



Lehigh County

P E N N S Y L V A N I A

Welcome to Your Lehigh County Newsletter

From County Executive Phillips "Phil" Armstrong

To My Fellow Lehigh County Residents,

I would like to express my gratitude to the people of this great county. To my administration and staff, to our county employees, to our heroic first responders, and to you, our residents. We rose up together, and took charge against the unknown. Our families, our businesses, our communities worked in unison. Together, we rose up as one Lehigh County.

This year marks our third annual Lehigh County newsletter, and what a year it has been. As always, we partnered with local businesses to fund this year's newsletter to ensure not a dime comes out of our taxpayers' pockets. This would not be possible without the help of the Hometown Press and my administration who so thoughtfully put together an inside look into our county government. I hope its contents provide clarity as we tackle 2021 and move forward towards a healthy and happy Lehigh County.

The COVID-19 pandemic has put a toll on us all, but ultimately, brought our communities together like never before. In this issue, you will receive an inside look at how our county government handled the impact of the virus and what we are doing to keep our residents and communities safe. Among other topics, you will also learn how we are evolving as a county and adapting to this new normal.

As your county executive, I hope you find peace of mind as you read and discover all the accomplishments we have achieved since our last newsletter. Rest assured that it is our goal to be as transparent as possible when it comes to your government, and what it means to you as a Lehigh County resident.

Until our next publication, please remember to mask up, wash your hands, be mindful of physical distancing, and stay well.

Sincerely,

Phillips M. Armstrong,

Lehigh County Executive



Government Center:

17 South 7th St. • Allentown, PA 18101

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Vice-Chair Marc Grammes
(District 1)



Percy Dougherty (District 2)



Amy Zanelli (District 3)



Jeff Dutt (District 5)



Dan Harrington (At Large)



Dan Hartzell (At Large)



Zakiya Smalls (At Large)



Bob Elbich (At Large)

Lehigh County Board of Commissioners

Our local legislative branch in Lehigh County is the Board of Commissioners. There are nine elected “county commissioners” in total and together they work to vote on legislation for the betterment of Lehigh County.

Five district commissioners are elected by the voters of designated districts within the county, and four at-large commissioners are elected by voters countywide. While district commissioners can focus on constituents or issues within their respective districts, all commissioners effectively represent all of Lehigh County. Meetings are open to the public and are held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month at 7:30PM.

In order to ensure the health and safety of all participants, the majority of the Board of Commissioner meetings were held virtually via an online platform open to the public. This practice has continued into 2021 with meeting links regularly updated on the Lehigh County website.

The Board of Commissioners’ responsibilities include adopting a budget for Lehigh County and approving the appointment of certain officials. Additionally, they come together to sponsor and pass ordinances and resolutions for the benefit of the county. All of these responsibilities are dictated to the Home Rule Charter of Lehigh County, a document similar to that of the U.S. Constitution.

In addition to the Board of Commissioners’ regular duties, they also come together to serve on a variety of committees that deal with specific county issues and development. These committees are:

Administrative & Human Resources Committee:

Jeffrey Dutt (c), Dave Harrington (v), Percy Dougherty,
Dan Hartzell

Cedarbrook Committee:

Dan Hartzell (c), Marc Grammes (v), Bob Elbich, Jeffrey Dutt

Courts & Corrections Committee:

Dave Harrington (c), Dan Hartzell (v), Amy Zanelli
Zakiya Smalls

Development & Planning Committee:

Amy Zanelli (c), Zakiya Smalls (v), Bob Elbich
Dave Harrington

Finance Committee:

Marc Grammes (c), Bob Elbich (v), Jeffrey Dutt,
Percy Dougherty

General Services Committee:

Percy Dougherty (c), Jeffrey Dutt (v), Marc Grammes,
Zakiya Smalls

Governance Committee:

Zakiya Smalls (c), Amy Zanelli (v), Dan Hartzell,
Dave Harrington

Human Services Committee:

Bob Elbich (c), Percy Dougherty (v), Amy Zanelli
Marc Grammes (c) Chair
(v) Vice-Chair

Hometown Press, the publisher of your Hometown Newsletter, would like to send out a heartfelt, *Stay Safe and Healthy* message to all the residents, businesses, and municipal staff during this pivotal time in history.

“And the World Came Together as the People Stayed Apart”

LETTER FROM CHAIR

GEOFF BRACE

Dear Lehigh County,

When 2020 began, I do not think any of us would imagine how it would unfold. COVID-19 became an earthquake which shook our nation. Our job in 2021 is to rebuild our communities to be stronger and more resilient.

Every facet of county government was touched by this pandemic. Whether talking about our nursing home or human services, every employee and official was forced to adjust. The Board of Commissioners also adjusted, moving our meetings to a virtual platform and watching citizen engagement increase as a result. Throughout the year, we were able to push more than \$30 million in relief into the community, helping small businesses, civic institutions, and small non-profits to find support needed to weather the pandemic.

As we work to support economic recovery in our region, please know we do so with an eye on how your tax dollars are spent, knowing that you care about your community as much as we do. The members of the board have a wide range of interests and passions, but our first duty is to you.

We wish you the very best of health during these trying times. Our nation and county are strongest when we work toward a common mission. Right now, our mission is health and recovery, and I have never been more confident in our ability to succeed.

Sincerely,

Geoff Brace

Announcement from Allentown Health Bureau



Do you have questions about scheduling a COVID-19 vaccine appointment? The Allentown Health Bureau would like you to know that if you are 65 years of age and older, you can place a call to the Lehigh County Senior Call Center at 610.890.7069. You simply leave your name and phone number and an operator will call you back to schedule as vaccine availability exists.

Seniors can also email clinicalcommunicabledisease@allentownpa.gov for assistance.

Individuals who qualify can book an appointment on line at allentownpaclinics.com. Open slots are posted throughout the week as they occur and on Thursday mornings between 9am and 10am weekly.

The Allentown Health Bureau is here to help Allentown residents and members of the Lehigh County community stay up to date regarding the COVID-19 vaccine.



Lehigh County Row Offices

Alongside the County Executive and Board of Commissioners, Lehigh County is proudly served by various elected officials who come into office at large every four years. These offices are collectively known as the county row offices. The name traditionally stems from their appearance in a row on the county's general election ballot.

Office and Responsibilities

Coroner:

The Coroner's office is responsible for investigating and determining the cause of death of those who pass within the boundaries of Lehigh County. The current coroner is Eric Minnich.

Clerk of Judicial Records:

This office is responsible for the maintaining of records for the 31st Judicial District Court of Common Pleas including civil, criminal, and register of wills records. Deeds for land ownership in Lehigh County are also maintained here. Unless stipulated by law, these records are made accessible to the public and can now be viewed easily in an electronic database. The current Clerk of Judicial Records is Andrea Naugle.

Controller:

The Controller is an independent office that serves as a fiscal watchdog responsible for conducting fiscal oversight of county operations. The office performs quality audits of County revenue and expenditures on a rotational basis to measure financial integrity; ensures county compliance with county, state, and federal regulations, and maintain the county's ethics hotline.

The Controller also ensures the integrity of the public bidding process and serves as Secretary of the Retirement Board. The current controller is Mark Pinsley.

District Attorney:

The District Attorney is charged with prosecuting all misdemeanor and felony cases arising in Lehigh County, seeking justice by fairly and efficiently prosecuting those individuals charged with committing crimes. The District Attorney is the Chief Law Enforcement Officer of Lehigh County and works closely with all police departments on the county, state, and federal level. The DA works with these officials on investigations, crime-fighting, and public safety initiatives.

The District Attorney is Jim Martin, who has led the office since 1998.

Sheriff:

The Office of the Sheriff serves all original civil, criminal and protection from abuse documents issued by the Court of Common Pleas. The office also provides security for the county's courtrooms, judges and buildings. The Sheriff's Office transports prisoners, holds sales to collect debts on both real and personal property, investigates and apprehends fugitives and bail jumpers while preserving the peace.

In addition, the Sheriff's Office issues permits to carry a concealed weapon within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. These permits are issued only after an appropriate background investigation is completed.

Our current sheriff is Joseph Hanna.



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Office of Voter Registration

From Chief Clerk of Elections, Timothy Benyo

The Lehigh County Election Board is responsible for selecting, purchasing, preserving, storing, maintaining and equipping polling places with all that is needed to run an election. The board is also authorized to investigate election frauds, irregularities and violations, and to report all suspicious circumstances to the District Attorney. Additionally, the Lehigh County Election Board receives election results and reports to the public along with the Secretary of the Commonwealth including many other responsibilities.

Residents of Lehigh County have 15 days prior to a Primary or Election to register to vote or make changes to their existing registration. This can be done online at www.VotesPA.com or with a paper application by mail or in our office.

Both Absentee and Mail-In ballots are now available for all registered Pennsylvania voters. Absentee ballots are used when the voter is away from their municipality on Election Day, if the voter is ill and cannot go to a polling place, or for religious reasons.



Mail-In ballots can be used for any other reason the voter does not wish to go to their precinct on Election day. To receive a ballot prior to Election Day is a two-step process. First an application, also found at www.VotesPA.com, must be filled out and filed prior to 5PM the Tuesday before a Primary or an Election. The voted ballot must be returned, in the office or one of five drop boxes located in each of the Commissioner's Districts prior to 8PM Primary or Election night.

In February 2018, Governor Wolf directed and later solidified by a litigation agreement between Jill Stein & the Department of State, that all of Pennsylvania will be required in the 2020 Presidential Primary to use voter verified paper ballots. Lehigh County began using hand marked, voter verified paper balloting in the 2019 November Municipal Election.

Lehigh County's election system is created by Election Systems & Software (ES&S).

Lehigh County Departments

Corrections:

The Lehigh County Department of Corrections is responsible for the detention of adult and juvenile offenders. Its mission is to uphold public safety through the lawful confinement of offenders and by providing rehabilitative programs for inmates. The Office of the Director of Corrections is responsible for the overall administration of Lehigh County Jail in Allentown and the Community Corrections Center in Salisbury Township.

Additionally, the department works in collaboration with other counties via contracts in providing Juvenile Detention services.

Administration

The Administration department is responsible for the everyday operations of Lehigh County's government. There are six administrative offices and they are the Assessment Office, the Fiscal Department, the Human Resources Department, the Procurement Department, Information Technology, and Veteran Affairs.

Assessment Office:

This office is responsible for the maintenance of property assessment rolls and updating property assessments based on new constructions or fires. The effects of these circumstances can either increase or reduce the value of a given property.

Fiscal:

The Fiscal Office is responsible for Lehigh County's finances and ensuring the county is financially solid. The office promotes the fiscal integrity and stability of many aspects of Lehigh County, while also providing financial insight to county operating practices.

Human Resource Department:

The Office of Human Resources is responsible for personnel and risk management along with employee training. It's tasked with handling job applications and seeking out valuable employees that promote innovation and diversity within Lehigh County.

Additionally, The Office of Human Resources mitigates risk through employee benefits such as health care and worker's compensation.

Information Technology:

The Office of Information Technology (OIT) provides technological and electronic support to county departments. It is thanks to these resources that Lehigh County government stays connected through computing services, network software applications, and other technology-based resources.

Procurement:

The Office of Procurement is responsible for administering the purchase of construction services equipment, furniture, materials, nonprofessional services and supplies at the lowest possible cost. The department provides County departments with quality resources needed for proper and effective operations.

Human Services Department:

The Lehigh County Department of Human Services (LCDHS) is a tax-payer supported organization whose mission is to assist individuals and families in becoming self-sufficient and overall improve the quality of life within our communities. Its goal is not only to strive for the safety of residents, but also the betterment of those in need.

The department consists of the Officers of Information and Referral Services, Aging and Adult Services, Children and Youth Services, Drug and Alcohol Services, Early Intervention Services, Health Choices, Integrated Services, Intellectual Disabilities Services, and Mental Health Services. Together, these departments work tirelessly to ensure that those living in our county have a safe place to live.

Community and Economic Development:

The Department of Community and Economic Development focuses on enhancing the quality of life of our communities by concentrating on the revitalization of our cities and boroughs, spurring economic growth, and supporting regional partnerships among our municipalities.

The department's grant programs have supported high priority projects of the county's 25 municipalities, aimed at enriching their economic viability by upgrading aging infrastructure, supporting improvements within the downtowns, and assisting agencies focused on providing safe, affordable and sustainable housing.



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Farmland Preservation Update

By Diane Matthews-Gehringer

Lehigh County has a strong farming history and agricultural operations continue to be an important aspect of our economy and sense of place. Our county consists of a diverse landscape of both rural and urban character which over the years has attracted residential and commercial growth.

Amidst this growth, since 1989, Lehigh County has been actively protecting farmland for future generations through the Agricultural Land Preservation Program. The program is part of a statewide effort in cooperation with the Commonwealth of PA, where landowners voluntarily apply to sell their development rights to permanently protect their farmland. The farms are ranked and the top farms are selected based on soil quality and likelihood of development. An independent appraisal determines the value per acre.

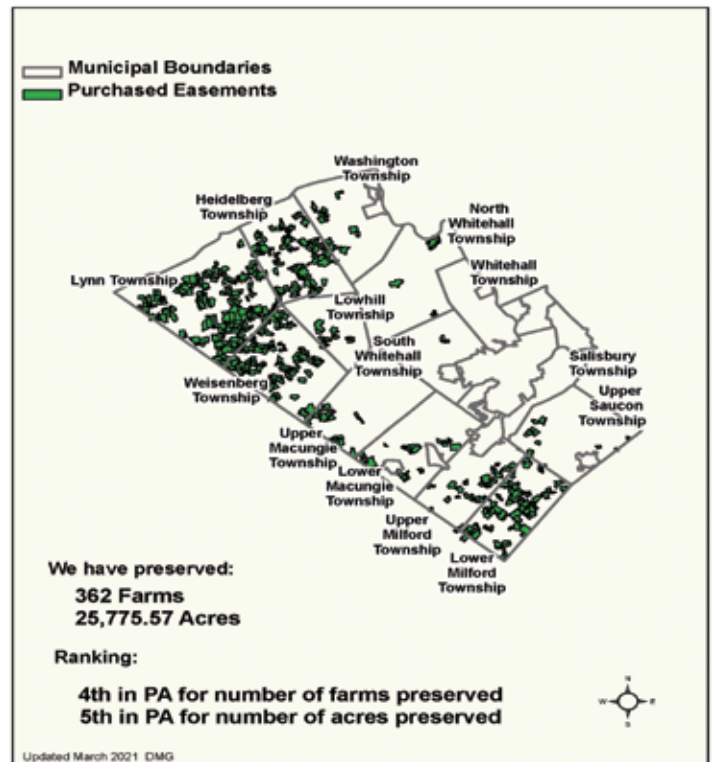
In June 2020, the Lehigh County program reached the milestone of 25,000 acres preserved. Currently, 362 farms consisting of 25,775 acres have been protected in our county alone. 58 other counties have similar programs to preserve their farmlands; however, Lehigh County ranks 4th in the number of farms preserved and 5th in the number of acres. This is an impressive feat considering Pennsylvania leads the nation in farmland preservation!

As of February 2021, 5,843 farms totaling 594,457 acres have been protected across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

There has been an incredible amount of support that goes towards funding for our farmlands. In this past year alone, the Commonwealth distributed an estimated \$2.7 million in funding to Lehigh County for farmland preservation. Fund contributions were also provided by Lehigh County and local municipalities in some cases.

Lehigh County commissioners supported the program at various levels over the years. From 2017-2019, Lehigh County was granted funding for \$2 million per year when including funding from the state

Lehigh County Agricultural Conservation Easements



and municipal levels. This resulted in the preservation of 77 farms! In the fall of 2020, the Board of Commissioners approved another \$2 million in county funds for 2021. Currently, there are 55 farms on the waiting list and new applications are received throughout the year.

Congrats to Lehigh County and participating landowners for this great accomplishment that will last for many future generations!



Lowhill Township Farm - Bev Weaver



Betty Loch Farm, Loch Valley



Loch Valley, Weisenberg Twp.



Kerschner's Farm, Lenhartsville



Field view

Lehigh County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) assists at COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic



When people enter the Agri-Plex at the Allentown Fairgrounds to get their COVID-19 vaccine at the Allentown Health Bureau's vaccination clinic, they see individuals from multiple groups, agencies and volunteers who are all working together to serve our community.

Among the group, they'll see members of the Lehigh County CERT in action.

The CERT members are assisting with roles at the clinic such as greeters, traffic flow, paperwork and check out. All the roles at the COVID-19 vaccination clinics are important to the overall flow and success of a clinic's operation. This is just a small portion of what the Lehigh County CERT group is trained to do.

All CERT members start with a 16-hour basic training including first aid, triage, basic fire suppression, and mass casualty incidents. Many CERT members have been trained for several years and remain ready to respond when requested. Some completed additional training to assist with damage assessment after storms and floods so that damages can be reported to the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Everyone has a background check and is registered through the State Emergency Registry of Volunteers in Pennsylvania.

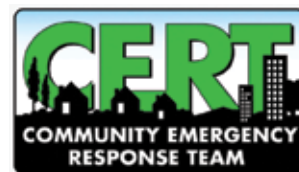
Many CERT members have also completed trainings including

disaster psychology to help people deal

with the aftermath of an emergency.

Recognizing that COVID-19 has impacted many aspects of the lives of our community members, including increased levels of stress, the CERT members have put their training and skills to use at the

COVID vaccine clinics to help put community members at ease and guide them through the clinic in an efficient, orderly manner.



The Lehigh County Emergency Management Agency has been actively working and partnering with the Allentown Health Bureau for 10+ years to offer training opportunities to both the Lehigh County CERT and Allentown Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps (AVMRC). These volunteers have trained and worked together during other events such as: H1N1 Vaccination clinics, Shelter Operations (Hurricane Irene, Tropical Storm Lee), Winter Storms, Utility Outages, Warming Centers and Evacuation Centers.

Tanya Hook, Interim Director for the Lehigh County Emergency Management office, feels very fortunate to have such wonderful CERT volunteers in our county who are willing to help and assist others during emergency situations.



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Veteran Affairs

The Veteran's Affairs office is committed to serving Lehigh County veterans and their family members. It does so by providing federal, state, and local benefits along with information assistance.

An Update from Tom Applebach, Director of Veterans' Affairs

COVID-19 may have disrupted our operations during the past year, but it has most certainly not stopped them. During the past several years we've been moving many of our operations to electronic means – everything from emailing documents and forms back and forth with our clients to directly filing claims with the state and U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. When we shutdown most of our face-to-face meetings, we were able to continue to serve, albeit a bit slower, our county veterans and their families. Open office operations are still reduced – we ask that you call for an appointment rather than walk-in – and staff continues to work a hybrid schedule of remote and in-office time, but we continue to serve.

The shutdown also delayed receipt of a \$200,000 state grant secured by Senate Appropriations Chairman Pat Browne for homeless veterans in the Lehigh Valley. But we have received the funding and by the time you read this we will have granted the money to area agencies to assist veterans with housing and other services. A second round of funding, again secured for the Lehigh Valley by Senator Browne, is in the works. The funding is managed by the Lehigh Valley Community Foundation and tax-deductible donations can be made by visiting the Foundation's webpage at www.lehighvalleyfoundation.org.

Finally, last fall the Pennsylvania Department of Veterans Affairs (DMVA) – the organization that provides the county veteran's offices with training and support – went live with PA VetConnect. DMVA describes VetConnect as “the pathway to a better means of serving Pennsylvania's nearly 800,000 veterans.”

For what it's worth, PA VetConnect went from concept to live in 18 months – lightning fast in terms of government programs. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has already hailed the program as a model for other states to follow.

On the site, visitors can sign up for the Veteran's Registry; find information on a myriad of state veteran programs, such as Veteran's homes, various assistance programs, and state benefits; learn about the different offices of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; find presenters on various topics; and much more. I think most folks will be amazed at the number of programs that DMVA provides to our veterans. And by extension, the county veteran offices statewide.

The site also allows county directors to login and search through a database of service organizations in their area that can provide assistance to veterans and their families. Everything from housing and utility assistance to mental health treatment to food banks to ... Well, you name it; the information is in the database and at our fingertips.

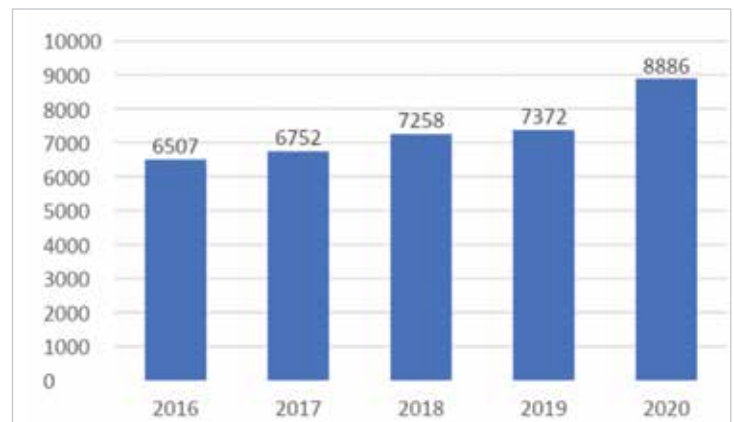
For more information visit www.dmva.pa.gov, click on Veterans at the top and scroll through the list of topics or click on PA VetConnect in the Reintegration and Outreach section to take you to the dashboard.



Lehigh County Coroner's Office and Forensics Center

The mission of the Lehigh County Coroner's Office and Forensics Center is to serve not only the families and loved ones of those that have passed, but to the deceased themselves. The Lehigh County Coroner's Office and Forensics Center conducts independent and thorough investigations, often working in conjunction with physicians, nurses, law enforcement and emergency service responders to assure the facts and circumstances surrounding a death are true and accurate. The staff of the Lehigh County Coroner's Office and Forensics Center recognizes the responsibility to treat all deceased persons with dignity and respect.

The Lehigh County Coroner's Office and Forensics Center is responsible to investigate deaths that occur within



continued on next page

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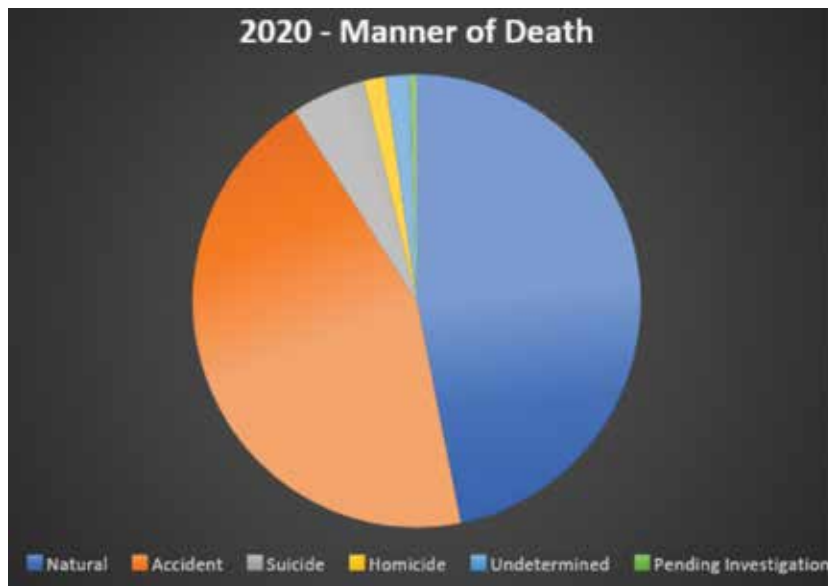
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Lehigh County Coroner's Office and Forensics Center continued

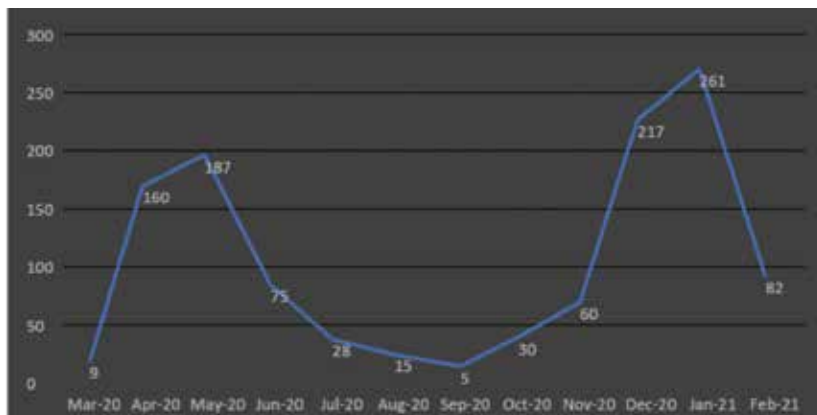
the geographical boundaries of the County of Lehigh. Deaths that occur under violent and suspicious circumstances are those that attract the most attention. However, most deaths occur away from the public eye. The staff of the Lehigh County Coroner's Office and Forensics Center recognizes their responsibility to all citizens, regardless of the circumstances surrounding the death. Investigations performed by our staff often assist surviving loved ones with valuable medical information, specifically related to inherited diseases and conditions. This type of information provides families with comfort and peace of mind, serving as an early detection tool and treatment of potentially life-threatening illnesses. The investigations and rulings of our office concerning potential criminal acts, criminal neglect or those that affect public health and safety play an integral role in assisting other investigative agencies.



The office is led by Coroner Eric D. Minnich. The Lehigh County Coroner's Office and Forensics Center is accredited by the International Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners. Coroner Minnich and his investigative staff are all certified by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Office of the Attorney General Coroner's Education Board and are nationally certified by the American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators.

2020 provided some unique challenges for the staff of the Coroner's Office. COVID-19 had a significant impact on our day-to-day operations and as we sadly know, our case volume. Our staff has worked on the frontline of the pandemic since last March and continue to do so. Through the pandemic our staff of 25 investigators and forensics center staff were well-equipped with appropriate personal protective equipment, with thanks to Lehigh County Emergency Management, Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency and several donations from our generous community. Our total number of investigations increased by over 20% in 2020.

In addition to death investigations, the staff of the Lehigh County Coroner's Office and Forensics Center is committed to the prevention of unnecessary deaths and serve on several committees that target at-risk groups (suicide prevention, opioid deaths, child death and elder abuse).



This publication is made available through the generous advertising sponsorship of the businesses listed throughout our newsletter. We wish to encourage your patronage of these establishments; they play a substantial role in the economic vitality of our community.

Solid Waste Management

The Lehigh County Office of General Services currently handles issues related to solid waste and recycling for our residents by assisting municipal recycling coordinators with developing their individual recycling programs and as such, also serves as the **Lehigh County Office of Solid Waste Management**.

This includes maintaining the responsibilities of a designated "County Recycling Coordinator" ensuring that the County is in compliance with the Lehigh County Solid Waste Management Plan. The Plan is a requirement of Pennsylvania Act 101 of 1988. Our office also collects and maintains recycling data for submission to the state in the required annual report, also a requirement of PA Act 101.

In Lehigh County, it is our goal to provide clear guidelines when it comes to our area's waste management and proper disposal methods.

What is hazardous waste, and why hold a collection event?

In November 2020, Lehigh County held its hazardous waste disposal event at Coco-Cola Park for all Lehigh County residents. The event is only held every couple of years in Lehigh County, and many households take advantage of the opportunity to dispose of their hazardous waste.

Hazardous waste is any type of material that cannot be safely disposed of through normal means. A collection's event is crucial for the protection of our county's environment and allows for our residents to safely get rid of items that may have accumulated over time.

Many common household items are considered hazardous waste that could cause harm to the environment if not properly taken care of. This includes items such as disinfectants, drain cleaners, herbicide/pesticides, etc.

As always, the past collection event was held strictly for Lehigh County residents and was paid for by tax payer dollars.

Why must I prove my residency to participate in waste disposal events?

To protect your tax dollars!

Lehigh County holds its waste collection events for Lehigh County residents only. All hazardous waste events are paid for by Lehigh County tax payer dollars, and it is Lehigh County's priority to ensure that only Lehigh County residents can participate in the event that they paid for. As a result, residents from other counties and commercial entities cannot participate.

To ensure this, Lehigh County requests proof of residency prior to scheduling an appointment for any waste collection event.



How can I dispose of waste if there is no current Lehigh County event?

A few municipalities in Lehigh County host their own collection events and will take care of residents' waste. Most of these events are already paid for by local tax dollars, and a resident only has to prove residency in the municipality to participate. No extra fees required.

Pro Tip: Before you plan to drop off any waste, please be sure to check ahead of time and see if a disposal event is taking place at your local municipality. Be advised

that events, dates, and times are dependent upon each area and are subject to change.

Alternatively, residents can opt to drop off their waste at retailers or local distribution centers throughout Lehigh County. Please be advised drop-offs and distribution centers are always subject to change without notice, and Lehigh County always strives to be as transparent as possible with its programs.

A full list of available resources can be found on the Solid Waste Management section on the Lehigh County website.

How can I safely get rid of my electronic waste, such as TVs and old computer monitors?

Always check in with your local municipalities and retailers prior to dropping off electronic waste. Electronics will no longer be dumped at landfills and trash haulers will not pick them up at the curb. They must be collected at an electronic waste disposal event.

Lehigh County does not hold electronic recycling events.

The reason for this is because Lehigh County works with two "R2" certified electronic recyclers that will dispose of electronic waste, instead of waiting for an event that only comes once or twice a year. This will allow for quicker and more efficient disposals without risking build up. **The following companies are permitted by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection to recycle those items.**

- DRC Technologies
- EPA
- Best Buy
- Staples
- PA DEP E-Waste Recycling
- GER Solutions

Lehigh County strives to provide the most current and up to date information when it comes to solid waste management. However, please be advised that information is subject to change. For the latest news and updates regarding solid waste management, please visit <https://www.lehighcounty.org/Departments/Solid-Waste-Management>.



Cedarbrook Senior Care & Rehabilitation

There is no greater priority in Lehigh County than the welfare of our senior population at Cedarbrook Senior Care & Rehabilitation. To ensure the safety of our Cedarbrook residents and staff during this difficult time, new policies and procedures were put in place at both campuses to combat the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

This could not have been done without the strength and resilience of our Cedarbrook family.

At the beginning of the pandemic, Cedarbrook temporarily suspended visitation to both campuses in order to keep residents safely quarantined during the pandemic. Additionally, Cedarbrook utilized the latest in COVID-19 studies and engineering consultations to implement UV air disinfecting units in every residential room and communal space. This new state of the art technology is in effect at both the Allentown and Fountain Hill campuses.

Despite the challenges faced in the past year, Cedarbrook Senior Care & Rehabilitation maintains its 4 Star CMS rating. That means Cedarbrook has an Above Average nursing home care rating compared to other homes in the United States.

Be rest assured that Cedarbrook Senior Care & Rehabilitation has put forth every necessary precaution in protecting our residents from the effects of the pandemic. Although the opportunity to visit residents is currently limited, many in the Cedarbrook community stay connected with family and friends through Cedarbrook's website and media platforms.

One resident, in particular, has reached out to the world through her positivity and works of art.

Meet Cimmie



Meet Cimmie Depriest, a Cedarbrook Fountain Hill resident and artist. She came to the Cedarbrook on October 10, 2013 to receive care for her chronic illnesses and has been a loving member of the community ever since. Her kindness and helpful demeanor led her to become President of Cedarbrook's Resident Council.

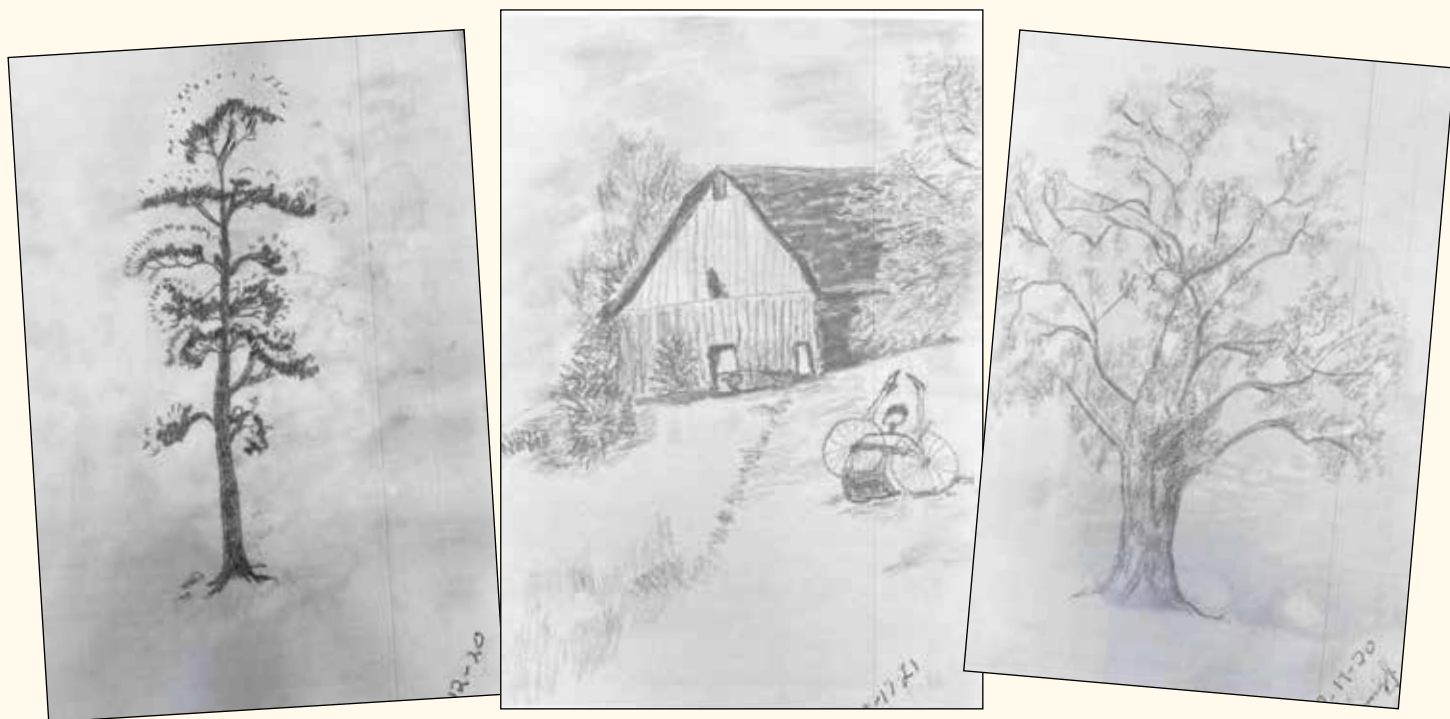
Raised in Bethlehem, Cimmie has been a faithful resident of the Lehigh Valley for many years and decided this would be the place she would raise her family. From teaching Sunday school at Trinity Evangelical to leading an active life crocheting and leading her local Cub Scout troop, Cimmie took pleasure in all the beauty life in the Lehigh Valley had to offer.

One hobby that she is particularly fond of is sketching. As a young child, Cimmie remembers sketching animals and sharing her work with those she loved. When she first came to Cedarbrook Fountain Hill, she wanted to continue this passion and sketched the tree and landscape found right outside her bedroom window.

Along with her sketches, Cimmie also became active with Cedarbrook's crocheting circle. She taught fellow residents how to crochet and, soon enough, became the residential expert on the subject. She has created many wonderful items for Cedarbrook's bazaar and won numerous blue ribbons at the Great Allentown Fair for her creations. However, when COVID-19 shut down Cedarbrook's recreational groups in March of 2020, Cimmie turned to sketching to fill her time. From birds to flowers, using step by step instructions from artbooks, there was nothing Cimmie couldn't draw.

However, at the end of May of 2020, Cimmie was diagnosed with the COVID-19 virus. She was admitted to St. Luke's Bethlehem and treated with the antiviral Remdesivir. It was with great success that Cimmie won her battle with COVID-19 and returned to Cedarbrook's Fountain Hill Campus. On February 11, 2021, Cimmie has received her second dose of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine and has crossed another hurdle on Cedarbrook's path to normalcy.

Today, she continues to occupy her time by sketching trees and landscapes. She has become quite the pro with her



sketches that she even participated in Cedarbrook's virtual talent show displaying her works!

Soon enough, a simple hobby to pass the time in quarantine has blossomed into a pastime that Cimmie really enjoys.

We would like to thank Cimmie for sharing her story and her beautiful sketches with the Cedarbrook family and to the rest of Lehigh County. Her art and vision are an inspiration for many!



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Grilling Safety

There's nothing like outdoor grilling. It's one of the most popular ways to cook food. But, a grill placed too close to anything that can burn is a fire hazard. They can be very hot, causing burn injuries. Follow these simple tips and you will be on the way to safe grilling.

SAFETY TIPS

- » Propane and charcoal BBQ grills should only be used outdoors.
- » The grill should be placed well away from the home, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- » Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the grill area.
- » Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup from the grills and in trays below the grill.
- » Never leave your grill unattended.
- » Always make sure your gas grill lid is open before lighting it.

CHARCOAL GRILLS

- » There are several ways to get the charcoal ready to use. Charcoal chimney starters allow you to start the charcoal using newspaper as a fuel.
- » If you use a starter fluid, use only charcoal starter fluid. Never add charcoal fluid or any other flammable liquids to the fire.
- » Keep charcoal fluid out of the reach of children and away from heat sources.
- » There are also electric charcoal starters, which do not use fire. Be sure to use an extension cord for outdoor use.
- » When you are finished grilling, let the coals completely cool before disposing in a metal container.



Your Source for SAFETY Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

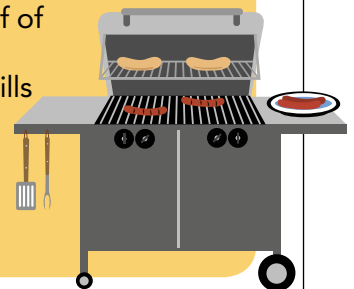
PROPANE Grills

Check the gas tank hose for leaks before using it for the first time each year. Apply a light soap and water solution to the hose. A propane leak will release bubbles. If your grill has a gas leak, by smell or the soapy bubble test, and there is no flame, turn off both the gas tank and the grill. If the leak stops, get the grill serviced by a professional before using it again. If the leak does not stop, call the fire department. **If you smell gas while cooking, immediately get away from the grill and call the fire department.** Do not move the grill.

If the flame **goes out**, turn the grill and gas off and wait at least **5 minutes** before re-lighting it.

FACTS

- ❗ July is the peak month for grill fires.
- ❗ Roughly half of the injuries involving grills are thermal burns.



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Lehigh County Contact Directory

Lehigh County Government Center

17 S 7th Street • Allentown, PA 18101

Phone: 610-782-3000 • www.lehighcounty.org

Assessment	610-782-3038	Information & Referral	610-782-3200
Cedarbrook Nursing Homes	610-395-3727	Emergency Telephone Numbers	
Clerk of Judicial Records		Aging and Adult Services	610-782-3034
Civil Division	610-782-3148	Children and Youth	610-782-3064
Criminal Division	610-782-3077	Crisis Intervention	610-782-3127
Register of Wills	610-782-3170	Drug & Alcohol	610-782-3555
Recorder of Deeds	610-782-3162	Early Intervention	610-782-3125
Commissioners	610-782-3050	Mental Health	610-782-3135
Community and Economic Development	610-782-3565	Intellectual Disabilities	610-782-3126
Controller	610-782-3082	Veteran's Affairs	610-782-3295
Coroner	610-782-3426	Parks and Recreation	610-871-0281
District Attorney	610-782-3100	Public Defender	610-782-3157
Executive Office	610-782-3001	Procurement	610-782-3030
Fiscal/Tax Claims	610-782-3115	Sheriff's Office	610-782-3175
General Services	610-782-3033	Solid Waste Management	610-782-3073
Human Resources	610-782-3130	Voter Registration/ Board of Elections	610-782-3194
Human Services – Administrative Office	610-782-3952		



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