

Tangretti Times

Elect Tom Tangretti
Committee

April 20, 2004

Volume 1, Issue 1

Dear Friends...

Welcome to our first edition of the Tangretti Times, a campaign newsletter to keep all of you informed and updated on the campaign front.

As you all know the primary is just a few days away (April 27th) and we are happy to have no Democratic opposition. But now the real work must begin as we head into the months prior to the general election (Nov 2nd).

First and foremost I would like to offer my utmost gratitude to all you, my friends and supporters for your loyalty and commitment to me, but mostly because you care. You care enough to take time out of your busy lives to work for what you believe in and for the betterment of your

community. I am humbled and honored that you have put your faith in me to implement those goals for all of you in Harrisburg.

On my end, I have been working very hard to reach out to my constituents. I have begun and plan to continue going door-to-

door and making phone calls. These efforts have proved to be extremely rewarding and hopefully will help in my re-election efforts.

Sincerely Yours,



Special Guest Governor Ed Rendell at Tom's February 13th Fundraiser at Lakeview Lounge

Upcoming Events

May 25-Fundraiser for Tom in Harrisburg at the 501 Club: 7:30-9 AM

May 27-Fundraiser co-chaired by Barbara Hafer and Dan Onorato at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center in Pittsburgh: 5-7 PM, Contact Nadine for information and tickets!

June 5- Fundraiser for Tom hosted by Cesare Muccari, Nelson Mayer, Tay Waltenbaugh, James Steeley and Gene James at the home of Janet and Gene James of Greensburg. Contact Nadine for information and tickets!

July 29-2nd Annual Senior Fair at Kirk S. Nevin Arena: 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Contact Barb or Ellen for information!

August 15- Sportsmen's Fair at Delmont VFD: 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Contact Barb for information!

September 13-Tangretti Golf Outing at Hannastown Golf Club: Noon shotgun, Contact Nadine for information!

ENDORSEMENTS

LIFEPAC

Fraternal Order of Police General Greene Lodge 56

AFSCME, AFL-CIO Council 83

Fraternal Order of Police Allegheny Valley Lodge 39

Pennsylvania Motor Truck Association

Teamsters Local 30 Federal Credit Union

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees AFSCME Council 13

PA State Troopers Association

Campaign Contacts:

Amy Emili

724-527-3566

Barb Italiano

724-832-6244

Nadine Greiner

724-834-4442

Ellen Curtis

724-522-9853

Jed Yurt

724-527-2936

Dante Vallozzi

724-454-0347

Malinda Cecchini

724-668-2361

Around the District....

In the past few weeks, Representative Tangretti has been busy visiting several elementary schools in his district helping fourth grade students understand the Legislative Process. Tom visited all six elementary schools in the Hempfield School District as well as the Aquinas Academy. With the help of

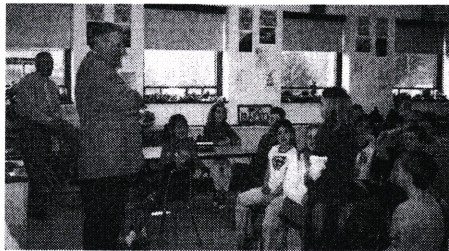
"Flash the Firefly" Pennsylvania's State Insect, Tom used video and print materials to explain to the students how a Bill becomes a Law. The visits went hand-in-hand with the teaching of Pennsylvania History in the various schools.

If you know of an event that you think Tom should attend, please contact us. Also, if you are a member of an organization and would like Tom to attend a meeting to greet and talk to your members, let us know that as well.

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Let's Get the Vote Out! Wouldn't it be great if everyone got a least one person to register to vote before November. We have voter registration forms, absentee ballot and change of address or change of party forms available at the Campaign office. Stop in and pick them up or call and we can mail them out.



Tom at Ft. Allen Elementary School

Picnics...Bingo...Fundraisers...Dinners...Dedications....Church Fairs...Game Feeds...You name it-Tom has been there! Many of you have no doubt seen Tom and Sandy at these various events in the district. This is one of the best ways for Tom to meet and talk to many of his constituents.

Coming Soon: Campaign Headquarters!

On June 3 we will be opening a campaign headquarters in Greensburg located at the corner of South Maple Ave. and East Third Street. The headquarters will be a joint venture with Senator Allen Kukovich, and all campaign related activities will be taking place from this location. We are accepting donations of office supplies and office furniture. Contact Dante with any questions or donations.

"As your legislator, I feel I have the greatest opportunity to accomplish more for the 57th district now than ever before."
Tom Tangretti

Headquarters Address:
 226 South Maple Avenue
 Greensburg, PA 15601

Campaign Address:
 Elect Tom Tangretti Committee
 P.O. Box 292 Greensburg, PA

Web Address:
www.tangretti.com

Volunteer Form

Yes! I want to help Tom get re-elected to the Pennsylvania Legislature!

(Please print your contact information below, cut off, and send to us at PO Box 292 Greensburg, PA 15601)

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail address: _____

When are you available to volunteer? (Please circle)

Days Nights Weekends

What activities are you interested in? (Please circle)

Put a sign in my yard Volunteer at campaign headquarters Work the polls on election day Help put up signs

Tangretti Times

Elect Tom Tangretti
Committee

October 22, 2004 Issue 3



Dear Friends...

It's hard to believe but Election Day is almost here!

I am sure that you, like myself and my staff, are anxious to see it end.

It has been a great time for me though, as I see all of you out there working on my behalf! I can't tell you how much it means to me and how appreciative I am of it all.

Be assured that whatever happens on election day, you and I can hold our heads up high and know that we ran a fair and decent campaign. We can all be proud of our hard work and dedication and we will not be ashamed to look at ourselves in the mirror each day.

I am (cautiously) confident that all of our hard work will pay off and I will be here for another 2 years to serve you and all the residents of the 57th District.

My sincere thanks,

Tom Tangretti



Tom and his staff, (L to R) Ellen Curtis, Amy Emili, Tom, Barb Italiano & Malinda Cecchini at Vallozzi's Restaurant in October.

Endorsements

LIFEPAC

Fraternal Order of Police General
Greene Lodge 56

AFSCME, AFL-CIO Counsel 83

Fraternal Order of Police Allegheny
Valley Lodge 39

Pennsylvania Motor Truck Asso-
ciation

Teamsters Local 30 Federal Credit
Union

American Federation of State,
County and Municipal Employees
AFSCME Council 13

PA State Troopers Association

PA Social Work PAC

PA State CAP, Council of the United
Auto Workers UAW

PA Pro Life Federation

NRA (gives A Rating)

Agent PAC, independent insurers

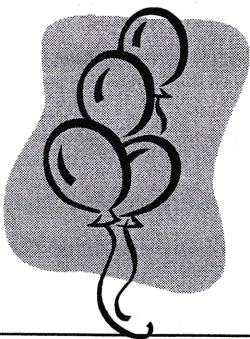
PA Conference of Teamsters

APSCUF (Association of PA State
College and University Faculties

Democrats For Life of America

Fraternal Order of Police, Frank J.
Kelly Memorial Lodge # 62

AFL-CIO



Election Night Victory Party

Hose Company # 2

Pennsylvania Ave. Greensburg

7:00 pm until ????

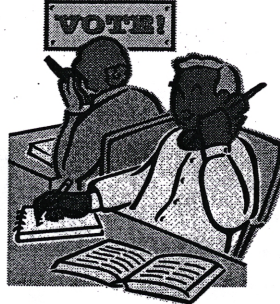
We Still Need Your Help...

POLLWATCHERS MTG!

If you are working the polls *inside* as a poll-watcher-you need to attend one of the Poll-watcher Sessions on Wednesday, Oct 27th at 6:00 p.m., OR Saturday, October 30 at 10:00 a.m. at Campaign Headquarters on the corner of Maple Ave. and 3rd St.

Questions? Call Amy

 ★ We need people to work ★
 ★ PHONE BANKS on Elec- ★
 ★ tion Day. If you can give ★
 ★ a few hours to call vot- ★
 ★ ers please contact ★
 ★ DANTE as soon as possi- ★
 ★ ble. ★



Every Vote Counts

Do your part to

GET THE VOTE OUT!

Make sure your friends, neighbors and relatives can get to the polls, if not, give them a lift.

If you know someone with small children, offer to baby-sit the kids while they go vote.

Campaign Contacts

Amy Emili 724-527-3566
Barb Italiano 724-832-6244
Jed Yurt 724-527-2936
Dante Vallozzi 724-454-0347
Malinda Cecchini 724-668-2361
Ellen Curtis 724-522-9853

Tangretti Campaign Headquarters
 Phone # 724-834-0397



<u>Headquarters Address:</u> 226 South Maple Avenue Greensburg, PA 15601	<u>Campaign Address:</u> Elect Tom Tangretti Committee P.O. Box 292 Greensburg, PA	<u>Web Address:</u> www.tangretti.com
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Change in Polling Locations:

In Hempfield Township:

LINCOLN HEIGHTS EAST-Moved from the Grange to Lincoln Heights Community Building on Millersdale Road.

BOVARD-Moved from St. Bede's Church to Bovard VFD Social Hall on Washington St.



57th Legislative District
Thomas A. Tangretti

FALL 2005

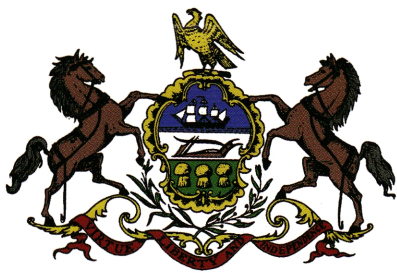
State Rep. Tom Tangretti's

SPORTSMEN'S REPORT

Your update on hunting, fishing and other outdoor issues in Pennsylvania



2005 Sportsmen's Fair Photos Inside!



CAPITOL OFFICE:

328 Irvis Office Building
House Box 202020
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2020
(717) 783-5963
Fax: (717) 772-9986

CONSTITUENT SERVICE OFFICE:

105 Station Place
101 Ehalt St.
Greensburg, PA 15601
(724) 834-6400
Fax: (724) 834-6799
Weekdays 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

SATELLITE OFFICES:

SALEM TOWNSHIP

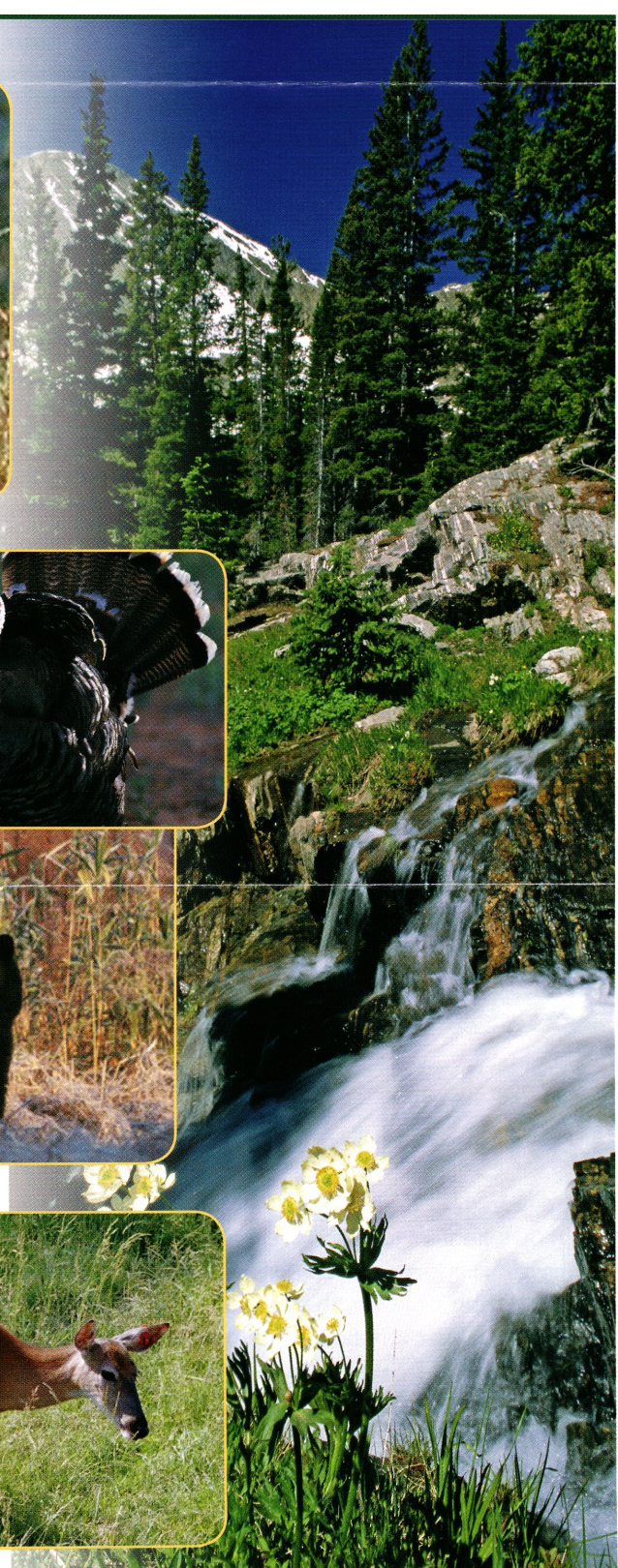
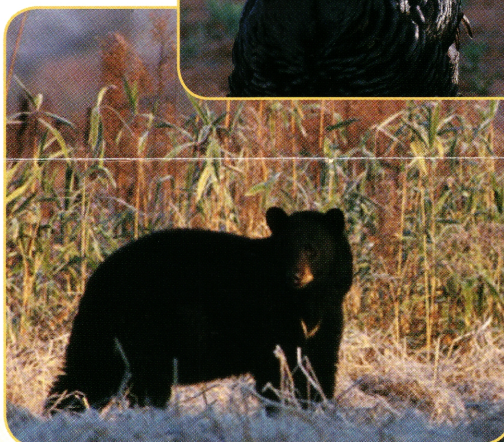
Rt. 119 North and Citgo Plaza
Crabtree, PA 15624
Phone: (724) 834-7180
Weekdays 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

YOUNGWOOD

Youngwood Borough Building
17 S. Sixth St.
Youngwood, PA 15697
Phone: (724) 925-6598
Weekdays 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

WEB SITE:

www.pahouse.com/tangretti



Rep. Tangretti's 2005 Sportsmen's Fair

Rep. Tangretti hosted his free 2005 Sportsmen's Fair on Aug. 7 at the Police Rod and Gun Club in Slickville.

A Success!

Hunters, anglers and other outdoor enthusiasts of all ages attended the fair, which featured presentations from state wildlife agencies and national and local sportsmen's groups; the latest products from area hunting and fishing outfitters; opportunities to try pistol, rifle, and trap shooting, and other activities. Several lucky people won great door prizes.

Gander Mountain and Beretta helped to sponsor the Sportsmen's Fair.

Hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities are some of Pennsylvania's most important traditions, not to mention one of its biggest industries. Rep. Tangretti's Sportsmen's Fair is designed to give outdoor sportsmen and women of all ages – as well as those who are new to hunting or fishing, or just curious – a chance to try something new, learn valuable information about outdoor sporting and recreation, and to find out how the state and various local groups are working to maintain and improve outdoor sporting opportunities for Pennsylvanians.

If you have questions or concerns about hunting, fishing or other related issues in Pennsylvania, please contact Rep. Tangretti's constituent service offices, and watch for announcements about next year's Sportsmen's Fair.



Tangretti urges hunters to 'spread the sport'

Rep. Tangretti reminds area hunters that a new state law allows hunters to introduce someone new to the great Pennsylvania sport and tradition of hunting by taking a non-hunter into the woods with them this year.

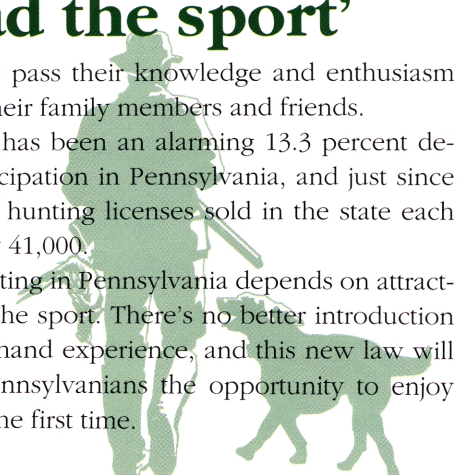
The law allows any licensed hunter or trapper over 18 to be accompanied by one unlicensed person while he or she is hunting or trapping. The unlicensed person cannot carry a weapon or take game, and must meet all safety orange requirements.

Rep. Tangretti believes the new law will help attract many people to hunting by allowing them to get a feel for the hunt without having to first purchase a license. It will also allow

seasoned hunters to pass their knowledge and enthusiasm for the sport on to their family members and friends.

Since 1985 there has been an alarming 13.3 percent decline in hunter participation in Pennsylvania, and just since 2001 the number of hunting licenses sold in the state each year has declined by 41,000.

The future of hunting in Pennsylvania depends on attracting new hunters to the sport. There's no better introduction to hunting than firsthand experience, and this new law will give many more Pennsylvanians the opportunity to enjoy that experience for the first time.





Growing Greener II invests in Pennsylvania's outdoors

The \$625 million bond issue known as Growing Greener II that Pennsylvania voters authorized earlier this year includes millions of dollars for both the Pennsylvania Game Commission and the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission.

Legislation detailing how the bond issue is to be spent that Rep. Tangretti helped to pass this summer provides a total of \$47.5 million to the two state agencies to help them upgrade fish hatcheries, dams, shooting ranges and public access areas such as boat ramps, roads and parking areas.

The Game and Fish and Boat commissions are currently facing a \$150 million backlog in capital improvement projects, so the Growing Greener II funds will be a big boost toward getting these projects underway and completed.

In addition, other money in Growing Greener II will help protect and restore the open spaces, waterways, forestland and habitats that hunters, anglers and other outdoor sportsmen rely on here in Pennsylvania by funding the cleanup of polluted rivers and streams, the reclamation of abandoned mine lands and the prevention of acid mine drainage.

Keep hunting outdoors

Rep. Tangretti is a co-sponsor of legislation that passed the House in June that would ban so-called "Internet hunting" in Pennsylvania. The bill is currently being reviewed by a Senate committee.

Internet hunting allows people to visit an Internet site and, for a fee, operate remote firearms via their computer to shoot at live game housed on game farms. The legislation pending in Pennsylvania would prohibit any of the state's

Sunday hunting in Pennsylvania...

The debate about whether, and to what extent, Pennsylvania should expand hunting on Sundays continues. A study of the issue recently completed by the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee revealed that expanded Sunday hunting would have some economic benefits for Pennsylvania, but did not offer overwhelming evidence one way or the other. The issue remains in limbo between those who argue that one of the state's last Blue Laws should be done away with completely so hunters can pursue their sport seven days a week, and those who argue that non-hunters, property owners and others deserve at least one day off from hunting during the week.

To try to come to some resolution, legislation (H.B. 904) has been introduced that would take the decision about whether to expand Sunday hunting out of the hands of the General Assembly and allow the Game Commission, based on its expertise and its work with hunters and non-hunters alike, to make that decision. The commission already makes other types of decisions concerning seasons, game and bag limits. This bill **WOULD NOT** expand Sunday hunting; it would simply empower the Game Commission to make future decisions about Sunday hunting in Pennsylvania.

Please take a moment to complete the survey below and let Rep. Tangretti know how you feel about expanded Sunday hunting, H.B. 904, the proposed ban on Internet hunting in Pennsylvania, and other hunting and fishing-related issues in Pennsylvania. You may also fill out the survey online by visiting Rep. Tangretti's Internet site at www.pahouse.com/Tangretti.

more than 500 game farms from being turned into Internet hunting sites.

Both the U.S. Humane Society and the National Rifle Association agree that Internet hunting is little more than remote slaughter, and bears little resemblance to the sport of hunting. Six states have already banned Internet hunting, and a bill is pending in the U.S. Congress that would make it a federal crime.

TELL REP. TANGRETTI WHAT YOU THINK...

- I support expanded Sunday hunting.
- I oppose expanded hunting.
- The Game Commission should decide on expanded Sunday hunting.
- The General Assembly should decide on expanded Sunday hunting.

Are you satisfied with the current deer-management efforts of the Game Commission?

- YES NO

Should Internet hunting be banned in Pennsylvania?

- YES NO

Should Pennsylvania provide more incentives – such as the new law allowing unlicensed people to accompany hunters and the state's current Fish for Free days – to get young people and other outdoor enthusiasts interested in hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities?

- YES NO

Please provide your comments on these or any other sportsmen-related issues: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____



State Representative
Thomas A. Tangretti



House of Representatives
328 Irvis Office Building
House Box 202020
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2020

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57th Legislative District
Thomas A. Tangretti

State Rep. Tom Tangretti's

SPORTSMEN'S REPORT



**Your update on hunting, fishing and
other outdoor issues in Pennsylvania**

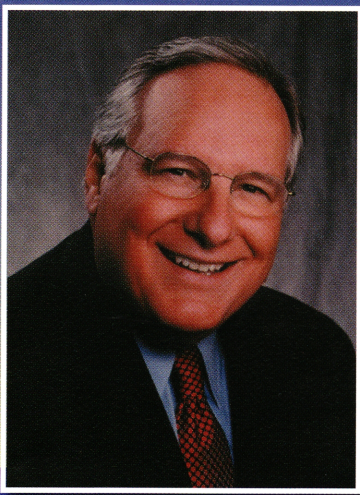
■ Please look inside for more information about how Growing Greener II will benefit sportsmen in Pennsylvania, a new law that makes it easier for you to introduce someone new to the sport of hunting, and efforts to ban "Internet hunting" in Pennsylvania.

Plus ... photos from Rep. Tangretti's 2005 Sportsmen's Fair and a chance for you to provide your thoughts on expanded Sunday hunting and other sportsmen-related issues!

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

THOMAS A. TANGRETTI

105 Station Place
101 Ehalt St.
Greensburg, PA 15601



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

TOM TANGRETTI

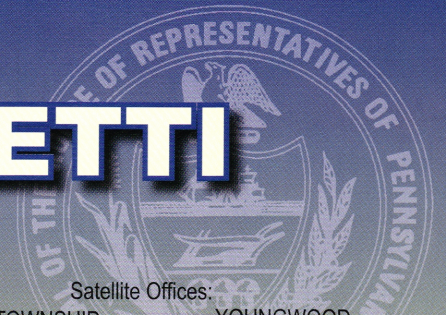
57TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

Capitol Office:
328 Irvis Office Building
House Box 202020
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2020
(717) 783-5963

District Office:
105 Station Place • 101 Ehalt St.
Greensburg, PA 15601
(724) 834-6400
Mon. – Fri., 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Satellite Offices:
SALEM TOWNSHIP
Rt. 119 North and Citgo Plaza
Crabtree, PA 15624
(724) 834-7180
Mon. – Fri., 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

YOUNGWOOD
17 S. Sixth St.
Youngwood, PA 15697
(724) 925-6598
Mon. – Fri., 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.



DECEMBER 2005

CRITICAL ISSUES UPDATE

www.pahouse.com/tangretti

PAY RAISE REPEALED

I was proud to have a hand in the recent repeal of the pay raise law that originally passed in July. The repeal passed by an almost unanimous vote in the House and Senate, and Gov. Rendell quickly signed it into law.

I know that for many of my constituents, the anger and disappointment that arose after the July 7 late-night vote to increase legislative, judicial and executive branch salaries has not subsided, and I do not blame them. As I have said often since then, I have never been as embarrassed in my 17 years in the legislature as I was by what took place on that night. I believe that single act did more to harm the credibility of the General Assembly than anything it has done before, and that it will lead people to call into question almost every future action of the General Assembly for a long time to come.

As most of you know, I voted against the pay raise on July 7, and I refused to accept the unvouchered expenses that many members took. I joined many Democrats in the House in strongly protesting the pay-raise bill when it was presented to us just hours before the vote on July 7.

However, during the vote that night, I did not protest. Like many pay-raise opponents, I knew that legislative leaders had secured enough votes to pass it, and protesting on the floor early in the morning seemed futile. I have since apologized for my silence on July 7 – I know that some of my constituents took it as a signal that I approved of the raise. At a Sept. 13 news conference announcing the introduction of legislation to repeal the raise, I assured my constituents and the people of Pennsylvania that

nothing could be further from the truth. I have accepted responsibility for my actions that night and was the only member of the legislature to apologize to my constituents for not demanding a debate.

From the moment the pay raise vote was taken, however, I joined a number of opponents in a bipartisan effort to lay the groundwork for successfully repealing the raise. I spoke out in public and on the House floor whenever I could against the raise and the way it was passed, I helped draft and introduce legislation calling for a full repeal of the bill, and I actively pushed legislative leaders to allow a swift vote on the repeal measure. When the Speaker of the House referred the repeal bill to the Rules Committee in an attempt to bury it, I joined several rank-and-file members in a rarely-used parliamentary maneuver to force the bill out of committee on to the House floor for a full vote.

We were in the midst of that effort when Senate leaders, after seeing polls showing how abysmally low their approval ratings were, scheduled a vote on repealing the

unvouchered expenses. As you know, the dam quickly burst, leading to a repeal of the entire pay raise law by both the House and Senate.

After the pay raise passed, I actively criticized it in both the legislature and in public, and pursued its repeal. I applaud my constituents and residents in the rest of Pennsylvania for refusing to let this issue die, and for helping those of us who always believed the pay raise was ill-conceived and unconstitutional bring about its defeat. Without your voice, we could not have achieved this landmark legislative reversal.

It is unfortunate that the judicial branch has decided to take action to overturn the repeal in an effort to retain its own part of the pay raise. I believe the people of Pennsylvania sent a clear message to the judicial branch concerning the pay raise when they refused to retain Supreme Court Justice Russell Nigro in the November election. I had hoped the judicial branch would heed that message and leave the pay raise repeal, and the will of the people of Pennsylvania, in place.



Rep. Tangretti meets with local seniors during the recent Delmont Seniors Christmas Luncheon.

PROPERTY TAX RELIEF IN PENNSYLVANIA

SALES TAX PROPOSAL WAS NOT PROPERTY TAX REFORM

In November, the House of Representatives debated a so-called property tax reform plan introduced by a group of lawmakers called the Commonwealth Caucus. Many constituents contacted me about this plan and my decision to oppose it.

The Commonwealth Caucus plan amounted to a tax shift – and a very unfair one at that for many Pennsylvanians! It called for increasing Pennsylvania's state sales tax billions of dollars by extending the tax to include many items that are currently not taxed – such as food, clothing, utilities, college tuition and even visits to your doctor. This new tax was supposedly going to allow for the complete elimination of school property and nuisance taxes.

But the plan was seriously flawed. Studies by both the state Department of Revenue and the independent, nonpartisan Pennsylvania Economy League showed the plan WOULD NOT have raised enough revenue to eliminate property taxes. The Economy League study also pointed out many other problems. For instance:

- Under the sales tax plan, the savings in property taxes would have been offset by the increase in sales taxes – **a tax shift**. While many homeowners would have seen a net tax reduction, it would have been less than if the slots-funded property tax cuts called for in Act 72 were simply extended to all school districts. A modified Act 72 lowers property taxes for all homeowners without a corresponding increase in other taxes.
- Under the sales tax plan, **ALL RENTERS ARE LOSERS**. One-quarter of all Pennsylvanians are renters. Their sales taxes would have increased significantly without a corresponding cut in property taxes.
- The sales tax plan would have hurt low- and middle-income residents more, since they spend a higher percentage of their income on necessities. Currently these necessities are not taxed – under the Commonwealth Caucus' sales tax plan, they would have been.
- The sales tax plan would have resulted in a huge business tax increase. At a time when both the governor and legislature are working to lower business taxes in Pennsylvania, especially for small businesses, the sales tax plan would have effectively increased tax rates on these businesses by as much as 30 percent.

For these reasons and several others, I voted for a number of Democratic amendments to the proposal when it was debated on the House floor in November. The amendments have been portrayed as an effort by Democrats to kill property tax reform, but a significant number of Republicans also voted for the amendments (three of the amendments passed with 135 votes, one passed with 165 votes). Clearly, a majority of lawmakers did not support the sales tax increase, and did not believe it was good for Pennsylvania. That is why the plan was unsuccessful.

TANGRETTI READY TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS

Recently, many of my constituents received automated phone calls about a plan to expand the state sales tax for the purpose of eliminating property taxes (see story on this page). The phone calls suggested that I was holding up property tax reform in Pennsylvania, and urged constituents to call my office.

Many of my constituents did contact me, and I was pleased to be able to explain the sales tax proposal to them, to tell them what I am doing to advance property tax relief in Pennsylvania, and to help them with many other questions and concerns. Please continue to contact me or my office for information about state legislation or issues, or for any state-related assistance you need.

In the meantime, I'd like to assure all of my constituents that I continue working hard not to hold up property tax relief, but to make it a reality as soon as possible.

The idea that any single legislator, let alone a Democratic legislator, could stall property tax reform by himself is absurd. The Republicans have a majority in both the House and Senate – they can schedule a vote to pass property tax relief legislation whenever they want. The fact is, there is no consensus yet on what plan is best for Pennsylvania.

Responsible Democrats and Republicans continue to work with each other to come up with a serious proposal that will benefit all Pennsylvania homeowners. Political gimmicks and automated phone calls spreading misinformation by outside groups do not help the process. If you have questions or concerns about what the legislature is doing to lower school property taxes, please feel free to contact me at any time. I will be happy to explain the process, and my position, to you.

WORK IN SPECIAL SESSION ON PROPERTY TAXES CONTINUES

The General Assembly continues to consider several proposals on how to lower property taxes for homeowners in Pennsylvania. In September, the governor called a special session of the legislature to focus on this issue, and to date, many proposals have been introduced and considered.

Property tax relief is the top priority of the legislature at this time. The decision by many school districts not to participate in Act 72 means a large percentage of homeowners will not benefit from the introduction of slots to Pennsylvania if we do not take action soon.

The fact that Pennsylvania will have as much as \$1 billion in revenues from slots available to make significant cuts to property taxes is a plus. Now we need to create a plan that ensures **ALL HOMEOWNERS** in **ALL SCHOOL DISTRICTS** benefit from those slots revenues, and are protected from excessive property tax increases in the future. I will continue working with my colleagues in the Special Session to pass such a plan.

TANGRETTI FIGHTS IDENTITY THEFT IN PENNSYLVANIA...

In September, I began work on a special committee formed by the House of Representatives that will investigate how the state uses and protects the private information it collects about you. With identity theft becoming a more serious problem each year, it is important to determine whether state agencies and state contractors are adequately protecting your private information and what steps the state can take to improve this protection even more. Our committee will present a report and recommendations to the state by Nov. 3, 2006.

Identity theft costs state residents and businesses about \$2 billion a year, and people who are victimized by ID theft often spend years trying to restore their personal and financial records. To assist victims, I have introduced legislation that would create an Identity Theft Advocate within the state Attorney General's Office. This office would be similar to the Bureau of Consumer Protection, which helps Pennsylvania residents monitor and recover from other types of commercial fraud.

The Identity Theft Advocate's responsibilities would include providing verification that a person has been the victim of identity theft when necessary, coordinating information with federal and state agencies concerning the restoration of a victim's proper identifying information, and providing information to credit reporting agencies and other institutions regarding the extent of a victim's problem.

The advocate also would be responsible for developing efforts to educate the public about detecting and preventing identity theft.



In a recent public service announcement, Rep. Tangretti urges residents to protect themselves from identity theft during the busy holiday shopping season and year-round.

...AND YOU CAN HELP PROTECT YOURSELF

Recently, you many have seen me on television talking about the importance of protecting your credit and other private information, and describing how you can get a free copy of your credit report.

Your credit report lists your payment history with various creditors, inquiries made by financial institutions about your credit, and information on foreclosures or bankruptcies. Monitoring this information can alert you to incorrect or fraudulent items on your report, and is one of the best ways to protect yourself from identity theft and credit fraud.

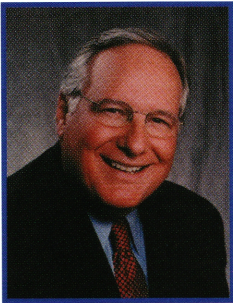
A law passed by Congress in 2003 gives you the right to obtain a free copy of your credit report from each of the major credit reporting agencies – Equifax, TransUnion and Experian – once every 12 months. You can order a copy of your credit report at this Web site: www.annualcreditreport.com. I also have a link to this site on my legislative home page at www.pahouse.com/tangretti. If you need help requesting your credit report, please contact one of my constituent service offices.

YOU SHOULD ORDER YOUR CREDIT REPORT ONLY FROM THIS WEB SITE.

Other Web sites, phone calls, e-mails or junk-mail advertisements offering a free copy of your credit report usually include a catch that will end up costing you money.

In addition to monitoring your credit report, here are some other steps you can take to help protect your credit and identity information. These are especially important during the busy holiday shopping season!

- Don't give out personal information on the phone, through the mail, or on the Internet unless you've initiated the contact or are sure you know who you're dealing with.
- Treat your mail and trash carefully. Deposit your outgoing mail in post office collection boxes or at your local post office, rather than in an unsecured mailbox, and shred your charge receipts, copies of credit applications, insurance forms, physician statements, checks and bank statements, expired charge cards that you're discarding, and credit offers you get in the mail.
- Give your Social Security number only when absolutely necessary, and ask to use other types of identifiers.
- Be cautious when responding to promotions. Identity thieves may advertise phony promotions door-to-door, on the Internet, by e-mail, by phone or by mail to get you to give them your personal information or to scam you. If an offer sounds too good to be true, more than likely, it is!



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

TOM TANGRETTI

CRITICAL ISSUES UPDATE

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House Box 202020
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2020
(717) 783-5963

District Office:
105 Station Place • 101 Ehalt St.
Greensburg, PA 15601
(724) 834-6400
Mon. – Fri., 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Web Site: www.pahouse.com/tangretti

Satellite Offices:
SALEM TOWNSHIP
Rt. 119 North and Citgo Plaza
Crabtree, PA 15624
(724) 834-7180
Mon. – Fri., 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

YOUNGWOOD
17 S. Sixth St.
Youngwood, PA 15697
(724) 925-6598
Mon. – Fri., 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

MY OFFICES IN GREENSBURG, SALEM TOWNSHIP AND YOUNGWOOD CAN HELP YOU WITH:

PennDOT licensing, registration and other paperwork
Obtaining copies of birth certificates • Applying for PACE or PACENET
Property Tax/Rent Rebates • Handicap parking placards
Any state-related problem or question

PLEASE STOP BY OR CALL ONE OF MY OFFICES FOR ASSISTANCE!



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STATE REPRESENTATIVE THOMAS A. TANGRETTI

Chairman of the House Tourism and Recreational Development Committee



the
Tangretti
REPORT

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P.O. Box 202057
Harrisburg, PA
17120-2057
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State Budget Moves PA Forward without Raising Taxes

Education, Transportation, Health Care Addressed in Comprehensive Package

The \$2.47 billion state budget for 2007-08 includes no new taxes while boosting funding for school districts in the 57th Legislative District and providing long-term funding for repair of our roads and bridges and for regional mass transit systems.

The budget package also includes a number of health-care measures, such as reducing hospital-acquired infections and allowing nurses and other health-care workers to expand their scope of practice.

These measures will improve access to care for many local residents while lowering the cost of health care for all Pennsylvanians.

Also as part of the budget package, the General Assembly will hold a special session in September to consider ways to reduce Pennsylvania's reliance on foreign energy sources while lowering costs for consumers and transitioning to cleaner, renewable energy sources produced in Pennsylvania.

LOCAL EDUCATION FUNDING

SCHOOL DISTRICT	BASIC EDUCATION INCREASE	SPECIAL EDUCATION INCREASE	BLOCK GRANT INCREASE	TOTAL STATE FUNDING 2007-08	TOTAL INCREASE OVER 2006-07
Greensburg-Salem	+\$215,769	+\$50,913	+\$66,380	\$11,344,366	+\$333,062
Hempfield Area	+\$317,988	+\$83,487	+\$89,882	\$20,030,139	+\$491,357
Franklin Regional	+\$175,030	+\$40,457	+\$41,323	\$8,247,162	+\$256,810
Greater Latrobe	+\$256,341	+\$61,176	+\$12,658	\$11,619,003	+\$330,175

TAXES

- No tax or fee increases.
- Reduces capital stock and franchise tax by 0.1 percent, or about \$200 million.

TRANSPORTATION

- \$500 million a year for 10 years for road and bridge repair, including \$35 million in additional funding for municipal road and bridge repair. Almost a quarter of the funding goes to southwestern Pennsylvania counties.
- \$411 million a year for 10 years for urban and rural mass transit, including a 40%-plus increase for WCTA.

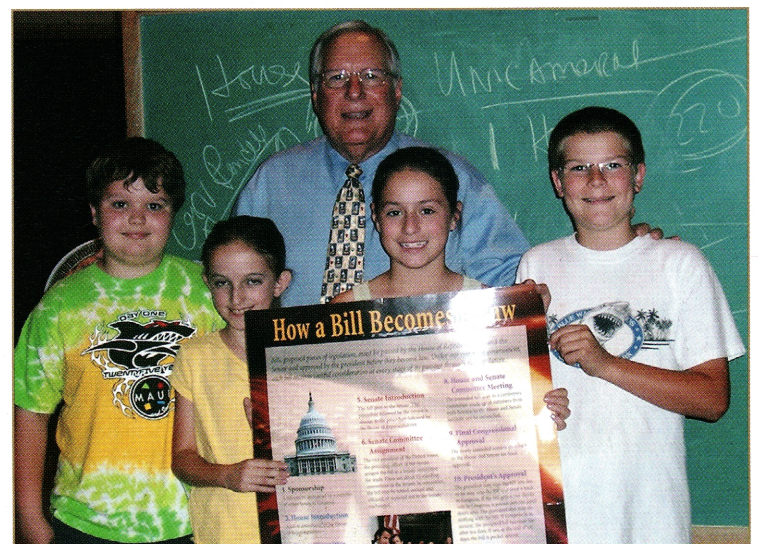
EDUCATION

- Increases basic education subsidy by 3.5 percent to nearly \$5 billion.
- Increases funding for laptops in high schools by 350 percent to \$90 million.
- Increases special education funding by 3 percent to \$1 billion.
- Boosts funding for community colleges and State System schools by \$55 million.
- Increases funding for Pitt and provides money for two new technical colleges in Pa.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE

- Increases county child welfare services by 10 percent to \$966.7 million.
- Increases community living services for the mentally retarded by 10 percent to \$868.1 million.
- Increases long-term care for the low-income elderly by 10 percent to \$762.6 million.
- Increases community services for mental health patients by 6 percent to \$723.7 million.
- Increases child-day care services for low-income families by 35 percent to \$144.9 million.
- Increases community services for people in need of nursing care by 32 percent to \$69 million.

Rep. Tangretti visits with students at Stanwood Elementary School in May to talk about the state legislature and how laws are made. The 2007-08 state budget includes substantial increases for elementary and secondary education, as well as pre-school and higher education.



Tourism and Recreational Development Committee considers school start date legislation

Rep. Tangretti, chairman of the House Tourism and Recreational Development Committee, held public hearings earlier this year on a proposal (H.B. 258) that would require school districts in Pennsylvania to begin the school year after Labor Day.

Proponents of mandating a post-Labor Day start to the school year argue that there is no evidence that beginning the school year before Labor Day increases achievement, that a post-Labor Day start to the school year gives teachers more time in the summer for continuing education, and saves school districts money by eliminating much of the cooling and other costs associated with opening schools for classes in August.

Tourism-related and other small businesses in Pennsylvania also support the legislation because they say it would help their industry by allowing families to vacation longer and making student workers available for several additional weeks in the summer.

There is also evidence that a post-Labor Day start to classes significantly reduces early school year absenteeism.

Opponents of the legislation argue that each school district should be able to set its own school calendar based on its needs, that a post-Labor Day start to the school year would push

back the end of school session to well into the summer, and that the school calendar should not be built around the needs of industry.

The hearing featured testimony from several panels consisting of educators and representatives of the state's tourism-related industries, as well as parents' groups. The legislation was reported out of Rep. Tangretti's committee in June and sent to the House Rules Committee for further consideration.



Rep. Tangretti hosts a hearing of the House Tourism and Recreational Development Committee on legislation that would require schools in Pennsylvania to start classes after Labor Day.

Tourism committee studying accommodations at state parks

Lack of accommodations costing state millions in travel spending impact

A resolution adopted by the House in April and co-sponsored by Rep. Tangretti charges the Tourism and Recreational Development Committee with studying ways to increase the economic benefit of Pennsylvania's state parks and forest land in the rural communities where they are located.

Tourism is Pennsylvania's second-largest industry and Pennsylvania has one of the largest state park systems in the nation, yet most of the \$25 billion spent by travelers in the state each year is spent in urban and suburban areas. That's because, unlike in many states, there is a critical shortage of overnight lodging and other facilities in and near Pennsylvania's state parks and forests. This forces visitors who are not camping enthusiasts to limit their stays to one day – severely curtailing the economic benefit these travelers could bring to surrounding rural communities.

Rep. Tangretti says studies have shown that most travelers to Pennsylvania's state parks and forests would stay overnight if it more modern facilities were available. Over the next year the committee will be holding public hearings and studying ways in which Pennsylvania can take advantage of that fact to increase the economic benefit of tourism in communities near state parks forest areas.

Rep. Tangretti said the committee will be studying how to encourage both public and private development hotels and other accommodations near state parks and forests while preserving the natural beauty of these state resources. The committee will also investigate how much of an economic benefit this new development in and near state parks could potentially mean for rural communities.

The committee will report back to the House of Representatives with its findings and recommendations on by Oct. 1, 2008.



House passes Rep. Tangretti's historic preservation grants proposal

The House of Representatives has passed legislation (H.B. 221) introduced by Rep. Tangretti that would create a state grant program for the restoration and commercial or residential use of historic properties.

Under the program, the state Department of Community and Economic Development would work with the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission to approve and provide the grants. The criteria used to designate properties in Pennsylvania as historically significant also would be used to determine if the owners of those properties qualify for the state grants.

Owners restoring commercial properties would be eligible for grants up to \$500,000; owners restoring residential properties would be eligible for grants up to \$15,000. The grants would be used to reimburse owners for up to 70 percent of the costs of exterior rehabilitation or restoration work that meets the criteria for historic properties.

To be eligible, properties would have to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places, be located in a National Register historic district, or be located in a designated local government historic district.

Restoration would have to be followed by use as an income-producing business in the case of commercial properties or the primary residence of the owner in the case of residential properties.

The legislation stipulates that at least 31 percent of the total grant money reserved for the program be used for residential applicants, and that DCED take into consideration the geographical distribution of grant funding when making awards. It also would allow for properties in Elm Street, Main Street, enterprise zones and local government historic districts to be given priority.

Rep. Tangretti joins other legislators and representatives of Pennsylvania's tourism industry, as well as a cast of characters from many of the state's tourist attractions, to present a check to the Commonwealth for \$2.6 billion, which represents the industry's contribution to Pennsylvania's economy each year. Rep. Tangretti is chairman of the House Tourism and Recreational Development Committee.

Rep. Tangretti serving in key roles for 2007-08 legislative session

Westmoreland legislator chairs tourism committee, serves on House reform panel

Rep. Tangretti is serving this session as chairman of the House Tourism and Recreational Development Committee and on an important bipartisan committee created by the House speaker to study ways to reform the House's rules and procedures during the 2007-08 legislative session.

For Rep. Tangretti, who is serving his 10th term in the House representing Greensburg and surrounding municipalities in Westmoreland County, it is his first committee chairmanship. Rep. Tangretti says serving as majority chairman of the Tourism and Recreational Development Committee presents

a great opportunity to enhance the visibility and economy of southwestern Pennsylvania and other areas of the state.

Rep. Tangretti is also proud that he has the opportunity to help shape reform in the House of Representatives. House Speaker Dennis O'Brien announced creation of a Speaker's Commission on Legislative Reform, a bipartisan panel charged with rewriting the rules of the House to make the process of government more open and accountable to voters. Majority Leader Bill DeWeese and Majority Whip Keith McCall named Rep. Tangretti as one of the 12 Democrats to serve on the panel.

House adopts new rules recommended by reform commission

Commission recommends further changes to improve legislature

The Speaker's Commission on Legislative Reform, which Rep. Tangretti serves on, recommended a series of rules changes in the House of Representatives earlier this year designed to make the legislative process more open and accountable to the public. The House later adopted many of these rules, including:

- All House expense reports must be available upon request to the public electronically, including leadership accounts and House member and employee payroll information.
- The House will no longer reimburse members or employees for private long-term vehicle leases.
- All voting sessions must take place between 8 a.m. and 11 p.m., unless an extension is approved by a three-quarters majority.
- "Ghost-voting" is prohibited.
- The House must wait 24 hours before voting on legislation.
- A brief description of legislation must be read prior to its consideration by the House.
- House roll-call votes must be posted on the Internet.

Since those rules were adopted, the commission has made further recommendations aimed at comprehensive reform of the legislative process. The most significant of those include:

- A presumption that all government records at the state and local level are subject to public access unless otherwise specified by law. Currently, most government records in Pennsylvania are restricted unless a member of the public can prove that they should have access to them.
- That the state set individual campaign contribution limits in races for state representative, state senator, governor and other statewide offices.
- That a working group be established to study ways to reduce the cost of the legislature.

Rep. Tangretti says he hopes legislation containing these and other reform proposals is considered before the end of the 2007-08 legislative session.

Rep. Tangretti co-sponsoring open-records bill

Rep. Tangretti is co-sponsoring legislation that addresses an issue at the top of the list of necessary government reform in Pennsylvania.

Rep. Tangretti said the legislation, introduced by freshman state Rep. Tim Mahoney, D-Fayette, would significantly improve Pennsylvania's open records law.

The legislation would substantially enhance the number and types of government records available to the public and improve the ability of Pennsylvania residents to access those records in a timely manner. In addition, the legislation would set up a state office to assist residents seeking public records and to streamline the appeals process for people denied access to records.

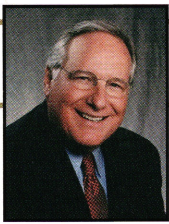
The legislation would apply to public information held by all three branches of state government, as well as government boards, agencies and authorities at the local level.

Rep. Tangretti was part of a bipartisan group of legislators that offered a number of reform proposals during the 2005-06 legislative session. Many of those proposals were adopted by the Speaker's Commission on Legislative Reform, created in January by Speaker of the House Dennis O'Brien to make the House more open and accountable to the public. Rep. Tangretti is a member of the speaker's commission.

The open records legislation (H.B. 443) has nearly 50 co-sponsors.



Rep. Tangretti speaks at a Capitol news conference earlier this year on legislation he is supporting that would give Pennsylvania residents much greater access to state and local government records.



STATE REPRESENTATIVE THOMAS A. TANGRETTI

Chairman of the House Tourism and Recreational Development Committee

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Property Tax/Rent Rebate deadline extended

*Application assistance available in
Rep. Tangretti's office*

Rep. Tangretti has announced that the deadline to apply for a property tax or rent rebate under the state's Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program has been extended to Dec. 31.

The program is open to senior citizens 65 or older, widows or widowers 50 or older and residents 18 or older with a permanent disability. For homeowners, household income eligibility limit is \$35,000; for renters the household income limit is \$15,000.

Rep. Tangretti stressed, however, that senior citizens may disregard half of their Social Security, Supplemental Security or federal railroad retirement Tier 1 benefits when calculating income.

Eligible residents who meet the income qualifications can receive a rebate of up to \$650 on their property taxes or rent paid in 2006.

Residents who have questions about the program or who need assistance with the application may contact Rep. Tangretti's Greensburg office at 105 Station Place, 101 Ehalt St. in Greensburg. The phone number is 724-834-6400.



Rep. Tangretti meets with constituents at his 2007 Senior Fair, held July 18 at the Nevin Recreation Center in Greensburg.



Rep. Tangretti visits with 4th-Grade students at schools in his legislative district earlier this year as part of their Pennsylvania History curriculum. Rep. Tangretti talked about state government and how a bill becomes a law in Pennsylvania.