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February 17, 2021

Latest News

DCED Accepting Applications for Act 13 Grants

The state Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) is now accepting applications for Act 13 programs until **May 31, 2021**. There are several specific grant programs funded from impact fees from natural gas wells under Act 13 of 2012:

Abandoned Mine Drainage (AMD) Abatement & Treatment Program: Townships may apply for grants to reclaim abandoned mine wells, remediate and repair existing AMD project sites, and monitor water quality to track nonpoint source load reductions from AMD remediation projects.

Baseline Water Quality Data Program: Townships may apply for grants to establish baseline water quality data on private water supplies using the Baseline Water Quality Data program.

Flood Mitigation Program: Townships may apply for grants to perform flood mitigation projects.

Greenways, Trails, and Recreation Program: Townships may apply for funding to plan, acquire, develop, rehabilitate, and repair greenways, recreational trails, open space, parks, and beautification projects.

Orphan or Abandoned Well Plugging Program: Townships may apply for grants to

clean out and plug abandoned and orphan oil and gas wells, stray gas mitigation systems, and well venting projects.

Sewage Facilities Program: Townships may apply for grants for costs associated with the planning work required under Act 537, the Pennsylvania Sewage Facilities Act.

Watershed Restoration and Protection Program: Townships may apply for grants to construct, expand, repair, maintain, or rehabilitate new or existing watershed protection best management practices.

Federal Agencies Collaborate to Extend Homeowner Foreclosure Protections

Several federal agencies are, by policy, extending the foreclosure moratorium for homeowners through June 30, 2021. In addition, the mortgage payment forbearance enrollment window will also be extended until June 30, 2021, for borrowers who wish to request forbearance. Finally, those who entered into forbearance on or before June 30, 2020, will receive up to six months of additional mortgage payment forbearance. [Click here](#) for more.

National Random Acts of Kindness Day

Each year on February 17th, National Random Acts of Kindness Day grows in popularity. It is celebrated by individuals, groups and organizations nationwide to encourage acts of kindness.

The movement of Random Acts of Kindness inspires people every day. As a favorite celebration for many, people everywhere are enjoying doing these acts of kindness. Not only do the acts of kindness bring joy to the receiver, but they spread positive reactions to the giver, too!

Learn

QuickBooks for the Beginner - Virtual Class - February

This four-session virtual class is designed to provide each student with a fundamental understanding and working knowledge of QuickBooks Accounting Software, and is intended to demonstrate the application of QuickBooks and QuickBooks Pro to assist in municipal accounting. The sessions will review how to set up your company files and create



your DCED Compliant Chart of Accounts. From start to finish, how to write a check, make a deposit and reconcile your checking account. You will learn how to set up vendors and customers for all of your information that you could possibly need to replace that old rolodex. (note: no payroll will be addressed in this class) [Click here](#) for more information and to register.

[Webinar - Positive Impacts of Trail Planning on the Community - 2/18/21](#)

Trails and greenways create healthy recreation and transportation opportunities by providing people of all ages with attractive, safe, accessible, and low-or no-cost places to cycle, walk, hike, jog or skate Trails help people of all ages incorporate exercise into their daily routines by connecting them with places they want or need to go. Communities that encourage physical activity by making use of the linear corridors can see a significant effect on public health and wellness. In this webinar, you will learn ways in which your township can become more trail-friendly. Eligible for 1 PMGA Planning/Zoning 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 point. [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.



Webinar - The Criminal and Civil Consequences of Municipal Firearm Regulation - 3/17/21

While many municipal officials and employees are not aware of the restrictions that exist when it comes to local governments enacting and enforcing firearm and ammunition-related regulations, the consequences for municipalities and their elected officials can be extreme -- and they don't end merely with taxpayer disgruntlement over the wasted expenditure of taxpayer funds spent to enact, enforce and defend such regulations. Join us for a one-hour discussion on Pennsylvania's firearm, ammunition, and range preemption statutes so that you can protect your municipalities from more than just taxpayer disgruntlement. Eligible for 1 PMGA Public Safety point. Eligible for 1 Continuing Legal Education Credit (CLE). [Click here](#) to register.

Webinar - High Cube and Automated Warehouses - Are You Prepared? - 3/17/21

A new land use, the high cube or automated warehouse, is starting to pop up around Pennsylvania and the county. These warehouses have a variety of forms, from "a warehouse on top of a warehouse" to largely robotic retrofits in an existing building, but in essence will have significant transportation, emergency management services, workforce, tax and environmental implications, among other things. Because they come in a variety of forms including, new developments, site redevelopments and existing building additions, and retrofits, high cube and automated warehousing affect subdivision and land development, zoning and/or building codes needs. The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission has drafted a series of municipal considerations that its representatives will review with webinar attendees. This is a first of its kind community guide in the US to address this emerging form of development and its



associated technology. Eligible for 1 PMGA
Planning/Zoning point. Eligible for 1 CLE credit.
[Click here](#) to register.

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