



State Representative Harry A. **READSHAW** 36TH DISTRICT **report**



1917 Brownsville Road • Pittsburgh, PA 15210 • (412) 881-4208 • www.pahouse.com/readshaw

Dear Friend:

I believe winter is finally in our rearview mirror.

As the weather warms up and more people are thinking about getting out and about, I want to take a minute to remind you that my staff in my constituent service office at 1917 Brownsville Road is trained to assist you with the many state issues and concerns you may have.

We can assist you in applying for state programs such as CHIP, the state's health insurance program for children, and also process PennDOT license and registration renewals and apply for birth or death certificates.

We can also help you determine if you qualify for a rebate under the state's Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program, and we will help you complete the application if you are eligible for a rebate.

Please drop by my office or call (412) 881-4208 if you have any questions or issues regarding state programs and we will work with you to resolve them.

Sincerely,

Harry A. Readshaw
State Representative
36th Legislative District

Local girl to compete for Miss Junior High America in June!

Congratulations to sixth-grader Olivia Allison from Carrick, who will represent Pennsylvania in the Miss Junior High Pageant from June 30 – July 5 in Disney World.

Olivia was crowned Miss Pennsylvania Junior High America last July and will represent the region, and the commonwealth, at the national competition at the Swan and Dolphin Hotel.

Olivia is a great choice to represent us.

She is a student at the Pittsburgh Creative and Performing Arts Magnet School, maintaining a 4.0 GPA and is also a CLO mini-star and dances with the Gemini Dance group in Baldwin.

The pageant's core platform is anti-bullying, and Olivia also developed her own platform – **SPUNK**, which stands for Stay Positive Upbeat Natural and Kick it! She encourages her peers to find something positive in all they do and experience.

She is also active in the community, volunteering in soup kitchens and with Toys for Tots, and has participated in walks for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society and to end brain tumors.

She is an inspiration for us all and I know we all wish her luck at the national pageant.



Rep. Readshaw welcomes Olivia Allison, Miss Pennsylvania Junior High America, to his office in Carrick.

Resolution would recognize National Library Week in PA

Community libraries have long been cornerstones of our neighborhoods.

To salute them, I have introduced H.R. 162, which would recognize the week of April 12-18 as National Library Week in Pennsylvania.

National Library Week was first recognized in 1958 and the theme for this year's recognition week is "Unlimited possibilities @ your library."

Today's libraries have adapted to our new tech society and in addition to books, many now offer audio and video such as CDs and

DVDs, e-books, audio books and Internet stations.

We are fortunate to have local branches of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh available for our residents.

Be sure to visit our local branches:

- The newly renovated Brookline branch, 708 Brookline Blvd.,
- Or the other local branches:
- Carrick, 1811 Brownsville Road
- Knoxville, 400 Brownsville Road

Check out a book – and so much more – at your local library.

Veterans Update

Housing for male homeless veterans now available in Brentwood

On Feb. 20, I was thrilled to participate in a ribbon-cutting for a new residence for homeless male veterans with children in Brentwood.

Single homeless males with children are often overlooked, and too often, they are veterans.

Now, thanks to the hard work of the Veterans Leadership Program of Western Pennsylvania, two fully furnished apartments are available for single male veterans and their families.

The apartments are available to qualifying veterans for stays of up to 60 days.

VLP had already established an emergency housing program for women veterans through the United Way of Allegheny County and now the same opportunity is available for men.

While the men and women are living in these residences, coordinators meet with them regularly to assist in financial matters, job hunting and locating a safe, permanent residence.

VLP serves 18 counties in western Pennsylvania and in May I will be hosting a breakfast in Harrisburg for them and legislators from their service area.

For more information, or if you know a veteran in need of this type of housing, contact VLP at (412) 481-8200.



On Feb. 20, Rep. Readshaw participated in the ribbon-cutting ceremony at the new homeless male veterans housing location established in Baldwin by the Veterans Leadership Program of Western Pennsylvania.



Rep. Readshaw at the VFW Post renaming ceremony.

Southside VFW renamed for local hero

In January, I was honored to take part in a renaming ceremony for the Southside VFW Post 6675.

On Jan. 18, the post was renamed the Sgt. James P. Cryster Memorial VFW Post 6675. Sgt. James Perry Cryster III died in Vietnam in 1967.

He was a member of the U.S. Army's 1st Cavalry Air Mobile Division and was highly decorated during his life. He was awarded two Purple Hearts and the Bronze Star.

He also received the Silver Star for rescuing the crew of a downed, burning helicopter.

As part of the renaming, a mural was painted inside the post, picturing both Cryster and his father, as well as images depicting the branches of the military.

Cryster and his sacrifice will never be forgotten.

Persian Gulf Conflict Veteran's Bonus deadline is August 31

I wanted to remind all veterans who served in the Persian Gulf Conflict that the deadline to apply for a one-time bonus payment for their service in the Persian Gulf Theater of Operations is Aug. 31.

The bonus program was authorized by Act 29 of 2006 and offers a one-time payment to all qualified veterans or their survivors who were Pennsylvania residents while they served in the Persian Gulf between Aug. 2, 1990 and Aug. 31, 1991.

Veterans are eligible to receive \$75 per month of service, up to a maximum of \$525. Survivors of those who died while in service in the Persian Gulf or later due to injuries suffered in the Gulf may be eligible for an additional \$5,000 benefit.

The Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs has created a brochure outlining the program, including how to apply, which is available at <http://bit.ly/1OVO3oD>.

If you qualify for this benefit, please don't let your time to apply for it expire.

OUTDOOR UPDATE

Lyme disease **A PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUE**

Lyme disease is a bacterial infection transmitted primarily by ticks. Lyme disease and other tick-borne diseases pose a serious threat to the quality of life for Pennsylvanians, with Lyme disease cases increasing dramatically over the past several years.

In 2009, 2011 and 2012, Pennsylvania ranked highest in the country in the number of confirmed cases of Lyme disease. From 2002 to 2012, Pennsylvania has reported a total of 46,178 verified cases of Lyme disease.

While Lyme disease is most prevalent in southeastern Pennsylvania, it is found across the commonwealth, including the southwest. Early diagnosis and appropriate treatment of these tick-borne disorders and diseases can greatly reduce risks of continued symptoms, which can affect every system and organ in the body.

A new law I supported creates a task force within the Pennsylvania Department of Health to educate the public about Lyme disease and conduct a tick surveillance program across the commonwealth.

The task force will develop a public education program and coordinate its efforts with the Pennsylvania Game Commission, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and Department of Education to reach outdoorsmen, state park visitors and students. The task force will investigate and make recommendations to the Health Department regarding surveillance and prevention of Lyme disease, as well as development of a general public and health care professional information and education program.

What you can do to prevent and treat Lyme disease



The key is to remove the attached tick as soon as possible. Symptoms typically appear within seven to 14 days, but could show up as early as three days or as late as 30.

It can cause flu-like symptoms. The disease is rarely fatal, but if not treated, more severe symptoms, such as arthritis and heart and nervous-system problems may result. A bull's-eye rash also is common.

The best way to avoid Lyme disease is to avoid exposure to ticks by, among other tips:

-  Avoiding tick-infested areas, such as high grass and weeds;
-  Wearing light-colored clothing so ticks can be spotted more easily;
-  Wearing long pants and sleeves, and tucking pant legs into socks or boots, and shirts into pants;
-  Using bug repellent containing DEET; and
-  Checking for ticks after being outside.

Trout season begins statewide on April 18

Trout season begins statewide at 8 a.m. Saturday, April 18.

All anglers 16 or older must have a state fishing license and a trout permit if they plan to fish for trout in Pennsylvania.

The required licenses may be purchased at a number of local agents. To find a dealer in Allegheny County, visit <http://fishandboat.com/flage/alle.htm>.

The minimum trout size allowed to be kept is seven inches, and the creel limit through Labor Day is five trout (combined species).

2015 trout stocking schedules and other information for enjoying the outdoors in Pennsylvania can be found on my website, www.pahouse.com/Readshaw under the Sportsman's Corner tab on the right side.

For updated fishing and boating information for southwestern PA, check out the website: <http://fishandboat.com/splswro.htm>.

Get ready for boating season

If your watercraft has a gas, diesel or electric motor, or it uses gas, diesel or electric for any type of auxiliary power, it must be registered in Pennsylvania. Sailboats frequently have this type of auxiliary power.

Unpowered boats such as kayaks, canoes, rowboats and rafts do not need to be registered unless they will be used on Fish and Boat Commission access areas or lakes or in Pennsylvania state parks and forests.

For more information on registering or titling a boat, check out the Fish and Boat Commission's boating registration information page, <http://fishandboat.com/fagreg.htm>.

You can learn more about Lyme disease at the Centers for Disease Control website, www.cdc.gov/lyme.

Tuesday, April 14, 2015 is Equal Pay Day

The Wage Gap...

it's not just about women anymore!



The wage gap isn't just a women's issue. Equal pay for women raises family income, and the whole family benefits.

In 2012, women earned 77 cents for every dollar men received. That's \$23 less to spend on groceries, housing, child care and all other expenses for every \$100 worth of work done. Nationwide, working families lose \$200 billion of income annually to the wage gap. At the current rate, equal pay won't be realized until for another 50 years.

The wage gap is even worse for most women of color. Latinas earn 58 cents and African American women earn 69 cents for every dollar men earn, while Asian American women earn 92 cents.*

* CWS 2012



Wear RED on Equal Pay Day to symbolize how far women and minorities are "in the red" with their pay!



If only women had a coupon like this...

23% off

All Goods and Services
for Any Female Bearer

Valid for use in the USA only. Excludes. Expires 2063.

"Coupon not valid...but it should be"

...they wouldn't suffer from the wage gap.

VALUE FAMILIES — Support Equal Pay

Sponsored by the National Committee on Pay Equity • For more information on equal pay, visit www.pay-equity.org

The Fight For Women For Equal Pay

THE GENDER PAY GAP IS REAL AND HURTS WOMEN AND FAMILIES

WHY WE NEED EQUAL PAY

In this struggling economy, the Equal Pay Act and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act are important laws, but are hard to enforce. In the current economic crisis, many people are facing financial problems, stagnant wages and unemployment. Women in Pennsylvania already have a higher rate of economic insecurity than men. In the past 2 1/2 years of recovery since the recession, the high unemployment rate for men has fallen, but the women's unemployment rate remains higher in comparison.

I will continue my efforts, working to secure that women across Pennsylvania have equal rights for equal pay.

I am an avid supporter of equal pay for equal work for women in the work force.

Protect your privacy and feed your neighbors

There will be a community shred-it event from 9 a.m. – noon Saturday, May 9 at the GBU Parking Lot at the corner of Brownsville Road and Rt. 51.

This is a good opportunity to properly dispose of your old financial records after tax season.

There is no fee for the shredding, but I invite you to bring non-perishable canned foods which will be given to a local food bank.

Indoor tanning is banned for minors

The Indoor Tanning Regulation Act took effect in July, prohibiting tanning for those younger than 17 and requiring parental consent for those who are 17.

Indoor tanning exposes users to both UV-A and UV-B rays, which damage the skin and can lead to cancer. UV exposure can also damage eyes and cause cataracts, macular degeneration, corneal sunburn and other vision problems.

The new law also requires tanning facilities to post signs warning of the dangers of tanning. They must also provide to the Department of Health access to their records and maintain customer records for three years.

To protect their customers' eyes, tanning facility operators also must provide free protective eyewear to each customer.

For more information, please visit bit.ly/1kmV2L2.



Baldwin police officers honored

Two Baldwin Borough police officers were honored in February for their outstanding work in apprehending a suspect accused of robbing a bank in mid-January. A third officer was honored for helping to apprehend a suspect in a home invasion in January.

Officers Michael Snider and Matt Collier both received citations at the Feb. 17 Baldwin Borough Council meeting for their work on tracking the man accused of robbing the Citizens Bank branch in Brentwood Towne Square in January.

Collier recognized a vehicle from the description of an earlier bank robbery in West Mifflin and Snider observed the vehicle and made a traffic stop, resulting in the arrest. The suspect was later indicted by a federal grand jury on charges of robbing six banks in the region between Jan. 1 and Jan. 16 of this year.

At the same meeting, Officer Leo Gigliotti Jr. was recognized for apprehending a felon and getting dangerous weapons off the street during an incident on Jan. 15.

While responding to a call about an abandoned vehicle, officers found weapons and cash in the vehicle.

Gigliotti pursued an individual running away from the location and chased him on foot. He captured the suspect, who was later thought to have participated in a home invasion in the area.

Congratulations to all three officers and thanks to ALL our police and first responders who put their lives on the line for us every day.



Police Officer Mike Snider shakes the hand of Baldwin Mayor David Depretis after receiving a citation for his actions in helping to capture a suspected bank robber. Brentwood's acting police Chief Adam Zeouhar looks on. Officer Matt Collier also was recognized for his role in the capture, although he was unable to attend the meeting.



Police Officer Leo Gigliotti Jr. shakes the hand of Baldwin Mayor David Depretis after receiving a citation for his actions in capturing a suspected felon and getting several firearms off the streets.

This April is National Safe Digging Month

As the weather turns warmer and outdoor projects start to bloom, remember, you must call before you dig!

8-1-1 is the national one-call phone number to reach all the utilities in the area when you plan to dig. The 8-1-1 "Call Before You Dig" hotline operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

When you call 8-1-1, you will be connected to the Pennsylvania One Call system, which in turn notifies the appropriate utilities of your intentions, and they can then mark any buried pipes, wires or cables.

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

Pennsylvania law requires that a homeowner or contractor call 8-1-1 at least three days before any excavation. You are required to call even if the planned dig is very shallow.

Call 8-1-1 to "know what's below." To learn more about homeowner responsibilities, visit www.PA1Call.org.

FREE Booklet of Benefits and Rights for Older Pennsylvanians

Pennsylvania offers more benefits and services to senior citizens than almost any other state in the nation.

From employment opportunities and health care to transportation, recreation and leisure, the "Benefits and Rights for Older Pennsylvanians" booklet can provide important information.

To obtain this informative booklet highlighting state programs and services for senior citizens in Pennsylvania, contact my constituent service office at (412) 881-4208.



Rep. Readshaw is joined by members of the BSA Venture Crew 1861, portraying the 1st PA Reserve Volunteer Corps during his annual Civil War Ball held March 21 in the Capitol Rotunda. The ball supports the Pennsylvania Gettysburg Monuments Project founded in 1997 by Readshaw. This event supports the Pennsylvania unit monuments honoring and erected by Pennsylvanians, including the monument for the Pittsburgh Division.



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I thought the snow would never be gone, but it finally is history. Now the barbeque season is right around the corner and I can go back to my traditional begging by the grill while Harry flips the burgers.

I'm not alone in that tactic, as canines across the commonwealth, and a few felines too, adopt the strategy in hopes of a missed flip or other handout.

But you know, try as we may, dogs and cats shouldn't be the automatic recipients of just any food on the picnic table. There are lots of goodies that are great for humans but are potentially dangerous for us four-legged moochers.

Peanut, a younger cousin of mine, comes over when Harry's granddaughters visit. Not only does he get some scratch-behind-the-ears time with Harry, but a few lessons in the art of scrap-begging from me.

Many years ago, even before Harry was born, our dog and cat ancestors

were out hunting for meat – good ol' protein. You ever hear about a pack of wolves grazing on grass or a herd of cats sitting around chewing their cud? Nope.

Number one on the no-no list is chocolate. Chocolate can cause all kinds of havoc, especially dark and baking chocolate, but even milk chocolate can cause heart problems, seizures and digestive disaster that can be fatal.

Grapes and raisins in any quantity can prompt kidney failure.

If you're going to toss Fido or Tabby a bit of burger, make sure there's no onion or garlic in or on it. Cooked or not, onions and garlic can destroy your pet's red blood cells, leading to breathing problems. Even powdered onion and garlic are hazardous ... Make sure there's none in any food you give your dog or cat.

Same with avocados in any form. They can give Spot and Fluffy digestive problems you don't even want to think of. Cats can contract severe digestive problems from only a small bit of tomato.

The caffeine in coffee, tea and other drinks can be dangerous for one of us to lap up, and if we're given beer, wine or booze, that's an invitation to alcohol poisoning. The hops in malt beverages are not pet-friendly either.

At a picnic or anytime, don't let our paws get hold of gum (already chewed

or not), candy or other treats that contain the artificial sweetener Xylitol. Depending on your pet's size, even a small amount, just a stick of gum or two, can cause brain damage and liver failure and send us to the pet cemetery in just 24 hours.

Time for me to give Peanut his next begging lesson; the art of combining a waving paw with sad eyes.

You can find more details about hazardous foods for dogs at cats at www.asPCA.org/pet-care.



Peanut makes Rep. Readshaw feel good by allowing him to rub her head.