



# 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

Hello!

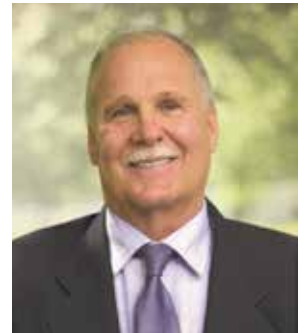
This 2022 edition marks our third newsletter, and I am thrilled to bring you another inside look into your local government. As always, it is my intention as your County Executive to be fully transparent when it comes to county affairs, and it is with high hopes that this newsletter sheds light on all that we do for our residents.

As with previous years, my administration partnered with Hometown Press to bring you a publication that is fully funded through local businesses at no cost to our taxpayers. It was essential that this newsletter was made available to you, free of charge, without a dime out of your pocket.

Inside you will not only discover details about our departments and the resources they provide to our communities, but also a look into future projects that we are planning throughout Lehigh County. From a glimpse at the latest Cedarbrook expansion to going behind the scenes with our LC Special Operations team, you will be amazed at all the developments happening right here in your backyard.

And we are only just getting started.

2022 marks the beginning of a new term as your County Executive, and with a previous term under my belt, I am anxious to see what great things we can do together for Lehigh County. Each day is a new opportunity for improvement, and I am honored to stand alongside residents such as yourselves as we build towards a better future. Please allow this newsletter to be your guide as we look to the months ahead.



For more information beyond this newsletter, I encourage you to check out our website at [www.lehighcounty.org](http://www.lehighcounty.org) and follow our social media platforms to stay in the loop of all Lehigh County affairs.

Until next time,

Phillips M. Armstrong  
Your Lehigh County Executive



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# We are Lehigh County

## Where We Are

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.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 railway” 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.

## A Lively Scene

There is something in Lehigh County for just about anyone. From a thriving culture scene with stunning theaters and museums to high-speed action with our world-class coasters and amusements, it’s easy to get lost in all the recreational activities Lehigh County has to offer. Take a trip to the Lehigh Valley Zoo. Check out our premier bicycle racing track. Discover the past and impact the future at one of our many accredited colleges and universities.

Whatever you decide to do, it is a good day here in Lehigh County.

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. Overall, Lehigh County is committed to creating a vibrant community by focusing on economic growth, revitalization of our cities and boroughs, regional partnerships with our 25 municipalities, and enhancing the quality of life of our residents.

We are not just a collection of towns or a name on the map. We are a thriving community making a difference, and together we prosper as we look to the future ahead.



**We are Lehigh County.**

## 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 Lehigh County legislation.

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.

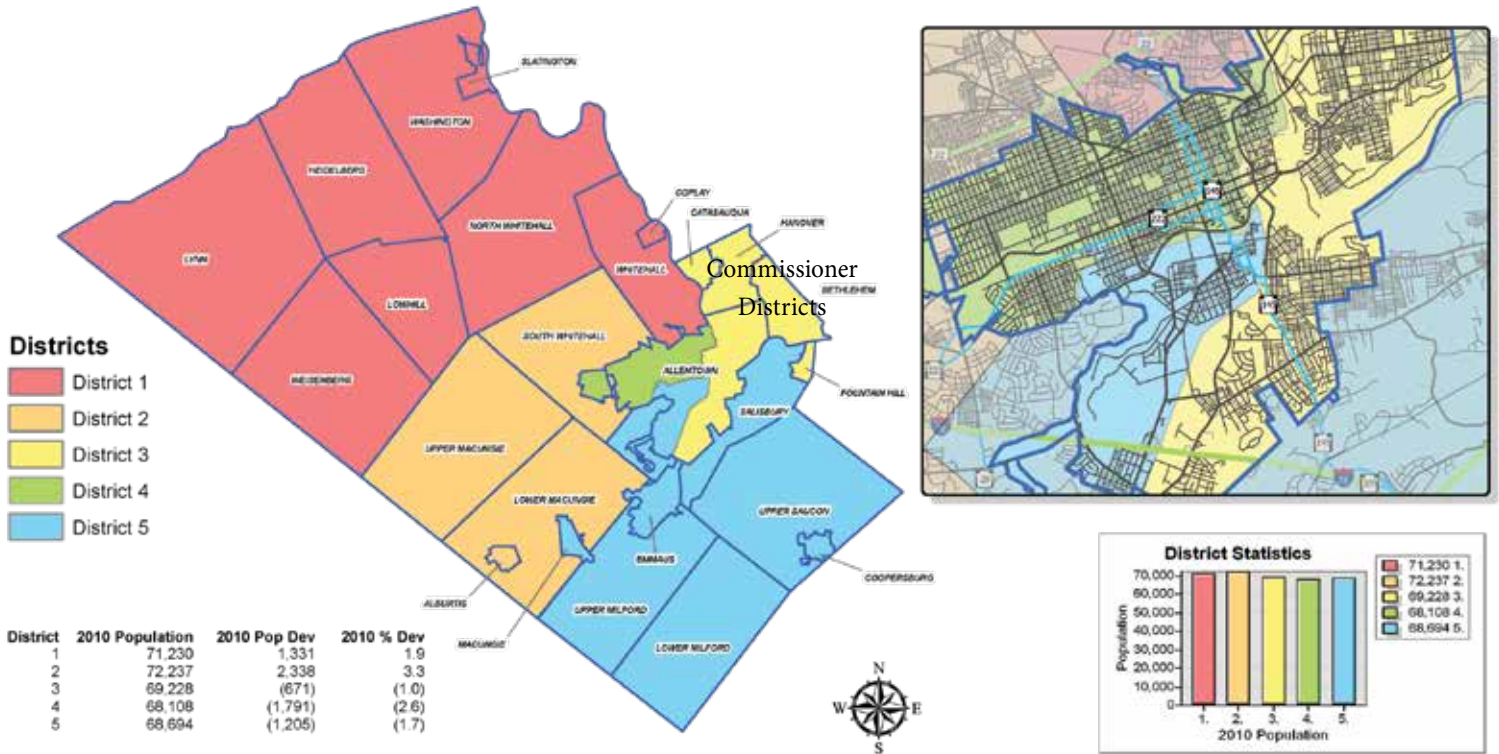
Meetings are open to the public and are held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month at 7:30PM.

In order to ensure the health and safety of all participants, the option to join a meeting virtually was made available to all participants. This practice has continued into 2022 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.



# Lehigh County District Map—Who Represents Me in Lehigh County?



## Current Board Members



Board Chairperson  
Geoff Brace (District 4)



Vice-Chair Jeffrey Dutt  
(District 5)



Antonio Pineda (District 1)



Ron Beitler (District 2)



Zachary Cole-Borghi (District 3)



Dan Harrington (District 3)



Dan Hartzell (At Large)



Zakiya Smalls (At Large)



Bob Elbich (At Large)



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# LETTER FROM CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

## GEOFF BRACE

Lehigh County is a wonderful place to call home. It's also a place of heroes. We often take both of these truths for granted, but a crisis can help us to remember how fortunate we are to live in the community we call home.



We have world-class parks and recreation facilities. We host world-class athletes for professional and amateur sports. If fine arts or performing arts are your pleasure, we have those opportunities too. Residents can also enjoy historic sites, a strong economy and safe neighborhoods to raise their kids. No wonder so many people want to live here!

The Lehigh County Board of Commissioners is comprised of your neighbors: we come from all parts of the county. We have a wide variety of experiences. We also do the work with a careful eye to what makes our community so special. While we periodically have disagreements, we share a common vision which helps to safeguard the quality of life we all enjoy. This includes providing effective emergency management services, high-quality skilled nursing care for seniors and support for our first-responders.

I look forward to what 2022 will bring for Lehigh County as we continue to emerge from a very difficult time in our nation's history. It truly is an honor to serve alongside a group of individuals committed to ensuring a strong future for all of us.

Sincerely,  
Geoff Brace

## Committees

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:**

Antonio Pineda (c), Dave Harrington (v), Zach Cole-Borghi, Dan Hartzell

### **Cedarbrook Committee:**

Dan Hartzell (c), Zakiya Smalls (v), Ron Beitler, Jeffrey Dutt

### **Courts & Corrections Committee:**

Dave Harrington (c), Ron Beitler (v), Zach Cole-Borghi, Zakiya Smalls

### **Development & Planning Committee:**

Ron Beitler (c), Bob Elbich (v), Dave Harrington, Zakiya Smalls

### **Finance Committee:**

Jeffrey Dutt (c), Antonio Pineda (v), Bob Elbich, Dan Hartzell

### **General Services Committee:**

Zakiya Smalls (c), Zach Cole-Borghi (v), Jeffrey Dutt, Bob Elbich

### **Governance Committee:**

Zach Cole--Borghi (c), Jeffrey Dutt (v), Ron Beitler, Antonio Pineda

### **Human Services Committee:**

Bob Elbich (c), Dan Hartzell (v), Dave Harrington, Antonio Pineda (c) Chair (v) Vice-Chair

## 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 Lehigh County Coroner's Office and Forensics Center is responsible for investigating and determining the cause of death of those who pass within the boundaries of Lehigh County. The office 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 current coroner is Daniel Buglio.

#### **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, ensure 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

*continued on page 11*





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# Lehigh County Row Offices *continued from page 8*

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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## Lehigh County Departments

### **Corrections:**

The Lehigh County Department of Corrections is responsible for the detention of adult and juvenile offenders. The department's 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. The department is 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.

### **Veteran Affairs:**

The Lehigh County Veterans Affairs Office is committed to serving Lehigh County veterans and their family members with compassion, dignity and respect. The office provides courteous, efficient and professional service to any veteran or family member seeking assistance.

### **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.

### **Public Defender:**

The Public Defender endeavors to protect the rights of its clients by providing vigorous, compassionate and ethical legal representation to individuals who cannot afford to pay for an attorney. The office's highly trained and motivated licensed attorneys are committed to excellence and progressive representation at the cutting edge of Pennsylvania criminal practice.

The Lehigh County office strives to meet the needs of clients and to protect their civil liberties under both the United States and the Pennsylvania Constitutions.

# Lehigh County Office of Voter Registration

## Here For All Residents



*Tim Benyo, Chief Clerk of Voter Registration*

The Lehigh County Office of Voter Registration is dedicated to helping all Lehigh County residents exercise their right to vote and is reaching out to the community to spread the word of all upcoming elections. Currently, the office coordinates the setup of 153 polling locations throughout Lehigh County as well as training over 900 precinct election officials. The Office of Voter Registration is responsible for the conduction of federal, state, county and local elections.

Above all, the Office of Voter Registration strives to maintain a high quality of customer service while preserving the integrity of the office and Lehigh County. Poll workers and Spanish-interpreters are high in demand, and the Office of Registration is committed to getting the word out that positions are available at the polls. From attending career fairs to hosting booths at the Lehigh County Government Center, the office encourages anyone wishing to be a part of their elections to consider becoming a poll worker or Spanish Interpreter.

Spanish Interpreters are currently needed at 146 Lehigh County precincts, and anyone with a Spanish-speaking background can apply. This is a great opportunity to be a part of our country's democracy and get paid at the same time. As a plus, all Lehigh County poll workers and Spanish-interpreters are fully paid positions.

If you would like the Lehigh County Office of Voter Registration to be at any upcoming community event, or if you would like to sign



up to be a poll worker, please contact us the office at 610-782-3194.

Additionally, if you would like to sign up to be a Spanish Interpreter, please contact Lehigh County's Alternate Language Coordinator/ Community Outreach Liaison Alexandra Sierra at 610-782-7012. Applications are accepted year-round!

## Helping Candidates

The Lehigh County Office of Voter Registration is committed to helping candidates of all backgrounds and political parties. A lot goes into running for office, including filling out paperwork and following all necessary rules and regulations, yet the Lehigh County Office of Voter Registrations works to make the process easy for anyone interested in getting on the ballot. Potential candidates are encouraged to reach out to the office if they have any questions or concerns about the election process.

## Department of Law



The Department of Law is a full-service legal office providing advice and representation to all three branches of County government – Executive, Legislative, and Judiciary, as well as the Sheriff, the Coroner, the Clerk of Judicial Records, the District Attorney, and the Controller. The Department also represents the County's Board of Elections, Retirement Board, and Agricultural Preservation Board.

County Executive Phillips M. Armstrong appointed David M. Backenstoe, Esq., as the Lehigh County Solicitor in January 2022. Attorney Backenstoe was confirmed by the Lehigh County Board of Commissioners on January 26, 2022. Prior to being appointed as Solicitor, Attorney Backenstoe served as a part-time Assistant Solicitor for the County for 10 years. Attorney Backenstoe has practiced law in the Lehigh Valley for over 30 years and brings a wealth of knowledge to the Department as he represents a number of municipal entities throughout the Lehigh Valley.

In addition, Lehigh County's Open Records Officer is part of the Department of Law. Valerie Hildebeitel is the Open Records Officer and receives and responds to requests for records and ensures the County's compliance with record-keeping requirements under the Right-to-Know Law.





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# Introducing the Office of the Community Liaison

As our county continues to grow so do the needs of our increasingly diverse communities. In an effort to meet the needs of all Lehigh County residents, the Office of the Community Liaison was established in March 2022 and is led by Lehigh County's new Community Liaison, Yorman De La Rosa. As a life-long resident of Allentown and a passionate supporter of equal representation, Yorman will serve as a conduit for the resources and services provided by Lehigh County to its various municipal leaders, small businesses, and diverse constituent groups.

## A message from Yorman De La Rosa, Lehigh County's Community Liaison.

After more than five years of working in education and community development, I am thrilled to serve Lehigh County as its first Community Liaison. In this role, I hope to open up the doors of the county to all of our residents in an effort to assure everyone that it is our goal to serve every member of the community with equality and respect—regardless of race, gender, ethnicity, or sexual orientation.

In this capacity, I hope to bring about a spirit of cooperation, tolerance, and active civic participation. Throughout the next couple of months, the main goals of the office will be to establish and develop strong working relationships with the different communities composing our county and to identify essential needs in order to collaborate on equitable and sustainable solutions for all. The Office of the Community Liaison is open to all who wish to work with the county on innovative and collaborative efforts that will benefit our community at large.

You can expect to see me out in the community, but if you wish to schedule a meeting with me, please do not hesitate to contact me at [communityliaison@lehighcounty.org](mailto:communityliaison@lehighcounty.org) or (610) 782-3400.



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# Cedarbrook Senior Care & Rehabilitation

Cedarbrook Senior Care & Rehabilitation goes above and beyond to meet the needs of our senior community. This has been the facility's mission since its founding back in 1845, and to this day, Lehigh County continues to invest in Cedarbrook to ensure our residents receive the best quality care. As a result, Cedarbrook Senior Care & Rehabilitation continues to lead as an industry leader among other skilled nursing centers in the county with a nationwide 4 STAR CMS rating and a track record that speaks for itself!

It's why Cedarbrook is evolving —building a brand new state-of-the-art residential wing that will provide privacy, dignity, and personalized care for its existing residents. On Friday, October 22, 2021, construction officially began for the highly anticipated E-Wing expansion at the Allentown campus and residents and staff alike couldn't be more thrilled. The E-Wing expansion project is projected to be complete in the latter half of 2023, pending any unforeseen circumstances.

The new E-wing involves the construction of a 145k square foot 240 wing that will replace all of the nursing home residential rooms located in the B and C wings, along with parts of the D-wing as well. The B and C wings were first created in the 1920s, and with this new expansion, residents will receive a more suitable upgrade to their living needs.

The new four-story E-Wing will be constructed in an "L-shape" to allow for nursing and medical management to be located in a central hub on each floor. This will serve two "neighborhoods" of 30 beds on each floor along with modern common spaces and upgraded living amenities, including bathrooms with shower facilities in each resident room that will be no larger than 2 beds to a room. The renovation will be a complete overhaul that will allow more space and privacy than what currently exists.

This project replaces the most dated units of Cedarbrook, allowing



for the facility to evolve and grow alongside resident needs.

"We are proud to offer our residents these amenities so that they may live their lives fully in comfort," said Cedarbrook Administrator Jason Cumello. "We are excited that the new wing will allow us to continue providing high-quality care while allowing our current residents more privacy, space, and modern accommodations."

And this is just the beginning.

Lehigh County is proud to stand alongside Cedarbrook and its E-Wing expansion. Many Counties in PA have privatized their nursing homes, but Lehigh County understands the importance of providing that safety net to an increasingly large elderly population that is aging into long-term care and lack the resources required to fully pay for it. The sky is the limit when it comes to senior care, and it is through this effort that we can enhance the Cedarbrook experience for residents who need our help the most.

To stay in touch on construction updates, please follow the Cedarbrook Senior Care & Rehabilitation page on Facebook or visit <https://www.cedarbrookseniorcare.com/project-overview/>.

## Come Visit Lehigh County Parks!

I would like to take this opportunity to invite everyone to come visit your county parks and learn more about Lehigh County's Park system. At this time, I would like to provide some statistics that many may not know about and what services we offer as your Lehigh County Parks Department.

Lehigh County Parks Dept is responsible for approx. 4000 acres of county-owned parks and open space, all open for public recreation in some manner.

There are 13 primary facilities in the park system ranging in size from the 1500-acre Trexler Nature Preserve to the 3-acre Saylor Cement Kilns in Coplay.

Approx. 60 miles of trail are available for walking, jogging, biking and even rollerblading at Rodale Fitness Park. Over 20 of the total miles are at Trexler Nature Preserve (horseback riding is allowed on some designated trails at Trexler) and 11.5 miles are available at the D&L trail from Coplay to the Carbon County line. Approx. 1 additional mile of D&L Trail in Catasauqua will begin construction this April 2022 from Race St. going South the Canal Park.

Athletic facilities for use include 14 baseball or softball fields, 3 basketball courts, 7 tennis courts and up to 15 soccer fields.

Fishing access is available in many of our parks and both fishing & boating access is available at Leaser Lake where we have 2 main boat launch sites and 1 ADA canoe / kayak launch and ADA fishing pier. 2

### *A message from the Lehigh County Parks Department and Parks Director, Robert Stiffler.*

boat launches are also located along the D&L trail to access fishing and boating on the Lehigh River.

There is truly something here in our county parks for everyone to experience and enjoy. For more information, please contact our office at 610-782-0281 or visit us at <https://www.lehighcounty.org/Departments/Parks-And-Recreation>.

We hope to see you in Lehigh County's great outdoors soon!







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# Lehigh County Special Operations

Do you know about Lehigh County's very own rescue heroes?

Lehigh County Special Operations is a highly trained team of men and women standing by to protect our communities. The crew frequently undergoes specialized intensive training to ensure our residents are safe in the event of disaster and are prepared no matter the circumstance. They are involved in a number of critical operations, including special rescue situations and rigorous hands-on drill exercises.



The Special Operations unit provides a wide range of services to citizens in the case of an emergency. These include the Lehigh County Special Response Team, Hazardous Materials Team, and Water Rescue Team. The team is prepared to handle a variety of emergency calls, including hazardous materials incidents, confined space and high angle rescues, water emergencies, explosive ordinance disposal (EOD), and structural collapses.

Working under Lehigh County's Emergency Management Agency, our Special Operations unit is constantly maintaining its emergency vehicle fleet and equipment. This year the Special Operations team acquired a brand-new Rope Rescue vehicle fully equipped to go on and off road in the event of any type of rescue mission.



The mission of the Lehigh County Special Operations team is to protect and serve the citizens of Lehigh County.

Want to stay up to date on the latest Special Ops action? Be sure to follow the Lehigh County Special Operations Facebook page at @lehighcountyspecops, and stay connected with our team!



## 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*

One of the most frequently asked questions we receive is "what are my veteran benefits?" The answer to this seemingly simple question depends on a variety of factors. I will briefly explain some of the most popular programs that we assist with in Lehigh County's Veterans Affairs office. Many of these programs are complex, and applying for a benefit can be confusing and daunting. Working with our office will significantly increase your odds of success.

Veteran benefits run the gamut from Veterans Disability Compensation payable for chronic injuries or other continuing medical issues incurred during active service to Veterans Pension benefits available for lower-income, wartime era vets to help offset the cost of unreimbursed medical expenses such as payments for in-home care or room rates at a qualifying senior living facility.

Of note for disability compensation: the VA recently added asthma, rhinitis, and sinusitis as presumptive medical conditions associated with particulate matter exposure for veterans who served in the Southwest Asia theatre of operations. The VA also added bladder cancer, hypothyroidism, and Parkinsonism to the Agent Orange exposure presumptive list for Vietnam veterans.

Survivor benefits include pension benefits as described above. There are also monetary benefits for survivors of veterans who died from



service-connected disabilities or otherwise qualify under a special program called DIC.

A very popular state benefit is the PA Real Estate Tax Exemption program, available to qualifying veterans and their surviving spouses. In general, the veteran must have served on active duty during a wartime period, be honorably discharged, rated as 100% permanently and totally disabled by the VA, own their home either individually or with their spouse, and meet income requirements. Please

note that you can only apply for this program through the county which you reside.

More information on these and other federal and state veteran benefit programs can be found at [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov) and [www.dmva.pa.gov](http://www.dmva.pa.gov). As always, please contact the Veterans Affairs office at 610-782-3295 to discuss these and other benefits if you have further questions.

Following up from last year's newsletter, we are nearly ready to begin distributing a second round of funding to local agencies that assist homeless veterans in the Lehigh Valley. Once again, State Senator Pat Browne secured significant funding for the LV Homeless Veteran Fund. The fund also recently received generous donations through fundraisers held by A-Treat soda and Franklin Hills Vineyard. The fund is managed by the Lehigh Valley Community Foundation. If you would like to host a fund raiser or make a tax-deductible donation to the fund, please visit [www.lehighvalleyfoundation.org](http://www.lehighvalleyfoundation.org).



# Lehigh County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

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 events such as: COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics, H1N1 Vaccination clinics, Shelter Operations (Hurricane Irene, Tropical Strom Lee, Winter Storms, Utility Outages, Warming Centers and Evacuation Centers).

Members of the CERT group receive training in first aid triage, basic fire suppression, and mass casualty training. Some are trained to assist with damage assessment after storms and floods so that damages can be reported to the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Some trainings also include disaster psychology to help people deal with the aftermath of an emergency. At the clinic, volunteers not only make sure people move through each of the areas in an orderly fashion, but they also try and put them at ease knowing the COVID-19 has caused more stress than usual and some people could be concerned about getting vaccinated.

Many members of the group have trained for several years, although they start with a 16-hour basic training. Everyone has a background check and is registered through the State Emergency Registry of Volunteers in Pennsylvania.

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

## Lehigh County Coroner's Office

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 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



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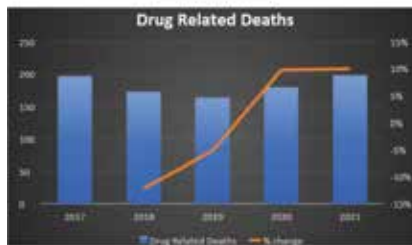
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# Lehigh County Coroner's Office *continued*

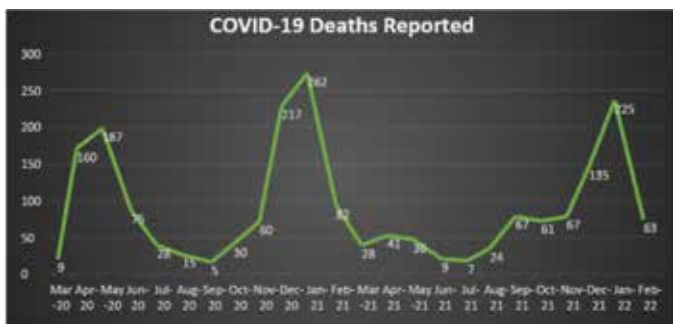
tool and treatment of potentially life-threatening illnesses. The investigations and rulings of our office concerning potential criminal acts, criminal neglect or those that affect public health and safety play an integral role in assisting other investigative agencies.

The office is led by Daniel Buglio. The Lehigh County Coroner's Office and Forensics Center was re-accredited by the International Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners in 2021. This is a voluntary process that includes a review of over 230 standards and an onsite inspection. Our office is one of five accredited Coroner's Offices in Pennsylvania. Coroner Buglio 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.

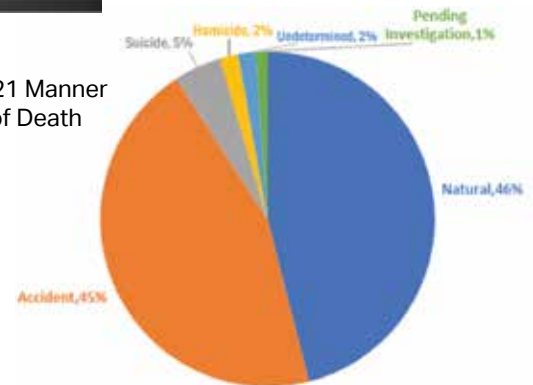


2021 brought a greater than 5% increase in total investigations from the first year of the COVID pandemic while our staff continued to work on the frontline of this unprecedented crisis. 2021 also brought a 10% increase in the number of drug deaths investigated.

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 serves on several committees that target at-risk groups (suicide prevention, opioid deaths, child death and elder abuse).



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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](http://www.lehighcounty.org)

Assessment	610-782-3038	Human Services – Administrative Office	610-782-3952
Cedarbrook Nursing Homes	610-395-3727	Information & Referral	610-782-3200
Clerk of Judicial Records		Jail	610-782-3270
Civil Division	610-782-3148	Emergency Telephone Numbers	
Criminal Division	610-782-3077	Aging and Adult Services	610-782-3034
Court Administration	610-782-3014	Children and Youth	610-782-3064
Register of Wills	610-782-3170	Crisis Intervention	610-782-3127
Recorder of Deeds	610-782-3162	Drug & Alcohol	610-782-3555
Commissioners	610-782-3050	Early Intervention	610-782-3125
Community and Economic Development	610-782-3565	Mental Health	610-782-3135
Controller	610-782-3082	Intellectual Disabilities	610-782-3126
Coroner	610-782-3426	Veteran’s Affairs	610-782-3295
Department of Law and Right to Know	610-782-3180	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/Gaming & Dog Licenses	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



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