

Photos from Harrisburg and around the district



A little rain couldn't stop over 250 people from participating in our free document shredding event held in April in honor of Earth Day. In fact, so many people came – we had to bring over a second truck!



Congrats to Ridley Township resident Emily Apakian for earning her Gold Award! The Gold Award is the highest achievement a Girl Scout can earn. Emily is a member of Troup 53541 and she's an inspiration for other young women!



It was an honor to officially welcome the HEADstrong Foundation to Swarthmore Borough in July as it held a ground-breaking ceremony for its new Nick's House. The property is being renovated to support patients and families coping with cancer, including a free place to stay during cancer treatment.



Jennifer Kaplinsky of Rose Valley demonstrates how she affixes ribbons to military medals, explaining her job during a May 12 tour I took to learn more about Elwyn's Bridgewater occupational training center. Jennifer is one of 140 individuals who work at the Elwyn center in Aston.



In June I visited Handi-Crafters in Thorndale at the invitation of Kathy Cronin and her son Zach, who live in Brookhaven. Handi-Crafters provides meaningful work opportunities that empower people with disabilities. Programs such as these have been threatened by recent changes at the federal level, and I'm fighting to make sure all families have the support they need.



I kicked off Memorial Day weekend in Brookhaven Borough at a ceremony organized by American Legion Post 94, where I talked about the importance of honoring our veterans, past and present, and the WWI resolution we introduced in the House chamber. The morning ended with a beautiful flag ceremony led by volunteers from Saving Hallowed Ground.



I was grateful to continue celebrating the spirit of Memorial Day in Aston Township with American Legion Post 926. It was a privilege to march in the parade and speak at this important community event as we paused to remember the servicemen and women who fought so hard for our democracy.

Pa. should sign onto the U.S. Climate Alliance

The president's decision to withdraw our country from the historic Paris Climate Agreement has put the health, safety and economy of Pennsylvania and the United States in peril. Climate change affects all things, from industries such as agriculture and tourism to the health and mortality of infants and children.

As a mom, business leader and legislator, I cannot just stand by while this decision puts the health and economic future of our children at risk. In the absence of leadership at the federal level, state and local governments must lead the effort to protect the future of our communities, the commonwealth and our country.

That is why I introduced H.R. 421, urging Pennsylvania to join the 1,200 local officials, businesses – including Apple, Facebook, Google, Target and Walmart – and educational institutions across the nation who have committed to upholding elements of the Paris Agreement by signing onto the U.S. Climate Alliance. Many Pennsylvanians have already joined the effort: the signers include nine Pennsylvania mayors and the leaders of 15 Pennsylvania colleges and universities, including the presidents of Allegheny College, Bryn Mawr College, Chatham University, Drexel University, Elizabethtown College, Gettysburg

University, Lebanon Valley College, Lehigh University, Millersville University, Penn State University and Villanova University.

Formed in response to the president's decision to withdraw from the Paris Agreement, members of the U.S. Climate Alliance are committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 26-28 percent from 2005 levels and meeting or exceeding the goals of the federal Clean Power Plan. By committing to clear benchmarks, we can start to mitigate the harmful effects of climate change – such as rising temperatures, extreme weather, increased smog and more – while creating family-sustaining jobs in Pennsylvania.

According to a report released last year, 5,400 direct and indirect jobs would be created every year if the U.S. meets its goals to reduce methane emissions by the oil and gas industry. Many of the jobs created in the clean energy sector pay well and provide long-term security. The median hourly wage for workers in the methane mitigation industry is \$30.88, for example, compared with \$19.60 for all U.S. jobs.

Joining the Climate Alliance is a step toward fulfilling our moral obligation

to provide the next generation with an environment in better shape than the one we inherited. If we don't commit ourselves to taking action, we hand our children a world of increased food insecurity, higher rates of respiratory diseases like asthma, and increased transmission of some infectious diseases, which are just some of the negative effects of climate change.

I'm grateful to the 39 co-sponsors who came together in a bipartisan show of support for this resolution. It has been referred to the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, where it awaits a committee vote.



In June members of Moms Clean Air Force and Send the Lorax joined me for a news conference announcing my resolution urging Pa. to join the Climate Alliance.

Responsible revenue plan needed to pay for budget

On June 30, I joined the majority of representatives and senators in voting for a \$32 billion state budget bill for 2017-18. This bill was the product of bipartisan negotiations and restores much of the dangerous cuts contained in the earlier version of the proposal.

I supported this budget because it preserves much of the line-item funding for education and other areas that I was concerned about, including \$150 million in increases for basic and special education and Pre-K Counts.

Despite bipartisan agreement on what and how much to spend, Republican House leadership has failed to put forth a responsible revenue plan to pay for the budget. Negotiations have continued, but Speaker Turzai has blocked several fair and sustainable solutions, such as a severance tax on natural gas, from coming up for a vote – even when these proposals have bipartisan support.

Not having a reliable revenue plan in place puts our commonwealth in a dangerous and unsustainable financial position. Without new revenue, we will be operating essentially on a credit card for eight months of the year, costing us even more money in borrowing and placing our state's credit rating in further jeopardy.

The Senate just passed a package of budget-related bills and sent them over to the House for consideration. We're waiting for the Speaker to call us back to Harrisburg. I am ready to go back at any time to find a responsible approach to funding our budget that makes government more efficient, closes corporate loopholes that increase the burden on the middle class, and ensures everyone pays their fair share, including out-of-state corporations.

