Legislation to Improve Rape Kit Testing Heads to be Signed into Law



By Senator Rosemary Brown

Survivors of sexual assault deserve to know their cases are being taken seriously and that every effort is being made to pursue justice. I have worked alongside my Senate colleagues to strengthen accountability and ensure sexual assault evidence is handled consistently across Pennsylvania.

Senate Bill 1212 would address delays in rape kit testing by establishing a more consistent statewide standard. The legislation removes discretionary language that can lead to inconsistent testing practices among local law enforcement agencies.

The bill passed the Senate unanimously in June and was approved by the House on October 21st. It now heads to the governor's desk for his signature.

I believe every survivor deserves dignity, transparency and the opportunity to seek justice. This legislation is an important step toward improving the handling of sexual assault evidence and strengthening public safety across Pennsylvania.

The Beagle Bill Heads Toward Becoming Law



By Senator Rosemary Brown

I am pleased to see the "Beagle Bill," Senate Bill 381, be enacted into law. As co-chair of the Senate Animal Protection Caucus, protecting animals and promoting their humane treatment is a priority of mine, and I was proud to co-sponsor this legislation.

The bill prohibits the sale of cosmetics tested on animals, expands adoption opportunities for dogs and cats used in certain testing, and places restrictions on certain types of animal experimentation across Pennsylvania.

After passing the Senate last year and receiving House approval, the bill has now been signed into law. This is an important step toward strengthening animal protections across our Commonwealth, and I am proud to be a part of it.

Annual Veterans Day Parade



By Senator Rosemary Brown

I hope you'll join us for this year's parade on Sunday, November 1, at 1 p.m.! The parade will begin at Stroudsburg High School and make its way through Stroudsburg and East Stroudsburg Boroughs, ending at Dansbury Park in East Stroudsburg.

Opening ceremonies at the Grandstand begin at 1 p.m., and shuttle service from Dansbury Park will be available from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. I hope to see you there!

Honoring Our Newest Eagle Scouts



By Senator Rosemary Brown

Congratulations to Brian Correia of Troop 99 in Gilbert and Ryan Donovan of Troop 87 on achieving the rank of Eagle Scout! This is an impressive accomplishment that reflects their hard work, leadership and dedication to serving their communities.

For his Eagle Scout project, Brian constructed a cancer awareness survivor tree at Our Lady Queen of Peace Church, creating a meaningful tribute to those affected by cancer. Ryan built a new gaga pit for Lehman Township, providing a fun recreational space for local youth.

Members of my staff attended their Eagle Scout Court of Honor ceremonies and presented a Citation from the Pennsylvania Senate in recognition of this achievement.



Conservation Tip

By DCNR

PA. - As Halloween approaches and the pumpkins start piling up, there are plenty of ways to put them to good use without harming local ecosystems.

Instead of tossing them out or leaving them in natural areas, consider these simple, wildlife-friendly ideas to make the most of your leftover pumpkins while keeping your local habitats healthy:

Don't Dump Your Pumpkins -- Don't leave pumpkins in state parks, forests, or anywhere you don't have permission to do so.

Compost Your Pumpkins -- If you've carved a jack-o-lantern, it may already be decomposing. Because pumpkins are mostly water, they are a great addition to your compost pile. Prevent unwanted pumpkin plants by removing the seeds first.

Share Pumpkin Seeds with Wildlife -- Collect seeds from your pumpkins (before composting them) and let the seeds dry. You can scatter the seeds outside or put them in a platform feeder as a special treat (don't add salt or seasoning).

Cut Pumpkins into Pieces for Animals -- Cut your pumpkin into pieces and scatter outside as a treat for local critters. Birds will feed on the flesh of the pumpkins in addition to the seeds, as will squirrels, foxes, and deer.

Make a "Snack-o-lantern" -- Re-use your pumpkin and turn it into a pumpkin feeder! Cut the pumpkin in half and fill with birdseed. You can use sticks, dowels, and rope to hang them from trees and create a custom feeder. This works best with fresh, firm pumpkins.

Remember, not all pumpkins are safe for wildlife. Don't set out pumpkins or gourds that have been bleached, are painted, or have fake foliage or plastic decorations for wildlife, which can be toxic and harmful.

