DAUPHIN COUNTY NOW









FALL 2022

George P. Hartwick, III Commissioner

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COMMISSIONERS SAY 'NO WAY':

PENNDOT Plan to Toll I-83 South Bridge Runs Out of Gas

Commuters using the I-83 South Bridge are breathing a sigh of relief – a recent court ruling has thwarted PennDOT's plan to toll the bridge to pay for repairs.

The commissioners were unified in their staunch opposition to the tolling plan and took several actions – including passing a resolution and meeting with top PennDOT aides – to keep tollbooths off the bridge.

The span carries about 125,000 vehicles each day to and from Dauphin and Cumberland counties.

The bridge is in need of repair, but the commissioners criticized PennDOT for being short-sighted and tone-deaf with its toll proposal.

The commissioners have indicated they wish to be part of planning and execution of plans to fix the bridge that will not involve taxpayers reaching deeper into their pockets.

At a public meeting in the spring, the commissioners invited area lawmakers and officials to express their opposition to the toll plan. The meeting ended with the commissioners passing a resolution that stated, in part:

"We would be willing and welcoming parties at the table for further discussions on solutions for the I-83 South Bridge."

That resolution was accompanied by letters to the Governor's office and a meeting in April with PennDOT officials.





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SERVING OUR VETERANS

Commissioners Host Veterans Salute at Gratz Fair; County to Participate in "Operation Green Light"

Dauphin County will shine green lights during a week in November to renew the call to honor and support our military heroes.

The Dauphin County Commissioners signed a resolution this summer to join the "Operation Green Light" initiative, which includes a display of green lights at county facilities and locations the week of Nov. 7.

Dauphin County became the second county in Pennsylvania to join the national initiative.

Residents are encouraged to beam green lights on their homes and properties as well.

The Dauphin County Commissioners resolution reads, in part:

"Approximately 17,000 veterans live in Dauphin County and we recognize our obligation to outreach with those individuals and their families, providing resources and support in a wide range of need areas, including benefits and health care, transportation availability, and employment opportunities."



Col. Ret. Robert Hepner addresses a crowd at Gratz Fair opening ceremonies.

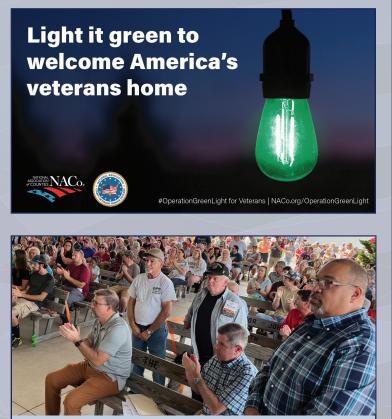


The commissioners with Veterans Affairs Director Tom Coreau after signing a resolution for "Operation Green Light."

Coreau can be reached at 717-780-6356 or 717-780-6357 or via email at <u>tcoreau@dauphincounty.gov</u>.

Coreau joined the commissioners, District Attorney Fran Chardo, and Controller Mary Bateman to honor veterans during opening ceremonies at the Gratz Fair.

Col. Ret. Robert Hepner (in photo, bottom left) was keynote speaker for the event. Student Addison Daugherty sang "Gold Bless the USA" and students from Stars Tumbling performed a patriotic routine.



Veterans stand to be recognized during Gratz Fair opening ceremonies.

AROUND THE COMMUNITY



Historic Opioid Settlement to Bolster Treatment and Recovery Programs in Dauphin County

More than \$13 million is coming to Dauphin County over the next 18 years as part of a historic nationwide opioid settlement designed to bolster prevention and treatment efforts.

Commissioner Hartwick represented Pennsylvania in negotiating the national settlement, which requires 85 percent of the funds go directly to communities.

Dauphin County has created a committee to review applicants and award the funding. Applications are due by Feb. 15, and the money is expected to reach programs and providers soon after.

Applications, eligibility guidance, and other helpful information are at <u>dauphincounty.gov</u>.

"We have the structure to get this money to communities in need," Commissioner Hartwick said. "We are strengthening sustainable programs for years beyond the settlement period."

Fifteen Pennsylvanians die every day from drug overdose. Last year in Dauphin County, 111 lives were lost to overdose.



in Elizabethville.

Commissioner Hartwick discusses how the opioid settlement will promote recovery.



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Upcoming Events

VIRTUAL ILLUSTRATED LECTURE: HARRISBURG STATE HOSPITAL

Nov. 9 | 7 – 8 P.M. Free Online at <u>forthunter.org</u>

NATIONAL TAKE A HIKE DAY

Nov. 17 | 8 – 10 | Free **Detweiler Park** Register at <u>detweiler-park.ticketleap.</u> <u>com/national-take-a-hike-day2022</u>

WREATH WORKSHOP Nov. 26 – Nov. 29 | \$30 Wildwood Park Register at <u>explorewildwoodpark.org</u>



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America 250 PA Celebration





The county commissioners join county row officers, directors and America 250 Pa. volunteers. Visit <u>America 250 pa.org</u>.