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March 26, 2021

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## Latest News

### **PSATS Releases Op-Ed on the Need for Broadband Access**

PSATS Executive Director David M. Sanko has released an op-ed to newspapers across the state for publication on the need for more broadband access in Pennsylvania and local efforts to ensure service is provided for their communities. [Click here](#) to read the op-ed.

### **Biden Sends \$154 Million to Fund 42 Federal Vaccination Centers in PA**

To help Pennsylvania pick up the pace of vaccinations, The Biden Administration is sending more than \$150 million to Pennsylvania for federal vaccination centers. [Click here](#) for the list of community health centers that will receive vaccines. [Click here](#) to read more about this program.

Funded by the American Rescue Plan, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is providing a \$10 billion investment to expand access to vaccines and improve access for underserved communities, including rural areas, low-income populations, and communities of color. \$6 billion of these funds will be targeted to community health centers to provide vaccinations, testing, and treatment.

### **Transportation Revenue Options Commission Holds First Meeting**

Yesterday, the governor's recently appointed Transportation Revenue Options Commission held its first meeting, during which it received information on the state's transportation network and the estimated \$9 billion PennDOT funding shortfall.

Commission members, which include PSATS Executive Director David M. Sanko, were asked by PennDOT facilitators to answer questions on how much money they would like

ranging from raising the personal income tax, corporate income tax and/or sales tax to doubling the state's registration fee, a mileage-based user fee, and the tolling of interstates. Sanko offered the following statement on behalf of local government. [Click here](#) for statement. The commission's next step is to develop and evaluate funding options. It will meet again in April although a meeting date was not announced. A final plan is due to the governor by August 1.

[Click here](#) to learn more about the commission.

### **Pa. Passes 1 Million COVID-19 Cases, New Order to Set Appointments**

The Commonwealth has now had more than 1 million positive cases of COVID-19 since the beginning of the pandemic. [Click here](#) for the latest numbers.

To accelerate efforts to provide vaccines to all those in Phase 1A who want one, acting Secretary of Health Alison Beam amended an order to require vaccine providers to schedule all Phase 1A individuals requesting appointments based on the allocations received in the prior two weeks as far into the future as necessary. The order prohibits vaccine providers from including on its messaging that no appointments are available. In addition, providers are required to coordinate with the applicable local Area Agency on Aging to schedule appointments for those in Phase 1A. [Click here](#) for more.

### **PUC Urges Struggling Consumers, Small Business to #CallUtilitiesNow**

The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) is urging consumers and small businesses who are struggling financially to #CallUtilitiesNow to discuss the options available to address any past-due balances, apply for available assistance programs, and review payment plan options – all focused on keeping households and businesses connected to vital utility services.

According to utility reports submitted to the PUC, there are nearly 900,000 residential utility accounts at risk of termination, with the total dollar amount owed by at-risk households now topping \$856 million. Residents and businesses should be aware that assistance is available. [Click here](#) for more.

### **Epilepsy Awareness Day - Purple Day**

Epilepsy Awareness Day on March 26th aims to increase the public's knowledge of a neurological condition affecting nearly 50 million people worldwide. Also known as Purple Day, people are encouraged to wear purple in support of epilepsy awareness.

The neurological condition, epilepsy, impacts the central nervous system causing seizures and other symptoms. The types of seizures vary depending on the cause and type of epilepsy. Some known causes of epilepsy include:

- brain injury
- genetics
- metabolic disorders
- immune disorders
- Infection

However, sometimes no known cause can be found for epilepsy in a patient. While epilepsy is not contagious, any age group can develop epilepsy. The good news is that it's highly treatable

Those with epilepsy can lead normal lives, especially when their epilepsy is controlled.

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## Legislation & Policy



### **House Local Government Committee Receives New Chair**

Representative Jerry Knowles (R-Schuylkill) was tapped to chair the House Local Government Committee. Knowles was first elected the House in 2009 and previously served as chair of the House Urban Affairs Committee. The committee's previous chair, Representative Carl Metzgar (R-Somerset), was picked to chair the House Liquor Control Committee.

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## Learn

### **[New Developments in Police Liability - Guidance to Evaluate Your Police Dept. - 4/9/21](#)**

In this virtual class, Chris Gerber of Siana Law and Captain Ashley Heiberger (Ret.) will address new developments in police liability with a practical approach that allows for an immediate assessment of your police department's compliance with federal and state law. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.



**[2021 PAAZO Spring Virtual Educational Forum - 4/23 & 30/ 2021](#)**

This two-day virtual program explores issues that zoning officers, planning and zoning officials face on a regular basis, and discusses effective strategies to address them. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.



**[Flagger Training - 4/23/21 - Cumberland County](#)**

The course covers development of traffic control plans for flagging, use of typical layout figures from the Publication 213, and flagger visibility/procedures. The course emphasizes teaching work zone traffic control guidelines and set-ups for typical municipal and utility work. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.



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