



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.

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.

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.

VFW Post 6393 and Boy Scout Troop 29

VFW Post 6393 and Boy Scout Troop 29 worked well together as the two community organizations held a dedication ceremony for Anthony Cappetta's Eagle Scout project – a Global War on Terrorism Memorial. Look for the memorial on the front lawn of VFW Post 6393 at 1444 Yardley-Newtown Road.



Honoring local Destination Imagination winners in Capitol



Four Pennsbury High School juniors – Nick Franchi, Tommy Kraeck, Leah Stoogenke and Regan Stump – joined Council Rock South sophomore Fran Miller, and Maya Stoogenke from Pennsbury's William Penn Middle School, to form Destination Imagination Team et cetera. The team, coached by Scott Stoogenke, competed in a global competition in Knoxville, Tennessee. The team competed in the Service Learning challenge and created an eight-minute musical presentation and wrote, illustrated and published a children's book for their project.

The book, titled "Maggie's Box," is about a girl who discovers that by thinking outside the box, she can do anything.

The team placed 12th out of 70 teams in the Service Learning category and second out of 70 teams on the core portion of the project: the musical and the book.



Main Street repaving

I'm pleased to announce that the Main Street repaving project in Yardley and Lower Makefield Township is complete.

Under this improvement project, PennDOT milled the existing roadway surface and repaved with new asphalt. The new pavement will seal the roadways and provide motorists with a smoother riding surface.

Fortune 500 Company relocates to Lower Makefield

I was pleased to work with my colleague Rep. Frank Farry R-Langhorne, Governor Tom Wolf and Lower Makefield Township Supervisors Kristin Tyler and John Lewis to help bring Crown Holdings (aka Crown Cork and Seal) to Lower Makefield. The Fortune 500 Company relocated its corporate headquarters and 250 jobs to the Lower Makefield Corporate Center. Crown Holdings released the following statement.

"Representatives Frank Farry and Perry Warren led the bipartisan letter to Governor Wolf advocating that Crown Cork move our corporate headquarters to Bucks County," Their commitment to our success in Bucks County has been impressive and appreciated. We are proud to make their communities our new home as we transfer our 250 employees to Bucks County."

DiPrato honored for Year of the Pennsylvania Woman



I honored Heather DiPrato of Yardley during a Capitol ceremony marking 2018 as the Year of the Pennsylvania Woman.

A Bucks County native, Heather is the co-founder and publisher of Yardley Living and Newtown Neighbors. Prior to launching those publications, she rose from an entry-level position to become a senior vice president in a 25-year

marketing career. She graduated from Neshaminy High School and attended Bucks County Community College.

Heather serves as president of the Yardley Business Association, helping local businesses create effective campaigns to increase awareness, visibility and word-of-mouth growth. She's also a member of the Yardley Harvest Day Committee and the Development Committee for Potential Inc. of Newtown, a non-profit organization that helps people with autism, such as her son, to realize their full potential.

According to the National Women's Business Council, women-owned businesses across the nation generated \$1.4 trillion in receipts and now represent some 38 percent of all U.S. businesses.

The Year of the Pennsylvania Woman was created by a House resolution that I co-sponsored this session. The resolution focuses on the positive acts and accomplishments of women who have made a difference and who strive for success.

Pitch Hit & Run

Pennsbury High School student Callan Fang won first place in the 2018 MLB Pitch, Hit & Run competition during All-Star week at Nationals Park. He and his family joined me in the district office, where I presented him with a citation from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.



Keeping students safe

Pennsbury 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 I voted for to create a School Safety and Security Committee within PCCD. I supported the creation of this program because keeping our children safe is the most important responsibility we have.

Pennsbury also received a \$19,969 Safe Schools Targeted Grant from the state Department of Education. The award follows the release of the Pennsylvania School Safety Task Force Report, which was commissioned by Gov. Wolf and Auditor General Eugene DePasquale following the high school shooting in Parkland, Florida.

Students and staff deserve to feel safe at school, and I'm pleased that Pennsbury took steps to bring this funding to its schools and enhance their security programs.

Yardley SEPTA station improvements completed

I was proud to be on hand to mark the completion of the Yardley SEPTA Station improvement project.

The \$5 million Yardley Station Improvement Project was part of SEPTA's Rebuilding the System program. To make Yardley Station fully accessible, SEPTA installed a high-level boarding platform that replaced the former lower level platform. The new high-level platform makes berthing a six-car train at the station possible, allowing for more efficient train operations. In addition to the new high-level platform, the work included a complete renewal of station facilities adding ADA compliant ramps and stairs, two new weather-protected shelters and overall signage, lighting, and site accessory upgrades.

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 epafiginfo@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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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.