



August 24, 2021

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## Latest News

### **Make Sure Harrisburg Doesn't Consider Merging Local Governments!**

Township officials are reminded that the Center for Rural Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania Local Government Commission, both legislative agencies of the state General Assembly, are conducting a short demographic survey of elected local officials. This is a great place to define the value of local government! **Survey responses are due August 31, 2021.** Thank you to the many township officials who already responded!

The information from this survey will help these agencies better understand who our elected municipal officials are and why they choose to serve their communities. The survey should take about 10 minutes to complete, and individual responses will be kept strictly confidential. Survey results will be reported in the aggregate. [Click here](#) to complete the survey.

If you have any questions or comments about the survey, please contact either Julia Frey at (717) 787-7680, [jfrey@palegislature.us](mailto:jfrey@palegislature.us), or Jonathan Johnson at (717) 787-9555, email [johnsonj@rural.pa.gov](mailto:johnsonj@rural.pa.gov).

### **FDA Approves First COVID-19 Vaccine**

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved the first COVID-19 vaccine under the normal review and approval process. The Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine is now approved for individuals 16 years of age and older and will be marketed as Comirnaty. The vaccine will continue to be available under emergency use authorization for individuals 12 through 15 years of age and for the administration of a third dose in certain immunocompromised individuals. For more, including details on the review process, [click here](#).

### **FEMA Offers Hazard Mitigation Grants**

Funding notices are now available for the [Flood Mitigation Assistance](#) (FMA) and [Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities](#) (BRIC) grants, which provide funds to states for eligible hazard mitigation activities. Municipalities may apply through their state hazard mitigation officer. Applications will be accepted beginning September 30 and are due January 28, 2022.

To learn more about these programs and how to apply, use the links above. To view upcoming webinars on these programs, [click here](#).

### **Governor Requires State Employees to Wear Masks Indoors**

Effective August 23, all commonwealth employees and contracted staff in commonwealth work locations are required to wear a mask indoors regardless of their vaccination status. Visitors are encouraged to wear masks but are not required to do so.

### **Office of Open Records to Hold Free Training Tomorrow on Sunshine Law**

The Office of Open Records (OOR) will hold a free webinar on the Right-to-Know Law for Law Enforcement tomorrow, August 25, at 10 a.m. The training will focus on those aspects of the Right-to-Know Law that are specific to police departments, such as investigatory records, the impact of Act 22, and CHRIA. [Click here](#) to learn more about this free training opportunity.

OOR will also offer Right-to-Know Law webinars in the coming weeks. Information will be available [here](#) before the webinars.

- Right-to-Know Payment Issues: September 1 at 10 a.m.
- Laws That Protect Information: September 8 at 10 a.m.

### **Today in History....**

On August 24, 1814, during the War of 1812 between the United States and England, British troops enter Washington, D.C. and burned the White House in retaliation for the American attack on the city of York in Ontario, Canada, in June 1813.

When the British arrived at the White House, they found that President James Madison and his first lady Dolley had already fled to safety in Maryland. Soldiers reportedly sat down to eat a meal made of leftover food from the White House scullery using White House dishes and silver before ransacking the presidential mansion and setting it ablaze.

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Learn

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

### **Budgets with QuickBooks**

Learn how to pull years of financial data from QuickBooks and send to Excel to more easily create your proposed township budget.

[9/9/21 - Centre Co.](#)

[9/16/21 - Montgomery Co.](#)

[9/20/21 - Lackawanna Co.](#)

[9/28/21 - Cumberland Co.](#)



### **QuickBooks Year-End Reports**

Learn how to print W-2s and 1099s and file all year-end taxes and reports with the Internal Revenue Service and state agencies.

[9/9/21 - Centre Co.](#)

[9/16/21 - Montgomery Co.](#)

[9/20/21 - Lackawanna Co.](#)

[9/28/21 - Cumberland Co.](#)



### **2021 PSATS HR & Labor Management Institute - 9/23-24/21**

This day and a half class is a must-attend for anyone who has responsibility for HR and personnel management in their township.



### **2021 Solicitors Fall Seminar**

In the Solicitors Fall Seminar learn from experts on a wide variety of topics critical to the practice of a municipal solicitor.

[9/28/21 - West](#)

[10/7/21 - Central](#)

[11/4/21 - East](#)



### **QuickBooks for Beginners**

This class is designed to provide each student with a fundamental understanding and working knowledge of QuickBooks Accounting Software, and is intended to demonstrate the application of QuickBooks and QuickBooks Pro to assist in municipal accounting.

[10/7/21 - Union Co.](#)

[10/12/21 - Cumberland Co.](#)

[10/19/21 - Lehigh Co.](#)



### **PSATS Regional Forums**

“PSATS Live” is back, and we’re going on the road again with our ever-popular Regional Forums at a location near you starting in July in Erie and running

through November in Wilkes-Barre. We have all-new content and a one-day-only format now. Be sure to sign up for the one closest to you!



**PSATS Southeast 2021 Regional Forum - 10/27/21 - Exton**  
**PSATS Northeast 2021 Regional Forum - 11/10/21 - Wilkes-Barre**

#### **Intermediate QuickBooks**

Come learn with us as we discover the benefits of using the Account Payable-A/P and Accounts Receivable-A/R System in QuickBooks.

[10/21/21 - Montgomery Co.](#)

[10/28/21 - Centre Co.](#)

[11/12/21 - Cumberland Co.](#)



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Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors

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