

Local Couple Honored for Entrepreneurial Spirit, Generosity



This week, I had the distinct pleasure of presenting a House of Representatives citation on behalf of myself and Rep. Russ Diamond, to Josh and Valarie Weaber, recognizing them on receiving the Leon Hoover Entrepreneurial Spirit Award from the Lebanon Valley Chamber of Commerce. Josh established Chrisland Engineering in Lebanon in 2017, which provides land development planning, structural engineering services, municipal consulting, aerial imaging and stormwater management services. Valarie joined her husband in business in 2020. The couple offers discounted rates to area churches and nonprofit organizations and has donated more than \$100,000 to the Lebanon community through local schools, nonprofit and community organizations. What a tremendous example of community spirit.

Lebanon Valley Chamber Grants Lifetime Achievement Award



I am not often surprised, but I was blown away on Tuesday when the Lebanon Valley Chamber of Commerce presented me with its first-ever Beyond the Call Lifetime Achievement Award during its Military Appreciation Breakfast. Douglas Etter (pictured), chamber member and chief communications officer at the Lebanon VA Medical Center, presented me with the award for my service to our country, state and community throughout my life. I am truly humbled by the outpouring of love and support I received from the chamber and community, as well as state, county and local officials who turned out for this event. Thank you all!

REMINDER:
Veterans Day Observance at Indiantown Gap This Sunday



Pennsylvania Veterans' Memorial, Fort Indiantown Gap National Cemetery

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) encourages the public to attend its 40th annual Veterans Day Program at Indiantown Gap National Cemetery this Sunday, Nov. 6, at 2 p.m. Nicholas M. Taylor, Pennsylvania commander of the Catholic War Veterans, will deliver the keynote address. The event will be held, rain or shine, in the parking lot above the Pennsylvania Veterans' Memorial, which is under renovation. Parking will be at the [Arrowhead Community Club, 9-65 Fisher Ave.](#), with shuttle bus transportation to and from the designated parking area and the cemetery. Handicapped parking at the cemetery itself is limited. I plan to attend, and I hope to see you there!

Nov. 8 is Election Day



This Tuesday, Nov. 8, is Election Day! Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. [Click here](#) to verify your polling place for in-person voting. Voters who have chosen to vote by mail-in or civilian absentee ballot must have those ballots back to their county Board of Elections no later than 8 p.m. on Election Day. More information about voting is available at vote.pa.gov.

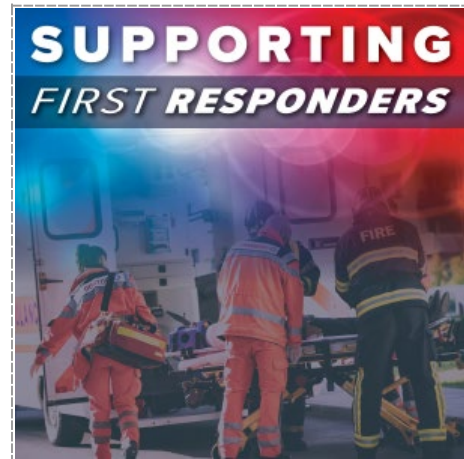
Tour of Local Company that Produces Emergency Vehicles



On Monday, I had the honor of touring the newly expanded Vengeance Apparatus plant in Annville. Company founder Mark Salladay graciously showed me many types of 911 Rapid Response vehicles his company produces right here in Lebanon County! Mark is a very committed and forward-thinking member of our community, and he should be incredibly proud of the magnificent company he and his team has built. Congratulations Mark!

Supporting Our First Responder Organizations

Legislation passed by the General Assembly that I co-sponsored, to help the state's fire and ambulance companies address financial and personnel challenges, has been signed into law. To boost recruitment and retention of personnel, [House Bill 397](#), now **Act 104 of 2022**, provides funding for tuition and loan assistance for higher education to students who volunteer for fire and EMS services. It also allocates \$1 million to fund scholarships for EMS providers who successfully complete approved training to make that training more affordable to build the EMS workforce.



The bill also includes:

- \$1.5 million in additional funding for EMS companies through the annual Fire Company and Emergency Medical Services Grant Program.
- \$500,000 for a grant program to support capital improvements to first responder emergency services training facilities.
- \$500,000 for a municipal fire department capital grant program to build, renovate or otherwise modernize facilities, and purchase or repair equipment.

- \$250,000 for the current firefighter online training program.
- \$500,000 to bomb squads for the safe removal, transportation, storage and destruction of confiscated fireworks.
- \$250,000 for a public service campaign on the safe operation of fireworks.

The measure also would ensure that for 20 years, fire and/or EMS companies that have consolidated will continue to receive the same level of grant funding had they not merged.

Turnpike Consumer Protection Measure Now Law

The state House and Senate have approved legislation, signed into law by the governor this week, to better protect consumers who travel the Pennsylvania Turnpike. [House Bill 1486](#), now **Act 112 of 2022**, requires the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission (PTC) to notify an E-ZPass account holder the first time the person incurs a v-toll in a calendar year. V-tolls are assessed when a driver's E-ZPass transponder is not detected as their vehicle enters or exits the turnpike or travels through a toll plaza. In 2021, more than 200,000

Pennsylvanians were charged v-tolls; many of them were unaware of the assessments. In addition to addressing the v-toll issue, the law also makes several changes to improve toll collection and increase penalties against drivers who either don't pay or evade tolls. Specifically, it decreases the threshold at which penalties can be assessed against drivers who don't pay. A driver's vehicle registration can be suspended after four unpaid tolls, rather than the previous six, and after \$250 in unpaid tolls instead of the previous \$500. The statute of limitations to collect an unpaid toll is increased from three years to five years after the violation was committed. With regard to existing criminal penalties for fare evasion, the law makes technical updates to reflect the move toward cashless tolling and clarify what constitutes affirmative action by a driver to evade paying turnpike tolls. The law also requires the PTC to conduct a feasibility study to review third-party processing and transaction accounts for toll collection, such as Apple Pay and Venmo, as well as electronic push notifications to E-ZPass holders within 24 hours of a transaction. The law takes effect in 60 days.



Heating Assistance Program Now Open

Residents who struggle with their home heating bills can now apply for assistance from the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). LIHEAP is a federally funded program that helps individuals and families pay their heating bills through home heating energy assistance grants. It also provides crisis grants to help in the event of an emergency or if a resident is in danger of losing his or her heat due to broken equipment, lack of fuel or termination of utility service. The income eligibility guidelines for LIHEAP are set at 150% of the federal poverty income level. For

example, the income limit for an individual is \$20,385 and for a family of four it is \$41,625. Residents may apply for LIHEAP online at compass.state.pa.us, by phone at 1-866-550-4355 or by contacting the [County Assistance Office](#) in their county of residence. [Click here](#) for additional information. The program runs through April 28, 2023.



Don't Forget to 'Fall Back' Saturday Night



Daylight saving time will end at 2 a.m. on Sunday, Nov. 6. Be sure to turn your clocks back one hour before going to bed on Saturday night. It's also a good time to check or change the batteries in smoke detectors and carbon monoxide alarms in your home. In addition to regular battery changes, experts say the alarm devices should be replaced every 10 years to better ensure your safety.