



State Senator
Andy Dinniman

KEEPING IN TOUCH

December 2010



★ *Honoring Our Heroes* ★

INSIDE ♦ Improving Transportation ♦ New & Expanded Outreach Hours
♦ Defending Our Environment ♦ Schramm Saves Miners ♦ Protecting Our Pets



May I Help?

STATE APPLICATIONS

Driver's License • Notary Public
Vehicle Registration/Renewal
Birth and Death Certificates

SENIOR CITIZENS' ASSISTANCE

Property Tax/Rent Rebate Form
PACE/PACENET Form
Reduced Auto Registration Form

VOTER SERVICES

Registration • Election Calendars
Applications for absentee ballots



ON THE COVER

Senator Andy Dinniman and retired Army Sgt. Sam L. Davis, a Medal of Honor recipient from the Vietnam War, admire Davis' plaque and tree at the Medal of Honor Grove. The 52-acre Grove features trees and metal plaques set in the ground bearing the name of each Medal of Honor recipient dating back to the Civil War. In the background are Dr. Alan Fegley, Phoenixville Area School District Superintendent (left) and Wally Nunn of the Board of Directors of the Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation (right).



Dear Friend,

I wish you and your family a safe and happy holiday season. While you are enjoying the festivities, please also remember those in need. I encourage everyone to volunteer a few hours of your time or donate a few canned goods to ensure that none of our neighbors go hungry this season.

I'm also pleased to report that the Chester County Gleaning Program and Food Bank recently reached a tremendous milestone. This season's harvest of 123,232 pounds of fresh produce put the Gleaning Program well over the 500-ton mark, having collected and distributed 543 total tons of food since I started it just over a decade ago. Thank you to all of the volunteers who make this program successful.

And, as always, my West Chester District Office continues to collect canned goods and gift cards to support local food cupboards and pantries on a year-round basis. All donations go to our local food cupboard and the Salvation Army.

In these challenging economic times, it is crucial that we continue to step forward and answer the call of those in need. As the saying goes, it is truly better to give than to receive.

ANDY DINNIMAN

State Senator — 19th District

OFFICES TO SERVE YOU

DISTRICT OFFICE

One North Church Street • West Chester, PA 19380
(610) 692-2112 • Fax: (610) 436-1721
Hours: Monday – Friday • 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.

HARRISBURG OFFICE

Senate Box 203019 • Harrisburg, PA 17120-3019
(717) 787-5709 • Fax: (717) 787-4384

E-MAIL: andy@pasenate.com

WEB SITE: www.senatordinniman.com

In an ongoing effort to keep in touch with constituents, Senator Dinniman is now on Facebook. In addition, users can visit his Web Site, www.senatordinniman.com, to sign up for regular e-mail updates and to listen to Podcasts.

◆ Medal of Honor Grove

Senator Dinniman continues to be the driving force in working to restore the Medal of Honor Grove and ensure that it is maintained in perpetuity. Recently, he organized a massive community cleanup of the 52-acre Grove, which is the nation's oldest memorial site dedicated to Medal of Honor recipients.

The Grove, located at the Freedoms Foundation's headquarters at Valley Forge, is divided into one-acre plots for each state, as well as Puerto Rico and Washington, D.C. Each plot features an obelisk and metal plaques set in the ground, honoring Medal of Honor recipients dating back to the Civil War. Over time, the site had been allowed to fall into disrepair and records show that it was almost sold to a developer. Dinniman and the hundreds of volunteers who participated in the cleanup are committed to ensuring that the sale of this national treasure never happens.

"It's hard to believe such a sacred place could ever be forgotten or neglected, let alone sold to the highest bidder," Dinniman said. "Now that it has been restored, we will continue to work to ensure that it is forever maintained in a manner befitting our nation's greatest heroes."

The volunteers, dubbed "The Army for Heroes," included members of nonprofit organizations, veterans groups, the Boy Scouts, and local schools, as well as active duty military personnel and employees from several local companies. They were joined by three Medal of Honor recipients: retired Army Sgt. Sam L. Davis, retired Army Col. Walter J. Marm and retired Marine Corps Maj. Gen. James E. Livingston.

"I want to thank every individual who stepped forward to restore the Grove and ensure that it is properly maintained forever, as its founders intended."

—SEN. ANDY DINNIMAN

"The more than 1,000 volunteers and three Medal of Honor recipients who came out to clean up the Grove are a testament to the importance of safeguarding this unique and historic memorial site," Dinniman said.



Senator Dinniman and retired Army Col. Walter J. Marm, a Medal of Honor recipient from the Vietnam War, greet volunteers at the Medal of Honor Grove cleanup.

More than 1,000 volunteers participated in the three-day cleanup.

As a result:

- Approximately 42 tons of debris and brush were extracted from throughout the Grove.
- 24 tons of branches and stumps were moved to an off-site compost facility.
- Eight standing dead trees and 15 tree stumps were cut and removed.
- A multitude of trees were pruned and dangerous limbs removed.
- Obelisks and plaques were scrubbed and washed.



Student volunteers from Spring-Ford High School scrub monuments at the entrance to the Medal of Honor Grove.

◆ Defending Our Environment

Senator Dinniman is a strong and consistent supporter of a natural gas severance tax to fund environmental programs and ensure that the drilling and transportation of natural gas is done responsibly.

Pennsylvania sits atop one of the largest deposits of natural gas in the world—the Marcellus Shale formation. Yet the Commonwealth is the only major natural gas-producing state that does not charge companies for the privilege of taking this valuable natural resource.

“These companies are reaping enormous profits off of a finite natural resource,” Dinniman said. “It just makes sense that they contribute to the communities impacted by their operations and to protecting our environment and water supply from the potential dangers of drilling.”

This past session, Dinniman introduced Senate Bill 997, legislation that calls for a fee based on the amount of natural gas extracted from the Marcellus



Senator Dinniman looks over a map of the West Branch of the Valley Creek with volunteers from the West Chester Fish, Game and Wildlife Association. To the right is Andy Schaum, President of Paradise Farm Camps. Dinniman recently joined association volunteers as they made improvements to the stream and trout nursery located on the camp's property.

Shale and would dedicate a significant portion of the revenue to environmental conservation and reclamation programs.

It's estimated that taxing natural gas at a rate competitive with neighboring states would raise more than \$100 million in revenue each year for Pennsylvania.

“Pennsylvania's natural gas industry is in the middle of a gold rush. We are faced with a unique opportunity to balance the wealth of natural resources with which we've been blessed with the responsible stewardship of our environment,” Dinniman said. “That is why passing a natural gas severance tax that safeguards our lands, streams and waterways remains one of my top priorities for the new legislative session in January.”

◆ Protecting Our Pets

Senator Dinniman has long been a vocal advocate for tough animal cruelty laws in Pennsylvania.

In 2008, he was a strong supporter of the Pennsylvania Dog Law, which cracked down on puppy mills by tightening kennel regulations and standards. Last year, he worked to pass Act 38, which helps ensure that kennel dogs receive safe and proper medical care.

In his continuing effort to ensure that dogs are treated humanely in Pennsylvania, Senator Dinniman championed three additional pieces of legislation.

Dinniman has proposed a bill that places restrictions on the outdoor tethering of dogs. Senate Bill 1435 would limit the amount of time and conditions under which a dog can be tethered outside.

“Most residents tether their dogs responsibly and safely for a short period of time,” Dinniman said. “However, there are still horror stories of dogs that are basically left to live on a chain, without adequate shelter from the weather, or room to exercise. That sort of inhumane treatment cannot be tolerated.”

Dinniman has also introduced legislation that would transfer the administration and enforcement of the Penn-



Senator Dinniman tours the operating room during a recent visit to Main Line Animal Rescue (MLAR) in Chester Springs. Pictured (from left to right) are Lisa Hade, Director of Veterinary Services; Betsy Moran Legnini, Operations Administrator; MLAR Director Bill Smith and Dinniman.

sylvania Dog Law from the Department of Agriculture to the Department of Health. Under the legislation, the Department of Health would carry out all oversights currently required by the Dog Law, including the regulation of dog kennels; the collection of complaints and tips alleging violations; the seizure of dogs from illegal, unlicensed kennels; and the collection of dog-license, kennel and out-of-state-dealer fees.

“This transfer recognizes our obligation to assess and monitor dog health as it relates to human health. It shifts the focus from dogs as agricultural products to dogs as important members of so many happy and healthy Pennsylvania families,” Dinniman said.

In addition, Senator Dinniman continues to push for his Pet Protection from Domestic Abuse Act which calls for stronger penalties for animal abuse if it is committed in a domestic violence situation.

“All too often, an estranged spouse, boyfriend or girlfriend will get back at their partner by hurting or killing their pet,” Dinniman said. “Under my legislation, if a person who is under a protection-from-abuse order commits animal cruelty against the pet of their spouse or partner, they would be charged with a third-degree felony instead of a first-degree misdemeanor, as is now the case.”

Studies have shown that those who abuse animals are more likely to commit violence against people.



Dinniman announces the construction of the Route 29 slip ramp project.

◆ Improving Transportation

Senator Dinniman has been a strong proponent of transportation improvement projects that reduce traffic congestion, attract jobs and bolster local businesses.

Through his leadership in the legislature, Dinniman succeeded in moving forward three major transportation projects in his district that will, in the short term, provide \$523 million and hundreds of construction jobs. The projects are as follows:

- Widening from two to three lanes in each direction six miles of Route 202 in East Whiteland Township and Tredyffrin Township. Groundbreaking is slated for spring 2011.
- Constructing the Route 29 slip ramp, which will connect Route 29 to the Pennsylvania Turnpike and negate the need for motorists to use Route 202 and other local roads to get from one to the other. Groundbreaking is slated for spring 2011.
- Widening from two to three lanes in each direction the Pennsylvania Turnpike from King of Prussia to the Route 29 slip ramp. Major design and preplanning have been completed and the project is moving toward the construction stage.

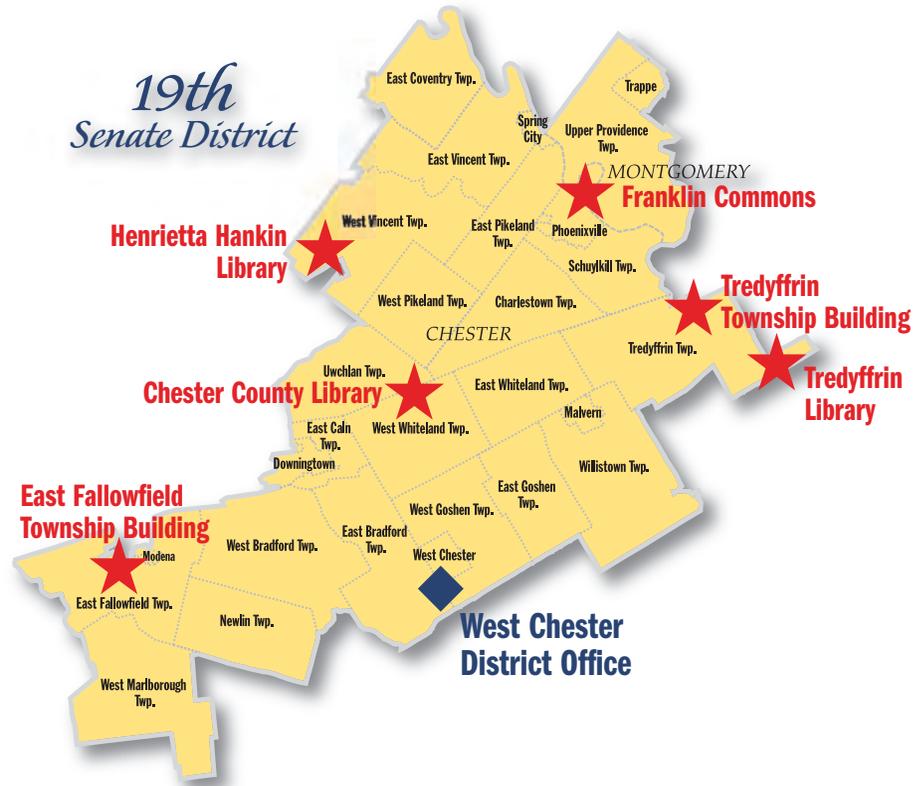
These projects represent a major investment in the local economy – one that will be matched by an estimated \$1 billion in private investment to the Route 29 corridor and that is expected to yield between 10,000 and 12,000 new and permanent jobs.

There are still many other transportation corridors, such as Route 422, that are in need of improvements. “We also,” Dinniman noted, “have to develop the means to improve public transportation.”

SERVING YOU

NEW AND EXPANDED OUTREACH HOURS BEGINNING JANUARY 2011

Senator Dinniman or a representative from his office regularly visits several locations throughout the district to assist constituents and provide information on various issues, including PACE, PACENET, the Property Tax and Rent Rebate Program, college financial aid material, state income tax forms, motor vehicle applications and more.



OUTREACH OFFICE LOCATIONS TO SERVE YOU

Franklin Commons • 400 Franklin Ave. • Phoenixville
First Thursday of the Month • 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Henrietta Hankin Library • 215 Windgate Dr. • Chester Springs
Second Thursday of the Month • 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Tredyffrin Township Building • 1100 DuPortail Road
Third Thursday of the Month • 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Tredyffrin Township Library • 582 Upper Gulph Rd.
Third Thursday of the Month • 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Chester County Library • 450 Exton Square Parkway
Fourth Thursday of the Month • 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

East Fallowfield Township Building • 2264 Strasburg Road
Fourth Thursday of the Month • 12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.



**STATE SENATOR
ANDY DINNIMAN**

Senate Box 203019
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3019

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◆ Schramm Saves Miners

Senator Dinniman recently congratulated employees of Schramm Inc. for their role in producing the drill rig that was pivotal in rescuing the 33 miners trapped in Chile.

“It is wonderful to see a company with deep roots in Chester County play a key role in such an extraordinary rescue effort thousands of miles away,” Dinniman said. “The rescue was not only a major success, but it was also an innovative and ground-breaking effort that will likely serve as a model for future mine rescues.”

It was Schramm’s T-130XD drill rig that drilled the 2,041-foot rescue shaft used to bring the trapped miners to the surface after 69 days. Another Schramm rig drilled the initial hole that was used to communicate and provide food, fresh air and electricity to the miners while the rescue was underway.

Dinniman thanked Schramm employees and presented a special Senate citation to the company, which has been based in West Chester since 1917.



Senator Dinniman thanks employees of Schramm Inc. for their role in producing the drill rig that rescued the Chilean miners. To the right is Schramm President and CEO Ed Breiner.

“Schramm is a great example of a knowledge-based company that has found its niche in the international marketplace and continues to grow

and keep our local economy strong,” Dinniman said. “It is companies like Schramm that make Chester County great.”