

GREG VITALI

STATE REPRESENTATIVE — 166TH DISTRICT

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LEGISLATIVE REPORT

JULY 2023

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Upcoming Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Events

There will be several Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collections in Southeastern PA in 2023. Here are some upcoming events nearby:

September 9th: Emergency Services Training Center (1600 Calcon Hook Rd., Sharon Hill)

October 14th: Upper Chichester Township Building (8500 Furey Rd., Upper Chichester)

October 22nd: Lower Merion Transfer Station (1300 N. Woodbine Ave., Penn Valley)

All events will be held rain or shine, and preregistration is required. HHW includes household products labeled poisonous, toxic, flammable, caustic, corrosive, reactive or explosive. **Electronic waste, latex paint, alkaline batteries, and items containing Freon will not be accepted.**

To register for a Delaware County HHW Collection, call 610-892-9627 or visit www.delcoswa.org/household-hazardous-waste. For Montgomery County HHW Collection registration, call 610-278-3618 or visit www.montcoparecycles.org.

Property Tax Rent Rebate Application Deadline Extended

The deadline to apply for the 2022 Property Tax/Rent Rebate (PTRR) Program has been extended from June 30 to Dec. 31, 2023. This program provides a state rebate on rent or property taxes paid in the year prior 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, only count half of your Social Security or federal railroad retirement Tier I benefits toward your total income. The maximum standard rebate is \$650.

Applications can now be submitted online by visiting <https://mypath.pa.gov>. You can also obtain additional information, a paper application or assistance applying through my office. Rebate payments began being mailed and direct deposited in July.

Legislative Action On The Environment

Since being appointed Majority Chairman of the House Environmental Resources & Energy Committee in March, I have held five public hearings: Plugging and Bonding of Conventional Oil and Gas Wells; Cryptocurrency and Climate Change; Hydrogen Hubs and Climate Change; Permitting in Environmental Justice Communities; and Pennsylvania Waterways and the Chesapeake Bay. I am also prime sponsor of four pieces of environmental legislation.

HB 962 would restore the authority of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Environmental Quality Board to adjust bonding amounts for conventional oil and gas wells to more accurately reflect the actual costs of well plugging.

HB 1215 would limit hydrogen hub tax credits to PA

companies producing hydrogen for “hard-to-electrify” sectors and increase incentives to companies producing hydrogen from renewable energy.

HB 1282 would amend the Tax Code to exclude cryptocurrency mining operations from the Sales and Use Tax Exemption Program for the purchase of data center equipment.

HB 1476 would impose a two-year moratorium on the issuance of certain air permits related to cryptocurrency mining. The bill also would require DEP to conduct an impact study on crypto mining and create reporting requirements for cryptocurrency operations.

You can follow the progress of these bills and the activities of my committee by visiting www.legis.state.pa.us.

EPA Well Drilling Begins at Havertown PCP Superfund Site

In May, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) began drilling new wells for the Havertown PCP Superfund Site to create a more complete picture of the area of contamination beneath the ground surface. This comes after the EPA identified additional areas of deeper groundwater contamination in 2021 and 2022.

Between 1947 and 1963, National Wood Preservers disposed of liquids containing pentachlorophenol (PCP), dioxins, furans, and naphthalene through deep-well injection on the site. Since 1989, the EPA has been working to trace and clean this contaminated groundwater.

The new test wells will be in various locations around the EPA treatment plant, the YMCA parking lot, Paddock Park, and Rittenhouse Circle. Four locations have been completed so far, and one site

is underway, however the EPA will wait for initial sample results to determine the need and final location for any remaining test wells.

Construction of the permanent Ground Water Treatment Plant (GWTP) is expected to begin in mid-October. The new GWTP will replace the original facility that was demolished in 2021 because it was too small to collect and treat contamination from the Wood Preservers. Installation of piping for new recovery wells, upgraded stormwater management, and final site surface restoration should be complete by the end of 2025.

For more information visit the Havertown Superfund website, response.epa.gov/havertownpcp, or contact the site's Community Involvement Coordinator, Angela Ithier, at 215-814-5248.

Summer is Spotted Lanternfly Season

With summer in full swing, we are approaching the height of spotted lanternfly season. The spotted lanternfly is an invasive insect that feeds on the sap of many important plants, including grapevines, maples, willows, and black walnut trees. In 2014 it was found in Pennsylvania and has since spread to multiple counties which are now quarantined, including Delaware County.

Keep an eye out for spotted lanternflies on trees and materials stored outdoors, specifically nymphs. Nymphs are about ½ inch long and are bright red with black stripes and white spots. Adults will begin to appear from

late July to November. Adults are 1-1½ inches long with grayish forewings with black spots, and hindwings that are red, white, and black striped.



The best method to limit the spread is to reduce populations wherever they are found. You can smash them, place them in a container with rubbing alcohol, catch them using circle traps, or carefully use pesticides. For more information on management options or to report a sighting, visit www.extension.psu.edu/spotted-lanternfly or call 1-888-4BADFLY.

New License Plate Designs Available

This year the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) is offering a variety of new military and special fund license plate designs. New designs include: **Air Medal Plate, Afghanistan and Iraq Veterans Plate, Blue Star Family Plate, Pollinator Plate, Eastern Hellbender Plate.**

Military plates can be purchased for \$23 by those who earned an Air Medal or who served in both Iraq and Afghanistan. Family members of active-duty, reserve or National Guard service members can apply for a Blue Star Family Plate.

The special fund plates – the Pollinator and Eastern Hellbender designs – can be purchased for \$38. A portion of the fee will go toward the Pennsylvania Pollinator Habitat Plan or the Wild Resource Conservation Program, as applicable.



My office can provide the needed forms for these plates and submit them to Harrisburg. For more information, visit the registration plates page on PennDOT's Driver and Vehicle Services website www.dmv.pa.gov/VEHICLE-SERVICES.

PennDOT Streamlines REAL ID Process

Your Social Security Card Is No Longer Needed

The enforcement of REAL ID will go into effect on May 7, 2025. A REAL ID is a federally compliant driver's license or ID card with enhanced security features. After May 2025, you will need a REAL ID or another federal form of identification (such as a passport or military ID) to fly domestically, enter a military base, or enter certain federal facilities.

To obtain a REAL ID, you must take proof of your identity, proof of your Social Security number, two proofs of your current PA address, and proof of all legal name changes to a REAL ID center. The exact documents needed can be quite stringent, however **you no longer need to provide your Social**

Security Card as proof of your Social Security number. Instead, you can now use a W-2 form, a 1099 form, or pay stubs that have your name and full Social Security number as proof.

Before you visit a REAL ID center, you should review the PennDOT REAL ID document checklist to make sure you have all the needed materials (www.dmv.pa.gov/REALID). The closest REAL ID Centers are in Media (1097 W. Baltimore Pike, 19063) and King of Prussia (43 S. Gulph Road, 19406). My office can assist in obtaining copies of Pennsylvania birth certificates or direct you to the proper agencies to obtain other needed documents.

Expanded Online PennDOT Services

Over 20 commonly used driver licensing and motor vehicle forms can now be submitted online, including the self-certification form for commercial driving, the statement of non-operation of vehicles form, and several medical forms. Submitting these forms electronically allows PennDOT to process them more quickly and cuts down on wait times.

Forms that are available for electronic submission are listed on the [PennDOT Forms, Publication and Maps webpage](#) with a "DS" suffix in their document number. When these forms are selected, instructions for secure submission will be provided. Printable forms will continue to be available online and may also be requested through my office.

Shredding, Food Drive, and Drug Take Back Event – August 26th

My office, in partnership with Rep. Jennifer O'Mara and Sen. Tim Kearney, will host a free Shredding, Food Drive, and Drug Take Back event on Saturday, August 26th at the Broomall Fire Company on West Chester Pike at Malin Rd.

You may drop off non-perishable goods, medications, and up to 4 boxes of documents to shred between 9 a.m. and 12 p.m. Papers with

staples and paper clips will be accepted, however, large binder clips should be removed. When you arrive, **remain in your vehicle**, and have the documents accessible in your trunk.

This event will be first come, first serve until the shredding truck is full. Preregistration is not required. Please call my office if you have any questions or concerns about this event.

Save On Your Internet Bill

To increase access to affordable broadband service, the Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority has partnered with the Federal Communications Commission to establish the Affordable Connectivity Program. This program provides eligible households a \$30 monthly discount on their home Wi-Fi bill. Households can also receive a one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet from participating providers.

To be eligible, your income must be below \$27,180 for a single person household, or below \$36,620 for a two-person household. For each additional person, add \$9,440 to the income limit. Alternatively, you may qualify if someone in your household received a Federal Pell Grant during the current award year; meets the eligibility criteria for a participating provider's existing low-income internet program; or participates in a federal assistance program such as SNAP, Medicaid, WIC, SSI, etc.

To apply visit <https://affordableconnectivity.gov>. My office can assist you with applying online or provide you with a paper application.

Free Notary Service

Many official documents can be notarized for free in my office. Please call ahead to make sure our notary is available and can notarize your type of document.

Some of the documents my office cannot notarize include birth certificates, car titles, wills, deeds, mortgages, powers of attorney, personal financial documents, and the Employment Eligibility Verification Form I-9.

The person whose signature is to be notarized must sign the document in person and provide proof of identity. If you are unable to climb the stairs to my district office, our notary can meet you at your vehicle or you can visit my satellite office on Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Join My Email Update List

I maintain an email list for those who wish to receive periodic email updates about public meetings, traffic alerts, community events, state and local programs and services, and other items of interest to the community. To be added to that list, please email RepVitali@pahouse.net with your name, address, and request.

District & Satellite Office Hours

My Havertown district office is open to help with your state-related matters from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Fridays.

You may also visit my new Broomall satellite office, located in Trinity Christian Reformed Church (144 Lawrence Rd., 19008), on Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This office is on the ground floor and handicap accessible.

My staff can assist with SEPTA Senior ID cards, Property Tax/Rent Rebate forms, birth/death certificates, notary services, and more at both locations. No appointments are necessary to visit.