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October 18, 2021

Latest News

Delegates Take Action at PSATS Business Meeting

PSATS members gathered in person on **Friday, October 15**, to network with one another and take care of important Association business at PSATS' Annual Business Meeting. Delegates adopted bylaws changes, considered 82 resolutions that will direct PSATS legislative direction, and elected Association officers and Executive Committee members.

In addition, members heard from Association President Marvin Meter and legislative updates from Senator Scott Martin and Representative Mike Carroll. The Derry Township Canine unit presented a demonstration. Outstanding achievement of townships and youth groups were recognized during the session, which ended with an American Rescue Plan Roundtable. Check out the December 2021 issue of the Pennsylvania Township News to learn more!

\$317 Million in Pension Aid Distributed

The Office of Auditor General has distributed more than \$317 million in state aid to support municipal pension plans in 1,492 municipalities and regional departments across Pennsylvania. The funding is generated by a 2 percent tax on fire and casualty insurance policies sold in Pennsylvania by out-of-state companies. To see pension aid allocations by county, [click here](#).

DGS to Auction More Than 300 Vehicles on October 26

The state Department of General Services will auction 300 vehicles on Tuesday, October 26, at 10 a.m. at Manheim Keystone Pennsylvania, 488 Firehouse Road, Grantville. There will be a wide selection of vehicles used by state agencies.

Preregistration and in-person previewing of vehicles will take place Thursday, October 21 through Sunday, October 24. Preregistration is mandatory. [Click here](#) to learn more.

Municipal Expenses from Ida Approved for Seven More 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 **Bedford, Fulton, Huntingdon, Luzerne, Philadelphia, Schuylkill, and York Counties**. Municipal expenses for Bucks, Chester, and Montgomery counties were approved last week. Damage assessments and reviews are ongoing, and other counties may be added.

Through the FEMA 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%. [Click here](#) for more.

Pa. COVID-19 Cases Decrease

31,066 new cases of COVID-19 were reported last week, a 10% decrease compared to the prior week. The statewide COVID-19 total case count now stands at 1,510,430. The commonwealth remains 15th in cases per 100,000 nationally, with Alaska, Montana, and Wyoming now in the top three.

The [number of COVID-19 hospitalizations in Pennsylvania](#) increased for the thirteenth week in a row to 2,961 from 2,899, an increase of only 2%. 678 patients are in the ICU, down 1 from the previous week's 679. Total deaths in Pennsylvania have crossed 30,000 to reach 30,418, with 511 new deaths reported this week, an increase of 123 compared to the previous week.

Pennsylvania's statewide percent-positivity rate increased for the third week in a row from 9.6% to 9.7%. One county has a rate less than 5% (*down from two last week*), 14 counties have rates of 5% to less than 10% (*compared to 16 last week*), 50 counties have rates of 10% to less than 20% (*compared to 42 last week*); six counties have a rate of at least 20% but less than 30% (*compared to seven last week*), two counties have a rate of at least 30% (*compared to none last week*). [Click here](#) for more county-specific information.

Today in History...

On October 18, 1767, Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon complete their survey of the boundary between the colonies of Pennsylvania and Maryland as well as areas that would eventually become the states of Delaware and West Virginia. The Penn and Calvert families had hired Mason and Dixon, English surveyors, to settle their dispute over the boundary between their two proprietary colonies, Pennsylvania and Maryland.

Legislation & Policy



The Senate will be in session today, October 18. 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 - 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.



[Webinar - Best Practices for Conducting Preliminary Damage Assessments - 11/3/21](#)

In this webinar, Tom Hughes with PEMA will review best practices for damage assessments and review the path forward for PEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.



Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors

David M. Sanko, Executive Director

4855 Woodland Drive
Enola, PA 17025