



State Senator
Andy Dinniman

KEEPING IN TOUCH

July 2007



Pennsylvania's rich agricultural tradition

is alive and well, as the Commonwealth consistently ranks among the top five states in the nation for the most farmers' markets and roadside farm stands.

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Dear Friend,

Summer is finally here! The summer months are a great opportunity to spend time outdoors with friends and family—be it at a picnic, a baseball game, or one of the many nature trails and parks that Chester and Montgomery counties have to offer.

But, while you are enjoying the weather, be sure to follow these tips for a safe and healthy summer:

- ◆ As the temperatures rise, remember to stay hydrated and to use sunscreen;
- ◆ Schools are out and so are more children, so drive carefully and don't forget to buckle up;
- ◆ Never swim alone or without a lifeguard on duty and always wear a life preserver during water sports; and
- ◆ Practice safety around grills and campfires.

The memories you make this summer will last all year long. So, enjoy a safe and active summer vacation.

Andy Dinniman

ON THE COVER:

Senator Dinniman browses the Phoenixville Farmers' Market with Bill and Liz Andersen of Charlestown Farm.

◆ Support Your Neighborhood Farmer's Market

Many Chester and Montgomery County senior citizens do not know that they are eligible to receive homegrown fruits and vegetables completely free of charge.

The **Pennsylvania Farmers' Market Nutrition Program** provides senior citizens with four \$5 checks for a total benefit of \$20. These checks can be used at participating farmers' markets and roadside stands throughout Southeastern Pennsylvania.

Eligible seniors must be at least 60 years old and have an annual income less than \$18,889 for a single individual and \$25,327 for married couples.

"Everyone loves fresh food. Your neighborhood farmers' market provides not only a taste of the freshness local agriculture has to offer, but also an opportunity to support open space and healthy nutrition," Dinniman said.

For more information or for a list of local vendors that accept Farmers' Market Nutrition Program checks, contact Senator Dinniman's office.



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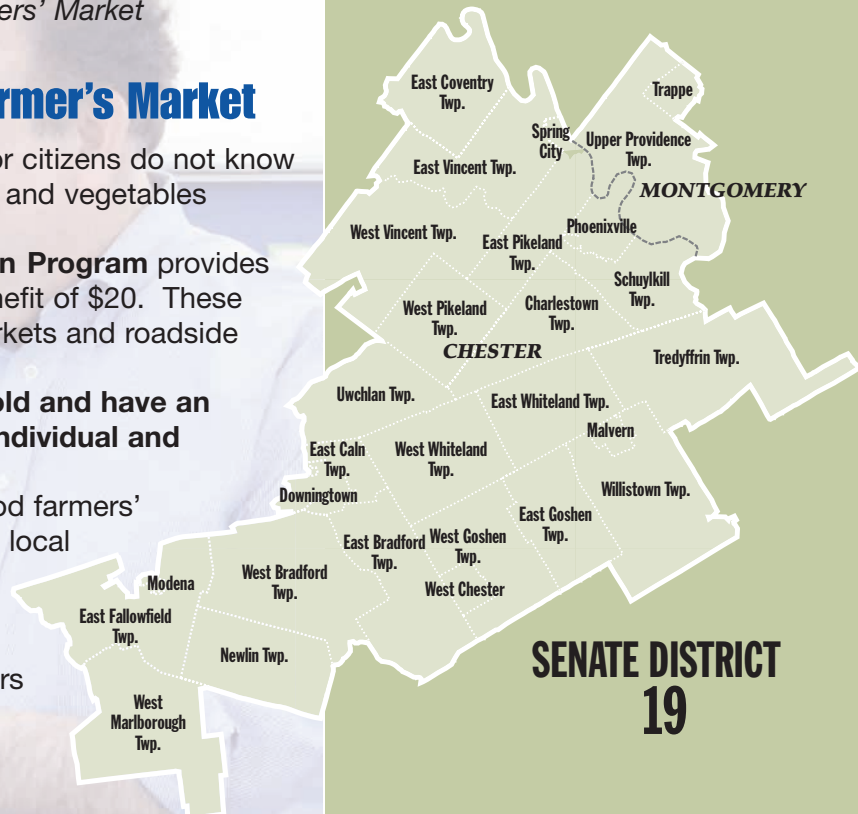
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**SENATE DISTRICT
19**

Protecting Our Quality of Life

◆ Dinniman Brings Senate Committee to West Chester

State Senator Andy Dinniman and the Borough of West Chester recently hosted eight senators at a Hearing on the Impact of Excessive Drinking on University-Area Communities.

The May 2 hearing marked the first of its kind on this national issue, addressing the law enforcement and nuisance crime issues that are particularly common in college towns like West Chester, Kutztown and State College. It also examined a recent study by the Pennsylvania Economy League that showed that homeowners in college towns have a higher local-tax burden than those elsewhere, as students generally do not add to local income-tax revenue and contribute to the increased cost of police services.

Senator Dinniman is the first Pennsylvania lawmaker to take the alcohol issue head-on and examine real, multifaceted solutions to a problem that has, for too long, been considered a necessary evil in college towns.

“There is collateral damage associated with this kind of excessive drinking and the hardworking residents of our college towns are the ones who pay for it. Vandalism, littering and excessive noise should not be considered ‘facts of life’ in communities like West Chester. Excessive drinking affects everyone in college towns. It’s unacceptable,” he said.

Senator Dinniman and senate colleagues heard testimony from local government officials, residents, students, business representatives and law enforcement and university officials.

Those who testified were H. Paul Fitzpatrick, a West Chester



Senator Dinniman discusses the economic impact of excessive drinking on college towns alongside (from left to right) Senator Mary Jo White, R-21, and Senator Richard Kasunic, D-32.

resident and Borough Council President; West Chester Borough Police Chief Scott Bohn; Patrick Stapleton III, Chair of the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board; Kutztown Borough Mayor Sandy Green; State College Mayor Bill Welch and Police Chief Tom King; Dr. Madeleine Wing Adler, President of West Chester University; Kevin Finn, co-owner of Iron Hill Brewery; Holly Brown, a West Chester Councilwoman and local business owner; Dr. Ari Tuckman, a West Chester homeowner and resident; and Kyle Mullins, a West Chester University senior and outgoing class president.

Senator Dinniman was joined by fellow senators Jay Costa, Vincent Fumo, Richard Kasunic, Sean Logan, Michael O’Pake,

Mary Jo White, Anthony Williams and Connie Williams.

“When you have an issue like this that affects residents across the state and across political lines, you can rest assured that you will see action. We have a common problem and we will work together to find viable, long-term solutions. We took the first step at this hearing,” Senator Dinniman said at the hearing’s conclusion.

More than 150 residents, officials and community leaders attended the hearing at the Chester County Courthouse.

Senator Dinniman’s efforts were also featured in a May 3 *USA Today* article about the issue.

For more information or to request a DVD of the hearing, contact Senator Dinniman’s district office.

Defending Our Environment

◆ Dinniman Gets Tough on TCE

Senator Dinniman has introduced legislation that sets stronger TCE emission standards for two Collegeville-area companies that release high levels of the hazardous pollutant into the air.

TCE, or Trichloroethylene, is a manmade chemical that is commonly used as an industrial degreasing agent. It is a carcinogen and can cause damage to the liver, kidneys and central nervous system.

Recently, Senator Dinniman introduced Senate Bill 827, legislation that would require local companies Superior Tube and Accellent to effectively reduce their TCE emissions by at least 75 percent. Senator Dinniman has also asked the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to set tougher industrial standards on pollutants.

Under Senator Dinniman's legislation, the two Collegeville-area companies and the other narrow-tube manufacturer in the Commonwealth that uses TCE as its degreasing solvent would have to reduce their TCE output to no more than

15.5 tons a year. Superior Tube and Accellent currently emit between 60 and 75 tons of TCE a year, according to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

The 15.5-ton-a-year standard is the same standard the Environmental Protection Agency on April 16 placed on other degreasing (halogenated solvent cleaning) companies. To the dismay of Senator Dinniman, Gov. Ed Rendell and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, the EPA exempted narrow-tube manufacturers, such as Superior Tube and Accellent, from the new, more stringent standards.

"While the DEP and especially Superior and Accellent are taking limited, voluntary steps to decrease local TCE levels by some time in 2008, the residents in my district and throughout the Collegeville area deserve more than voluntary measures," Senator Dinniman said.



Senator Dinniman discusses plans to tighten hazardous emissions regulations with Trappe Mayor Connie Peck outside the Accellent narrow-tube manufacturing plant.

"We all have a right to breathe clean air."

—Sen. Dinniman



Senator Dinniman joins hands with DEP Secretary Kathleen McGinty at the former Bishop Tube facility in West Whiteland. Together, Dinniman and McGinty are working to address pollution concerns at the site. The 13.7 acre site of the former industrial facility is being cleaned up under the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Act.

Senate Bill 789 Replaces Foreign Oil with Homegrown Biofuels

◆ Dinniman Introduces Biofuels Bill

Senator Dinniman recently introduced the **PennSecurity Fuels Initiative Act**, a key piece of Gov. Rendell's Energy Independence Strategy.

The initiative is designed to reduce our reliance on foreign oil, support agricultural open space and make Pennsylvania the global center of a new energy marketplace, all while cutting the amount of pollutants we release into the atmosphere. Specifically, the bill would gradually increase the amount of homegrown biodiesel in diesel fuel and the amount of homegrown ethanol in gasoline as they become available.

Pennsylvania can be at the forefront of the biofuels industry. It means thousands of new, well-paying jobs in emerging fields. It means support for local farms here in Chester and Montgomery counties at a time when development threatens open space more than ever before. It means a cleaner, brighter future for Pennsylvania.



◆ Dinniman's Bill Protects Military Families

Senator Dinniman recently introduced Senate Bill 772, legislation that would amend the election code to address the personal safety concerns of military families throughout Pennsylvania.

State law currently requires that county election officials publicly post, in their offices and in polling places, the names and addresses of all absentee voters, including those in the military.

"Anyone can see why military families are concerned about this requirement. It should not be this easy for anyone to obtain information about our soldiers and their loved ones. Furthermore, many of these homes may often have only one adult and several children," Dinniman said.

Senate Bill 772 would exempt military electors from the public-posting requirement. The adjutant general of Pennsylvania, Major General Jessica L. Wright, supports the bill.

To protect election integrity, the legislation would continue to require county elections officials to maintain a file of all absentee voters—including military voters—that is open to public inspection upon request. It would only stop the overt public posting of military voters' names and addresses.



Senator Dinniman chats with Brad Morabito at Foster Field, home of the Lionville Little League.



Senator Dinniman discusses veterans' issues with (from left to right) Persian Gulf and Iraq War veteran Shawn Carter, Korean War veteran Richard McIlvaine and Vietnam veteran Bob Gallagher.

◆ Persian Gulf Bonus

Last November, voters throughout Pennsylvania overwhelmingly approved a ballot question which provides additional compensation for those who served during the Persian Gulf Conflict.

"I'm proud to support the brave men and women who risked their lives during this conflict. I encourage every eligible Pennsylvania veteran to apply for this bonus," said Dinniman, minority chair of the Veteran Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee.

In order to qualify for the Persian Gulf Conflict Veterans' Benefit Program, each veteran must:

- Have served on active duty in the Persian Gulf Theater of Operations during the period of August 2, 1990 to August 31, 1991 and received the Southwest Asia Service Medal;
- Be a legal resident of Pennsylvania at the time of military service; and

— Have served under honorable conditions.

Pennsylvania veterans of the conflict will receive \$75 per month for each month of active service in the Persian Gulf Conflict Theater up to a maximum of \$525. Five thousand dollars will be paid on behalf of veterans who died in active service or as a result of service-related wounds, diseases or injuries.

The Department of Military and Veteran Affairs expects to make the first compensation payments starting in December 2007.

For more information, call Senator Dinniman's district office or contact the Bureau for Veterans' Affairs at 1-800-547-2838.

Maps, Summer Vacation Guides Available

An array of new Pennsylvania maps, as well as travel and recreation guides are available at Senator Dinniman's West Chester district office.

Whether it's camping out under the stars, fishing our natural waterways, challenging whitewater rapids or simply enjoying a hike through some of the oldest forests on the East Coast, with 2.1 million acres of state forest land and 117 state parks preserved for public use, you'll never run out of new experiences in Pennsylvania.

Stop by my office and pick up one of the many complimentary publications!



Senator Dinniman enjoys the natural beauty of the Black Rock Sanctuary in Phoenixville with his dog, Henry.

More than 1,000 Acres Preserved

◆ **Open Space Update**

Senator Dinniman's legislation that paves the way for a more than 1,000-acre open space preserve in Chester County was signed by Gov. Rendell on May 23.

"I'm especially pleased that this bill will create 1,086 acres of beautiful open space for all of us to enjoy," Dinniman said.

As Chester County Commissioner, Dinniman helped lead the effort to transform this former silt basin along the Schuylkill River into a haven for migratory birds and an area for environmental education.

The publicly accessible preserve was made possible by local philanthropist H.F. "Gerry" Lenfest's generous donation of 568 acres of the former King Ranch in Newlin and West Bradford Townships, located

adjacent to the county-owned Embreeville park, to the Natural Lands Trust (NLT). In turn, the county agreed to transfer the 500-acre Embreeville property to the NLT, more than doubling the size of the original parkland.

The deal's major obstacle, however, was the contract under which the state originally gave the Embreeville property to the county in the mid 1980s.

Under that agreement, the Commonwealth maintained the right to approve or deny any future transfers of the land.

When Dinniman was elected state Senator in 2006, he immediately set out to reconcile those issues and make the preserve a reality.



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