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September 20, 2021

Latest News

Census Releases Additional Files; October *Township News* to Highlight Results

The U.S. Census Bureau has released additional results for the 2020 Census in easier-to-use formats. This is the same data released in August. To view the newly released data, and for guidance on how to access it, [click here](#).

If your township hasn't reviewed its Census 2020 data yet, [click here](#) for the results by township. The October 2021 issue of the *Pennsylvania Township News* features an in-depth look at the results, as well as the bureau's [Count Question Resolution Program](#) for those townships that are questioning their counts. The bureau will send municipalities a letter in December with details about the program. Look for the October cover story for details!

Pension Aid Amounts for 2021 Released

The Office of Auditor General has released the 2021 pension state aid unit values. The adjusted unit value for 2021 is \$4,[657.4852](#), and the revised unit value is \$4,[797.2826](#). State aid will be transferred via ACH payment to municipalities on September 28, 2021.

PA Unemployment Rate at 6.4% in August

The state Department of Labor and Industry has announced that Pennsylvania's unemployment rate for August was 6.4%, down from 6.5% in July, while the national unemployment rate is 5.2%. Pennsylvania's civilian labor force – the estimated number of residents working or looking for work – decreased by 7,000 in August, mainly due to a 6,000-person drop in unemployment, which fell

for the sixth consecutive month. Pennsylvania's total nonfarm jobs were up 5,100 in August, with gains in professional and businesses service and a drop in leisure & hospitality jobs. [Click here](#) for more.

Pa. COVID-19 Percent Positivity Rates Drops; Minor Cases by County Now Available

32,795 new cases of COVID-19 were reported last week. The statewide COVID-19 total case count now stands at 1,380,364. The commonwealth continues to rank 36th in cases per 100,000 nationally, with Tennessee, West Virginia, and Alaska now making up the top three. Every state reported a high rate of transmission for the fourth week in a row.

After increasing for 10 weeks, Pennsylvania's statewide percent-positivity rate has decreased from 9.1% to 8.9%. One county has a rate less than 5% (*up from none last week*), 23 counties have rates of 5% to less than 10% (*compared to 25 last week*), 40 counties have rates of 10% to less than 20% (*same as last week*), three counties have a rate of at least 20% but less than 30% (*compared to one last week*), and no county has a rate of more than 30% (*down from one last week*). [Click here](#) for more county-specific information.

The state Department of Health is now reporting weekly on the number of children who have tested positive for COVID-19 by county. The data is reported for children ages 0-4 and 5-18. For the week of September 8-14, Allegheny reported the highest rates for both age groups. To view the report, [click here](#).

The [number of COVID-19 hospitalizations in Pennsylvania](#) increased by 154 cases last week. There were 54 additional patients added in the ICU. There were 296 new deaths reported bringing the 18-month total to 28,862.

[Click here](#) for the latest issue of the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.

Today in History....

On the evening of September 20, 1777, near Paoli, Pennsylvania, General Charles Grey and nearly 5,000 British soldiers launch a surprise attack on a small Pennsylvania regiment of Patriot troops commanded by General Anthony Wayne in what becomes known as the Paoli Massacre. Not wanting to lose the element of surprise, Grey ordered his troops to empty their muskets and to use only bayonets or swords to attack the sleeping Americans under the cover of darkness. Before it was over, nearly 200 Americans were killed or wounded. The Paoli Massacre became a rallying cry for the Americans against British atrocities for the rest of the Revolutionary War.



The House and Senate both return to session today, September 20. Watch the session live [here](#).

Learn

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

[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.



[Webinar - Perils of the Digital World: An Employer's Guide to Dealing with Data Breaches - 10/6/21](#)

Data breaches are seemingly constantly reported in the news. And not only are municipal governments not immune...they are prime targets. In this webinar, learn about the most common ways that employers suffer from data breaches and best practices for how to put your township in position to avoid those breaches and respond in the event that a breach occurs.



[Webinar - Hot Topics in Planning: Storefront Vacancies, Recovery, & Multifamily Impacts - 10/13/21](#)

In this webinar, representatives of the Montgomery County Planning Commission will cover several new and emerging areas in the planning world and their efforts to address them.



[Webinar - How to Use Your Solicitor Efficiently and Effectively - 10/20/21](#)

This session will highlight real-life experiences and ideas that the presenters have implemented with their municipal clients and leave you with practical advice that you can implement to maximize your municipality's legal budget.



[Webinar - Bidding Basics & Beyond - 10/20/21](#)

Putting projects out to bid is not just about complying with regulations, but also about getting the most for your tax dollars. This thought-provoking session will help you visualize strategies that position your township to achieve both of these objectives when managing bids, all while putting in place practices that minimize the need for blood pressure and headache medicines.



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