

GREG VITALI

STATE REPRESENTATIVE — 166TH DISTRICT

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HARRISBURG, PA 17120-2166

2013 HHW recycling dates

lpo.ad.0313

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

MARCH 2013

GREG VITALI STATE REPRESENTATIVE — 166TH DISTRICT



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Free tax help for seniors

Free electronic-filing tax preparation assistance for seniors will be available at the Oakmont Administration Center, 50 E. Eagle Road, Havertown, on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. through April 14.

The returns are prepared by volunteers who are trained by AARP Tax-Aide in conjunction with the IRS.

Appointments must be made in advance by calling 610-853-5900, ext. 7050. Walk-ins will be accepted only if there is a cancellation.

Those using the program should bring government-issued photo ID, 2012 wage and earning statements, retirement statements, interest and dividend statements, medical, dental and prescription receipts, real estate and property tax receipts, and any other information concerning income and expenses from 2012. It is also recommended to bring a copy of 2011 federal and state tax returns.

Parking will be available along Hathaway Lane. There is also a handicapped parking space in the rear of the building.

Three local watershed projects receive grants

Two local watershed projects will receive grants from the state's Growing Greener program which invests in initiatives that protect watersheds from nonpoint source pollution or restore damaged waterways. A third project will receive funds from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Nonpoint Source Management Program.

Haverford Township will receive \$46,700 in Growing Greener funds to remove a 350-foot long section of asphalt pavement along Darby Creek, reduce the size of an existing parking lot, and plant trees and other vegetation to establish a protective buffer for the stream. The area where the project is to take place is the bus yard off of Hilltop Road.

The project will protect the creek from storm water runoff. It also will help prevent the creek from overflowing onto a walking path.

Villanova University will receive \$126,745 in Growing Greener funds to assess three types of storm water infiltration rain gardens to determine their effectiveness

Rebates available for new alternative fuel vehicles

Rebates are available through the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection for Pennsylvanians who buy new plug-in hybrid, plug-in electric, natural gas, propane and hydrogen fuel cell vehicles.

Flexible fuel, hybrid and biodiesel vehicles are not eligible for a rebate.

Rebates range from \$500 to \$3,500, depending on the type of vehicle and the fuel it uses.

To qualify for the rebate, the vehicle must be registered in Pennsylvania, operated primarily in-state and be purchased no more than six months before the rebate application is submitted. Qualifying vehicles must have an odometer reading of less than 500 miles at the time of purchase to be eligible. Leased vehicles are not eligible to receive a rebate.

Rebate applications are available online at www.dep.state.pa.us, keyword: Alternative Fuel Vehicle Rebates. Rebate applications are also available in my district office. You may call DEP toll free at 1-866-294-3854 for assistance with the program.

Receive newsletters electronically

I am sending newsletters via email in an effort to reduce postage costs and help the environment. If you want to opt out of receiving the paper version, and receive only an electronic copy, go to my website, www.gregvitali.com, and click on "Sign up for e-newsletters" in the upper left hand corner.

in capturing and filtering rain water and pollutants in storm water runoff.

Growing Greener is funded by the Environmental Stewardship Fund, a fund that is used for environmental restoration and conservation and community revitalization projects.

Villanova also will receive a \$178,000 grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Section 319 Nonpoint Source Management Program, which was created through the federal Clean Water Act to help reduce water pollution from nonpoint sources.

The grant will allow the university to continue monitoring and assessing storm water management practices such as green roofs, infiltration trenches and porous concrete which have been built on campus. The goal of the study is to better understand the effectiveness of these practices in capturing and infiltrating rain water and the pollutants carried by storm water runoff.

New Voter ID law still on hold

Voters going to the polls for the May 21 primary will not be required to show ID, unless they are a first-time voter at the polling location.

Lawyers on both sides of a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of Pennsylvania's Voter ID law signed an agreement on Feb. 14 that the law will not be enforced for the May 21 primary election.

The law is on hold until the courts determine if it is constitutional. A trial is scheduled to begin July 15 in Commonwealth Court.

Information on the Voter ID law can be found at www.votespa.com.

Important 2013 primary election dates

- **April 22 Last day to register to vote**
- **May 14 Last day to apply for an absentee ballot**
- **May 17 Last day for Bureau of Elections to receive absentee ballots**
- **May 21 Primary election**

Vitali introduces three environmental bills

I have recently introduced three bills to protect Pennsylvania's environment.

House Bill 100 would amend the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act of 2004 to increase the amount of electricity that electric distribution companies, such as PECO, must obtain from renewable energy sources such as wind and solar.

Currently, the law requires electric distribution companies to obtain 8 percent of their electricity from renewable sources by 2021. My legislation would increase the requirement to 15 percent by 2023.

My bill also would increase the amount of electricity distribution companies must purchase that is generated from solar sources from 0.5 percent by 2020 to 1.5 percent by 2023.

House Bill 200 would provide a permanent funding source for the PA Sunshine Solar Program. This program provides rebates to homeowners and small businesses that install solar systems. The program was initially funded by a \$100 million bond issue but has run out of money.

My bill would provide \$25 million per year to the program from an impact fee on Marcellus Shale gas drilling that was enacted last year.

Both bills would help Pennsylvania address climate change, create good green jobs and foster energy independence.

In addition, I have introduced House Bill 950, which would permanently ban the leasing of additional state forestland for Marcellus Shale natural gas drilling.

Pennsylvania has already made about half of its 1.5 million acres of state forestland available for drilling. The remaining acres have old growth forests, fragile ecosystems, and habitats for rare and endangered species. This acreage needs to be protected for future generations.

My bill is similar to an executive order signed in 2010 by former Gov. Ed Rendell that put a moratorium on additional leasing of state forests for drilling. However, my legislation is needed because the moratorium could be undone with a stroke of Gov. Tom Corbett's pen.

This bill would not affect drilling on private land, nor would it prevent drilling on the more than 700,000 acres of state forest already available for gas drilling. To date, 559 gas wells have been drilled in Pennsylvania state forests.

New website can help homeowners shop for natural gas suppliers

Pennsylvanians who use natural gas to cook or heat their homes can shop for suppliers to save money, like many have done for their electric supplier.

A list of gas companies and their prices are available by going to www.PAGasSwitch.com and entering your gas supplier or area code.

About 12 percent of natural gas customers have switched suppliers. Currently, there are 14 companies that have offers to PECO Gas customers on the PUC's website. Many offers vary from month to month, so customers must remain vigilant to ensure they have a competitive rate.

Vitali appointed chairman of Environmental Resources and Energy Committee; will serve on Environmental Quality Board

I have been appointed Democratic chairman of the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee for the 2013-14 legislative session. The committee advances energy and environmental legislation and oversees the state departments of Environmental Protection and Conservation and Natural Resources.

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

These appointments put me in a better position to be a strong voice for good environmental policy.

I will remain a member of the busy State Government Committee, which is expected to consider legislation about the electoral college, immigration and pension reform during this legislative session.

New law requires recycling computers, TVs and computer-related equipment

As a result of a new state law, you may no longer put computers, computer-related equipment and televisions out with your trash. This equipment contains toxic substances, such as cadmium, lead and mercury which may escape into the environment if disposed of improperly.

These items can be dropped off at special household hazardous waste recycling collection events (see related story on this page). They also can be dropped off at some local stores.

Goodwill accepts computers and computer accessories. All Staples stores accept desktop and laptop computers, monitors, printers, copiers, scanners, faxes, shredders, mice, keyboards, modems, phones, hard drives, G.P.S. devices and digital cameras. Best Buy accepts all TVs and video monitors, computers, phones, video games, fans and cables. If the TV to be recycled is larger than 32 inches, you must pay \$100 to have it picked up by an employee.

Information regarding other drop-off locations is available on the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's electronics recycling web page. To get there, type www.dep.state.pa.us, then click on "DEP Programs A-Z" then "Electronics Recycling." Local recycling options can also be obtained by calling DEP's recycling hotline at 1-800-346-4242.

Join my email update list

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

Free notary service at district office

If you are a resident of the 166th Legislative District, you can have most official documents notarized for free in my district office. Please call ahead to make sure the notary is in the office and can accommodate your type of document. Notary work is done most weekdays between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.

The person whose signature is to be notarized must sign the document in person, in the presence of the notary, and provide proof of identity such as a valid driver's

2013 Delaware County household hazardous waste and electronics drop-off events

Delaware County will have several household hazardous waste and electronics drop-off events this year. All events will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. rain or shine.

- Saturday, April 6 at the **Emergency Services Training Center**, 1600 Calcon Hook Road, Sharon Hill (HHW, computers, TVs and small electronics will be accepted);
- Saturday, May 4 at the **Marple Transfer Station**, Marpit Drive and Sussex Boulevard, Broomall (Only HHW will be accepted);
- Thursday, Sept. 12 at **Rose Tree Park**, 1671 N. Providence Road, Media (HHW, computers, TVs and small electronics);
- Saturday, Oct. 19 at the **Upper Chichester Municipal Building**, 8500 Furey Road, Upper Chichester (HHW, computers, TVs and small electronics).

Household hazardous waste includes household products that are labeled poisonous, toxic, flammable, caustic, corrosive, reactive or explosive. Computer equipment includes hard drives, keyboards and monitors. Electronics that can be dropped off include scanners, irons, hairdryers and televisions with screens less than 27 inches.

Please do not bring the following: smoke detectors, latex paint, large appliances, air conditioners, asbestos, explosives, gas cylinders, tires, alkaline batteries and any items containing Freon.

For more information, call the Delaware County Solid Waste Authority at 610-892-9627.

license, photo ID card, or passport. Please let my staff know if witnesses are needed, in addition to the notary, for your documents. We also ask that residents observe a five-signature limit.

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