

Did You Know?

You don't have to stick with one electricity supplier, or settle for an offer someone sells door-to-door. There's a much simpler way to shop for your electricity and compare rates from the state's Public Utility Commission.

Much like travel sites that allow you to compare prices and shop for the best deals, www.papowerswitch.com is fast and simple to use. All you need to do is enter your ZIP code and all of the available suppliers and their rates are provided along with details about the plans and options to sign up and/or switch.



Free notary service at my district office

You can have most official documents notarized for free in my district office. Please call ahead to make sure the notary is in the office and can accommodate your type of document. The person whose signature is to be notarized must sign the document in person, in the presence of the notary, and provide proof of identity such as a valid driver's license, photo ID card, or passport.

Please let my staff know if witnesses are needed, in addition to the notary, for your documents.

Volunteer background check update

There has been a lot of confusion about how the child protective services laws are affecting schools, organizations and, especially, their volunteers.

Below is a brief summary of the regulations, as well as the necessary links for the required clearances:

If you are a new volunteer, you must have your clearances before you begin. Volunteers and employees who work with children need up to three separate clearances:

- Pennsylvania State Police criminal report

The police report can be ordered online at <https://epatch.state.pa.us>.

- Child Abuse History Clearance

The clearance can be ordered from the Department of Human Services at <http://bit.ly/ClearanceForm>.

Volunteers will have their state application fees waived.

An FBI fingerprint criminal history report is also required if the volunteer position is paid and the volunteer has lived outside of Pennsylvania some time during the previous 10 years. The FBI application can be accessed at <http://bit.ly/FBIPrints>.

Unfortunately, the state has no control over the cost of the FBI check, which is currently \$27.50.

More information is available at the website www.keepkidssafe.pa.gov.

PUC offers guide on filing complaints

If you ever run into an issue with a utility and need to file a complaint, it can be tricky. The Public Utility Commission has resources that can assist you.

The Consumer Complaint Procedures Guide provides information on the complaint process, including the differences between formal and informal complaints.

You can also review or download the quick reference sheet, "Know the PUC Complaint Process and Your Options."

Both guides are available at <http://bit.ly/PUCComplaints>.

You can also search for other complaints filed against utilities by clicking on the consumer info header at www.puc.pa.gov.

My office staff can also assist you with any specific problems you may have with a utility company.



Rep. Readshaw presents a citation to Robert D. Burke as the Brentwood VFW Post 1810 2017 Man of the Year. A Vietnam veteran, he served in the 18th Engineer Brigade, 46th Engineer Battalion. Burke has been active in a variety of local veterans groups and events.

Around the community

PA 2-1-1 assists Pennsylvania veterans

Pennsylvania 2-1-1 is an easy-to-remember phone number and web resource that connects you to help with health and human services questions and emergencies.

Calling 2-1-1 can direct veterans to help with food assistance, health services and other benefits.

When you contact 2-1-1, a trained resource navigator can discuss your issues and offer impartial and confidential advice and referrals throughout the state, to resources both public and private.

We are very fortunate that the Southwest 2-1-1 call center has a veteran on staff. Having a veteran who may have experienced the same issues previously can make the answers even more valuable.

For many of Pennsylvania's 800,000 veterans, transitioning from a military life to a civilian life can reveal unexpected issues, including depression and PTSD.

More than 5 percent of our veterans are living in poverty and 5.6 percent of our veterans are unemployed. 2-1-1 can direct veterans to employment training programs, tax preparation assistance and help paying for utilities.

Last year, more than 8,000 veterans received referrals through the 2-1-1 system.

If you are a veteran or a family member of a veteran with questions, you can start by calling 2-1-1 or visiting the local website <http://PA211sw.org>.

Brentwood banners honor those killed in action



Brentwood has unveiled new street banners recognizing three local residents who were killed in military service: Clark Peden, Thomas Mitchell and Robert Wagner. Joining Rep. Readshaw at the dedication were, from left, Mayor Dennis Troy, Councilman A.J. Doyle and Council President John Frombach.



Rep. Readshaw presents a citation recognizing the 90th birthday of John O'Keefe. O'Keefe was born on March 4, 1927 and served the community as a member of the Pittsburgh police force, rising to the rank of sergeant and serving as president of his Fraternal Order of Police Lodge No. 1. He is the father of four and also has three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Congratulations, John – and thank you for your service to our community.

National Police Week resolution unanimously adopted by House

My colleagues and I unanimously approved H.R. 16, which recognized the week of May 14-20 as "National Police Week" in Pennsylvania. May 15 was highlighted as "Peace Officer's Memorial Day" in the commonwealth. Remember to thank your local police when you see them working to protect all of us!

Budget Funding Opioid Treatment

Tragically, 10 people die every day in Pennsylvania from drug overdoses. I support the governor's efforts to combat heroin and opioid addiction by expanding access to treatment and supportive programs.

The governor's proposed 2017-18 budget includes \$13.4 million in new investments, as well as continued supports. The proposal would expand access to naloxone to first responders and law enforcement, and fund specialized drug courts to divert offenders into more effective treatment and recovery.

The governor's budget plan continues to support Centers of Excellence across the state that help coordinate treatment for people suffering from substance addiction.

A number of key laws aimed at fighting opioid abuse were enacted last year, including:

Act 123 - Authorizes state and federal agencies and health care facilities to serve as drop-off locations for unused, unwanted and unexpired drugs;

Act 124 - Requires prescribers to register with the Pennsylvania Prescription Drug Monitoring Program and check the database each time they prescribe opioids or certain other drugs to patients;

Act 125 - Limits opioid prescriptions for minors and in hospital emergency rooms; and

Act 126 - Requires continuing education for current doctors and training for new health care professionals on safe opioid prescribing and addiction treatment.