



ON THE COVER: Sen. Andy Dinniman, his wife, Margo, and their dog, Henry, take in the scenic, rural beauty of East Bradford Township.

Cover Photo courtesy of Rick Davis Studios

◆ Preserving Open Spaces

Dear Friend,

Like you, I appreciate Southeastern Pennsylvania's open spaces and historic places. After all, it is our natural treasures and town centers that give the region such a distinct sense of place. They are what we remember when we think of home. They are what make Chester and Montgomery County home. And they are only a few of the many reasons why I am proud to be your state Senator.

Sincerely,

Andy Dinniman

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Senator Dinniman has long been a strong and vocal advocate for land preservation and controlled growth. In fact, he was a principal architect of *Landscapes*—the county's nationally recognized open space program.

This past fall, Senator Dinniman worked to pass legislation (Act 154) that opens the door for partnerships between municipalities and conservancies.

For the first time, local governments can give open space tax money to land trusts. These funds will cover transaction costs of land acquisitions, including legal services and closing fees, as well as survey and appraisal costs. In addition, the new law allows municipalities to transfer open space property to a land trust.

“By working together, we can expand our resources and drive some

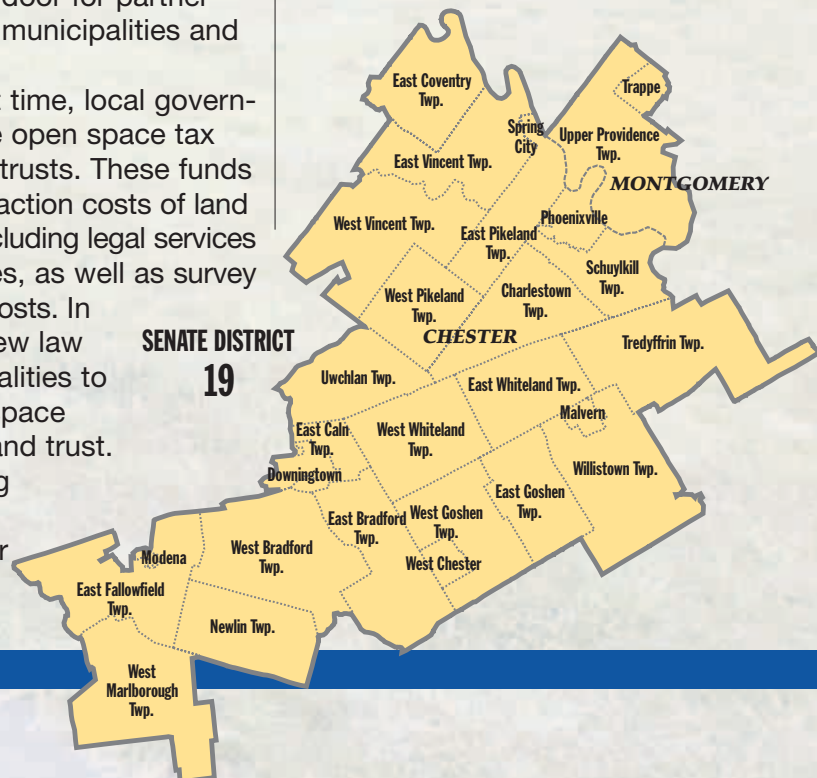
exciting projects to completion in the future,” Dinniman said.

Now Senator Dinniman has introduced a bill calling for the protection of a more than 1,000-acre tract in Chester County. Once approved, this bill will create one of the largest land preserves in Southeastern Pennsylvania.



Photo courtesy of Rick Davis Studios

Sen. Dinniman chats with local environmentalist and fisherman John Johnson along the Brandywine Creek.



SENATE DISTRICT
19

CHESTER

MONTGOMERY

PHOENIXVILLE

◆ Meeting the Health Care Needs of Pennsylvanians Young and Old

Dr. Lowell Lubic, a retiree who volunteers at Community Volunteers in Medicine (CVIM) in West Chester, was one of several doctors who learned last year that they would be forced to stop treating patients on Jan. 1 unless they met stringent state continuing education regulations.

To solve this problem, Senator Dinniman worked with the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs to extend the volunteer licenses of Dr. Lubic, the clinic's sole neurologist, and Dr. Charles Wolf, the clinic's only orthopedist.

"Volunteer service should be a joy, not a burden.

We should make it as easy as possible for skilled and experienced professionals to give their time and energy back to the community."

—Sen. Dinniman

"Senator Dinniman looked at the situation and knew right away that there was inequity. A doctor volunteering five hours a month doesn't need the same hours of continuing education as a doctor working fifty hours a week. He responded in a way that is a credit to him," said Dr. Lowell Lubic.

Senator Dinniman is also seeking a long-term solution to the health care access problem. Dinniman is working to change the law that governs continuing education requirements for volunteer docs. He recently sponsored bipartisan legislation calling for cutting the number of mandatory continuing education credits for retired, volunteer doctors from 100 to 20.

In addition, Dinniman also voted to expand **Pennsylvania's Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)**.



This program, known as **Cover All Kids**, seeks to guarantee care for the state's estimated 130,000 children without health insurance. About 15,000 children are expected to enroll in the expanded program this year, and that number is expected to increase to 100,000 within five years.

Also, for Pennsylvania's older population, more than \$240 million is slotted for **PACE Plus Medicare**. The program merges the state's PACE and PACENET programs

with Medicare Part D to cover the gap in prescription drug costs and deductibles that are not included in the federal coverage program.

In January, Dinniman introduced the **Health Care Tax Credit Act**, legislation that would let businesses get tax credits for donating to non-profit health centers. Modeled after the successful Educational Improvement Tax Credit Act of 2001, the legislation could direct up to \$25 million a year in donations to non-profit health centers that provide care to thousands of Pennsylvanians.

Governor Ed Rendell introduced **Prescription for Pennsylvania**, a sweeping plan aimed at increasing access to affordable health care coverage for all Pennsylvanians, improving the quality of medical care, and bringing costs under control for employers and employees. Sen. Dinniman is committed to working with the governor to make those goals a reality.



Senator Dinniman discusses legislation with (from left to right) Dr. Mary Wirshup, Dr. Charles Wolf and Dr. Lowell Lubic at Community Volunteers in Medicine in West Chester.

Protecting the Quality of Life

◆ Our Towns and Neighborhoods

Curbing sprawl begins with managing the growth of our towns and maintaining the quality of life that families have enjoyed for generations.



Since 2001, the five-mile stretch of Route 100 between Route 401 and Route 23 has seen more than 200 accidents and seven fatalities.

When West Chester residents complained of vandalism, excessive noise and nighttime disturbances, and newspapers called the borough's alcohol-related problems the worst in recent memory, Senator Andy Dinniman was listening.

"For far too long, public drunkenness has gone unbridled in the downtown, and residential properties have been vandalized by late night bar-hoppers. It is time to come up with viable, long-term solutions for the residents of West Chester and similar communities," Senator Dinniman said.

Senator Dinniman is working with West Chester officials to develop new and creative solutions to the problem.

Recently, he asked the Senate Law and Justice Committee to hold

a field hearing in West Chester to discuss these issues.

"Lawmakers need to hear from the residents. They are faced with paying for police overtime and cleanup crews, and their quality of life is directly threatened by this behavior," Senator Dinniman said.

Senator Dinniman is also dedicated to ensuring safety on our streets and highways.

He is working with state lawmakers, transportation officials and municipal leaders to ease congestion and improve safety on the Route 100 Corridor.

Already police have cracked down on speeding and aggressive driving on Route 100, but other improvements include increased signage, tree management and roadway milling to improve traction.

"We are looking at any and all options to start saving the lives of commuters and residents who travel Route 100 almost every day. We need to look at long-term improvements to find a permanent solution to this problem"

—Sen. Dinniman



Senator Dinniman meets with West Chester Borough Council members (from left to right) Sue Bayne and H. Paul Fitzpatrick at his district office.



Senator Dinniman enjoys breakfast with area senior citizens at the West Chester Area Senior Center.



No child in Pennsylvania should have to suffer because of the cost of health insurance, and now, with CHIP, parents are able to insure their children without worry.

MAY I HELP?

STATE APPLICATIONS

- Driver's License • Notary Public
- Vehicle Registration/Renewal
- College Grants and Loans
- Birth and Death Certificates

SENIOR CITIZENS' ASSISTANCE

- Property Tax/Rent Rebate Form
- PAGE/PACENET Form
- Social Security Benefit Info
- Reduced Auto Registration Form

VOTER

- Registration • Election Calendars
- Applications for absentee ballots

◆ Property Tax and Rent Rebate Program

For decades, Pennsylvania's Property Tax and Rent Rebate program eased the tax burden on our senior citizens. This year, an expanded program will offer assistance to more seniors than ever before.

Last year, more than 12,000 Chester and Montgomery county residents received almost \$5.5 million in rebates through this vital program.

The Property Tax and Rent Rebate program provides relief for Pennsylvania seniors age 65 and older, widows and widowers age 50 or older, and those with disabilities age 18 or older. Previous eligibility requirements called for household income under \$15,000, excluding half of Social Security. This year, Pennsylvanians with a household income of up to \$35,000 will qualify. In addition, the maximum rebate has also increased by \$150—from \$500 to \$650.

The expansion of the program is a significant step in the right direction toward property tax reform.

If you think you qualify for a property tax or rent rebate, contact my district office.

◆ Children's Health Insurance Program

The expansion of Pennsylvania's Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) ensures that every child in our state has access to quality health insurance.

CHIP covers children regardless of any pre-existing medical condition. Kids can be covered from birth until they turn 19 years old. They must be U.S. citizens or lawful aliens and have resided in Pennsylvania for at least 30 days (except newborns).



NEW ANNUAL INCOME GUIDELINES

| Income Ranges for a Family of Four | Approximate Monthly Premium Per Child |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| \$40,000 or less | \$0 |
| \$40,001 - \$50,000 | \$38 |
| \$50,001 - \$55,000 | \$53 |
| \$55,001 - \$60,000 | \$60 |
| over \$60,000 | \$150 |

For more information on CHIP, contact my office or the Pennsylvania Department of Insurance

WEB SITE: www.chipcoverspakids.com

CALL TOLL FREE: 1-800-986-KIDS



One North Church Street



Courtesy of the Chester County Historical Society

A view of the Darlington Brothers' store from the intersection of Church and Market Streets, circa 1890.

◆ Building History

On the northeast corner of one of West Chester's busiest thoroughfares, One North Church Street has been home to various businesses since the early 1800s, establishing itself as a local meeting place, landmark and piece of Chester County history.

Senator Dinniman selected One North Church Street as the location of his district office to highlight his commitment to the use and preservation of our rich history.

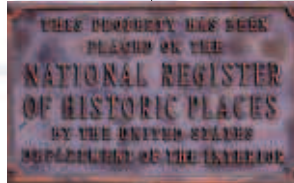
Marakos three years later. He established Marakos Candy Kitchen, which operated at the site under various owners until 1957.


Since then, the building has been

occupied by a variety of businesses, including a clothing store, two restaurants, a travel agency and, until recently, the offices of investment house, Janney Montgomery Scott.

Senator Dinniman officially moved his district office into the building, now owned by Stan Zukin, on Oct. 13, 2006.

The district office building is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.




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State Senator
Andy Dinniman

KEEPING IN TOUCH



INSIDE

- ◆ Offices to Serve You
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