

State Representative Harry A.

READSHAW

36TH DISTRICT

report



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Relief from South Side nuisance bars moves forward

In March, the House Liquor Control Committee voted unanimously to send my bill, H.B. 262, to the full House of Representatives. The bill would help South Side residents deal with the continuing problem of too many licensed bars and restaurants by allowing local municipalities to establish a maximum saturation ratio for licensed establishments.

The Legislature has generally limited the number of liquor licenses for the retail sale of brewed beverages and liquor to one license for every 3,000 inhabitants in any county. Currently, there are approximately 160 liquor licenses in the South Side.

After almost eight years of working on this problem, H.B. 262 is finally in a position to be voted on by the full House, which would assist officials in combating the problems experienced by citizens of the South Side by limiting the number of liquor licenses. Residents have had to deal with drunk and disorderly people on the streets, and excessive crime due to the high concentration of bars in the region.

Local communities are better judges of the needs and abuses of alcohol on a more personal level. This bill would give us the tools to say "enough is enough."

MADD opposes liquor privatization

Mothers Against Drunk Drivers publicly opposes H.B. 790, the haphazard attempt to sell off the Wine & Spirits shops in Pennsylvania.

The legislation was pushed through as a late amendment with no public input and little floor debate. In exchange for the possibility of a small, one-time infusion of cash, the state is giving away long-term profits of nearly \$500 million per year.

MADD points out as well that the Centers for Disease Control has concluded privatizing the liquor industry will lead to less enforcement, specifically in regards to underage consumption of alcohol.

I remain optimistic that the Senate will adequately review or change the bill, to make it beneficial to the residents of Pennsylvania, and not just the big businesses who are drooling over the opportunity to cash in on liquor sales in the state.



It took a while for their schedules to match, but Rep. Readshaw recently presented a copy of H.R. 867 to Steeler safety Ryan Clark. Readshaw's resolution, which the House unanimously adopted last October, recognizes Clark for his leadership in the fight

against sickle cell anemia. Clark has made no secret that he suffers from the illness. In fact, he has to sit out games in high-altitude regions, such as Denver.

Readshaw receives award from Optometric Society



I was honored to receive the 2013 William Van Essen Award from The Western Pennsylvania Optometric Society given to those individuals or organizations outside the optometric profession who have significantly served the welfare of the public.

The award is given by local societies recognizing members of the community who make outstanding impacts to optometry and eye care.

As minority chairman of the state House Professional Licensure Committee, it is such an honor to receive an award in memory of Dr. William Van Essen, who was influential in the licensing of the profession of optometry in Pennsylvania.

The WPOS is the professional organization serving over 250 optometrists in southwestern Pennsylvania. An affiliate of the American Optometric Association, WPOS promotes eye and vision care by optometrists, represents optometry to state and local government, provides its members with post-graduate education and membership benefits, and conducts activities in the interest of the visual welfare of the public.

Van Essen was a Pittsburgh-based optometrist for more than 50 years. He served as president of the Pennsylvania Optometric Association from 1920 to 1923 and served on both state and national optometric associations.

HISTORY CORNER

150th Anniversary of Battle of Gettysburg this year

This July will mark the 150th anniversary of the Civil War Battle of Gettysburg with the annual re-enactment July 4-7.

Gettysburg is recognized as the turning point of the Civil War, and remains, as President Lincoln once declared it, "Hallowed Ground."

Locally, re-enactors brought Civil War life to the annual Pittsburgh Home and Garden Show in March.

These dedicated re-enactors, who often spend hot summer days in authentic to the period wool uniforms, deserve special recognition. By keeping the memory of the battles alive, it reminds us all of what was at stake 150 years ago.

10th Annual Civil War Preservation Ball Raises Awareness for Preserving Gettysburg Monuments

This year's Civil War Preservation Ball on March 23 marked the 10th anniversary of this special event being held in the Rotunda of the Capitol Building. The affair raises awareness and contributions to preserve the PA monuments and markers at Gettysburg National Military Park.

More than 230 guests came from Pennsylvania, Virginia, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, West Virginia, Texas and Iowa to dance the night away in the beautiful rotunda. Each guest received a special 10th Anniversary Rosette with a beautiful enamel pin with the Victorian Dance Ensemble's "Dancing for Preservation" logo.



The guest speaker was Andrew Masich, president & CEO of the Senator John Heinz History Center, Pittsburgh, and chairman of the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission. Special guests included state Reps. Harry Readshaw, Dan Moul and Bill Kortz, Gettysburg National Military Park Superintendent Bob Kirby, President Abraham Lincoln (Jim Getty), and General Robert E. Lee (Frank Orlando).



Rep. Readshaw greets the guest speaker, Andrew Masich, president & CEO of the Senator John Heinz History Center, Pittsburgh, and chairman of the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission.



Rep. Readshaw greets Michael Kraus (left), curator of the Soldiers and Sailors Hall, and Andy Buydasz, re-enactors, at the Pittsburgh Home and Garden Show.

Readshaw resolution honors 'Taps'

On April 10, the House unanimously adopted my resolution, H.R. 185, which recognized the 151st anniversary of the origin of the bugle call, Taps.

Taps was developed during the Civil War as the musical sign that indicated the end of the day. The signal for Extinguished Lights was adapted by Union General Daniel Butterfield and his brigade's bugler, Oliver Willcox Norton, in July, 1862.

Taps was recognized as an official bugle call at the end of the Civil War, and, starting in 1891, became a mandatory addition to military funerals.

Although there are no official lyrics for the music, the most commonly used verse is:

***Day is done, gone the sun
From the lake, from the hill
From the sky
All is well, safely rest,
God is nigh***



We thank all our veterans

News you can use

Did you know that Allegheny County has special rules for boaters?

For example, during the peak boating months of May through September, speed must be reduced to eliminate any wakes between the West End Bridge over the Ohio River and both the Fort Pitt Bridge over the Monongahela and the 9th Street Bridge over the Allegheny.

Water skiing is also prohibited between the Glassport Bridge and the Union Railroad Bridge on the Monongahela.

Check out all the special boating regulations which pertain to the three rivers at www.fishandboat.com/spbtregs.htm.

Always remember, **don't drink and boat!**

New 2-1-1 service for southwestern Pa.

In an effort to streamline the process for seeking governmental or human services assistance, there is a new, unified 2-1-1 phone number to make it easier to access important information in the region.

The local United Ways in Allegheny, Armstrong, Butler, Fayette, Mercer and Westmoreland counties have teamed together so one phone call can put you in touch with whatever agencies you may need in the region.

Expansion into other local counties is in the works as well.

The new 2-1-1 service is an easy-to-remember telephone number which will be in operation around the clock. TTY services for hearing-impaired are also available 24 hours a day, and the website, <http://pa211sw.org>, is always live as well.

If you have specific questions regarding local social service or government agencies, the operators at 2-1-1 will be able to steer you in the right direction.

Call before you dig!

Pennsylvania law requires contractors OR homeowners to call 8-1-1, Pennsylvania's one-call number, at least three days before digging.

One call will send the local utilities to your site to mark the locations of any buried cables or pipes.

Cutting through a pipe or wire can cause utility failures in your neighborhood and, in the event of electric cables or gas lines, the results could be catastrophic.

Remember, you are required to call even if your planned dig is very shallow.

Call 8-1-1 to "know what's below." To learn more, you can also visit www.PAOneCall.org.

Multi-year fishing licenses are available in Pa.!

On Dec. 1, for the first time ever, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission began selling multi-year fishing licenses! Licenses are now available in three- and five-year licenses as well as the traditional annual license.

While the annual license fee remains the same for all three options, the transaction and processing fees will only need to be paid once for the entire purchase, providing savings on those fees.

Anglers who purchase the multi-year licenses will also be eligible for several rewards, including a free online subscription to Pennsylvania Angler and Boater magazine as well as discounts on equipment.

All 3 licenses are available at the www.pa.wildlifelicense.com.

Multi-year trout/salmon, Lake Erie and combo permits are also available.

More information on fishing and boating in Pennsylvania can be found at www.fishandboat.com.

If you don't have a license, you can fish for free in Pennsylvania on May 27 and July 4. This is a great chance to introduce a friend to the sport of fishing. All other fishing rules will apply.

Shred your personal papers!

Improper disposal of old documents with personal and financial information is a leading cause of identity theft.

You should shred any unneeded documents that have your Social Security number and any account information, including any mailings from your financial institution which have any reference to your accounts.

You should also shred all credit card offers and applications, courtesy checks from banks or credit cards, monthly credit card and utility bills, old credit cards and anything related to taxes and receipts with your signature and anything with personal identifying information that you wouldn't want to share.

The Pennsylvania Treasury Department has a web page about preventing identity theft. Check out the site at www.patreasury.gov/financialEducationIDTheft.html.

Eligible Pennsylvania seniors, widows and disabled adults can apply to the Property Tax/Rent Rebate program through June 30. Depending on your income, you may be eligible for a refund for part of the property taxes or rent you paid in 2012.
Contact my office at (412) 881-4208 or check out this link <http://bit.ly/10mECHA> for more information.



Rep. Readshaw joins Dr. Linda Lane, superintendent, Pittsburgh Public Schools, and the Honorable Rich Fitzgerald, chief executive, Allegheny County, at the community

leaders prayer breakfast at the Sheraton Station Square on March 1.

Whitehall Borough named 2013 Banner Community

The Allegheny League of Municipalities has named Whitehall Borough as a Banner Community for 2013.

The recognition was announced at ALOM's 40th annual Spring Conference held at Seven Springs Resort in early April.

The Banner Community program recognizes the municipalities which implement the best governmental practices in a collaborative, inclusive manor with the community.

The Banner Community designation is an acknowledgement of Whitehall Borough's activities within ALOM, including participation in the League's meetings and training, establishing a good community communication plan and other criteria.

You can read more at: <http://alleghenyleague.org/>.



Rep. Readshaw joins the Whitehall Borough Council. Front: Kathy DePuy; Second row: Phil Lahr, Rep. Readshaw; Back (l-r): Mayor Jim Nowalk, Glen Nagy, Bob McKown, Bill Veith and Linda Book.



Rep. Readshaw presents a citation honoring the 175th Anniversary of Spencer United Methodist Church to Cindy Seifert, chairperson of the administrative board. The church is located on Spencer Ave. in Carrick.

PUC creates web site for Marcellus Shale drilling

The Public Utilities Commission has created a website allowing you to track the progress of drilling in Pennsylvania.

You can check out the website at <http://bit.ly/12t8eIU>.

This is a very comprehensive site which lists all the drillers in Pennsylvania, the total amount of money collected by the state under the impact fee, and includes breakdowns by county.

Counties and communities receive their share of the impact fee based on the size of the community, the number of wells located nearby, and road and highway miles in and around the community.

Allegheny County received just over \$1 million in impact fees for 2011, and the state received just over \$200 million that year.

Act 13, which authorized the impact fees, will affect Pennsylvania for years. This new website is an opportunity to monitor how it affects our communities.



Rep. Readshaw presents a citation recognizing the Brentwood Borough EMS for 35 years of service to the community. From left are: Deborah Balkovec, Councilman Clyde Zimmerman, Diane Cook, Joanne

Cook, Readshaw, Mayor Ken Lockhart.

Local Non-profit recognized for excellence

The Pittsburgh Action Against Rape, located on the South Side, was recently awarded the Seal of Excellence by the Pennsylvania Association of Nonprofit Organizations.

I sent the organization a letter acknowledging their achievement. Highlights of that letter are below:

I want to congratulate the board and staff of Pittsburgh Action Against Rape for this accomplishment. It represents a great deal of effort on their part – both in running an efficient and effective organization serving the citizens of Pittsburgh and participating in the rigorous review required by the Standards of Excellence certification program. I am delighted to have this excellent group in my District.

Some of the areas reviewed as part of the evaluation include: how the board conducts itself, how conflicts of interest are resolved and areas of management. The Standards also mandate that organizations evaluate their programs and are accountable to their donors.

In this difficult economy, it is vital that these tax-exempt organizations are well-managed and operating to meet their mission. With government assistance funds declining, credibility is essential to attracting additional funding. Donors want to know that their money is wisely invested.

For your health

Watch your calorie intake!

Obesity is becoming a bigger problem every year. This is due to the combination of increased calorie intake and reduced levels of physical activity.

The average adult's calorie intake is up more than 200 calories per day since the early 1970s, while energy expended through physical activity is also down approximately 200 calories per day.

The math for weight loss or gain is simple: calories in vs. calories out. It takes approximately 3,500 calories to lose or gain one pound, so the math above explains why we are getting heavier.

Studies have indicated that the largest increase in food calories is from fats and oils in processed food, while calorie intake from sodas has dropped almost 40 percent.

Physical activity is lower as many factory jobs have been replaced with more sedentary office/service positions while more entertainment opportunities, from more cable channels and digital video recording options and the proliferation of video games has led to a more indoor, video-based life for younger people.

To maintain a basic level of fitness, adults should spend at least 150 minutes doing moderate aerobic activities or 75 minutes of vigorous aerobic activity every week **AND** muscle-strengthening exercises twice a week.

Whenever possible, move more, sit less, and park further away from the entrance to stores.



Readshaw resolution recognized April as Child Abuse Prevention Month

My resolution, H.R. 97, which recognized April as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Pennsylvania was unanimously adopted by the House on March 18.

The resolution acknowledges the many groups and individuals who work to fight against child abuse, while admitting that there is much more work to be done.

My resolution aims to raise awareness among ALL Pennsylvanians that this tragedy persists.

You can help prevent child abuse

In light of the several recent court cases here in Pennsylvania involving possible child abuse, the Pennsylvania Family Support Alliance has offered a number of tips on ways you can help prevent it. **Child abuse is not always sexual abuse.** Physical abuse happens much more frequently, but usually on a much smaller and quieter scale.

As a parent:

- Remember it is OK to ask for help. Remind other parents as well.
- Take care of yourself. When you feel good, you are more likely to provide a positive space.
- Focus on positives, both in yourself and your children.
- Support your children. Compliments and positive feedback are good for everybody.
- Encourage any church or social groups to provide qualified child care.

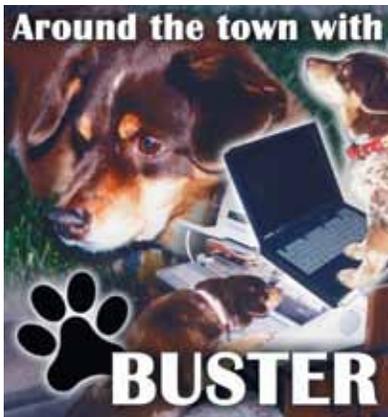
As a neighbor:

- Get to know your neighbors. If you have children, be sure to get to know their friends.
- Offer support to a parent whom you may feel is overwhelmed, especially single parents. Can you watch the children for an evening to provide a break?

As a citizen:

- Learn how to recognize and report possible abuse.
- Give your time as well as money to groups which fight child abuse.
- Contact your elected officials to make sure they support agencies which fight child abuse.
- Write a letter to the editor discussing the problem and prevention.
- A blue ribbon shows support for child abuse prevention. Wear one, or speak to somebody wearing one.

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Harry was looking over the Readshaw family tree the other night. Reminds me that I need to make some calls and see if there are any new pups to be added to the Buster family tree.

One of my ancestors, Peg Leg du Bustere, sailed with pirates on the Spanish Main. He didn't have a peg leg himself – he chewed on the peg legs of his human ship-mates. Look closely at a painting of Long John Silver; the chew marks on his peg – they're from Peg Leg du Bustere.

The pirate's life was tough for du Bustere; weeks without a fire hydrant or tree in sight.

Speaking of life on the water, Harry's getting ready for the new boating season. He's a real stickler about safe boating.

On average, more than 700 people die in the U.S. every year because of boating accidents. That's just the fatalities; there are lots more people injured. The U.S. Coast Guard reports

that there are around 60,000 nonfatal boating accidents annually.

Here in Pennsylvania, a Boating Safety Education Certificate issued by the Fish and Boat Commission is required for anyone to operate a personal water craft. A certificate is also a must for anyone born on or after January 1, 1982, to operate a boat powered by a motor of more than 25 horsepower.

It's a no-brainer that a boat must have a Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device for everyone on board. The wise thing is for everyone riding a boat that is underway to be wearing a life jacket and kids age 12 and under MUST wear a flotation device in a moving boat; that includes canoes and kayaks.

"Yo ho ho and a bottle of rum" may be fun to sing, but booze and a boat can be a dangerous combination. There should be a designated non-drinking

operator on every boat where alcoholic beverages are present. As with cars, a boat operator with an alcohol content of .08 percent or more is legally intoxicated and subject to arrest. Penalties include fines, loss of boating privileges and possible imprisonment.

You can learn lots more about boating safety and regulations from the Fish and Boat Commission at <http://fishandboat.com/98boatco.htm>.

There's a phone number for the boating safety certificate course: 1-888-PAFISH-1 (1-888-723-4741).

Well, I'm off to some high-seas hijinks. I'm going to make Harry talk like a pirate. All I have to do is put a soggy dog biscuit in his slipper and "Arrrrrrr!"

Peg Leg du Bustere strikes again!



Community volunteers recognized

I am proud to be able to congratulate Don and Shirley Froehlich for years of dedicated volunteer service at Pioneer School and throughout the community.

Don, a Korean War veteran, served as a Mt. Oliver councilman for 40 years.

They have volunteered together at the Pioneer School for 40 years, hosting Easter egg hunts and dressing as the Easter Bunny and Santa Claus, as well as with the Pittsburgh area food bank through the St. John Vianney Parish.

The Froehlichs, who celebrated their 58th anniversary in April, have three children and three grandchildren.

