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January 19, 2022

Latest News

DEP Releases Draft 2022 Water Quality Report

The state Department of Environmental Protection has released its draft Pennsylvania 2022 Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report on the health of streams and lakes statewide. Waters are assessed for one or more of four uses: drinking water, fish consumption, aquatic life, and recreational use and are determined to be attaining or impaired. For this report, DEP expanded assessment of waterways to include an additional 5,844 stream miles and 25,742 public lake acres, as well as a reassessment of 5,334 miles of streams and 14,262 public lake acres.

Comments may be submitted on the report until March 1. [Click here](#) to learn more about water quality for waterways in your township.

IFO 2021 Natural Gas Impact Fees Up

The Independent Fiscal Office released its 2021 estimate for the natural gas impact fees. The total estimate is \$233.8 million, a \$87.6 million increase from collections for 2020. The primary reasons are due to a higher average annual price of natural gas and reduced collections from aging wells. [Click here](#) for more information.

Reminder: PSATS Town Halls on Final ARP Rule Scheduled for Tomorrow

Don't miss PSATS' Virtual Town Halls on the U.S. Treasury's final rule for the American Rescue Plan funding, scheduled for tomorrow, Thursday, January 20, at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.

The final rule contains significant new flexibility by allowing townships to opt for a standard lost revenues allowance of \$10 million to be used for general government purposes. Learn about what this means for your township, as well as broadened uses for water and sewer and pandemic-related expenses. We will also cover expectations for reporting. [Click here](#) to register for the 11 a.m. Town Hall and [click here](#) to register for the 3p.m. session!

Free At-Home COVID-19 Tests Available

The U.S. Post Office is now taking orders from residential households for one order of 4 free at-home rapid antigen tests from USPS.com. Orders will ship in late January. [Click here](#) for more.

Today in History....

On January 19, 1809, poet, author and literary critic Edgar Allan Poe is born in Boston, Massachusetts.

By the time he was three years old, both of Poe's parents had died, leaving him in the care of his godfather, John Allan, a wealthy tobacco merchant.

Legislative News



The Senate will be in session today, January 19. Watch the session live [here](#).

Yesterday, the Senate passed the following bills:

[SB 861](#) would authorize Pennsylvania to join the EMS Compact and make it easier for EMS personnel to move across state boundaries in performing their duties.

[SB 450](#) would designate a seat for Penn State Extension on the board of the Center for Rural Pennsylvania.

Learn

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

Duties of a Zoning Hearing Board

Topics to be covered include procedures for deciding variances and special exceptions, handling hearing-related questions, Ethics Act requirements and much more.

[2/22/22 - Chester County](#)

[3/3/22 - Butler County](#)

[3/8/22 - Cumberland County](#)



[Duties of a Zoning Hearing Board - 3/15/22 - Virtual Class](#)

Topics to be covered include procedures for deciding variances and special exceptions, handling hearing-related questions, Ethics Act requirements and much more.



[2022 PAAZO Spring Educational Forum - 4/24/22](#)

This educational forum explores issues that zoning officers and planning and zoning officials face on a

regular basis, and discusses effective strategies to address them.



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