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January 10, 2022

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## Latest News

### **2022 PSATS Educational Conference/Exhibit Show Registration Opens Tuesday at 9 a.m.**

To prepare, you should have:

- Obtain your PSATS ID number (begins with a "C") to get the member rate.
- Identify your voting delegate.
- Watch the registration how-to video at [conference.psats.org](https://conference.psats.org).

Once registered for the conference, you will be able to make your hotel reservation. Let's come "Together Again" in Hershey this April!

Questions on PSATS ID number contact member services today at [memberservices@psats.org](mailto:memberservices@psats.org).

### **Reminder: U.S. Treasury Releases Final ARP Rule**

The U.S. Department of the Treasury has released the final rule for the American Rescue Plan funds. The nearly 500-page rule broadens the allowable uses of the funds. While the final rule does not take effect until April 1, 2022, and applies to the second reporting cycle, local governments may take advantage of the new rules now if it will benefit them.

Of note, the final rule includes a simplified lost revenue provision that gives each local government a \$10 million standard allowance for lost revenues. This means that the first \$10 million of your ARP dollars can be spent on nearly anything that would normally be paid for from your general fund, including roads and bridges. No townships received more than \$10 million so there is wide flexibility.

In comments to Treasury in July, PSATS urged the agency to simplify rulemaking and expand the allowable uses. PSATS will provide more details next week as we digest the extensive new rulemaking and will hold a town hall on the final rule before the end of January.

In the meantime, Treasury is holding a series of webinars on the final rule:

- January 10, 2022, at 4 p.m. ET; [register here](#).
- January 12, 2022, at 1 p.m. ET; [register here](#).

To view the new rule and many other documents about it and the implementation of the final rule, [click here](#).

### **State Farm Show Opens**

While Local Officials Day is not being held this year, PSAT Executive Director Dave Sanko wants to acknowledge the multiple township supervisors who attended to help or support local agriculture. Whether assisting youth with the competitions or working in the various booths, your commitment to the future of Pennsylvania's largest industry did not go unnoticed, Wider aisles and fewer equipment vendors allowed for a more "spread-out" feeling. While crowd size was smaller, vendors were reporting record sales as people "came to spend".

With 48 hours notice, we have been asked to share the following:

Secretary Redding would like to invite you and the members of the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors to a virtual panel discussion during the 106<sup>th</sup> Farm Show on January 12<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 am – 12:00 pm.

This panel will be held for public officials, as a way to recognize the partnerships between stakeholders and industry representatives with state and local government officials. This is an opportunity to hear the stories, experiences, and perspectives of our ag community, and see how your work every day has resulted in harvesting more investments, growth, and opportunity across the commonwealth.

The Farm Show's theme this year is Harvesting More, a testament to the work, innovation, and perseverance of our ag community. Our four speakers embody this theme through their efforts:

Jake Grim, Table Rock Markets

Hawa Lassanah, DECA Farms & Backyard Farming Cooperative

Morgan Livingston, Penn State Butcher School Apprenticeship Student and 5<sup>th</sup> generation farmer

Trever Gill, Owner of Brymesser Farms and 4<sup>th</sup> generation farmer

Our panelists will tell their story, highlight their partners, and talk about how grants and other resources played a part in their journey.

We hope that you can join us in celebrating Harvesting More!

Connection information:

## **Microsoft Teams meeting**

**Join on your computer or mobile app**

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

**Or call in (audio only)**

[+1 267-332-8737,,486209207#](#) United States, Philadelphia

Phone Conference ID: 486 209 207#

[Find a local number](#) | [Reset PIN](#)

### **COVID Update**

180,936 new cases of COVID-19 were reported last week in Pennsylvania. The commonwealth dropped to 17th in cases per 100,000 nationally, with Rhode Island, New York, and New Jersey now in the top three.

The number of hospitalizations compared to the total COVID-19 cases is significantly lower than the 2020 surge and only about 15% of the hospitalized patients are in the ICU, compared to 20% a year ago. This week, 1,047 patients are in the ICU, an increase from the previous week's 967.

[Click here](#) for more county-specific information.

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

On January 10 1946, The first General Assembly of the United Nations, comprising 51 nations, convenes at Westminster Central Hall in London, England. One week later, the U.N. Security Council met for the first time and established its rules of procedure. Then, on January 24, the General Assembly adopted its first resolution, a measure calling for the peaceful uses of atomic energy and the elimination of atomic and other weapons of mass destruction.

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

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Legislation & Policy



The House will be in session today, January 10. Watch the session live [here](#).

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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 - Should We Have an Ordinance for That? - 1/12/22](#)**

In this webinar, representatives from the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission will review key issues that are important to your township's comprehensive planning and implementation efforts (using Susquehanna Township as an example), including infrastructure, land development, open space, housing/building stock, cultural resources, and transportation.



### **[Webinar - Our Board is Divided – What Now? - 1/19/22](#)**

In this webinar, we will discuss a variety of common “divided board” issues, including filling vacancies on the board of supervisors, what to do when a supervisor abstains from voting to avoid controversial issues, the role of the chair in bringing order to the meeting, and the rights of supervisors to address topics that are not on the agenda.



**Webinar - What USDA Rural Development Can Do for Your Townships - 1/25/22**

In this webinar, you will learn about how your township can benefit from more than 50 loan and grant programs administered by USDA.



**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 - How to Handle Claims under the Heart and Lung Act - 2/2/22**

Many public employers do not understand their rights and liabilities under the Heart and Lung Act. As the result, improper benefits are provided and municipalities expend significant costs that may have been avoided.



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**Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors**

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