



COUNTY OF LEHIGH

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Phillips Armstrong, County Executive

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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Press Release

Public event to celebrate the construction kickoff for Cedarbrook Senior Care and Rehabilitation

SPEAKERS: Phillips M. Armstrong, Lehigh County Executive
Rick Molchany, Lehigh County Director of General Services
Jason Cumello, Cedarbrook Administrator
Geoff Brace, Chair of the Lehigh County Board of Commissioners
Dan Hartzell, Commissioner, Chair of Cedarbrook Committee

(South Whitehall, PA) – A groundbreaking ceremony to publicly commemorate the beginning of Cedarbrook’s upgrade project will take place on Friday, October 22, 2021, at 10:30 a.m. The event will officially kickoff the construction phase for Cedarbrook Senior Care and Rehabilitation’s Allentown campus that will provide much needed facility improvements for resident care and quality of life.

While many Counties have discontinued services to their senior care facilities, Phillips Armstrong, Lehigh County Executive, stated “The very large baby boomer generation is moving into that phase of life in which they likely will need long-term care and that care is unaffordable for many. People worked hard their whole lives and they deserve access to that care. We are building a state-of-the-art wing nursing wing to continue our county safety net mission for the next generation.”

PROJECT SPECIFICS AND OBJECTIVES: To build an ~145k square foot, four story, L-shaped new wing adjacent to the current facility. The addition will accommodate 240 residents, no more than two to a room, and will provide residents with private bathrooms. These accommodation improvements will create a foundation for advanced resident experiences and improve medical support planning.

CEDARBROOK’S MISSION: Adopted by Cedarbrook employees in 2006, Cedarbrook’s mission proudly states a commitment to residents and relatives who need senior care. When Lehigh County families choose Cedarbrook, they are selecting “A Community with Heart Offering Individualized Care and Excellent Service.”

Cedarbrook has been providing the highest skilled services to all eligible individuals without regard to race, national origin, religion, age, sex, or physical handicap.

Cedarbrook continues to maintain above average ratings on the CMS Nursing Home Compare website.

CEDARBROOK HISTORY: The story of Cedarbrook began in 1844 when the Lehigh County Commissioners declared the need for a working farm and home for those that were poor and/or elderly. At the time, Lehigh County residents recognized a need to care for those that were unable to sustain themselves. The first home was constructed in 1845. The self-sustaining working farm component of the Cedarbrook property began to phase out in the 1930s, although some aspects of agriculture on the Cedarbrook property may have lasted into the 1950s. The mission of caring for the frail and those without financial resources continued.

The current building wings at Cedarbrook's Allentown facility have roots dating back to the 1920s, with a subsequent addition, the "D-Wing" tower, completed in 1970. Fountain Hill Manor was purchased by Lehigh County in 1974, and was subsequently called "the Annex" and now is properly referred to as "Cedarbrook Fountain Hill." Both Cedarbrook campuses are licensed by the state under one license, and over the years both campuses have been referred to as Cedarbrook--sharing staff, contracts, equipment, technology, and services. Lehigh County has always been proud to maintain two Cedarbrook campuses that serve both ends of the county.

Since 1844, Cedarbrook has evolved in terms of social norms, technology, and care systems. Today, Cedarbrook is a full-fledged modern skilled nursing facility providing high quality of care with documented success in skilled nursing care, rehabilitation outcomes, vibrant dementia care programming, and continued recognition of the need to care for our residents in their entirety as people, not as numbers. Cedarbrook continuously maintains its goal of providing quality residential care.

Lehigh County continues to make a commitment to its residents through an active plan to build a completely modern 240 bed wing with extensive amenities at Cedarbrook Allentown, and continued investments in the physical plant of Cedarbrook Fountain Hill to provide the very best experience for residents and staff.

Most importantly, Cedarbrook recognizes the need to continue Lehigh County's tradition of recognizing that everybody deserves care and dignity at every stage of life. Through its efforts, Cedarbrook Senior Care & Rehabilitation is renowned as a top-of-the-line skilled nursing facility with highly dedicated employees and advanced technologies that provide quality care to people from all walks of life.

Newsweek Magazine awarded Cedarbrook Senior Care and Rehabilitation as one of the best nursing homes for 2020.

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Lehigh County is located in southeastern Pennsylvania in the area known as the Lehigh Valley, with the city of Allentown as its county seat.

Lehigh County positioned in the corridor between Philadelphia and New York City, with quick and easy access to both of these major metropolitan areas. The area is accessible via I-78, Rt.22, Rt.309, Rt.33 or Rt.476 (Pennsylvania Turnpike).

Lehigh County also has a thriving cultural scene with stage theaters, art museums, and amusement park with world-class coasters and water slides, premier bicycle racing track, Class AAA minor league baseball, Lehigh Valley Zoo, historical sites, colleges and universities, and lots of arts and music festivals.

Lehigh County neighbors the East Coast's major markets. Regular commuters realize the ultimate convenience of our central location and transportation options. The Lehigh Valley International Airport provides both commercial and private air facilities. Lehigh Valley International Airport offers full-time

customer service and non-stop flights to many U.S. cities. Our "super highway and railway" networks and strategic geographic locations help make these markets 100 percent accessible. One-third of the U.S. population lives within a comfortable one day's drive, and one-half of Canadian businesses are within 500 miles.

Our community is comprised of 347 square miles of rolling hills including over 24,000 acres of preserved farmland and a network of more than 17,000 acres of outdoor recreational parks that offer extensive leisure opportunities.

Lehigh County is committed to creating a vibrant community by focusing on economic growth, revitalization of our cities and boroughs, regional partnerships with our twenty-five municipalities, and enhancing the quality of life. The county's grant and housing programs are designed to support high priority projects that enhance the quality of life, the arts and the community and our housing programs are designed to make housing safe, affordable and sustainable.

Lehigh County works in conjunction with community organizations, other economic development groups and the Workforce Investment Board to help enhance programs and create opportunities in the county.

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