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June 11, 2021

Latest News

Technical Assistance Available for Local Climate Action Program

Townships interested in developing a Local Climate Action Program can apply to the state Department of Environmental Protection's free technical assistance and training program. The program matches local governments with college students to develop greenhouse gas inventories and climate action programs. Interested townships may [click here to apply](#) no later than June 30. The program begins in August. If you have any questions about the program, please contact Heidi Kunka at 717-214-4243 or hkunka@pa.gov

Deadline for Rent and Property Tax Rebates for Seniors, Disabled Extended to December

Older and disabled Pennsylvanians now have until December 31, 2021, to apply for rebates on rent and property taxes paid in 2020. Qualified individuals are encouraged to apply online through mypath.pa.gov. [Click here](#) to learn more about the rebate program.

On This Day in History.....

On June 11, 1979, John Wayne, an iconic American film actor famous for starring in numerous westerns, died at age 72 after battling cancer for more than a decade. Wayne played larger-than-life heroes in dozens of movies and came to symbolize a type of rugged, strong, straight-shooting American man. During four decades of acting, Wayne, with his trademark drawl and good looks, appeared in over 250 films.

Legislation & Policy



The House and Senate were in session yesterday and are now in recess. Both chambers are scheduled to return to session on Monday, June 14.

Emergency Declaration Termination Resolution Passed

Yesterday, the House and Senate adopted a joint Resolution (HR 106) which terminates Governor Wolf's March 6, 2020, COVID-19 emergency disaster declaration.

Township officials should keep in mind that Act 15 of 2020 allowed all local government types to conduct fully virtual or teleconference meetings while the governor's emergency disaster declaration was in effect. Since the disaster declaration was terminated with the passage of HR 106, townships of the second class may go back to pre-declaration conditions and conduct in-person or hybrid meetings. Hybrid meetings must have a physical meeting location where the public may attend in-person, as well as a virtual option, and supervisors may participate in-person or virtually. While some other local government codes have specific requirements for an in-person quorum, the Second Class Township Code does not have any such provisions. The Sunshine Law does require a physical meeting location for the public to participate.

Regulatory Flexibility Bill Passes

Yesterday, the Senate unanimously passed, and the House unanimously concurred on Senate amendments to pass HB 854. This legislation would extend, through September 30, 2021, the suspension of regulatory statutes, orders, rules or regulations put in place as part of the COVID-19 disaster declaration. The Governor is expected to sign HB 854.

Learn

PSATS educational events will be listed as follows: Mondays – All webinars; Tuesdays – Administrative; Wednesdays – Planning/Zoning; Thursdays – Public Works; Fridays – Public Safety.

Emergency Management Fall Exercise Forum

This full-day class is designed for everyone responsible for your municipality's emergency management program, including elected officials, municipal managers, road crew/public works personnel, and, most importantly, local emergency management coordinators (EMCs).



[Emergency Management Fall Exercise Forum - 10/28/21 – PSATS \(Cumberland Co.\)](#)

[Emergency Management Fall Exercise Forum - 11/4/21 – West \(Washington Co.\)](#)

[Emergency Management Fall Exercise Forum - 11/9/21 – East \(Montgomery Co.\)](#)

[Emergency Management Fall Exercise Forum - 11/18/21 – Central \(Centre Co.\)](#)

Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors

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