

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

STEVE McCARTER

SERVING THE 154TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

CHELTENHAM TOWNSHIP, SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP AND JENKINTOWN BOROUGH



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Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Among the countless ways the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted our daily lives is its relentless wrecking of planned events, including concerts, sporting events, in-person meetings, weddings and other celebrations and gatherings.

One of my favorite events every year since 2013 is our annual Senior Fair. Sadly, but not unexpectedly because of the coronavirus, there will be no "eighth annual" Senior Fair this year.

It might pale in comparison to the in-person fun we have at our Senior Fair, but this newsletter was specifically prepared for the seniors in the 154th Legislative District. In it, I will highlight various programs, opportunities and updates beneficial for our older population.

The Senior Fair last year welcomed nearly 100 exhibitors – including representatives from federal, state, county and local agencies, as well as non-government exhibitors – and while we cannot recreate such a scene in these pages, I hope you still find the information useful.

Stay safe and stay well, and I hope you enjoy some photos from last year's Senior Fair included throughout this newsletter.

Sincerely,

Steve McCarter

Supporting our Local Food Banks

In these uncertain times, it's critical to remember issues such as food insecurity. Fortunately, our district features a number of wonderful food cupboards. Whether you're in a position to donate, or if you're in need of assistance, I wanted to highlight some of those organizations. If you're able to donate, please consider reaching out to the food cupboards first to find out about specific needs and instructions.

Beth Sholom Congregation Mitzvah Food Pantry

8231 Old York Road
Elkins Park, PA 17027
(215) 887-1342

Inter-Faith Food Cupboard at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

1250 Easton Road
Roslyn, PA 19001
(267) 318-0607

Jenkintown Food Cupboard/Loves and Fishes

328 Summit Ave.
Jenkintown, PA 19046
(215) 274-5720

Lamott AME Church Food Cupboard

1505 W. Cheltenham Ave.
Elkins Park, PA 19027
(215) 782-1165

Mattie Dixon Community Cupboard

150 N. Main St., P.O. Box 367
Ambler, PA 17002
(215) 628-3002



Please remember to wear your mask and maintain safe social distancing when out in public!

Renter and Homeowner Aid is Available

Renters and homeowners who were financially impacted by the economic slowdown related to the coronavirus pandemic can access applications from the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency's website at www.PHFA.org.

Homeowners who became unemployed after March 1 or who suffered at least a 30% reduction in annual income due to reduced work hours and wages related to COVID-19 may be eligible for financial assistance to help with missed mortgage payments. To qualify for the Pandemic Mortgage Assistance Program, the applicant must be an owner-occupant of their residence, the dwelling must consist of one or two separate units, the mortgage must be at least 30 days delinquent, and the applicant-homeowner's annual household income must not exceed the Area Median Income for their county of residence adjusted for the number of people in their home.

For renters to be eligible for financial assistance under the CARES Rent Relief Program, they will need to document at least a 30% reduction in annual income since March 1 related to COVID-19, or they must have become unemployed after March 1. If unemployed, they must have filed for Unemployment Compensation. Their household income cannot exceed the Area Median Income for their county of residence adjusted for the number of people in their home.



Property Tax/Rent Rebates Arriving Early to Help Seniors

This spring, Governor Tom Wolf and Treasurer Joe Torsella announced that many older homeowners, renters and people with disabilities could begin receiving early rebates through the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program. The governor signed H.B. 1076 to authorize the early distribution.

It was a commonsense solution to give older and

vulnerable residents their rebates earlier than normal, as the COVID-19 pandemic forced the need for quicker financial support.

However, for those who have not yet applied for the Property Tax/Rent Rebate program, there is still time. The deadline to submit applications, delayed by the coronavirus, is now Dec. 31, 2020.



For eligible applicants who haven't yet filed their application, the Department of Revenue is available to help. Claimants are encouraged to call 1-888-222-9190 for guidance. Claim forms and related information are available by visiting www.revenue.pa.gov and searching "Property Tax Rent Rebate Forms."

The rebate program benefits eligible Pennsylvanians age 65 and older; widows and widowers age 50 and older; and people with disabilities age 18 and older. The income limit is \$35,000 a year for homeowners and \$15,000 annually for renters, and half of Social Security income is excluded.

On the Lookout for COVID-19 Scams

The COVID-19 pandemic has unleashed a fresh batch of fraudsters hoping to turn a crisis into opportunity. Many scams target older Americans, so I wanted you to be aware of some of these scams:

- **Fake Cure & Vaccine Scams:** There is no cure for COVID-19, so if you encounter somebody promising a cure or a vaccine – especially if somebody contacts you directly with a sales pitch – report the incident. And be cognizant of phishing emails from entities posing as the CDC or World Health Organization. Those organizations do not reach out to random citizens.
- **Imposter Scams:** If somebody calls or texts offering free masks, gloves or hand sanitizer, and they ask for your social security or Medicare identification numbers, it's an attempted swindle. No legitimate government organization will call, text or show up at your door asking for your Medicare or social security number. Do NOT share this information. Nor should you share your debit card or other banking information in response to unsolicited requests. Similarly, be wary of calls or emails from anybody claiming to be from the IRS or Treasury. The IRS's first form of communication is mail, not telephone. Report this type of suspicious activity.



Regardless of age, if you suspect fraud or believe that you're being scammed, call the National Center for Disaster Fraud at (866) 720-5721. If the intended victim is a senior, you should also call the National Elder Fraud Hotline at (833) FRAUD-11.

A Virtual Senior Fair

“Scenes from our 2019 Senior Fair. I am most certainly going to miss it this summer. Thank you, all, for participating over the years!”



As mentioned on the front page of this newsletter, our annual Senior Fair is a no-go this year. But that doesn't mean I can't include a shout-out to some of the many wonderful agencies that have usually participated in past fairs. This list is in addition to fine folks such as U.S. Sen. Bob Casey, U.S. Congresswoman Madeleine Dean and state Sen. Art Haywood.

Even though we aren't able to gather this year, I thank these public agencies for their contributions to our aging community, and I encourage all to use their services as needed.

1. Cheltenham Township Adult School
2. Cheltenham Township E.M.S
3. Cheltenham Township Fire Department
4. Cheltenham Township Library System
5. Cheltenham Township Police Department
6. Cheltenham Township Tax Office
7. Cheltenham Township NAACP
8. Montco Aging and Adult Services
9. Montco Assistance Office
10. Montco Board of Assessment Appeals
11. Montco Community College
12. Montco District Attorney
13. Montco Drug & Alcohol Office
14. Montco Prothonotary
15. Montco Recorder of Deeds
16. Montco Register of Wills
17. Montco Sheriff's Office
18. Montco SPCA
19. Montco Treasurer's Office
20. Montco Veterans Affairs
21. Montco Voter Services
22. PA. Office of Attorney
23. PA Careerlink Montco
24. PECO
25. PennDot
26. Springfield Township Police
27. Social Security Tax Office
28. US Census Bureau

Don't Forget Flu Vaccinations

In this year of the COVID-19 pandemic, it's important to remember to get your annual influenza vaccination! We believe that vaccines will be available as early as August this year.

My staff is working with the county on setting up flu vaccinations. Please regularly check my website and social media accounts to see when opportunities will be made available for receiving your annual shot.

We can't emphasize enough how important it will be to get your flu shot as early as possible this year!



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STAY IN TOUCH!!

If you have questions or concerns, please email me at RepMcCarter@pahouse.net. If you would like to receive regular email updates from me on state government action, visit www.RepMcCarter.com and click "Contact Me." You can also "like" my Facebook page at www.facebook.com/RepMcCarter or follow me on Twitter @RepMcCarter.

SEPTA Senior Key Cards Renewal Reminder

With the hope that we'll all be back riding the trains in the near future, I wanted to give a reminder to seniors that, before this pandemic, Senior SEPTA Key Cards that expired or are set to expire in 2020 will continue to be valid into 2021.

The extension applies to all Senior Key Cards and lasts one (1) year. So, if your card expired in May 2020, it will continue to be valid through May 2021.

SEPTA has said it will continue to send letters to all current Senior Cardholders with cards expiring in 2020, informing of the one-year extension and offering options for renewal. If you choose to renew your cards now, SEPTA asks that you do so within 60 days of receiving the notification letter.

Replacement of lost cards: To replace a lost or stolen SEPTA Key Senior Card, you must immediately call the Key Customer Call Center at 855-567-3782 (this is not SEPTA Customer Service). The representative will provide information on how to replace the card.

DIY
HOMEMADE MASKS

YOU'LL NEED

- RULER**
- FABRIC** (100% cotton works best)
- SCISSORS**
- NEEDLE & THREAD** (or a sewing machine)
- FABRIC TIES (2)** (ribbons, hair ties, strips of fabric — anything to secure the mask behind your ears)

INSTRUCTIONS

- 1 Measure and cut 2 pieces of fabric**
6" x 12" and 6" x 12"
- 2 Tightly sew both layers of fabric together on all edges**
- 3 Cut fabric ties to fit around the ears**
- 4 Sew the ties to the inside of the mask**

Then, re sew to ensure a tight fit

#MaskUpPA PA #COVID19