Morning News

August 16, 2021

Latest News

ARPA Municipal Payments Total Nearly $478 Million
State Treasurer Stacy Garrity announced that the seventh batch of payments under the American Rescue Plan Act's (ARPA) Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery program has been sent to qualifying Pennsylvania municipalities.

Disbursements made this week include payments to 70 municipalities totaling $5.62 million. Combined with previous payments, that means 2,274 Pennsylvania municipalities with populations of less than 50,000 have received more than $477.8 million. Payment information can be found on this interactive map on Treasury's website.

Municipalities with populations of more than 50,000 were required to apply directly to the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

Don't Miss Resolutions Business Meeting, Centennial Celebration!
Be sure to register for PSATS' Centennial Celebration Dinner on October 14 and the Annual Business Meeting on October 15! Members may register for either or both events, which will be held at the Hershey Lodge. **While these events will not replace our Annual Conference, you will not want to miss them!**

Registration: If you're going to the Annual Business Meeting, register at **voting2021.psats.org**. If you're going to the Centennial Celebration, register at **PSATS100.mypli.org**. If you're attending both, start at one site and finish at the other. You will find a button at the end of the one to go to the other.

Pa. COVID-19 Cases, Hospitalizations Continue to Rise
8,912 new cases of COVID-19 were reported last week, a 21% increase compared to the prior week and an increase for the fifth week in a row. Despite this, the commonwealth has the fifth lowest growth in cases per 100,000, with Louisiana, Florida, and Mississippi making up the top three. While state and national cases continue to increase, the rates have slowed compared to a few weeks ago.

The number of COVID-19 hospitalizations in Pennsylvania increased for the fourth week in a row to 1,064, with 297 patients in the ICU. In the last four weeks, hospitalizations due to COVID-19 in Pennsylvania have nearly quadrupled and the number of patients in the ICU has more than tripled. Pennsylvania hospital capacity is not at risk. While the year-end daily death rate was over 200 per day, the current death rate is less than 20 per day.

Pennsylvania's statewide percent-positivity rate increased for the sixth week in a row from 5.4% to 6%. 18 counties now have rates less than 5%, 42 counties have rates of 5% to less than 10%, and seven counties have rates of 10% to less than 20%. Click here for more county-specific information.

CDC Recommends Additional Vaccine Dose for Immunocompromised
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is recommending that moderately to severely immunocompromised people who are fully vaccinated with Pfizer and Moderna receive an additional dose of vaccine. Click here for more. A newly released study finds that the Moderna vaccine has greater efficacy against the delta variant than Pfizer.

Today in History....
On August 16, Babe Ruth and Elvis Presley died.

In 1948, baseball legend George Herman "Babe" Ruth dies from cancer in New York City. For two days following, his body lay in state at the main entrance to Yankee Stadium, and tens of thousands of people stood in line to pay their last respects.

In 1977, Popular music icon Elvis Presley dies in Memphis, Tennessee. He was 42. The death of the "King of Rock and Roll" brought legions of mourning fans to Graceland, his mansion in Memphis. Doctors said he died of a heart attack, likely brought on by his addiction to prescription barbiturates.

Click here for the most recent edition of the Pennsylvania Bulletin!

Learn

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

[Webinar - Steps to Take After the Audit - 8/18/21](#)
Topics covered will include what types of information to communicate with your auditor between audits, areas of focus as the board/management reviews the audit, and potential areas in which your organization can improve.

[Webinar - 21st Century Solutions to Failing Septic System Infrastructure - 8/25/21](#)
This presentation will explore the basics of septic systems, why they fail, the differences in types of septic systems, and the benefits of updating aging or over-stressed infrastructure.

[Webinar - Best Practices for "Quality of Life" Enforcement - 9/8/21](#)
This session will cover a variety of common "quality of life" matters for townships, including managing short-term rental issues, fireworks, and numerous property maintenance challenges and will leave you with best practices to better position your township to be proactive.

[Webinar - Overtime and Other Employee Pay Issues - 9/15/21](#)
This webinar will cover a variety of employee pay-related issues, including which of your township employees are eligible for overtime pay, when employees must be paid for on-the-clock and off-the-clock work, how to calculate overtime pay and much more, and the differences between state and federal laws governing employee pay.

[**Webinar - Know Before You Dig - Geophysics 101 for Municipalities - 9/22/21**](#)
This presentation will provide you with a better understanding of beneficial applications for municipalities through real-life project examples and allow you to learn the benefits of using geophysics before a shovel ever hits the ground.

[**Webinar - Everything You Need to Know about Township Vacancies - 9/29/21**](#)
In this webinar, we will discuss all of the tricky issues that arise when a vacancy occurs on a township board of supervisors, including accepting letters of registrations (or having letters of resignation withdrawn), calculating the timing of required actions and the process for convening the vacancy board.