



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,

Each year since I have been your County Executive, we have sent this newsletter to our residents to help keep you informed and up to date on the latest developments from Lehigh County. I think it's important that you know what your county government does for you.

From Dorney Park's new Iron Menace Roller Coaster that goes into operation this summer to our historic Troxell-Steckel House, Lehigh County is a vibrant place with a great quality of life. All thanks to our Lehigh County employees and community partners who work tirelessly behind the scenes to make sure that our economy is robust, our children and seniors are properly cared for, our parks are maintained, working hard in far too many areas to list here.

I hope that you will find great value in this publication and keep it as a reference. There are a lot of important phone numbers and contact information for our various departments that you can access all year, and maybe even longer.

As always, we partnered with local businesses to fund this year's newsletter to ensure that 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.

Contained in these few pages is a compendium of useful information, each of our county departments has given a report and information that they think will be useful.

In Lehigh County government, this is the people's government, and this is our report to you. I hope that you agree that your government is serving you well.

Sincerely,

Until next time,

Phillips M. Armstrong
Your Lehigh County Executive



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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HANNAH KAHN
ALLENTOWN, PA

**TRAINING THE FUTURE OF MEDICINE AT THE LEHIGH VALLEY'S
FIRST AND ONLY MEDICAL SCHOOL.**

Not only was Hannah Kahn born and raised in the Lehigh Valley – she also began her career in health care here. After graduating from Salisbury High School and Penn State University, Hannah worked as a technician in the St. Luke's Allentown Emergency Department before beginning her education at the Lehigh Valley's first and only medical school. Now in her second year at Temple/St. Luke's, she is learning from supportive faculty in an environment she knows. When you train at a 100 Top Teaching Hospital, the possibilities are endless.

sluhn.org/SOM



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.



Lehigh County Board of Commissioners



From Geoff Brace,
Chair of the Board

Residents of Lehigh County deserve responsive government where county government meets its obligations and is responsible with taxpayer dollars. The Lehigh County Board of Commissioners works to do exactly that. When we do this, seniors receive excellent health care at Cedarbrook Skilled Nursing Facility, families can enjoy incredible outdoor adventures at Trexler Nature Preserve and along the D&L Trail, neighborhoods and Main Streets can thrive with safe streets, and people who need behavioral health care can access it. We aren't perfect, which is why we work hard to keep making improvements so we can pass along a legacy to the next generation of Lehigh County residents. The Board of Commissioners takes these responsibilities—and the trust you have given us—seriously.



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-Borghi (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.

Commissioner 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-Borghi (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-Borghi, Dan Hartzell

Governance Committee

Zach Cole-Borghi (c), April Riddick (v), Sheila Alvarado, Jon Irons

Human Services Committee:

April Riddick (c), Sheila Alvarado (v), Zach Cole- Borghi, Jeffrey Dutt

(C) Chair

(V) Vice-Chair

Let's Talk About Mental Health



The Lehigh County Mental Health Program believes that people with mental illness can best achieve positive change and recovery when treatment and supportive services are guided by each person's goals, preferences, strengths, and needs. Services are designed to be accessible, responsive, culturally appropriate, and cost effective.

Services provided directly include:

- Adult Mental Health
- Integrated Services
- Crisis Intervention

- 24 Hour Emergency Mental Health Services (610-782-3127)

- Veteran Crisis Line (Confidential toll-free hotline, online chat, or text. 1-800-273-8255)

For more information on mental health services Lehigh County offers, please visit our website at <https://www.lehighcounty.org/Departments/Human-Services/Mental-Health> or give us a call at 610-782-3135.

Crisis Intervention

**CRISIS
INTERVENTION**



Lehigh County Crisis Intervention provides **immediate** support for crisis situations, as well as assistance with managing recurring or future crisis situations. Crisis support is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and is available to all people located in Lehigh County, including **children, teens, and adults.**

Crisis Intervention can assist with providing supportive listening, assistance with developing strategies for reducing recurring

crisis, advising of least restrictive alternatives to hospitalization, as well as assistance with consumers who are a danger to themselves or others. Crisis Intervention can also provide services connecting to local community resources.

Crisis Intervention provides services via telephone, walk in, or mobile units.

If you are experiencing a mental health emergency that requires immediate attention, please contact Crisis Intervention at 610-782-3127, or call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255.

The National Crisis Text Line is 741-741.

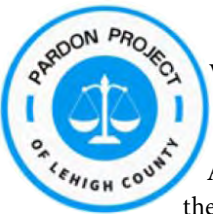
Outpatient Treatment

During times of crisis, it is normal for stress levels to rise where a form of voluntary treatment is necessary. Outpatient mental health treatment is a general term for treatment that takes place in an office, hospital, or clinical setting that involves no overnight stay, unlike residential or inpatient treatment. Outpatient treatment can be fit to meet the needs of each individual treated. Treatment can range from therapy, group therapy, psychiatric evaluations, medication management, and much more.

Need outpatient treatment, but have no insurance?

Lehigh County offers a mental liability screening to fund county residents for outpatient treatment. Contact 610-782-3851 to see if you qualify.

The Lehigh County Pardon Project



The Pardon Project of Lehigh County was created to help members of the community who were convicted of a non-violent crime, completed their sentence for at least five years, and their past is holding them back from pursuing their full potential. A pardon is total forgiveness by the state and a powerful tool for people who deserve a second chance. In Pennsylvania, the pardon process is free and more accessible than ever. Under Lehigh County Executive Phil Armstrong's Administration, there is now a Pardon Coordinator embedded in the Public Defender's Office. Guidelines to qualify for the Lehigh County Pardon Project are the same financial guidelines used to qualify residents for legal representation through the Lehigh County Public Defender's Office. In addition, there are guidelines regarding which cases the Pardon Project will accept. Further information regarding the Lehigh County Pardon Project can be found at <https://pardonmepa.org/lehigh/>. The potential benefits of a pardon are significant and can create a range of opportunities that may not have been available otherwise. Lehigh County wants to help its residents realize this opportunity.

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At the new, state-of-the-art Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Hospital in Center Valley, you'll find so much more than just a hospital. This is the nexus of talent and technology, where you have a partner ready to walk beside you as you navigate your journey following spinal cord injury, stroke, brain injury and other complex medical rehabilitation.

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The Lehigh County Weekly Webcast



The Lehigh County Weekly Webcasts serve as the County Executive's direct connection with the community. Each week, either from his office or from another location in the county, Mr. Armstrong seeks to highlight businesses, organizations, and individuals doing great work to better our communities. As well as share any news or updates that impact the county at large.

Have an idea for a Weekly Webcast? Contact our Community Liaison, Adrianna Calderon at AdriannaCalderon@lehighcounty.org to submit your request!

Follow Lehigh County on social media for the latest in Lehigh County news, updates, and events!

 [Facebook.com/CountyofLehigh](https://www.facebook.com/CountyofLehigh)  [Twitter.com/CountyofLehigh](https://twitter.com/CountyofLehigh)  [Instagram.com/lehighcounty_official](https://www.instagram.com/lehighcounty_official)



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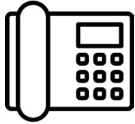
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Dermatology
Partners



"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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Kids are not little adults. They're built differently, both physically and emotionally. That's why we built an entire health network just for kids. LVHN also is home to Lehigh Valley Reilly Children's Hospital, the region's first and only children's hospital. **Visit LVHN.org/children to learn more.**



Your health deserves a partner.

Lehigh Valley Breathes Project



Launched in August of 2023, the Lehigh valley breathes is a project led by Lehigh and Northampton Counties to obtain and communicate localized information about particulate air pollution in the Lehigh Valley. The primary purpose it designed to provide policy makers and citizens with information needed to help improve the air we all breathe. The project is designed to enable and engage citizens in learning about air quality and participating in decisions that affect air quality.

Both Lehigh and Northampton Counties provide project updates monthly on the last week of the month, available through each county's Lehigh Valley Breathes webpage, social media, as well as through the project email list.

Updates include topics such as current project status, including the number of air monitors installed, observations as project data is acquired, opportunities for residents to be involved in the project, and pertinent news and information regarding air quality issues of both local and general interest. The data collection is planned to run for a year following the completed monitor installation.

**Lehigh County's Lehigh Valley Breathes Webpage can be visited at: <https://www.lehighcounty.org/Community/Lehigh-Valley-Breathes-Project>
Lehigh and Northampton residents can request to be added to the email list at LvBreathes@gmail.com.**



Wire Mill Bridge Re-Opening

The Wire Mill Bridge was reopened in July of 2023 following a period of delay due to utility improvements that impacted the project's schedule. The Lehigh County owned bridge crosses the Little Lehigh Creek and carries S. Lehigh Street, S.R. 145, located in the City of Allentown. It provides an efficient transportation grid from Center City to Southside Allentown.

The newly built bridge boasts four lanes of traffic, with two lanes in each direction, along the addition sidewalks. The bridge handles approximately 15,000 vehicles daily, and has significantly improved the flow of traffic and ensured smoother commutes.

The reopening of the Wire Mill Bridge is thanks to the collaborative efforts of Lehigh County, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, Kinsely Construction, and the City of Allentown.



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Whether you're looking to buy or sell your home, Amanda is an award winning Realtor and relocation specialist with a proven track record. Amanda is ready to help with your real estate needs in Lehigh, Northampton and Bucks Counties.

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- 3 Nashville (BNA)
- 4 Orlando Sanford (SFB)
- 5 Punta Gorda (PGD)
- 6 Sarasota/Bradenton (SRO)
- 7 Savannah/Hilton Head (SAV)
- 8 St. Pete/Clearwater (PIE)

American Airlines

- 9 Charlotte (CLT)
- 10 Chicago O'Hare (ORD)
- 11 Philadelphia (PHL)

DELTA

- 12 Atlanta (ATL)

UNITED

- 13 Chicago O'Hare (ORD)
- 14 Newark (EWR)



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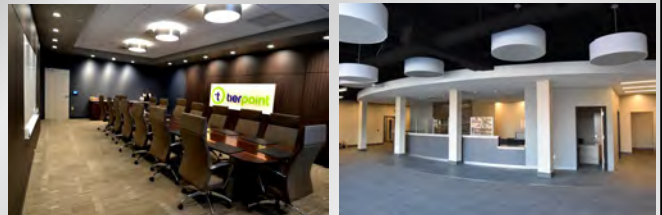
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VISIT A LOCATION NEAR YOU!

SATELLITE LOCATIONS

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Allentown, PA 18109
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Mon. - Fri. 7:30 AM - 4:00 PM

LCCC Donley Center
Allentown Employment & Training Center
718 Hamilton Street
Allentown, PA 18101
Phone: 610-799-1205
Thurs. 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

PA CareerLink® Lehigh Valley
at St. Luke's Sacred Heart
325 North 5th Street
Allentown, PA 18102
Phone: 610-440-4430
Mon. - Fri. 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

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- Skills/Interest Assessments
- Career Exploration
- 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

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- Workforce Intelligence
- Human Resources
- Recruiting/Screening
- Candidate Referrals
- Specialized Job Fairs
- Interviewing Space
- Training Resources
- Community Connections
- Sector Strategies
- Apprenticeships
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- Internships
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911 Communications Center Update



On January 10th, 2024, the Lehigh County 911 Communications Center and Lehigh County Executive Phillips Armstrong held a press conference to announce the newest Communications Center update which will allow video access to the site via caller cameras and live streaming. The caller, with 911 leadership, can share video information to support the emergency response. This is a supplemental tool that is intended to be used in conjunction with normal call taking procedures. At no time shall a dispatch be delayed in order to obtain information from the video call. This will aid firefighters in seeing potential hazards before they enter and police in “knowing before they go”.



“A picture is worth a thousand words,” said Lehigh County Executive Phil Armstrong. “In emergency situations every minute counts and being able to access video helps our 911 operators quickly assess emergency situations.”

Cedarbrook Senior Care and Rehab Awarded on Newsweek

Cedarbrook Senior Care and Rehab has been recognized on Newsweek’s America’s Best Nursing Homes 2024 list. This prestigious award is presented by Newsweek and Statista Inc., the world-leading statistics portal and industry ranking provider. The America’s Best Nursing Homes 2024 ranking lists the nation’s leading nursing homes in the 25 states with the highest number of facilities according to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). The evaluation is based on five data sources:



- **CMS Data:** Used to determine the performance of nursing homes.
- **National Online Survey:** Thousands of medical professionals (registered nurses, nursing home managers and administrators, licensed practical nurses / licensed vocational nurses, nursing assistants, therapists, and physicians) were surveyed.
- **Management of the Covid-19 situation:** A Covid-19 score for each facility was calculated, with the objective to award nursing homes which have had the best possible response and protocols during the pandemic.
- **Resident Satisfaction Data:** National Patient Safety Goals from the Joint Commission and Google reviews were included.
- **Accreditation:** Data on nursing homes provided by The Joint Commission (TJC) and Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF).

Based on the results of the study, Cedarbrook Senior Care and Rehab is ecstatic to be recognized as one of Newsweek’s America’s Best Nursing Homes 2024.

Lehigh County is proud to continue to support and operate Cedarbrook, which serves a census that is nearly 90% Medicaid. “It is not easy to find available Medicaid nursing home beds in the state of Pennsylvania, but at Lehigh County we make it our mission to focus on the Medicaid population so that we can meet the nursing home needs of as many of our citizens as possible,” states Phillips Armstrong, County Executive. “This mission can only be accomplished by the dedication and quality of our Cedarbrook employees, and this Newsweek award is a testament to their hard work.”

“In addition to our employee efforts, I also recognize the strong support for Cedarbrook that flows from Lehigh County Administration and the Board of Commissioners. We work together for the good of our citizens,” per Jason Cumello.

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IN THE LAKE.



Rain washes pollutants into storm drains which flows directly into our streams, lakes, rivers and the ocean. So what can you do?

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM WITH WASHING YOUR CAR?

Washing your car on a paved surface can allow the soapy wash water and other pollutants, like oil and grease, to run off into a storm drain. Most soap contains phosphates and other chemicals that, in large amounts can contaminate your drinking water, as well as kill fish, wildlife and plants. The soap, together with the dirt and oil washed from your car, flows into nearby storm drains, which flows directly into lakes, rivers and the ocean. The phosphates from the soap can cause excess algae to grow, which can be harmful to the water quality.

YOU CAN HELP!

- Take your car to a car washing facility, rather than washing it yourself. Commercial car washes treat and recycle the water.
- If you can't get to a car washing facility, wash your car on an unpaved surface and use biodegradable soap.
- Organize a Car Wash Fundraiser for a local organization.

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE ABOUT CLEAN WATER?

Stormwater pollution is one of the greatest threats to Pennsylvania's clean water supply. Clean water provides access to safe drinking water, places for recreation, commercial opportunities, healthy wildlife habitats, and adds beauty to our landscape. Rain washes pollution from streets, parking lots, and lawns into storm drains, then directly to our streams, rivers, lakes and oceans.

Did you know more than 60 percent of water pollution comes from things like motor oil, fertilizers, pet waste, and detergents? By sharing the responsibility and making small, easy changes in our daily lives, we can keep common pollutants out of stormwater.

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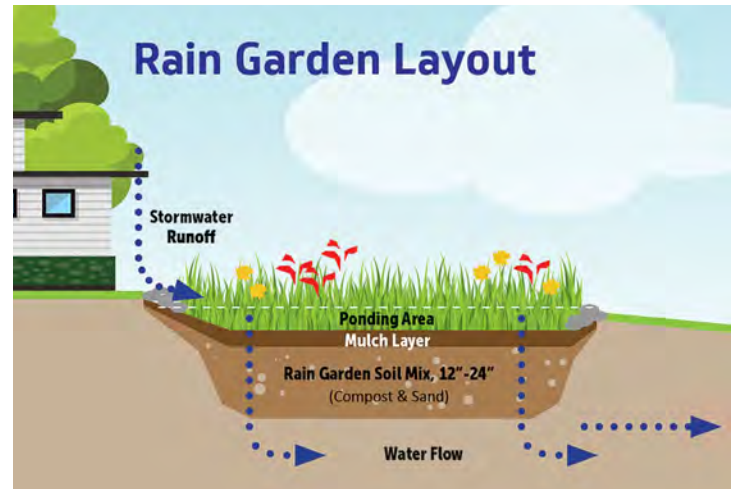
5 STEPS *for Creating a Rain Garden*

Stormwater runoff is a major cause of water pollution in streams and rivers

Rain gardens are shallow depressions that are planted with deep-rooted native and non-native adaptive plants and grasses. They are:

- Designed to collect rain water that runs off rooftops or lawns
- Areas that capture stormwater runoff, allowing it to soak into the ground. This recharges groundwater and naturally filters out pollutants.
- A source of food and habitat for birds and butterflies

Creating a rain garden not only shows your interest in protecting the environment, but also can be a beautiful addition to a home landscape.



5 STEPS FOR CREATING A RAIN GARDEN

Step 1

Pick the spot

- Contact local utilities by calling 811 to have them mark locations of underground wires, cables, or pipes
- A rain garden should be at least 10 feet from foundations and fence posts, and 25 feet from septic system drain fields and well heads

Step 2

Outline garden and determine depth

- The average size of a home rain garden is 70 square feet (7 x 10 feet), but the size can vary based on how much water you want to catch
- Gardens should be no more than 6 to 12 inches deep
- Make sure the garden is not flat because you need a depression to capture water

Step 3

Select the plants

- Select native and non-native adaptive plants that can tolerate “wet feet” in the lowest places
- Determine how many plants are needed based on your rain garden size and the mature plant dimensions

Step 4

Dig in

- The depression in your rain garden should be marked and dug to the depth you determined in Step 2.
- Without a depression, the rain garden will not work.
- Make sure not to compact the soil - this is the leading cause of failed gardens
- Place each plant at its minimum distance from other plants

Step 5

Finish-Up

- Install mulch or sphagnum moss to keep weeds out and retain moisture
- Water the garden each day for the first week, and then gradually reduce watering over the next three weeks. After a month, normal rain should be enough to keep plants healthy.
- Regular maintenance is required to keep your rain garden looking good and functioning well

Tips for Managing Your Rain Garden

- Don't worry about mosquitoes. Your rain garden should not retain water long enough for mosquitoes to have an opportunity to breed
- Your rain garden will contain flow from light rains, however, will fill up and overflow during heavy rains
- You may direct your downspout to the rain garden by digging a shallow swale or by routing it through a drain pipe
- If your soil lacks organic material, you may dig the depression an additional 2 to 3 inches and fill in with peat moss or compost
- Be creative by adding decorative items such as stones and garden ornaments to enhance your rain garden

SOURCE: <https://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/en/newsroom/2018/04/10/a-rain-garden-is-an-attractive-way-to-improve-water-quality>

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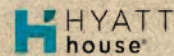
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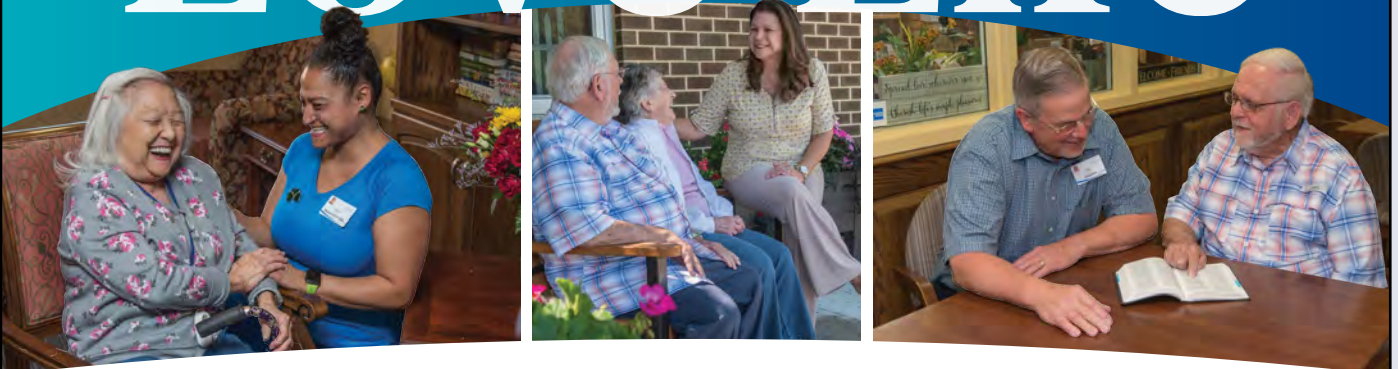
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HOW TO STAY SAFE

when a thunderstorm threatens

Lightning is a leading cause of injury and death from weather-related hazards



**Prepare
NOW**

- **Know your area's risk of thunderstorms.** They can occur year-round and at any hour.
- **Sign up for your community's warning system.** The Emergency Alert System (EAS) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio also provide emergency alerts.
- **Identify sturdy buildings close** to where you live, work, study, and play.
- **Cut down or trim trees** that may be in danger of falling on your home.
- **Consider buying surge protectors,** lightning rods, or a lightning protection system to protect your home, appliances, and electronic devices.
- **Secure outside furniture.**



**Survive
DURING**

- **When thunder roars, go indoors.** A sturdy building is the safest place to be during a thunderstorm.
- **Pay attention to weather reports and warnings** of thunderstorms. Be ready to change plans, if necessary, to be near shelter.
- **When you receive a thunderstorm warning** or hear thunder, go inside immediately.
- **If indoors, avoid running water or using landline phones.** Electricity can travel through plumbing and phone lines.
- **Protect your property.** Unplug appliances and other electric devices.
- **If boating or swimming,** get to land and find a sturdy, grounded shelter or vehicle immediately.
- **If necessary, take shelter in a car with** a metal top and sides. Do not touch anything metal.
- **Avoid flooded roadways.** Turn Around Don't Drown®. Just six inches of fast-moving water can knock you down, and one foot of moving water can sweep your vehicle away.



**Be Safe
AFTER**

- **Listen to authorities and weather forecasts** for information on whether it is safe to go outside and instructions regarding potential flash flooding.
- **Watch for fallen power lines and trees.** Report them immediately.

IF YOU ARE UNDER A THUNDERSTORM WARNING, FIND SAFE SHELTER RIGHT AWAY

**When thunder roars,
go indoors.**



**Move from outdoors
into a building or car.**



**Pay attention to
alerts and warnings.**



Unplug appliances



**Do not use
landline phones.**



SOURCE: <https://www.ready.gov/sites/default/files/2020-03/thunderstorm-information-sheet.pdf>



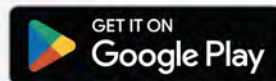
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