



GOVERNOR ANNOUNCES PLANS TO MAINTAIN BALANCED BUDGET

As the weakness in the national economy begins to be felt in Pennsylvania, Governor Edward G. Rendell said that he is directing commonwealth agencies to reduce spending and eliminate out-of-state travel. He also instructed cabinet members to fill vacancies only in the rarest of occasions. The combined actions will help keep the budget balanced and are expected to save \$200 million in the current fiscal year, he said.

“Partly because of strategic, targeted investments in the past several years, Pennsylvania has a stronger economy than many other states, but the national economy is starting to affect us,” Governor Rendell said. “Our unemployment rate has been at or below the national average for 65 of the past 67 months, but our rate rose to 5.4 percent in July, and revenue collections through August are 3.3 percent less than we had projected. Revenue collections for the first two weeks of September show that sluggish trend is continuing. To make sure the commonwealth’s budget remains in balance, we need to reduce spending now.”

The Governor said he has directed his cabinet secretaries to identify 4.25 percent of their enacted budgets from which reductions may be made. Agencies that provide public safety, health and education services will have smaller percentage targets to meet. The funds saved will be put into budgetary reserve, he said.

“We are not undertaking this effort to fill any specific gap in our 2008-09 budget,” the Governor said. “We are simply setting this amount aside as a prudent measure, in response to the recent economic indicators.

“These measures, combined with the bold economic stimulus investments in energy and infrastructure announced in July, will help keep our fiscally responsible budget on track.”

Vital services provided by the commonwealth should not be affected by the cutbacks, the Governor said.

“Our goal is to maintain all critical public services, includ-

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What’s going on This Week.....

“Computerized Assessments”
Presented by Ken O.
Mon, September 22, 9-10:00 am

“Intro to CareerLink Services”
Presented by Sharone G.
Tue, September 23, 10:00-11:00

“Resumes & Cover Letters”
Presented by Sharone G.
Tue, September 23, 12-2:30 pm

“Mock Interviews”
Presented by Sharone G.
Wed, September 24, 1-2:00 pm

“Computer Basics”
Presented by Ken O.
Fri, September 26, 9-10:00 am

Our Mission
“The Primary Source of Excellence in
Workforce Development in the
Pocono Communities”

ing public safety, health, social services and education. We are confident we can find places in the budget to trim that will not jeopardize these vital areas.”

As part of the across-the-board fiscal controls, the Governor is prohibiting out-of-state travel by commonwealth employees, board members and commissioners, effective immediately.

The Governor also announced a general hiring freeze, effective immediately. The freeze applies to salaried positions, wage positions, annuitants (retired commonwealth employees who have returned to work part-time) and other temporary staff, as well as paid interns.

We are making these adjustments to safeguard the commonwealth’s financial stability in the coming months. “In the current uncertain economic climate, we must be especially prudent stewards of Pennsylvania’s resources,” he said.

According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, 13 other states are reporting new budget shortfalls, just two months after enacting budgets. Last week Ohio announced a 4.75 percent across-the-board cut to state agencies to trim \$540 million from its current budget.



HEALTHIER WORKPLACES

Last week marked the official start of the Clean Indoor Air Act, which now prohibits smoking in most public places, including restaurants, workplaces and a portion of casino floors. The new law prohibits smoking in a public place or a workplace and lists examples of what is considered a public place. The law allows for some exceptions, including a private residence (except those being used at the time for the provision of child-care services), a private club (except when the club is open to the public for a club-sponsored event, or used for a private event that is not club sponsored) or the workplace of a manufacturer, importer or wholesaler of tobacco products.

Penalties will be imposed for establishments not in compliance, as well as for individuals who smoke in prohibited areas. The department strongly encourages citizens to be aware of the penalties for smoking in non-smoking designated areas.

Since the bill’s signing, the Department of Health has been educating the public and business owners about its requirements, as well as providing technical assistance to businesses in the implementation of no smoking policies. Guidance and a toolkit for public places and workplaces, as well as frequently asked questions and materials regarding the Clean Indoor Air Act, are available at www.health.state.pa.us.

The smoking ban is an initiative from the Governor’s Prescription for Pennsylvania, a comprehensive health care reform plan which strives to make health care more affordable and accessible while improving quality.



Happy September Birthday to.....

Linda Whidden

Parvis (Peter) Alasty





TEAMOLOGY

TEAM: A number of persons associated together in work or activity to perform a common goal.



Career Guidance TEAM

The EARN Program and Northampton Community College would like to announce the Work Certified Program. This program is an instructor led course and will assist those individuals who are seeking entry-level positions. The nine modules that are worked on in the 3-week period are:



- Reading Comprehension
- Business Math
- Customer Service
- Job Skills I (Workplace Basics)
- General Business Knowledge
- Business Tools
- Pre-employment
- Business Writing
- Job Skills II (Diversity)



If anybody has a participant that might be interested in attending this program, please see **Donna Sokolowski**.

Customer Information & Resource TEAM



Mark your calendars for October..... The Seminar “Legal Barriers to Employment”, presented by attorney’s from North Penn Legal Services Inc., is scheduled for Friday, October 24th 10:00 am-11:00 am. This seminar is a must for anyone with....Legal Employment Questions.....A Criminal Record.....Ex Offenders.

Also in October..... PA CareerLink Monroe County will present the “Logistics & Transportation Symposium”. This program is designed to give Job Seekers an in depth look at occupations in this high demand career cluster.

Veterans Affairs



Veterans’ benefits help available.....Dan Walsh from the Governor’s Veterans Outreach and Assistance Center will be at the Monroe County CareerLink on Monday, October 6th from 10:30 am to 2:30 pm to help veterans, their spouses and family members who have questions about VA benefits and services. Mr. Walsh will be available to help with issues such as pension, health care, prescriptions, records, medals, education, nursing care, burial, PTSD or Agent Orange. All veterans, peacetime and wartime are welcome. Appointments are not required. Vets should bring a copy of their discharge from the service or Form DD-214.



JOB ORDERS Spotlight



Resort Beverage Company

—Delivery Driver
-web 594327

Loving Care Agency

—Registered Nurse
-web 589408
—Licensed Practical Nurse
-web 589412

North Penn Legal Services

—Secretary/Intake Worker
-web 592157

Monroe Optical Center

—Optical Lab Trainee
-web 592324

Pump N Pantry

—Manager Trainee
-web 590744
—Sales Associate
-web 590729

Advanced Door Technology

—Foreign Department Manager
-web 594194



WRITING ON THE WALL

**Flatter me, and I may not believe you.
Criticize me, and I may not like you.
Ignore me, and I may not forgive you.
Encourage me, and I will not forget you.**

-William Arthur Ward

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Any submission, request or question to be included in the FYI can be submitted to Deborah Harrison, at:

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