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September 7, 2021

Township Video News



TVN's Training Tuesday | Full Slate of Classes Scheduled for Fall

Fall is now on the horizon and so is a full slate of in-person classes for township officials. Topics include QuickBooks, personnel management, fire service strategic planning, more Regional Forums, and our first-ever Zoning Academy. Sign up today! (2:46)

Latest News

American Rescue Plan Update

PSATS has received many questions recently on the American Rescue Plan funds, when to expect new regulations, and when and where townships will need to report on the use of these funds. Here are a few updates:

Reporting: Municipalities with populations of less than 50,000 (*non-entitlement units*) are required to file one report each year, an annual report due on October 31, beginning with **October 31, 2021**. Reports will cover the timeframe of October 1-September 30 (*the federal fiscal year*). Your first report will cover from the time you received the funds until September 30. We know that the report will be made online to Treasury, but few details have been released to date. Treasury is expected to provide a user's guide for this report by the end of September.

Note that states, counties, and municipalities with populations of more than 50,000 are required to file additional reports, such as interim and quarterly reports.

Final Regulations: In May, the U.S. Treasury released an Interim Final Rule on the use of the funds and compliance. Treasury asked for comments on the rule and received a significant amount of input, including a lengthy letter submitted by PSATS. Since the July 16 deadline for comments, Treasury has been working on a new rule, which is expected to be released by October. To date, additional guidance has provided more flexibility and direction on the use of funds, but the final rule **could** also be more restrictive.

PSATS will notify our members once Treasury releases the final rule, as well as the users' guide for the annual report, and will provide direction on these documents.

PSATS Advice: Because of the reporting period for the first annual report ends September 30 and the final rules for the use of the funds have not yet been released, townships may want to consider waiting until after October 1 to spend any funds to simplify the first report and ensure that funds are properly spent.

Learn more: If your township is trying to determine allowable uses under the [Interim Final Rule](#), we recommend that you review the rule itself, as well as the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) provided by Treasury that further explain the allowable uses. In addition, township officials should review the [Compliance and Reporting Guidance](#) provided by Treasury. When reading these documents, particularly the Compliance and Reporting Guidance, be careful to only read those sections that apply to non-entitlement units (NEUs) if your population is less than 50,000. Note that larger municipalities and counties have different reporting requirements than NEUs. At the request of members, PSATS is working on a checklist to assist with project eligibility.

PSATS Premier Partner: While PSATS cannot guarantee that a particular project will meet program requirements, PSATS' new Premier Partner, [Zelenkofske Axelrod](#)

[LLC](#), will work with your township to find eligible uses for the funds that benefit your community and help you navigate federal compliance and reporting requirements. The company can guarantee that an eligible use meets the program requirements and ensure that your documentation is complete. There is an additional fee for this service, which is an eligible use of the ARP funds, and the company is offering discounted pricing to PSATS members. To learn more, contact Pat Kirk at pkirk@zallc.org or Cory Johnson at cjohnson@zallc.org or call (717) 561-9200, ext. 5300

Reminder: PSATS Town Hall on New Meeting Agenda Law

At 9 a.m. tomorrow, September 8, 2021, PSATS will host a free Town Hall on Act 65, the new law governing meeting agendas. To comply with new Act 65, all local government boards and commissions, including boards of supervisors, are now required to post agendas at least 24 hours before each public meeting. Attend this webinar to learn more and ask questions to make sure your township is in compliance with Act 65 of 2021. [Click here](#) to register.

Wolf Administration Provides Update on Storm Response

On Friday, the Wolf Administration provided an update on the Tropical Storm Ida response. As the recovery process gets underway, the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency will assist counties with damage assessments to determine what level of federal support available to Pennsylvania.

The state Department of Transportation estimates that approximately 800 bridges statewide will need post-flood inspections. To complete those inspections as quickly as possible, the department will deploy bridge inspectors and other resources from lesser impacted areas of the state to the most impacted areas.

“PEMA will be cooperating with our partners in local government to conduct damage assessments in as timely a fashion as possible,” said PEMA Director Randy Padfield. “As communities begin cleaning up and making repairs, we want to urge those affected to document their efforts, take pictures of damages and keep copies of their receipts. Having access to these records can be very helpful in obtaining federal recovery assistance, should it be made available.”

To receive a federal disaster declaration for Public Assistance, which provides funding to governments and certain eligible non-profits to repair or replace damaged infrastructure, counties must meet individual thresholds based on population, and the commonwealth overall must meet a threshold of \$19.6 million in damages.

Township officials and local emergency management coordinators should work with their county emergency management office to assess and document the damage sustained to township infrastructure and the community.

Pa. COVID-19 Cases Decrease, While Hospitalizations Increase

24,951 new cases of COVID-19 were reported last week, a 7.6% decrease compared to the prior week. The statewide COVID-19 total case count now stands at 1,319,681. The commonwealth now ranks 40th in cases per 100,000 nationally,

with Tennessee, South Carolina, and Wyoming now making up the top three. Every state reported a high rate of transmission for the second week in a row.

The [number of COVID-19 hospitalizations in Pennsylvania](#) increased for the seventh week in a row to 1,927 from 1,768. 514 patients are in the ICU compared to the previous week's 476. Total deaths in Pennsylvania have reached 28,395 with 182 new deaths were reported this week.

Pennsylvania's statewide percent-positivity rate increased for the ninth week in a row from 7.8% to 8.2%. No counties now have rates less than 5% (*down from four last week*), 25 counties have rates of 5% to less than 10% (*down from 30 last week*), 39 counties have rates of 10% to less than 20% (*up from 32 last week*); three counties have a rate of at least 20% but less than 30% (*compared to none last week*) and no counties have a rate of more than 30% (*compared to one last week*). [Click here](#) for more county-specific information.

Rosh Hashanah Begins

Rosh Hashanah starts at sunset on Monday, and it continues through sunset on Wednesday.

Rosh Hashanah is the only Jewish holiday that is two days long [both outside and inside of Israel](#). The celebration is called yoma arichta, translated as "a long day," because the 48-hour holiday is considered to be one extended day.

Tip: If you want to greet a Jewish friend or family member on Rosh Hashanah, you could say "Shanah Tovah," which means "good year" in Hebrew.

Today in History.....

On September 7, 1813, the United States gets its nickname, Uncle Sam. The name is linked to Samuel Wilson, a meat packer from Troy, New York, who supplied barrels of beef to the United States Army during the War of 1812. Wilson (1766-1854) stamped the barrels with "U.S." for United States, but soldiers began referring to the grub as "Uncle Sam's."

[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.

[Developing Your Township Budget - 9/21/21 - Virtual Training](#)

This virtual class will provide proven and effective methods and techniques to help new and veteran township supervisors, secretaries, treasurers, managers, road masters and public works officials develop budgets that work.



[Breaking Down Generational Differences in Order to Build Up Your Team - Virtual Class - 10/12/21](#)

This discussion will examine generational differences, as well as the unique value that each group brings to the table. It will identify some key similarities and shared beliefs that can sometimes go overlooked.



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.](#)



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.](#)



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.](#)



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](#)



[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

Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors

David M. Sanko, Executive Director

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