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# State Senator LINDSEY M. WILLIAMS Your District 38 Update



# **Upcoming Events**

# SCHEDULE YOUR DRIVE-UP PROPERTY TAX AND RENT REBATE APPOINTMENT



Presented by SENATOR LINDSEY M. WILLIAMS

June 2 & 3 2021
Parking Lot at our Natrona Heights Office
Call for your 30 minute appointment:
724-224-2131

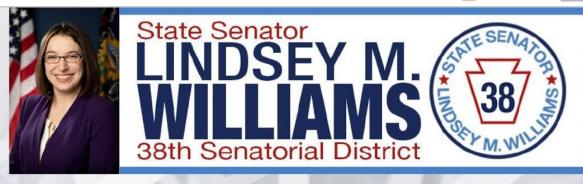
1826 Union Avenue Natrona Heights, PA 15065 724-224-2131

SenatorLindseyWilliams.com

# "Drive-up" Property Tax or Rent Rebate Event!

The deadline for filing your <u>2020 Pennsylvania Property Tax or Rent Rebate</u> is June 30, 2021. If you would like help filing your application, we are holding a "drive-up" Property Tax or Rent Rebate event on **June 2nd and 3rd at our Natrona Heights district office.** Park at the registration tent in front of the office at 1826 Union Avenue, Natrona Heights, PA, 15065 and let us do the rest! Call 724-224-2131 to schedule your 30 minute appointment and review the paperwork you need to bring.

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# Free Shredding Event

Saturday, July 24 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Richland Township Municipal Building 4019 Dickey Road Gibsonia, Pennsylvania 15044

> Shredding Limit: 2 boxes per car Paper only!

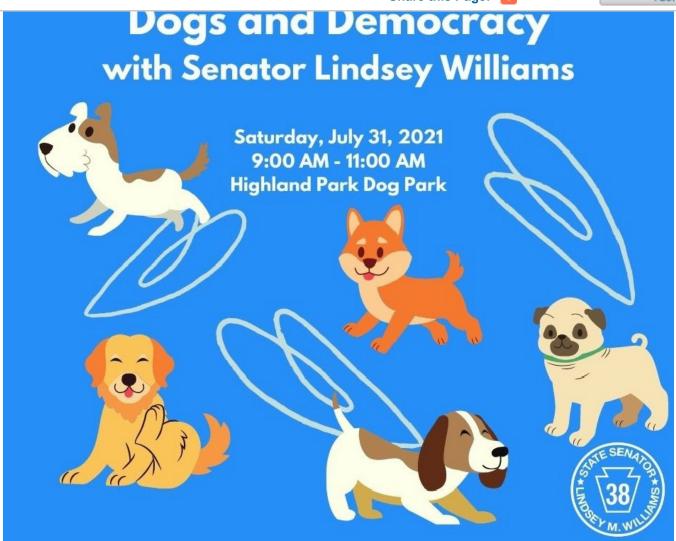
5000 McKnight Road, Suite 405 Pittsburgh, PA 15237 412-364-0469 1826 Union Avenue Natrona Heights, PA 15065 724-224-2131

SenatorLindseyWilliams@pasenate.com www.SenatorLindseyWilliams.com

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# **Free Shredding Event**

Protect your private information by shredding paper documents at our free event on Saturday, July 24, 2021 at the Richland Township Municipal Building from 10-1 p.m. Open to all



# **Dogs and Democracy with Senator Williams**

Bring your pup and meet with Senator Williams. We'll be chatting about Victoria's Law (SB 234) and other animal welfare legislation.

# **Legislative Update**



# Water Infrastructure Funding Legislation

On Monday Senator Maria Collett, Senator Katie Muth, and I announced our plan to introduce <u>legislation</u> that allocates \$350 million of Pennsylvania's share of federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds for clean water, sewer, and stormwater infrastructure projects. The legislation is part of the Senate Democrats' <u>New Deal for Pennsylvania</u> which would invest \$6.15 billion of ARP funds in working families, communities and small businesses.

Authority (CFA) small water and sewage projects program and PENNVEST. These programs are familiar to stakeholders and have a long and successful track record of financing water infrastructure projects in our districts. We have a unique opportunity here to relieve the financial burden for infrastructure and clean water projects that taxpayers and local governments have long shouldered alone.

This funding is so important because our watersheds and stormwater infrastructure are complex systems that affect the lives of every single resident. The same water that floods roads in McCandless, cutting residents off from emergency services, comes downstream and can destroy homes and businesses in Etna if we don't all work together. Allocating additional funding to ensure that our municipalities, water authorities, and watershed preservation groups can do this work is vital to the health and well-being of our families and our communities.

# **COVID-19 Update**



# Pennsylvania to Institute Changes on Memorial Day

COVID mitigation measures related to gatherings, restaurants, and other businesses will be lifted on Memorial Day, May 31, 2021, however:

- Mask mandates for unvaccinated Pennsylvanians remain in place.
- If you are fully vaccinated you are not required to wear a mask except:
  - Where required by law, rule, and regulations, including local business and workplace guidance.
  - On planes, buses, trains, and other forms of public transportation traveling into, within, or out of the United States, and in U.S. transportation hubs, such as airports and stations.
  - · Healthcare facilities.
- All mask mandates will be lifted when 70% of Pennsylvania adults are fully vaccinated (2nd dose).

As of May 25, 2021, 56.9% of the state's adults have received their first dose. Schedule your vaccine today!

# **Unemployment Compensation Update**

# NEW UC SYSTEM GO LIVE TIMELINE



\*All plans are subject to change.

#### Are you Ready for the New Unemployment System?

On June 8, 2020 the PA Department of Labor and Industry (L&I) will launch its new faster and easier-to-use unemployment system. The new system is for regular Unemployment Compensation (UC) and Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC). The PUA system remains unchanged.

#### **New UC System Improvements:**

- Faster claims processing and claimant payments.
- · Reduced determination backlogs.
- More self-service options for individuals and businesses, which reduces the need for contacting the help center.

#### **System Availability:**

L&I planned the transition to the new system over a weekend to minimize disruption.

- All active UC claims will be offline Thursday, June 3 through Monday June 7.
  - Claims for week ending May 29 can be filed prior to the offline period.
  - Claims for week ending June 12 can be filed beginning Tuesday, June 8.
- NO NEW CLAIMS can be filed from Monday, May 31 through Monday June 7.
- The UC Service Center phone line and email will remain open during the transition to the new system.

#### **Learn About the New System:**

The new online system looks completely different, replaces the old PIN system with a username and password (Keystone ID), displays more claim information, and offers streamlined claim services like document uploads and appeals.

 Topic-specific information related to the new UC system, including videos on creating a Keystone ID, is at <u>Resources (pa.gov)</u> or <u>Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry -</u>

#### **Upcoming UC System Workshop Dates:**

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Last week we recommended attending one of Labor and Industry's workshops on the new system. If you didn't have the opportunity to attend there is still time!

- Thursday, May 27, 6:00 PM English
- Thursday, May 27, 7:30 PM Spanish
- Tuesday, June 1, 10:00 AM English
- Wednesday, June 2, 11:00 AM Employers, English
- Saturday, June 5, 9:300 AM English
- Saturday, June 5, 11:00 AM Spanish

The full workshop schedule and links to attend are at <u>UC Workshops (pa.gov)</u>. Watch recorded workshops at <u>Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry - YouTube</u>.

#### Get Help if You Need It:

- The UC Service Center phone line, 888-313-7284, and email, <a href="mailto:uchelp@pa.gov">uchelp@pa.gov</a>, will remain open during the transition to the new system. Questions about the new system are encouraged.
- L&I added more than 400 new customer service representatives to answer calls in May, is hiring additional staff, and moved their highly trained claims staff to answer calls during the transition.
- Call us at 412-364-0469 or email us at <u>SenatorLindseyWilliams@pasenate.com</u>, we are here to help!



### **Emergency Rental Assistance**

If you are behind on your rent due to the COVID-19 emergency, there are still funds available in the <u>Allegheny County Emergency Rental Assistance</u> program.

Applications are online only, so if you are unable to get online or need help filling out your application, contact ACTION-Housing at 412-248-0021 or <a href="mailto:rentalassistance@actionhousing.org">rentalassistance@actionhousing.org</a>. There are also <a href="mailto:drop-in centers">drop-in centers</a> with free WiFi and computers open around the county. Some have scanners and staff to assist with technology.

You are eligible if you are a renter:

 Living in a household with at least one person who qualifies for unemployment, has lost income, or suffered financially due to COVID-19.



help.

• With a total income below 80% of the Area Median Income for Allegheny County.

You will need the following documents for your application:

- Unemployment determination letter
- · Lease agreement
- Utility bills
- W2 forms, paystubs or award letters
- · Social security numbers for everyone in your household

New town halls have not been announced yet, but to hear a recording of ACTION-Housing's May 26, 2021 public town hall about completing an application go to <a href="https://covidrentrelief.alleghenycounty.us/latest-updates/">https://covidrentrelief.alleghenycounty.us/latest-updates/</a>.

You can also watch our town hall on this program with Pittsburgh Fair Housing Partnership, ACTION Housing, Neighborhood Legal Services, and Just Mediation at <a href="https://www.SenatorLindseyWilliams.com/housing">www.SenatorLindseyWilliams.com/housing</a>.





## **Hurricane Preparedness**

The Atlantic Hurricane Season begins June 1! According to the <u>National Oceanic and</u> <u>Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)</u>, the Atlantic hurricane season officially runs from June 1



saw an increase in hurricanes and named storms. These increases raise the threat level to Pennsylvanians. You can learn about what to expect this year on the Ready PA blog.

Below are seven topic areas to prepare you for the 2021 hurricane and tropical storm season. If you take one-a-day, you will be ready just in time for June 1st.

- Day 1: Be informed and know what to expect. Visit <u>Ready PA</u>. Learn what to be ready for and hazards in your community.
- Day 2: Know how you will be in the know. <u>Sign up for alerts</u> to know when dangerous weather is expected.
- Day 3: Make sure you have what you need. Consider what you would need if you lose power or have to leave your home quickly due to storm damage and <u>Assemble Disaster</u> <u>Supplies</u>. Build a kit by picking up a few items each time you shop.
- Day 4: <u>Get an Insurance Check-Up</u>. Make sure all your valuables are adequately covered. Did you know that homeowners and renter policies do not cover flooding? And it typically takes up to 30 days for a policy to go into effect and can protect the life you've built. Get flood coverage under the <u>National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)</u>.
- Day 5: <u>Strengthen Your Home</u>. Ensure your home can withstand potential flooding and damaging winds.
- Day 6: <u>Help Your Neighbor</u>. Many Americans rely on their neighbors after a disaster, but there are also many ways you can help your neighbors before a hurricane. Learn about the actions you and your neighbors can take to prepare and recover from the hazards associated with hurricanes.
- Day 7: Complete a Written Plan. Write it all down and keep it in a safe place.

### **Good News**



# Hartwood Acres Park Amphitheater Schedule is Out!

We can think of no better way to mark the start of summer than attending the Summer Concert Series at Hartwood Acres. After performing virtually last year the Series is live again. These free outdoor concerts are held every Sunday starting at 7:30 p.m. Food and beverages will be available for purchase.

Note - there will be some COVID rules and restrictions to protect concert-goers. Attendees will be asked to remain seated when watching the performances. However, because CDC and state guidelines permit fully vaccinated people to not wear their masks, there will be a special

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place, and the site will have hand sanitizing stations to adhere to safety guidelines.

#### Plan ahead with the schedule below:

- June 6 Truth & Rites
- June 13 River City Brass
- June 20 Pure Gold
- June 27 Indigo Girls
- July 4 Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra
- July 11 moe
- July 18 The Lone Bellow
- July 25 Lisa Fischer
- Aug. 1 Average White Band
- Aug. 8 The Jayhawks
- Aug. 15 The Wood Brothers
- Aug. 22 Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre



# **Happy Memorial Day!**

This is the 48-star American flag that flies on my parents' front porch on Memorial Day and Veterans Day each year. It originally flew at my great grandfather's house while my grandfather served in WWII in the Pacific Theater.

On Monday, May 31, 2021 my offices will be closed. We will remember and honor those who died serving our Commonwealth and our country. Their service and sacrifice should never be forgotten. Have a safe and happy Memorial Day.

As always, please feel free to reach out with any questions you may have by phone at 412-364-0469 (Ross Office), 724-224-2131 (Harrison Office) or by email at SenatorLindseyWilliams@pasenate.com. My staff will return your call/email within 24 hours (Monday-Friday).

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Lindsey

Senator Lindsey Williams

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