



Bicentennial Celebration Committee

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Donald T. Cunningham, Jr., Chair

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Free Community Celebration to be Highlight of Bicentennial Year

Featuring Hall of Famer public sessions, entertainment on 3 stages, 75 interactive booths

(Allentown) Lehigh County Executive Don Cunningham today announced details and scheduling information for Lehigh County's Bicentennial Community Celebration to be held at the Allentown Fairgrounds' Agri-Plex on Saturday, March 10th.

The Free Community Celebration will feature entertainment on three stages: the main Coca-Cola Stage, a Bicentennial Stage, and a Kids' Stage. The highlight of the evening will be the Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony which will occur on the Coca-Cola Stage at 6:00 p.m. Twenty-four illustrious current and former Lehigh County residents were selected for honors in eight categories. Twenty of those honorees will attend in person or send a representative to receive their award.

The Free Community Celebration begins at 11:00 a.m., with the official opening ceremony taking place on the Coca-Cola Stage at 11:30 a.m. The celebration will close with a fireworks display after the conclusion of the Hall of Fame Ceremony, which is expected to end at approximately 8:00 p.m.

"Lehigh County's Bicentennial offers us a unique opportunity to bring our community together to celebrate two hundred years of history, community and our local businesses," said Cunningham. "We are fortunate that some of our most famous and successful current and former residents are able to celebrate it with us during the Hall of Fame presentation."

Six Hall of Fame honorees will conduct public sessions throughout the day on the Coca-Cola and Bicentennial Stages: NFL football heavyweight Andre Reed will host a session on football and philanthropy, former White House Correspondent Charles Bierbauer will host a session on the media and politics, John Grogan will read from and sign books from his popular *Marley and Me* series, Dave Zinczenko will lead a session on nutrition and fitness based on his series *Eat This Not That*, Golf Channel personality Rich Lerner will share his life's experiences in a session entitled "From Dorneyville to Pebble Beach," and WNBA Star Michelle Marciniak will host a session on entrepreneurship in business and sports. Please see attached schedule for times and locations of each session.

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In addition to sessions by Hall of Fame honorees, several other featured entertainers will take one of the three stages throughout the day, including a Local Musicians Showcase presented by Norris, McLaughlin and Marcus, P.A., on the Bicentennial Stage, the O'Grady Irish Step Dancers and the Happy Boombadears on the Coca-Cola Stage, and local Children's folk musician Dave Fry and others on the Kids' Stage. Please see attached schedule for a full listing of acts, show times and stage locations.

Lehigh Valley Radio Stations WLEV 100.7 FM and Cat Country 96 FM will both broadcast live throughout the day from outside the Agri-Plex and special appearances are planned by local celebrities such as the Iron Pigs' "Ferrous" and "FeFe," Red Robin's "Red," Penn State's "Nittany Lion," and historical re-enactors who will be impersonating significant Lehigh County figures.

There will also be more than eighty interactive and educational booths presented by community, ethnic and historical organizations. A complete list is attached, but highlights include a bison visiting from the Lehigh Valley Zoo -- and a contest to name it, children's games and crafts including a puppet-making workshop, the Miller-Keystone Bloodmobile, an "instrument petting zoo," hosted by the Allentown Symphony, and a hydrogen car presented by Air Products.

A few lucky visitors to the celebration will walk away with gifts and prizes including free allegiant airline tickets compliments of LVIA, free memberships to the Lehigh Valley Zoo, and children's toys including Lego construction sets.

The Lehigh Valley Community Resource Center (LVCRC) will host a FREE Child ID services booth, sponsored by the Lehigh Valley chapter of the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors and TV Marketing. Using state of the art electronics, members of LVCRC will electronically scan a child's fingerprints, secure a voice print, photos, physical & medical information and provide to parents on an interactive, Amber Alert Certified CD.

The Boston Beer Company and Budweiser products will be available for sale and food from many local restaurants and vendors may be purchased throughout the day.

A schedule of events and show times for each stage and a list of all of the interactive and educational booths are attached to this release.

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