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February 22, 2022

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## Township Video News



### **TVN's Coffee and the Capitol | Best government practices with Representative Craig Staats**

Join PSATS Director of Government Relations Joseph Gerdes as he interviews Rep. Craig Staats of the 145th Legislative District, serving Bucks County in Pennsylvania. Mr. Staats is a former Richland Township Supervisor, having served from 2006-2014.

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## Latest News

### **3G Phones to Fail...check your communications and backups**

If you are using cell phones for emergency management or township communications, check your phones this week for reliability. Major mobile carriers will be [shutting down 3G networks](#) in 2022 starting with AT&T which will make the change Tuesday (Feb. 22). The switch will make some older phones and devices useless but will make way for more advanced services, including 5G.

AT&T will shut down its 3G network Tuesday, Feb. 22. According to the company, the shutdown will “make room for an even better (system) that will improve your experience.” Wonder where AT&T 3G networks exist in Pennsylvania? [You can go here to see a map.](#) Other carriers will follow suit. It may be time to upgrade to newer technology.

### **Find Your Money! Townships Owed Unclaimed Property**

The Pennsylvania Treasury is currently seeking the owners of more than \$4 billion in unclaimed property and your township may be the rightful owner of some of these funds. A search of “Township” returned thousands of results for townships across the state that may have uncashed checks, dormant bank accounts, and more. To find out if your township is owed funds, [click here](#). You may want to simply search for your township’s name and then look through the results to verify if any belong to your township.

### **Volunteer Fire Departments Eligible for Free Turnout Gear**

MSA, DuPont Personal Protection, and the National Volunteer Fire Council are teaming up to provide 52 volunteer fire departments with four sets of new, state-of-the-art turnout gear and helmets. Departments must be over 50% volunteer, serve a population of 25,000 or less, demonstrate a need for the gear, and be a member of the NVFC. The application deadline is June 1. [Click here](#) for more.

### **Broadband Funding Available**

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development is extending the application deadline for funding to expand access to high-speed internet for millions of rural Americans nationwide until March 9. USDA is making the funding available under the [ReConnect Program](#). Grants and loans are available. While local governments are eligible to apply, most awards for this program appear to go to organizations and corporations that provide broadband services.

### **COVID-19 Cases, Hospitalizations Slow Again- PSATS Final Weekly Summary**

New case rates of COVID-19 dropped for the fifth week in a row to 19,343 or a 22% drop compared to the prior week. Pennsylvania’s statewide percent-positivity rate also dropped for the fifth week in a row from 12.7% to 9.7%. And for the fifth week in a row, the [number of COVID-19 hospitalizations in Pennsylvania](#) decreased from 2,690 to 1,921, a 28% decrease. [Click here](#) for more county-specific information.

### **Today in History.....**

On February 22, 1980, the "Miracle on Ice" occurred. In one of the most dramatic upsets in Olympic history, the underdog U.S. ice hockey team, made up of college players, defeated the four-time defending gold-medal winning Soviet team at the XIII Olympic Winter Games in Lake Placid, New York. The Soviet squad, previously regarded as the finest in the world, fell to the youthful American team 4-3 before a frenzied crowd of 10,000 spectators. Two days later, the Americans defeated Finland 4-2 to clinch the hockey gold.

[Click here](#) for this week's issue of the Pennsylvania Bulletin.

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## Learn

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

### **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.



**[Effective Township Administration: Steering Your Township Through Difficult Situations - 4/24/22](#)**

Elected and appointed officials are often asked to solve problems that are either not within their authority to solve or where the proposed “solution” might create negative unintended consequences for the municipality. Navigating these difficult issues requires skill, diplomacy and, often patience.



**[2022 Solicitors Spring Seminar - 4/25/22](#)**

This seminar will cover a wide variety of emerging and important trends and issues vital to the practice of every municipal solicitor. Don't miss this opportunity to hear from experts and network with your peers from around the state.



**[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.



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