



February 10, 2021

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## Latest News

### **National Home Warranty Day**

National Home Warranty Day on February 10th reminds us to protect the vital appliances and components of our homes.

Our homes are filled with complex and vital appliances, technology and other components that over time can and do wear out. At any given time, one or more of our appliances can break down. A home warranty, unlike home owner's insurance, covers repair or replacement of these items that break down due to normal wear and tear. Consider how many appliances and systems our homes require these days and protect your investments.

### **Commonwealth Creates Joint COVID-19 Vaccine Task Force with Legislature**

The commonwealth is establishing a joint task force on the COVID-19 vaccine with members from each legislative caucus to provide a more accurate and timely sharing of information between the executive and legislative branches of government.

Members of the task force include co-chairs Acting Secretary of Health Alison Beam and Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency Director Randy Padfield; Sen. Ryan Aument for the Senate Republican Caucus; Sen. Art Haywood for the Senate Democratic Caucus; Rep. Tim O'Neal for the House Republican Caucus; and Rep. Bridget Kosierowski for the House Democratic Caucus. [Click here](#) for more.

### **National Vaccine Supply to Increase**

The White House has announced that the Biden Administration will increase the vaccine supply to states, tribes, and territories by 5% over last week. In addition, beginning the

week of February 15, vaccine supplies will be sent directly to some federally qualified health centers, which serve those living at or below the federal poverty line. Initially, at least one community health center in each state will be included, with plans to expand to 250 centers in the coming weeks. [Click here](#) for more.

#### **Rite Aid Expands No-Charge COVID-19 Testing Sites**

Rite Aid has expanded its no-charge COVID-19 testing sites to include 317 additional drive-through locations across New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania through its partnership with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Sites will use a self-swab nasal test for those 4 and older and operate seven days a week. Pre-registration [here](#) is required. [Click here](#) for more.

#### **Wolf Signs Record 13th Opioid Disaster Declaration**

Gov. Tom Wolf signed the 13th renewal of his January 2018 opioid disaster declaration to help the state fight the opioid and heroin epidemic. [Click here](#) to learn about accomplishments made to reduce the supply of opioids and increase services since the original declaration was signed.

#### **Department of Health Launches Vaccine Eligibility Tool**

The state Department of Health has a new tool available to help Pennsylvanians understand when it is their turn to be vaccinated. However, it does not register anyone to receive a vaccine or help them schedule an appointment. Those who do not have internet access may call 877-PA-HEALTH to speak with a representative to determine eligibility. [Click here](#) for more.

#### **PA American Water Accepting Applications for Environmental Grants**

Pennsylvania American Water is accepting applications for its 2021 Environmental Grant program until March 31. Funds are for innovative, community-based environmental projects that improve, restore, or protect watersheds, surface water, and groundwater supplies within the Pennsylvania American Water Service area. In 2020, grants totaling \$40,000 were awarded for river cleanup, rain gardens, and stormwater education. [Click here](#) for more.

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Learn

**[Webinar - Take Advantage of Market Conditions While You Can for Updated/New Facilities- 2/11/21](#)**

This webinar will cover the benefits of planning, financing, building and renovating township facilities during an economic downturn by taking advantage of lower interest rates, lower construction bids, stimulus funds, grants and other initiatives. Presenters will include planners/architects, a finance professional who specializes in securing funds for municipal projects, an expert in the real estate market and a grant writer who will together be a complete planning resource for you and your township. Eligible for 1 PMGA Public Works point. [Click here](#) to register.

**[Webinar - Setting Up Stormwater Management Fees - 2/24/21](#)**

The pressure on municipal leaders across Pennsylvania just keeps growing to do more to manage stormwater. No longer does stormwater management mean just piping flows to the closest stream. Now, communities are experiencing more frequent flooding, MS4 permit mandates, and eroding streambanks. This is over and above the routine operation of an aging storm sewer. The uncertainties of 2020 have many municipalities thinking again about a fairly-collected and reliable source of revenue to support even their basic stormwater activities. In this session, Steve Hann of Hamburg, Rubin, Mullin, Maxwell & Lupin, PC and Nathan Walker of Gannett Fleming, Inc. will discuss how a stormwater user fee, when properly established, can be a transparent, flexible, and equitable way for municipalities to set and achieve a long-term vision for water quality and flood control goals that meet the needs of their residents and businesses. Eligible for 1 PMGA Public Works point. Eligible for 1 CLE credit. [Click here](#) to register.



### **[Webinar - Tips for Thwarting Township Cyber Threats - 3/3/21](#)**

Cyber threats, whether in the form of phishing, ransomware or the next big thing, are on the rise and municipal governments are not immune. Is your township prepared to prevent and, if necessary, respond to these threats? In this webinar, Erik Avakian's the Commonwealth's Chief Information Security Officer, will review best practices for how your township can best protect its data (and that of its residents and vendors) and how to respond to threats and attacks, as well as what to look for when contracting with IT vendors. Eligible for 1 PMGA Public Safety points. [Click here](#) to register.

### **[Webinar - Taking Your Municipality to New Heights with UAV/Drone Technology - 3/10/21](#)**

In this webinar, learn more about how you can utilize UAV/Drone services as another tool for your municipal projects while saving time, saving money, and increasing safety. Representatives of Carroll Engineering will explore the full capabilities of drones, including examples of uses at the municipal level, requirements needed for becoming a licensed UAV/Drone pilot, typical procedures and regulations, equipment/hardware, and the expansion of future uses for this technology. Attendees will also be eligible for a prize compliments of Carroll Engineering. Eligible for 1 PMGA Planning/Zoning point. [Click here](#) to register.



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