

27TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

STATE REP. DAN DEASY



DISTRICT OFFICE: 436 S. Main St., Suite 100 • Pittsburgh, PA 15220 • (412) 928-9514

Mon. – Fri. 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; extended hours on Thurs. until 6 p.m.

SATELLITE OFFICE: Avalon Borough Building • 640 California Ave. • Pittsburgh, PA 15202 • (412) 761-5820, ext. 15 • By appointment

CAPITOL OFFICE: 323 Irvis Office Building • P.O. Box 202027 • Harrisburg, PA 17120-2027 • (717) 772-8187

Crafton Park receives \$250,000 state grant for pool renovations

Crafton Park was built and dedicated in 1955 on 32 acres located approximately 5 miles from the center of Pittsburgh. The community pool located within the park provides summer fun to residents of Crafton, Ingram, Rosslyn Farms, Thornburg, City of Pittsburgh, Robinson Township, Scott Township, Sewickley Township, McKees Rocks, Carnegie and other communities who frequent the pool on a daily admission basis.

In 2012, Crafton Borough completed a comprehensive open space, recreation, and parks plan. This plan identified Crafton Park and Pool as considerable attributes for the community and their ability to both attract new residents and maintain standards of living for existing residents. In addition, it is important to note the correlation between property values and recreational

opportunities. Crafton Borough's five-year study of the pool revenue showed a significant increase in income and attendance showing sustainability of the local economic community. It is the Borough's belief, and I agree, that a renovation of the pool will result in greater revenue.

Recently, the Borough applied for funding from Pennsylvania's Department of Community and Economic Development's Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program for pool renovations. Crafton Park and Pool is a significantly important recreational facility to this region. The Borough's project plan includes rehabilitating the present swimming pool to meet Americans with Disabilities Act requirements, updating safety features and creating more pool features to

increase usage. The Borough has done its due diligence in that they contracted with Aquatic Facility Design Inc. to complete a Pool Complex Conditions Assessment and Feasibility Study.

I advocated for this funding to the DCED because the Borough has a detailed plan and made valid arguments to support the pool renovations. I was thrilled to learn that DCED agreed with me and has awarded \$250,000 to Crafton Borough for the first phase of improvements.

Crafton Park and Pool is a vital public recreational facility that serves residents of at least 10 local communities. For these communities, Crafton Park and Pool are recreational destinations where they enjoy ball games, swimming, community festivals, fireworks celebrations and much more.

Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency jobs available

I recently attended the grand opening of the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency's (PHEAA) new Customer Service Center in Green Tree. PHEAA is continuing to fill positions for this location. You may visit www.pheaa.org/jobs to learn more about available positions.

PHEAA anticipates training an average of 42 new employees every two months until it reaches the facility's 150-person capacity. Employees will complete a paid eight-week training before working directly with student loan borrowers. PHEAA employees at this location will help borrowers successfully manage their student loan debt.

PHEAA has made a long-term investment in our community. The Customer Service Center in Green Tree will help PHEAA continue to provide the best possible customer service to millions of student loan borrowers throughout the region, the commonwealth and all across the nation.



Rep. Deasy joins elected officials at the new PHEAA customer service center in Allegheny County.

IMPORTANT PROGRAMS & SERVICES TO

Children's Health Insurance Program extended

Provision that required children to be uninsured for six months eliminated

I am happy to announce that a new law extends the Children's Health Insurance Program through Dec. 31, 2015. CHIP provides low-cost health insurance to all uninsured children and teens who are not eligible for Medical Assistance.

Without legislative action, the program would have expired at the end of this calendar year. The program will continue to provide coverage to nearly 200,000 Pennsylvania children. It is vital to note that an important change was made to CHIP. A provision that required children to be uninsured for six months before qualifying for CHIP was eliminated.

Access to quality health insurance is an important tool to maintain health and wellness. With insurance coverage, children can receive regular physicals, vaccinations and other types of preventative care; ultimately reducing costly emergency room visits.

If your child or a child you know is without health insurance, visit <http://is.gd/paCHIP> to learn more about the program and how to sign up, or call my office for assistance.

New program offers internet service for low-income families

Home Internet access offers convenient access to a wide range of information. Unfortunately, many families in our area cannot afford the added expense. I am pleased to share information about a new program called Internet Essentials. The program will help thousands of families gain access to the World Wide Web and give our children an advantage in the classroom.

Families of children who receive free or reduced price lunch will have the opportunity to obtain home Internet service and possibly a computer at a discounted rate.

For more information about Internet Essentials program call 1-855-846-8376.



Rep. Deasy attended the 3rd annual kick-off event for Internet Essentials with David L. Cohen, Executive Vice President of Comcast Corporation and Congressman Mike Doyle at Langley K-8 School in the West End.

LIHEAP Home heating assistance program now open



The cooler weather is upon us and if you think you may have trouble paying your home heating bills this winter I encourage you to see if you qualify for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, also referred to as LIHEAP.

LIHEAP provides cash and crisis grants to help with household heating bills to eligible Pennsylvanians.

Once the application is reviewed, applicants will receive a written notice explaining eligibility and the amount of assistance available to them. Payments are generally sent directly to a utility company.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PROGRAM OR NEED AN APPLICATION, PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT MY OFFICE.

Who is Eligible?

Household Size	Income Limits Cash/Crisis Program
1	\$17,235
2	\$23,265
3	\$29,295
4	\$35,325
5	\$41,355
6	\$47,385
7	\$53,415
8	\$59,445
9	\$65,475
10	\$71,505
Each Additional Person ADD \$6,030	

HELP RESIDENTS

Property Tax/Rent Rebate deadline is near

The deadline to apply for the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program is Dec. 31, 2013. The program provides state rebates on property taxes or rent paid in 2012 to eligible Pennsylvanians 65 or older; widows and widowers 50 or older; and people with disabilities 18 or older. The income limit is \$35,000 a year for homeowners and \$15,000 annually for renters. One half of Social Security, Supplemental Security or federal Railroad Retirement Tier I income is excluded. The maximum standard rebate is \$650.

Several constituents have contacted my office inquiring about a letter they received from the Senior Advisory Center offering assistance to complete the Property Tax/Rent Rebate application for \$39. This company is actually a private, California-based organization.

If you or someone you know receives this letter, PLEASE IGNORE IT! The state does not charge a fee to process your application. My office can help anyone filing an application FOR FREE.

If you already filed for a rebate for property taxes or rent paid in 2012, the Department of Revenue will mail you an application the end of January for you to file for the 2013 tax rebate. Applications will be available in my office by early February.

You can contact my office by calling 412-928-9514.

Please note that appointments are NOT NEEDED if you need to complete only a Property Tax/Rent Rebate application.

Tax service available

My office partners with AARP's TCE TaxAide program to provide free income tax preparation services for low-income individuals and senior citizens. I am very fortunate and grateful to have a tremendous team of volunteers that work in my offices to provide this free service.

AARP's free tax preparation service is to help the elderly and those with a household income of \$51,000 or less in preparing their own individual tax returns. If you make an appointment and you are over the income limit for this program, volunteers will not be able to complete your return. Please note that if you are an individual who has a business or rental property, you are not eligible for this free service.

Starting Jan. 6, my office will accept calls for income tax preparation appointments at my West End Office and at the Avalon Borough Building.

Please note that limited appointments are available and that this service is offered on a first-come basis. Please call 412-928-9514 to schedule your appointment. You do not need to have all of your documents in hand to make an appointment. Call early in anticipation of having all of your documents before your appointment.

CSX Project in McKees Rocks latest straw in cap for regional development

McKees Rocks and Stowe Township are prime locations for development. The local elected officials in these areas have a vision of pro-development. With easy access to highway, rail and water, the revitalization of brownfield space was inevitable. Trinity Commercial Development also recognized this fact and spearheaded this revitalization in McKees Rocks in 2007. In 2012, Trinity commenced plans to redevelop the brownfield site by constructing an industrial business park that will accommodate light-industrial, office, technology and distribution businesses. Rep. Nick Kotik, Sen. Wayne Fontana and I were instrumental in moving the Trinity plan forward by helping to secure \$4.1 million in low-interest state loans and grants.

This anchor project was vital to attracting future investment into McKees Rocks. CSX Corporation recognized the positive attributes of this region and the private and public investment. The result was CSX's announcement in October of their plans to build the Pittsburgh Intermodal Terminal in McKees Rocks Borough and Stowe Township after reviewing numerous sites along CSX's mainline tracks.

CSX is committing up to \$50 million for the project and the proposed facility will be constructed and operated by CSX Intermodal Terminals Inc. They will continue to develop the brownfield site in McKees Rocks, the former Pittsburgh & Lake Erie Railroad Yard. CSX anticipates the project will generate approximately 360 construction jobs and approximately 40 on-site jobs, 40 drayage jobs and 100 indirect jobs throughout the region.

The CSX and Trinity projects are great examples of collaboration between business, the community and government. When public-private entities work together, great things happen for the community. I commend CSX for its vision and commitment to the Pittsburgh region. I look forward to continuing to work with Trinity Commercial Development, CSX, McKees Rocks Borough, McKees Rocks CDC and Stowe Township in moving this region forward.

DEASY *in the district*

Deasy hosts free shredding and electronic recycling events

I hosted two events to provide constituents with an opportunity to recycle paper and electronics. The events were a huge success as nearly 60,000 pounds of electronic recycling were diverted from landfills and guided toward responsible recycling. In addition, over 27,500 pounds of paper was collected for recycling.



Bus Trip to the Capitol

Rep. Deasy hosted his annual bus trip to the State Capitol in October. The group also visited Hershey.

Food Pantry

Local residents who took advantage of Rep. Deasy's free Shred/Recycling event donated items to a local food bank. This effort fully stocked the local pantry. Thank you to all who donated to help those in need.



Hundreds attend Deasy's Annual Senior Health Expo

Rep. Deasy hosted his 5th annual Senior Health Expo. The event featured over 40 vendors who provide programs and services to older Pennsylvanians. The event, held at Guardian Angels Church Hall, provided an opportunity for residents

to obtain flu or pneumonia shots, a variety of health screenings and much more. The event is held each October.



Deasy Job Fair a success

Rep. Deasy hosted a Job Fair to help connect area residents with job and career training opportunities. The job fair is an extension of his online and in-office Employment Center (www.pahouse.com/Deasy) where residents can obtain information on preparing for the workforce and search for job opportunities throughout the region.



EFFORTS TO CURB CHILD NEGLECT AND ABUSE

House Children & Youth Committee advances efforts to protect children

As a member of the House Children and Youth Committee, I have been involved in efforts to make changes to laws to further protect children. I have proposed child protection bills and voted for bills because it is our duty and responsibility to be the voice for children and to do all we can to help keep them safe. The bills passed by the committee are vital to this effort.

This recent package of bills will address concerns raised by the Pennsylvania Task Force on Child Protection. The task force was created by the General Assembly to thoroughly review state laws and procedures governing child protection and the reporting of child abuse.

The committee acted efficiently and in a bipartisan, bicameral manner in the best interest of our children. I was humbled to be a part of the process that is bringing about meaningful movement toward better protecting our children from neglect and abuse.

Senate Bill 21 would clarify who in Pennsylvania would be considered a mandatory reporter of suspected child abuse. The bill also would outline the reporting process for mandated reporters and clarify information that must be contained within an abuse report.

The definition of a perpetrator of child abuse would be redefined under **S.B. 23**. The new definition would include safeguards for children 14 or older.

Senate Bill 30 would provide a registry of false child abuse reports. The registry would be available to the Department of Public Welfare, county children and youth agencies and law enforcement to determine if there is a pattern of false reports and expedite the appeals process in child abuse cases.

Another part of the package, **S.B. 1116**, would clarify and encourage joint child abuse investigations between county children and youth agencies and law enforcement.

The bills move to the full House for consideration. I look forward to casting an affirmative vote on all of these bills.

Attorney General Kane shows leadership Child Predator Section apprehends suspected predators

The Attorney General's Child Sexual Exploitation Task Force was created in 1995 to arrest child pornographers as well as investigate and capture child predators before they strike by using proactive, undercover operations.

In order for law enforcement to stay one step ahead of the Internet and sexual predators, the office widened the scope of the Attorney General's task force into a larger, broader statewide Child Predator Unit. In January 2005, a dedicated Child Predator Unit was created using a group of specially trained agents and prosecutors across Pennsylvania to identify and capture online predators before they can harm children.

Under Attorney General Kathleen Kane's leadership, the Child Predator Unit has vastly expanded. With the hiring of more attorneys and agents, this unit is now the Child Predator Section. This section has arrested 107 suspected predators involved in the distribution of child pornography and sexual abuse so far this year, more than five times the number from 2012. I commend Kane for the great work she is doing and the greater emphasis her agency is placing on stopping crimes against children.

The growth of the Internet has been astronomical, and regrettably, predators are using the Internet as their primary means of contacting and communicating with their young victims.

As the Internet grows, the problem of sexual predators has increased tremendously.

The Attorney General provided the following statistics on the growing problem:

- The Internet Filter Review, an online publication that is dedicated to protecting children from pornography on the Internet, has estimated that there are 100,000 websites offering illegal child pornography. They also report that the average age of exposure to Internet pornography is 11 years old.
- The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children reports that one in five girls and one in 10 boys are sexually exploited before they reach adulthood.
- One in five children, ages 10 to 17, received unwanted sexual solicitations online, according to the Youth Internet Safety Survey conducted by the U.S. Department of Justice.

Anyone who has information about child predators is urged to contact the Attorney General's Child Predator Section at 1-800-385-1044.

District Fast Fact

My district office is located in the West End Village. This community was originally named Temperanceville. This great neighborhood lies in a small valley south of the Ohio River and less than a mile from downtown Pittsburgh. It was founded in 1837, and was incorporated into the City of Pittsburgh in 1872.

The West End community is now composed of many smaller neighborhoods – Sheraden, Elliott, Windgap, Esplen, Ridgemont, Westwood, Oakwood, East Carnegie, Chartiers City, Fairywood and Crafton Heights.



STATE REP. DAN DEASY

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My office can help you with:

- Car registrations, special tags, titles and license applications
- Information on financial assistance for higher education
- Unemployment compensation problems
- Birth certificate applications
- Pennsylvania income tax problems
- Problems with the Department of Public Welfare (food stamps, welfare)
- Requests for literature of all kinds – bills, regulations, statutes, Pennsylvania maps, senior citizen information, student aid information, etc.
- Citations from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for outstanding local accomplishments and family milestones
- Complaints or questions about utilities and the PUC
- Consumer complaints
- Complaints about state road conditions
- Problems or questions about PennDOT
- Tours of the State Capitol for individuals or groups
- Disability plates and placards
- PACE cards for senior citizens
- Complaints and problems with insurance companies
- Property Tax/Rent Rebate problems or questions
- Problems or questions about the state lottery
- Local government officials' problems with state agencies

Any problem with your state government!

Our District Staff is ready to help with state issues.

From left: Rita Mackin, Julie Jarbeck (chief of staff), Rep. Deasy, MaryBeth Barnes, Maura Gustine and Vanesa Moro.



Deasy hosts meet & greet events

I host a series of meet and greet events around my district each year to talk with constituents about your state government. The series of eight events at local senior centers and high rises provided me with an opportunity to hear from residents about their concerns and to answer their questions. These events are valuable to me and I appreciate your participation. I will be hosting a series of events again in the spring.

Dormont Mayor Honored



Rep. Dan Deasy and Rep. Dan Miller honor Dormont Mayor Tom Lloyd on the occasion of his retirement. Mayor Lloyd served Dormont Borough as a member of council for 18 years and the last 20 years as mayor.