

CHADDS FORD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 2024 – WORKSHOP MEETING AGENDA

This meeting will be held in person at the Chadds Ford Township Building, 10 Ring Road, Chadds Ford, PA 19317. The meeting will also be broadcast live via Zoom webinar. Participants must register in advance of the meeting utilizing the following link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86589671768>

6:30 P.M. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & OPEN MEETING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Interested individuals seeking to serve on the Chadds Ford Township Planning Commission are encouraged to submit their resume and letter of interest to the Township Manager, Lacey Faber, at Lfaber@chaddsfordpa.gov by March 27th.
- [Upcoming events from North American Land Trust:](#)
 - Park Day, April 6th from 10am to 2pm at Brinton Run Preserve: help preserve history and enjoy the great outdoors at the same time. North American Land Trust has invited local historian Michael Harris to conduct a walk and talk about the history of our specific preserve as part of the September 11, 1777, Battle of Brandywine.
 - Preserving Our Past, April 27th from 10am to 3pm at Brandywine Battlefield Park: NALT will host a table at Brandywine Battlefield Park for “Preserving Our Past.” Join in our newest event, Preserving Our Past at Brandywine Battlefield Park. This year, we will have several demonstrations and presenters. You can also learn more about our and other local efforts to preserve the park and surrounding areas of the Brandywine Valley. Additional information including registration links can be found at www.northamericanlandtrust.org

PUBLIC COMMENT (Agenda Items): Please be concise. In the Zoom platform, please use the Q & A function to ask your question.

1. NEW BUSINESS ACTION ITEMS:

- a. North American Land Trust Land Acquisition – 1597 Baltimore Pike
 - i. Letter of Support
 - ii. Commitment of Township Funds

2. MISCELLANEOUS DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- a. Affirmation of Conditional Use and Final Subdivision/Land Development Applications; 280 Ridge Road
- b. Calvary Chapel – Special Event Permit
- c. Township Cloud Based Operating System Presentation
- d. Ordinance Considerations
 - i. [Zoning Code & Zoning Map Amendment](#)
 - ii. [Cultural Campus](#)
 - iii. [Stormwater Management](#)
- e. Public Safety & Emergency Management Coordinator – Job Title Change
- f. Appointment of Volunteer Deputy Fire Marshal
- g. Regional Emergency Management Coordinators – Intermunicipal Agreement
- h. AED Machine for Township Office
- i. [Transportation and Community Development Initiative Funding](#)
- j. Budget Supplemental Appropriations
- k. Walkable Chadds Ford – Transfer of Funds
- l. Investing Open Space Funds with PLGIT
- m. Lawn Care Services Bid Submissions – Anticipated Award on April 3rd
- n. Municipal State Pension System State Aid
- o. [Debbie Reardon Memorial Plaque](#)
- p. [Leaving a Legacy for Future Generations Mailing](#)
- q. Painter’s Folly Furnace Repair
- r. [PA Legislative Update](#)

PUBLIC COMMENT (Non-Agenda Items): Please be concise. In the Zoom platform, please use the Q & A function to ask your question.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

- Board of Supervisors Regular meeting, April 3, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.
- Historical & Architecture Review Board meeting, April 8, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.
- Planning Commission Regular meeting, April 10, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.
- Open Space Committee meeting, April 11, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.
- Zoning Hearing Board meeting, April 16, 2024, at 7 p.m.
- Board of Supervisors Workshop meeting, April 17, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meetings of the Chadds Ford Township Board of Supervisors are electronically recorded, and recordings are maintained until the minutes of the meeting are transcribed and approved. Recordings are for the purpose of transcribing meeting minutes only.

10" x 8" Precision Tooled Plaque with 24" Garden Stake
Virtual Mock-up



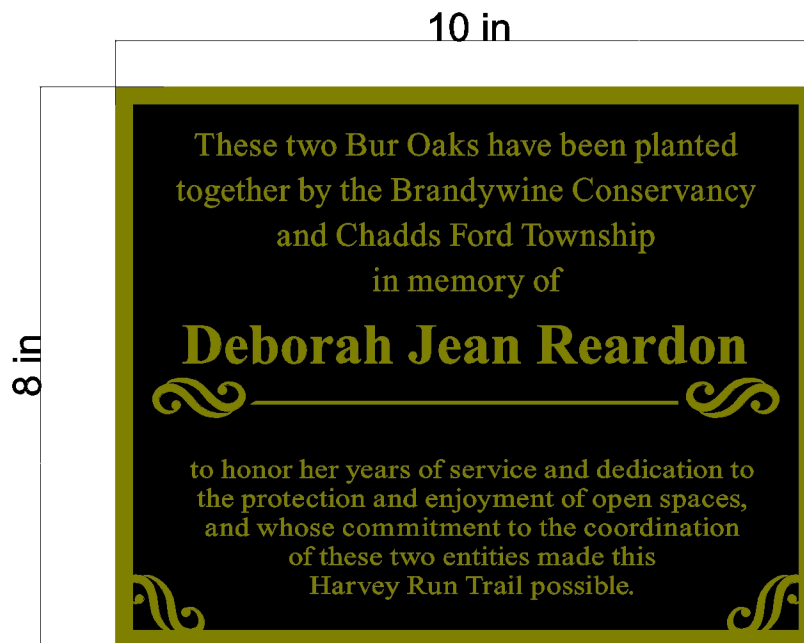
*These two Bur Oaks have been planted together by the
Brandywine Conservancy and Chadds Ford Township
in memory of **Deborah Jean Reardon**
to honor her years of service and dedication to
the protection and enjoyment of open spaces,
and whose commitment to the coordination of these
two entities made this Harvey Run Trail possible.*

CUSTOMER APPROVAL

SIGNATURE

DATE

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FOR ERRORS IN FINAL SIGN PRODUCT. PLEASE MAKE
CERTAIN EVERYTHING IN THE PROOF IS CORRECT
BEFORE GIVING FINAL ARTWORK APPROVAL.



10 in

8 in

These two Bur Oaks have been planted
together by the Brandywine Conservancy
and Chadds Ford Township
in memory of

Deborah Jean Reardon

to honor her years of service and dedication to
the protection and enjoyment of open spaces,
and whose commitment to the coordination
of these two entities made this
Harvey Run Trail possible.

LUCKY SIGN SHOP

1348 Middletown Road
Glen Mills PA 19342



610-459-5825

luckysignshop@verizon.net



LUCKY SIGN SHOP

800 Downingtown Pike
West Chester PA 19380

Signature of Approval: _____

(F) Light Bronze M-311

(J) Black

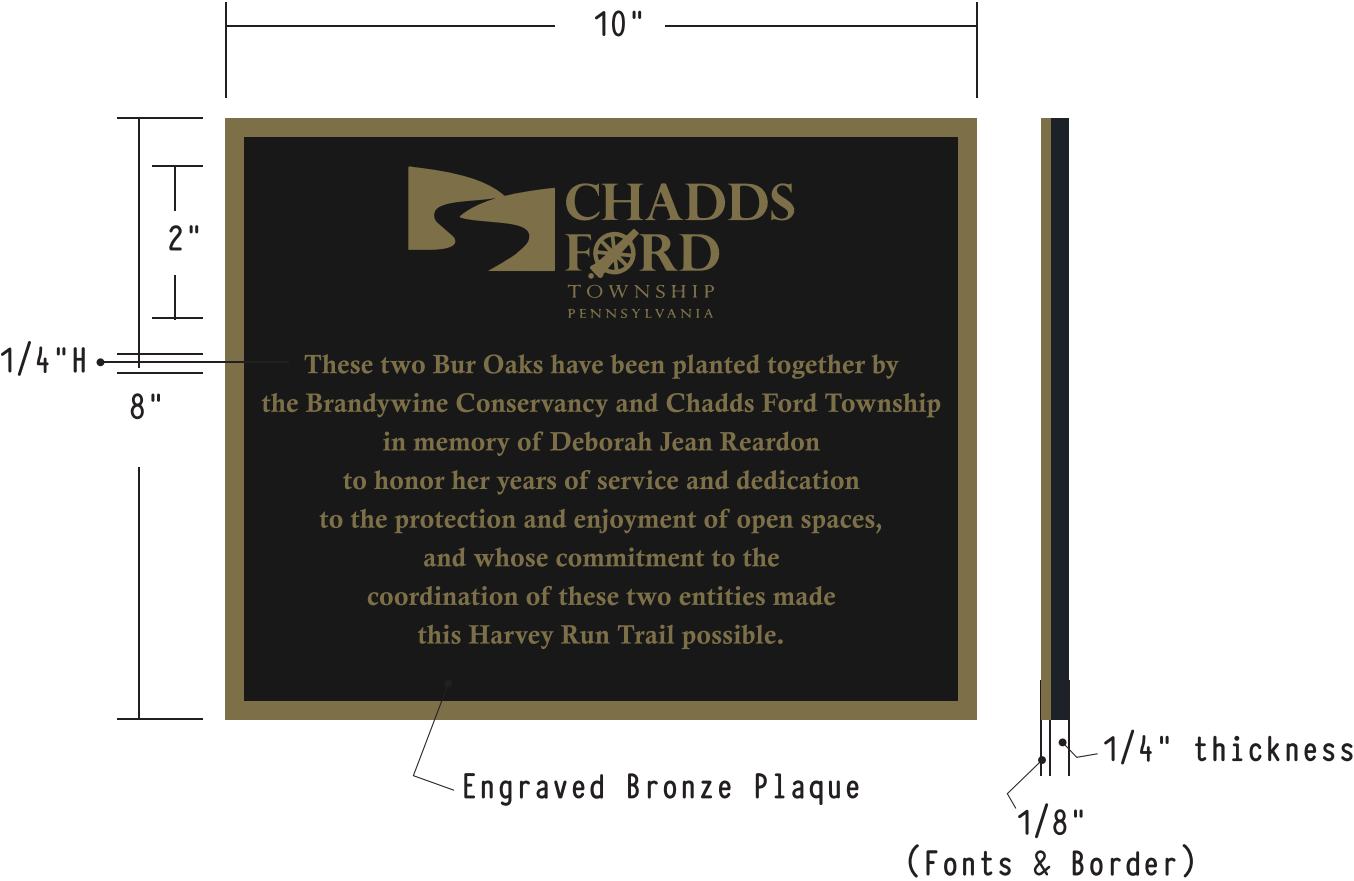


03-30-2024

Note: This photo reimage is intended for visual communication of signage intent depicted in it's completed/installed setting. This is not intended to be an accurate scaled drawing. Although the proper scale is attempted-we are not responsible for conflicts in final visual results.

Print Method

CMYK Digital Print



CUSTOMER: Chadds Ford twp	CONTACT INFO: Emily Pisano
JOB NAME / #:	LOCATION:



LEGACY

SIGN

COMPANY INC.

3344 Market St. Suite G Aston, PA 19014
610-245-9500



SAMANTHA REINER, Chair

TIMOTHA TRIGG, Vice Chair

KATHLEEN GOODIER, Supervisor

DATE

PROPERTY OWNER ADDRESS

Dear (Property Owner Name),

Chadds Ford Township has a longstanding tradition of maintaining open space. The Board of Supervisors and members of the Township Open Space Committee are dedicated to preserving and continuing this tradition.

We write to you as an owner of land that is worth preserving as open space. Since the adoption of the Open Space Plan in 2007, our open space plans have considered your land as part of an area particularly deserving of "Open Space Protection Focus."

While the timing and nature of disposition of your land are ultimately your decision, we ask you to consider, before committing to sell your land for development, taking steps to maintain your land as open space. These steps could produce tax and other benefits. Those benefits will vary among landowners depending on their respective goals and economic positions.

Enclosed is the text of a booklet, "Leaving a Legacy for Future Generations, A Guide to Conservation Options for Landowners." It describes some possible means of disposition of your land. We hope that the booklet will provide ideas for you to explore with your legal and tax advisers. A digital copy is available by scanning the QR code below.

The Supervisors and Open Space Committee members would be pleased to talk with you when you consider options to preserve your land as open space.

Sincerely,

Insert QR Code

LEAVING A LEGACY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

A Guide to Conservation
Options For Landowners



This handbook has been prepared by the Chadds Ford Township Open Space Committee. Established by the Board of Supervisors in 1997, the Committee's mission is to provide a plan for preserving the natural, historic, and cultural resources in the Township; to identify how open space contributes to the quality of life within the community and recommend best methods for maintaining the current character of the Township; and seek out public input and communicate broadly within the community to assure participation by all interested parties.

September 1999

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION.....1

OUTRIGHT DONATION OF LAND.....2

DONATION WITH LIFE ESTATE.....3

CONSERVATION EASEMENT.....3

BARGAIN SALE.....4

BEQUEST.....4

LIMITED DEVELOPMENT.....4

ENDOWMENTS.....5

PREFERENTIAL ASSESSMENT.....5

TRANSFER OF DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS.....6

BENEFITS TO STORMWATER MANAGEMENT...7

BRINTON RUN PRESERVE.....8

CONTACT INFORMATION.....9



The John Chads House

CHADDS FORD TOWNSHIP has many natural resources, physical features, and historic assets that contribute to make this area an outstanding location in which to live and work. The township is relatively small, about eight and a half square miles, and a compact community in comparison to many of its neighbors. The valued features we wish to protect are of immense importance to the general quality of life for the entire community.

Once scenic vistas, natural or open land, historic or archeological sites, or other environmentally sensitive areas are destroyed, demolished, or irrevocably changed, there is no turning back. They are gone forever. We will have lost a treasure.

“Open space” is a common, perhaps overused term, which does not fall easily into a precise definition. It encompasses assets such as streams, slopes, woods, natural and historic landscapes, and historic sites which all contribute to the broad meaning of the concept. Open space may not be “open” for use by the public at large, but the whole community benefits from its contribution to the quality of life within the community.

Most citizens, landowners, and Township officials would agree that it is desirable to retain these valued and irreplaceable resources. They would, we hope, attempt to maximize protection for these resources in a manner consistent with fair and equitable treatment for all who are involved. The bottom line of such an approach is a win-win situation, generating a positive benefit to all participants: landowners, residents, and the community. The Chadds Ford Township Open Space Committee encourages all landowners to consider the following options when contemplating the future of your property. We encourage you to consider a tangible commitment to the preservation of our community's natural and cultural heritage. In addition, you may find that a particular option may produce a satisfactory or equivalent financial return for your situation when compared to conventional development alternatives.

This guide will assist you in making decisions about how and when to protect your land and show you the benefits of doing so. It is a general listing of techniques with associated legal and tax implications. For further information, please refer to the list of local and national conservation organizations and advisors and Township officials in the back of this handbook.

We also recommend that you consult an attorney or tax advisor before making a final decision on any specific option as estate and other tax laws are subject to constant change by Congressional actions.



OUTRIGHT DONATION OF LAND

Donating your land to a conservation organization or the Township is the simplest and best way to protect your land permanently and ensure that it is properly managed. Full title and ownership to the land is given at the time of transfer. This offers the maximum potential tax advantages because you may take a charitable gift deduction based on the full fair market value of your property, you would no longer pay property taxes on the land, and any estate taxes may be eliminated. The receiving organizations or the Township may require an endowment to accompany the land for proper maintenance in perpetuity (see section on Endowments for more information).



DONATION WITH LIFE ESTATE

A reserved life estate allows you to donate your land to a conservation organization or the Township now, and retain use of all or part of the property during your lifetime, or the lifetime of designated immediate family members. The value of your donation for tax purposes is based on the fair market value of the property less the estimated value of your life interest in the property according to Internal Revenue Service Tables based on your age and life expectancy. The tax advantages are less than with an outright donation but greater than with a bequest through your will.



CONSERVATION EASEMENT

A conservation easement is a legal agreement between a landowner and a qualified conservation organization or the Township that permanently limits a property's uses in order to protect its conservation values. The restrictions specified in a conservation easement are tailored to suit your particular property and situation and are written to encourage good land stewardship practices.

Generally, the restrictions are placed on the property in order to retain the natural, scenic, historic, or open space characteristics and to protect against intentional or inadvertent destruction of those features. This flexible tool allows you to both provide protection for your land in perpetuity and retain ownership of it.

A conservation easement is permanent and binds all present and future owners of the eased land. It is recorded like any other title interest and goes with the land whether it is transferred by sale, by gift, or by bequest. Monitoring and enforcement of the restrictions are the responsibility of the conservation organization or the Township holding the easement. Conservation easements not only offer you assurance that the property you have lived on or worked with for many years will be preserved and cared for in the future, they also may provide significant financial benefits.

An easement will affect the market value of the land to the extent that it limits the use and development potential. Depending on your own financial situation, an easement may provide positive economic benefits in terms of income, estate, gift, and/or property taxes. Often, the reduction in estate taxes makes the difference between heirs being able to keep land in the family and their needing to sell it to pay the taxes.



BARGAIN SALE

With a bargain sale, you protect your land by selling it to a conservation organization or the Township at less than fair market value. You receive the bargain sale price for your land, and the difference between that and the fair market appraised value is considered a donation. You may then be eligible for a charitable income tax deduction equal to the difference. Also, by selling at less than fair market value, there would be a smaller capital gain to be taxed. Depending on your financial situation, a bargain sale may be especially advantageous for you.



BEQUEST

A gift of land through your will allows you to retain full use and control over your land while you are alive and ensures its protection after you are gone. You can even leave a life estate for your family as described above. You do not receive a charitable income tax deduction for a bequest; however, your estate taxes may be reduced.



LIMITED DEVELOPMENT

Limited development is an alternative to traditional development that involves the division or development of a property in a way that is both economically rewarding and ecologically sensitive. It strives to achieve a balance between maximizing the landowner's financial interest and his or her desire to preserve the natural, cultural, and scenic features of the property.

A successful limited development plan uses careful planning to ensure that the valuable natural and cultural resources of a property, such as woodlands, agricultural lands, historic buildings, significant wetlands, and scenic views, are preserved. Typically, higher values per lot than traditional development can be attained by designing a plan with fewer houses or other buildings than are permitted under the Township's zoning ordinance and sitting them more carefully in relation to the preserved areas. Engineering, infrastructure, and governmental approval costs are reduced, as are negative impacts on the environment. Often, the returns on the property can approach - and sometimes even equal - the after-tax return from traditional, higher density development, especially when the impact of gift and estate taxes can be avoided or reduced. Limited development usually includes the use of conservation easements, donation of land, and/or a bargain sale.



ENDOWMENTS

An endowment is a gift of money accompanying the donation or sale of real estate to cover the expenses of adequately maintaining the property. Many conservation organizations or townships require endowments for the management and operations expenses involved in the ownership of real estate or for monitoring conservation easements. Donations to endowments are considered charitable contributions and are eligible for tax deductions.



PREFERENTIAL ASSESSMENT

There are two state laws that enable counties to offer preferential tax assessments on land.

A landowner can enroll his or her land under "Act 515", the Pennsylvania Assessment of Open Space Act, if the parcel is at least 10 acres in size and it is used for open space, farmland, forest land, or water supply land.

The landowner signs an agreement with the County for a reduced assessment for a period of 10 years. The agreement automatically renews annually for a 10-year period until the landowner gives notice that he or she wishes to terminate the agreement. The Agreement will then terminate 10 years hence. If the landowner decides to break the agreement, he or she must pay a “roll-back” tax penalty equal to the difference between the taxes actually paid and the taxes which would have been payable without the agreement plus interest.

“Act 319,” the Pennsylvania Farmland and Forest Land Assessment Act (Clean and Green), allows land parcels of 10 acres or more used for the agriculture or forest land to also receive reduced assessment. The definition of agricultural use includes any land use which promotes its natural condition or even the reversion of the land to its natural state. Lands enrolled under Act 319 with the County remain in the program continuously until the landowner chooses to remove them from the program or the landowner changes the use. If the use never changes to commercial or development land, then there will never be a roll-back tax penalty charged.

If the landowner chooses to withdraw the property from the program, a roll-back tax penalty will be charged for a maximum period of the most recent seven years plus interest.

Under both programs, landowners retain all rights to do as they wish with their land. The county has no provisions for supervision or interference with personal use of the land nor does it require public use as a condition.



TRANSFER OF DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS

Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) offers property owners a unique and mutually beneficial approach to land conservation. By participating in TDR programs, property owners can preserve the ecological and aesthetic value of their land while retaining ownership rights.

Through the sale of development rights to a conservation organization or Township, property owners receive financial compensation, unlocking the value of their land without compromising its natural integrity. This innovative strategy not only safeguards environmentally sensitive areas but also provides property owners with a tangible incentive for conservation.



BENEFITS TO STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

Land conservation plays a crucial role in enhancing stormwater management by preserving natural landscapes that act as effective buffers against water runoff. Protected lands, such as forests, wetlands, and open spaces, absorb and slow down rainfall, reducing the volume and velocity of stormwater runoff. This helps mitigate the risk of flooding, erosion, and water pollution.

Conservation areas act as natural sponges, allowing the soil to absorb rainwater and promoting groundwater recharge. Additionally, the preservation of natural vegetation serves as a natural filtration system, trapping sediments and pollutants before they reach water bodies. By investing in land conservation, communities not only protect valuable ecosystems but also bolster their resilience against the adverse impacts of stormwater, fostering sustainable and resilient urban environments.

BRINTON RUN PRESERVE



North American Land Trust's success story at Brinton Run Preserve showcases a remarkable conservation achievement, made possible through the collaboration of various partners and generous financial contributions. Funding sources included the American Battlefield Trust, Chadds Ford Township, Delaware County's Open Space and Recreation Grant Program, Mt. Cuba Center, the National Park Service's American Battlefield Protection Program, and the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

Through these alliances, Brinton Run Preserve was transformed into a welcoming community space, where nature enthusiasts can appreciate the preserve's unique history.

The property, encompassing 71 acres within the Brandywine Creek Greenway, supports diverse wildlife habitats and is a vital tract on the Brandywine Battlefield. By placing a conservation easement on the property, held by Chadds Ford Township, perpetual protection against development is ensured. Also protected under the conservation easement are close to 100 native plant species, natural habitats for pollinators, a large pond, and a tributary of the Brandywine Creek.

NALT's ongoing efforts include habitat improvement, trail system development, riparian maintenance, community programming, and interpretive initiatives to educate visitors about the Battle of Brandywine.

Brinton Run Preserve, located at 6 Oakland Road, is NALT's inaugural public preserve, open to the public for the enjoyment of nature and the appreciation of its rich history.

The success of Brinton Run Preserve began with the Baldino family. Sandra Baldino was intrigued by NALT's concept of using the land as a public preserve. Although residential developers were interested in the property, NALT's vision was perfectly matched with how Sandra imagined the future of the property. Sandra's patience and generosity resulted in a beautiful preserved property for the public to enjoy and learn from.



CONTACTS

Please do not hesitate to reach out for additional information.

Board of Supervisors

- Samantha Reiner, Chair,
SReiner@chaddsfordpa.gov
- Timotha Trigg, Vice Chair,
TTrigg@chaddsfordpa.gov
- Kathleen Goodier, Supervisor
KGoodier@chaddsfordpa.gov

Open Space Committee

- Peter Mattes, Chair
- Helene Badeau, Vice Chair
- Kathleen Goodier, Secretary
- Rob King
- Mike Pessagno
- Sarah Sharp
- Lois Saunders, Ad Hoc
- David Poston, Ad Hoc

Brandywine Conservancy

- brandywine.org/conservancy
- 610.388.2700

WeConservePA

- weconservepa.org
- info@weconservepa.org
- 717.230.8560



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This handbook was adopted in part from:

The Landowner's Options-A Guide to Voluntary Land Protection in Delaware, Division of Parks and Recreation, Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, 1992

Conservation Easements, Environmental Management Center, Brandywine Conservancy, 1996

Landowner's Guide to Conservation Planning and Limited Development, Pennsbury Township (PA) Board of Supervisors, March 1995

Conservation Options – A Landowner's Guide, Land Trust Alliance, 1993

Original design and layout by:
Holly Harper
graphic design



Senate Bill 365 and House Bill 1632 Summary - Post-Traumatic Stress Injury

Senate of Pennsylvania and House of Representatives Session of 2023 - 2024 Regular Session

Posted: June 27, 2023 02:18 PM
From: [Representative Jennifer O'Mara](#) and [Rep. Jared G. Solomon](#), [Rep. Mark M. Gillen](#), [Rep. Tarik Khan](#), [Rep. Greg Scott](#), [Rep. Tim Brennan](#), [Rep. Jim Rigby](#)
To: All House members
Subject: Covering Post-Traumatic Stress Injuries under Worker's Compensation for First Responders

Click the following links for more information:

- <https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billinfo/billinfo.cfm?year=2023&sind=0&body=H&type=B&bn=1632>
- <https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billinfo/billinfo.cfm?year=2023&sind=0&body=S&type=B&bn=365>

SUMMARY: Last legislative session bills were introduced in an effort to provide assistance to first responders suffering from post-traumatic stress injury or PTSI. The League believes post-traumatic stress injury is a serious illness that should be addressed from a prevention perspective first and foremost. However, previous bill language would have created an uninsurable workers' compensation benefit, leading to extremely high insurance premiums and a diversion of local tax dollars. Senate Bill 365 and House Bill 1632, introduced by Senator Camera Bartolotta and Representative Jennifer O'Mara, would amend the Workers' Compensation Law easing first responders' access to receive a post-traumatic stress injury (PTSI) benefit if it is established that the injury resulted from a working condition and that it was sustained in the course and scope of the individual's employment. Under these bills, injuries must be based on the assessment and diagnosis by a licensed medical or mental health professional. Claims must be filed within three years of the date of diagnosis. Injuries diagnosed after the last date of employment shall not prohibit a claim against the employer at the time of first responder's direct exposure. Finally, a PTSI caused by an employment action is not compensable. First responders would be defined as an EMS provider, professional or volunteer firefighter, a State Police Officer or a peace officer.

Senate Bill 231 - Flexibility for Local Government Advertising and Notice Requirements

Senate of Pennsylvania Session of 2023 - 2024 Regular Session

Posted: December 5, 2022 01:06 PM
From: [Senator John DiSanto](#)
To: All Senate members
Subject: Flexibility for Local Government Advertising and Notice Requirements

Click the following link for more information:

- [Bill Information - Senate Bill 231; Regular Session 2023-2024 - PA General Assembly \(state.pa.us\)](#)

Reintroduced legislation to provide a flexible menu of options for local governments to use in complying with current requirements to advertise and provide public notice in physically printed newspapers. This

proposal will modernize our advertising requirements and provide much needed savings to local governments.

In recent years, printed newspapers have been sharply reducing or eliminating regular publishing and increasing advertising costs, and local governments are finding it difficult and expensive to comply with the archaic advertising requirements in current law. County, municipality, and school district officials fully support the need to keep their communities informed of local government events and operations, and they know that public engagement is necessary to have an effective system of open government. The challenge for local officials is to use the forms of communication most likely to reach constituents in a timely and cost-effective manner.

Current law requires local governments to publish notice of various board and committee meetings, bidding requirements for certain purchases and contracts, legal notices, and official advertisements in print newspapers of general circulation. This mandate is expensive and inefficient, and it was created before the Internet changed the ways that people receive information.

For these reasons, I am introducing legislation that would provide flexibility in meeting these requirements in a way that will improve efficiency, increase readership and reduce costs. The proposal allows counties, municipalities, and school districts to advertise public notices either electronically or in printed format by choosing from a menu of options.

Importantly, this proposal also allows local governments flexibility to reach more of their constituents. The broad reach and convenience of technology must be considered, as a growing number of people access news through computers, smartphones, tablets, and laptops. Allowing advertisements to be posted electronically will boost transparency by making them searchable and available to a broader readership.

Please join me in cosponsoring this legislation to allow local governments to be more responsible with taxpayer dollars and reach broader audiences in a manner that fits the current times.

This legislation was previously Senate Bill 252 and cosponsored by Phillips-Hill, L. Williams, Martin, Bartolotta, and Yaw.

Senate Bill 459 and House Bill 1368 Summary - Local Use of Radar

Senate of Pennsylvania and Gouse of Representatives Session of 2023 - 2024 Regular Session

Posted: January 13, 2023 04:38 PM
From: [Senator Greg Rothman](#)
To: All Senate members
Subject: Helping Local Police Protect Our Communities Through RADAR/LIDAR

Click the following link for more information:

- https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billinfo/bill_history.cfm?year=2023&sind=0&body=S&type=B&bn=459#:~:text=An%20Act%20amending%20Title%2075,providing%20for%20speed%20timing%20devices.
- <https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billinfo/billinfo.cfm?year=2023&sind=0&body=H&type=B&bn=1368#:~:text=Short%20Title%3A,providing%20for%20speed%20timing%20devices.&text=Printer's%20No>.

Senate Bill 459, introduced by Senator Greg Rothman, provides for local use of radar. As in prior sessions, a municipality must adopt an ordinance to use radar and officers must complete an approved training course.

Officers would be able to enforce speed using radar from or adjacent to a clearly marked vehicle that is visible to those driving. A minimum of four official signs warning drivers of local police radar enforcement would need to be installed along the main roads within 500 feet of municipal borders. During the first 90 days of radar enforcement, individuals pulled over for speeding would only receive a written warning.

The bill would further provide for speed enforcement restrictions, including the prohibition of points on a driver's license, the prohibition to ticket unless a motorist is traveling 10 MPH or more over the speed limit and 6 MPH or more over in a school zone, and the prohibition of using radar in the immediate area (500 feet) of a sign decreasing the posted speed.

Under the bill, the municipal share of revenue generated from the use of radar may not exceed one percent of what a municipality received in the prior year. Funds in excess of the one percent would be remitted to the Motor License Fund.

House Bill 1368, introduced by Representative Kyle Donahue, is very similar to SB 459. However, it also includes language requiring reporting by officers in police departments with 100 officers or more when they issue citations under this legislation. Officers would be required to report the reason for the stop; the date, time and location of the stop; the perceived race and ethnicity of the driver; the perceived gender and age of the driver; whether a search was initiated; the results of any search; whether the stop resulted in a warning, citation, arrest or other action; and the badge number of the officer initiating the stop. The same police departments shall maintain and report the information to the Administrative Office of the PA Courts.

Radar is acknowledged by law enforcement personnel as the safest, most accurate and efficient speed timing device. Despite this fact, Pennsylvania is the only state in the country that does not allow for the local use of radar. As a result, speeding on neighborhood roads is consistently the most common concern voiced by our constituents.

Last year, the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration released its 2020 annual traffic crash data. Sadly, over 11, 000 people were killed in speed-related crashes nationwide. Crashes on local roads accounted for 87% of fatalities. Here in Pennsylvania, 1,129 people died in vehicle crashes. Of those fatalities, 459 were speed-related, making up 41% of all traffic fatalities in the Commonwealth. These figures would normally cause concern, but in a year that saw motorists driving significantly less due to the pandemic, it makes these statistics even more troubling. Local use of radar would help to curtail these preventable losses of life.

In addition to the high number of speed-related fatalities, the non-radar speed timing devices and technology used by local police are becoming more and more obsolete. There are only three PennDOT approved non-radar technologies available to municipal police, one being a stop watch. Companies producing these devices are going out of business or ceasing production, as there is very little demand for these products outside of Pennsylvania. Additionally, many non-radar speed timing devices are not compatible with the computer systems in new police vehicle models.

If the General Assembly does not act now, a stop watch may soon be the only speed timing device available to our local police officers. This very unsettling development has and will continue to hinder local law enforcement operations within across the Commonwealth and further endanger public safety.

HB 1573 Historic and Older Building Redevelopment Assistance Grant Program

House of Representatives Session of 2023 - 2024 Regular Session

Posted: June 21, 2023 01:17 PM
From: Representative Joe Ciresi
To: All House members
Subject: Historic and Older Building Redevelopment Assistance Grant Program

Click the following link for more information:

- <https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billInfo/billInfo.cfm?year=2023&sind=0&body=H&type=B&bn=1573>

Pennsylvania is home to many historic communities with buildings in need of renovation as they do not comply with modern building codes. However, renovations can be complicated and costly depending on the age, condition, and intended use of the building. This can provide obstacles to communities seeking to revitalize their downtowns and return vacant buildings to productive use.

In order to bring these buildings up to modern day standards, I am introducing legislation to create a two-year pilot program administered by the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) to help renovate and redevelop historic and older buildings across the Commonwealth. This grant program will help older communities face the challenges of updating buildings in need of renovation and the high costs of bringing those buildings up to code.

This program would be available to assist in bringing mechanical, electrical, plumbing, and fire protection systems up to code through the installation of modern equipment such as sprinklers, efficient HVAC systems, elevators, and extra stairs. Additionally, these grants may be used to make improvements to entryways and other building features to make buildings more accessible for people with disabilities. Moreover, the rehabilitation of existing buildings creates thousands of construction jobs every year. In fact, historic preservation creates more jobs for the dollar than new construction.

These improvements would be intended for and evaluated on the basis of their ability to facilitate income-generating use of the property, their contribution to economic and community revitalization, and historic preservation and commercial or recreational opportunities for the public.

I hope you will consider supporting the redevelopment and renovation of older buildings to achieve code compliance, better accessibility, and maintain the architectural integrity and historic beauty of our communities. Please consider joining me in co-sponsoring this legislation so that historic and older buildings throughout Pennsylvania remain safe to use.

Senate Bill 501 - Allowing Counties the Option to Create EMS Authorities

Senate of Pennsylvania Session of 2023 - 2024 Regular Session

Posted: January 24, 2023 12:40 PM
From: Senator Lisa Baker and Sen. Timothy P. Kearney
To: All Senate members
Subject: Allowing Counties the Option to Create EMS Authorities

Click the following link for more information:

- <https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billInfo/billInfo.cfm?sYear=2023&sInd=0&body=S&type=B&bn=698>

SUMMARY: In the near future, we plan to reintroduce a version of Senate Bill 698 to further improve upon the work of the General Assembly relevant to Recommendation 6 of the Senate Resolution 6 Commission's Final Report issued in 2018, by allowing for the creation of county-wide Public Safety Authorities for EMS.

We developed this legislation through many rounds of stakeholder engagement facilitated in coordination with the Senate Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee Chairs. Local government associations, EMS organizations, and state agencies have provided input. We took the feedback from these important organizations and incorporated many changes to fulfill a key recommendation from the SR 6 report, specifically, that the General Assembly simplify the process to regionalize EMS services by allowing for the formation of regional or county-wide service districts, or what are better known as authorities. The report called for making statutory changes today to help prevent service lapses in the future. Many EMS companies and communities know that regionalization provides an opportunity to provide better services in perpetuity, but struggle to find successful ways to get around the legal obstacles that our current structure inadvertently creates.

The Municipal Authorities Act, Chapter 56 of Title 53, provides an excellent framework for the creation, governance, and professional management of authorities to provide municipal services. It allows municipalities and counties to create authorities for a host of purposes – from sewers to swimming pools – but not for EMS.

In Pennsylvania, one size solutions do not always fit all. An authority may not be necessary for every county or community. Our bill would give counties the option to create Public Safety Authorities, which may be used to provide services for EMS. Individual municipalities would be able to join, or not join if they so choose. Rather than replacing our incredible volunteer and career EMS companies, authorities would exist to support them and their work.

By giving counties and municipalities the tools to organize regionally, we allow for innovative service models—from centralized administrative support to higher levels of coordination—that can best fit the needs of our diverse communities.

Please join us in cosponsoring legislation that would address this urgent need and improve upon the work that has already been done by our colleagues to ensure the safety of our communities throughout the Commonwealth.