

CAPITOL HILL UPDATE

REP. JIM GERLACH (PA-06)

Friday, April 8, 2005

www.gerlach.house.gov

Gerlach presents community development resources to Coatesville

Congressman Jim Gerlach joined U.S. Attorney Patrick Meehan on Monday in presenting Coatesville with \$175,000 for the city's Weed and Seed initiative. As a Weed and Seed program participant, Coatesville receives federal and state dollars to help "weed" out crime



from their community as they also receive dollars to "seed" the area for long-term economic growth and development.

Coatesville was designated a Pennsylvania Weed and Seed community in 2001 and, in 2004, it received the federal distinction as well. Weed and Seed is a U.S. Department of Justice community-based initiative designed as an innovative and comprehensive multi-agency approach to law enforcement, crime prevention, and community revitalization. For more information about this program, visit www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ccdo/.

Perkiomen Fire Co. receives federal homeland security money

Rep. Jim Gerlach was in Montgomery County recently to present the Perkiomen Twp. Fire Co. with a federal grant totaling \$61,016.



The money was made available from the U.S.

Department of Homeland Security's Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program and will be used by the fire department to purchase 16 air packs. Perkiomen is the most recent 6th Congressional District fire department to benefit from this important program in recent years.

TAX TIPS

With tax day approaching, here are five timesaving tips to consider when filing your returns:

- 1) Avoid lines at the post office: IRS Free File online is fast and simple. Last year 2.9 million filers used free-file!!
- 2) Choose wisely: When selecting a tax preparer, be as careful as you would be in choosing a doctor. Even if someone else prepares your tax return, you are ultimately responsible for all the information on the return. Ask questions before signing and filing, and avoid those who claim they can increase your return or work for a percentage of your return. Always save a copy of your return.
- 3) Boost your IRA: You can contribute to either a traditional or Roth IRA until April 15, 2005. Be sure to tell the IRA trustee that the contribution is for 2004, and make sure you are within the \$3,000 annual limit.
- 4) Find your Refund: "Where's My Refund" is a service of the IRS that allows taxpayers to easily check the status of their refund check! You can find this resource at www.irs.gov.
- 5) File an extension if you cannot file by April 15th: There are three choices for applying for an extension of time to file U.S. individual tax return electronically.

Visit www.irs.gov for more information