

BRANDON MARKOSEK



FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS,

I hope you had a safe and enjoyable summer. Now that we're in the thick of fall, with the holidays around the corner, I want to reflect on all the positive things that have happened in the district. The pandemic has kept many people apart, so it was rewarding to reconnect with so many friendly faces and meet some new ones at various events around the district over the summer, especially at the shred event I hosted back in July.

There's a lot that's happened since my last newsletter that I am excited to share with you. I hope you find these updates helpful. As always, I am working for you in Harrisburg. Don't hesitate to reach out to my office with questions or assistance on any state-related matter.

Take care,

MY OFFICE IS OPEN

If you have a state-related issue that needs to be resolved, please don't hesitate to visit my office. We've adhered to CDC and state guidelines to safely keep my office doors open throughout the pandemic so that my staff and I could continue to serve you.

District Office:

Commerce Building
4232 Northern Pike
Suite 303
Monroeville, PA 15146
(412) 856-8284

STAY UP TO DATE ON HOW I'M WORKING FOR YOU.

FOLLOW ME:

@RepMarkosek
 RepMarkosek.com

GET VACCINATED AGAINST COVID-19 & THE FLU

It's possible for people to get the flu and COVID-19 at the same time, according to the state Department of Health. Reduce your risk of illnesses, hospitalization and death by getting both flu and COVID-19 vaccines to protect yourself and your community against both viruses.

- Find information about the flu and where to get the shot: [www.alleghenycounty.us/Health-Department/Health-Services/Infectious-Disease-Immunization-Program/Influenza-\(Flu\)-Information.aspx](http://www.alleghenycounty.us/Health-Department/Health-Services/Infectious-Disease-Immunization-Program/Influenza-(Flu)-Information.aspx)

The COVID-19 vaccine is a critical tool in our fight to put this health crisis behind us. It's safe and available to those 5 or older. Here is a list of resources to help you get vaccinated:

- Find COVID-19 vaccine sites near you at: Vaccines.gov: www.vaccines.gov/search/
Allegheny County Health Department: www.alleghenycounty.us/Health-Department/Resources/COVID-19/COVID-19.aspx
- Find information about COVID-19 booster vaccines at: www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Vaccine/Pages/Vaccine.aspx

PROPERTY TAX/RENT REBATE AVAILABLE

The Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program deadline has been extended to December 31, 2021.

You are eligible to apply if you are:

- Age 65 or older
- Under age 65, with a spouse aged 65 or older
- A widow/widower aged 50 to 64
- Permanently disabled and aged 18 to 64

Homeowners must have a household income of \$35,000 or less, and renters must have a household income of \$15,000 or less.

My office can find out if you're eligible and help you apply before the deadline.

If you have already filed your rebate and would like to know its status, please visit www.mypath.pa.gov, select "Where's My Rebate?" and enter the required information.



1. I was thrilled to be invited to the second anniversary celebration of The Connect Center in East Pittsburgh. Special thanks to all the volunteers and a shout-out to Nathaniel Carter for his work in creating this community-centered asset.



2. Thanks to the Bridge Educational Foundation for inviting me to the check presentation for its \$37,000 donation in scholarships for Allegheny County families.



3. I had the privilege of attending the open house ceremony for Recovery Centers of America's new location in Monroeville. This facility will be a great asset to our area.



4. It was my pleasure to attend the Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Dominic DiFuccia of Troop 220 in Monroeville. Dominic has dedicated himself to scouting and his community. He and his entire family should be extremely proud.



5. It was great to see many constituents and friends enjoying the annual Monroeville Jazz Festival.



6. I was invited to the 24th annual Plum Kick-Off soccer classic. I was glad to be joined by other local officials.





7. I had the opportunity to participate in the Pitcairn Hose Company #1 annual fireman's parade. I would like to thank the department for making this family-friendly event a huge success.

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8. I was happy to serve dessert and provide state information at the Monroeville Senior Citizen Hot Dog Roast.

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9. I was honored to attend and speak at the dedication of the Peace Pole at Monroeville Park. Special thanks to all who were involved in making this project come to fruition.

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10. It was great to see so many neighbors supporting their local first responders at Monroeville's National Night Out.



11. I had the opportunity to be a panelist, along with some of my colleagues in the PA House of Representatives, at the Mon Yough Area Chamber of Commerce legislative forum.

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JULY SHRED EVENT

Thank you to everyone who came out to my free shredding event in Monroeville over the summer and made it such a great success! I also want to thank Navy veteran Mike from Shred America for his service to our nation and for all his help during the event.



POLICY COMMITTEE TOURS

This summer, I participated in two tours with the House Democratic Policy Committee.

I joined the roundtable at the Center for Organ Recovery & Education (CORE) in Pittsburgh for a discussion on recent legislation to expand organ donation efforts and medical developments in creating tissues for transplant.



I also joined several of my colleagues for a tour and roundtable discussion at Kennywood Amusement Park to focus on the impact it has on jobs, the economy and tourism in the region.



SUPPORTING OUR FIRST RESPONDERS

I've helped to secure various grants for first responders, who continually show courage and dedication to their communities in the face of COVID-19, even while struggling with the impacts to revenue and resources inflicted by the pandemic.

A total of \$243,113 in funding from the Fire Company and Emergency Medical Services Grant Program was awarded to the following fire and EMS companies to help support their essential needs so that these men and women can continue to answer the call and keep our communities safe.

Chalfant Volunteer Fire Co.	\$11,876	Monroeville Volunteer Fire Co. #3	\$12,054
Crestas Volunteer Fire Co. #4	\$11,520	Monroeville Volunteer Fire Co. #1	\$15,000
Eastern Area Prehospital Service (EMS).....	\$8,993	Pitcairn Fire Company #1	\$12,589
Fire Department of North Versailles	\$13,124	Plum Emergency Medical Service Inc. (EMS).....	\$8,993
Fire Department of North Versailles (EMS)	\$8,993	Renton Volunteer Fire Department	\$11,698
Holiday Park Volunteer Fire Department	\$13,302	United Volunteer Fire and Rescue.....	\$12,233
Monroeville EMS Inc.....	\$8,282	Unity Volunteer Fire Department	\$13,302
Monroeville Fire Co. #6	\$13,837	West Wilmerding Volunteer Fire Department	\$11,876
Monroeville Volunteer Fire Co. #5	\$14,193	Wilkins Township Volunteer Fire Co. #3	\$13,302
Monroeville Volunteer Fire Co. #4	\$15,000	Wilmerding Volunteer Fire Department	\$12,946

Pitcairn Borough received \$50,000 to be partially used for Opticom lights for emergency vehicles, allowing equipped vehicles to signal traffic lights to give them the right-of-way at intersections and helping first responders reach the scene of an emergency faster when every second counts.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT REAL ID in Pennsylvania

WHY DO I NEED ONE?

Soon you'll need a REAL ID to board planes, enter federal buildings, and enter military bases.

WHEN IS THE DEADLINE?

MAY 2023

May 3, 2023 is when the new REAL ID law takes effect.

HOW DO I GET A REAL ID DRIVER'S LICENSE?

1 ONLINE
If you got your first driver's license **after 9/1/2003**, you can apply online.

2 IN PERSON
If you got your first driver's license **before 9/1/2003**, you'll have to get yours in person at a DMV.

PENNDOT.GOV/REALID

Beginning May 3, 2023, Pennsylvanians will need a REAL ID-compliant license, identification card, or another form of federally acceptable identification (such as a valid passport or military ID) to:

- Board domestic commercial flights.
- Enter a military base.
- Enter a federal facility that requires ID at the door.

For more information on REAL ID, please go to PennDOT's website at www.dmv.pa.gov/REALID.

EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE

The Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) is available for renters of residential properties who are at risk of eviction or utility shutoffs due to hardship caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Tenants can apply for themselves or a landlord can apply on behalf of current tenant(s). Applications for the Allegheny County Rental Assistance program can be submitted online at covidrentrelief.alleghenycounty.us/.

GRANTS TO FIGHT BLIGHT

Wilmerding received \$30,000 to demolish 10 hazardous, unsafe properties that are tax-delinquent.

East Pittsburgh obtained \$25,000 to assist the borough in creating tools aimed at mitigating the effects of blight, including how to handle transfer of properties via land banks, conservatorships and sheriff's sales; incentives for owners to maintain their properties; and a plan for properties to be demolished.

FUNDING FOR FRESH FOOD IN OUR SCHOOLS

The following schools in the 25th Legislative District received funding from a \$973,000 grant awarded to school districts in Allegheny County to provide healthier snack options for students:

Allegheny IU 3 – Mon Valley School and Sunrise School.

East Allegheny School District – Logan Elementary School.

Woodland Hills School District – Edgewood Elementary STEAM Academy, Turtle Creek Elementary STEAM Academy and Wilkins Elementary STEAM Academy.



State Representative

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GET READY FOR WINTER

Winter is just around the corner, and state programs are available to help folks with the cost of staying warm. If you need help with these or other programs, or know someone who does, please reach out to my office!

HOME HEATING HELP

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is now open to help families pay their heating bills. Find information, see if you qualify and learn how to apply at <https://www.dhs.pa.gov/Services/Assistance/Pages/LIHEAP.aspx>.

WEATHERIZATION

The state's Weatherization Program is available to provide an onsite energy audit to assess conditions in the house and identify the most cost-effective energy-saving measure to be installed. It is open to lower-income households, with priority given to higher risk residents such as the elderly, individuals with disabilities and families with children. Learn more at dced.pa.gov/housing-and-development/weatherization/.

PENNIE OPEN ENROLLMENT

Open enrollment for 2022 health insurance coverage is now underway and runs through January 15, 2022. Pennsylvanians can sign up for individual health insurance coverage through Pennie, the state's health insurance marketplace, by visiting pennie.com.

MEDICARE OPEN ENROLLMENT

Medicare's open enrollment period ends on December 7. Medicare-eligible Pennsylvanians can take advantage of the Pennsylvania Medicare Education and Decision Insight (PA MEDI, formerly APPRISE).

PA MEDI is a free program run by the Pennsylvania Department of Aging that helps older Pennsylvanians choose Medicare supplements based on their income and medical needs.

For more information, call PA MEDI at 1-800-783-7067 or visit www.aging.pa.gov/aging-services/medicare-counseling.

INTERNATIONAL STUTTERING AWARENESS DAY

October 22 was International Stuttering Awareness Day. It was an important day for me, as some of you may know, because I've been battling a stutter my entire life. It's something that I deal with daily, but I don't let it conquer my life. If you have a stutter, know that you are not alone.

Go to my Facebook page to see the video I posted to bring awareness to stuttering and learn more from the National Stuttering Association at westutter.org and the Stuttering Association for the Young at say.org.