

HARRISBURG ONLINE

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SENSORY BAG DONATION

A donation from the Pennsylvania-based Collaborative Autism Movement will provide five autism sensory bags to every Pennsylvania State Police barracks, giving troopers tools to better assist individuals with autism during emergencies. The bags include items such as headphones, fidget tools, weighted blankets, communication cards, and other resources to create a more calming environment and improve interactions with individuals with autism. A total of 445 bags were donated.

SENIOR SKIP DAY

State Representative **Nancy Guent** is pursuing legislation that would lower Pennsylvania's jury duty exemption age from 75 to 70 through [House Bill 504](#). Guent says jury duty can be physically demanding for older adults who may have to arrange transportation, travel to courthouses, and sit through lengthy proceedings. Supporters argue the change would reduce stress on senior citizens and is a practical step towards supporting the well-being of Pennsylvania's older adults.

DOWNTOWN PARKING

Dauphin County Commissioners recently approved a \$146,000 expenditure to support free evening parking in downtown Harrisburg, marking the first time the county has funded the program in three years. Additionally, Commissioners requested data showing how often free parking is used and whether its benefits outweigh its costs. When asked about the program, **Adam Sturges**, owner of McGrath's Pub, praised the initiative, saying it has helped increase business during evening hours.

CRIME DATA GRANT

Pennsylvania has received a \$1 million grant to help local police departments improve how they report crime data to the FBI's National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS). The database is considered the national standard for crime reporting and helps law enforcement, researchers, and policymakers identify crime trends quickly and accurately. State officials hope the funding will help more departments participate in the system and improve the quality of crime data collected across the Commonwealth.

POETRY EVENT

Harrisburg-area poetry lovers have two upcoming opportunities to get involved. On Sunday, August 16th at 2PM, **Georgia Masters Earp** will join four other poets, **Judith Kennedy**, **Eileen Graham**, **Alane Balchunas**, and **Dorothy Brown**, for a public reading at the Art Association of Harrisburg. Looking ahead, Midtown Harrisburg Community Poetry will launch a monthly writing workshop at the Susquehanna Art Museum starting on September 20th from 2:30PM to 4:30PM, welcoming both new and experienced poets for writing exercises and the chance to share their work in a supportive environment.



Happy Birthday

- State Senator **Pat Stefano**
- State Representative **Martin T. Causer**
- Former Speaker of the State House **Samuel H. Smith**
- Former State Senator **Jane M. Earll**
- **Rick Mirabito**, Secretary, Lycoming Board of Commissioners
- **Donna Stchur**



Committee Meetings

- (H) (S) Republican Policy – 10:00AM - Public hearing on crime trends and solutions



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