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February 16, 2022

Latest News

New Analysis Proves Need for Broadband in Pennsylvania

The Center for Rural Pennsylvania released a new analysis of broadband speed test data and found that broadband service improvements are needed across the commonwealth, especially in rural counties.

“For years, we’ve been well aware that broadband access is lacking in rural areas, and the pandemic has made that need even more apparent,” said Sen. Gene Yaw, chairman of the Center for Rural Pennsylvania Board of Directors. “This report by the Center continues to demonstrate the need for broadband in rural Pennsylvania, and it can help to inform state, county, and local officials on where broadband service is needed most.”

The analysis used data from nearly 3 million upload and download speed tests taken throughout Pennsylvania in 2021 through a collaboration between Exactly Labs and X-Lab, a non-partisan technology policy institute at Penn State University. The data indicated that while there is need across Pennsylvania, the counties most in need and most eligible for federal aid are rural counties in the central Susquehanna Valley region (Juniata, Perry, and Snyder counties), portions of the Pennsylvania Wilds (Cameron, Clarion, Elk, and Forest counties), Susquehanna and Wyoming counties in the northeast, Greene County in the southwest, and Crawford County in the northwest. [Click here](#) for more.

Another Wolf Cabinet Departure

The Wolf Administration announced yesterday that the Pennsylvania Insurance Department (PID) Commissioner Jessica Altman will be resigning from her position

on February 25. Governor Wolf stated that the current PID Chief of Staff Mike Humphreys will serve as the Acting Insurance Commissioner.

Today in History...

On February 16, 1878, silver dollars were made legal. Strongly supported by western mining interests and farmers, the Bland-Allison Act—which provided for a return to the minting of silver coins—becomes the law of the land.

The strife and controversy surrounding the coinage of silver is difficult for most modern Americans to understand, but in the late 19th century it was a topic of keen political and economic interest. Today, the value of American money is essentially secured by faith in the stability of the government, but during the 19th century, money was generally backed by actual deposits of silver and gold, the so-called “bimetallic standard.” The U.S. also minted both gold and silver coins.

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.



[Fundamentals of Zoning – The Why and How of Zoning - Virtual Class - 3/22/22](#)

The workshop is intended to educate both the newest supervisors and the ones who have seen it all. We will discuss the legal roles of supervisors and others, zoning hearings (including conditional uses), and several other important aspects of zoning ordinances that are often overlooked or misunderstood.



[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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