

Frank Burns

State Representative • 72nd Legislative District



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August 2016

SENIOR FAIR

FOOD!

September 8th • 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

30+ VENDORS!

Ebensburg Young Peoples Community Center

300 Prave St.

PRIZES!

Info on: PACE/PACENET – Property Tax/Rent Rebates
Senior Services – Other State Programs

GAMES!



Rep. Burns with Sister Evangelista Strohmiere and Gerry Driskel at St. Michael Catholic Church Hall in Loretto.

Visits to area senior centers



Jackson Township Senior Center



Ebensburg Senior Center



Portage Senior Center

Property tax rebate deadline extended; Burns' offices offer free application help



The deadline to file a 2015 Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program application has been extended from June 30 to Dec. 31, 2016 and Rep. Burns' offices are here to help!

The Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program benefits eligible Pennsylvanians 65 or older, widows and widowers 50 or older, and people with disabilities 18 or older. The maximum standard rebate is \$650.

Burns' offices can help with the applications. Please don't assume you are not eligible. Half of Social Security income is discounted, and claimants are not disqualified from rebates solely because of Social Security cost-of-living adjustments.

The official deadline for applying is always June 30, but, like this year, it is almost always extended through the end of the calendar year.

Please be aware that the House last year passed legislation, House Bill 406, which would permanently extend the application deadline to Dec. 31 each year. It also would double the death benefit exemption to \$10,000 when calculating income eligibility for the program.

Burns favors hiking prescription drug program income limits

Rep. Burns voted for legislation earlier this year that would expand prescription drug coverage to more than 32,000 older Pennsylvanians by increasing income eligibility guidelines for the PACENET program.

It's been 14 years since the PACENET income limits have increased. By updating the income requirements, Burns believes we ensure access to affordable prescription drugs and help thousands of our friends and family members maintain their quality of life.

House Bill 2069 would increase the annual maximum income limits in the PACENET program to \$31,000 for a single person, up from \$23,500, and to \$41,000 for a married couple, up from \$31,500.

The new limits haven't gone into effect yet – the Senate has to pass the bill and the governor has to sign it into law. Burns is hopeful that will happen soon.

The income limits for the first tier of prescription assistance, PACE, remain at \$14,500 or less for single people and \$17,700 or less for a married couple.

The PACE and PACENET programs provide low-cost prescription drugs to nearly 282,000 Pennsylvanians 65 or older. Both programs are funded by the Pennsylvania Lottery.

If you have questions about PACE/ PACENET, Medicare or health insurance coverage, please contact or visit one of Burns' constituent service offices.



Seniors: Beware IRS telephone scam

Rep. Burns would like to warn you about a continuing phone scam targeting people across the nation. Residents, including those in the 72nd Legislative District, have recently received these calls.



Callers are claiming to be from the IRS and telling intended victims they owe taxes and must pay immediately. Those who refuse are threatened with arrest, a lawsuit or loss of a business or driver's license.

Always remember: The IRS does not ask for credit card numbers, nor does it make its initial contact, over the telephone.

Additionally, it is important to know that the IRS:

- Never insists that taxpayers use a specific payment method to pay tax obligations.
- Never requests immediate payment over the telephone and will not take enforcement action immediately following a phone conversation. Taxpayers usually receive prior notification of IRS enforcement action involving IRS tax liens or levies.

Other characteristics of this scam include the callers using common names and fake IRS badge numbers; knowing the last four digits of the victim's Social Security number; making caller ID appear as if the IRS is calling; sending fake IRS emails to support their calls; and calling back claiming to be the police or DMV with a fake caller ID.

If you get one of these phone calls, do not provide any information, especially Social Security or account numbers.

Other tips:

- If you know or think you owe taxes, call the IRS at 1-800-829-1040. IRS employees can help with a payment issue if there is one.
- If you don't owe taxes, call and report the incident to the Treasury Inspector General at 1-800-366-4484.
- Also contact the Federal Trade Commission to register a complaint; add "IRS telephone scam" to the comments of your complaint. The address is: www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov

To learn more about this and other scams involving the IRS, visit www.irs.gov/uac/tax-scams-consumer-alerts.

Burns supports law to better protect seniors from telemarketer scams

The state's Do Not Call list prevents many telemarketers from calling you, if you're signed up. There are some exceptions to who may call you, including nonprofit organizations and businesses with whom you have an established relationship; however, violations do happen.

The Attorney General's Office is required to notify the General Assembly of any investigations and enforcement it takes against telemarketers who violate the law. Rep. Burns has supported a bill that would require the attorney general to make those reports monthly to the Department of Aging if any of the violations involve a consumer who is 60 or older.

The idea behind this bill is to help ensure that the Department of Aging can coordinate with local area agencies on aging to identify and prevent potential patterns of scams, sweepstakes fraud and other methods of financial exploitation. Financial exploitation is the fastest-growing category of elder abuse in the state. This bill would provide greater protections.



Are you on the Do Not Call List?

You can find out by calling 1-888-777-3406 or visiting www.attorneygeneral.gov.

You also may call one of Rep. Burns' offices and his staff can help you find out and sign up for it.

If you are on the Do Not Call List and you receive an unsolicited call from a telemarketer, you may file a complaint with the Bureau of Consumer Protection at 1-800-441-2555.



“HEROES” KIDS FAIR

GAMES!

August 18th • 3 p.m. – 6 p.m.
Patton Park
Beach and 1st avenues

Recognition of attending Police Officers – Firefighters – EMTs
Special appearance of MedStar helicopter from
Conemaugh Memorial Medical Center
Information from state, county and private agencies
Help and answers regarding state programs



FOOD!

**HEALTHY
SNACKS**

ACTIVITIES

Call (814) 472-8021 for more information



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