

GREG VITALI

STATE REPRESENTATIVE — 166TH DISTRICT

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LEGISLATIVE REPORT

JULY 2020

GREG VITALI

STATE REPRESENTATIVE — 166TH DISTRICT

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REAL ID Enforcement Deadline Extended to October 2021

The deadline to obtain a REAL ID-compliant driver's license or ID card has been extended one year to October 1, 2021. At that time, a REAL ID-compliant driver's license or ID card, or a U.S. Passport or Military ID, will be necessary to board a domestic commercial flight or enter a secure federal facility. This extension is in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

PennDOT is not currently issuing REAL ID-compliant

driver's license or ID cards. If your license is expiring, you should obtain a regular driver's license or ID card. When REAL IDs become available again, you can choose to upgrade to a REAL ID-compliant driver's license or ID card. There is no requirement that any resident obtain a REAL ID.

More information for REAL ID can be found at www.dmv.pa.gov/REALID/.

Spotted Lanternflies Return

The spotted lanternfly, an invasive insect relatively new to the area, has re-emerged this summer. Here are some things you can do to control them.

Adult and nymph spotted lanternflies are prevalent now. Nymphs (which are newly hatched spotted lanternflies) and adults can be found on any plant. However, adults prefer the tree of heaven.

If you find either a nymph or adult spotted lanternfly kill them and place them in a sealed bag and put it in the trash. Alternatively, insecticides can be used directly on spotted lanternflies or any surfaces where they feed and walk.

You can also limit the number of adult spotted lanternflies by removing their preferred host, the tree of heaven, from your yard. It is recommended that you apply herbicide to any remaining tree of heaven stumps.

In addition, while sticky bands are an effective means of control for nymphs, circle traps are better for catching adult spotted lanternflies. These traps also prevent other animals from getting caught. The circle trap is made of mesh and wraps completely around the tree.

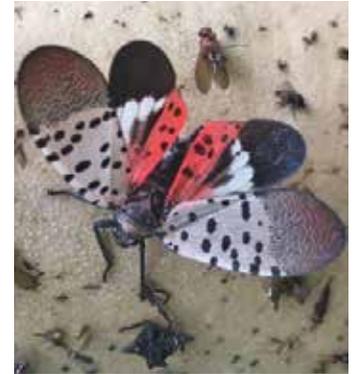
The mesh leads them into a collection bag. The bag can be replaced as it fills.

You can make your own circle trap by following instructions found at <https://extension.psu.edu/how-to-build-a-new-style-spotted-lanternfly-circle-trap>.

If you see a spotted lanternfly or egg mass, please report it online at <https://services.agriculture.pa.gov/SLFReport/> or via phone by calling 1-888-4BADFLY.



Nymph



Adult

Unemployment Compensation Benefits Expanded

The Unemployment Compensation (UC) system has been expanded to help those who have lost work due to the pandemic. This includes the creation of the Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) and Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) programs.

PEUC supplements the standard 26 weeks of Unemployment Compensation (UC), by providing an additional 13 weeks of benefits. If you have an open UC claim, the additional weeks will automatically be added to your existing claim. If your benefits have expired, then you must submit an application online at <https://www.paclaims.pa.gov/PEUC>.

PUA provides benefits for self-employed workers, independent contractors, gig workers, and others affected by COVID-19 who are not eligible for regular UC. To apply for PUA visit pua.benefits.uc.pa.gov/vosnet/.

If you encounter problems or issues with your UC claim call 1-888-313-7284 or email UChelp@pa.gov. If you encounter issues with your PUA claim call 1-855-284-8545 or email UCpua@pa.gov.

If issues persist, our office can help. Email us at RepVitali@pahouse.net or call us at (610) 789-3900 with details about your case.

State Could be Holding Your Unclaimed Property

The Pennsylvania Treasury is seeking the owners of more than \$3.5 billion in unclaimed property. One in 10 Pennsylvanians has money to claim that is legally theirs. Types of unclaimed property include checks from employers and utility companies, dividends and interest from savings accounts and stocks, and credit balances.

My office regularly checks the database for district residents to see if their names are listed, but you can conduct a search for yourself any time. Visit www.patreasury.gov to see if you have property with the state.

If you need help, my staff can help you search or claim something in your name.

Montgomery County Opens Free COVID-19 Testing Sites

Montgomery County has opened six COVID-19 walk up testing sites. The nearest site is in Ardmore at 114 W Lancaster Avenue (open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 4pm to 6pm; Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12pm to 2pm)

Testing is available to anyone for any reason. You do not need a doctor's referral or be exhibiting symptoms. There are no age or residency requirements.

Appointments for tests are required and can be made at www.montcopa.org/covid-19 or by calling (610) 970-2937.

When arriving, please bring your photo ID, your health insurance card (NOTE: everyone will be tested, regardless of your insurance coverage), and a printed or digital copy of your pre-registration form.

Note: These sites are outdoors and are subject to closure on short notice due to bad weather.

Medical Marijuana Dispensary Opens in Ardmore

Beyond/Hello, a medical marijuana dispensary, recently opened at 35 Cricket Ave. in Ardmore (directly across the street from One Ardmore Place).

Beyond/Hello joins nine other dispensaries in the region, including locations in Bryn Mawr, Plymouth Meeting and Malvern.

Pennsylvania law allows medical marijuana for

specific conditions including autism, anxiety disorders, inflammatory bowel disease, Crohn's disease, Tourette syndrome, cancer, epilepsy, intractable seizures, post-traumatic stress disorder and terminal illness.

For more information, including other dispensary locations, go to www.medicalmarijuana.pa.gov. Questions about the program can be emailed to RA-DHMedMarijuana@pa.gov.

New Program Helps Pay Summer Utility Bills

The newly established LIHEAP Recovery Crisis Program offers grants to help people having trouble paying utility bills due to COVID-19.

The program provides up to \$800 for households that have had their utility service shut off or are in jeopardy of being without utility service.

To qualify, an individual's income can be no greater

than \$18,735 (yearly). This limit increases by \$6,630 for each additional person in the household.

The LIHEAP Recovery Crisis program will run through August 31, 2020.

Applications may be completed by visiting www.compass.state.pa.us or by calling 1-877-395-8930.

Property Tax/Rent Deadline Extended

The Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program Deadline has been extended to December 31.

Applications for this program for taxes or rent paid in 2019 are available at my district office or online at www.revenue.pa.gov. The program provides rebates up to \$650 on rent or property tax paid by Pennsylvanians 65 or older, widows and widowers 50 or older, and people with disabilities 18 or older.

The income limit for applicants is \$35,000 a year for homeowners and \$15,000 annually for renters. Half of Social Security income and all Social Security cost-of living increases are excluded from income calculations.

Claimants must reapply for rebates every year because they are based on annual income and property taxes or rent paid each year. Spouses, personal representatives, or estates may file rebate applications on behalf of deceased claimants who lived at least one day in 2019.

My office can help complete and submit the application, as well as check on the status of it once it has been processed.

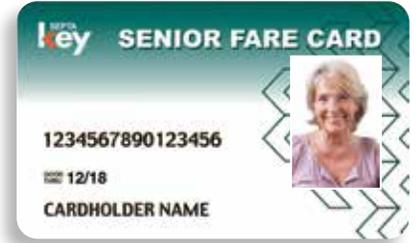
The state has begun mailing refund checks to those who have already filed. Check the status of your rebate at www.doreservices.state.pa.us/PITServices/WheresMyRebate or by calling 1-888-222-9190.

SEPTA Key Senior ID Card Expiration Extended

SEPTA Key Senior ID Cards allow seniors (65 years and older) to ride for free on all SEPTA service lines in Pennsylvania. The cards expire four years after issuance.

SEPTA is providing a one-year extension of all SEPTA Key Senior ID Cards expiring in 2020. Seniors with a card expiring in 2020 will be able to continue to ride SEPTA using their current card for 12 months beyond the printed date of expiration. For example, cards with a July 2020 expiration date will continue to be valid through July 2021.

My district office can help complete first-time applications and take photos for seniors who need a card. Bring 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. Please call (610) 789-3900 to schedule an appointment.



District Office Limited Reopening

My Havertown district office is now open and ready to serve you by appointment only.

Masks are required before entering the office and no more than two people will be allowed in the office at the same time.

The Ardmore Library Satellite will be closed until further notice.

Social Media Update

You can follow me on Facebook at [Facebook.com/RepVitali](https://www.facebook.com/RepVitali). There you will find updates from Harrisburg, district news, and other important state-related information.

You also can follow me on Twitter [@GregVitali](https://twitter.com/GregVitali).

Join My Email Update List

I maintain an email list for those who wish to receive periodic email updates about public meetings, traffic alerts, community events, state and local programs and services, and other items of interest to the community. To be added to that list, please email RepVitali@pahouse.net.

Turnpike Begins Toll by Plate Billing

The Pennsylvania Turnpike has suspended the use of cash for toll payments due to COVID -19

Non-E-Z Pass drivers will be billed through a new Toll by Plate system. High speed cameras at each tolling location will photograph a vehicle's license plate as it travels non-stop through payment lanes. An invoice will then be mailed to the owner of the vehicle. Drivers will be charged the cash toll rate.

The toll for a typical vehicle crossing the entire state is about \$53.50 with Toll by Plate. The E-Z Pass discounted toll for the same trip is about \$38.40.

For more information about E-Z Pass visit https://www.paturnpike.com/toll/ezpass_info.aspx. For more information about Toll by Plate visit <https://www.paturnpike.com/toll/tollbyplate.aspx>.

Free Notary Service

Most official documents can be notarized for free in my district office.

Examples of documents that my office is **not able to notarize** include car titles, wills, powers of attorney, and the Employment Eligibility Verification Form I-9.

Notary work is currently done by appointment only. Please call my office to schedule an appointment. The person whose signature is to be notarized must sign the document in person 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 for your documents.

My district office is on the second floor. If you are unable to climb stairs, please let us know when you call. Our notary can meet you on the ground floor.