

Click [here](#) to view this email in your browser.



March 17, 2021



Latest News

Pennsylvania: More Fully Vaccinated Than Tested Positive

Pennsylvania has now administered 3.7 million total doses of COVID-19 vaccines through March 15. With less than 1 million having tested positive for Covid-19, the number of fully vaccinated Pennsylvanians is now at 1.3 million.

Nationally, 15% of the U.S. adult population, or 38 million, is now fully vaccinated from COVID-19. Of those over 65, 36.6%, or 20 million, are fully vaccinated. In total, more than 110 million doses have been administered nationally.

This week, Pennsylvania will receive 278,670 first doses, a 24,000 increase over last week, and 242,270 second doses of vaccine, also an increase over the prior week. According to the CDC, Pennsylvania has improved to 28th for total doses administered per capita. [Click here](#) for state numbers and [here](#) for national numbers.

No Pot of Gold for St. Patrick's Day

Yesterday, PSATS issued a news release reflecting comments received since Executive Director Dave Sanko's appointment to Gov. Tom Wolf's new Transportation Revenue Options Commission. Sanko was named to represent townships and other local governments in looking for ways to fund and sustain the commonwealth's vast road and bridge system.

"There's no magic pot of gold at the end of the rainbow when it comes to paying for roads and bridges," Sanko says. "I look forward to representing local government to explore not only funding options but also cost controls and mandate relief to make projects more affordable." [Click here](#) to read the full release.

DCNR Accepting Applications for Grants to Fight Wildfires

The state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) is accepting applications to help Pennsylvania's rural communities increase protection from wildfires. Funded through federal grants, this money helps fire companies in rural areas or communities with fewer than 10,000 residents with training and equipment purchases directly related to fighting forest and brush fires. **Grant applications must be submitted electronically and are due May 13 at 4 p.m.**

Priority is placed on projects that include wildfire suppression equipment and protective clothing. Grants may also be used for purchasing mobile or portable radios, installing dry hydrants, wildfire prevention and mitigation work, training wildfire fighters, or converting and maintaining federal excess vehicles. Grants are on a cost-share basis and cannot exceed 50% of actual expenditures. The maximum grant is \$10,000. [Click here](#) for more information.

Township Officials Can Grade PennDOT's Winter Maintenance Performance

Township officials may take a brief anonymous survey until **April 6** to grade the state Department of Transportation's winter services, rank snow removal priorities, and provide expectations for timely response for safe and passable roadways. [Click here](#) to take the survey.

DCNR Announces Land and Water Trail Plan

The state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) has released Pennsylvania's new Land and Water Trail Network Strategic Plan extending through 2024. The plan's vision is to develop a statewide land and water trail network to facilitate recreation, transportation, and healthy lifestyles. The plan is a blueprint with seven recommendations and 40 action steps for meeting the trail needs of all Pennsylvanians. To view the plan, [click here](#).

National SBDC Day

During the third Wednesday in March, National Small Business Development Centers (SBDC) Day recognizes the thousands of SBDCs across the country supporting entrepreneurs in the pursuit of small business ownership.

Created in 1976, SBDCs provide innovative resources and tools that contribute to the success of start-ups and small businesses. Across the country on National SBDC Day, events and conferences present platforms designed to demonstrate the impact of SBDCs.

From financial and business planning to technology, security, and marketing, SBDCs contribute to the overall success of small businesses. SBDCs aren't limited to new small businesses either. If a small business is looking to expand, the SBDC offers assistance as well.

Legislation & Policy



The House and Senate are scheduled to be in session today, March 17. Watch session live [here](#).

Capitol Building to Re-Open to Public on March 22

Yesterday, the state Department of General Services announced that the Pennsylvania Capitol Building will reopen to the public, with enhanced security protocols, on Monday, March 22.

The public will be able to enter the building at the Main Capitol, East Wing and North Office Building entrances. Visitors must wear a mask and adhere to social distancing. The entrances will have hand sanitizer stations and masks for visitors without them.

Representative Pyle Retires

Yesterday, Representative Jeff Pyle (R-Armstrong/Indiana/Butler) announced his retirement as a member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives effective at the close of business due to health issues. Pyle was first elected to the House in November 2004 and served two sessions as chair of the House Liquor Control Committee.

House Transportation Committee Unanimously Approves Radar Legislation

Yesterday, the House Transportation Committee approved HB 606 (25 to 0) which would permit local police officers in Pennsylvania to utilize radar or LIDAR for speed enforcement.

HB 606 would also require a municipality's governing body to pass an ordinance and place signs in the municipality stipulating that the police may use radar or LIDAR, would require the issuance of written warnings for the first 90 days, and

would place a cap on the amount of money a municipality may retain from speeding tickets written using either radar or LIDAR.

HB 606 would fulfill a PSATS resolution.

Learn

[Webinar - Zoning Implications for Agritourism in Pennsylvania - 3/18/21](#)

There are several important legal considerations regarding agritourism operations in Pennsylvania, such as zoning, regulations, insurance and other matters. Zoning laws regulate land uses, including agritourism. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.



[Webinar - Sinkholes - A Perplexing Geologic Condition - 3/24/21](#)

This discussion will provide you with an uncomplicated explanation of geology in Pennsylvania, review the triggers that cause land subsidence and give an overview of some basic investigative tools that your township can employ to better prepare itself to manage potential and actual sinkholes. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.



[Webinar - The Anatomy of Limiting Municipal Loss - 3/31/21](#)

In this webinar you will learn how to identify core areas of municipal risk and ways in which you can achieve the most benefit for a minimal investment of time and money. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.



[Webinar - Implementing a Logical Addressing Scheme for New Construction - 4/7/21](#)

In this webinar, you will learn when to begin thinking about how to assign addresses to new construction, keeping in mind your municipality's current developments (Hint – It's sooner than you think it should be!). [Click here](#) for more information and to register.



[Webinar - Cable Franchising 101 - 4/14/21](#)

This webinar is designed for township officials who are not familiar with the intricacies of cable franchising. It is a primer for understanding municipal rights with respect to cable/internet companies. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.



Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors
4855 Woodland Drive
Enola, PA 17025

Click [here](#) to unsubscribe or to change your Subscription Preferences.