

STURLA

Report

From State Representative
MIKE STURLA
96th Legislative District

October 2021
www.RepMikeSturla.com



STURLA SHOWCASES LANCASTER TO HOUSE URBAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE



As Democratic Chair of the House Urban Affairs Committee, Rep. Sturla brought the committee to Lancaster for a bus tour of development projects on July 20 and a public roundtable on blight remediation on July 21. You can see pictures, materials (including a list of all the tour sites) and videos of these meetings at www.RepMikeSturla.com in the News Center section under the News tab.

Local community leaders and organizations joined Sturla in telling the committee about Lancaster's past, current and future development efforts. Members were impressed with the breadth of projects and the coordinated nature between developers, community organizations, and government.

Rep. Sturla has been active with the committee in holding informational meetings and moving important legislation to the House floor related to land banks and common interest owned communities. The committee is working on a package of bills that will target blight. To review the committee's legislation and meetings, click on House Urban Affairs Committee under the News tab at www.RepMikeSturla.com.



ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL BACK TO SCHOOL EVENT

On August 14-16, nearly 1,200 students received filled backpacks with uniforms, shoes, books, school supplies, and masks at Rep. Sturla's 10th Annual Back to School Event. You can see pictures and a video of the event at www.RepMikeSturla.com in the News Center section under the News tab.

Over 100 volunteers helped from United Way of Lancaster County, Giant Food Stores, Elks Lodge 134 and the wider community. Like last year, the volunteers had to prepackage every backpack after sorting uniforms and shoes by size.

Rep. Sturla thanks the event partners and sponsors, including the School District of Lancaster, Lancaster Recreation Commission, the Rodgers Family Charitable Fund, Elks Lodge 134, Lancaster Barnstormers, Lancaster Education Association, Lancaster Behavioral Health Hospital, Walmart, AmeriHealth Caritas, TW Ponessa and Associates, Shoppes at Belmont, UPMC, Lancaster School of Cosmetology, Lancaster United Labor, Penn Medicine Lancaster General Health, AT&T, Park City Center, Simeral Construction, and Kellogg's Food.

The hope is that the 11th Annual Back to School Event in 2022 will return to the usual form with special activities including haircuts, face painting, hearing and eye exams, a DJ, food, and Barnstormers' baseball game. If you are interested in volunteering or being a sponsor, please contact District Office Director Francis Miliano at fmiliano@pahouse.net or (717) 295-3157.

REP. STURLA'S SHREDDING EVENT

On July 10, Rep. Sturla held his second shredding event for his constituents at Clipper Magazine Stadium. A third event is being planned for the spring and it will be announced in the next newsletter.



DISTRICT OFFICE WALK-IN HOURS

Due to the ongoing pandemic, Rep. Sturla's Lancaster office is available for walk-ins on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. and by appointment only on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. If you have any questions or need assistance with any state services, please contact the office directly at (717) 295-3157 or Rep.MikeSturla@pahouse.net.



STILL TIME TO APPLY FOR PROPERTY TAX/RENT REBATE

The deadline to apply for the 2020 PA 1000 Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program has been extended until Dec. 31, 2021. You can still apply online at mypath.pa.gov.

For Rep. Sturla's office assistance, please drop off the following documents in the black mailbox (pictured above) in an envelope with your full name and phone number:

- Proof of income for 2020 (for example: if you work, W-2 or tax return; if you do not work, your

letter from Social Security showing how much you received in disability payments or SSI payments).

- If you rent, your Rent Certificate signed by your landlord.

- If you do not rent, proof that you paid your property taxes to the City, County and Lancaster School District. (This may be on your year-end mortgage summary (SS Form 1098) from your bank or mortgage company).

- Proof of identity (if this is the first time our office has helped you).

- Bank Routing and Account number (if you want the refund via direct deposit).

Once these documents are received, Rep. Sturla's staff will call you to verify receiving them. If additional information is needed, they will notify you during that call. If any original documents are provided, staff will mail originals back to your home address.

RENTAL ASSISTANCE

The Lancaster County Emergency Rental Assistance Program is still open. To learn more about eligibility and requirements, go to www.lancasterhelp.rent or call their helpline at (717) 590-3101 Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

For a Landlord/Tenant Guidebook, call TENFOLD at 717-291-9945 ext. 4 or go to www.wearetenfold.org.

HOMEOWNER ASSISTANCE

The PA Housing Finance Agency is developing a plan to utilize a \$350 million Homeowner Assistance Fund to help homeowners behind on their mortgage and other home-related expenses due to the pandemic. To sign up to receive timely updates, go to www.phfa.org/haf.



PAINTING THE LANCASTER CEMETERY

As part of United Way's Day of Caring on Sept. 11, Rep. Sturla held an event to paint the Lancaster Cemetery with volunteers from United Way.



MORE CEMETERY WORK: TREE PLANTING & CLEAN UP

Rep. Sturla's office will be partnering with the Lancaster Cemetery and Northeast Neighbors United to plant trees and shrubs in the cemetery on **Nov. 6 from 9 a.m. to noon**. Email Rep.MikeSturla@pahouse.net to receive a volunteer registration link. Volunteers and Lancaster residents can pick up a free native tree or shrub.



CHILD TAX CREDIT SIGN UP FOR NON-TAX FILERS

If you did not automatically receive the American Rescue Plan's 2021 Child Tax Credit because you did not earn enough to file a tax return in 2019 or 2020 or did not use the non-filer tool last year, you can still sign up at www.whitehouse.gov/child-tax-credit.

MEDICARE ENROLLMENT STARTS OCT. 15

The annual Medicare Open Enrollment period runs Oct. 15 until Dec. 7. To enroll and for more information about the various health and drug plans, visit www.medicare.gov.

NEW STATE WEBSITE

While all votesPA.com links will still work for a year, please note that vote.pa.gov is the state's new voting and election information website.



OPENS OCT. 18

LIHEAP starts accepting applications on Oct. 18 to help families living on low incomes pay their heating bills. For details and to apply, go to www.compass.state.pa.us.

UC UPDATE: WORK REGISTRATION VS. WORK SEARCH REQUIREMENTS

With federal unemployment compensation (UC) programs expired, PA's work registration and work search requirements are now in effect.

Work registration requires you to register for employment search services through PA CareerLink within 30 days after filing an unemployment claim.

The chart on the right organizes your work search. If you can check one box in each column, you have satisfied your work search requirements for the week.

For more details, go to www.uc.pa.gov. If you need help with your UC claim, contact Rep. Sturla's office at 717-295-3157 or Rep.MikeSturla@pahouse.net.

1st Job Application	2nd Job Application	Work Search Activity
I applied for a job	I applied for a job	I participated in a work search activity
I participated in a work search activity because I am limiting my job applications.	I participated in a work search activity because I am limiting my job applications.	I applied for a 3rd job
I had a job interview	I had a job interview	I had a job interview
	I worked part-time during the week and earned more than my <u>partial benefit credit</u> . Note: A second job application and a work search activity are not required.	



BEWARE OF IDENTITY THEFT

With identify theft on the rise, here are clues that your information has been stolen by someone:

- You see withdrawals from your bank account that you can't explain.
- You don't get your bills or other mail.
- Merchants refuse your checks.
- Debt collectors call you about debts that aren't yours.
- You find unfamiliar accounts or charges on your credit report.
- Medical providers bill you for services you didn't use.
- Your health plan rejects your legitimate medical claim because the records show you've reached your benefits limit.
- A health plan won't cover you because your medical records show a condition you don't have.
- The IRS notifies you that more than one tax return was filed in your name, or that you have income from an employer you don't work for.
- You get notice that your information was compromised by a data breach at a company where you do business or have an account.

If you become a victim of identity theft, follow these tips:

- 1) File a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission at www.identitytheft.gov or by calling 1-877-438-4338.
- 2) File a report with the local police.
- 3) Report the incident to the Pennsylvania Attorney General's Bureau of Consumer Protection by calling 1-800-441-2555.
- 4) File an Identity Theft Affidavit (Form 14039) with the Internal Revenue Service.
- 5) Contact the PA Department of Revenue's Fraud Detection and Analysis Unit at RA-RVPITFRAUD@pa.gov or call (717) 772-9297.



PA'S WEATHERIZATION PROGRAM

The state's Weatherization Program is available to provide an onsite energy audit to assess conditions in the home and to identify the most cost-effective energy saving measure to be installed. It is only open to those whose income is 200% or below the Federal Poverty Income Level. For more info or to apply, go to: dced.pa.gov/housing-and-development/weatherization.



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HERE TO SERVE YOU

Rep. Sturla's district office staff is happy to help you navigate state government programs and services. Call the 150 E. King St. office at (717) 295-3157 for free assistance.

Ayuda disponible en español

Tengo la fortuna de tener personal bilingüe listo para ayudarle con cualquier problema relacionado con el estado. Puede llamar nuestra oficina, localizada en 150 E King St., Lancaster, al (717) 295-3157.

MY OFFICE CAN HELP YOU WITH:

- Property Tax/Rent Rebate problems or questions
- PACE prescription-drug cards for senior citizens
- Car registrations, special tags, handicap placards, titles and driver's license applications
- Information on financial assistance for higher education
- Voter registration and absentee ballot applications
- Unemployment compensation, disability and workers' compensation
- Requests for literature – bills, regulations, statutes, Pennsylvania maps, senior citizen information
- Citations from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for outstanding accomplishments and family milestones
- Renewal of state-issued licenses or certifications
- Liquor Control Board concerns or questions
- Tours of the state Capitol for individuals or groups

Sign Up for Weekly Emails

If you would like to receive weekly email updates on state government issues, go to www.RepMikeSturla.com and click on "Contact Me" under the Help & Services section in top right-hand corner. For timely updates, you can follow [@RepMikeSturla](https://twitter.com/RepMikeSturla) on Twitter and Facebook.

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