



## STATE REPRESENTATIVE

# Daniel McNeill

### 133RD LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

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## Continuing our fight against opioid and heroin addiction



In his current budget proposal, Gov. Tom Wolf has allocated \$10 million to provide life-saving naloxone to first responders and law enforcement across the state; \$26.5 million in each of the next two years to expand access to treatment centers, particularly for people who are uninsured or underinsured; and \$3.4 million to expand specialty drug courts to increase treatment strategies that divert offenders into more meaningful treatment and recovery instead of into the criminal justice system.

Additionally, I have been working on bipartisan legislation to address this crisis. I recently worked on H.B. 17 with Rep. Marcia Hahn (R-138, which covers Hanover and Bethlehem Townships) which unanimously passed the House of Representatives and has moved on to the Senate. This bill would give parents the right to consent to drug treatment on behalf of their children and over their objections. Currently, there is no age of consent for children for drug or alcohol treatment in the state, and any child can refuse treatment.

If you know someone who is struggling with addiction, PLEASE call Lehigh County Drug and Alcohol at 610-782-3555. Whether or not they have insurance, they WILL get help.

## Senior center coming to Whitehall

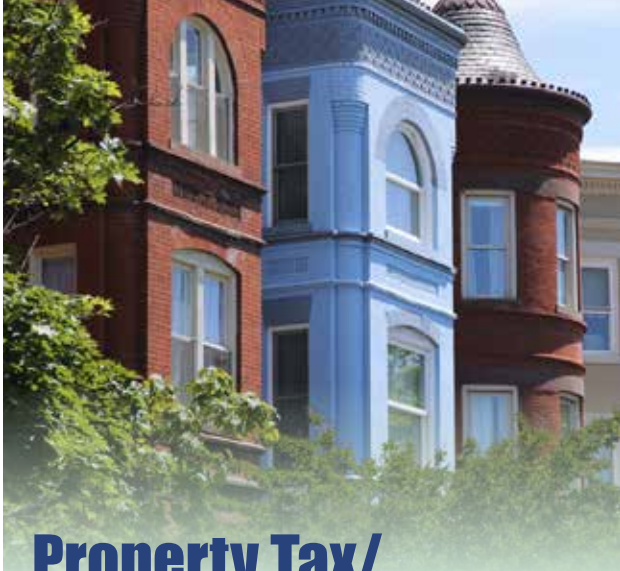
There is exciting news to report for senior citizens in the greater Whitehall area. Many of you travel to Lehigh Valley Active Life in Allentown to take part in all of the wonderful programs they offer. Soon you won't have to travel as far, as starting in May, Whitehall Township will be home to its own senior center!

The Whitehall Township Active Lifestyle Center will start offering programs, including a hot lunch, on Tuesday, May 2 at the West Catasauqua Community Center located at 2301 Pine St. You are invited to their Open House and Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony from 10 a.m. to noon on Tuesday, April 4. Light refreshments will be served. After the opening ceremonies, you can sign up for classes such as: Morning Art, Cooking, Bingo, Card Games, Afternoon Tai Chi, Strength Training and others. You will also have the opportunity to join the Whitehall Seniors Club, and learn about volunteering, transportation and the lunch program.

The Whitehall Lifestyle Center will be assisted by Lehigh Valley Active Life and the Lehigh County Office of

Aging and Adult Services. Remember to circle on your calendar Tuesday, May 2, when classes and lunch will begin. Come out and join your fellow seniors for fun, socializing, learning and exercise!





# Property Tax/ Rent Rebate Program accepting applications

The state started taking applications for the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program in February.

The program provides a state rebate on 2016 property taxes or rent to income-eligible residents who are 65 or older, widows and widowers 50 or older, and people with disabilities 18 or older. 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, you only have to count half your Social Security or federal Railroad Retirement Tier I benefits toward your total income.

Claimants must reapply for rebates every year because rebates are based on annual income and property taxes or rent paid annually. Spouses, personal representatives or estates may also file rebate claims on behalf of deceased claimants who lived at least one day in 2016 and met all other eligibility criteria.

You can obtain information about the program, an application and help applying through my Whitehall office or on the state Department of Revenue’s website at [www.revenue.pa.gov](http://www.revenue.pa.gov).

There is no charge to apply for this program. If you receive an offer requiring a fee to apply, please disregard it.

The state will begin mailing rebate checks on July 1.



## Sign up for email updates; follow me on social media

Periodically, my office sends out email updates about important happenings at the state Capitol and in our community. You can sign up for these emails by visiting this website – [www.pahouse.com/emailsignup](http://www.pahouse.com/emailsignup). Please know that your information is only used by my office and is not shared with or sold to any third parties.

My website – [www.pahouse.com/McNeill](http://www.pahouse.com/McNeill) – has links to information on state services and includes a form that allows you to email my office. My office also maintains a legislative Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/RepMcNeill](http://www.facebook.com/RepMcNeill) and Twitter feed @RepMcNeill.

## Committee assignments received

Committees provide legislative oversight and help shape the language in bills that fall under their areas of responsibility. My service on the following five committees will allow me to voice your concerns on a broad range of issues. I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure that every proposal helps to make Pennsylvania a better place to live, work, raise a family and retire.

The House Democratic Leader has appointed me to serve on the following committees for the 2017-18 session:

- Labor and Industry
- Local Government
- Finance
- Professional Licensure
- Agriculture and Rural Affairs

## Important phone numbers for your reference

Lehigh County Government Center.....	610-782-3000
Northampton County Government Center.....	610-559-3000
PA Dept. of Revenue (Bethlehem Office) .....	610-861-2000
Internal Revenue Service (Bethlehem Office) .....	610-865-8208
AARP – PA .....	1-866-389-5654
Crime Victims Council of Lehigh Valley .....	610-437-6611
Turning Point Lehigh Valley Helpline.....	610-437-3369
CACLV – Community Action Committee Lehigh Valley .....	610-691-5620
Lehigh County Department of Aging.....	610-782-3034
Northampton County Department of Aging.....	610-559-3245
Lehigh County Veterans Affairs Office.....	610-782-3295
Northampton County Department of Veterans Affairs .....	610-559-3199
CareerLink.....	610-437-5627
American Red Cross .....	610-865-4400
Social Security Office (Allentown).....	1-877-405-6746
(Bethlehem) .....	1-866-783-7458
LIHEAP	
(Lehigh County) .....	610-821-6509
(Northampton County) .....	610-250-1700
U.S. Rep. Charles Dent.....	610-770-3490
State Sen. Lisa Boscola .....	610-868-8667
State Sen. Patrick Browne.....	610-821-8468



# Be wary of utility imposters

With the warmer weather upon us, the Keystone Alliance to Stop Utility Imposters, a coalition of local water, gas and electric utilities, along with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, Pennsylvania District Attorneys Association and Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association want to remind you to be on the lookout for criminals impersonating utility workers to gain access and rob homeowners.

Throughout the Lehigh Valley and across Pennsylvania, thieves have gained access to residents' homes by posing as utility workers. Once inside the home, the imposters typically divert the resident's attention by sending him or her to another floor while they or an accomplice robs the home. They often target senior citizens who are home alone during the day. Impersonators are not easy to spot and often buy uniforms so they "look official" and charm the seniors into letting them into their homes, often with an emergency statement like "there's a gas leak in the area and we need to check your basement for gas, even though you might not have gas service it may have seeped into your home."

Homeowners are advised that before letting any worker into their house to always check for a company-issued photo ID. It is extremely rare for a utility employee to show up at a customer's home without an appointment. However, if someone comes to your door claiming to be from the local utility and you are not expecting them, do not let them inside without proper photo identification. They often will call their "800" number on their cell phone to verify their identity, only to have an accomplice on the other end telling you that they are legitimate. The only 800 number you should call to verify a utility employee is the 800 number on your utility bill. If you have any suspicions about the person's identity, call 9-1-1 immediately. The 9-1-1 operator will be able to verify if there is any legitimate emergency work being done in the area.

These criminals are often from out of the area and travel to a neighborhood to pull a number of jobs in a day. Many seniors may not even notice items are missing until long after the thieves have left the area. Police say it is difficult to catch these thieves since they "seemed so nice and looked so official." Please warn your elderly family members, neighbors and friends not to let anyone into their home that they are not expecting, especially someone claiming to be from a utility company or contractor doing work in the area.

Residents should be aware of other ongoing utility phone scams. In those cases, thieves target customers with a false claim the customer is behind on his bill and will have service shut off if an immediate payment is not made with a pre-paid debit or credit card. Again, if you have any questions about a utility bill, hang up and call the number on your utility bill.



# Suggestions for filing unemployment claims

My office has been inundated with constituents complaining about not getting through to the Unemployment Compensation Office to file their UC claims. Please keep in mind that just before Christmas, the state laid off close to 500 employees who handled unemployment claims. This has created the backlog that exists across Pennsylvania.

Here are some suggestions: If you are seeking immediate help with your claims, you should visit PA CareerLink Lehigh Valley, located at 555 Union Blvd. in Allentown. (The old Western Electric Building in front of Coca-Cola Park.) You should plan on getting there early in the morning, (they open at 8:30 a.m.) as the minimal wait time is about 3 hours and they close promptly at 4 p.m. Those with dietary concerns might want to bring snacks and a beverage. You can always visit or contact my Whitehall office, although it may take some time for my staff to get a response from Harrisburg. Again, if you wish a same-day response, we suggest that you visit CareerLink in person.



# PennDOT eliminates vehicle registration stickers

Beginning Jan. 1, 2017, PennDOT began a new policy in which it no longer issues license plate stickers when drivers renew their vehicle registrations. The sticker elimination is part of a \$3 million-plus cost-saving initiative under Act 89 of 2013. Customers are still required to maintain current vehicle registration, and must present a registration card to law enforcement when asked. A valid registration card also is still required when having a safety and/or emissions inspection completed.



Law enforcement agencies have electronic access to PennDOT's database from their patrol vehicles, which allows them to verify if a vehicle registration is valid. In addition, many use license plate reader technology to efficiently validate registrations. A Penn State research study concluded that eliminating the registration sticker has no impact on vehicle registration compliance. More information on this new policy is available at [www.dmv.pa.gov](http://www.dmv.pa.gov).



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## INSIDE:

- Fighting against addiction
- New senior center
- Tips for filing unemployment

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## 2017 SENIOR FAIR RETURNS TO WESTGATE MALL

It's that time of year again for our annual Spring Senior Fair at the Westgate Mall in Bethlehem. Every year this event has gotten bigger and better (with close to 100 vendors and over 500 seniors in attendance last year) and we are looking forward to another great turnout. The event again will be co-hosted with state Sen. Lisa Boscola.

We will also have a multitude of door prizes and free refreshments. There will be many free screenings (blood pressure, stroke, pinch test, hearing, balance, vision, etc.) as well as important and valuable information for seniors.

So come on over to the Westgate Mall, 2285 Schoenersville Road, on **Friday, April 7, from 9 a.m. to noon**. There is plenty of free parking, easy accessibility from Route 22 and direct access via the LANTA bus 105 route.

*Looking forward to seeing you there!*



## MY OFFICE CAN HELP YOU WITH:

- Car registrations, special tags, handicap placards, titles and driver's license applications
- Information on financial assistance for higher education
- Assistance in obtaining and completing state forms of all kinds
- Voter registration and absentee ballot applications
- Unemployment compensation, disability and workers' compensation
- Birth and death certificates
- Issues with the Department of Human Services (food stamps, medical and income assistance)
- Pennsylvania income tax questions or problems
- Requests for literature of all kinds – bills, regulations, statutes, Pennsylvania maps, senior citizen information
- Inquiries about utilities and the Public Utility Commission
- Citations from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for outstanding accomplishments and family milestones
- Issues with insurance companies
- Renewal of state-issued licenses or certifications
- Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program problems or questions
- PACE prescription-drug cards for senior citizens
- Consumer complaints
- Liquor Control Board concerns or questions
- Tours of the state Capitol for individuals or groups
- Information about federal, state and local government agencies

**Any state government-related matter!**