

Northampton County Council Votes to Approve Thomas Carson as Director of the Gracedale Continuum of Care

By Kelly Prentice

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY, PA— Northampton County Council today voted to approve the appointment of Thomas Carson as Director of Gracedale Continuum of Care, the new County Department created by County Executive Tara Zrinski and Northampton County Council.

Carson is an executive leader with 10+ years of experience overseeing complex, highly regulated human service operations in partnership with county, state, and federal systems. As Executive Director of Victory House of the Lehigh Valley, he has proven his ability to stabilize staff, strengthen compliance, and guide organizations through periods of staffing strain, public scrutiny, and operational transition within publicly funded environments.

“Mr. Carson’s expertise in crisis management and leadership during periods of staffing and service pressure at Victory House over the past five years will prove to be an asset at Gracedale,” said County Executive Zrinski. “His experience raising funds, managing publicly funded programs, multimillion-dollar budgets, and cross-sector initiatives involving veterans and healthcare, behavioral health, and housing will bolster the planning for the entire Continuum of Care—to deliver services to our most vulnerable citizens.”

Recognized for steady, solutions-oriented leadership and the ability to bring structure and accountability to mission-critical community services, Carson is known as a trusted partner to public-sector leadership in navigating high-visibility operational challenges while maintaining service quality and staff engagement.

Carson has led Victory House’s compliance with county, state, and federal funding requirements, ensuring audit readiness and program integrity. He has also led Victory House’s organizational compliance and quality assurance strategy, and the organization has passed its VA, federal, state, and county monitoring reviews and inspections, maintaining full regulatory standing. As associate director in prior years, he managed county-funded workforce and housing initiatives serving vulnerable populations and veterans.

Carson plans to start in the newly created role on August 17, 2026.

Ice Cream, World Cup and Balloons! Through July 26

By Art Charlton

WARREN COUNTY N.J. - “There’s nothing quite like a World Cup.” - Michael Owen, retired professional footballer. That’s for sure, and the big excitement this weekend is the 20th Annual Hackettstown Street Fair and World Cup Final Watch Party in Hackettstown! What a great opportunity to get together right here in Warren County to celebrate this international phenomenon.

Although, if you prefer engaging in smaller, more low-key happenings, this issue has you covered! Keep scrolling! You’re bound to find something up your alley.

Feeling lucky? In eager anticipation of the 88th Annual Warren County Farmers’ Fair & Hot Air Balloon Festival, of which Explore Warren is a proud sponsor, WE ARE GIVING AWAY A HOT AIR BALLOON RIDE during the week of the Fair! A \$700+ value, one winner will be chosen at random, and they can bring one guest along for the ride. Second prize will be pair of tickets to the 4WD Truck Pull on Thursday evening (July 30). Drop us a line at Tourism@co.warren.nj.us with “I love the Fair” in the subject line and be sure to include your phone number. Deadline to enter: Noon on Monday, July 20. Good luck!

If you don’t win anything this round, don’t despair! Those visiting our Explore Warren table in the “Warren County & You” government exhibit building at the Fair will have another opportunity to enter a drawing for a balloon ride during Fair week, courtesy of New Jersey Travel & Tourism, among other prizes! Stay tuned. Congratulations to Barbara A. of Blairstown, winner of our last giveaway, a pair of tickets to a Centenary Stage Co. Summerfest production of her choice.



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