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November 1, 2021

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## Latest News

### **Post-Pandemic Population Shifts Favor Townships**

According to WHTM, a Harrisburg-based media outlet, there is a rural housing boom in Pennsylvania. In 2021, rural housing sales went up 7%, while urban sales went down 6%.

What does this mean? The state and municipalities with increases won't get the funding to match the increase.

"It's a double-edged sword, it's great that more people want to live and work in rural Pennsylvania and undoubtedly much of this is driven by the pandemic. People want to work and live in an area that's not as congested, that has a great quality of life. But, at the same time, these housing sales largely occurred outside the census capture date," Kyle Kopko, director for the Center for Rural Pennsylvania, said. The Center for Rural PA will help counties collect data to monitor how this will affect the population.

### **Be On The Lookout!**

The state Department of Community and Economic Development mailed its Annual Notice to File to all municipalities on October 27, 2021. Township officials should watch for this notice, which contains important information about required filings.

The mailing addresses used were pulled from the 'Contact' position listed in your township's Report of Elected and Appointed Officials. If you have not received this letter, you may download a copy of it by [clicking here](#). The tip sheets referenced in

the letter can be [found here](#).

### **FDA Approves Pfizer Vaccine for Children**

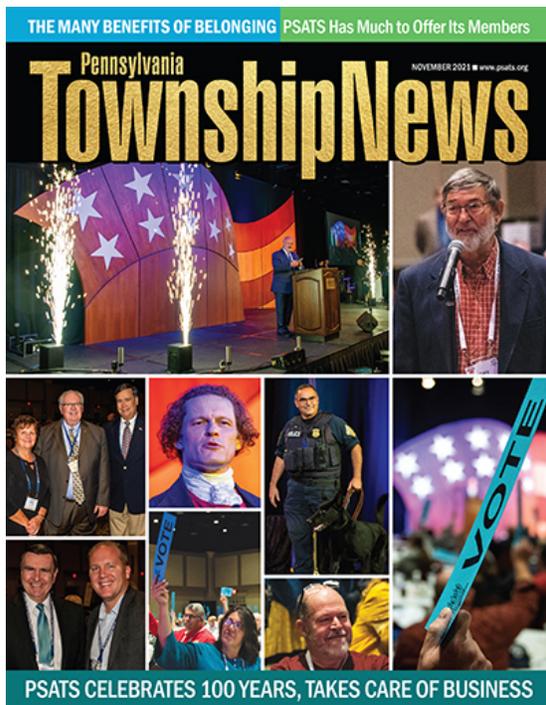
The U.S. Food and Drug Administration authorized the emergency use of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine for use in children ages 5 through 11. Immune responses of children 5 through 11 were comparable to those of individuals 16 through 25 years of age and was found to be 90.7% effective in preventing COVID-19 in the 5-11 age group. The shots were found to have no serious side effects. [Click here](#) for more.

### **Pa. COVID-19 Cases, Hospitalizations Continue to Drop**

26,643 new cases of COVID-19 were reported last week, a decrease compared to the prior week for the third week in a row. The statewide COVID-19 total case count now stands at 1,564,939. The commonwealth fell to 19th in cases per 100,000 nationally, with Alaska, Montana, and Wyoming remaining in the top three. Florida has the lowest rate among states.

The [number of COVID-19 hospitalizations in Pennsylvania](#) decreased this week from 2,783 to 2,754, a drop for the second week in a row. 653 patients are in the ICU, a slight decrease compared to the previous week's 675. Total deaths in Pennsylvania have reached 31,454, with 482 new deaths reported this week, a decrease compared to the previous week.

Pennsylvania's statewide percent-positivity rate decreased for the second week in a row from 9.2% to 8.8%. Two counties have a rate less than 5% (*compared to two last week*), 22 counties have rates of 5% to less than 10% (*compared to 18 last week*), 39 counties have rates of 10% to less than 20% (*compared to 44 last week*); four counties have a rate of at least 20% but less than 30% (*compared to three last week*). [Click here](#) for more county-specific information.



### **Digital Version Now Available!**

#### **Township News Provides Recap of October Events in Hershey**

Last month, hundreds of PSATS members and guests gathered at the Hershey Lodge to enjoy a Centennial Dinner and meet for the Annual Business Meeting. The November issue of the *Township News* shares — in photos and text — what took place at these two events. In other articles, the *News* explores the value of PSATS membership, highlights the benefits of the Township Legal Defense Partnership, and provides a checklist to ensure your township has a successful annual organization meeting.

Subscribers to the *News* can access a digital copy by signing in to [www.psats.org](http://www.psats.org) and clicking on “Digital Publications” under “My PSATS Profile.” Not yet a subscriber? You can check out the free cover article [here](#) and learn how to subscribe to the *News* [here](#).

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

On November 1, 1800, President John Adams, in the last year of his only term as president, moved into the newly constructed President’s House, the original name for what is known today as the White House.

Adams had been living in temporary digs at Tunnicliffe’s City Hotel near the half-finished Capitol building since June 1800, when the federal government was moved from Philadelphia to the new capital city of Washington, D.C.

**[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 - 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.



**Webinar - Maximizing Your COVID Relief Funds through Facilities Projects - 11/9/21**

This session will walk you through options for leveraging your funding into lasting, impactful facilities projects that will become valuable township assets.



**Webinar - Efficiencies in Park and Open Space Management - 11/10/21**

Designed to emphasize the importance of parks and public open space as essential elements in community infrastructure, this webinar will highlight opportunities for land managers to improve maintenance, operational efficiencies, and sustainability efforts.



**Webinar - Top 10 Strategies for Using ARPA Funding for Stormwater Management - 11/16/21**

This webinar will summarize federal guidance for the use of ARPA funds for water quality, flood resilience, and land protection projects, with an emphasis on how this limited funding can best be used to meet long-term community needs.



**[Webinar - Taxes/Finance-A Quick Dive into Article XXIII of the Second Class Township Code - 11/18/21](#)**

In this webinar, we will review what the Second Class Township Code allows – and does not allow – when it comes to township taxes and finance.



**[Webinar - Preparing for an Audit of ARPA Expenditures: What to Do Now - 11/22/21](#)**

This webinar is designed to address the potential audit of township expenditures of ARPA funds by the federal government.



**[Webinar - The ABCs of Liquid Fuels Tax Funds - 11/23/21](#)**

Attend this session to learn the basics about liquid fuels funding, including how it's allocated, what can be purchased, and where townships can turn for support and assistance.



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