



STATE SENATOR **Andy Dinniman**

KEEPING IN TOUCH

Summer 2012

Today

A READER

Tomorrow

A LEADER

INSIDE:

- ◆ Transportation Update
- ◆ Supporting Higher Education
- ◆ Daniel's Law Rally
- ◆ Standing Up for Veterans
- ◆ Keeping BioPharma Strong



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ON THE COVER:

Senator Dinniman with his dog, Henry, reads to children enrolled in the new “Splash Into Summer Reading” program at the YMCA’s Oscar Lasko Youth Program Center in West Chester.

Dear Friend,

I hope you are enjoying a safe and productive summer.

This year I’ve been working with several local community organizations on “Splash into Summer Reading,” a new and innovative literacy program that has helped hundreds of children and families in our area.



We know that the most important ingredient for academic success is parental involvement, and that does not stop when schools let out for the summer. One of the goals of “Splash Into Summer Reading” is not only to encourage kids to keep reading during the summer, but also to get parents directly involved in their children’s literacy and reading readiness.

The program, which serves children ranging from preschool-age to eighth grade, was developed in conjunction with the Chester County Intermediate Unit, the Chester County Coalition for Public Education, the New Life In Christ Fellowship in Coatesville, and the YMCA of the Brandywine Valley’s Oscar Lasko Youth Program Center in West Chester.

The summer is now drawing to a close, but I have no doubt that parents who get involved in their children’s summer reading are more likely to stay involved in their children’s education when the school year resumes.

Together, let’s keep our kids reading and lay the foundation for their long-term academic success!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads “Andy”.

ANDY DINNIMAN

State Senator — 19th District

◆ Transportation Update

Through his leadership in the legislature, Senator Dinniman has championed several major highway and public transportation projects that will keep our area running strong into the 21st century.

Currently, construction crews are working on widening and reconstructing 4.2 miles of Route 202 from the Route 401 Interchange in East Whiteland to the Swedesford Road Interchange in Tredyffrin. The current widening work is part of a larger \$294 million project that will result in the reconstruction and widening of Route 202 all the way south to the Route 30/Exton Bypass Interchange. The final phase of the project will begin in 2013 and finish in 2015.

“The improvement and widening of Route 202 is as important to our regional and state economy as it is to the tens of thousands of commuters who rely on it each day,” Dinniman said. “The new Route 202 will give a major boost to the many corporations and companies, including some of our region’s largest employers, which call the Route 202 corridor home.”

In addition, this year Pennsylvania Turnpike crews will complete the Route 29 slip ramp, an E-ZPass only interchange that will connect Route 29 to the Pennsylvania Turnpike and negate the need for motorists to use Route 202 and other local roads to travel from one to the other. That project goes hand in hand with plans to widen six miles of the Pennsylvania Turnpike between the Route 29 slip ramp and the Valley Forge Interchange in Tredyffrin Township.

“Together, these three projects – the Route 202 widening, the Route 29 slip ramp and the Turnpike widening – represent an investment of more than \$500 million to our local economy, which is expected to spur at least an additional \$1.5 billion in new office space and commercial construction, as well as the creation of 12,000 permanent, full-time jobs,” Dinniman said. “It will provide a significant advantage to



Senator Dinniman looks over the progress of the Route 29 slip ramp, which will connect Route 29 and the array of corporate parks in that area to the Pennsylvania Turnpike in East Whiteland and Charlestown Townships. The slip ramp is scheduled to open this year.

our region as we continue to recover from challenging economic times.”

In addition, Dinniman is currently working to expedite and increase PennDOT action on traffic issues along the Route 422 corridor because our region’s quality of life and economic prosperity depend on such improvements. Dinniman also noted several major projects to improve access to public transportation in our region.

PennDOT is currently planning to redesign and improve the Parkesburg, Coatesville, Downingtown, Exton and Paoli train stations with federal funds as part of a plan

to update and improve Amtrak’s Keystone Corridor train service. Preliminary plans call for at least \$75 million in total improvements including expanded parking; intermodal access for pedestrians, bicyclists and SEPTA buses; intersection, sidewalk and crosswalk improvements; and handicap accessible platforms.

Furthermore, Amtrak plans to upgrade its rail system so that trains can travel up to 125 mph, meaning faster and more efficient rides for passengers and a greater time-saving option for commuters currently traveling by car.

“There is no doubt that these improvements represent an unprecedented investment in our transportation infrastructure. The bottom line is, once these projects are completed, there will be vastly improved traffic flow, and in terms of public transportation, we should be able to get on an Amtrak train in Downingtown and be in Philadelphia in a half-hour.”

—SEN. ANDY DINNIMAN

◆ Rally for Daniel's Law in Harrisburg

Senator Dinniman is leading the charge to put an end to the gassing of dogs and cats, a method of euthanasia still practiced and legal in Pennsylvania.

Dinniman's Senate Bill 1329, legislation that would prohibit the gassing of dogs and cats in Pennsylvania, was unanimously approved by the Senate this spring. The legislation, dubbed "Daniel's Law" in honor of Daniel, the beagle that survived an Alabama gas chamber and has since been adopted by a New Jersey family, is now in the House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee.

Dinniman is calling on animal advocates and their dogs to join him and Daniel for a rally for Daniel's Law at the Pennsylvania State Capitol Building in Harrisburg on Tuesday, September 25, at 12 p.m. The rally will take place outside at the Capitol

Fountain, located at the East Wing entrance on Commonwealth Avenue.

"Last fall, hundreds of pet lovers brought their dogs out to join me in support of Daniel's Law in Chester County. Thanks to their efforts, we are now halfway there in terms of putting an end to pet animal gas chambers in Pennsylvania," Dinniman said. "Now, I am asking you to go the extra mile. Let's bring our message to Harrisburg and ensure that our pets' voices are heard!"

Dinniman also emphasized the importance of the House passing Daniel's Law this fall before the end of the legislative session.

"If the bill does not pass in November, we would have to start all



Senator Dinniman and his dog, Henry, meet with Lucky (left), a rescue dog adopted by one of his staff members.

over in January – including obtaining Senate approval again. Since we are closer than ever to ending this inhumane and cruel practice, we must take advantage of the present opportunity and pass Daniel's Law this fall," he said.

◆ Supporting Higher Education

Senator Dinniman is working to support our state-owned universities and to ensure that they can access the resources they need to continue providing affordable, quality higher education to generations of Pennsylvania students.

Dinniman recently spearheaded the passage of a broad-ranging legislative package he helped design to streamline how state-owned universities operate and provide millions in savings each year. This legislative package, along with Dinniman's previously passed Higher Education College Textbook Affordability, Accountability and Accessibility Act, is aimed at controlling the cost of higher education.

The package, which was unanimously approved by the state legislature and signed by the governor, represents the most significant changes in the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) since its establishment. It comprises:

- **Senate Bill 1308**, which will let Pennsylvania's 14 state universities commercialize faculty research.
- **Senate Bill 1322**, which will allow



Senator Dinniman, minority chair of the Senate Education Committee, discusses the need to keep higher education accessible and affordable at a recent committee hearing.

the PASSHE universities to enter into national cooperative agreements for supplies and services.

- **House Bill 1343**, which will let West Chester University and other PASSHE schools offer doctoral degrees, as well as allow university employees to volunteer their time

and services to fundraising foundations affiliated with the university.

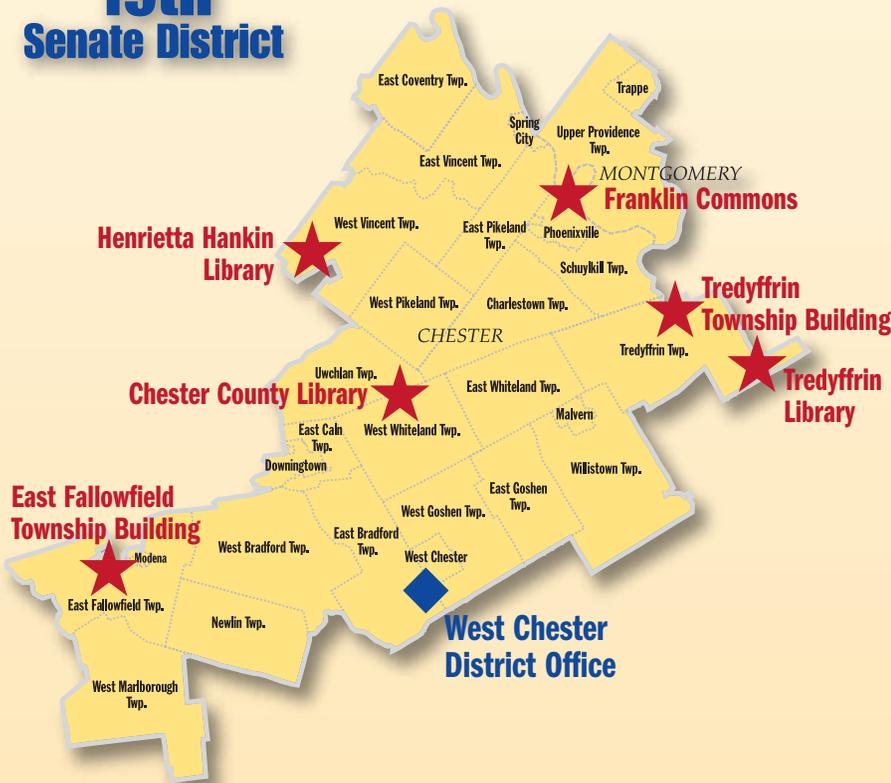
"These changes represent a major step forward for our 14 state universities. In short, they will allow them to save money through cooperative agreements, to earn money through commercialization of research and to offer the highly advanced degrees that students need to thrive in today's marketplace," said Dinniman, who serves as minority chair of the Senate Education Committee.

Thanks to the passage of House Bill 1343, several PASSHE universities are already looking to offer doctoral degrees in subject areas specific to their local economies. West Chester University, for example, is considering offering doctoral programs in biostatistics and pharmaceutical product development and has already submitted a request to offer a doctoral degree in nursing.

SERVING YOU

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.

19th Senate District



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.

Keeping the BioPharma Industry Strong



Senator Dinniman recently joined Bob Hankin and other business leaders to mark the opening of the Innovation Center at Eagleview, Chester County's first incubator for startup companies in the life sciences industry.

The incubator was one of the key ideas endorsed by participants at this summer's BioPharma Summit sponsored by Senator Dinniman at West Chester University. The Innovation Center provides fully equipped lab space and offices to emerging companies.

"The biopharma industry is currently experiencing a series of changes and economic shifts that have resulted in the consolidation and outsourcing of local jobs in research and development," Dinniman said. "This incubator gives entrepreneurs a chance to step up and launch their own companies to provide research and development services to our region's vast array of biopharma companies."



STATE SENATOR ANDY DINNIMAN

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◆ Standing Up for Veterans

Senator Dinniman was recently named an honorary member of the Chester County Detachment of the Marine Corps League and awarded the league's Distinguished Citizen Award for his work on behalf of veterans and the Medal of Honor Grove.

"I am deeply honored by this recognition," Dinniman said. "I will continue to work to honor our veterans and their commitment to this country, and to help ensure that they receive the support and benefits they deserve."

The 52-acre Medal of Honor Grove located at the Freedoms Foundation's headquarters in Schuylkill Township is the nation's oldest memorial site dedicated to Medal of Honor recipients.

Dinniman became involved with the Grove two years ago because the site had fallen into disrepair and there were questions about its future. That fall he organized a massive community cleanup of the site that was participated in by more than 1,000 local residents, veterans and

Senator Dinniman is named an honorary member of the Marine Corps League and given the league's Distinguished Citizen Award by Fred LeClair, Commandant of the Chester County Detachment of the Marine Corps League.



volunteer organizations, including members of the Chester County Detachment of the Marine Corps League.

As a result of those initial efforts, last year community leaders and several Medal of Honor recipients formed The Friends of the Medal of Honor Grove, a nonprofit organization that maintains and cares for the site. Since then, the Friends of the Grove group has organized several community cleanups of the site and raised significant funds for its upkeep. Ongoing projects include repaving the

entrance road to the Grove, as well as the installation of missing recipients' names on obelisks and plaques.

"I must thank the coalition of volunteers who stepped forward to form the Friends of the Grove organization and to ensure this historic veterans memorial site is properly cared for and preserved in perpetuity," he added. "If you haven't been out to visit the Grove, I urge you to do so. It is truly an inspirational and moving experience."