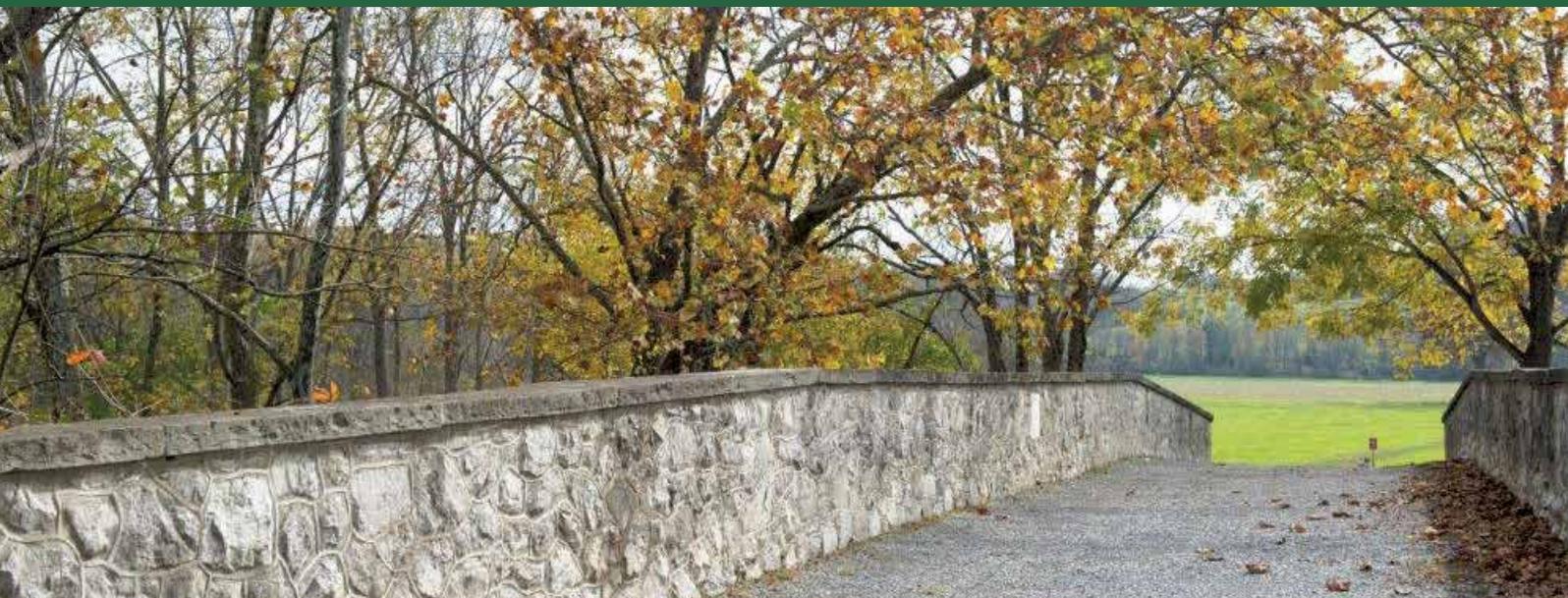


News From State Representative

CHRISTINA SAPPEY

158th Legislative District | Chester County | Fall 2022



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

CHRISTINA SAPPEY

Capitol Office:

111A East Wing
P.O. Box 202158
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2158
(717) 772-9973 · Fax: (717) 772-3072

District Office:

698 Unionville Road
Kennett Square, PA 19348
(484) 200-8264

 /RepSappey  RepSappey.com

DEAR NEIGHBOR,

I love the fall season and all that Chester County has to offer. The region becomes lively with events, traditions and the excitement that a nip in the air brings.

Fall is a time of coming together with family and friends, and I encourage you to connect with your neighbors at our many annual events, public trails and open spaces, orchards, farms, produce markets, outdoor dining, wineries, breweries and gardens. In addition to a great time, these events and venues generate significant tourism revenue and jobs in the region, yet another reason to support them. So, grab a sweater, head out and have a great time this fall in the 158th!

As always, your issues and concerns are important to me. Please feel free to call, email or make an appointment to speak to me or my staff. Serving the 158th is an honor for our whole team and we will be happy to hear from you!

All the best,

LOCAL SEASONAL TOURISM

Tourism is an essential part of our state and local economy, and it's the number two industry in PA. In 2021, Chester County welcomed over 4.57 million visitors, supplying over 7,000 tourism jobs and generating an economic impact of over \$930 million.

Chester County's proximity to cities on the east coast, scenic beauty and open space attractions make it an ideal location for post-pandemic travel. A recent consumer survey conducted by Destination Analysts found, when compared to pre-pandemic views, 42% more travelers are interested in activities with open spaces and non-urban destinations. The survey also determined a majority of travelers are prioritizing time with loved ones

in nature. This makes our local parks, farms, preserves and public gardens, such as Longwood Gardens, prime destinations.

Agritourism, farms welcoming the public for apple picking, hayrides and other activities, is a significant segment of our tourism industry. Chester County recently published an Agricultural Economic Development Strategic Plan that highlights the importance of agritourism in helping our farmers access more customers, increasing farm revenue and ultimately protecting our bucolic open spaces. We can do our part as neighbors to help these



businesses by buying local. Nearly 50% of money spent with an independent local business is recirculated in our region, versus only 14% with a large chain.

IMPORTANT ELECTION DATES

OCTOBER 24

Last day to register to vote

NOVEMBER 1

Last day to apply for a mail-in or civilian absentee ballot

NOVEMBER 8 ELECTION DAY

All mail-in and absentee ballots must be received by Chester County Voter Services by 8:00pm.

For any election related questions, including finding your precinct, registration or applying for a mail-in ballot, please contact Chester County Voter Services at 610-344-6410.

FIREPIT SAFETY AND THE PREVENTION OF RESIDENTIAL FIRES

The cooler temperatures of autumn will draw many of us outdoors to enjoy cozy fire pits. If you use one, please consider taking these simple steps below to prevent residential fires and injury:

- Check local township ordinances for any restrictions and follow them.
- Place fire pit on a solid, noncombustible surface, out of the way of busy foot traffic and at minimum 15 feet away from all structures, including fences.
- Avoid placement near vegetation and overhang from trees and bushes.
- Don't place under structures with low roofs, such as a covered porch or gazebo or in an enclosed structure such as a shed or garage.
- A clean fire pit is safer than a dirty one. Clean out ash buildup and wood remnants before lighting a fire. Use a metal screen to keep sparks from floating out.
- Do not burn household trash, plastic, rubber, fabric or other materials in a firepit.
- Closely watch children and pets near fire pits and never leave a fire unattended or smoldering.
- Extinguish fires with a bucket of water or garden hose. Stir ashes to ensure smoldering embers are out.
- Have a plan in place for an uncontrolled fire situation, such as a fire extinguisher.

FIGHTING FOR THOSE WHO FOUGHT FOR US

The 2022-2023 state budget included a \$374.2 million increase in Department of Military and Veterans Affairs funding. This includes allocations for suicide prevention, veterans homes, educational assistance, and outreach services. The budget also included an increase in minimum pay for National Guard Members, reimbursement rates for veterans groups providing burial details, and additional funds for the Paralyzed Veterans Pension Program.

This year's tax code, adopted as part of the budget process, created an exemption to inheritance tax for transfers of property from a member of the military who dies as a result of either injury or illness received while on active duty, including active duty training.

During this session, I supported the following bills in the House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee which went on to be unanimously adopted by the House. These bills are now awaiting consideration in the Senate.

HB 995, which would establish the Veterans' Outreach and Support Network Program, to help veterans and their families with the transition from military to civilian life.

HB 1055, legislation that would protect veterans' personal information by making discharge papers, known as DD-214s, inaccessible to anyone other than the veteran or an immediate family member for 85 years instead of the current 75. Veterans are now outliving the privacy protections in place, creating a need for this legislation.

PROPERTY TAX RELIEF FOR VETERANS

I strongly support proposed legislation that would expand property tax relief measures for disabled veterans. Currently, Pennsylvania law states that a disabled veteran who needs financial assistance may receive a full property tax exemption on their primary residence if they are 100% disabled as a result of wartime service. I have introduced HB 1032 which would amend the Pennsylvania Constitution to extend property tax relief to a veteran whose disability is related to their service, regardless of whether their injuries were sustained during wartime.

HONORING OUR PACT ACT

Earlier this year, I led a bipartisan, bicameral effort urging the United States Congress to pass the Honoring Our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act. Millions of U.S. military service members were exposed to toxic inhalants from waste and garbage burn pits on military bases over the last 20 years, which has led to chronic health conditions. The PACT Act provides VA medical care coverage for these service members.

After initially stalling in the U.S. Senate, I'm pleased to report this legislation passed Congress and was ultimately signed into law, ensuring access to health care and disability benefits for veterans.



YOU'RE INVITED! ANNUAL VETERANS BREAKFAST

NOVEMBER 11 • 9 A.M. | Kennett Square VFW Post 5467 | 704 W. Baltimore Pike

Veterans and their families are invited to join me for breakfast in recognition of Veterans Day and their service!

Information on state services and resources for veterans will be available. Please RSVP by November 1 to

repsappay@pahouse.net or call 484-200-8264.

ROADWAY UPDATES

The legislature has approved an additional \$310 million for highway safety and improvement, \$63 million for highway maintenance and more than \$30 million for local road and traffic signal upkeep in the state budget. For Chester County this means a supplement of over \$9 million for 2022-2023 road maintenance. PennDOT also has over \$126.8 million budgeted for roadway and bridge capital improvement projects impacting the 158th Legislative District.

If you have specific roadway safety issues, please report them to PennDOT at 1-800-FIX-ROAD or www.customercare.penndot.gov or call my office at 484-200-8264. I am in constant contact with PennDOT and local township officials to address area road and bridge concerns. Below is an update on work in planning or currently underway for our region.

Newark Road and Baltimore Pike Intersection

The project to improve travel and safety at the intersection of Newark Road and Baltimore Pike in New Garden Township will move into final engineering design later this year. New Garden Township completed the project's preliminary engineering phase and PennDOT will carry out final design and construction.

The project involves realigning the northern leg of Newark Road at Baltimore Pike; adding left turn lanes at all approaches, plus a right turn lane from northbound Newark Road to eastbound Baltimore Pike; widening the intersection to accommodate trucks and large vehicles; modernizing traffic signals, including pedestrian signals; and building new sidewalk connections and ADA curb ramps.

Route 41 Bridge in Avondale

A review by the Federal Highway Administration is currently underway to determine the historical significance of the existing Route 41 Bridge over White Clay Creek in Avondale Borough. A determination will be made by the end of 2022, and designs will be submitted for the replacement or renovation of the bridge as well as intersection improvements at State Road and Route 41 (Pennsylvania Avenue).

Embreeville Bridge

The Route 162 Bridge crossing the Brandywine Creek in Newlin Township was heavily damaged from Hurricane Ida. In August, PennDOT awarded the construction contract and work is scheduled to begin in September. The bridge is planned to reopen to traffic in December of 2022.

This bridge outage has impacted detour routes. Northbrook Road in West Bradford Township is scheduled for pothole patching and shoulder repair this month.

Throughout the closure, I have worked closely with residents, PennDOT, state police and county and local officials to expedite this repair and also on detour routes, signage, speed and large truck enforcement.

US Route 1

PennDOT is currently in the engineering design phase for the reconstruction of the U.S. 1 bypass from East Marlborough Township to the Maryland state line. This series of projects will reconstruct and replace over 22 miles of highway, replace or rehabilitate bridges along the corridor, improve vertical clearances, upgrade guiderails and improve traffic operations at interchange ramps. Construction is anticipated to begin in 2025.

Paving Schedule

The following local roadways are scheduled for resurfacing during 2022-2023:

- Spring Mill Road from Burnt Mill Road to Norway Road in Kennett Township.
- Bradford Avenue from Downingtown Pike to Glenside Road in Downingtown Borough and West Bradford Township. This project will also include drainage pipe replacements under the road surface.
- Newark Road from Sunny Dell Road to Church Road in West Marlborough and New Garden Townships.
- Quarry Road from Valley Creek Road to Lancaster Avenue in East Caln Township.
- Route 322 (West Chester Bypass) from Downingtown Pike to Route 202. This project will also include shoulder widening, signal modernization and guardrail replacements.



Damage to Embreeville Bridge.

UNDERSTANDING THE PA LAND DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

One of the most frequent concerns brought to me is that of land development. Some of us have lived here for generations. Some of us have moved to the area more recently; however, we all agree that open space conservation and our historic and agricultural heritage are high priorities. Unfortunately, many of us find out about development plans in our community too late. It's for these reasons I believe it's crucial for us to understand and participate in the municipal land development process. You can do this by regularly checking your township's website for scheduled monthly meetings of your township planning commission and board of supervisors. Time for public comment is scheduled at these meetings, and this is where your questions and concerns on future development matter greatly. After a plan has been approved, it's usually too late to change or stop development, so your early engagement in the process is important.

In Pennsylvania, the land development process is complicated, and it may take 1-3 years before construction actually begins on a project. There are five general steps in the development approval process, each of which contains various smaller steps and opportunity for plan revisions, public feedback, and appeals:

➡ **1. Zoning and local ordinance review:**

Local zoning and ordinances help to determine how property can be used. Long before a development is proposed, it is important for residents and local municipal leaders to review these and ensure they are designed to benefit and protect existing neighbors and the environment. The zoning hearing board, made up of local residents, determines if a proposed project fits these guidelines and is the first line of defense for residents facing a potential development. A proposed development starts with a review of the municipality's zoning ordinances to determine whether the builder may need to apply for an exemption, such as a variance or conditional use approval. A variance is when the proposed use of a property falls outside of the zoning ordinance and is subject to approval. Conditional use means that the proposed use of the property is permitted, but only under specific standards, and is subject to review. If an exemption is necessary, the developer would then appear before the zoning hearing board for the required reviews and approvals. Hearings hosted by this board provide an opportunity for public input on the use of the land.

➡ **2. Create concept plan:** The developer will start making initial plans based on zoning hearing board approvals. At this time, unofficial conversations may begin with the municipality regarding the needs of the community. Public participation in the municipality's regularly scheduled meetings is critical throughout this step so municipal leaders and the developer are aware of local residents' concerns.

➡ **3. Municipal review:** The unofficial conversations between the municipality and a developer take on a formal role in the review stage. At this point, the project plans have been completed and the developer appears before the municipal and/or county planning commissions for approval. This stage provides another opportunity for the public to provide input on the project before plans are approved or denied.

➡ **4. Ancillary permit approvals:** The final opportunity for public comment occurs during ancillary permit approvals. Depending on the location and conditions of the project, there may be additional permits and requirements that require a vote by local commissions or boards. For example, if the project is located within a historical district, approval may be needed from the historical commission.

➡ **5. Project finalization:** At this point, if the builder has received all permits and approvals, construction can begin. During this final phase, there may be building, occupancy, and utility permits that must be inspected and approved.



State Representative
CHRISTINA SAPPEY

698 Unionville Road
Kennett Square, PA 19348

lpo.ad.0822

REP. SAPPEY'S FALL EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 24
10 A.M. – 1 P.M.

SENIOR FAIR

Kennett Middle School | 195 Sunny Dell Road | Landenberg, PA 19350

Senior citizens in the 158th District and their families are invited to my free 2022 Senior Fair. Vendors will provide information on health and wellness, government services, legal services and community events. Health screenings, including blood pressure readings, hearing tests and more will also be offered. Vaccinations will be available for those who provide an ID and insurance card. Join the fun, live music, light refreshments and free door prizes!

SEPTEMBER 26
2 P.M. – 3:30 P.M.

COMMUNITY NALOXONE TRAINING

Kennett Borough Hall | 600 South Broad Street | Kennett Square, PA 19348

Open to the public, this free event will provide Naloxone training by the Chester County Department of Drug and Alcohol Services. Attendees will learn how to properly administer life-saving Naloxone to those experiencing a drug overdose. Spanish translation services will be provided on site by LCH. Please RSVP to repsappey@pahouse.net or call 484-200-8264.

Este evento gratuito, abierto al público, proporcionará entrenamiento sobre la Naloxona por parte del Departamento de Servicios de Drogas y Alcohol del Condado de Chester. Los asistentes aprenderán cómo administrar correctamente la Naloxona que salva vidas a quienes experimentan una sobredosis de drogas. Los servicios de traducción al español serán proporcionados en el evento por la LCH. Por favor, confirme su asistencia por repsappey@pahouse.net o llame al 484-200-8264.

NOVEMBER 11
9:00 A.M.

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