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January 3, 2022

Latest News

Happy Organization Meeting Day!

Welcome new supervisors. Your term of office officially began at 12:01AM!

Firefighting Grants Available from FEMA

The Federal Emergency Management Agency is now accepting Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grant (SAFER) applications **until February 4, 2022**. This program provides funding directly to fire departments and volunteer firefighter organizations to help them increase or maintain the number of trained firefighters available in their communities.

To learn more about this program and the steps necessary to apply, [click here](#). If you have questions about the guidance materials, contact the Fire Grants Help Desk toll-free at 1-866-274-0960 or email firegrants@fema.dhs.gov.

\$70 Million in Park and Recreation Grants Awarded

The Wolf Administration announced \$70 million in grant awards for 317 projects across Pennsylvania that will revitalize communities, create new recreational opportunities, and conserve natural spaces. Many townships across the commonwealth will receive a portion of this funding for projects that will benefit their residents. Grant awards include 152 park, recreation, and conservation projects, protection of 4,400 acres of open space, 180 acres of streamside forest buffers, and 48 non-motorized and motorized trail projects. [Click here](#) for more. [Click here](#) for the list of grant awards. Congratulations to the awardees!

Opioid Settlement Deadline Extended for Eligible Municipalities

The Attorney General has a proposed settlement with opioid distributors Amerisource Bergen, Cardinal Health, McKesson, and opioid manufacturer Johnson & Johnson. This settlement offers the opportunity for Pennsylvania and its more populated local governments to receive more than \$1 billion to address the ongoing opioid crisis that is ravaging communities across our state.

The deadline for participation has been extended from January 2 to **January 26** for eligible municipalities. However, the AG's office is requesting that all required paperwork be submitted by Wednesday, January 19. As a reminder, eligible townships include any that have filed suit or those that have not filed suit and have populations greater than 10,000. If you have questions or need information, please email David Wade at dwade@attorneygeneral.gov.



Digital Version Now Available!

Township News Offers Up Tips for New Supervisors

Across the state, a record number of newly elected township supervisors will be sworn in at their township meetings today. To help them navigate what is certain to be new territory, the January issue of the Township News shares advice from seasoned local officials for how new supervisors can make the most of their first year in office. Other articles in this month's issue provide a sneak peek of PSATS' 2022 Conference, a review of recent standing committee meetings, and a tribute to three township volunteers who have received national recognition for the important role they play in their communities. Also this month, the News unveils a new column, "Local Leader to Legislator." The first edition features state Rep. Brett Miller, a former East Hempfield Township supervisor in Lancaster County.

Subscribers to the News can access a digital copy by signing in to www.psats.org and clicking on "Digital Publications" under "My PSATS Profile." Not yet a subscriber? You can check out the free cover article [here](#) and learn how to subscribe to the News [here](#).

COVID-19 Hospitalizations Ticking Up

The [number of COVID-19 hospitalizations in Pennsylvania](#) increased from 4,359 to 5,280, a 21% increase. 967 patients are in the ICU, an increase from the previous week's 902. Total deaths in Pennsylvania have reached 36,714 with 664 new

deaths reported this week, a small increase compared to the previous week.

105,125 new cases of COVID-19 were reported last week in Pennsylvania, a jump of 64% compared to the prior week and an increase for the second consecutive week. The statewide COVID-19 total case count now stands at 2,059,613. The commonwealth rose to 15th in cases per 100,000 nationally, with New York, New Jersey, and Florida now in the top three. Both Pennsylvania and the U.S. set new records for the most cases recorded in one day, with 23,192 and 486,428 respectively.

Pennsylvania's statewide percent-positivity rate increased for the second week in a row from 15.3% to 21.9%. One county has a rate of less than 5% (*compared to none last week*), two counties have rates of 5% to less than 10% (*compared to four last week*); 37 counties have rates of 10% to less than 20% (*compared to 54 last week*); and 27 counties have a rate of at least 20% but less than 30% (*compared to nine last week*).

Today in History.....

On January 3, 1957, the Hamilton Watch Company of Lancaster, PA introduces the world's first electric watch.

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

Learn

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

[Webinar - Everything You Wanted to Know About Your VFD - But Were Afraid to Ask - 1/5/22](#)

This conversation will outline some of the forces converging on today's volunteers and will focus on offering solutions for the community and its first responders to move forward together towards adequate and affordable public safety services.



[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.

