



State Representative

Perry Warren

31st Legislative District

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WINTER 2018

Dear Neighbor,

The final weeks of the 2017-2018 legislative session were a flurry of activity, as the General Assembly passed and the Governor signed nearly one hundred new bills into law. Among the noteworthy new laws are the Donate Life bill, the Timothy J. Piazza Anti-hazing Law, the PA Business One-Stop Shop Act, a law requiring mandatory relinquishment of firearms for a conviction of domestic violence, a safe harbor law for sexually exploited children, and a version of a bill I co-authored to steepen domestic violence charges when the crime is committed in the presence of a minor. Many of the other new laws streamline government services.

On the home front, the long-awaited paving of Yardley's Main Street is complete, and the PLCB opened a new Fine Wine and Spirits Shop in the borough. The Morrisville Municipal Authority was awarded grants of \$1 million and \$180,625 to improve sewer and water services and contain costs for its customers in Morrisville, Lower Makefield and Yardley, while Lower Makefield received a grant for a pump station. Newtown will have new emergency services vehicles, and Newtown Borough cut the ribbon on the Newtown Common project. All three of our public school districts – Council Rock, Morrisville and Pennsbury – received school safety grants.

And we continue to acknowledge and celebrate the remarkable achievements of our residents, some of which are described in this newsletter.

As this legislative term comes to an end, I am honored and excited to have been elected to serve a second term as your state representative. My legislative staff and I will continue to work for you. Please call, write or email us or stop by my legislative district office to share your thoughts or if we can help with any state service or program. Thank you, and we are looking forward to a great 2019!

Sincerely,

Lower Makefield resident and World War II veteran Maj. Tom Rossi celebrated his 99th birthday on Oct. 22. I was pleased to help mark the occasion by presenting him with a citation from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.



Breast cancer, diabetes spotlight need to protect health care access

I recently supported a House resolution recognizing October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month in Pennsylvania. Breast cancer – like all forms of cancer – is a big part of why I am fighting to ensure that pre-existing conditions are covered in health care plans offered to Pennsylvanians.

The PA Breast Cancer Coalition has reported that 52 million people in the U.S. under 65 years of age have a pre-existing condition, including 5.4 million Pennsylvanians. About 140,000 people in Pennsylvania are breast cancer survivors.

Another disease that can raise premiums or preclude a person from quality health care coverage is diabetes. In November, the House of Representatives unanimously passed another resolution recognizing November as National Diabetes Month. According to the CDC, more than 100 million Americans are living with diabetes or prediabetes.

I will continue to advocate for pre-existing-condition health care coverage in the coming term.

Donate Life bill passage celebrated

In October, I presented Lower Makefield resident Bill Soloway with a citation recognizing his winning a gold and three bronze medals at the 2018 Transplant Games of America in Salt Lake City, Utah.

That week, the House passed a new organ donation law to streamline transplants

for the more than 8,400 Pennsylvanians waiting for one.

When the House passed the Donate Life bill, Bill presented me and my wife, Liz, with a Donor Medal, as an organ donor family, on the 20th anniversary of the loss of our son Peter.

You can become an organ donor by making a

designation at a PennDOT Photo License Center when you have your photo taken for a driver's license or ID card. Those under the age of 18 are required to have the consent of a parent or guardian.

You can also register online to become an organ donor at <https://is.gd/PAOrganDonation>.



Happy Canal-O-Ween!

Yardley Borough's 10th annual Canal-O-Ween featured over 300 intricately carved pumpkins, and I didn't miss the chance to check out this giant pumpkin. The event takes place in October along the Delaware Canal Towpath, leading north from the East Afton Avenue Bridge to the end of the paved road.



My rookie card! I never got to play in the major leagues, but I did get to play in the bicameral, bipartisan Capitol All-Star Softball Game at Harrisburg's FNB Field in October. Proceeds from the annual game benefit Hunger-Free Pennsylvania.

Protections for cats and dogs left in vehicles

A new law gives authorities more power to assist dogs or cats left unattended in vehicles. Now police officers, humane officers, animal control officers or other public safety professionals will not be held liable for damage for breaking into an unattended vehicle to remove a dog or cat if they believe the animal is in imminent danger and after a reasonable search for the vehicle owner.

Existing law had already allowed authorities to enter real property to help a neglected animal.

If you see a dog or cat in distress, please call 911.

New law provides more guardianship rights for relatives

A new Pennsylvania law allows courts to grant temporary guardianship to grandparents, aunts and uncles, or adult siblings of a minor child when the child's parents are not able to care for them due to entering drug or alcohol treatment. Guardianship would be granted in 90-day increments for up to one year.

Temporary guardianship gives the relative the right to make vital, basic decisions for the child relating to, for example, medical care or education.

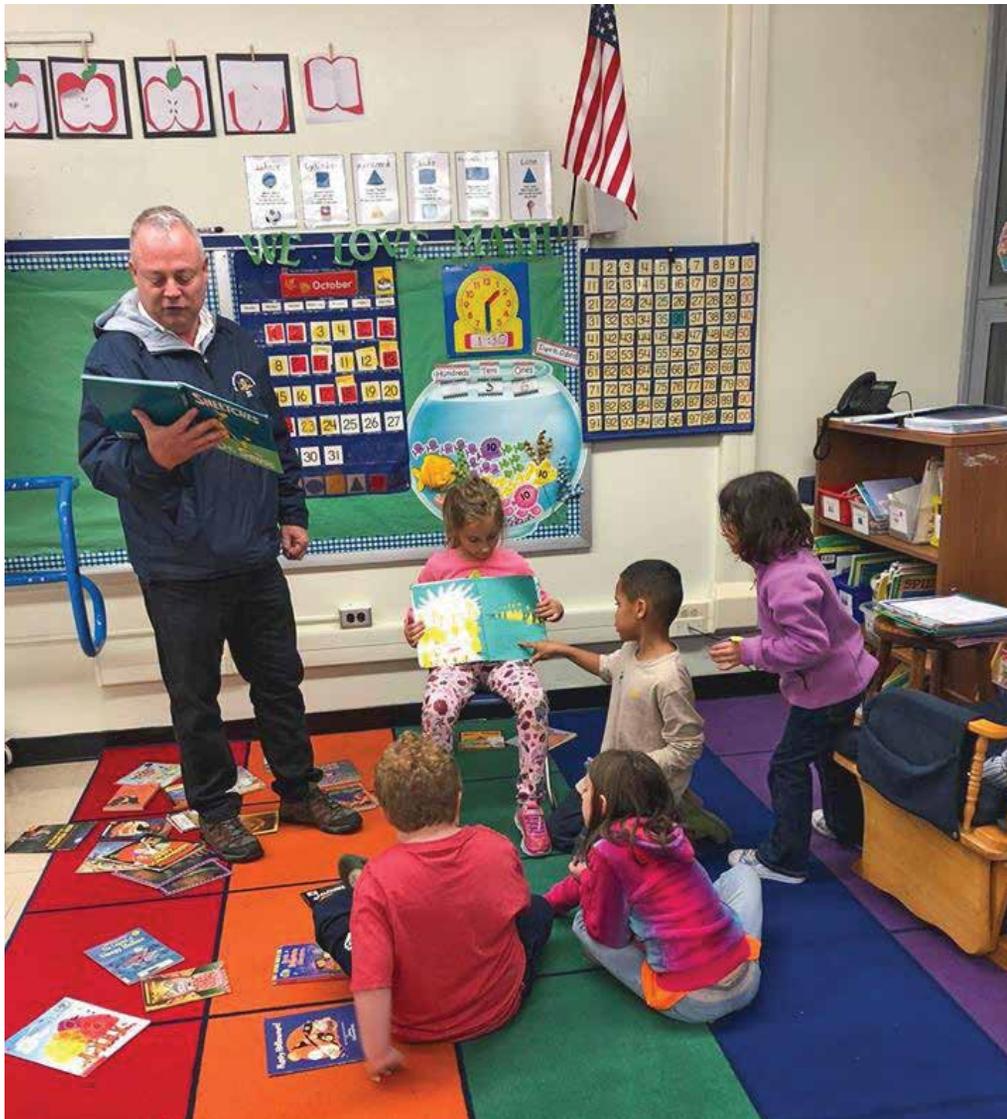
The parents would also have the option to designate temporary guardians. This law protects long-term parental rights, while considering the needs of the child to be with loving family members rather than in foster care or another arrangement.

Morrisville Municipal Authority state grants

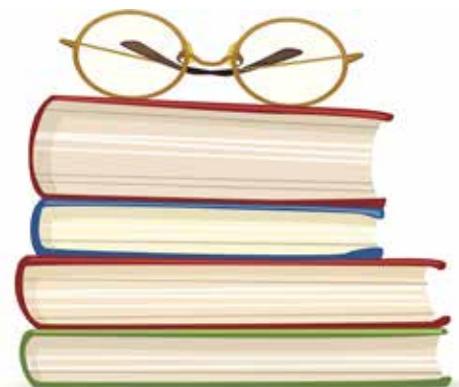
The Morrisville Municipal Authority will be implementing improvements thanks to two state grants. I worked with MMA officials and Governor Tom Wolf in helping MMA earn a grant of \$180,625 to replace deteriorating water mains, fire hydrants and service lines, and a Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program grant of \$1 million for MMA sewer treatment plant upgrades.

The state grants will improve service and contain water and sewer costs for MMA customers in Morrisville, Yardley and Lower Makefield.

“It’s not easy to get CFA approval for projects. You’ve got to pay attention to many small details and make sure an application is justifiable and complete,” said House Democratic Leader Frank Dermody. “Perry Warren mastered the process and is using it for the benefit of everyone he represents in Bucks County.”



Dr. Seuss’ “Sneetches” was the book of choice as I participated in Family Literacy Night at Morrisville’s Grandview Elementary School on Oct. 25. I read one copy, while my helpful page-turner turned the pages on the other copy so the students could see the illustrations. The 21st Century Community Learning Centers sponsored the program in partnership with Cops ‘N’ Kids and the School District of Borough of Morrisville.



Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County dedicated its latest project and welcomed a family to their new home in Morrisville. Good job by all involved and thank you to all the many dedicated volunteers!



Safety grant for local schools

Morrisville School District was awarded a \$25,000 school safety grant from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency in October.

The funding comes through Act 44, a law adopted over the summer that created a School Safety and Security Committee within PCCD.

I voted to support the creation of this grant program, because keeping our children safe is the most important responsibility we have. Students and staff deserve to feel safe at school, and I'm pleased that Morrisville took steps to bring this funding to its schools and enhance its security programs.



Seniors ride for free with SEPTA Key



Seniors 65 and older are now eligible to travel for free on all SEPTA service lines within Pennsylvania. A half-fare discount for travel to and from New Jersey and Delaware remains in effect.

Seniors must now obtain a SEPTA Key Senior ID Card to ride for free. However, valid PA driver's licenses and non-driver ID cards issued before July 2017 will still be accepted until they need to be renewed.

My district office can process applications and take photos for SEPTA Key Senior ID Cards. Applicants must present

a form of identification with a date of birth on it, such as a Pennsylvania driver's license or non-driver ID, U.S. Passport or birth certificate.

SEPTA Key Senior ID Cards can also be obtained while you wait on weekdays at SEPTA Headquarters at 1234 Market St. from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and the SEPTA Accessible Travel Center at Suburban Station in Center City from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

More information about the SEPTA Key Senior ID Card is available at:

www.septa.org/fares/discount/seniors-ride-free-info.html.

Rebates available for alternative fuel vehicles



Pennsylvania's Alternative Fuel Vehicle Rebate Program provides rebates of up to \$2,000 for electric, electric hybrids, and hydrogen vehicles and \$1,000 for CNG and propane vehicles.

Only Pennsylvania residents are eligible. The vehicle must be registered in Pennsylvania, purchased no more than six months before the rebate application is submitted, be new or leased, and have an odometer reading of 500 miles or less at the time of purchase. Vehicle purchase price limitations exist.

An additional \$500 rebate is available for applicants with household income below 200 percent of the Federal poverty income level.

Flexible fuel, diesel, and standard hybrid vehicles are not eligible for a rebate.

Rebates will be awarded on a first-come first-served basis as long as funding is available.

Applications must be submitted through the PA Department of Environmental Protection's website at <https://bit.ly/2DfBvuU>. For assistance, call 1-866-294-3854 or email epafinfo@pa.gov.

Examining emergency services

Thank you to everyone who joined me for my public hearing on emergency services and their important relationship with state government.

Co-hosted with former Pittsburgh Chief of Police and state Rep. Dom Costa, the House Democratic Policy Committee met at the Yardley-Makefield Fire Company Station 80 on Sept. 20. We discussed the drastic need for volunteers and the importance of state programs that provide vital funding assistance to local emergency services.

The hearing highlighted how important state funding is for our first responders and the need to bolster recruitment and support for the volunteers who protect us daily across the commonwealth.

Many fire stations in Pennsylvania rely on volunteer firefighters. It is vital to the public's safety that we help these departments attract, train and retain more volunteers.

The committee heard testimony from Dylan Ferguson, director of the Bureau of Emergency Medical Services, Pennsylvania Department of Health; Evan Resnikoff, president, Newtown Ambulance Squad; Larry Newman, president, Yardley-Makefield Fire Co.; and Glenn Forsyth, fire chief, Newtown Township Emergency Services Department.

New laws to address drug abuse

Pennsylvania recently passed two more laws to address addiction, particularly to opioids and heroin.

The first law mandates that physicians electronically transmit opioid and certain other narcotic prescriptions to pharmacies. This requirement will help prevent a person from altering a paper script to improperly obtain narcotics.

The second law creates a new summary offense for selling over-the-counter cough medicines containing dextromethorphan (DXM), such as Robitussin and NyQuil, to a minor.



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INSIDE:

- Keeping students safe
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- New laws to address drug abuse

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PACENET program expanded



More seniors will be eligible for PACENET because of a new law that increased income eligibility limits.

The total income limit for a qualifying single individual is now \$27,500, and the total

combined income limit for a qualifying married couple is now \$35,500.

The PACENET program provides low-cost prescription drugs to Pennsylvanians 65 or older.

To apply for PACENET, visit: PACEcares.magellanhealth.com or call 1-800-225-7223. My office also can help you with the application process.

Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program deadline approaches

The application deadline for the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program is Dec. 31. This program provides a rebate on 2017 property taxes or rent to eligible residents who are 65 or older; widows and widowers 50 or older; and people with disabilities 18 or older. To be eligible, your household income must be \$35,000 or less if you are a homeowner, or \$15,000 or less if you are a renter.

When applying, you only have to count half of your Social Security or federal railroad retirement Tier I benefits toward your total income.

You can obtain an application in my office or download the form by going to www.revenue.pa.gov, clicking on "Forms for Individuals" under the "Forms and Publications" button on the top of the page. My office can help you apply.