

PRESS RELEASE

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LEHIGH COUNTY AUTHORITY CELEBRATES 40 YEARS OF WATER & SEWER SERVICE

Regional approach to service was part of LCA's mission from day one.

Employees, retirees, past and present Board members, municipal officials, partners and elected officials will celebrate Lehigh County Authority's 40th Anniversary today at a celebration at Lone Lane Park in Upper Macungie Township. More than 150 are scheduled to attend, including Lehigh County Executive Don Cunningham, Pa. Representatives Doug Reichley and Karen Beyer and Pa. Senator Pat Browne.

Lehigh County Authority (LCA) was formed in 1966 for the purpose of pursuing a source of water for large industrial water users planning to locate in western Lehigh County. In the 1960s and 1970s, western Lehigh County was growing its industrial base with new large water users moving into the area, including the Schaefer brewery, Kraft, and later on Coca-Cola and others.

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Since that time, the brewery changed hands a few times, from Schaefer to Pabst to Stroh and now to Diageo, who is currently producing Smirnoff Ice at the brewery.

“Many changes have occurred in the Lehigh Valley since LCA was formed in 1966,” said Aurel Arndt, who has worked for LCA since 1974 and has served as its general manager since 1986. “The success of any public organization comes largely from its ability to remain flexible and responsive to the needs of the community it serves.”

Beginning in the late 1970s through today, housing development activity began to boom and local municipalities began looking to LCA to provide more regional solutions to the water and sewer needs of their communities. Today, LCA has more than 16,000 water customers, one of the lowest water rate schedules in the Lehigh Valley, and provides sewer services to 14 municipalities. The Authority seeks to focus its operations on strategic goals related to customer service satisfaction, quality, reliability and affordability.

Today’s celebration is intended to celebrate LCA’s successes and to recognize the wide variety of individual people, organizations and partnerships that have helped to shape its future.

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MEDIA NOTES

- Today’s event is scheduled for 4 – 7:30 p.m. at Lone Lane Park in Upper Macungie Township. The event is casual, with a short set of comments planned for approximately 6 p.m. by LCA’s Board Chairman and County Executive Cunningham.
- The media is welcome to attend.
- LCA’s fact sheet is attached for your reference. More information about LCA’s services and history is available online at www.lehighcountyauthority.org.