



## Lv Zoo Welcomes Its First-ever, Newborn Female Alpaca

Lehigh Valley Health Network is the Official Motherhood Partner of the LV Zoo

By Matt Provence

Schnecksville, Pa. — Lehigh Valley Zoo in conjunction with Lehigh Valley Health Network (LVHN), part of Jefferson Health, is excited to announce the birth of its first-ever female baby alpaca, born on Thursday, Oct. 23. The cria marks the third offspring for mother Illuminati and father Havoc, joining males, Buzz (Sept. 12, 2023) and Tupaca (Aug. 22, 2024) — and increasing LV Zoo's alpaca herd to five members.

Unlike the rest of her family, this cria has black fleece. Black colored alpacas are very rare and very fittingly, she was born around Halloween.

Shortly after the cria was born, LV Zoo's animal care staff relocated her and mother into a separate, adjacent pasture to allow the newborn to nurse and bond with mom. She was a small cria, weighing just under 10 pounds — so it was also important to ensure that she was nursing well and growing steadily. By comparison, youngest brother Tupaca was born weighing 13.6 pounds. Cria typically nurse for about five months; and at around two months, they will start to consume solid foods.

This week, the herd was reunited and the little cria seems to be enjoying life with her whole family. They are all now currently living in a pasture where guests can visit the newest addition.

Alpaca gestation typically lasts around 11-12 months — between 320-375 days.

Seven-year-old Illuminati and nine-year-old Havoc arrived at LV Zoo together in October 2022 from a private facility for breeding purposes. Alpacas are native to the central and southern Andes Mountains, from Peru to Argentina and are the smallest of the domesticated camelid species.

The new alpaca still needs a name. In partnership with LVHN, LV Zoo is seeking name suggestions on Facebook — allowing the animal care staff the opportunity to select its favorite submission.

LV Zoo is currently operating under winter hours, open Wednesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at [www.lvzoo.org](http://www.lvzoo.org).



# Boscola Bulletin

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 **LISA BOSCOLA** 18TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT

## Your Winter Energy Checklist: Simple Steps to Save and Stay Connected

By Senator Lisa Boscola

To help consumers prepare for colder months, the PUC encourages everyone to take these simple steps:

Review your utility bills. Understand your current rate and usage — and how colder weather can increase demand.

Don't wait to call. If you're worried about paying your bill, contact your utility now to ask about assistance programs or payment plans.

Ask about affordability programs. Utilities offer programs like CAPs, budget billing, and hardship funds that can reduce your monthly costs.

Make small energy-saving changes. Lower your thermostat by one or two degrees, check furnace filters, and seal drafts — small actions that add up.

Explore energy-saving tools. Visit [PAPowerSwitch.com](http://PAPowerSwitch.com) and [PAGasSwitch.com](http://PAGasSwitch.com) for energy tips, shopping options, and more ways to save.

## EXPLORE OPTIONS FOR ENERGY CONSERVATION AND COST SAVINGS



**Pay attention to the thermostat** — Every degree up or down can impact energy use up to 3%. Consider programmable thermostats to automatically lower temps at night or while you are away.



**Keep furnaces and ducts clean** — Regular furnace maintenance along with clean filters and ducts help ensure efficient heating.



**Winterize your home** — Adding insulation, storm windows and doors, and sealing cracks can help you stay warmer.



**Check your hot water heater** — Temperatures over 120 degrees can be a major power drain.



**Run full loads** — Run full loads in washers and dishwashers to reduce the use of hot water and limit the amount of energy used.

## #CallUtilitiesNow TO EXPLORE UTILITY ASSISTANCE OPTIONS



Public utilities are the first and most direct mechanisms to link at-risk households with much-needed assistance.

For any household struggling with high utility bills, direct conversations with your utilities are the best "first step" toward addressing the issue.

Utilities understand programs in their communities for income-qualified consumers and utilities can help enroll consumers in assistance programs or guide you to available resources in your area.