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April 19, 2021

Latest News

Wolf Activates National Guard for Philadelphia

Gov. Tom Wolf has signed a [disaster emergency declaration](#) to activate more than 1,000 Pennsylvania National Guard state active-duty members to support local officials in Philadelphia. The action was taken at the request of the City of Philadelphia in preparation for any potential unrest following the verdict in the trial of Derek Chauvin, the former Minneapolis police officer charged in the death of George Floyd. The declaration allows preemptive steps to security efforts in the city. The proclamation is effective for 90 days.

DEP Accepting Applications for Grant Programs

The state Department of Environmental Protection announced in the [April 17, 2021, issue of the Pennsylvania Bulletin](#) that several grant programs will be accepting applications:

- **Growing Greener Plus Grants Program:** Applications will be accepted from **April 22 to June 25, 2021**. Townships are eligible to apply. Priority areas include those that reduce nonpoint source pollution, especially nitrogen, phosphorous, and sediment pollution from agricultural and stormwater runoff. The department is particularly interested in design and construction projects that implement effective best management practices that reduce or eliminate pollutant loadings and lead to local water quality improvements. [Click here](#) to learn more.

- **Surface Mining Conservation and Reclamation Act:** Townships can apply for funding to address legacy mining impacts **until June 25, 2021**. [Click here](#) to learn more.
- **Watershed Planning and Restoration Grants (Section 319):** Townships may apply for watershed planning and restoration grants from **April 22 until June 25, 2021**. The department is looking for projects that reduce nonpoint source pollution in targeted watersheds with watershed implementation plans, particularly projects that reduce nitrogen, phosphorous, and sediment pollution from agricultural and stormwater runoff. [Click here](#) to learn more.
- **Municipal Recycling Program Performance Grant (Section 904 Grants):** Applications are being accepted **until December 31, 2021**, for eligible materials that were recycled and marketed in calendar year 2020. Awards are based on the weight of source-separated recyclable materials recovered by municipal recycling programs. [Click here](#) for more.

Commonwealth Announces Multimodal Grant Awards

The commonwealth has announced 43 grant awards for \$45.9 million from the Multimodal Transportation Fund. Awardees include several townships across the state, including four separate projects in Chester County awarded to Kennett, Valley, West Brandywine, and West Nottingham townships. Congratulations! For the full list and details about the projects, [click here](#).

The next round of multimodal grant applications will open in **September 2021**. To learn more about this grant program, [click here](#).

Pa. Now 4th Nationwide for COVID-19 Case Growth

The statewide COVID-19 total case count now stands at 1,103,616 with 34,642 new cases reported this week, a 15% increase over last week and an increase for the sixth week in a row. Across the state, 39 counties saw their weekly cases increase (*compared to 42 last week*), while 28 counties saw decreases (*compared to 25 last week*). Nationwide, weekly case counts continue to increase. Pennsylvania now has the fourth highest growth in cases per 100,000, with Michigan, Rhode Island, and New Jersey making up the top three.

The [number of COVID-19 hospitalizations in Pennsylvania](#) has increased for the fifth week in a row, from 2,460 to 2,653, a 7.8% increase. 555 of these patients are in an ICU, up from 516 the prior week. The number of COVID-19 patients on a ventilator statewide increased for the fifth week in a row from 254 to 275.

Total deaths attributed to COVID-19 in Pennsylvania increased for the second week in a row. 259 deaths were reported this week, 21% more than in the previous week. Total deaths in Pennsylvania have reached 25,661.

Pennsylvania's statewide percent-positivity rate has increased slightly for the fifth week in a row, from 9.5% to 9.6%. Four counties now have rates less than 5% (*down from seven last week*), 38 counties have rates of 5% to less than 10% (up from 32 last week), 24 counties have rates of 10% to less than 20% (*down from 26 last week*), and the remaining county has rates of 20% but less than 30% (*down from two last week*). [Click here](#) for more county-specific information.

PA Unemployment Rate at 7.3% in March

The state Department of Labor and Industry has announced that Pennsylvania's unemployment rate for March was 7.3%, more than a full point above the March national unemployment rate of 6%. Pennsylvania's civilian labor force – the estimated number of residents working or looking for work – increased by 1,000 over the month as employment rose slightly more than unemployment declined. [Click here](#) for more.

National Garlic Day

Each year on April 19th, National Garlic Day celebrates a vegetable also known as the stinking rose. The fragrant and potent root has been seasoning dishes for thousands of years. This stinking rose is a member of the lily family. This family also includes onions, leeks, and shallots. While garlic originated in Asia over 7,000 years ago, it is used in a variety of cuisines.

It is also used for medicinal purposes. The mighty bulb is considered an herbal remedy for colds and may reduce blood pressure and cholesterol. Modern science has also proven garlic's antibiotic properties.

Myth and superstition reek of garlic. The most familiar one suggests that garlic wards off vampires. This same theory seemed to work on witches, werewolves, demons and other such evils one could come across.

Looking for the Latest Issue of the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*? [Click here](#).

Legislation & Policy



The House and Senate will reconvene for session today, April 19. Watch session live [here](#).

Rep. Lawrence to Assume Speaker's Role in Cutler's Absence

As House Speaker Bryan Cutler (R-Lancaster) continues to quarantine because of a positive COVID-19 test, Rep. John Lawrence (R-Chester/Lancaster) will serve as the speaker pro tempore for House session next week. Under the rules for the House, the speaker may appoint a member as speaker pro tempore to act in the speaker's absence.

Learn

[Webinar - Scanning & Document Management for Your Township - 4/21/21](#)

This webinar will provide participants with an overview of the benefits of going digital – converting paper records to searchable digital images - with their records management. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.



[Webinar - Principles of Paving - 4/28/21](#)

This webinar will provide an overview of Principles of Paving, paving techniques, PennDOT specifications, and lessons learned from local officials. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.



[Webinar - Creating Your Personal Financial Foundation - 5/3/21](#)

Managing your personal budget can help you cover expenses with less stress, more easily pay down longer-term debt like a school loan or mortgage and save for future financial goals. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.



[Webinar - Fire and EMS - What Can We Do to Ensure Their Sustainability - 5/5/21](#)

This webinar will educate participants on how fire and emergency medical services (EMS) operate in Pennsylvania. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.



[Webinar - Planning for Land Use and Freight - 5/26/21](#)

With e-commerce generating more distribution and fulfillment centers and delivery to nearly every property, the scope and importance of planning for land use and freight has greatly expanded. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.



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