

GREG VITALI

STATE REPRESENTATIVE — 166TH DISTRICT

P.O. BOX 202166

HARRISBURG, PA 17120-2166

lpo.km.0323

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

APRIL 2023

GREG VITALI

STATE REPRESENTATIVE — 166TH DISTRICT

Capitol Office:
30 East Wing
P.O. Box 202166
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2166
(717) 787-7647

District Office:
1001 East Darby Road
Havertown, PA 19083
(610) 789-3900

EMAIL: RepVitali@pahouse.net

WEBSITE: www.RepVitali.com



Upcoming Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Events

There will be several Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collections in Southeastern PA in 2023. Here are some upcoming events nearby:

April 22: Emergency Services Training Center
(1600 Calcon Hook Road, Sharon Hill).

May 20: Temple University Ambler Campus
(1431 E. Butler Pike, Ambler).

June 10: Rose Tree Park
(1671 N. Providence Road, Media).

June 17: Norristown Area High School
(1900 Eagle Drive, Norristown).

All events will be held rain or shine, and preregistration is required. Household hazardous waste (HHW) includes household products labeled poisonous, toxic, flammable, caustic, corrosive, reactive or explosive. **Electronic waste, latex paint, alkaline batteries, and items containing Freon will not be accepted.**

To register for a Delaware County HHW Collection, call (610) 892-9627 or visit www.delcoswa.org/household-hazardous-waste. For Montgomery County HHW Collection registration, call (610) 278-3618 or visit www.montcoparecycles.org.

Property Tax Rent Rebate Applications Now Available

Applications for the 2022 Property Tax Rent Rebate Program are now available. This program provides a state rebate on property taxes or rent paid in 2022 to income-eligible residents who are 65 or older; widows and widowers 50 or older; and people with disabilities 18 or older. The maximum standard rebate is \$650.

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, only count half of your Social Security or Federal Railroad Retirement Tier I benefits toward your total income.

Applications can be submitted online at www.mypath.pa.gov or by mail with a paper application. You can obtain further information, a paper application and free help applying through my office. The state will begin mailing rebate checks on July 1. The deadline to apply for this program is June 30, 2023.

Renew Your SEPTA Senior ID Card

SEPTA Key Senior ID Cards allow seniors (65 years or older) to ride for free on all SEPTA service lines. The cards expire four years after issuance. During the pandemic, SEPTA suspended card expirations but this year, card expirations will resume.

Senior Cards with printed expiration dates between 2020 and 2023 will expire on the last day of the month printed on the card. For example, a card with an April 2020 expiration date will expire on April 30, 2023.

Check Your Medicaid Coverage

Medical Assistance (MA), also known as Medicaid, is a state program that pays for health care services for income eligible individuals. During the pandemic, Pennsylvania continued MA coverage for most people, even if they were no longer eligible or did not renew their coverage. After March 31st, if you get your health insurance through the state, you must complete your annual renewal when it is due to make sure you are still eligible.

If you are no longer eligible for MA, you will be referred

Need A Ride?

Need a ride to work, the grocery store or your medical appointments? The Pennsylvania Departments of Transportation and Human Services launched a new online system, Find My Ride (FMR), that streamlines the application process for the state's eight transportation assistance programs.

The FMR Program can connect seniors and persons with disabilities with providers that offer free or discounted transportation services, including the Senior Shared Ride Program, the Medical Assistance Transportation Program (MATP) and the SEPTA Free Transit Program for Senior Citizens.

FMR also allows family members and healthcare providers to apply for services on behalf of a rider. To see what transportation assistance may be available, visit www.apply.findmyride.penndot.pa.gov or call Community Transit of Delaware County at 610-490-3960.

My district office can submit first-time and renewing applications and take your photo. Bring identification containing your birth date, such as a Pennsylvania driver's license or non-driver ID, U.S Passport or birth certificate, and your expiring SEPTA card if you are renewing. No appointments are required.

To replace a lost, stolen or damaged card, you must call the SEPTA Key Customer Center at 855-567-3782 or visit SEPTA Headquarters (1234 Market Street, Philadelphia).

to other sources of affordable medical coverage such as Pennie, the commonwealth's health and dental insurance marketplace, so you have no lapse in affordable health care.

The Department of Human Services will be mailing you important information about your renewal. You can update your contact information by visiting www.compass.state.pa.us. You can also call DHS Customer Service Center (877-395-8930) or the Delaware County Assistance Office (610-447-5500).

SNAP Emergency Payments End

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), also known as food stamps, helps low-income households buy food. During COVID-19, the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services provided an extra food allotment payment in the second half of each month. Due to recent federal changes, February was the last month of extra SNAP payments. Now, recipients will only receive one regular payment each month. All recipients should have received a notice in the mail about the change in SNAP payments and resources available if they need additional food assistance.

To ensure you are receiving the SNAP benefits you are entitled to, you should report any changes to your address, household size, income or expenses to DHS by calling 877-395-8930 or visiting www.dhs.pa.gov/SNAPCares.

Decriminalization of Fentanyl Test Strips

Pennsylvania has recently decriminalized the use and possession of fentanyl test strips. Fentanyl is a powerful, synthetic opioid that can be lethal even in small doses.

Fentanyl test strips can detect the presence of fentanyl in many drugs, including cocaine, methamphetamine, and heroine in pill, powder, or

injectable forms. These strips are a low-cost method of helping prevent drug overdoses.

Fentanyl test strips can be purchased online from TheHup, DanceSafe and Bunk Police. Individuals seeking substance abuse treatment resources can call the 24/7 PA Get Help Now helpline, 1-800-662-HELP (4357).

REAL ID Enforcement Postponed Until May 2025

The enforcement of Real ID, which was originally scheduled to go into effect in October 2021 has again been postponed until May 7, 2025.

The delays have been in response to COVID-19. A REAL ID is a federally compliant driver's license or ID card with enhanced security features. After May 7, 2025, you will need a REAL ID or another federal form of identification (such as a passport or military ID) to board domestic commercial flights, enter a military base, or enter certain federal facilities.

To obtain a REAL ID, you will need to take proof of your identity, your social security card, two proofs of

your current PA address, and proof of all legal name changes to a REAL ID center. **The list of required documents is stringent. You should review the PennDOT REAL ID document checklist carefully before you go (www.dmv.pa.gov/REALID).**

The closest REAL ID Centers are in Media (1097 W. Baltimore Pike, 19063) and King of Prussia (43 S. Gulph Road, 19406). My office can assist in obtaining certified copies of Pennsylvania birth certificates and direct you to the proper agencies to obtain a duplicate social security card or marriage license.

Havertown Superfund Site Update

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is finalizing plans for the new, permanent Groundwater Treatment Plant (GWTP) at the Havertown PCP Superfund Site, located at 900 N Eagle Road.

Construction is expected to begin this summer and continue until 2025. The new GWTP will replace the original treatment plant that was demolished in 2021. The original GWTP was too small to collect and treat contamination from the National Wood Preservers (NWP) facility that occupied the grounds between 1947 and 1963.

National Wood Preserves disposed of liquids containing pentachlorophenol (PCP), dioxins, furans, and

naphthalene through deep-well injection on the site. Since 1989, the EPA has been working to clean this contaminated groundwater. A temporary treatment plant will continue to remove these contaminants until the permanent treatment plant is completed.

EPA will be drilling additional test wells throughout the area. Some of these test wells will become collection wells that pump water to the new GWTP.

For more information on the Havertown PCP Superfund Site, contact the site's Community Involvement Coordinator, Angela Ithier, at 215-814-5248.

Spotted Lanternfly Spring Update

This spring, help curb the spotted lanternfly (SLF) population by smashing egg masses when you see them. SLF is an invasive insect that has spread throughout Pennsylvania since its discovery in 2014. These bugs feed on the plant sap of many important plants in the state, including grapevines, maple and black walnut trees.

You should keep an eye out for SLF egg masses on your vehicles, trees, and materials stored outdoors. Freshly laid egg masses can be found on hard surfaces and are covered in a white, putty-like

substance, which ages over time to look like cracked mud. These eggs will begin to hatch in early summer if not destroyed.

The best method to limit the spread is to reduce populations wherever they are found. To get rid of egg masses you can smash them or scrape them into a container of rubbing alcohol.

For more information or to report a sighting, visit www.extension.psu.edu/spotted-lanternfly or call 1-888-4BADFLY.

Document Shredding & Drug Take-Back Event - April 29

My office, in partnership with State Rep. Lisa Borowski, will be hosting a free Shredding and Drug Take-Back Event on Saturday, April 29 where you can safely dispose of personal papers and unwanted medications.

You can drop off medications and up to 2 boxes of documents from 10 am to 1 pm at Marple-Newtown High School (120 Media Line Road,

Newtown Square). Papers with staples and paper clips will be accepted, however, large binder clips should be removed. When you arrive, please remain in your vehicle, and have the documents accessible in your trunk.

This event will be first come, first serve until the shredding truck is full. Pre-registration is not required. Please call my office if you have any questions.

Vitali Appointed Majority Chair of House Environmental Committee

Recently, I was appointed majority chairman of the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee for the 2023-2024 legislative session. This appointment greatly expands my ability to control the flow of environmental legislation from my previous role as minority chair of this committee.

I have also been reappointed to the Pennsylvania Environmental Quality Board, a 20-member body that evaluates environmental regulations.

These appointments allow me to be a strong voice for good environmental policy.

License Plate Obstructions

A new state law clarifies that a frame which minimally outlines your vehicle license plate is legal as long as your plate number and state of issuance are clearly visible.

It is illegal for your license plate to be obstructed in any way that interferes with automatic red-light enforcement, toll collection or police identification. An illegally obstructed license plate may subject you to a fine of \$100.

Pay Your Turnpike Tolls

A new Pennsylvania law allows the Turnpike Commission to request the suspension of your vehicle registration for unpaid turnpike tolls and fees totaling \$250 or more.

The Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission will give vehicle owners six weeks' notice prior to vehicle registration suspension. If your registration is suspended you will be responsible for payment of all outstanding tolls and fees, as well as a restoration fee, before your registration is restored.

You can check if you have any outstanding tolls at www.ezpass.csc.paturnpike.com. For questions or to make a payment, contact the Turnpike Commission's Customer Service Center at 1-877-736-6727.

Register and Vote!

The 2023 primary election will be on Tuesday, May 16. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. The last day to register or update your voter information is Monday, May 1.

In this primary, registered Democrats and Republicans can select nominees from their respective parties to represent them in the November 7 General Election.

Delaware County ballots will include contests for state court judges, district attorney, county council, school directors, and township commissioners. A sample ballot can be found online at www.delcopa.gov/vote/sampleballots.html.

For polling locations, new registration, changes in registration and requests for absentee/mail-in ballots, visit www.votespa.com or call the Delaware County Election Hotline at 610-891-VOTE.

Free Notary Service

Many official documents can be notarized for free in my office. Please call ahead to make sure our notary is available and can notarize your type of document.

Some of the documents my office cannot notarize include birth certificates, car titles, wills, deeds, mortgages, powers of attorney, and the Employment Eligibility Verification Form I-9.

Notary work is done weekdays between 9:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at the district office and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the satellite office. The person whose signature is to be notarized must sign the document in-person and provide proof of identity. If you are unable to climb the stairs to my district office, our notary can meet you on the ground floor.

New Marple Satellite Office

My Satellite Office, formerly located in the Ardmore Library, has moved to Trinity Christian Reformed Church in Marple (144 Lawrence Road, 19008), near Saint Pius Catholic School. Due to redistricting, I now represent this part of Marple Township. The Ardmore Library is no longer in my legislative district.

Satellite Office hours will continue to be on Thursdays from 10am to 2pm. No appointments are required. This office is on the ground floor and handicap accessible.

All services offered in our District Office will be available in our Satellite Office, including SEPTA Key Senior IDs, notary services, and Property Tax Rent Rebate assistance.