

COLTS 'Stuff the Bus' toy drive set for Dec. 9

Transit system will keep collection method it used last year due to virus.

**BY BOBYS KRAWCZENIUK
AND DAVID SINGLETON**
STAFF WRITERS

Last year, COVID-19 forced Lackawanna County's public bus system to make donating toys to its pre-Christmas "Stuff the Bus" benefit easier.

It worked. The County of Lackawanna Transit System collected more toys than the year before, spokeswoman Gretchen Wintermantel said.

So COLTS will again offer drop-off locations for new, unwrapped toys before the

12th annual "Stuff the Bus" event Dec. 9 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Lackawanna Transit Center, 30 Lackawanna Ave. Rock 107's Prospecter will broadcast live in the morning. Donations also will be accepted the same day between 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. at Courthouse Square.

In 2019, COLTS collected about \$6,300 in cash donations and more than 1,000 toys, Wintermantel said. Last year, it was about \$4,900 in cash and more than 1,500 toys.

"The drop-off points did help," she said. Some businesses that served as drop-off points welcomed the customer traffic and offered discount coupons

to donors, she said. Donors should only drop off cash at the Dec. 9 event and not at the drop-off locations, she said. COLTS donates the toys and money to the Marine Corps Toys for Tots Foundation. The agency's employee unions — Amalgamated Transit Union Local 168 and Service Employees International Union Local 688 — and Rock 107 team up to host the event.

People may drop off toys through Dec. 8 during their business hours at Runway Luxury Boutique, 128 N. Washington Ave.; Downtown Deli and Eatery, 300 Spruce St.; Northern Light Espresso Bar & Cafe, 536 Spruce St.; Radisson Lackawanna Sta-

tion Hotel, 700 Lackawanna Ave.; Scranton City Hall, 340 N. Washington Ave.; Weston Field House, 982 Providence Road; RD Salon and BlowDry Bar (Studio RD), 324 Penn Ave.; Scranton Fire Department Engine 7, 1917 Luzerne St.; Scranton Fire Department Engine 10, 1900 East Mountain Road; Scranton Fire Department Engine 8, 205-207 W. Market St.; Scranton Fire Department Engine 2, 510 Gibbons St.; Sylvester Chevrolet, 1609 Main St.; Blakely, Century Dental, 696 Scranton Carbondale Highway; Archbald, and NEF Credit Union, 119 Mulberry St.

Contact the writers: bkrawczeniuk@timeshamrock.com; dsingleton@timeshamrock.com; 570-348-9132.

570-348-9147; [@BoysBlogTT](https://twitter.com/BoysBlogTT) on Twitter.

dsingleton@timeshamrock.com; 570-348-9132.