

GREG VITALI

STATE REPRESENTATIVE — 166TH DISTRICT

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LEGISLATIVE REPORT

FEBRUARY 2022

GREG VITALI

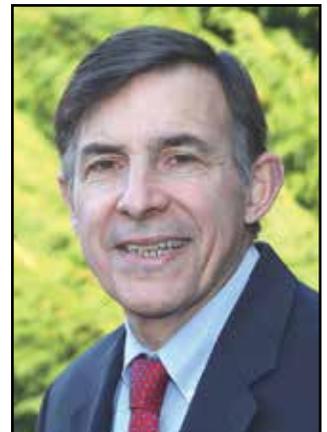
STATE REPRESENTATIVE — 166TH DISTRICT

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No SEPTA Senior ID Cards Will Expire This Year

SEPTA Key Senior ID Cards allow seniors (65 years or older) to ride for free on all SEPTA service lines. The cards expire four years after issuance.

SEPTA is providing another one-year extension for all SEPTA Key Senior ID Cards expiring in 2022. SEPTA is also providing a second one-year extension for cards that expired in 2021, and a third one-year extension for cards that expired in 2020. For example, cards with a March 2020, March 2021, or March 2022 expiration date will continue to be valid through March 2023.

My district office can help complete first-time applications and take photos. Bring identification containing a date of birth such as a Pennsylvania driver's license or non-driver ID, U.S. passport, or birth certificate. Senior ID cards currently take about 4 to 6 weeks to process and mail out.

To replace a lost or stolen Senior ID Card, call SEPTA Key Customer Service at 855-567-3782.

PACENET Program Expanded

More seniors will be eligible for PACENET because of a new law that increased income limits. The PACENET program provides low-cost prescription drugs to Pennsylvanians 65 or older.

The total income limit for a qualifying single individual is now \$33,500, and the total combined income limit for a qualifying married couple is now \$41,500.

My office can provide paper PACENET applications and answer questions. For more information, please visit: <https://www.aging.pa.gov/aging-services/Pages/default.aspx>.

New Household Water Assistance Program

The Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) is now open and accepting applications.

LIHWAP is a temporary program created by the federal American Rescue Plan Act that offers crisis grants to help low-income individuals and families pay overdue water bills. Crisis grants are available if you are in danger of losing your water service due to unpaid bills.

The income limits for LIHWAP grants are \$19,320 (yearly) for an individual. This limit

PennDOT Updates Smart Phone Travel Information Service

PennDOT has updated its 511PA traveler information service. 511PA is a smartphone app that gives real-time, hands-free traffic advisories for Pennsylvania state roadways.

You can now set up personalized travel alerts for specific roadways, days of the week, and time of day. You also can select the type of alerts you would like to receive (example: incidents, roadwork, weather-related events, etc.) as opposed to receiving all alerts.

511PA now also includes electric vehicle charging stations as an option on its traffic map. The map shows locations across the commonwealth by connector type.

511PA is also available by calling 5-1-1. For more information, please visit: <https://www.511pa.com/>.

increases by \$6,810 for each additional person in the household.

Crisis grants are available to renters and homeowners. Applicants can receive one crisis grant for drinking water service and one crisis grant for wastewater service of up to \$2,500 each.

My office can help you complete a paper application and answer questions. Applications can also be submitted online via COMPASS at <https://www.compass.state.pa.us/>. Grants will be awarded until funds are depleted.

New Treatment Plant for Havertown Superfund Site

The groundwater treatment plant located at Eagle Road and Hillcrest Avenue in Havertown (across from the YMCA) was demolished last year and a temporary plant is currently treating collected groundwater. A new plant has been designed to replace that plant and increase the treatment capacity and will be completed by 2023. Treated water is discharged to Naylor's Run.

From 1947 to 1991, National Wood Preservers ran a wood treatment operation at this location and disposed of liquid waste in a well which contaminated the groundwater. Those contaminants included pentachlorophenol (PCP), arsenic, dioxins, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and petroleum hydrocarbons. The EPA has been

working on cleaning up this site since 1989, with the first treatment plant coming online in 2001.

Additional investigations are being conducted in coordination with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection to test areas where deeper groundwater contamination was recently identified. This groundwater contamination is not expected to pose a public health risk.

The EPA expects that additional groundwater extraction wells will be installed after this investigation to improve the groundwater cleanup. This work is also anticipated for 2023.

For more information on the Havertown Superfund Site, please contact the site's community involvement coordinator, Angela Unoarumhi. She can be reached by phone at 215-814-5248.

Household Hazardous Waste Collections

There will be several household hazardous waste collections in southeastern Pennsylvania in 2022. Here are some upcoming events nearby.

■ Saturday, April 23: Emergency Services Training Center, 1600 Calcon Hook Rd., Sharon Hill (Darby Twp.) 19079.

■ Saturday, May 21: Temple University Ambler Campus, Enter at 1431 E Butler Pike, Ambler, PA 19002.

■ Saturday, June 11: Rose Tree Park, 1671 N. Providence Road, Media, PA 19063.

■ Saturday, June 18: Norristown Area High School, 1900 Eagle Dr, Norristown, PA 19403.

■ Saturday, June 25: Abington Junior High School, Enter at 2056 Susquehanna Road, Abington, PA 19001.

Household hazardous waste includes household products labeled poisonous, toxic, flammable, caustic, corrosive, reactive or explosive. **Items containing freon and electronic waste will not be accepted.**

For additional dates and to register for an event in Delaware County, call the Delaware County Solid Waste Authority at 610-892-9627 or visit <https://www.delcopa.gov/recycle/hhw.html>.

For additional dates and to register for an event in Montgomery County, please call Montgomery County Recycling at 610-278-3618 or visit <https://www.montcopa.org/637/Recycling-Information>.

Registration is required for all events and can be done on the website.

Online Filing Option Available for PA Taxpayers

The Pennsylvania Department of Revenue has an online system for taxpayers to file their 2021 Pennsylvania Income Tax Return (PA-40).

This system is available online at www.mypath.pa.gov and could help taxpayers avoid paying fees for online tax preparation software or to tax return preparers. In addition to filing the PA-40, myPATH also allows taxpayers to make income tax payments, track the status of income tax refunds, and access other services.

Medical Marijuana Dispensary Opens in Bryn Mawr

Ayr Wellness, a medical marijuana dispensary, recently opened at 712 Lancaster Avenue (across from Firsttrust Bank in Bryn Mawr). Ayr Wellness joins other dispensaries in the region, including locations in Ardmore, Plymouth Meeting and King of Prussia.

Pennsylvania law allows medical marijuana for specific conditions including autism, anxiety disorders, inflammatory bowel disease, Crohn's disease, Tourette syndrome, cancer, epilepsy, intractable seizures, posttraumatic stress disorder and terminal illness.

For more information, including other dispensary locations, go to www.medicalmarijuana.pa.gov. For further questions about Pennsylvania's medical marijuana program, please call 888-733-5595. To contact Ayr Wellness Bryn Mawr, call 610-445-8600.

Home Heating Assistance

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is open and accepting applications until May 6.

LIHEAP offers cash grants to help with home heating bills and crisis grants to help with emergency situations, such as a broken furnace or an unexpected fuel shortage. Applicants need not be on public assistance to receive help through LIHEAP, nor will any lien be placed on a person's property.

This season's income limits for LIHEAP cash and crisis grants are \$19,320 (yearly) for an individual. This limit increases by \$6,810 for each additional person in the household.

These grants are available to renters and homeowners. They range from \$500 to \$1,500 based on household size, income, and fuel type. These grants will be sent directly to your utility company or fuel provider. Grants do not need to be repaid.

My office can help you complete a paper application and answer questions. Applications can also be submitted online via COMPASS at <https://www.compass.state.pa.us/>.

COVID-19 Resources

Here are some COVID-19 Vaccine and Testing Resources:

Delaware County residents can find the latest information on COVID-19 testing and vaccines at <https://delcopa.gov/covid/index.html> or by calling 484-276-2100.

Montgomery County residents can find the latest information on COVID-19 testing and vaccines at <https://www.montcopa.org/9/COVID-19> or by calling 833-875-3967.

For additional state resources on COVID-19, please visit: <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Coronavirus.aspx>.

Apply for 2021 Property Tax/Rent Rebate

Applications for the 2021 Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program can now be submitted online or by mail. This program provides a state rebate on 2021 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. The maximum standard rebate is \$650.

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.

You can obtain information about the program, an application and free help applying through my district office or on the state Department of Revenue's website at www.revenue.pa.gov. The deadline to apply for this program is June 30, 2022.

District Office Open by Appointment Only

Due to COVID-19, access to my district office will be by appointment only until further notice. Additionally, masks will be required during these scheduled appointments.

The Havertown district office will be staffed from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Fridays to schedule appointments and assist with state-related issues via phone and email.

Free Notary Service

Most official documents can be notarized for free at my district and satellite offices. Please call ahead to make sure our notary is in the office and can notarize your type of document.

Documents my office **is not able to notarize** include car titles, wills, deeds, powers of attorney, and the Employment Eligibility Verification Form I-9.

Notary work is done weekdays between 9:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at the District Office and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Satellite Office. The person whose signature is to be notarized must sign the document in person and provide proof of identity such as a valid driver's license, photo ID card, or passport. Please let us know if witnesses are needed. Unfortunately, we cannot provide witnesses at our satellite office.

My District Office is on the second floor. If you are unable to climb stairs, please let us know when you call. Our notary can meet you on the ground floor. Our Satellite Office does not have stairs and is handicapped accessible.

Follow me on Facebook

You can follow me on Facebook at www.facebook.com/RepVitali. There you will find updates from Harrisburg, district news, and other important state-related information.

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.

No appointment is needed at my satellite office at the Ardmore Library every Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The library, located at 108 Ardmore Avenue, is ADA compliant and located in the basement. Masks are required per library rules.

My staff can assist with SEPTA Senior ID Card Applications, Property Tax/Rent Rebate Forms, Birth/Death Certificates, Notary services, and more at both locations.