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HARRISBURG, PA  
PERMIT NO. 432



## ANNUAL SENIOR EXPO

Thursday, Aug. 11  
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Allen Township Fire Hall**  
3530 Howertown Road, Northampton, PA

***Directions to Allen Township Fire Hall:***  
From Route 145, follow Route 329 and go east into Northampton. Follow Route 329 through Northampton to the intersection at Weaversville and Howertown roads (gas station is on your left). At the stop light, turn left onto Howertown Road. The fire hall is about one mile on the right.

Please mark Thursday, Aug. 11, on your calendar for my annual Senior Expo to be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Allen Township Fire Hall, 3530 Howertown Road in Northampton.

This event, which attracts hundreds of people each year, is designed to provide senior citizens and their families with a wealth of information about programs and services available from local, state and federal governments, as well as nonprofit agencies and area businesses.

Services to be offered by the more than 70 exhibitors in attendance at the Senior Expo include:

- Collection of old eyeglasses (no sunglasses), along with information on donation and transplantation (Northeast Pennsylvania Lion Eye Bank).
- Free health insurance counseling.
- Fall prevention for seniors and balance screening.
- Consumer education regarding utility matters, support and assistance to those directly affected by crimes, and domestic violence information.
- Personal response emergency call services and hospital home care equipment.
- Assistance in answering questions on filing Property Tax/Rent Rebate applications.
- Metro plus door-to-door services and riding LANTA buses.
- Food stamp information.
- Information on skilled nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy, short-term rehabilitation and home health aides.
- Near and far acuity and peripheral vision screening (Center for Vision Loss).
- Free blood pressure screening.

•••• *I look forward to seeing all of you there!* ••••

## Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council Launches Interactive Medicare Payment Database

The Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council (PHC4) recently launched a consumer-friendly interactive database of Medicare payments for common health care services.

The database was created as a way to aid consumers in making more informed health care choices. For every Pennsylvania county, the database makes available information on the amount Medicare pays hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers for outpatient procedures, such as colonoscopies, cataract surgeries and MRIs.

The database can also assist consumers in fee negotiations and in finding quality health care in their area for the best price.

To access the database, visit my website at [JulieHarhart.com](http://JulieHarhart.com) and click on “Medicare Payment Database.”



## Deadline to Apply for Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program Extended

The deadline to apply for the state's Property Tax/Rent Rebate program has been extended to Dec. 31.

Eligible participants can receive a rebate of up to \$650 based on their rent or property taxes paid in 2010. The program benefits eligible Pennsylvanians who are 65 years or older, widows and widowers 50 years or older, and those 18 years or older with disabilities.

Eligibility income limits are set at the following levels, excluding 50 percent of Social Security, Supplemental Security Income, and Railroad Retirement Tier 1 benefits:

- \$0 to \$8,000, maximum \$650 rebate (homeowners and renters)
- \$8,001 to \$15,000, maximum \$500 rebate (homeowners and renters)
- \$15,001 to \$18,000, maximum \$300 rebate (homeowners only)
- \$18,001 to \$35,000, maximum \$250 rebate (homeowners only)

Residents are reminded to provide all the necessary income, property tax or rental information required to process claims quickly and accurately.

Property Tax/Rent Rebate claim forms are available by contacting my offices at (610) 502-2701 in Northampton or (610) 760-9805 in Slatington, or by visiting my website at [JulieHarhart.com](http://JulieHarhart.com).

## Residents Encouraged to Check Treasury Department's Bureau of Unclaimed Property

Area residents are encouraged to check the Pennsylvania Treasury Department's Bureau of Unclaimed Property for any financial asset that has been left inactive for a period of five years.

According to the Pennsylvania Treasury Department, millions of dollars in unclaimed property comes into the bureau each year. The most common types of unclaimed property are dormant bank accounts, stocks and dividends, uncashed payroll checks, uncollected utility deposits, unredeemed gift certificates and items in safe deposit boxes.

The Treasury is only required to advertise the names of people, businesses, or organizations owed property valued in excess of \$250.

Treasury Department officials are cautioning individuals to be wary of services or “finders” who charge fees to help locate unclaimed property. Finders often charge the maximum amount allowed by law, up to 15 percent of the property's value, for making use of the same online databases individuals can use free of charge.

For additional information on unclaimed property, visit my website at [JulieHarhart.com](http://JulieHarhart.com) or call my offices at (610) 502-2701 in Northampton or (610) 760-9805 in Slatington.



# Honoring Local Residents



Rep. Julie Harhart presented a medal and certificate honoring veteran Louis Stubits at the Sacred Heart Assisted Living Facility in Northampton.



Rep. Harhart congratulated Josef Schmidt, a Sacred Heart Hospital volunteer with more than 4,000 hours of service.



Rep. Harhart presented a 60th anniversary citation to Bob and Jean Coombe. They were married March 31, 1951.



Edward Yapple was presented with a citation by Rep. Harhart in recognition of his recent induction into the Lehigh Valley Chapter of the National Football Foundation Hall of Fame.



Rep. Harhart presented a citation to Northampton resident Anna Lisetski in recognition of her 100th birthday on June 3.

## Monthly Legislative Programs Bring You the News

Each month several local cable stations air a 30-minute program I host providing information on either local or legislative issues of interest.

The programs air throughout each month as follows:

- Service Electric Cable, Allentown, Channel 50, first Monday of the month at 8:30 p.m.
- Blue Ridge Cable TV, Channel 13, every Tuesday at 10:30 a.m.
- RCN of Pennsylvania, Channel 4, third Thursday of the month at 9 p.m.

The shows are aired free of charge by the local cable companies. Therefore, the times and dates listed above are subject to change.

The programs can also be viewed at my website at [JulieHarhart.com](http://JulieHarhart.com) under "Latest News."



## Want to Receive This Newsletter Electronically Instead?

In an effort to cut costs, I am offering the opportunity for people to sign up to receive my newsletter electronically instead of by mail. Simply go to [JulieHarhart.com](http://JulieHarhart.com) and click on the "e-newsletter" icon on the upper right corner of the page to sign up.

Even if you already receive regular e-mail updates, you must complete this form and include your full mailing address so you can be removed from the newsletter mailing list. You will be notified via e-mail when a new edition of the e-newsletter is available.

## HELP STOP ELDER ABUSE

If you or someone you know is being abused, neglected, exploited or abandoned, please contact the Department of Aging's elder abuse hotline at 1-800-490-8505. Lines are open 24 hours a day; all calls are confidential.

# Additional Benefits for Senior Citizens

Many Pennsylvania seniors are well aware of the Property Tax/Rent Rebate and PACE/PACENET programs, but you may not be aware of a number of other benefits available. Here's a look at a few of those programs:

## Vehicle Registrations

Retired Pennsylvanians receiving Social Security or other pension funds whose incomes are under \$19,200 annually may register one passenger car or non-commercial light truck at a reduced rate.

Instead of the regular \$36 fee for a passenger vehicle, retired Pennsylvanians pay just a \$10 processing fee. The discount does not apply to title fees, transfer fees or sales tax.

Please call or visit my office if you would like to obtain more information about this program.

## State Parks

Senior citizens age 62 and older are eligible for a \$4.50 reduction in the base price of camp sites at state parks. Further information is available at state park offices, by calling 1-888-727-2757 or visiting [dncr.state.pa.us/stateparks/](http://dncr.state.pa.us/stateparks/).


## Dog Licenses

Pennsylvania dog owners age 65 and older (proof of age required) may obtain licenses for their dogs at a reduced price. The fees are: \$6 annually for productive male or female dogs or \$4 annually for spayed or neutered dogs. Dog license applications are available at county treasurer's offices, pet and pet supply retail outlets, and online at [agriculture.state.pa.us](http://agriculture.state.pa.us).

## Hunting and Fishing Licenses

Pennsylvanians age 65 and older may purchase hunting and fishing licenses at reduced rates of \$13.70 for a hunting license and \$11.70 for a fishing license. Lifetime licenses are also available at \$51.70 each for hunting and fishing. Free fishing licenses are available for Pennsylvania veterans with 100 percent service-connected disabilities.

Licenses may be purchased at license issuing agents or at the online Outdoor Shop at [pa.wildlifelicense.com](http://pa.wildlifelicense.com).



State Representative  
**JULIE HARHART**  
*183rd Legislative District*

### DISTRICT OFFICES:

2030 Center Street  
Northampton, PA 18067  
Phone: 610-502-2701  
FAX: 610-502-2704

Slatington Borough Hall  
125 S. Walnut St. (1st Floor)  
Slatington, PA 18080  
Phone: (610) 760-9805  
FAX: (610) 821-6109

### HARRISBURG OFFICE:

313 Main Capitol  
PO Box 202183  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2183  
Phone: (717) 772-5398  
FAX: (717) 783-7667

## District Office Services

My district offices are here to help you. Services my staff and I provide include:

- ✓ Driver's license and vehicle registration applications and renewals
- ✓ PACE and PACENET applications
- ✓ Property Tax and Rent Rebate applications
- ✓ State tax forms
- ✓ Free state maps, state park information, and PA Vacation Guides
- ✓ Copies of legislation
- ✓ Tours of the State Capitol
- ✓ Referrals to agencies to resolve state-related matters

If you need help with any of the above or with any other state-related matter, please do not hesitate to call one of my district offices.

Website: [JulieHarhart.com](http://JulieHarhart.com)

Email: [JHarhart@pahousegop.com](mailto:JHarhart@pahousegop.com)