



# STATE REPRESENTATIVE Pam Maier

## 21st District - Delaware

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Dear Neighbor,

As a new session of the General Assembly begins, I wanted to provide you with a brief summary of some public policy issues before your legislature. In addition, I hope you will benefit from the websites and useful information below. Please join me at my monthly coffee, 21st District Day in Dover or at the Community Emergency Response Training event on February 29 and March 1. Thank you for entrusting me with this position of responsibility. Warm regards,

### 10 Legislative Issues Facing the State in 2008

**Money** – This is the top issue facing legislators. The slowing economy and the mortgage crisis are slowing state revenues, while energy and healthcare costs are rising.

**Eminent Domain** – Because of controversial revitalization projects in the City of Wilmington, we have several bills limiting the power of government to seize private property for economic development purposes.

**SCHIP** – I'm the lead sponsor of HB 286 which increases enrollment of children into the State Children's Insurance Program by utilizing the free/reduced lunch data base.

**Conduit Financing** – I support allowing public charter schools to use this funding mechanism to finance construction projects at lower interest rates.

**Wind Power** – The General Assembly needs to resolve the issue of Blue Water Wind's construction of a 150-turbine off-shore wind farm and the issue of spreading the costs across all state residents.

**Delaware Psychiatric Center** – After investigations into patient abuse and mismanagement at the DPC, the General Assembly needs to enact corrective measures to improve the quality of care and oversight of this facility.

**Good Government** – The House passed six good government measures last year. The Senate needs to pass them, along with five other bills that have recently been introduced in that chamber.

**Dog Fighting** – I support the bills increasing the penalties for persons who own/train animals for fighting as well as penalizing observers of such exhibitions.

**Single-gender Charter Schools** – Federal anti-discrimination laws already permit single-gender schools. I support HB 285 which clarifies that Delaware charter schools legislation supports this concept.

**Healthcare** – Delaware has 106,000 people without healthcare coverage. Measures to lower this number will be passed this session, with our many small business employers/employees being the target group to aid in accessing coverage.

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### USEFUL COMMUNITY INFORMATION

**The Polly Drummond Hill Community Yard Waste drop off site** just off Kirkwood Highway, is now open to residents daily from 8:30 to 4:30 for disposal of leaves, grass, and small tree limbs. Once enough accumulates, it will be shredded into high-quality mulch and available onsite, free to residents.

The DNREC regulation to ban yard waste from the Cherry Island Landfill takes effect on January 24, 2008.

Your waste hauler offers options, as does Delaware Solid Waste Authority at 1-800-404-7080. Visit [www.dswa.com](http://www.dswa.com) or [www.dnrec.delaware.gov](http://www.dnrec.delaware.gov) to order yard waste stickers which come \$1.00 a bag in 10-bag increments. "Pay as you throw" is a new option.

**Kirkwood Highway Library** - New Castle County is in the process of reviewing bids for the construction of the Kirkwood Highway Library. The anticipated closing of the library is early in 2008 and the re-opening is still scheduled for spring of 2009. Join the Friends of the KHL by calling David Collin at 235-5818.

**Drainage and Stormwater Concerns** - Residents can call DNREC for solutions to drainage and stormwater concerns. DNREC will help determine if the problem is a state or county issue. Contact DNREC at 302-855-1955 or email at [dnrec-drainage@state.de.us](mailto:dnrec-drainage@state.de.us).

Our new **Delaware Veterans Home** is now open and accepting admissions for the 150 bed long term care facility in Milford. Please call (302) 424-6000 or visit [www.state.de.us/vethome](http://www.state.de.us/vethome).

The **Delaware Energy Office** offers \$50 to \$500 grants for energy saving products for homes and businesses. The Energy Star or GAMA rated appliance – refrigerator, washer/dryer, water heater, air conditioner – must be purchased after July 1, 2006 with receipt and UPC from the product box. For an application, call (302) 739-1530 or visit [www.delaware-energy.com](http://www.delaware-energy.com). Energy audits of your home or business may also be scheduled.

**The SEED Scholarship Program** – (Student Excellence Equals Degree) offers Delaware High School Seniors (with a 2.5 GPA and no felony charges) two years of free tuition at Delaware Tech for an Associate's Degree. For information visit [www.dtcc.edu/seed](http://www.dtcc.edu/seed).

Call the **NCC Police Graffiti 24 Hour Hotline** at 571-7332 to report locations of damaged property.

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### **MORE USEFUL INFORMATION AND WEBSITES**

**Bringing home a loved one from the hospital and need to adapt your home for their needs - wider doors, ramps, grab bars, main floor bed/bath?** Universal Design is housing for the lifespan of all people with disabilities and those who want to age in place. Call 302-745-2828 or visit [www.designing4life.com](http://www.designing4life.com).

**For a comprehensive geriatric health assessment**, in your home, for you or a loved one by a licensed nurse practitioner, call Evelyn Hayes at 302-831-8392. Also visit [www.decisions4life.com](http://www.decisions4life.com) for case management information.

**Delaware Assistive Technology Initiative** promotes the recycling of wheel-chairs, talking computers and adaptive vans. Call 1-800-870-DATI. Visit [www.ddc.delaware.gov](http://www.ddc.delaware.gov) or call Al Rose at 302-739-3623.

**Christina School District** – The Neighborhood School Plan was just approved! Bayard Middle School and Porter Road Elementary School are on track. Visit [www.christina.k12.de.us](http://www.christina.k12.de.us).

**Red Clay Consolidated School District** – The Operating Referendum is set for February 28, 2008. Visit [www.redclay.k12.de.us](http://www.redclay.k12.de.us).

**Looking for useful information on nursing homes in Delaware?** Visit [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov) for the Nursing Home Compare page.

**How does your favorite restaurant fare under our state's inspection program?** View reports at [www.dhss.delaware.gov/dph/hsp/feir.html](http://www.dhss.delaware.gov/dph/hsp/feir.html).

**How can you donate your baby's cord blood for free?** For deliveries at Christiana Care Hospital, register before the 32nd week of pregnancy by calling the Brady Kohn Foundation at 302-765-2875. The website is [www.thebradykohnfoundation.org](http://www.thebradykohnfoundation.org). Cord blood is rich in stem cells and is used to treat 740 diseases and to assist in transplants.

**Are you over 65 and unable to drive due to a physical or mental disability?** 50% off taxi services is yours by calling 302-652-3278, DART Senior Citizen Affordable Taxi Services. You can also visit [www.dartfirststate.com/scat](http://www.dartfirststate.com/scat) for more information.

**Also visit [www.legis.delaware.gov](http://www.legis.delaware.gov) to hear the General Assembly in session.** Soon House Committee hearings will be webcast as well.

**Visit [www.pammaier.com](http://www.pammaier.com) for more useful information and links and photos of you and your neighbors!**

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### USEFUL COMMUNITY INFORMATION

**Health Screenings** - Free mammograms, pap tests for women and colorectal screenings for men and women are available when age, income and insurance guidelines are met. Call 1-800-464-HELP or 302-744-1040 for Screening for Life. Your income may be up to 250% of the federal poverty level which is \$25,000 for one person and \$34,000 for two and \$51,000 for a four person household.

**Grandparents Raising/Caregiving Grandchildren-** Respite care funding of \$200 to \$400 a year is available to pay child care providers or a relative \$5.00 an hour for appointments/short term commitments. Call Kathy Hyde at Family and Workplace Connection at 479-1696 to get on a short waiting list. Call 479-1660 for a free child care and elder care referral packet or visit [www.familyandworkplace.org](http://www.familyandworkplace.org).

**Trouble paying your mortgage?** - Call 1-888-995-HOPE. Home Ownership Preservation Foundation counselors will give FREE help and a plan to help you manage your finances. The State Bank Commissioner also will assist you Monday – Friday, 8:00 – 4:30 pm at 577-6722.

**Delaware State Loan Repayment Program** - This program awards up to \$70,000 to recruit health care professionals to work in underserved areas of the state. Mental health counselors, LCSW, CNM, psychiatrists, MFTs, MD, OD, OB/GYNs, dentists, and dental hygienists are some fields eligible for this repayment for two years of full-time work. Call 302-739-2730 for the Delaware Health Care Commission in Dover or visit <http://dhcc.delaware.gov>.

### JOIN ME AT THESE SPECIAL EVENTS!!!!

**CERT - A Community Emergency Response Training** event is set for all residents of the 21st District on Leap Year Day, Friday, February 29th and Saturday, March 1st at Mill Creek Fire Hall. 20 people are required to make a class. Representation from each civic association and neighborhood is encouraged! Join me at this worthwhile training exercise on Friday from 5 to 9 pm and Saturday from 8 to 5 pm. RSVP to Janet Kilpatrick at 302-577-5190 or [janet.kilpatrick@state.de.us](mailto:janet.kilpatrick@state.de.us) by February 15th.

**21st District Day in Dover** - Wednesday, March 19th at 11 am. Join me for a tour of Legislative Hall and a day attending hearings and a live legislative session. We'll also visit the Delaware State Archives and have lunch. Call me at 302-577-8723 for a reservation.

**Monthly Coffee and Conversation** - I have a regularly scheduled coffee at The Crossroads Restaurant the 2nd Tuesday of each month from 7:00-8:00 am. Crossroads is located at the corner of Limestone Road and Kirkwood Highway.