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December 2, 2021

Township Video News



TVN's Question of the Week | How do we swear in supervisors?

While it is permitted, it's not required that the new and reelected supervisors be sworn in at the organization meeting. The Township Code requires these officials to take the oath of office from a notary public, district magistrate, or judge before participating in the organization meeting. The organization meeting is January 3, 2022. If the oath is given in advance, new and reelected supervisors must present file the signed and attested copy of the oath of office with the township secretary before performing the duties of office. [Click here](#) to catch up on previous Questions of the Week!

Latest News

State Revenues Continue to Exceed Estimates

The Independent Fiscal Office (IFO) and state Department of Revenue have released November 2021 revenue reports. State General Fund collections totaled \$6.6 billion and were 3.9% higher than estimates. The overage was primarily due to stronger-than-anticipated sales and use tax revenues. Corporate net income tax, personal income tax, inheritance tax, and realty transfer tax revenues all exceeded estimates. Overall collections for the fiscal year-to-date are higher than expected (*\$1.2 billion, or 6.8% above estimate*). November non-tax revenues included \$3.84 billion from the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund.

The Motor License Fund received \$253.1 million in November, \$4.7 million above estimate. The fund includes liquid fuels taxes and other license, fine, and fee revenues. Motor License collections for the fiscal year-to-date total \$1.2 billion, 4% above estimate.

[Click here](#) for the Independent Fiscal Office report. View the state Department of Revenue press [release here](#).

PA Covid Numbered Corrected

In a Thanksgiving eve press release, (missed by most) Pennsylvania's vaccination picture abruptly turned out to be something of a mirage last week.

The CDC, after sorting out PA data problems such as double counts, last week said the number of fully vaccinated adult Pennsylvanians is only 68.8% — significantly less than the previous figure of 73.7%. A Pennsylvania Department of Health spokesperson said it amounts to nearly 1.1 million people who were believed to be fully vaccinated who, as it turns out, are not.

This from the today's Allentown Morning Call citing Pennlive (Harrisburg Patriot News)....

"On Sunday, Pennsylvania's seven-day average of new infections stood at 5,344, according to tracking by Johns Hopkins University. Its average daily death count was 46. A year earlier,

Pennsylvania was averaging 6,674 new infections and 84 deaths. Pennsylvania's peak daily average of new infections, 10,631, came Dec. 13, according to Johns Hopkins data. Its daily average number of deaths peaked at 222 Jan. 12.

As of Monday, Pennsylvania's 14-day average of hospitalized COVID-19 patients stood at 3,278, similar to Nov. 29, 2020, according to state health department data. Pennsylvania's daily average for hospitalizations peaked at about 6,100 around

Christmas.

Before we reach those levels again, doctors predict, a combination of vaccinated people and unvaccinated people who have been infected, and therefore have some immunity, will bring us to a point where there aren't many people left to get infected."

USDA Accepting Broadband Applications

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is accepting applications for up to \$1.15 billion in loans and grants to help people in rural areas get access to high-speed internet. Funding priority is for those in low-density rural areas and areas lacking internet service at speeds of at least 25 Mbps (download) and 3 Mbps (upload). The deadline for applications is February 22, 2022. [Click here](#) to learn more about the program.

In The "Be Alert, But Not Alarmed" Category....

A San Francisco traveler returning from South Africa is the first U.S. case of the newest COVID-19 variant found in California. It is considered the latest "variant of concern," and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the [U.S. Food and Drug Administration](#) are actively monitoring Omicron. The California case is fully vaccinated and experiencing mild flu-like symptoms. [Click here](#) to learn more.

Today in History....

Legend has it that on the night of December 2, 1777, Pennsylvania housewife and nurse Lydia Darragh single-handedly saves the lives of General George Washington and his Continental Army when she overhears the British planning a surprise attack on Washington's army for the following day.

During the occupation of Philadelphia, British General William Howe stationed his headquarters across the street from the Darragh home, and when Howe's headquarters proved too small to hold meetings, he commandeered a large upstairs room in the Darraghs' house. Mrs. Darragh would eavesdrop and take notes on the British meetings from an adjoining room and would conceal the notes by sewing them into her coat before passing them onto American troops stationed outside the city.

That night, Darragh overheard the British commanders planning a surprise attack on Washington's army at Whitemarsh, Pennsylvania, for December 4 and 5. Using a cover story that she needed to buy flour from a nearby mill just outside the British line, Darragh passed the information to American Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Craig the following day.

The British marched towards Whitemarsh on the evening of December 4, 1777, and were surprised to find General Washington and the Continental Army waiting for them. After three inconclusive days of skirmishing, General Howe chose to return his troops to Philadelphia.

It is said that members of the Central Intelligence Agency still tell the story of Pennsylvanian Lydia Darragh, one of the first spies in American history.

Learn

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

[Webinar - Stormwater Management: An Annoying Requirement, Simplified - 1/26/22](#)

This webinar is designed to provide participants with an overview of the challenges and best practices associated with managing a township's many stormwater-related responsibilities – in a way that is user friendly and easy to understand.



[Webinar - Where We Ride: Bicycle and Pedestrian Networks and Improvements - 2/23/22](#)

Do all streets and roads need to be “complete”? Not all do, but enough to create a network that allows bicyclists and pedestrians to travel to their regular destinations.



Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors

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