



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,

It has been my honor and my pleasure to serve as your County Executive for these past seven years. I have never enjoyed any job that I have had more than representing the people of Lehigh County.

We have done a lot of great work over the past several years, and with no tax increase in my entire second term. We managed our operations through a worldwide pandemic that none of us had imagined. The entire world shut down, but Lehigh County kept critical services in operation and never fully closed our county courthouse.

We delivered tens of millions of dollars in pandemic aid and relief to almost a thousand small businesses, non-profit organizations, school districts, and emergency management personnel. We helped people obtain Covid testing and treatment, helped people pay rent and manage their lives. As the rest of the world closed, we stayed open.

At one point, the Iron Pigs were in danger of losing their AAA minor league status, so Lehigh County stepped in and, with the help of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce, we helped keep the team here. We have also renovated and upgraded three training sites to help our communities' volunteer fire departments.

We have preserved more than 28,000 acres of farmland encompassing more than 400 farms. We have undertaken new endeavors by starting a redevelopment authority to help with economic development projects and a Human Relations Commission in order to make sure that everyone's rights are protected.

This and much more has all been possible thanks to the hard work of a great team of Lehigh County employees. I have only the highest praise for the great professionals who come to work every day for Lehigh County.

As proud as I am to have been in this role for the past seven years, I must share the spotlight and extend my sincerest thanks to our Lehigh County Board of Commissioners. Without them, none of this would have been possible. I am pleased to say that as we witness all manners of political spectacles on a national level, we have really managed to take the politics out of government here in Lehigh County, in order to go to work every day for the people who depend on us to provide services.

Sincerely,

Phillips M. Armstrong



Government Center:
17 South 7th St.
Allentown, PA 18101
Courthouse:
455 Hamilton St.
Allentown, PA 18101

610-782-3000 • www.lehighcounty.org

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Where Are We Located?

Located in southeastern Pennsylvania in the area known as the Lehigh Valley, Lehigh County is a bustling and bolstering region full of rich farmlands, flourishing metropolises, and incredible residents.

We are positioned right in the corridor between Philadelphia and New York City with the City of Allentown as our county seat. Throughout our many roads and trails, we stay connected to other major destinations with easy access to such as I-78, Rt.145, Rt.22, Rt.309, Rt.33, or Rt.476 (Pennsylvania Turnpike). Regular commuters realize the ultimate convenience of our central location and transportation options, making Lehigh County a great place to live and work.

Lehigh County is also home to the Lehigh Valley International Airport, providing both commercial and private air facilities with non-stop flights to many U.S cities. Our impressive “super highway and cargo” networks and strategic geographic locations connect Lehigh County with the rest of the East Coast’s major markets, making our travel systems not only accessible but also admirable.

As a result, we are connected more than ever to the lifeforce of the Northeast with no intentions of slowing down or letting up.



County Commissioners



From Geoff Brace, Chair of the Board

Residents of Lehigh County deserve responsive elected officials wherein county government meets its obligations and is responsible with taxpayer dollars. Your county commissioners do exactly that. We have provided the resources necessary to ensure seniors receive excellent care at our Cedarbrook Senior Care and Rehabilitation Facilities. Our parks and recreation facilities continue to see investment through extensions of the D&L Trail, world-class outdoor nature education at the Trexler Nature Preserve, and the best in minor league baseball at Coca-Cola Park. We are updating our 911 system and supporting our first responders because when you dial 911, you expect a fast response to your emergency. From mental and behavioral health to social services for addiction treatment and care for our seniors, we know a prosperous region requires us to have a strong safety net so others do not get left behind. Is there work to be done? Always, and we are committed to building a legacy for the next generation of Lehigh County residents. Your Board of Commissioners takes its responsibilities seriously and is honored by the trust you have given to them.



From left to right, top: Ron Beitler (District 2), Antonio Pineda (District 1), Dan Hartzell (Commissioner-At-Large)
 From left to right, bottom: Sheila Alvarado (Commissioner-At-Large), Jeffrey Dutt (District 5), Geoff Brace (District 4), Jon Irons (Commissioner-At-Large), and April Riddick (Commissioner-At-Large)
 Not pictured: Zach Cole-Borghini (District 3)

Board of Commissioners Meetings:

Commissioner meetings are the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays (unless otherwise noted) and will begin at 7:30 p.m. The meetings will be held in the Public Hearing Room of the Lehigh County Government Center, 17 South Seventh Street, Allentown, PA. Agendas are published in advance and are available online at www.lehighcounty.org under the Commissioner Department page.

Parking:

Parking is available in the Walnut and Church Streets Lot. The lot is located between 7th and 6th streets on Walnut Street. Traveling east on Walnut Street, turn right onto Church Street. The lot is accessible.

Attending meetings via Zoom:

For more information on our meetings and how to attend virtually, instructions can be found at www.lehighcounty.org under the Commissioners Department page.

Meeting Videos:

If you'd like to watch a recorded meeting, please visit www.lehighcounty.org under the Commissioners Department page, section link labeled Meeting Videos.

Committee Structure

Administrative & Human Resources Committee:
 Sheila Alvarado (c), Dan Hartzell (v), Ron Beitler, Antonio Pineda

Cedarbrook Committee:
 Dan Hartzell (c), Ron Beitler (v), Sheila Alvarado, Antonio Pineda

Courts & Corrections Committee:
 Jon Irons (c), Zach Cole-Borghini (v), Dan Hartzell, April Riddick

Development & Planning Committee:
 Ron Beitler (c), Jon Irons (v), Jeffrey Dutt, April Riddick

Finance Committee:
 Jeffrey Dutt (c), Antonio Pineda (v), Ron Beitler, Jon Irons

General Services Committee:
 Antonio Pineda (c), Jeffrey Dutt (v), Zach Cole-Borghini, Dan Hartzell

Governance Committee:
 Zach Cole-Borghini (c), April Riddick (v), Sheila Alvarado, Jon Irons

Human Services Committee:
 April Riddick (c), Sheila Alvarado (v), Zach Cole-Borghini, Jeffrey Dutt
(C) Chair (v) Vice-Chair

Community Outreach Holiday Dinner

For the Thanksgiving Holiday, the staff of the Office of the Public Defender volunteered their time and provided all the provisions for a large holiday dinner and winter clothing giveaway at the Conference of Churches. More than 230 families joined us!



The menu included:

- Carved Ham
- Carved Turkey
- Fall Seasoned Stuffing
- Sweet Potatoes
- Mashed Potatoes
- Cranberry Sauce
- And a variety of holiday desserts and drinks.

In addition to the food and clothing, there was a table devoted to the Pardon Project of Lehigh County.

The Office of the Public Defender also continues to hold its annual Community Outreach Day events, where they provide information and resources on sealing criminal records, expungements, and pardons.

Local organizations also attend Community Outreach Day to offer resources and information to Lehigh County residents.



Follow Lehigh County on social media to stay updated on the latest in Lehigh County news, updates, and events!



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[Twitter.com/CountyofLehigh](https://twitter.com/CountyofLehigh)



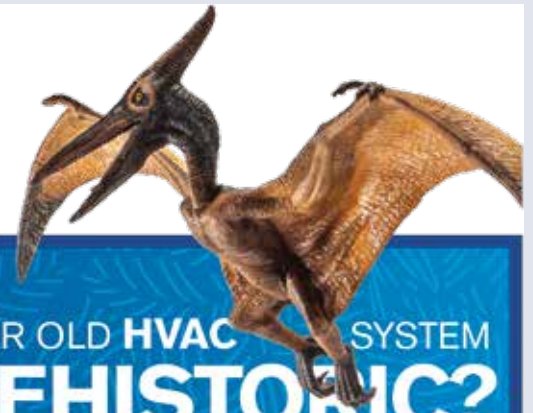
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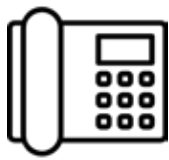
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"Who should I call?" Department Directory



Assessment Office: 610-782-3038. This office is responsible for property assessments.

Cedarbrook Nursing Homes: 610-395-3727.

Clerk of Judicial Records

- **Civil Division:** 610-782-3148. The Civil Division maintains all civil related court records.
- **Criminal Division:** 610-782-3077. The Criminal Division maintains all criminal related court records.
- **Court Administration:** 610-782-3014. The responsibility of the District Court Administrator is to manage the non-judicial functions of the court. Judges are ultimately responsible for effective court management.
- **Register of Wills:** 610-782-3170. The primary responsibility of this office includes the probate of estates and to act as an agent for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in the collection of inheritance taxes.
- **Recorder of Deeds:** 610-782-3162. The Recorder of Deeds Division maintains land records of property located in Lehigh County.

Commissioners: 610-782-3050. The Board of Commissioners is the legislative branch of county government and has all the legislative powers that may be exercised by the county under the constitution, the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the Lehigh County Home Rule Charter.

Community and Economic Development 610-782-3565.

Controller: 610-782-3082. The Controller and the highly qualified team of professionals are responsible for monitoring county finances, investigating campaign finance violations and serving as the fiscal watchdog for your county tax dollars.

Coroner: 610-782-3426. The Office of the Coroner is an independent office that investigates and documents the facts and circumstances surrounding deaths over which the Coroner's Office has jurisdiction.

Department of Law and Right to Know: 610-782-3180. The Department of Law is a full-service legal office providing advice and representation to all three branches of county government.

District Attorney: 610-782-3100. The District Attorney's office is charged with seeking justice, deciding when criminal charges will be filed, and fairly and efficiently prosecuting individuals charged with committing felonies and misdemeanors in Lehigh County.

Executive Office-Administration: 610-782-3001. Runs the day-to-day operations of the Government Center.

Fiscal/Tax Claims/ Gaming & Dog Licenses: 610-782-3115.

General Services: 610-782-3033. The General Services Office provides management and coordination for the internal service and maintenance functions for Lehigh County facilities as well as public services related to Parks & Recreation, Bridge Maintenance, and Emergency Management.

Human Resources: 610-782-3130. The Office of Human Resources is responsible for personnel and risk management along with employee training.

Human Services Administrative Office: 610-782-3952. The mission of this department is to assist individuals and families in becoming self-sufficient and overall improve the quality of life within our communities.

Information & Referral: 610-782-3200. Provides information about Lehigh County Department of Human Services and information about community resources.

Jail: 610-782-3270.

Emergency Telephone Numbers

- **Aging and Adult Services:** 610-782-3034.
- **Children and Youth:** 610-782-3064.
- **Crisis Intervention:** 610-782-3127.
- **Drug & Alcohol:** 610-782-3555.
- **Early Intervention:** 610-782-3125.
- **Mental Health:** 610-782-3135.
- **Intellectual Disabilities:** 610-782-3126.
- **Veteran's Affairs:** 610-782-3295.

Parks and Recreation: 610-871-0281. Responsible for the development, management, and maintenance of over 4,000 acres of county park land and open space.

Public Defender: 610-782-3157. Represents eligible individuals and strives to meet the needs of their clients to protect their civil liberties under both the United States and the Pennsylvania Constitutions.

Procurement: 610-782-3030. The Office of Procurement, under the direction of the Department of Administration, is empowered with administering centralized purchase of all construction services, equipment, furniture, materials, nonprofessional services and supplies at the lowest possible cost, consistent with the quality needed for proper and effective operation of all county departments.

Sheriff's Office: 610-782-3175. 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. In addition, the Sheriff's Office issues permits to carry a concealed weapon within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Solid Waste Management: 610-782-3073. Responsible for ensuring that the county is in compliance with the Lehigh County Solid Waste Management Plan.

Voter Registration/ Board of Elections: 610-782-3194.

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Lehigh County Celebrates 400 Farms Preserved

Lehigh County Executive Phillips Armstrong and the Lehigh County Department of Farmland Preservation celebrated the significant milestone of having preserved 28,000 acres and 400 farms on June 18th, 2024.

Speaking from the Baringer Family Farm, the very first farm preserved in the county, Armstrong said “Economic Development is important, but once we lose a farm its lost **forever**. It’s important that we do this for our children, and for our children’s children, so that we may preserve Lehigh County’s agricultural heritage for them.”

Lehigh County started its Farmland Preservation Program back in 1989, in order to take advantage of the state program, PA Agricultural Conservation Easement Purchase Program and since that time, we have used matching funds to reach these significant milestones.

Congratulations



Need to talk?

If you are having thoughts of suicide, call or text **988** to reach the **Suicide and Crisis Lifeline**.

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There is hope.

There is hope.

There is hope.



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LVHN.org/heartandvascular



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Shared Housing and Resource Exchange Program (SHARE)

On May 2nd, 2024, County Executive Phil Armstrong, Lehigh County Office of Aging and Adult Services in conjunction with Lehigh Valley Active Life held a press conference to announce the Shared Housing and Resource Exchange (SHARE) Program.

SHARE is an affordable housing choice that brings together homeowners who want to share their home with home seekers who are looking for housing in exchange for rent, help around the house, or a combination of both.

WHY SHARE A HOME?

Some people like the idea of having another person around the house. Others are looking for an affordable place to live or a way to supplement their income to meet household expenses.

Homesharing offers the homeowner:

- Income to help with expenses
- A responsible tenant
- Homesharing offers the home seeker:
- A private bedroom with agreed upon, shared common spaces
- Affordable rent

HOW DOES SHARE WORK?

A homeowner and home seeker meet separately with the SHARE Housing Counselor to discuss needs and preferences, complete the application, and provide references. The SHARE Housing Counselor will:

- Conduct reference and background checks
- Identify potential home share matches
- Introduce the homeowners and home seekers
- Coordinate the written homesharing agreement

- Oversee trial living periods
- Provide ongoing support during the term of the agreement
- Connect the participants to other community resources

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?


Older adults, persons with disabilities, veterans, working professionals, college students. Individuals at risk of homelessness, single parents, or people simply wishing to share their lives and homes with others. SHARE participants must be at least 18 years of age and one of the individuals in the match must be over 60.

INTERESTED?

Contact Lehigh County
SHARE Housing
Counselor: Annette
Rodriguez
(610) 936-2082
Annette@lvactivelife.org



DAVID M. BACKENSTOE
ATTORNEY AT LAW



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(610) 838-2255 Fax: 610-838-2244

Thank
you

Lehigh County would like to thank the businesses and to recognize them each as supporters and cornerstones of our community. For it is with their contributions that this newsletter has been produced at no charge to our residents.

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- 1 Denver (DEN)
- 2 Fort Lauderdale/Hollywood (FLL)
- 3 Melbourne (MLB)
- 4 Myrtle Beach (MYR)
- 5 Nashville (BNA)
- 6 Orlando Sanford (SFB)
- 7 Orlando (MCO)
- 8 Punta Gorda (PGD)
- 9 Sarasota/Bradenton (SRQ)
- 10 St. Pete/Clearwater (PIE)

American Airlines

- 11 Charlotte (CLT)
- 12 Philadelphia (PHL)

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- 13 Atlanta (ATL)

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- 14 Chicago O'Hare (ORD)
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Phone: 610-799-1205
Wed. 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

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- Resumes/Job Applications
- Job Search Navigators
- Individualized Help
- Veteran's Services
- Job and Labor Market Data
- Job Recruiters and Job Leads
- Recruitment/Job Fairs
- Education and Training Options
- Community Partner Services

GET WORKERS

Employers

- Intermediary Services
- Workforce Intelligence
- Human Resources
- Recruiting/Screening
- Candidate Referrals
- Specialized Job Fairs
- Interviewing Space
- Training Resources
- Community Connections
- Sector Strategies
- Apprenticeships
- Work Experience
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911 Radio Digital Upgrade Project

Every 90-seconds a police officer, firefighter or emergency medical provider will respond to a call for help somewhere in Lehigh County. From a simple call for assistance to a complex multi-agency emergency, the common thread on every dispatch is the radio located in a police car, fire truck or ambulance or carried by the 4,500 first responders who are tasked with bringing calm from the storms that envelop the everyday lives of more than 375,000 people who work, visit or call Lehigh County their home.



The legacy radio system now serving the first-responder community dates to the 1970's, is technically obsolete and subject to limited coverage, capacity and interference in today's digital world. Just as the fixed, wired telephone has given way to portable and powerful cell phones, it became increasingly obvious over the past decade that a new, state-of-the-art communications network would be required to meet the increasingly-challenging needs of the County's emergency services.

Comprehensive analysis and planning began in 2021, and it quickly became clear the new communications network would require more reliable coverage, an ability to handle more emergency personnel, improved interoperability both locally and with adjacent counties, increased security and reliability and be capable of leveraging the rapid and continuing advancements in technology.

The answer has been the development of an industry-standard "P25" digital trunked network that will provide better than 95-percent countywide in-building coverage from a handheld radio. Operating from seven tower locations in a simulcast manner, the County's 9-1-1 center will be able to provide seamless, reliable communications to first responders from one end of the County to the other.

This system is expected to begin service in late 2025, and its useful life expectancy will reach beyond 2045.

Lehigh County will invest more than \$46-million in the new network. Financed with a municipal general obligation bond, this project includes nearly \$20-million intended to allow first responders to reap the benefits of the new system as quickly as possible. By acquiring necessary radio equipment at steep discounts and generous payback terms through leveraging the County's joint governmental contracting capabilities, advanced emergency communications will be made available now, and not in the distant future. This procurement program provides a huge opportunity for local municipalities, as they plan their annual operating budgets.

Like electric, water, sewer and other infrastructure systems that support everyday life while working almost unnoticed in the background, the new P25 digital radio network will be continually connecting police, fire, emergency medical and other first responders as they answer calls for help across Lehigh County whenever and wherever they may occur.

Public safety is the precursor to prosperity. This program will serve our communities well, and provide for individual and community prosperity for all.



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To the Design and Engineering community who provide the roadmaps for the facilities we build,
To our Banking, Bonding, Accounting, Insurance, Legal and Marketing partners who value our mission,
To our many Specialty Trade Contractors, who provide their expertise in each of their fields,
To our employees who share in our mission, vision and passion for delivering exceptional construction services,

We humbly say
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Quality of Life



In Lehigh County we make decisions to improve quality of life to set the foundation of a home. We believe knowledgeable and talented people want improved quality of life, and we develop programs to meet their needs. We do this to support our citizens quest for recreation, and ultimately serving family fun. This is why people relocate to Lehigh County, this is why businesses start in Lehigh County, as the entire County pursues prosperity. What we know, having a recreation facility, be it a park or trail, in close proximity to your home will increase the value of your property by approximately \$15k. This is very important to home owners. Under the direction of Rick Molchany, and approved by County Executive Phil Armstrong, our quality-of-life programming is second to none.

TRAILS

Every day, many of our fellow County residents use the vast trail system in Lehigh County. We are continuously exploring expansion of our large trail system.

The Delaware and Lehigh Trail, a nearly 168-mile trail system, passed through Lehigh County. We have made investments, and continue to make investments to improve this trail. Recently, we received a nearly \$21.5m grant from the Federal Government. Matching this grant, with a private investor (Waterfront), we are engineering a 4-mile trail link from Hamilton Street in Allentown, to Race Street in Whitehall. This will be a critical link for our next trail expansion project, which will start at Race Street, and head north to the Cementon Trail Head. This will be a great opportunity to grow trail users and connect users to adjacent trails like the Ironton Rail Trail.

Jordan Greenway is another large trail expansion project. This 20-mile trail will link Allentown and their park system to the Trexler Nature Preserve. The County, along with other local municipalities have developed an engineering and construction plan, and we are closing in on finishing the County's last section. This last section will provide the final link to the Trexler Nature Preserve.

TREXLER NATURE PRESERVE

The original 1100+ acres gifted from General Trexler has been increased by nearly 700 acres. The County has made land acquisition purchases to expand the Nature Preserve. In Lehigh County, we do not have a State Park; therefore, we have taken on the responsibility to create a state park themed nature preserve. Currently we have completed a strategic master site plan that identifies future preserve recreational and nature conservation opportunities. Currently we have nearly 30 miles of recreational trails, including an Americans with Disability approved trail for citizen usage. The master site plan calls for expanding the mountain bike trail system, and we did complete a recent 1.5-mile multi skill level addition. We are developing engineering plans to add another Trail Head along with a pavilion and appropriate parking. Our efforts will create a haven for nature, while permitting humans to passively interact in an environmental setting. To improve the preserve, Lehigh County partnered with the PA Game Commission on efforts to eliminate an invasive plant species called Autumn Olive. This plant is not natural to the preserve, and has been identified as invasive. PA Game Commission committed in excess of \$500k to eradicate the invasive species. We continue to manage this effort. Let's not forget, Lehigh Valley Zoo calls the Preserve home. This American Zoos and Aquarium accredited facility is a leader in conservation education.

HISTORIC VALUE

What makes Lehigh Valley special, is our historic relevance to the industrial revolution. United States cement was first manufactured in Lehigh County. The County maintains a tribute to this early cement manufacturing by maintaining the Saylor Kilns. They are located in Coplay, and have been visited by countless citizens annually. The Lockridge Furnace, located in Alburtis is another historic asset that we are preserving. The Furnace renovation project is currently in engineering, with an estimated construction start for 2026. We were recently awarded a Preserving America's Historic Asset grant for \$500k. This grant, along with County investment will renovate and make this asset available for review for many years to come.

PARKS

Our efforts to expand and maintain our nearly 4,500 acres of parks demonstrates our continuing efforts to provide quality of life. Our next large park upgrade will take place at Cedar Creek West Park in South Whitehall Township. This park is heavily used, from our county soccer field complex to available baseball and softball fields. Our engineering plan will relocate the tennis courts, add the availability of pickle ball, and create a park surrounding trail.

VELODROME

Not many Counties can state that they have a world class cycling facility; however, we in Lehigh County can proudly say this. Our Velodrome provides economic opportunities by hosting some of the world's highest levels of cycling competition. We recently spent \$300k to resurface the competitive race track, and the project was completed on time and under budget. This resurface will provide the foundation for hosting those world class events.

COCA COLA PARK

Since its first game to its most recent season end, Coca Cola Park has been a wonderful family entertainment venue. Every year, Lehigh County delivers the highest attendance totals among all minor league baseball facilities. We continue to maintain the facility, and add improvements like the center field parking lot and Park entrance gate. Our relationship with Major League Baseball, as an affiliate of the Philadelphia Phillies, has a Park lease until 2050. Expect us to provide you with compelling entertainment for years to come.

So, when you talk about your hometown community, remember, our county efforts to create wonderful family adventures are always ongoing.

We want to be good neighbors, and build foundations that create prosperity for all.





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State of the County Address

On Thursday, February 20th, Lehigh County Executive Phillips Armstrong delivered his final State of the County Address to several business leaders and community members at Coca-Cola Park. Armstrong, who is unable to run again due to term limitations, highlighted his administration's accomplishments over his seven years at the helm of Lehigh County.

"I have had a great run as County Executive," said Armstrong, "Over the past seven years, I have had the good fortune to work with some very devoted county employees who have accomplished many great things for the people who live in Lehigh County."



Smoke Alarms Save Lives!

Test your smoke alarms once a month.

A smoke alarm can save your life in a fire. Use the test button to make sure your smoke alarms are working.

Replace your alarms after 10 years.

Smoke alarms do not last forever. If your alarms are 10 years old or older, replace them with new alarms.

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The graphic features a central illustration of a hand pointing at a smoke alarm icon. To the right, a circular diagram shows a 10-year cycle for replacing alarms. Logos for the U.S. Fire Administration, FEMA, and "Fire is Everyone's Right" are at the bottom.

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Lehigh County Annual Tribute to Unsung Heroes

Our agency honors older adults in May, in celebration of Older Americans Month. The Tribute to Unsung Heroes event celebrates the contributions of older adults in our community who generously give their time and talents to enhance the lives of those around them while demonstrating healthy aging.

Do you know someone who is a true Unsung Hero? Keep an eye out for our next nomination window so that we can celebrate them!

Thank
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Hoarding and Fire: Reducing the Risk

Do you have a person in your life who may be a hoarder? Hoarding is a condition where a person has persistent difficulty discarding personal possessions. The large amount of possessions fill the home and prevent the normal use of the space. Living space becomes cluttered. It may be unusable. Hoarding brings distress and emotional health concerns.

WHY HOARDING INCREASES FIRE RISKS

- Cooking is unsafe if flammable items are close to the stove or oven.
- Heating units may be too close to things that can burn. They might also be placed on unstable surfaces. If a heater tips over into a pile, it can cause a fire.
- Electrical wiring may be old or worn from the weight of piles. Pests could chew on wires. Damaged wires can start fires.
- Open flames from smoking materials or candles in a home with excess clutter are very dangerous.
- Blocked pathways and exits may hinder escape from a fire.

HOW HOARDING IMPACTS FIRST RESPONDERS

- Hoarding puts first responders in harm's way.
- Firefighters cannot move swiftly through a home filled with clutter.
- Responders can be trapped in a home when exits are blocked. They can be injured by objects falling from piles.
- The weight of the stored items, especially if water is added to put out a fire, can lead to building collapse.
- Fighting fires is very risky in a hoarding home. It is hard to enter the home to provide medical care. The clutter impedes the search and rescue of people and pets.

How Can You Help Reduce the Risk of Fire Injury

- ✓ When talking a person who hoards, focus on safety rather than the clutter. Be empathetic. Match the person's language. If they call it hoarding, then you can call it hoarding.
- ✓ Help the residents make a home safety and escape plan. Stress the importance of clear pathways and exits. Practice the plan often. Exit routes may change as new items are brought into the home.
- ✓ Install working smoke alarms in the home. Test them at least once a month.
- ✓ Reach out to community resources. Talk to members of the fire department to alert them of your concerns. They may be able to connect you with members of a hoarding task force for additional help.



Your Source for SAFETY Information

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