anniversary with the County. Onyx and Chief Deputy Van Horn enjoy getting involved with the community by training at numerous facilities, reading to the children at local schools, and training with other K9 Departments. Once certified, K9 Onyx will serve as a drug detection dog in our local schools and prisons. She will soon be available to assist other agencies with detecting drugs or tracking missing persons.

Onyx and Chief Deputy Van Horn are a perfect match, both having a keen sense of where they are needed most. Not only does that keen sense allow them to sniff out drugs or perpetrators, but also leads them in the direction of staff members that are having a rough day, where Chief Deputy instructs Onyx to "make friends" which she eagerly obeys and inevitably turns around that staff person's day.



## CONNECT WITH US!

Your current Commissioners are Chair Brian Smith, Jocelyn Cramer and James Shook. To reach them by phone, call the Commissioner Business office at **(570) 253-5970 x4050**.

You may email them at:  
**bsmith@waynecountypa.gov**  
**jcramer@waynecountypa.gov**  
**jshook@waynecountypa.gov**



The Wayne County **website** has a great deal of information and **6 short videos** that provide a virtual tour of Wayne County.



Visit our **community calendar** for upcoming events at [www.waynecountypa.gov](http://www.waynecountypa.gov).



Honesdale  
White Mills  
Hawley

# September 20, 2025

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WAYNE COUNTY, PA

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Wayne County Courthouse  
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925 Court Street, Honesdale, PA 18431

TO OUR NEIGHBORS

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