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Dear Residents of SD-44:

In this newsletter you will find information on the statewide small business grant program, legislation to support poll workers, and my statement on the Inquirer story regarding Devereux Brandywine. Also included is information on the Marsh Creek Lake spill and what actions I and other legislators in Chester County have taken as result.

My staff and I are always available by phone at 610-792-2137 and by email at senatormuth@pasenate.com to help answer your questions and provide you with the resources that you need. We will also continue to share new information through E-blasts, social media and on my website as we receive it to ensure you, your family, schools, and small businesses have the most up-to-date information.

Sincerely,

Senator Katie Muth

Marsh Creek Spill: Calling on Mariner East Permits to be Withdrawn

On Monday, August 10th, Energy Transfer / Sunoco drilling activity caused over 10,000 gallons of drill mud to spew into Marsh Creek Lake, a major drinking water source for the surrounding area.

My office has been corresponding with residents, officials from the PA Department of Environmental Protections (DEP), PA Public Utility Commission (PUC), and local officials about this incident and encouraging them to work together, URGENTLY, to ensure proper clean-up of this mess. Energy Transfer's long history of destroying our Commonwealth's land, air, water, and property has shown that they do not care or respect PA, residents, and the environment.

The Mariner East project should've never been approved in the first place, and it's long overdue for the Governor and the DEP to [permanently pull the permits](#) and hold this negligent operator accountable with more than fines. Please reach out to the Governor and demand the permits for this project to be terminated!

Thank you to all of the concerned residents for keeping our office informed with in the moment information and to Rep. Danielle Friel Otten and her office for all of their hard work and collaboration on this ongoing issue plaguing our districts and constituents.



Protecting Unemployment Benefits for Poll Workers

Poll workers are critically important to ensuring our constituents are able to exercise the right to vote. COVID-19 has exacerbated the shortage of poll workers, a problem Pennsylvania was facing even before the pandemic.

In the near future, I will be [introducing legislation](#) that would exclude poll worker pay from the calculation for the worker's weekly unemployment compensation benefits. People should not be penalized for being an engaged citizen and supporting our elections by participating as a poll worker.

Under current law, if an unemployed individual worked at a polling location and is paid, they would have to report those earnings when they filed their biweekly unemployment compensation claim. If those earning exceed 30% of an individual's weekly benefit rate, their weekly benefit payment is reduced dollar-for-dollar.

This legislation would simply exempt poll worker pay from the calculation of the worker's weekly unemployment compensation benefits.



Senator Muth Calls for Attorney General to Investigate Devereux Facilities Statewide

On August 11th, the [Philadelphia Inquirer](#) released an article describing the atrocious story about the nation's leading behavioral health nonprofit for children, Devereux Brandywine. This article came as a shock to many, including myself.

Below is my statement upon learning of this information:

"My heart shattered while reading every word of the article. The pain and trauma that all of the victims went through and continue to struggle with to this day could have been prevented. Such facilities are supposed to help those in need of services, not put vulnerable children in situations for additional harm to occur. It is imperative that the children who attend this center, and others like these, have complete trust in the staff to protect and care for them. However, this trust has been broken for many who were harmed for years, often while others turned a blind eye or allowed this harm to continue. This trust can never be repaired.

As a Senator, and as a rape survivor, it pains me to hear about the heartbreaking stories of these victims and enrages me that such institutional failures have yet to be investigated, addressed or corrected. It haunts me to think of the countless nights children had to endure at the hands of people they looked up to for guidance. It is my duty as a public servant, to protect the children in my district and across the Commonwealth.

I will not rest until organizations like Devereaux Brandywine and its other locations are held accountable. **This is why I am calling on Governor Wolf and Attorney General Josh Shapiro to launch a full investigation into the heinous atrocities brought forward at this center and others operating in the state.** These vile acts must no longer be swept under the rug. I stand firmly on the side of the victims and will continue to fight for justice and accountability."



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Senator Muth Calls for Attorney General to Investigate Devereux Facilities Statewide

Support for Small Businesses

This past Monday, the small businesses that were awarded grants as part of the first round of the COVID-19 Statewide Small Business Assistance Program were announced. I am happy to say that 761 small businesses in Berks, Chester and Montgomery Counties were awarded grants to help offset a portion of the losses that they have sustained during this challenging time.

The second grant application window for the COVID-19 PA Statewide Small Business Assistance program will remain open until August 28th. If you applied during the first application window you should receive notification of your application status by August 10th. You do NOT need to reapply in the second round. Qualified applications will be automatically rolled over into the next funding round for consideration. Learn more about the program [here](#).

ROUND 1 RESULTS

-\$96 MILLION AWARDED

-5,000 BUSINESSES HELPED IN ALL 67 COUNTIES

PABusinessGrants.com

of businesses awarded per county:

Berks: 171

Chester: 213

Montgomery: 377

Back to Learning Supplies for Military and Veteran Families

The Montgomery County Office of Veterans Affairs is coordinating a DRIVE-THRU distribution of back to learning supplies for military and veteran families (active duty, reserves, and national guard) from August 17-21st (while supplies last).

Evidence of veteran connection and number of students is required. Evidence can be veteran indication on driver's license, recorder of deeds veteran discount card, DD-214, discharge certificate.

Please sign-up for a date and time



BACK TO LEARNING SUPPLIES

Pens, pencils, erasers, pads, writing tablets, index cards, etc.

★ **FOR MILITARY AND VETERAN FAMILIES** ★

Eligibility: Families with a military veteran connection for school age children

**AUGUST 17 - 21 | WHILE SUPPLIES LAST | MUST SIGN-UP
DISTRIBUTION AT 1430 DEKALB STREET, NORRISTOWN**

Drive-Through Distribution - Must Wear A Mask!




How to Stay Informed

Below is an extensive list of information, statistics, and resources to ensure you stay up-to-date with any changes happening due to COVID-19.

Check out [my website](#) for a comprehensive list of resources or one of the helpful site below.

Pennsylvania Department of Health

- The PA DoH [Daily COVID-19 report](#). Updated regularly throughout the day.
- Follow the PA Health Department on [Twitter](#).
- Follow them on [Facebook](#).

U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

- [Track confirmed cases in the US](#). (This site is updated weekdays at noon and shows numbers that were current as of 4 p.m. the previous day.)
- CDC provided information regarding "[What you should know about COVID-19](#)"
- Follow the CDC on [Twitter](#).
- Follow the CDC on [Facebook](#).
- Learn how best to [prevent "community transition"](#) with specific details on what to do before, during, and after outbreaks.

World Health Organization

- Learn what's happening Worldwide with the [WHO's Daily report](#). The most recent report is located at the top of the page. It includes confirmed case and death tallies.
- Additional COVID-19 information is provided on their [website](#).
- Stay informed on [Twitter](#).
- Follow their [Facebook](#) page.

Be sure to check out the complete list of information, data, and resources available to those in:

[Berks County](#)

[Chester County](#)

[Montgomery County](#)



SIGN UP FOR TEXT ALERTS

from

KATIE 44 MUTH
PENNSYLVANIA STATE SENATOR

Submit your mobile number to stay up-to-date with the latest events and happenings from Senator Katie Muth sent right to your phone.



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