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April 16, 2021

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## Latest News

### **Do You Have a Great Place in Your Township?**

The Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Planning Association is looking for nominations for Great Places, which are unique, memorable spaces that display community planning best practices and have exemplary character and a sustainable vision for tomorrow. Townships can nominate a Great Place in their community for one of three categories: Great Public Spaces, Great Greenways/Trails, and Great Streets. The deadline to nominate a Great Place is **May 7, 2021**. To learn more or to nominate a Great Place in your township that deserves recognition, [click here](#).

### **PUC Recognizes April as National Safe Digging Month**

April is [National Safe Digging Month](#), and the Pennsylvania Utility Commission is reminding everyone of the importance of identifying underground infrastructure before digging and encouraging utilities and municipalities to explore the benefits of closer coordination for infrastructure projects. State law requires everyone to contact [PA One Call](#) at least three business days before excavation, which alerts underground infrastructure owners, who then mark where their facilities are located.

Commissioner John F. Coleman Jr. encouraged utilities, contractors, and municipalities to explore the added benefits of the Coordinate PA program through the PA One Call System, which can help better coordinate project schedules, fostering collaboration, and potential cost savings.

“Collaboration on projects is a ‘win-win’ for everyone involved,” noted Commissioner Coleman. “For example, if a utility is planning to replace underground lines in a particular area in August, but the local municipality is planning to repave those streets in June, it would be better and more cost-effective for both entities to coordinate their schedules so that construction work is complete before the repaving begins, rather than digging up a new street.”

Closer collaboration and better information about project schedules can also help multiple utilities coordinate their schedules in communities or neighborhoods, avoiding repeated street closures and multiple repairs in the same area. [Click here](#) to learn more about Coordinate PA.

### **Johnson & Johnson Vaccination Stop Extended**

The state Department of Health has notified all vaccine providers that the temporary stoppage on administering doses of the Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) vaccine has been extended until April 24 or until updated guidance is provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. The agencies are reviewing six incidents of rare blood clots that occurred within two weeks of receiving the Johnson & Johnson/Janssen vaccine. The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are not impacted. [Click here](#) for more.

### **National Clean Out Your Medicine Cabinet Day**

National Clean Out Your Medicine Cabinet Day occurs annually on the third Friday in April. The day aims to raise awareness and effectively rid homes of unused or expired prescription and over-the-counter medications sitting in medicine cabinets, nightstands, or kitchen cabinets that have the potential for misuse or abuse by family members, friends or visitors.

If you have large quantities of leftover medications or as a supplement to at-home drug disposal, you may also consider participating in the Drug Enforcement Agency’s (DEA’s) [National Drug Takeback Day](#) to be held next Saturday April 24. Contact your County District Attorney for locations near you.

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## Legislation & Policy



The House and Senate were not in session this week. Both chambers are scheduled to return to Harrisburg on Monday April 19.

### **House Speaker Tests Positive**

Yesterday, Speaker of the Pennsylvania House, Representative Bryan Cutler (R-Lancaster) announced that after a confirmed exposure to COVID-19 he has tested positive. Cutler is experiencing mild symptoms and is quarantining.

*We wish him a quick and full recovery.*

### **Bucks Delegation Demands Philadelphia Reimburse Suburban Commuters**

Bipartisan legislators from Bucks County recently sent a letter to Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney seeking reimbursement for suburban commuters who worked from home during the Pandemic.

Employees who are non-residents of Philadelphia and work in the city are subject to the Philadelphia Wage Tax at a rate of 3.5019%. Employees who did not work in the city on a particular day are not legally required to pay the city wage tax for that day.

To prevent this from occurring in the future and to help townships, Representative Farry (R-Bucks) and Representative Thomas (R-Bucks) have introduced HB 949 which would amend the Sterling Act of 1932. Under this Act, non-residents who commute to work in Philadelphia must pay the Philadelphia Wage Tax. However, unlike the imposition of local taxes in other taxing jurisdictions, none of the non-resident City Wage Tax is returned to the non-resident's home government.

[HB 949](#) would require Philadelphia reimburse the surrounding taxing jurisdictions that impose an Earned Income Tax at a rate equivalent to that which would have been collected from commuting workers of their respective boroughs and townships.

*HB 949 is before the House Finance Committee and would fulfill a PSATS resolution.*

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Learn

**[2021 Emergency Management Virtual Spring Educational Forum - 4/21 & 22/21](#)**

Join your EMC colleagues from around the state at this 2-day, highly-interactive online meeting, and hear informative presentations from local and state emergency management personnel and hear the latest news and information from PEMA and TEMA. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.



**[Can We Talk? The Three C's for Increased Roadway Safety - Virtual - 4/28/21](#)**

This session will focus on motorist and responder safety, including how to clear roads and communicate, coordinate, and cooperate more effectively at emergency scene. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.



**[Fire & EMS Issues in Your Township: A Panel Discussion - Virtual - 5/3/21](#)**

It's no secret that many townships are struggling to provide adequate fire and EMS services. Attend this session to hear from and question a panel of fire and EMS leaders about trends, best practices, and other public safety issues. [click here](#) for more information and to register.



**[The Pros and Cons of Fire Department Stipend Programs - Virtual - 5/3/21](#)**

The presenter will discuss their implementation, successes and failures, and their relationship to regionalization. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.



**[Dealing With Constantly Changing Public Safety Challenges- Virtual - 5/11/21](#)**

This session will focus on how one township managed this eventful period of time. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.



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