



MAKE THE **CONNECTION!**

Earlier this year, I launched a new and enhanced version of my weekly email titled “Community Connection.” Our goal is to tell the stories that bring us together as a community, and it’s really resonating with you, as we’ve seen dozens more people subscribing!

We’re highlighting local employers, public servants, emergency responders, educators and students, community leaders, and all the things that help make our region stronger. Of course, we’re also keeping you posted about what’s happening at the state Capitol.

Don’t miss out! Sign up today at www.RepOwlett.com.

WHY DO MY GROCERY AND ENERGY BILLS **KEEP GOING UP?**

Shortsighted policies aimed at killing the energy industry are driving up costs, not only for powering our vehicles and lighting and heating our homes, but for virtually every product we buy at the local grocery store or shopping center.

One of the worst has been the administration trying to force us into a multistate compact, known as the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, that will lead to major increases in energy costs and significant job losses in the energy sector.

It looked like we were going to avoid these negative impacts when, late last year, Commonwealth Court voided the administration’s entrance in the compact. Unfortunately, Gov. Josh Shapiro has decided to appeal the ruling, and that decision is still pending.

Limiting energy production across the Commonwealth increases operational and transportation costs for manufacturers and distributors, which is having a significant impact on the prices we all pay for food and other products.

We can and must work together to find a sound path forward for Pennsylvania’s energy development in a way that respects Pennsylvania families, as well as the overall economic health of our Commonwealth.

PROPERTY TAX/RENT REBATE PROGRAM EXPANDED **ARE YOU ELIGIBLE?**

More Pennsylvania seniors and people with disabilities are eligible for increased property tax or rent relief this year under a new law I supported in 2023.

Under the expanded program:

- Income eligibility **INCREASED** to \$45,000 this year for both homeowners and renters. Remember to exclude 50% of Social Security when calculating income.
- Maximum rebate **INCREASED TO** \$1,000.

The Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program benefits eligible residents 65 years and older; widows and widowers 50 years and older; and people with disabilities 18 years and older.

As always, my offices stand ready to help you apply for rebates **FREE OF CHARGE**. Appointments are encouraged and should be made by calling the Wellsboro office at 570-724-1390 or the Troy office at 570-297-3045. You may also apply online at mypath.pa.gov.

More information about the program is available at www.RepOwlett.com.



BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS FOR STUDENTS TO OBTAIN LEARNER’S PERMITS

Responding to concerns raised by area students and their teacher, I recently introduced legislation to improve students’ access to taking their learner’s permit exam.

With limited hours at our local DMV and busy schedules for parents, many teens are unable to take the knowledge test necessary to obtain a permit, which then prevents them from earning their driver license. Especially in rural areas like ours, not having a driver’s license limits a person’s independence and the ability to hold a job.

House Bill 1929 would create a three-year pilot program allowing schools to administer PennDOT’s learner’s permit test. School districts would be able to opt into the program and provide an eligible student with the ability to take the written portion of their permit test right at the school, paving the way for them to ultimately earn their license.

This issue was brought to my attention by Cowanesque Valley High School teacher Jamie-Jo Sickler, who was concerned about the number of students who graduate without a license, creating a barrier to enter the workforce. Thanks to Mrs. Sickler and her students for identifying a significant problem and a sensible solution!

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I recognized some great people at the Canton Volunteer Fire Department annual awards banquet last year, including Melissa Jennings and Jodi Bardo for 25 years of service and Keith Ayers for 35 years of service. There was also a special recognition for two citizen heroes – Patricia Martin and her grandson, Noah – for their heroism this past spring in saving the life of their husband and grandfather using CPR. Patricia administered CPR with direction from 911 dispatchers and after seeing how valuable it is, she has worked with our local EMS provider, who has helped train over 100 people in CPR.

SAVE THE DATE!

Please mark your calendars and plan to join us for these upcoming events.

SCAM JAM

Co-hosted with Bradford/Sullivan/Susquehanna/Tioga Area Agency on Aging

Thursday, April 4, 10 a.m. to noon

Tioga County Fairgrounds, 2258 Charleston Road, Wellsboro

Learn more about how to protect yourselves and your loved ones from financial scams. RSVP at www.RepOwlett.com or call the offices in Wellsboro or Troy.

ILLEGIBLE LICENSE PLATE REPLACEMENT

State law requires PennDOT to replace license plates that are deemed illegible at no cost to the vehicle owner. A plate is deemed illegible when one or more numbers or letters cannot be recognized from 50 feet away, typically due to blistering, peeling, discoloration, loss of reflectivity or other damage.

Be sure to bring your vehicle with the affected plate attached, along with your unexpired PA driver's license and current vehicle registration card. Register at www.RepOwlett.com or call the offices in Wellsboro or Troy.

Thursday, April 11, 4-7 p.m.

**Troy Sale Barn
50 Ballard St., Troy**

Friday, April 12, 4-7 p.m.

**Wellsboro Fire Company Annex
21 East Ave., Wellsboro**

WELLSBORO OFFICE: 74 Main St., Wellsboro, PA 16901, Phone: 570-724-1390

TROY OFFICE: 121 Canton St., Troy, PA 16947, Phone: 570-297-3045

HARRISBURG OFFICE: 52-A East Wing, P.O. Box 202068, Harrisburg, PA 17120-2068, Phone: 717-772-5371