

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

#### SPOTTED LANTERNFLY EVENT WITH PA AGRICULTURE SEC. REDDING

Monday, July 22 • 6 p.m. Dock Academy, 420 Godshall Road, Souderton, PA 18964 co-hosted with Rep. Liz Hanbidge and Sen. Maria Collett

#### **MEET AND GREET**

Monday, Aug. 12 • 1 p.m. – 2 p.m. Generations of Indian Valley 259 N. Second St., Souderton, PA 18964

#### **INAUGURAL SENIOR FAIR**

Friday, September 20 • 9 a.m.-11 a.m. **Trinity Lutheran Church** 1000 W. Main St., Lansdale, PA 19446

State Rep. Steve Malagari

# **SUMMER NEWSLETTER**

Dear Neighbor,

I hope that you are having a fantastic summer! I've been in office for more than six months now, and during that time I've proposed legislation, voted for measures that would help our community, such as the PA Farm Bill, and worked on efforts to protect transit, clean water, and affordable health care. You can read more about my legislative work in this newsletter.

It's been busy – but there's still so much to do.

Over the next few months, I'll be working to meet with as many people in the district as possible. I want to listen to your concerns and ensure that I'm making your voice heard in Harrisburg. I'll be walking in neighborhoods, appearing at First and Third Fridays, visiting farmers markets, touring businesses and more.

As always, you're welcome to stop by my office at 100 W. Main St., Suite 110 in Lansdale, and my team will also be hosting regular satellite hours in Hatfield, Souderton, and Franconia.

If you have any suggestions or comments of where you'd like to see us, whether it's a community event, a business you would like me to tour, or something else in your neighborhood, please call my office at 267-768-3671. My staff and I are here for you.

Ster R. Mulya:



FIRST 6 MONTHS of **LEGISLATIVE SESSION** 

**LEGISLATION Sponsored** 

**SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS** 28

CONSTITUENT MEETINGS HELD

constituents

CONSTITUENTS 2,186











## TRANSPORTATION UPDATES

## 309 CONNECTOR – WHERE'S THE PIEDMONT EXPRESSWAY?

I hosted a meeting for local municipal officials and representatives from PennDOT to discuss the progress of the ongoing PA 309 Connector Project. We are pleased to report that Phase 2 (Wambold Road to Township Line Road) is in the final design stage and is on track to begin construction in the last quarter of 2020. PennDOT presented an alternative design for Phase 3, which will connect Township Line Road to Route 309. I will continue to hold quarterly meetings with stakeholders to track the progress of this vital infrastructure project.



You commented and I listened!

In May, I took a ride along with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation to highlight all of the complaints my office had received about the state roads in the region.

If you reached out to my office with a road complaint, I went there personally with the PennDOT team to investigate: Allentown & Ridge, Morwood, 113 & Cowpath, Knapp, 63... you name it, we checked it out. We were also able to assess the storm damage from the winter and noted areas for stormwater management improvements.

You'll be glad to know that this summer the following roads are scheduled for repair:

- Morwood Road between Creamery Road and Allentown Road (Franconia Township)
- Morwood Road between Route 63 and Creamery Road (Lower Salford / Franconia Townships)

I've also received comments about freight rail concerns and railroad crossings. I have started conversations with national partners to keep freight rail safe and to highlight the impact of this infrastructure to commuters.



### SUPPORTING MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TRANSPORTATION

I've received many calls from concerned residents who rely on the TransNet service for transportation around the county and

are worried about its future. Please know that I fully support preserving this service and keeping it affordable.

The state had planned to make changes to the Medical Assistance Transportation Program, using a statewide or regional broker instead of having counties administer the program. The human services code bill adopted for 2019-20 included a provision that would delay those changes until a study of the impacts has been done. I was in favor of the delay, and I look forward to a thorough study providing more information on that and other human services transportation programs.

Thousands of Pennsylvanians rely on the Medical Assistance Transportation Program to get to and from important medical appointments. It's critical that we know how any changes would affect those Pennsylvanians who depend on the program.

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## PROTECTING AGRICULTURE AND OUR ENVIRONMENT

### **SPOTTED LANTERNFLY - CAN WE STOP THE SPREAD?**

In January, I met with Pennsylvania Agriculture Secretary Russell Redding to discuss the problem of the spotted lanternfly in southeastern Pennsylvania.

I've heard from residents and businessowners alike who share a deep concern about the destruction of our agriculture and environment. As this pest is becoming ever more prevalent, I have invited Sec. Redding to visit this district.

He and other experts will discuss how we can prevent the spread of the spotted lanternfly at 6 p.m. Monday, July 22, at Dock Academy, 420 Godshall Road, Souderton, PA 18964.

The spotted lanternfly is an invasive insect that can greatly impact agricultural crops, such as grapes, hops and hardwoods, according to the Agriculture Department. Montgomery County is part of a quarantine area designed to help stop the spread of this pest.

Learn more at www.agriculture.pa.gov. Click on "Spotted Lanternfly" under the "Hot Topics" heading.



### STANDING UP FOR CLEAN WATER

The Delaware River Basin Commission has helped provide clean drinking water to more than 13 million people, and I spoke up in the House chamber in opposition to a bill that would try to undercut the commission's work.

House Bill 827 would try to force the Delaware River Basin Commission to lift a ban on hydraulic fracking in the river basin – or else force the commission to go bankrupt. It would require the commission to compensate landowners because hydraulic fracturing can't take place on their property – even though the fracking ban does not prohibit other types of gas drilling and development.

This bill would be a threat to the quality of our drinking water, and I will continue to fight it.

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# WORKING TO SUPPORT LOCAL AGRICULTURE

I was pleased that the House passed the PA Farm Bill package in June, and I was proud to cast a vote in support. The bills in this package, which Governor Wolf signed into law July 1, make important investments to help support and expand the agriculture industry, as well as encourage future farmers.

I co-sponsored the bills in the package, which include measures to boost disaster response, help with agricultural business development and succession planning, create grants to encourage the farming of high-priority crops, and re-establish grants that help connect young people with the agriculture industry, among other efforts.



## OTHER LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

### **BIPARTISAN WORK ON HEALTH CARE**

Earlier this month, Governor Wolf signed into law House Bill 3, a bipartisan effort to establish a state-based health insurance exchange and reinsurance program.

This move can help us preserve access to health care and lower premiums for insurance customers.

The federal government currently runs Pennsylvania's exchange, but we can run our own for less than half of what we pay the federal government. The savings can help us establish a reinsurance program to help pay for high-cost health care claims, which could lower insurance premiums by 5-10 percent.

This is great news for the nearly 400,000 health insurance customers who purchase health insurance in the individual market. I'm proud that we were able to work in a bipartisan manner to get this done.



### SUPPORTING FIREFIGHTERS

I was pleased to support House Bill 1522, which would help remove a barrier to getting young people involved in volunteer fire companies. The bill, now with the Senate, would eliminate a requirement that junior firefighters complete Department of Conservation and Natural Resources training related to wildfires before they can engage in firefighting activities.

Our local fire companies showed support for this bill, and I was pleased to support it on their behalf. Our fire companies and emergency responders work to keep us all safe in the most dangerous circumstances, and I will continue to look for opportunities to support them.





I honored the Souderton Area High School boys baseball team for its state championship win!



**STATE REP. STEVE MALAGARI** P.O. Box 202053 Harrisburg, PA 17120-2053

### **KEEP IN TOUCH AND STAY CONNECTED**

There's more to say and share than I can fit in this newsletter! Follow what I'm doing to represent you, keep updated on policy and events, and reach out to my team:

RepMalagari

<u>■</u> @RepMalagari

www.pahouse.com/Malagari

☑ RepMalagari@pahouse.net

lpo.ad.0719

## **VISIT MY OFFICE**

My office can help you with many state related issues, including PennDOT, vital records, Property Tax/Rent Rebate applications, senior citizen benefits, and more.



My main office is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

No appointments are necessary.

100 West Main St., Suite 110

Lansdale, PA 19446

#### SATELLITE OFFICE HOURS

My staff and I are available for you all across the district! If you plan to visit us at one of these times, please call ahead on 267-768-3671.

### **Peter Becker Community**

Maplewood Estates, 815 Maplewood Drive, Harleysville, PA 19438 First Mondays of the month, 3 p.m. — 5 p.m.

#### **Hatfield Township Building**

1950 School Road, Hatfield, PA 19440 Second Mondays of the month, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

### **Generations of Indian Valley**

259 N. Second St., Souderton, PA 18964 Third Mondays of the month, 10:15 a.m. — 12:45 p.m.

#### **Elm Terrace Gardens**

660 N. Broad St., Lansdale, PA 19446 Last Fridays of the month, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

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