



# Senator Pat Browne



## REPORTS to SENIORS

16TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT • FALL 2007



### Senator Browne to host Senior Fair October 11 at Country Meadows

Senator Pat Browne is once again holding a **Senior Fair at Country Meadows of Allentown on Thursday, October 11, 2007.**

The fair will run from **10 a.m. to 1 p.m.** at Country Meadows Retirement Community at 410 Krocks Road, Building 3 in Allentown. It is free-of-charge and open to the public. The fair is intended for seniors and their families and is to provide information on health care issues, leisure activities as well as other government programs available to them.

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rent rebates and free and reduced rates for public transportation.

Lehigh Valley Hospital & Health Network will provide **400 complimentary flu shots** subject to availability and barring any unforeseen circumstances.

For more information about Senator Browne's Senior Fair, please visit his website at **senatorbrowne.com** or contact Doris Stearns at 610-821-8468. For dates of other Community Flu Vaccine Clinics, call Mary Ferrell, Lehigh Hospital & Health Network's Coordinator Vitality Plus, at 610-402-3283.

Dear Friend,

We are fortunate to have a large number of senior citizens in my district. Our area benefits from your wisdom and experience. As your state Senator, I hope to provide you with news that can help you in your daily life.

I would also like to invite you to my **annual Senior Fair set for October 11 at Country Meadows of Allentown.** The Fair is set up to give you an opportunity to find out what programs are available to you. Pennsylvania has one of the highest percentages of senior citizens in the nation and we also have some of the finest programs available for them. My Fair showcases state programs and those offered by the county and community agencies as well.

As always, if you have questions about any state issue, call my Allentown District Office at (610) 821-8468, my Western Lehigh County office at (610) 366-2327, my East Allentown Office at (610) 821-6813, my Northampton County Office at (610) 502-1567, or my Monroe County District Office at (570) 402-1499. Or, visit my website at **senatorbrowne.com.**

Regards,

*Pat Browne*  
Pat Browne

Exhibitors scheduled for the Fair include representatives from the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation and the Department of Aging. These representatives will have information on a number of state programs including reduced rates for vehicle registrations, property tax and



Senator Pat Browne addresses attendees of his 2006 Senior Fair.



Local residents had the opportunity to learn about many valuable services and programs during Senator Browne's 2006 Senior Fair.

# New Law Defines Assisted Living Facilities

A new state law defining and licensing assisted living facilities is intended to help Pennsylvanians make educated decisions about their own care or the care of a loved one and better understand the limitations of a specific facility.

The new law is intended to clear up confusion about what kind of care

different personal care homes provide. The specific assisted living licensure process established under Act 56 makes it easier to identify the differences between facilities.

The law defines assisted living residences and the services that may be offered. This includes additional requirements for facilities caring for

those with cognitive impairments such as dementia and Alzheimer's disease. In addition, the law sets minimal standards for regulation of the industry by the Department of Public Welfare and supports the philosophy that individuals should be permitted to age in place.

Each facility also will be subject to unannounced inspections. Finally, facilities not licensed under the act will be prohibited from using the term assisted living, thereby eliminating a large amount of confusion in the marketplace.

Previously, facilities offering long-term care services were either licensed as personal care homes or nursing homes.

## Helpful Phone Numbers

- Prescriptions – PACE/PACENET (800) 225-7223
- Consumer Protection (610) 821-6690
- Public Utilities (Gas and Electric) (800) 692-7380
- Property Tax and Rent Rebates (800) 772-5246
- Lehigh County Area Agency on Aging (610) 782-3034
- Monroe County Area Agency on Aging (570) 420-3735
- Northampton County Area Agency on Aging (610) 559-3245

## Senior Citizens' Programs Receive Additional Funding

The recently approved state budget increased funding to the state's Department of Aging to improve services provided to Pennsylvania's senior citizens:

- Pre-Admission Assessment Program is increased by 34 percent for a total of \$10.3 million. This is for the nursing home pre-admission screening program.
- PENNCARE received a \$15 million increase. This is to continue the current Attendant Care Program and provide services to additional recipients. Funds are also used for Older Adult Protective Services to investigate elder abuse. A three percent cola is also included in this funding for direct care workers.
- \$4.8 million to fund the Reforming the Long-Term Living System. This funding is aimed at reducing reliance on institutional long-term care and promoting home and community-based services.

- \$21.3 million in Tobacco Settlement Funding is set aside to provide home and community-based services to older Pennsylvanians. This includes \$2 million to continue current home and community-based care services, and the expansion to additional recipients.
- \$17.2 million in state funding for essential services available to older adults and persons with disabilities so they can continue living in their own homes. An additional 2,200 older Pennsylvania residents and 1,000 younger disabled people will receive Medicaid-funded long-term living services in their homes and communities.
- \$276.4 million in second-year funding is provided to PACE Plus Medicare for a comprehensive state-wide pharmaceutical benefits program, which complements Medicare Part D. This funding will enable an additional 32,000 people to be covered by PACE.

## Senator Pat Browne *16th District Offices*

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Northampton, PA 18067  
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Monroe County Office  
Old Route 115 & Route 209  
P.O. Box 16  
Saylorsburg, PA 18353-0016  
(570) 402-1499 • FAX (570) 402-0746

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