



January 20, 2021

Latest News

LTAP Offers Virtual Drop-In Session on Newly Updated PennDOT Pub 213 (Work Zones)

The state Department of Transportation recently announced that it has updated its Publication 213, Temporary Traffic Control Guidelines, which establishes the standards for temporary traffic control (work zones) on all public roads in Pennsylvania. The new updates take effect March 1, 2021.

This virtual drop-in session will provide an overview of Publication 213 and the changes that affect municipalities. Please join the discussion with your work zone experiences and your most worrisome safety concerns. [Click here](#) to register. [Click here](#) to view the updated Pub 213.

DCNR Grants Available for Community Parks, Recreation State Secretary of Conservation and Natural Resources Cindy Adams Dunn has announced that applications are now being accepted for recreation and conservation projects in communities across Pennsylvania. Applications are due April 14. Local governments and recreation and conservation organizations may apply for the grants, which are funded through DCNR's Community Conservation Partnerships Program.

The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated the critical importance of parks, forests, and trails to mental and physical health, Dunn said. The grants can help communities with local park acquisition and improvements, trails, and river access.

New this year, applicants will be asked to explain how their project implements sustainable and climate-resilient adaptations and/or mitigation. To learn more about the new

criteria, [click here](#).

Grants may be used to plan, acquire, or develop public parks, recreation areas, motorized and non-motorized trails, river conservation and access, streamside forest buffers, and open space conservation. To learn more, [click here](#). To view videos about grant requirements and how to apply, [click here](#).

Today is National Disc Jockey Day

Today, contemporary DJs play music from vinyl to digital. Regardless of the medium they use, the term disc jockey still applies. Mobile DJs often act as the master of ceremonies at events or parties directing the evening's activities like the welcome reception at the PSATS Conference. National Disc Jockey Day gives us an excellent opportunity to celebrate our favorite DJs. Give them a shout out on social media.

Levine Nominated for Biden Administration

Pennsylvania Secretary of Health Dr. Rachel Levine has been nominated to serve as Assistant Secretary of Health at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Gov. Tom Wolf offered congratulations expects to announce Dr. Levine's replacement later this week.

Department of Health Updates COVID-19 Vaccination Plan

The state Department of Health updated its vaccination plan to expand the first and current phase, 1A, to include people who are 65 and older and those 16-64 with certain underlying medical conditions that make them more vulnerable to the disease. Phase 1A originally only included health care workers and nursing home residents. The update aligns Pennsylvania's plan with revisions made to the federal plan last week.

To help Pennsylvanians determine when they are eligible for the vaccine, find a vaccine provider, and schedule an appointment for their first and second doses of the vaccine, the department has launched an online vaccine quiz and provider map. To learn more, [click here](#).

First responders, including law enforcement and firefighters, will be eligible to receive the vaccine in the second phase, 1B. All other township employees and elected township supervisors are eligible to receive the vaccine in Phase 1C. The general public will be eligible in the fourth and final phase, Phase 2. To view the current plan, [click here](#). To read FAQs on the plan, [click here](#).

Instacart Offers Employees and Contractors Stipend to Receive Vaccine

Instacart is providing an incentive for its part-time employees and contractors to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. Instacart is aiming to remove obstacles related to vaccine access for its workers earning income through its platform by offering a \$25 stipend for receiving

the vaccine beginning in February.

Other U.S. chains that are also beginning to offer stipends or pay to incentivize their employees to receive the vaccine include Trader Joe's and Dollar General.

Legislation & Policy



Presidential Inauguration Day

The inaugural ceremonies will begin with the invocation, pledge of allegiance, national anthem, poetry reading, and musical performance beginning at 11:15am.

Kamala Harris will be sworn-in shortly before noon by Supreme Court Associate Justice Sonia Sotomayor to be the nation's 49th Vice President of the United States. She will make history as the nation's first female vice-president.

Joe Biden's swearing-in as the nation's 46th President of the United States will take place at noon on the steps of the U.S. Capitol building. He will be sworn-in by Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts.

[Click here](#) to tune in.

Statewide Row Officers Sworn In

Yesterday, Timothy L. DeFoor was sworn in as Pennsylvania's 52nd Auditor General and, in so doing, becomes the first African American and person of color in Pennsylvania to be elected to a statewide row office.

Stacy Garrity was sworn in yesterday as the 78th treasurer of Pennsylvania.

Attorney General Josh Shapiro was also sworn

in for his second term as the Attorney General of Pennsylvania yesterday.

Learn

[How Effective Communication Can Help Implement Community Planning- Virtual- January 21 & 28, 2021](#)

Learn about different approaches to policy implementation and the importance of strong communication between Municipal Officials, Planners, and Code Enforcement Officers. This two-part, interactive training session will highlight how people who must take on multiple roles can effectively adapt messages to convey different perspectives through different levels of interaction. Participants will learn about their own communication strengths and weaknesses and how to recognize different personalities and communication styles in others, enhancing their management efforts. Best practices and real-life scenarios will be included to provide practical, every-day application of the information shared in the session. Attendance for both sessions qualifies for 3 PMGA Administration points.

[Click here](#) to register.

[Webinar - Stormwater Management - What to Expect in 2021 - 1/27/21](#)

Stormwater will continue to be the most pressing environmental issue facing most municipalities in 2021. Compliance with MS4 permits, minimum control measures, water quality requirements and, in many cases, TMDLs and Chesapeake Bay requirements will be among those challenges facing municipalities. This webinar, presented by attorney Steve Hann, will update municipalities on their latest compliance obligations (including urban runoff), the impact of new federal and state initiatives, and the critical economic issues and financial challenges facing municipalities in



addressing their stormwater obligations. This webinar will also cover the creation of stormwater authorities, stormwater fee litigation, and the recent developments on the availability of grants for municipal infrastructure needs. Eligible for 1 PMGA Public Works point. Eligible for 1 CLE credit. [Click here](#) to register.

[Webinar - What's All the Noise About Noise Ordinances? - 2/3/21](#)

In this webinar, township supervisors, staff, and solicitors will receive sound information about the need for noise ordinances, hear about the startling current research on noise and its adverse effects on health, learn important distinctions between nuisance law and noise ordinances and ways to avoid the decibel level trap. Attendees will also learn tips on drafting a true, simple and effective noise ordinance. Eligible for 1 PMGA Public Safety point. Eligible for 1 CLE credit. [Click here](#) to register.

[Webinar - Home-Based Businesses - Is Your Township Ready for More? - 2/10/21](#)

Whether it is to comply with mandates, help care for family members, convenience or because they just prefer working in their pajamas, more people are now working from homes than pre-COVID-19. Fortunately, modern technology enables business operators and employees to safely and efficiently continue working from their homes. Home business activities and functions are considered a form of home-based businesses or occupations (HBBs) as defined, permitted and regulated by most municipal zoning ordinances. In this webinar, representatives of McNees Wallace and Nurick, LLC will explore opportunities and options for municipalities to proactively plan and zone for HBBs. This course is eligible for 1 PMGA Planning/Zoning point. [Click here](#) to register.



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We're excited about this new concept and want to hear what you think. Email comments and suggestions to morningnews@psats.org.



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