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August 11, 2021

Latest News

National Awards to Honor Civic Volunteers

Communities depend on civic volunteers, especially firefighters and emergency medical services personnel, and townships rely on residents to serve on volunteer boards, commissions, and committees. If your township has a **population under 25,000**, you can nominate outstanding civic volunteers through the national Small Town America Civic Volunteer Awards. Municipalities represented by the top three winning honorees will receive cash awards of \$20,000, \$10,000, and \$5,000, respectively.

The awards focus national attention on volunteer shortages and supports innovative local volunteer retention and recruitment strategies. Municipalities and counties represented by the top 100 nominees will qualify for a free volunteer management module and a year of free support services for the module from CivicPlus, sponsor of the program.

[Click here](#) to nominate an outstanding volunteer in your township and fill out the online application. The deadline is **October 15**.

Governor Announces 'Vaccine or Test' Requirement for Some State Employees

Gov. Tom Wolf announced yesterday that commonwealth employees in state health care facilities and high-risk congregate care facilities will be required to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 by September 7. This initiative will affect about 25,000 employees working in 24-hour-operated state facilities, including state hospitals, state homes for people with intellectual disabilities, veterans homes,

community health centers, and state correction institutions.

Also, beginning September 7, all new external hires in these facilities must be vaccinated before starting employment. Those who are not vaccinated will be required to undergo weekly COVID-19 testing.

Currently, more than 63% of Pennsylvanians 18 and older are fully vaccinated, with the state ranking fifth among all 50 states for total doses administered. All Pennsylvanians age 12 and older are eligible to schedule a COVID-19 vaccine. Use [Vaccine Finder](#) to find a COVID-19 vaccine provider near you.

Reminder: Federal Temporary Unemployment Benefit Programs to End Sept. 4

The state Department of Labor & Industry is reminding Pennsylvanians that federal unemployment benefit programs, including Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC), Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA), and Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC), will end September 4. The state's regular unemployment compensation program and those receiving benefits from it are unaffected.

L&I urges people currently enrolled in PEUC and PUA to take advantage of free jobseeker services offered through PA CareerLinks®. These services include access to a free job database, resume assistance, information about reskilling opportunities, and more. [Click here](#) to learn more.



Free Crossing Guard Training Resources Are Available from PennDOT

With a new school year approaching, townships can do their part to make sure that adult crossing guards are prepared for their responsibilities. Crossing guards are usually volunteers who have little or no experience when it comes to being a crossing guard, but since they are entrusted with children's lives, it is important that they are properly trained.

PennDOT offers two free resources to help train crossing guards: 1) Adult Crossing Guard Procedures and Techniques course, which focuses on how to be an effective, efficient, and safe crossing guard, and 2) Crossing Guard Train-the-Trainer course, which provides training techniques for teaching others how to be safe, effective crossing guards. While there is no training planned at this time, the PowerPoint presentations are available online. [Click here](#) to access them.

LTAP is also a good resource. In addition to producing a [tech sheet](#) that provides tips and pointers for crossing guards, LTAP led a drop-in session on the topic. The importance of crossing guards, their responsibilities and proper attire, common hazards, and hiring and training practices were discussed. [Click here](#) to view a recording of the session, "Crossing Guards: Why Did the Student Cross the Street?"

Today in History....

On August 11, 1934, a group of federal prisoners classified as "most dangerous" arrives at Alcatraz Island, a 22-acre rocky outcrop situated 1.5 miles offshore in San

Francisco Bay. The convicts—the first civilian prisoners to be housed in the new high-security penitentiary—joined a few dozen military prisoners left over from the island’s days as a U.S. military prison.

Legislation & Policy



U.S. Senate Passes \$1.2 Trillion Infrastructure Bill

Yesterday, the U.S. Senate passed a \$1.2 trillion bipartisan infrastructure bill which includes \$550 billion in new funding for projects ranging from roads and bridges to broadband and rail. As passed, it is substantially smaller than the President’s \$2.3 trillion proposal.

The bill is now heading to the House where it faces an uncertain future. House leaders have stated they will not take it up until after the Senate passes a \$3.5 trillion spending package.

Learn

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

2021 PAAZO Fall Seminar

In the PAAZO Fall Seminar, learn from experts on a wide variety of topics pertinent to your duties as a municipal Zoning official. Specific agenda items will be updated when finalized.

[2021 PAAZO Fall Seminar - 10/19/21 - Central](#)

[2021 PAAZO Fall Seminar -10/21/21 - West](#)

[2021 PAAZO Fall Seminar -11/9/21 - East](#)



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