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July 11, 2022

Latest News

Alternative Fuels Grant Opportunity

The state Department of Environmental Protection is accepting applications for the [Alternative Fuels Incentive Grant \(AFIG\) Program](#). Townships and municipal authorities are eligible to apply for funding through this program.

Approximately \$3 million in grant funding is available to support:

- Incremental costs related to retrofitting vehicles to operate on alternative fuels.
- Incremental costs to purchase new alternative fuel vehicles.
- Costs to purchase and install fleet-refueling or home-refueling equipment for alternative fuel vehicles.

Townships may apply to this grant program through the [Commonwealth's eGrants system](#). Applications are due Friday, August 26, 2022.

Watch for Cyber Attacks as Amazon Prime Day Approaches

With Amazon Prime Days approaching this week, be aware of scammers looking to deploy malware or steal information. A recent report noted an increase in phishing emails and suspicious domains that are designed to scam shoppers. [Click here](#) to read the report, including descriptions of frequently used scams.

Today in History....

On July 11, 1979, parts of *Skylab*, America's first space station, came crashing down on Australia and into the Indian Ocean five years after the last manned Skylab mission ended. No one was injured.

Launched in 1973, *Skylab* was the world's first successful space station. The first manned *Skylab* mission came two years after the Soviet Union launched *Salyut 1*,

the world's first space station, into orbit around the earth. However, unlike the ill-fated *Salyut*, which was plagued with problems, the American space station was a great success, safely housing three separate three-man crews for extended periods of time.

Legislative & Policy



Governor Signs Budget Bill

On Friday, eight days past the constitutional deadline, the state Senate approved [SB 1100](#), the 2022-2023 state budget bill, and Gov. Tom Wolf signed the new budget. The budget does not include any new or increased taxes.

The \$46 billion budget would fund state government for the new fiscal year and allocate the state's American Rescue Funds to numerous programs, including \$135 million for local law enforcement support, \$320 million to the Commonwealth Finance Agency for water and sewer projects, and \$220 million to the Clean Streams Fund in DEP. It appears that several new grant programs will be created, and about \$2 billion will be set aside in the Rainy Day fund.

Both chambers also approved [HB 1421](#), the Fiscal Code bill. The Fiscal Code spells out how many of the allocations will be spent, including the creation of grant programs. PSATS staff is digging through the bill and will provide additional details soon. The Fiscal Code is now before the governor for his signature.

The General Assembly is now on break for the summer and will return to session in September.

Wolf also signed [Act 53 of 2022 \(HB 1342\)](#), which makes a number of changes to the Tax Code, such as phasing in a rate reduction of the corporate net income tax, increasing certain expense reductions for small businesses, and providing a federal child and dependent child tax credit. In addition, the new act attempts to ensure stability of the Insurance Premiums revenue deposited into the Fire Insurance Tax Fund and Municipal Pension Aid Fund. The greater of \$85 million, or 8.5%, will be transferred into the Fire Insurance Tax Fund annually and \$345 million or 38% will be transferred to the Municipal Pension Aid fund.

The Senate also approved [SB 1171](#) on Friday, which would exempt government-owned vehicles and vehicles of local government contractors that are providing material for road construction or maintenance from bonding requirements on commonwealth-owned highways. The bill would address a PSATS resolution. The bill now goes to the governor.

Learn

[Webinar - Community Park and Open Space Management Updates - 7/13/22](#)

Join staff members from the Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society (PRPS), as they share recent legal updates and funding opportunities, current research activities, and operational trends impacting the parks and recreation industry, public works departments, and land managers across the commonwealth.



[Webinar - The Implications of Population Decline for Townships: Tools for Managing Change - 7/14/22](#)

This webinar will share information about declining population rates in rural Pennsylvania based on results of the 2020 Census and how these changes might affect townships.



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[Webinar - Vendor Oversight: Controls All Townships Must Implement - 7/20/22](#)

All entities are exposed to the risk of fraud/theft, especially those with limited resources and human capital.



[Webinar - Municipal Records Management 101 - 7/27/22](#)

Join Josh Stahlman from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission/Pennsylvania State Archives to learn the basic tenets of records management and what the Municipal Records Manual can do for you.



[Webinar - Backyard Stream Repair - 7/28/22](#)

Topics will include how streambank erosion starts, how to identify suitable restoration sites, plant selection and installation, and maintenance.



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