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August 23, 2021

Latest News

ARPA Municipal Payments Total Nearly \$479.8 Million

State Treasurer Stacy Garrity announced that the eighth 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 30 municipalities totaling \$2 million. Combined with previous payments, that means 2,304 Pennsylvania municipalities with populations of less than 50,000 have received more than \$479.8 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!**

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 Up

17,190 new cases of COVID-19 were reported last week, well below the 100,000 per week from the peak. The statewide COVID-19 total case count now stands at 1,267,709 and cases have increased for six weeks in a row. Despite the jump in cases and unlike last year, the commonwealth ranks 44th in cases per 100,000 nationally, with Louisiana, Mississippi, and Florida continuing to make up the top three.

The [number of COVID-19 hospitalizations in Pennsylvania](#) increased for the fifth week in a row to 1,463 from 1,064, an increase of 37.5 percent. 391 patients are in the ICU compared to the previous week's 297. Total deaths in Pennsylvania have reached 28,076 with 110 new deaths reported this week.

Pennsylvania's statewide percent-positivity rate increased for the seventh week in a row from 6% to 6.9%. Seven counties now have rates less than 5% (down from 18 last week), 46 counties have rates of 5% to less than 10% (up from 42 last week), and 14 counties have rates of 10% to less than 20% (up from seven last week). [Click here](#) for more county-specific information.

PA Unemployment Rate at 6.6% in July

The state Department of Labor and Industry has announced that Pennsylvania's unemployment rate for June was 6.6%, while the national unemployment rate is 5.4%. Pennsylvania's civilian labor force – the estimated number of residents working or looking for work – decreased by 16,000 in July. Over the year, total nonfarm jobs were up 222,200 with leisure and hospitality showing the largest gain. [Click here](#) for more.

Today in History...

On August 23, 1947, the first Little League World Series championship game—the culmination of a three-day tournament in Williamsport, Pa.—features teams from Pennsylvania. Before roughly 2,500 fans, Maynard, a team from Williamsport, defeats Lock Haven, 16-7, to win the title at Original Field. Although it is called the "World Series," 11 of the 12 teams in the tournament are from Pennsylvania; the outlier is a team from Atlantic City, N.J..

[Click here](#) for the latest issue 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 - 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.



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