

Lebanon VA Medical Center Celebrates 75 Years!



This week, I joined my House colleagues, Reps. Russ Diamond and Sue Helm, in celebrating the 75th anniversary of the Lebanon VA Medical Center. In honor of this remarkable milestone, we presented a House citation to Bob Callahan, Jr., director of the Lebanon VA Medical Center. I am incredibly proud of our Lebanon VA and the staff who work there every day in service to our veterans. As a veteran myself, and a member of the House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee, I am aware of the extraordinary care they provide to all the veterans they serve. Congratulations and best wishes on your continued success!

Godshall's Quality Meats Embarks on Major Expansion



This week, I attended my first bacon-cutting ceremony! Yes, BACON. I was invited to join Ron Godshall, president of Godshall's Quality Meats, for the official "bacon-cutting" ceremony, marking the expansion of Godshall's Lebanon plant. Godshall's, an employee-owned company, acquired the original plant in 2005

from The Daniel Weaver Company. The facility currently has 320 employee-owners and is undergoing a \$74 million expansion to double the size of the facility. When complete, the plant will add at least 60 full-time well-paying jobs while integrating advanced robotics and numerous “green” initiatives such as solar power and energy reclamation. We have a tremendous treasure here in Lebanon County!

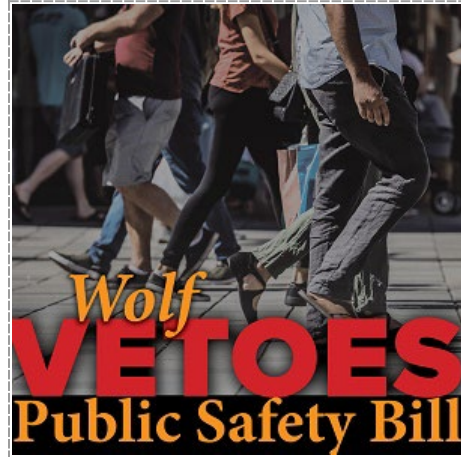
Protecting Against Elder Abuse

A bill I co-sponsored to better protect senior citizens from elder abuse in long-term care facilities has been approved by the state House. [House Bill 2425](#) would ensure a clear line of communication between state departments and agencies that oversee long-term care facilities. The bill would require the Department of Human Services (DHS) or the Department of Health (DOH) to refer allegations of abuse involving individuals over age 60 to the local Area Agency on Aging (AAA), which is overseen by the Pennsylvania Department of Aging. Current law requires the local AAA to investigate allegations of abuse within 72 hours, but there is currently no provision requiring the DHS or DOH to share such information. The bill is pending action in the Senate.



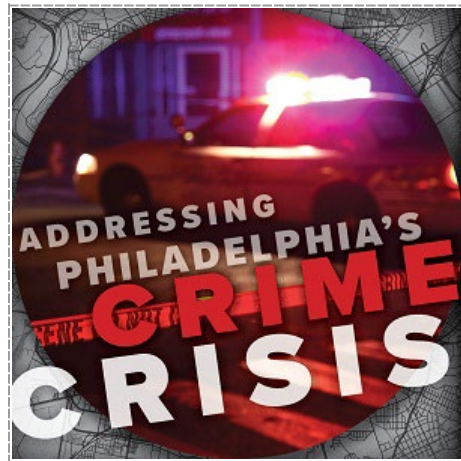
Bill that Could Prevent Parole for Violent Offenders, Vetoed by Wolf

Legislation stemming from the murder of an 8-year-old boy at the hands of a paroled violent offender has been vetoed by Gov. Tom Wolf. [House Bill 146](#), also known as Markie's Law, was named after Markie Mason, an 8-year-old boy who was brutally stabbed to death by a man who was paroled at the end of his minimum sentence for homicide, even after being convicted of committing two separate assaults of other inmates while in prison. The bill, which I co-sponsored, would have postponed consideration of a violent inmate's parole an additional 24 months following the inmate's minimum release date for each conviction of a violent offense while incarcerated. It would also have suspended consideration of an inmate's parole an additional 12 months if the inmate attempted to escape, smuggled contraband, or retaliated or intimidated witnesses while incarcerated. The bill passed with significant bipartisan support in both the House and Senate. In his veto message, the governor claimed the legislation is "misguided and does not promote public safety."



House Select Committee Probes Sources of Philadelphia's Crime Crisis

With violent crime continuing to plague the City of Philadelphia, the House Select Committee on Restoring Law and Order held a 2-day hearing last week at the city's naval yard. The committee heard testimony individuals whose family members have been killed in violent attacks in the city; a legal expert and professor who weighed-in on the city's handling of a case against a police officer; the executive director of the Pennsylvania District Attorney's Association; and the executive director of the Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing. While the actions of Philadelphia District Attorney



Larry Krasner have been an early focus of the committee, it has a broad mandate to assess and make recommendations about any and all factors contributing to the high rate of crime in the city. The Select Committee on Restoring Law and Order was created earlier this summer under [House Resolution 216](#) to

investigate, review and make legislative findings and recommendations to the House of Representatives regarding the rising rates of crime in the City of Philadelphia; the city's use of public funds intended for law enforcement and prosecuting crime; the enforcement of crime victim rights in Philadelphia; and the use of public funds for the purpose of benefitting the city's crime victims.

[Testimony on Thursday, Sept. 29](#), focused on impacted family members.

[Testimony on Friday, Sept. 30](#), featured officials of the District Attorney's Association and Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing.

Open Enrollment Begins Soon for Medicare, Pennie



Pennsylvanians looking to enroll in or update their existing health care coverage should note upcoming open enrollment periods for both Medicare and Pennie, the state's online insurance marketplace. Medicare open enrollment runs from Oct. 15 through Dec. 7. [Learn more here](#). Pennie open enrollment runs from Nov.

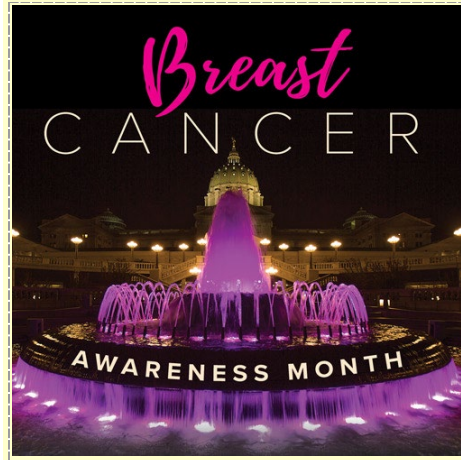
1 through Jan. 15, 2023. Learn more at Pennie.com.

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

To honor those who have fought breast cancer or who are fighting it now, the fountain at the Pennsylvania State Capitol's East Wing has been dyed pink again this year in recognition of October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

According to the American Cancer Society, breast cancer is the most common cancer in women in the United States, behind skin cancers. It represents about 30% of all new female cancers each year. While lung cancer continues to be the leading cause of female cancer deaths, breast cancer is second. The pink fountain serves as a reminder to all women of

the importance of mammograms and early detection. People with low to moderate income who are uninsured or underinsured and meet certain age requirements may qualify for free testing through the Pennsylvania Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program. To learn about the program and eligibility, [click here](#).



Fire Prevention Week Highlights Importance of Escape Plans

National Fire Prevention Week, an annual event to help raise awareness about how to prevent fires and fire-related injuries, kicks off this Sunday, Oct. 9. This year's theme is "Fire won't wait. Plan your escape." According to the National Fire Protection Association, today's homes burn faster than ever. That means people may have fewer than two minutes to safely escape a home fire from the time the smoke alarm sounds. The ability to get out of your home during a fire depends largely on early warning from smoke alarms and advanced



planning. In addition to creating an escape plan, it is important for everyone in the home to practice the escape. Residents are also reminded to ensure their smoke alarms are in good working order to allow as much time as possible for an escape. More information from the National Fire Protection Association, including sample escape plan grids and action plans, [are available here](#).

PennDOT Driver License, Photo Centers Closed for Columbus Day Holiday

All PennDOT driver license and photo centers, including the Riverfront Office Center in Harrisburg, will be closed Saturday, Oct. 8, through Monday, Oct. 10, in observance of Columbus Day. Customers may still obtain a variety of driver and vehicle products and services online through PennDOT's Driver and Vehicle Services website, dmv.pa.gov.

Driver and vehicle online services are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week and include driver's license, photo ID and vehicle registration renewals; driver-history services; changes of address; driver license and vehicle registration restoration letters; ability to pay driver license or vehicle insurance restoration fee; driver license and photo ID duplicates; and driver exam scheduling. There are no additional fees for using online services.



Security Funding Available for Organizations Targeted by Hate Crimes

The Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) is now accepting applications for funding through its Nonprofit Security Grant Program. The funds may be used to support security enhancement projects for nonprofit organizations that may be targeted by hate crimes. The grant program was created in 2019 in response to the tragic shooting at Pittsburgh's Tree of Life synagogue, which claimed the lives of 11 people. Grant awards range from \$5,000 to \$150,000 for a wide variety of eligible items, including safety and security planning and training; purchase of safety and security equipment and technology; upgrades to existing structures that enhance safety and security; and vulnerability and threat assessments. Applications are due by Monday, Oct. 31. Additional information about eligibility and applications [is available here](#).



PHMC Accepting Grant Applications to Support Museums, County Historical Societies

The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) is now accepting applications from qualified museums and official county historical societies for nearly \$2 million in Cultural and Historical Support Grants. The program is available to eligible museums located in Pennsylvania with annual operating budgets exceeding \$100,000 and at least one full-time professional staff person. Some museums are not eligible if they are eligible for grant support from other state agencies. The maximum award is \$65,000. For official county historical societies, awards range from \$2,500 to \$4,000. Applications must be completed by Monday, Nov. 7. For more information, [click here](#).

