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January 25, 2022

Township Video News



TVN's PSATS Roulette | Register for the Grassroots Reception NOW!

How can you talk to your state Senators and Representatives about local government policy? Register for the FREE Grassroots and Legislative Reception at the 2022 Annual Conference!

Latest News

2022 Road and Safety Awards Program Accepting Entries from PA Townships

The Pennsylvania Highway Information Association (PHIA) has launched its annual Road and Bridge Safety Improvement Award program for 2022. The annual contest is now taking applications from townships that are members of PSATS.

Each year PHIA and the state Department of Transportation team with PSATS and other state organizations to recognize the best road safety or bridge improvement projects undertaken in Pennsylvania. Eligible projects are those in which most or all of the safety improvements were completed in 2021. The competition recognizes not only major, high-cost projects, but any improvements that have increased public safety.

The program will recognize townships' use of highway user fees for needed community safety improvements, culminating in a presentation to the winners at PSATS' Annual Conference at the Hershey Lodge on **April 25, 2022**. Click [HERE](#) to download a copy of the entry brochure. **The entry deadline is March 4, 2022.**

Administration Announces Grant Awards

The Wolf Administration recently announced grant awards for several programs:

- \$25 million in federal set-aside grants for economic development or community revitalization of abandoned mine land were recently awarded. Several projects benefit townships. [Click here](#) for more.
- \$168 million in grants and loans for 15 **drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater projects** funded through the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority, including a project in Lewis Township, Union County, to expand an existing wastewater treatment plant with new technologies and decommissioning malfunctioning on-lot systems throughout the community. [Click here](#) for more.

PA Unemployment Rate Still Above National Average

The state Department of Labor and Industry has announced that Pennsylvania's unemployment rate for December was 5.4%, down from 5.7% in November, while the national unemployment rate is 3.9%. [Click here](#) for more.

Today in History.....

On January 25, 1961, President John F. Kennedy becomes the first U.S. president to hold a live televised news conference. Kennedy knew that, in a televised news conference, his appearance would count almost as much as what he said. The 35th president took 5 days off, in advance, and exhibited a calm demeanor during the event. Kennedy's ability to project charm, intelligence, strength and openness defined the presidential image in the age of mass media.

Legislation & Policy



The Senate and the House will be in session today, January 25. Watch the session live [here](#).

The following bills passed the House yesterday:

[HB 1351](#) would amend the **Second Class Township Code** to prohibit the board of auditors from surcharging an elected or appointed official when that official acted in good faith based on a written, nonconfidential opinion of the township's solicitor or an opinion of the solicitor publicly stated at an open meeting. The bill also would allow a township to appoint a partnership, limited partnership, association, or professional corporation as the township's manager – in addition to the current ability to appoint a person. The bill now goes before the Senate.

[HR 165](#) is a joint resolution adopting the 2020 Census population set without adjusting any group quarters population for use in congressional redistricting legislation. The bill was previously approved by the Senate.

The House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee has reported out [SB 739](#), which would amend the Emergency Services Loan Assistance Program to incorporate a statewide referendum to expand the program's eligibility to include nonprofit chartered fire companies and municipal-owned fire companies. The bill previously passed the Senate.

Learn

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

PSATS Boot Camp for Township Officials

This three-day event was created just for you — *newly elected (or veteran) supervisors, other newly elected officials, and new secretaries/managers*. Learn the everyday tasks to running a municipality, explore the tools and resources available to help you do your job successfully, and experience real-life scenarios through discussion with experienced PSATS members. [Click here](#) for dates/locations and to register.



Basic Training for Secretaries and Administrators

Topics covered will range from budgeting, purchasing, advertising and meeting management all the way to human resource issues and public engagement.

[3/22/22 - Cumberland Co.](#)

[3/24/22 - Chester Co.](#)

[4/7/22 - Centre Co.](#)



QuickBooks Tips and Tricks - Dauphin County - 4/24/22

Join your colleagues from around the state for this newly REVISED class where Diana Patton, who has spent 30 years as a township secretary/treasurer and the last 19 years as a Certified QuickBooks Instructor and Trainer, will show you all the ways you can use QuickBooks to better serve the financial needs of your municipality.



Basic "Virtual" Training for Secretaries and Administrators - Jan. 27 & Feb. 3, 2022

This virtual training class will be offered in two half-day sessions. This is your opportunity to learn from acknowledged experts about all the most important issues township secretaries and managers need to know, right from the comfort of your desk. Topics



covered will range from budgeting, purchasing, advertising and meeting management all the way to human resource issues and public engagement.

[Demystifying Grant Seeking: Tools & Tips for Success - Virtual Class - 3/10/22](#)

Join fundraising master trainer, Chad Barger, CFRE, for a session focused on seeking grant support for township projects and programs. The session begins with an overview of the role of grant funding in an organization and the prerequisites for seeking grant support.



[QuickBooks for Beginners - Virtual Class - 3/10 & 17/22](#)

This virtual class is broken out into two half-day sessions. It is designed to provide each student with a fundamental understanding and working knowledge of QuickBooks Accounting Software, and is intended to demonstrate the application of QuickBooks and QuickBooks Pro to assist in municipal accounting.



[Newsletter Best Practices: Keeping Residents Updated Via Email & Postal Mail- Virtual Class - 4/7/22](#)

We'll examine how print/mailed communications work in tandem with email to ensure our donors are informed and engaged.



Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors

David M. Sanko, Executive Director
4855 Woodland Drive
Enola, PA 17025



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