

# Bills Introduced to Provide Reason, Clarity to Education, School Sports, Activities

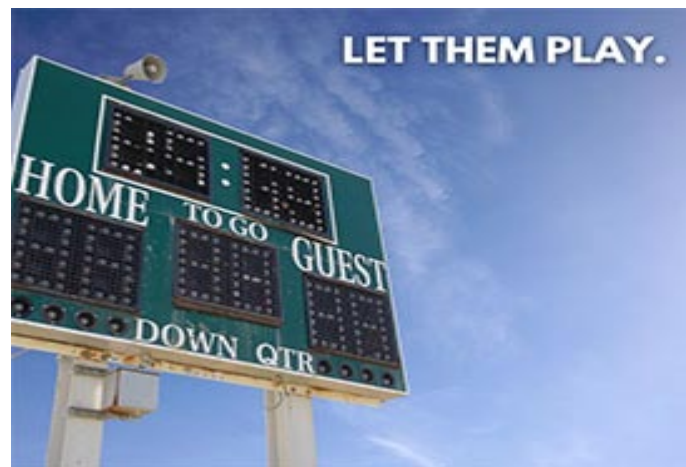
By State Rep. Joe Emrick

NAZARETH - We recognize the stress and uncertainty created by ever-changing "guidance" from the Wolf administration regarding reopening the state's schools and resuming sports and other activities while we continue to deal with COVID-19.

In response, two bills were unveiled earlier this week to provide reason and clarity for families and students across the state. House Bill 2787 simply would ensure Pennsylvania's local school boards are the people making decisions regarding fall sports and other extracurricular activities for the students in their districts.

Further, to ensure all students have the best educational opportunities, House Bill 2788 would allow students and families to have the option to continue the student's education and extracurricular activities for an additional year to make up for the loss of instruction and

competition during the 2019-20 and 2020-21 school years.



Back in June, the administration issued guidance that would allow each school district to develop an appropriate health and safety plan to resume sports-related activities. In late July, the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) announced its plan to resume fall sports, but without spectators. When asked at a press conference about his thoughts on the policy regarding spectators, the governor responded by saying he didn't believe any school sports should take place until at least Jan. 1, 2021.

The abrupt nature of this announcement, without any preliminary discussions with PIAA or school district officials, and without science or data to back it up, is incredibly unfair to student athletes, their parents and the school and PIAA officials who have been working so hard to conduct fall sports safely.

## Fall 2020 Electronics Recycling and Document Shredding Events Cancelled

By Becky Bartlett

EASTON - Due to the COVID-19 outbreak and new PA Department of Health (DOH) regulations, Northampton County is cancelling the September and October events for recycling electronics and shredding documents. The County hopes to offer these services again in 2021 after developing a pre-registration plan which will require appointment times being assigned to all attendees.

### Household Electronic Recycling Drop-off Collection Events

- September 19th – CANCELLED
- September 26th – CANCELLED
- October 17th – CANCELLED

Options for Electronics Recycling – Appointments may be required and fees may apply. It is recommended that residents call first before bringing in items to be recycled.

## Second Harvest

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assistance for the first time. To meet the rapidly rising demand, the Food Bank quickly pivoted, pre-packing boxes of food and creating hubs in the community for mass distribution. Though the number of families visiting food pantries has recently leveled off, the Food Bank is bracing once again for a new surge in demand due to the expiration of special unemployment benefits available from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Katarah Jordan, director of the Second Harvest Food Bank, said, "It is distressing to see so many people facing an inability to afford rent or a mortgage payment and having to turn to a food pantry to keep from going hungry. Most try to do all they can to avoid asking for help. Thankfully, their neighbors provide the support enables us to meet that need. We wish people didn't need us but we are grateful that people who don't even know them step up to make sure they have some food in their cupboards. The generosity of this community is, simply, incredible.

About the Second Harvest Food Bank of Lehigh Valley and Northeast Pennsylvania

Established by the Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley in 1982, the Second Harvest Food Bank of the Lehigh Valley and Northeast Pennsylvania's mission is to obtain food and distribute it to people in need through area nonprofits and to provide resources for education and advocacy to end hunger. Second Harvest operates in a six-county service area comprised of Lehigh, Northampton, Carbon, Monroe, Pike, and Wayne counties. It has distributed more than 150 million pounds

- DRC Technologies, 2005 Main Street, Northampton, PA 18067
- o 610-502-0854

- Clean Earth 2330 SW 26th Street, Allentown, PA 18103
- o 866-447-5177

- GER Solutions: 795 Roble Road, Allentown, PA 18109
- o 610-443-1776

### Document Shredding Event

- September 12th – CANCELLED

### Options for Document Shredding Services

- The City of Bethlehem's paper shredding services are currently unavailable. When this service resumes, residents and businesses can make appointments for free paper shredding. More information can be found here: <https://www.bethlehem-pa.gov/Community-Economic-Development/Recycling/Free-Shredding-Services>

- Residents can contact their bank or credit union for any available or upcoming shredding opportunities
- UPS and Staples stores offer secure shredding services, fees may apply.

of food to people in need through its network of more than 200 nonprofit agencies that include emergency food pantries and meal centers as well as homeless shelters, childcare agencies, addiction treatment programs and just about any agency that feeds people as part of their operation. Collectively, this network serves more than 60,000 people each month.

Second Harvest operates The Seed Farm, which trains aspiring farmers in the business of farming. It offers supplemental nutrition programs for children (Backpack Buddies) senior citizens (SUNShine Boxes) and active duty military, reservists, and veterans (MilitaryShare). It helps families access SNAP (formerly Food Stamps) benefits, Share Our Strength's Cooking Matters™ nutrition education program, and anti-hunger advocacy initiatives. Second Harvest is a member of Feeding America, the nation's food bank network and largest hunger relief organization. For every \$1 donated, Second Harvest can provide six meals to our neighbors in need. Learn more at [shfbv.org](http://shfbv.org).



of the Lehigh Valley and Northeast Pennsylvania

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## The Giant Company Launches Cook-in-bag Product Line

By Ashley Flower

WIND GAP – To provide families with a solution for easy and affordable weeknight meals, The GIANT Company today announced the launch of its new Cook-in-Bag product line. Arriving in all stores this week, the meat and seafood items come already packed with flavor in an oven-ready bag for easy cooking and clean-up.

"Today's families are busier than ever and they are looking for easy, real meals that take less time to prepare and allow for more time to spend together around the table," said John Ruane, chief merchandising officer, The GIANT Company. "The center of the plate protein is already prepared with the Cook-in-Bag, so families just add their favorite sides to create a flavorful and balanced meal that is convenient any night of the week."

Available in the meat and seafood section of all GIANT stores and MARTIN'S, the serving sizes of each Cook-in-Bag vary by package. The seafood Cook-in-Bag varieties, which can only be cooked in an oven, include Mediterranean cod, lemon dill scallops, Chesapeake Bay shrimp, and bourbon salmon.

The pork and chicken varieties, which can be cooked in the package in either an oven or a crockpot, include triple mustard & honey roast, Jamaican jerk roast, red wine & herb loin fillet, Greek loin fillet, garlic & herb whole roaster, garlic & herb chicken breasts, Asian teriyaki chicken breasts, sweet kickin' BBQ chicken breasts, chimichurri chicken thighs, and carnitas chicken thighs.

"Our private brand lines are an important piece of our overall product strategy as the mix of quality, assortment and affordability continue to make them popular with our customers," added Ruane.

Cook-in-Bag is the latest addition to the company's private brand portfolio, which includes thousands of items store wide across the following lines: GIANT brand, Nature's Promise, Taste of Inspirations, CareOne, Smart Living, Always My Baby, Etos, Companion, and Limited Time Originals. All items meet or exceed brand quality standards and strive to be better than the comparable national brand, as measured by consumer testing. Committed to making products cleaner, The GIANT Company is also working to remove synthetic colors, artificial flavors, artificial preservatives, artificial sweeteners, MSGs and high fructose corn syrup from all of its private brand product lines by 2025.