



Above: View of Broad Street on August 7th. Well over a thousand people came out to enjoy the Chamber's annual Car Cruise-In and a variety of other First Friday events held throughout the day and evening. Photo courtesy of Chris Adval Productions.

Park and Arts Center Projects Receive Funding

The Alliance is thrilled that two priority projects of the Downtown's Strategic Plan were awarded grants this summer. The City Park project, which will result in the development of a one-half acre park on the former Greco property (corner of Broad and Laurel) will receive \$100,000 in 2014 Luzerne Local Share Account grant funding. This money will supplement the Phase One budget for the park, which is scheduled to break ground this September. It is to include site and utility work, and new sidewalks and street lighting along Laurel Street. The Alliance has also assisted the City in applying for additional grants that will help fund Phase Two of the project, which will include the fountain, paving, landscaping, and other amenities. These are still pending review.



Concept rendering of the City Park as proposed in the Strategic Plan (by Derck & Edson).



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NEWSLETTER: AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2015



U.S. Congressman Lou Barletta recognized the Alliance as a recipient of the National Endowment for the Arts 2015 "Our Town" grant during the opening day of the Downtown Farmer's Market. Photo courtesy of the Greater Hazleton Chamber of Commerce.

The City Arts Center project was the recipient of two grant awards: a \$475,000 Luzerne Local Share Account grant, and a \$50,000 "Our Town" grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. The Our Town grant will fund the architectural design of the new arts center. This design work is expected to begin in October. The Local Share Account grant will fund Phase One of the building renovations, which will bring the building up to code so that it may be occupied by the Hazleton Art League. If all goes as planned, the renovations could begin as early as the fall of 2016.

Summer Events Enjoyed By Many

Thanks to our many partnering organizations, downtown merchants, and volunteers, this summer's First Friday events and the weekly Farmer's Market have brought hundreds of people to the downtown. Whether it be for walking tours, art or history exhibits, live music, fresh veggies, classic cars, theatre, food and drink specials, children's activities, professional wrestling, outdoor films, or fireworks, we are

so pleased to see interest in these activities growing. We would like to thank all those who have hosted events, offered promotions, and contributed their time and/or resources!



John Probert, President of the Hazleton Cemetery Assoc. board leads a walking tour as part of the August 7th First Friday event schedule. Approximately 60 people participated in the tour. Photo courtesy of Charles McElwee.



The local band "Shock Value" performed live during the August 7th Farmer's Market. From left, John Sverchak, sound tech; Michael Dino, guitar and drums; Matt Malloy, drums and guitar, and Joey Letcher, vocals and keyboard. Photo courtesy of the Greater Hazleton Chamber of Commerce.



Opening night of "Mary Poppins" at the Pennsylvania Theatre of Performing Arts. Photo courtesy of Chris Adval Productions.



Marie Hayes, co-president of the Hazleton Art League presents a check to Reyson Peralta as one of the prize winners of the Peace Love and Chalk event held downtown on August 7th and 8th, in partnership with Joe Maddon's Respectgo Foundation. Photo courtesy of the Hazleton Art League.

Safe Clean and Green Workgroup Seeking Volunteers

The Alliance has formed a Safe, Clean, and Green Workgroup. This workgroup is going to be responsible for reaching out to downtown business and property owners to distribute the Crime Prevention (CPTED) survey, develop a block watch program, and identify blighted properties throughout the downtown. Anyone interested in volunteering to assist this group should contact Krista Schneider at 570-455-1509.

Loan Programs Available

Do you know that CAN DO is a certified economic development organization (CEDO)? This designation makes CAN DO able to provide low-interest loans and lines of credit that are made available by the Pennsylvania Industrial Development Authority (PIDA). These loans are made to eligible businesses that commit to creating and/or retaining jobs. PIDA funding may be used in conjunction with other private financing, state financing programs, or with programs operated by the statewide economic development network of local economic development providers. Any business interested in applying for a PIDA loan should contact Jim Kelshaw at 570-455-1508.

Mark Your Calendars: September 4th First Friday

There are many activities lined up for the First Friday in September. These will include the season's last Farmer's Market, live music performed by the Sterling Koch Duo, a "Literary Cake Decorating Contest" at the Hazleton Area Public Library; a walking tour highlighting the downtown's landmark eateries and bodegas; a "Meet the Artist" exhibit at the Dragonfly Café; a Ceramic, Watercolor, and Quilt show at the Hazleton Art League, a book signing by Hazleton's poet laureate Maria Jacketti, a professional wrestling event (free) at The Sanctuary (followed by live music by Right Hand Cure); free tours of the Hazleton Active Adult Center, and Hazleton POWER! will be showing Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory outdoors in the Pocket Park (with popcorn). There is something for everyone, so save the date and come downtown!

Featured New Business

Reuther + Bowen, PC
Hazleton Office Director: Robin Scaramastro, PE
101 W. Broad Street (HNB building)
570-579-1826



Incorporated in 2000, Reuther+Bowen provides structural engineering, civil engineering and steel detailing services. With headquarters in Scranton, the firm practices throughout the Mid-Atlantic States and beyond. The firm recently opened an office in downtown Hazleton for several reasons. The first was to have a presence in Luzerne County and closer proximity to the Lehigh Valley market. Another reason was to allow employees who live further south the opportunity to have a shorter commute to work. R+B also sees Hazelton as a city on the rise, and they wanted to be a part of this.



Robin Scaramastro joined Reuther + Bowen as a senior structural engineer in 2014. She serves as the Director of

the Hazleton Office, and says she looks forward to working with more local businesses and helping expand the Hazleton Office.

Recently the firm has consulted on several local projects including the pedestrian bridges over Mine and Wyoming Streets, an ADA accessible lift for the WAVES Center, and renovations for the lobby at 101 West Broad Street, as well as a few projects for the Hazleton Area School District.

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Mark Your Calendars

First Fridays

September 4, 2015: Tastes of Home
 October 2, 2015: Latino Arts Expo
 November 6, 2015: Veteran's Day
 December 4, 2015: Christmas

Farmer's Market (10AM – 2PM)

July 17, opening day; July 24, July 31, August 7, August 14, August 21, August 28, and September 4

Pocket Park Picture Series

(hosted by Hazleton POWER!)

August 21: Diary of a Wimpy Kid
 September 4: Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory
 September 18: Jurassic Park
 October 2: Casper

Funfest

September 12 and 13, 2015

Pennsylvania Theatre of Performing Arts

September 11-20: A Little Night Music
 December 3-13, 2015: Scrooge the Musical

Featured Commercial Properties for Sale

Center City Medical Complex
20 N. Laurel Street
List Price: \$650,000



Over 27,000 SF. Almost fully leased, elevator, two parking lots (90 spaces).

37-38 Wyoming Street
List Price: \$299,000



Double storefront with established turnkey business. Parking included. Owner financing available to qualified individuals.

77 Wyoming Street
List Price: \$24,900



Mixed use commercial building with a retail storefront, rear warehouse with four overhead apartments, and a detached warehouse garage.

For more information on these and other commercial listings downtown, contact Krista Schneider at 570-455-1509.

Laputka, Bayless, Ecker & Cohn, P.C.

Est. 1953
One South Church Street, Suite 301
P: 570-455-3683

Featured Legacy Business

Downtown Hazleton has been home to many multi-generational and family-owned small businesses. This section is dedicated to recognizing and celebrating those that have had a meaningful and long-lasting impact on the community. Each has evolved in different ways to meet the challenges of a changing economy.

Hazleton residents have prided themselves for generations on doing things the right way and never cutting any corners. This is especially true of the city's business owners—whether they be small, family owned-businesses or large corporations. Laputka, Bayless, Ecker & Cohn (LBEC), P.C. believes strongly in this ideal. For the past six decades, the law firm has adhered to the same principles upon which they were founded: service, integrity, hard work and results.

The general practice firm was founded as a partnership in 1953 by Theodore R. Laputka Sr., Kenneth R. Bayless, Bartel E. Ecker, and Martin D. Cohn. The firm name resulted from the year of admission to the bar. Laputka was first, Bayless was second, Ecker was third, and Cohn was last. Attorney Ecker's son, Bart E. Ecker, Esquire, previously served as the firm's managing partner. He joined the firm in 1969 after

receiving his Juris Doctorate from Duquesne University's School of Law. Between college and law school, he served three years as an officer in the United States Army. Other partners include Attorneys John Gallagher, Bruce Miller and Robert Sensky.

To better serve their clients, each attorney focuses on select branches of the law. These include: work-related injuries; personal injury and wrongful death cases; social Security disability claims; criminal defense representation; business law, lending and real estate; employment and labor law; and estate planning, administration, probate and litigation.

For more than 60 years the office was located on the sixth floor of the Traders Bank Building. It relocated to the CAN DO Renaissance Center in 2014 when the Hayden and DeAngelo families embarked on the renovation of the Traders building as the corporate headquarters for DBi Services. LBEC's new office space, which encompasses 3,500 square feet, will allow the firm to continue to grow while remaining an integral part of Downtown Hazleton's business and legal community.

Over the past several decades the firm has expanded its services to clients throughout Northeastern Pennsylvania, including many in the Wilkes-Barre, Scranton and Allentown areas.

Credits: Thanks to DHAP volunteer Kelly Kostanesky who collected this information.



Attorney Bruce Miller speaks at the ribbon cutting ceremony last year as the firm relocated its offices to the CAN DO Renaissance Center.