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May 12, 2021

Latest News

Learn About the Interim Federal Guidelines for Recovery Funding

Join PSATS staff and Premier Partner Zelenkofske Axelrod in a Virtual Town Hall this **Friday, May 14, at 10:30 a.m.** “The American Rescue Plan Act Funding Update” will discuss the ins and outs of the new U.S. Treasury Interim Final Rule for the American Rescue Plan. Nobody wants to get this wrong so join us for proper guidance on what is okay and how your expenditures need to be calculated. [Click here](#) to register!

Reminder: No Need to Apply for Federal Funding

Townships are reminded that municipalities with populations of *less than* 50,000, also known as non-entitlement communities, do NOT need to apply for the federal American Rescue Plan funding. This was clarified in the guidance released on Monday by the U.S. Treasury, which reiterated that funding for smaller communities will come from the commonwealth.

Only municipalities with *more than* 50,000 residents, as well as counties and the states, need to apply directly to the U.S. Treasury, which can be done now. [Click here](#) for more.

FCC \$50 Emergency Broadband Credit Available Today

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Emergency Broadband Benefit Program opens today, which will help make broadband more affordable by providing a discount of up to \$50 per month towards broadband service for eligible households and a one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a computer or tablet from participating providers if they contribute at least \$10 towards the purchase

price.

Eligible households include those participating under the current Lifeline program, which receive benefits under a free and reduced-price school lunch or meet other income eligibility criteria. [Click here](#) to learn more.

Pennsylvania to Increase Size of Gatherings on Monday

The Wolf Administration will increase the size of indoor and outdoor gatherings on Monday, May 17, at 12:01 a.m. Indoor limits will increase from 25% to 50% of capacity, and outdoor events will increase from 50% to 75% of capacity. Masking will still be required.

All mitigation orders except for the masking order will be lifted on Monday, May 31, at 12:01 a.m. The masking order will be lifted when 70% of eligible Pennsylvania adults are fully vaccinated. [Click here](#) for more.

Pennsylvania Now 11th for Vaccine Doses Administered Per Capita

According to the Centers for Disease Control, Pennsylvania has moved up to 11th for total doses administered per capita. Nationally, more than 116 million people have been fully vaccinated, nearly 45% of the adult population.

The commonwealth has now administered 9.3 million vaccine doses. Nearly 4 million Pennsylvanians are now fully vaccinated, and an additional 1.7 million Pennsylvanians have received the first dose of a two-dose vaccine series. [Click here](#) for state numbers and [here](#) for national numbers.

Conference Virtual Workshops Week 3

Can't get enough of PSATS Virtual Conference Workshop series? Here's what is on tap for week 3! To view the full list of workshops and to register, go to <https://learn.psats.org/virtual-conference>



2021 Educational Conference

Virtual Conference Workshops

May 10-14, 2021

May 10, 2021:

- You Just Received a Sewage Facilities Planning Module. Now What? @ 1:30 p.m.
- Department of Agriculture Partnerships with Local Government @ 3 p.m.

May 11, 2021:

- Dealing With Constantly Changing Public Safety Challenges @ 9:30 a.m.
- Grid Scale Solar Developments in Your Community @ 11 a.m.
- Claims of Racism at Your Doorstep: What is a Township to Do? @ 1:30 p.m.
- Squeezing the Most Out of Every Dollar @ 3 p.m.

May 12, 2021:

- Full Depth Reclamation to Upgrade Distressed Roads @ 9 a.m.
- Strategies for Community Revitalization @ 10:30 a.m.
- Building and Rebuilding - Public Trust in Local Government @ 3 p.m.

May 13, 2021:

- Municipal Bidding @ 9:30 a.m.
- Landslides, Rock Falls, Sinkholes, Mine Subsidence: Minimizing Geohazards @ 11 a.m.
- Understanding Real Estate Tax Collection @ 1:30 p.m.

May 14, 2021:

- That Day You DIDNT Make National Headlines! Creating Effective Police Policies @ 1 p.m.

To register for these workshops go to learn.psats.org/virtual-conference

On This Day in History.....

On May 12, 1820, Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing was born. She became well-known while taking care of the wounded soldiers during the Crimean War. Nightingale was dubbed "The Lady with the Lamp" because of her habit of making rounds at night.

Legislation and Policy



The Senate will be in session today, May 12. Watch session live [here](#).

Senate Passes Fertilizer Legislation

Yesterday, the Senate passed SB 251 which would create a certification program for commercial and public applicators of fertilizer, promote homeowner and private agricultural fertilizer education through public outreach and enhance required labeling of all fertilizer products. SB 251 is now awaiting committee assignment in the House.

Senate Finance Committee Approves Firefighter Tax-Exemption Legislation

Yesterday, the Senate Finance Committee approved SB 279 which would exempt firefighters from the sales and use tax when purchasing protective equipment and accessory communications equipment and using personal funds. This legislation would fulfill a recommendation of the SR 6 Commission. SB 279 is now before the Senate.

Learn

PSATS educational events will be listed as follows: Mondays – All webinars; Tuesdays – Administrative; Wednesdays – Planning/Zoning; Thursdays – Public Works; Fridays – Public Safety. Click on the title of the class for more information and to register.

[Strategies for Community Revitalization - Virtual - 5/12/21](#)

Attend this workshop to learn strategies for community revitalization, including streetscape improvements, blight inventories and remediation, land banking, beautification, signage, and more.



[Webinar - Recent Developments in Cellular Antenna Regulations - 5/12/21](#)

Topics of discussion will include the Federal Communications Commission's recent Small Cell Order and subsequent federal appeal, the Pennsylvania case *Crown Castle v. PA PUC* regarding the public utility status of wireless providers, and the future of wireless deployment and regulation.



[Forest Management and Timber Harvesting - Virtual - 5/20/21](#)

This workshop will help you avoid similar problems by introducing you to the newly updated guide, "Forest Management and Timber Harvest in Pennsylvania: Information for Citizens and Local Government Officials."



[Collaborating for Healthier Waters and a Stronger Ag Economy - Virtual - 5/26/21](#)

During this panel discussion, you'll learn how townships have taken action to protect, preserve, and enhance farmland while enhancing the local economy and preserving the community's rural character.



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