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October 11, 2021

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## Latest News

### **PSATS Trustees Offer 2 Free Months!**

The PSATS Trustees are now offering a new Life Insurance Plan design starting with 11/1/2021 effective dates. The new plan offers a \$25,000 term life policy with AD&D coverage and replaces the current \$12,000, \$20,000 & \$30,000 plans. This is a great employee incentive or retention tool. If you do not currently offer a life insurance plan through PSATS, we are excited to offer an incentive program if you sign up for ANY of our plan offerings. When your municipality starts coverage with us in November or December **and** commits to continue coverage for the 2022 calendar year, your premiums for the remainder of 2021 will be at NO COST to you! That's 14 months of coverage for the price of 12! All plan options have only a 15 hour per week minimum for an employee to be eligible.

For more information, or for details on how to sign up, please contact Insurance Coordinator Stephanie Dobson at 717-763-0930 ext. 133 or [sdobson@psats.org](mailto:sdobson@psats.org).

### **Register Your Voting Delegates Today**

There is still time to register your voting delegate for Friday's PSATS Business meeting. Townships and County Associations are entitled to vote. There are 2 years' worth of resolutions to address as well as other important business including bylaws updates and election of Executive Board members. Go to [voting2021.psats.org](http://voting2021.psats.org).

### **Municipal Expenses Approved for Southeast Counties**

The federal government has approved a request for public assistance to municipal, county, and state governments from damage caused by Tropical Depression Ida.

The approval releases public assistance for **Bucks, Chester, and Montgomery counties**. Damage assessments and reviews are ongoing, and other counties may be added.

Through the Public Assistance Program, eligible applicants can be reimbursed up to 75% of the costs incurred for specific categories of assistance provided during the response to and recovery from the impacts of Hurricane Ida in the commonwealth. Examples of expenses that may be reimbursed include costs associated with debris management, repairs to damaged roads and bridges, emergency sheltering of displaced individuals, equipment rentals, and materials. State funding has been made available to assist in offsetting the remaining 25%.

“Storms of this nature have enduring impacts, and while the immediate needs of those affected by the damage Ida brought to Pennsylvania continue to be addressed, my administration has also sought to alleviate the burden posed to local governments as they continue to rebuild critical infrastructure,” Gov. Tom Wolf said. “The public assistance declaration is a vital resource for our communities to seek relief from the staggering costs associated with rebuilding roads, bridges, and other public property.” [Click here](#) for more.

#### **Redevelopment Assistance Available**

The Governor’s Office of the Budget is extending the window for new applications for the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program. This window will open on Monday, October 18, and close on Monday, November 1. This opportunity is only for new projects. If you submitted an application in March 2021, there is no need to resubmit. New applications will be posted, and the 30-day public comment period will begin shortly after the window closes. [Click here](#) for more.

#### **Pa. COVID-19 Cases, Hospitalizations Plateau**

34,391 new cases of COVID-19 were reported last week. For the second week in a row, this was only a 4% increase compared to the prior week. The statewide COVID-19 total case count now stands at 1,479,364. The commonwealth is now 15th in cases per 100,000 nationally, with Alaska, Montana, and North Dakota now in the top three. Nationally, the total number of cases have declined over the past month, while Pennsylvania’s cases have plateaued.

The [number of COVID-19 hospitalizations in Pennsylvania](#) increased by 89 to 2,899, up from 2,800, an increase of only 3.5% and a decrease compared to earlier in the week when hospitalizations crossed 3,000. 10 additional patients are in the ICU, totaling 679. There were 388 new deaths reported this week, an increase of only 10 compared to the previous week.

Pennsylvania’s statewide percent-positivity rate increased for the second week in a row from 9.1% to 9.6%. Two counties have a rate less than 5% (*up from one last week*), 16 counties have rates of 5% to less than 10% (*compared to 14 last week*), 42 counties have rates of 10% to less than 20% (*compared to 50 last week*); seven counties have a rate of at least 20% but less than 30% (*compared to two last week*). [Click here](#) for more county-specific information.

#### **Intermediate QuickBooks - Now Virtual - 10/28 & 11/12/21**

This virtual class is broken out into two half-day sessions. Join us as we discover the benefits of using the Account Payable-A/P and Accounts Receivable-

A/R System in QuickBooks. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.

**2021 PAAZO Fall Seminar West - Now Virtual - 10/21/21**

In the PAAZO Virtual Fall Seminar, learn from experts on a wide variety of topics pertinent to your duties as a municipal zoning official. [Click here](#) for agenda and to register.

**Today in History....**

On October 11, 1968, riding the coattails of Christopher Columbus' discovery of the Americas (Columbus Day), *Apollo 7*, the first manned Apollo mission, was launched with astronauts Walter M. Schirra, Jr.; Donn F. Eisele; and Walter Cunningham aboard. Under the command of Schirra, the crew of *Apollo 7* conducted an 11-day orbit of Earth, during which the crew transmitted the first live television broadcasts from orbit.

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

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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.

**[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.



**[Webinar - Is Your Township Protected from Hackers? A Live Hacking Demonstration - 10/25/21](#)**

During this webinar, representatives of IntermixIT will present a live hacking demonstration in which they show how hackers can breach accounts to gain credentials and other important information. They will also provide insights on how townships can best avoid getting hacked and exposing their valuable information and that of their residents.



**[Webinar - How Capital Improvement Plans Position You to Maximize ROE and Reduce Costs - 10/27/21](#)**

With a capital improvement plan, municipalities can take the guesswork out of infrastructure investment, identify their highest priority needs, and ensure they have the funds in place for repair and replacement before failure or regulatory action puts them at risk.



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Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors

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