

March 19, 2020

## **NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

SCRANTON, PA – During this public health crisis, Mayor Cogneetti urges residents to heed the warnings of the medical community and implement best practices for social distancing. The City of Scranton remains in a State of Emergency, with police, fire and public works operating to protect the safety and health of Scranton residents.

Mayor Cogneetti will hold a press conference on the City Hall steps on Friday, March 20 at 2 p.m. to provide updates regarding City services and resources available to residents, including a Virtual Job Fair on the City's website. (Please see below for a list of resources already available)

Please continue to check our FB page, Mayor of Scranton, or visit our website, [www.scrantonpa.gov](http://www.scrantonpa.gov) for updates.

Stay home, stay safe, stay calm.

## **VIRTUAL JOB FAIR**

Information for companies currently hiring can be found at <http://scrantonpa.gov/VIRTUAL%20JOB%20FAIR.html>

## **REQUEST CITY SERVICES**

- There is a new remote method for City service requests and questions: [scranton311@scrantonpa.gov](mailto:scranton311@scrantonpa.gov)

## **CHANGES TO PUBLIC ACCESS**

- Treasury Department Business
  - Visit <http://scrantonpa.gov/treasury.html> for Delinquent Refuse Information and Delinquent Real Estate Tax Information. Northeast Revenue payments options are as follows:
    - Mail a Personal Check or Money Order Northeast Revenue Service LLC Scranton City Hall 340 N. Washington Ave. Scranton, PA 18503. Make Checks Payable to: Northeast Revenue Service, LLC \*FOR RETURN RECEIPT, INLCUDE SELF-ADDRESSED STAMPED ENVELOPE\*
    - Online Payments can be made at [www.nerevenue.com](http://www.nerevenue.com)
- Licensing, Inspections, and Permits business can be conducted online at <http://scrantonpa.gov/lips.html>. Scranton Police Department Headquarters 100 South Washington Ave shall serve as the temporary location for pick up and drop off of all Licensing, Inspections, and Permits business. Please coordinate with Director Tom Oleski before going to pick up or drop off permits.
- Single Tax Office – Tax information is as follows:
  - In-person at 123 Wyoming Ave

- Cash only will be accepted in the tax office
    - Checks can be dropped off in a locked drop box inside the vestibule of the Lackawanna County Government Center. Receipts will be mailed and cancelled checks can serve as a receipt.
  - Mail
    - Checks can be mailed to Scranton Single Tax Office P.O. Box 20111 Scranton, PA 18502
  - Payments can be made online to [www.ScrantonTaxOffice.org](http://www.ScrantonTaxOffice.org).
    - Click on “Make A Payment” on the menu bar.
- City Council Meetings – *pending guidance from President Bill Gaughan*

## **COVID-19 CLOSURES**

- **United Neighborhood Centers**
  - Please see United Neighborhood Centers of NEPA's website for our COVID-19 contingency plan and ongoing operations: <https://facebook.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=da314d66f4dd683a678a1fa41&id=82e8bd6ee3&e=5b09d34b22>
  - Most of the agency’s work will be done remotely. Only essential personnel will report to appropriate work sites. Community Revitalization office is operating remotely right now, but is available to help offer guidance as needed.
  - Child Care Centers will be temporarily closed.
  - Community Services at 410 Olive Street in Scranton will remain open during normal business hours to provide food assistance, utility emergencies, or other services to assist consumers in crisis. Case managers will conduct meetings by phone.
  - Older Adult Centers will provide take-home meals only. Center managers will conduct health and safety check-ins by phone to all consumers.
  - Youth Department staff will communicate with students through social media and electronic methods to have group discussions, lessons, and meetings.
  - The South Side Farmers Market will be temporarily closed. Our South Side Farmers Market Facebook page will have information coming soon about how you can order directly from the farmers during this time.
- **Commonwealth Health** Limiting Visitors and Hospital Entrances to Protect Against Novel Coronavirus Spread
- **Geisinger** Limiting Visitors and Hospital Entrances to Protect Against Novel Coronavirus Spread
- Governor Wolf has announced COVID-19 mitigation efforts will extend to the entire Commonwealth of Pennsylvania starting at midnight March 16, 2020. Governor Tom Wolf today ordered all restaurants and bars to close their dine-in facilities effective Tuesday, March 17 for 14 days to help stop the spread of COVID-19. Businesses that offer carry-out, delivery, and drive-through food and beverage service may continue to do so, but eating and drinking inside restaurants and bars is temporarily prohibited.
  - Guidance for business owners [here](#)

- Scranton School District <https://www.scrsd.org/>
- City Parks will remain open, and yellow caution tape is surrounding the playground equipment at City of Scranton Parks. Unfortunately, this is a necessary step to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in our neighborhoods. Please remain off the playground equipment.

### **COVID-19 RESOURCES**

- If you are experiencing symptoms you think may be related to Coronavirus [COVID-19], please call your primary care physician, who can advise proper treatment and, if necessary, recommend further testing. You can also call **1-877-PA-HEALTH** or **Geisinger's Nurse Triage Line at 570-284-3657** with questions about symptoms or the need for further evaluation or testing.
- If you, or someone you care about, are feeling overwhelmed or anxious, call the **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's Disaster Distress Helpline at 1-800-985-5590** or **NAMI Keystone Pennsylvania's Helpline at 1-888-264-7972**. Residents can also text PA to 741741 for mental health assistance.

### **VETERANS**

- **Lackawanna County Department of Veterans Affairs**
  - 123 Wyoming Avenue Rm. 262 Scranton, PA 18503
  - Dave Eisele/Director/Veterans Service Officer
  - Anissa M. Akulonis/Veteran Service Officer/Coordinator
  - Erin Carden/Veterans Service Officer
  - Steuart J. Bailey/Veteran's Office Assistant
  - Office Hours: Monday through Friday 9am to 4pm
  - Office Phone: 570-963-6778 Fax: 570-963-6418
  - E-mail: All inquiries: [fetchena@lackawannacounty.org](mailto:fetchena@lackawannacounty.org)
- **Helpful Phone Numbers**
  - Philadelphia Regional VA Office: 1-800-827-1000
  - US Department of Veterans Affairs: [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)
  - Wilkes Barre VA Hospital: 1-877-928-2621
  - Gino Merli Veterans Center: 570-961-4300
  - Lackawanna County Area Agency on Aging: 570-963-6740
  - Lackawanna County Recorder of Deeds: 570-963-6775

### **FOOD RESOURCES**

- **Super Markets holding Senior Hours**
  - Gerrity's Supermarkets Tuesday Mornings from 7AM -9AM
  - Price Chopper 6AM to 7AM every day
  - Dollar General Stores First hour after opening everyday
  - Target stores first hour after opening on Wednesdays

- **Northeast PA HelpLine** for social services: Dial 211 or go to <http://www.helpline-nepa.info/>
- **Keystone Mission and the Weinberg Food Bank (CEO) have partnered together to offer the Emergency Food Assistance.** The program will provide emergency bags of food for families, individuals, or seniors in the community who are in need and have been directly impacted by the COVID-19 crisis. Examples may be loss of a job, unable to work and provide for family, or those who are unable to support themselves or their families. More information is available at <https://www.keystonemission.org/emergencyfoodassistance/>
- **St. Francis & Clare Progressive Catholic Church** 98 Larch St Scranton PA 18509 will continue their food bank. Residents can contact them through their Facebook page [www.facebook.com/francisandclarecatholic/](http://www.facebook.com/francisandclarecatholic/) to request delivery or make an appointment to pick up at the church.

## UTILITIES

- **PA American Water** has placed a moratorium and discontinued service shutoffs at this time and will restore service to previously shut-off customers. All of Pennsylvania American Water's drinking water treatment barriers provide protection from coronavirus (COVID-19). Pennsylvania American Water's drinking water is not affected by the coronavirus (COVID-19). <https://amwater.com/paaw/>
  - **Joint Release:** Major Water Associations Reassure Public on Safety of Tap Water During COVID-19 Outbreak.
- **PPL** will not cut off service to any customer for unpaid bills until further notice, and we will reconnect service for any customers who were disconnected recently. Of course, we'll continue to disconnect service as requested by customers who are moving, or when necessary for safety reasons. <https://stories.pplelectric.com/2020/03/16/coronavirus-update/>
- **The UGI Utilities** COVID-19 Response Plan assures that: Our business is staffed and is able to promptly respond to emergency calls, Our Customer Center will operate on its normal business hours to handle customer calls, The UGI Utilities management team is closely monitoring information provided by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as well as state and local public health agencies, and our regulatory agencies. Effective immediately, no customer's service will be disconnected for non-payment, at least through the end of March. <https://www.ugi.com/covid-19-response-plan/>
- On March 13, **Comcast** announced taking steps to implement new policies for the next 60 days. These include Internet Essentials Free to New Customers, Xfinity WiFi Free For Everyone, and No Disconnects or Late Fees. Information can be found at: <https://corporate.comcast.com/covid-19>

## SUPPORTING BUSINESSES

- U.S. Small Business Administration provides low-interest disaster loans to help businesses and homeowners recover from declared disasters. <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/disaster-assistance>
- UNC Community Revitalization office is operating remotely right now, but is available to help offer guidance as needed.
- Facebook is offering \$100M in cash grants and ad credits to businesses to help during this challenging time. <https://www.facebook.com/business/boost/grants>

### **2020 CENSUS**

- Residents will receive an invitation to respond to the **2020 Census** in the mail. It's never been easier to respond on your own, whether online, over the phone, or by mail—all without having to meet a census taker. Residents can respond online now at <https://my2020census.gov/>.

### **2020 PRIMARY ELECTION**

- Prepare for **Pennsylvania's Primary Election** by registering to vote and applying for a mail in ballot online at [www.votespa.com](http://www.votespa.com).