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January 24, 2022

Latest News

Townships Receive SAM.gov SPAM

PSATS received several reports about suspicious emails claiming to be SAM.gov registration renewals, often claiming that users will need to pay a fee to renew their information. **The System for Award Management (SAM) is a 100% free government website.** The U.S. government will never send an email requesting payment to register or update information.

Be on the lookout for email addresses that try to mimic government email addresses, for example, "sam-registration-gov@gsasam.com." In general, emails from the federal government will come from a **.gov** or a **.mil** email domain. Look at both the sender's display name and the sender's email address to verify if it is a legitimate email. If you are suspicious, **do not respond or click on any links.**

Please note that SAM.gov registrations **will need to be renewed each year.** When you receive an official email telling you to renew, which will come from a **.gov** domain, check your original registration email, which will have your township's SAM.gov expiration date.

If you receive an unsolicited email claiming or implying affiliation with the U.S. government (*or which a reasonable person could confuse with an official message from the government*), you can:

- Forward the email to the Federal Trade Commission Unsolicited Consumer Emails (UCE) program at spam@uce.gov.

- Report the contact to the Federal Bureau of Investigation [Internet Crime Complaint Center](#) (IC3).

DCNR Accepting Applications for Recreation Grants

The state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) is now accepting applications for the 2022 round of Community Conservation Partnerships Program Grants. Projects will be selected based, in part, on how they align to the priorities outlined in DCNR's [2020-2024 Statewide Outdoor Recreation Plan](#). These priorities include community parks and recreation, land conservation, watershed restoration/rivers implementation, and trails.

The application period is open **until April 6, 2022**. All applications must be submitted electronically through [DCNR's Grants Portal](#). You can find additional grant information, project guidance documents, program policies, and instructions on the portal site.

Recorded PSATS Town Hall on Final ARP Rule Available

Last week, PSATS staff offered a town hall on the final rule for the American Rescue Plan and the significant new flexibility it provides. To view the recording of the town hall, [click here](#). To view the slides, [click here](#). For more information about the final rule and links to U.S. Treasury documents, [click here](#) for PSATS' American Rescue Plan page.

L&I Confirms UC Investigation, Offers Credit-Monitoring to UC Claimants

The state Department of Labor and Industry confirmed an ongoing FBI and Homeland Security investigation into unusual account changes within Pennsylvania's unemployment compensation system. Interested UC claimants may register for free credit-monitoring services in the near future as a preventative measure. For more information, including how to report UC Fraud and identity theft, [click here](#).

COVID-19 Cases, Hospitalizations Drop as Omicron Slows in PA

After several weeks of increasing rates, new cases of COVID-19 in Pennsylvania dropped by 48% and percent-positivity rates dropped from 35.3% to 31%. Hospitalizations decreased by 12%. Deaths also saw a decrease compared to the previous week. [Click here](#) for more county-specific information.

Today in History.....

On January 24, 1848, a millwright discovers gold along the banks of Sutter's Creek in California, forever changing the course of history in the American West.

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



The Senate and the House will be in session today, January 24. 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 - 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.



[Webinar - Intergenerational Community Engagement and Planning: Values and Practices - 2/9/22](#)

In this webinar, representatives of Penn State Extension will first engage participants in a discussion of challenges they have faced and provide practices for how they can address them to the benefit of their communities.



[Webinar - The Township Official in 2022: Your Role in Meeting the Challenges - 2/16/22](#)

This session will feature discussion on some of the issues that Township officials routinely face, as well as challenges unique to the last two years.



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