

THE CORMAN REPORT

FROM STATE SENATOR JAKE CORMAN

34TH DISTRICT • SUMMER 2005



STADIUM BRINGS MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL TO CENTRE COUNTY

Minor league baseball is coming to Centre County. I recently took part in a groundbreaking for Medlar Field at Lubrano Park. The new \$24 million stadium will be shared by Penn State and a Class A minor league baseball franchise from the New York - Penn League.

To obtain state funding for this

important project, I included the baseball stadium's public funding in last year's capital budget. After lobbying hard for the release of the \$12 million in public financing, we finally broke ground in May.

The minor league team will begin play at Medlar Field next season.

For more information, visit

www.statecollegebaseball.com.

I'm very proud of this new facility – it will provide a new form of recreation for area residents and contribute to the local economy. Projects such as these help to make our area a better place to live and raise a family.

"Jake's leadership, enthusiasm and vision have been essential to the birth of this project. From our first meeting, Jake could envision what this beautiful new ballpark would add to the community in terms of jobs, economic vitality and quality of living. The region is truly fortunate to have a leader with the foresight and energy of Jake Corman, without whom this project would not have reached first base."

- Chuck Greenberg, President
Altoona Curve



Senator Corman speaks at the groundbreaking for Medlar Field at Lubrano Park

CORMAN REAPPOINTED TO PHEAA BOARD

I am pleased to have again been appointed by Senate leaders to serve as a member of the PHEAA Board of Directors. PHEAA guarantees federal student loans, issues state aid, and administers work-study and loan forgiveness programs to make higher education affordable for as many Pennsylvania residents as possible.

Serving on the PHEAA Board is a welcome challenge and also an opportunity to help make college affordable for many people and also reward people for service to their county. I'm particularly proud of the Armed Forces Loan Forgiveness Program that we instituted that has helped more than

4,600 servicemen and women since we created it.

The 20-member board of directors serves as PHEAA's governing body. The panel includes the state Secretary of Education, three members appointed by the governor, eight state senators and eight state representatives.

LOCAL IRAQ WAR HERO HAS STUDENT LOAN FORGIVEN

I was pleased and honored to recently join officials from the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) in presenting a local Iraq war veteran with forgiveness on his student loans.

Lance Corporal Jeffrey A. Sanders, a resident of Millmont, Union County, and a 2001 graduate of Mifflinburg Area High School, was wounded by a roadside bomb south of Baghdad, Iraq, on Labor Day, 2004. As a result of those injuries he had part of his left leg amputated. As a board member of PHEAA, I worked with PHEAA and Citibank to clear up LCPL Sanders' student debt.

PHEAA created the Armed Forces Loan Forgiveness Program to assist our brave military men and women with their education goals, and I'm pleased that we could work together to help a local hero receive benefits through this service.

For more information on PHEAA's loan forgiveness programs, visit www.pheaa.org.

Senator Corman presents a check to Lance Corporal Jeffrey Sanders, who was injured in Iraq.



SENATOR CORMAN UNVEILS BILL TO PROTECT AGAINST IDENTITY THEFT

Identity theft has become one of the most prominent and damaging crimes of recent times. Identity thieves use personal information such as account passwords, Social Security numbers and credit card numbers to maliciously commit fraud under the victim's name. Identity fraud destroys the victim's credit history and good name.

In Pennsylvania, 7,500 cases of identity theft were reported in 2004, and according to the Federal Trade Commission, an estimated \$52.6 billion was lost by U.S. consumers and businesses as a result of identity theft.

To help guard against this growing threat, I recently introduced legislation that would allow Pennsylvania residents to place either a security alert or a security freeze on their credit reports.

Many consumers have had their credit ruined by scam artists who gain access to their credit reports and personal information. This legislation would provide additional safeguards against this type of identity theft.

Senate Bill 180 would allow consumers to place a security alert on their credit report, warning requestors of the credit report that their identity may have been used to fraudulently obtain goods or services. The company or financial institution requesting the report could then take additional steps to verify the consumer's identity to prevent fraud.



At a Harrisburg news conference, Senator Corman outlines his proposal to guard credit reports and protect consumers against identity theft.

My legislation would also allow consumers to request a security freeze on their consumer file. The security freeze would prohibit credit agencies from disclosing that person's credit report without specific pre-authorization. Credit reporting agencies would be required to put the security alert or security freeze on a consumer's report within five days of the request.

Senate Bill 180 is part of a comprehensive package of bills designed to help protect the personal information of Pennsylvanians and fight against identity theft. Similar legislation has already been signed into law in California and Louisiana.

LIVING WILL FORMS AVAILABLE AT SENATOR CORMAN'S DISTRICT OFFICES

Given the discussion surrounding living wills, many people are concerned about their own situation and are wondering where they can obtain living will forms.

Pennsylvania law includes a statutory living will form. Copies of this form are available for free at all of my district offices and at my web site, www.jakecorman.com.

A copy can also be obtained by emailing a request to jcorman@pasen.gov.

It's important for everyone to make informed decisions about the issues in a living will, so please take the time to obtain a form and consider making your wishes known.

DEADLINE EXTENSION FOR PROPERTY TAX/RENT REBATE PROGRAM

Senior citizens and other residents who qualify for the state's Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program now have until December 31 to apply. The Department of Revenue has extended the deadline so that more Pennsylvanians can take advantage of the program.

Funded by the Pennsylvania Lottery, the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program provides state tax rebates to both owners and renters based on the amount of property taxes or rent they paid in the previous year. Tens of thousands of Pennsylvanians benefit from this program every year.

Pennsylvanians who are 65 or older; widows and widowers 50 or older; and those with a disability who are 18 or older are eligible for the program if their household income is \$15,000 or less. Applicants must count 50 percent of their Social Security or federal railroad retirement benefits as income when applying.

The program provides rebates of up to \$500. More than 240,000 people have applied and their rebates will be distributed after July 1. New applications will be reviewed as claims are received and rebates will be distributed accordingly. For the first time this year, rebates can be directly deposited into recipients' checking or savings accounts.

Application forms are available at www.revenue.state.pa.us and at local area agencies on aging, senior centers and in my district offices.

CORMAN BILL WOULD ALLOW CHILDREN TO OBTAIN PA NON-DRIVER PHOTO ID CARD

Children age 10 and older could apply for an official Pennsylvania Photo Identification Card under legislation that I have sponsored.

Current law requires residents of Pennsylvania to be sixteen years of age or older to receive a Photo ID Card. My bill would lower the minimum age requirement for ID cards to 10 years of age. Parents would then be able to apply for a photo ID card for their children at a cost of \$10 per card and have the photos taken at any

PENNDOT driver license center in Pennsylvania.

More and more security measures are being put in place in Pennsylvania and throughout the country that require parents to provide a photo identification card of their children. As a result, Pennsylvania parents often have to apply for passports in order to have an official identification card

for their children, which can be costly and time-consuming.

Pennsylvania is one of only four states that does not issue official Personal Identification Cards to residents less than 16 years of age. Further, Pennsylvania is one of only 10 states to have a minimum age requirement for a Personal Identification Card.

Senator Corman presents a US Flag to administrators of the Stonebridge Health & Rehabilitation Center in Duncannon. It replaced a worn flag that had been flying at that facility.



FLOOD INSURANCE HELPS WHEN DISASTER STRIKES

Last year's flood season was one of the most destructive in history. By the end of 2004, nearly 40,000 Pennsylvanians had applied for federal relief.

Many Pennsylvanians lost their homes and businesses and many

properties will never be restored to their pre-flood condition.

After last year's devastation, the National Weather Service is predicting another difficult flood season in Pennsylvania.

Before another disaster strikes,

I encourage constituents in my district to learn more about their risk, and what to do to protect their property, before, during and after a flood.

Property owners can also purchase flood insurance by calling the National Flood Insurance Program at 1-800-427-2419 or going online at www.floodsmart.gov.

The Pennsylvania Insurance Department also provides information about flood insurance and disaster preparedness.

Residents can call the department toll free at 1-877-881-6388 or visit their website at www.insurance.state.pa.us for on-line brochures on flood insurance and what to do if there is a disaster.



Senator Corman meets with students from Benner Elementary School, who were on a tour of the Capitol on Monday, June 6, 2005.



Senator Corman presents Penn State officials with a \$40 million grant to help construct the new Materials Science Building at University Park.

WEBSITE OFFERS INFORMATION ON SERVICES, LEGISLATION

As part of my effort to provide the people of the 34th Senatorial District with easy access to state services and programs, I recently revamped my website to provide even more information. The address is www.jakecorman.com.

The website includes information about pending legislation, state laws, agencies and programs, special sections of interest to senior citizens, veterans and kids, as well as links to other government and civic organizations. Constituents can sign up to receive regular updates, including the weekly e-newsletter "The Corman Report" and news releases.

There is a wide variety of informa-



tion available on my website. The Internet is a good way to keep constituents informed about what is going on in state government and tell them about programs that are available. The Web provides an excellent way for busy people to keep track of state government's activities and how it affects their everyday lives - when it's convenient for them.



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PERRY COUNTY DISTRICT OFFICE WILL NOW BE OPEN FIVE DAYS A WEEK

To better serve residents of Perry County, I now offer expanded hours at my New Bloomfield District Office. The district office, located at 7 West Main Street in New Bloomfield, is now open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The phone number is (717) 582-4600.

With a full-time district office in New Bloomfield, my staff and I hope to assist Perry County residents at times that are convenient to them.