

# **GREG VITALI**

STATE REPRESENTATIVE — 166TH DISTRICT

P.O. BOX 202166

HARRISBURG, PA 17120-2166

lpo.jc.0715

## ***LEGISLATIVE REPORT***

JULY 2015

# **GREG VITALI**

**STATE REPRESENTATIVE — 166TH DISTRICT**

***DISTRICT OFFICE:***

1001 East Darby Road  
Havertown, PA 19083  
(610) 789-3900  
Fax: (215) 560-4197

EMAIL: [greg@gregvitali.com](mailto:greg@gregvitali.com)

***CAPITOL OFFICE:***

38B East Wing  
P.O. Box 202166  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2166  
(717) 787-7647  
Fax: (717) 705-2089

WEBSITE: [www.gregvitali.com](http://www.gregvitali.com)



## ***New law allows pharmacists to administer flu vaccine to children***

This fall, a new state law will allow children as young as 9 to receive flu vaccines at a pharmacy. Previously, only doctors could administer flu vaccines to people younger than 18.

The law's intent is to increase vaccination rates by making it more convenient to get them. There are 8,816 licensed pharmacists in Pennsylvania who can administer flu immunizations, according to the Pennsylvania Department of State.

Approximately 40 percent of Pennsylvania children were not vaccinated during the 2013-14 flu season, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Consent of a parent or guardian is required for a minor to be immunized.

Parents and guardians should check with their insurance provider to determine if the cost of the vaccine is covered by their policy.

## ***More background checks required for volunteers, employees***

A new state law requires all employees and adult volunteers who have direct and routine contact with children to obtain a state police criminal background check and a state Department of Human Services child abuse history clearance.

Previously, only school and child care employees and social workers had to obtain the checks and clearances.

In addition, the law requires volunteers who have direct and routine contact with children and have lived in Pennsylvania for less than 10 continuous years to obtain a federal criminal background check that requires fingerprinting.

Beginning Aug. 25, all new volunteers must submit certification prior to the commencement of service. Current volunteers have until July 1, 2016 to obtain their clearances. Volunteers who need the clearances include sports coaches and scout leaders.

Current employees subject to the clearances must obtain them by the end of this year, and new employees must obtain them before starting employment. In addition to those listed above, some examples of employees who need these clearances are doctors, nurses, dentists and lifeguards.

Employees at higher education institutions are exempt from the background checks unless their students participate in dual high school/college enrollment programs.

State police background checks and child abuse history clearances are free for volunteers and are \$8 apiece for employees and other requestors. Volunteer clearances cannot be used for employment.

FBI checks cost \$27.50 through the Department of Human Services and \$28.75 through the Department of Education.

Background check clearances must be recertified every five years.

Child abuse history clearances are available online at [www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis](http://www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis). State police criminal background checks are available online at <https://epatch.state.pa.us>.

This law and 22 others were enacted in 2014 in response to the Jerry Sandusky child abuse scandal at Penn State University. The legislature modified and clarified this law in late June.

More information about the laws, including a detailed explanation of who needs clearances, is available at <http://keepkidssafe.pa.gov> or by calling 1-877-371-5422.

## ***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](mailto:RepVitali@pahouse.net).

## ***Avoid scam phone calls***

The Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General offers the following advice to avoid telemarketing and telephone scams:

- Never give your personal information, your credit card number or bank account information to anyone who contacts you; only provide it if you initiate the contact.
- Never send money, wire transfers or pre-paid cash cards to someone you do not know.
- Remember that banks, credit card companies and government offices never call you to verify personal or account information. Earlier this year, residents received calls from people fraudulently claiming to be from the IRS and demanding payment on taxes owed.
- Law enforcement agencies will not contact you and demand that you make a payment of fines over the phone or Internet.

If you are called by someone you believe is a scammer, tell the person you don't want to be called again, note the date and time of the call and, if possible, the caller's number. You can file a complaint by calling the Attorney General's Bureau of Consumer Protection at 1-800-441-2555 or by visiting [www.attorneygeneral.gov](http://www.attorneygeneral.gov).

In addition, you may eliminate unwanted telemarketing calls by registering for Pennsylvania's Do-Not-Call list by visiting [www.attorneygeneral.gov/Consumers/Do\\_Not\\_Call\\_List](http://www.attorneygeneral.gov/Consumers/Do_Not_Call_List), or by calling at 1-888-777-3406.

## ***Free notary service at district office***

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 license, photo ID card, or passport. Please let my staff know if witnesses are needed, in addition to the notary, for your documents. My office has a limit of five notarizations per person.

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.

## ***Upcoming household hazardous waste collections***

There will be several household hazardous waste collections in the southeastern Pennsylvania region through the end of the year. All events will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. rain or shine.

- Saturday, Aug. 8 at Abington Junior High School, 2056 Susquehanna Road, Abington.
- Sunday, Sept. 20 at Penn State University – Brandywine Campus, 25 Yearsley Mill Road, Media. Use the main entrance at the traffic light on Route 352.
- Saturday, Oct. 10 at the Government Services Center, 601 Westtown Road, West Chester.
- Saturday, Oct. 17 at the Emergency Services Training Center, 1600 Calcon Hook Road, Sharon Hill.
- Sunday, Oct. 18 at the Lower Merion Transfer Station, 1300 N. Woodbine Ave., Penn Valley.

Household hazardous waste includes household products that are labeled poisonous, toxic,

flammable, caustic, corrosive, reactive or explosive. Items containing Freon will not be accepted.

Electronic waste will no longer be accepted.

For more information about collections in Delaware County, you may call the Delaware County Solid Waste Authority at 610-892-9627 or visit [www.co.delaware.pa.us/SWA](http://www.co.delaware.pa.us/SWA).

You can get information about Chester County's HHW events by visiting [www.chestercountyswa.org](http://www.chestercountyswa.org) or calling 610-273-3771.

You can get information about Montgomery County's events at [www.montcopa.org/recycling](http://www.montcopa.org/recycling) or by calling 610-278-3618.

For a complete listing of collections in the five-county southeastern Pennsylvania region, visit my website, [www.gregvitali.com](http://www.gregvitali.com), and click on "Local 2015 recycling schedules" on the right side of the page and then choose "2015 Southeastern Pennsylvania regional household hazardous waste events."

## ***New cyberbullying law***

A new state law, which takes effect Sept. 8, creates the crime of cyber harassment of a child.

Repeatedly making seriously disparaging statements with bad intent or threatening harm to a child via an electronic device will become a crime.

The crime would be graded as a third-degree misdemeanor for adults, carrying a maximum penalty of a year in prison. Children charged under this legislation would be referred to juvenile court.

For more information, please go to [www.stopbullying.gov](http://www.stopbullying.gov). If you believe your child is a victim of cyberbullying, please call your local police department.

## ***Receive newsletters electronically***

I am sending newsletters via email in an effort to reduce postage costs and save paper.

If you want receive only an electronic copy, go to my website, [www.gregvitali.com](http://www.gregvitali.com), and click on "Sign up for e-newsletters" on the right side of the page.

## ***Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program deadline extended***

The deadline to apply to the state's Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program for a rebate on property taxes or rent paid in 2014 has been extended from June 30 until Dec. 31, 2015.

The program benefits 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. Half of Social Security income and all Social Security cost-of-living increases are excluded, and the maximum standard rebate is \$650.

Claimants must reapply for rebates every year because they are based on annual income and property taxes or rent paid each year. Spouses, personal representatives or estates may file rebate claims on behalf of deceased claimants who lived at least one day in 2014 and meet all other eligibility criteria.

The state began distributing rebates on July 1 to those who have already applied to the program.

Please contact my office for the form to apply to the program or for help in filling it out.

## ***SEPTA making improvements at Villanova Station***

SEPTA is improving the Villanova station on the Paoli/Thorndale Regional Rail line, located near Spring Mill Road between the Villanova University undergraduate campus and the law school.

The project will be completed in two phases. During the first phase, SEPTA will build a new Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant pedestrian tunnel at the station to replace the current tunnel.

Work will begin on this part of the project once local permits are secured.

The second part of the project improves the above-ground portion of the station. It includes building restoration, high-level platforms, and canopies.

No interruptions in service are expected as a result of this project.

## ***PennDOT services online***

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation offers many services through its website, [www.dmv.state.pa.us](http://www.dmv.state.pa.us), saving residents a trip to a driver license center. A credit or debit card is required for these transactions.

Online services include:

- Replacing a lost or stolen driver's license or photo ID;
- Renewing a driver's license or photo ID, as well as renewing a vehicle registration;
- Changing an address for a driver's license, photo ID or vehicle; and
- Obtaining a personalized license plate.

If you are completing a transaction involving your vehicle, please have your driver's license, insurance information, the title and license plate numbers and the vehicle's mileage handy.

## ***PennDOT now permits payment of fine in lieu of registration suspension for insurance law violations***

Starting this year, Pennsylvanians who allowed their vehicle insurance to lapse may pay a fine and fee totaling \$588 in lieu of having their registration suspended for three months.

This option is available only once during a 12-month period.

To use this option, residents may visit PennDOT's website at [www.dmv.state.pa.us](http://www.dmv.state.pa.us), click "Pay Your Civil

Penalty Fee in Lieu of FR Suspension" and complete the required steps.

Residents may also complete Form MV-222, "Application for Payment of Civil Penalty in Lieu of Registration Suspension," and submit a certified check or money order payable to the PA Department of Transportation for \$588 along with proof of insurance. For more information or the form, please contact my office.