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May 24, 2021

Latest News

Municipal Recycling Grants Available

The state Department of Environmental Protection is accepting applications for **Municipal Recycling Program Development and Implementation Grants (Section 902 Grants) until September 24, 2021**. Eligible recycling program development and implementation costs are eligible for 90% funding.

Municipalities that did not receive a Section 902 grant award in 2020 will receive additional consideration during this solicitation period. All municipalities compliant with Act 101 may apply. [Click here](#) for more information.

PA Unemployment Rate Up Again and Continues Above National Average

Pennsylvania's unemployment rate for April increased slightly, from 7.3% to 7.4%. The U.S. rate also increased slightly in April, from 6.0% to 6.1%. Nationally, Hawaii, at 8.5%, had the highest unemployment rate in April, followed by California, New Mexico, and New York.

In Pennsylvania, construction saw the largest gain in jobs, while professional and business services saw the largest decline. Leisure and hospitality had the steepest gain from last April, adding back 200,000 of the nearly 340,000 jobs lost in March and April 2020. [Click here](#) for more.

Pa. COVID-19 Cases, Hospitalizations Continue to Drop

COVID case counts decreased for the fifth week in a row in Pennsylvania, with 9,881 new cases reported this week, 23% less than last week. The statewide COVID-19 total case count now stands at 1,195,013.

Nationally, cases, hospitalizations, and deaths have all been steadily trending downward. Pennsylvania dropped to the 10th highest growth in cases per 100,000, with low-population states Delaware, Colorado, and West Virginia now making up the top three.

For the fifth week in a row, the [number of COVID-19 hospitalizations in Pennsylvania](#) has decreased from 1,499 to 1,261, a 16% decrease. 293 of these patients are in an ICU, down from 330 the prior week. The number of COVID-19 patients on a ventilator statewide decreased from 228 to 177.

Unfortunately, deaths attributed to COVID-19 in Pennsylvania increased this week after decreasing for two straight weeks. 280 deaths were reported this week, 29% more than in the previous week. Total deaths in Pennsylvania have reached 27,029.

Pennsylvania's statewide percent-positivity rate has decreased for the fifth week in a row, from 5.3% to 4.5%. 27 counties now have rates of less than 5% (*up from 14 last week*), 36 counties have rates of 5% to less than 10% (*down from 46 last week*), and four counties have rates of 10% to less than 20% (*down from seven last week*). [Click here](#) for more county-specific information.

Ag Department Demonstrates Safe, Effective Lanternfly Traps

Lanternflies are now hatching, and the state Department of Agriculture is demonstrating how homeowners can use a circle trap to eliminate large numbers of destructive spotted lanternflies without harming beneficial pollinators or small animals. [Click here](#) for instructions from Penn State Extension on how to build the trap. [Click here](#) to learn more about the invasive species. Be sure to share this information with your residents.

This Day in History.....

On May 24, 1944, Patti LaBelle was born in Philadelphia. The Pennsylvania born LaBelle is an American singer, songwriter, actress, and businesswoman. LaBelle is referred to as the "Godmother of Soul". In a career that has spanned over seven different decades, she has sold more than 50 million records worldwide. LaBelle has been inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame, the Hollywood Walk of Fame, and the Apollo Theater Hall of Fame. LaBelle was included in Rolling Stone on their list of 100 Greatest Singers.

[Click here](#) for Saturday's *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.



URGENT! PSATS Issues Grassroots Alert

Members are encouraged to contact your State Senator to support 2 important reforms to right to know law being considered Monday, May 24.

Login to your PSATS account and click on the legislative and policy tab, go to the Grassroot Network page and click on the "Grassroots Engagement Tool." Then click on the "take action" button to contact your Senator. This will include sample text for you to use as well as space for you to provide specific township examples.

The House and Senate will be in session today, May 24th. Watch session live [here](#).

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.

[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.



[Webinar - Row, Row, Row Your Boat: A Guide to Floodplain Management - 6/2/21](#)

This webinar, presented by John Luciani of FirstCapital Engineering, Inc., will address the continuous improvement processes that need to be performed and how to address floodplain ordinance



changes.

[Webinar - Your Personal Financial Foundation - 3 Session Series 6/7/21, 7/12/21 & 8/9/21](#)

This webinar will provide strategies that can work for you. Learn how to find a budgeting tool you like, integrate savings into your budget, maximize your retirement savings, and borrow responsibly.



[Webinar - Get on Point with 3D Laser Scanning in Your Municipalities - 6/9/21](#)

This webinar will explore the 3D Laser Scanner equipment and software, application usages, and the advantages of this digital surveying technology method.



[Webinar - PSATS Insurance Benefits Workshop - 6/10/21](#)

This workshop provides details on medical, dental, vision, life and short-term disability plans offered through PSATS and how it benefits you and your employees to participate.



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