

Pennsylvania Telephone Association

*"The Communications
Leader in Pennsylvania"*

The Friday Report

May 22, 2009

INDUSTRY NEWS

- AT&T's request to build a 120-foot cell tower in Meadow Glen, PA was unanimously denied during a recent zoning hearing. After several hearings and nine hours of testimony by AT&T and residents, board members were not comfortable granting approval for a location so many residents opposed. The site chosen was near protected wetlands. But it's not over - there were some residents at the hearing that stated they would not object to the cell-tower being on their property.
- About one in four Americans say they text while driving, and more than eight in 10 people think the practice should be banned, according to a survey commissioned by Vlingo Corporation. Vlingo is a manufacturer of a mobile voice application that allows people to send text messages by speaking into the device. The survey found the worst offenders are in Tennessee (42%), while Arizona has the lowest percentage of driving texters at 18.8%.
- SNAP-Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program replaces what was formerly called Food Stamps. The federal program became SNAP in October 2008. The PA State Department of Public Welfare has taken steps to change the name as well. Members are encouraged to change any outreach materials that may contain the old name, including bill inserts, information in directories, websites, etc.
- The Virginia State Corporation Commission and the Tennessee Regulatory Authority gave final approval to CenturyTel's purchase of Embarq Corp. The Virginia SCC imposed a condition which will require the companies to track and provide the costs and savings resulting from the merger for a period of three years following the merger. In Washington state, the Utilities and Transportation Commission is planning to meet this week to consider a settlement agreement that would resolve all disputed issues between the companies in that state.

THE DAILY NUMBER

- 14

There are 14 days remaining from today to receive the Early bird rate for PTA's 107th Annual Convention at The Hotel Hershey, July 19-22. To register go to <http://www.patel.org/Convention/2009/Convention.htm>