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October 3, 2022

Latest News

2023 PA Farm Show Theme is “Rooted in Progress”

Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture Secretary Russell Redding said the theme for the **107th Pennsylvania Farm Show**, which will be held at the Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg from Jan. 7-14, 2023, will be “Rooted in Progress.”

This year’s theme “honors our roots and vision for the future,” Redding said, adding that the theme is to “honor the deep roots of agriculture in Pennsylvania’s heritage, as well as the significant updates and pivots farmers and their families have made, and continue to make, to grow and adapt as markets, consumers, climate, and resources change.”

PA Supreme Court Chief Justice Max Baer Dies

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court [announced that Chief Justice Max Baer died suddenly this weekend](#). He was 74 years old and was scheduled to retire at the end of 2022 due to reaching mandatory retirement age.

Gov. Tom Wolf [ordered commonwealth flags on all commonwealth facilities, public buildings, and grounds to fly at half-mast](#) until sunset on the day Baer is laid to rest. Services are scheduled for Tuesday, October 4.

Justice Debra Todd will now become Chief Justice of Pennsylvania as the justice of longest and continuous service on the court.

The vacancy will be on the 2023 ballot. The governor could choose to fill the vacancy in the interim, which would require confirmation by two-thirds of the state Senate. With only six days remaining in the Senate’s current schedule for 2022 (which expires November 30), the vacancy appears unlikely to be filled this calendar year.

\$310 Million in New Water, Sewer, and Stormwater Grant Funding Available

Act 54 of 2022 appropriated \$205.4 million of commonwealth American Rescue Plan Act funds to the H2O PA – Water Supply, Sanitary Sewer and Storm Water Projects Program and \$105.6 million to the Pa. Small Water and Sewer Program. Applications for both programs are now being accepted until **December 21**. All applications must be submitted online through DCED's [Single Application for Assistance](#).

Eligible projects include the acquisition, construction, improvement, expansion, or rehabilitation of all or part of a water supply, sewage disposal, or stormwater system. An eligible project also includes consolidation or regionalization of two or more water supply systems, sewage disposal systems, or stormwater systems that are managed or operated as an integrated system.

Funding under the [H2O PA – Water Supply, Sanitary Sewer and Storm Water Projects Program](#) is available for projects with a total cost between \$500,000 and \$20 million. Matching funds of not less than 50% of the amount awarded are required.

Funding under the [PA Small Water and Sewer Program](#) is available for projects with a total cost between \$30,000 and \$500,000. Matching funds of not less than 15% of the total eligible project cost are required.

Reminder: Deadline for Fire/EMS Grant Applications is October 21

The Office of the State Fire Commissioner is now accepting applications for the Fire and EMS Grant Program until **October 21**. Written instructions and guidelines for the 2022-2023 program are now available at www.osfc.pa.gov.

All fire companies, emergency medical services, and volunteer rescue squads may apply for this grant. Fire and rescue companies must be actively reporting to PennFIRS monthly. Funds may be used for such projects as construction and/or renovation of the fire company or EMS facilities, equipment, debt reduction, training, and recruitment and retention, including volunteer firefighter length-of-service award programs and programs for minors. Click here for [grant guidance and application information](#).

Today in History....

On October 3, 1990, less than one year after the destruction of the Berlin Wall, East and West Germany reunited after 45 years on what is now known as “Unity Day.”

Learn

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

Protecting Your Township Against Cyber Security Threats - 10/5/22

In this webinar, representatives from Splashwire will review the 3Ps necessary to best protect your township – Process, Policy, and Procedures – against the ever-increasing number of cyber threats, whether those are malware or phishing attacks or other sinister efforts to access, take, or freeze your township’s data.

The Latest On Short Term Rentals - 10/12/22

In this session, learn about the recent trends for regulating STRs around the country, as well as best practices to ensure that your municipality can address these issues head-on in an effective and efficient manner.

How To Spot And Avoid An Ethics Act Violation - 10/19/22

Mary Fox, the Ethics Commission’s Executive Director, will cover conflicts of interest, voting conflicts, statements of interest, requesting advisory opinions, and much more, as well as provide tips for how your municipality can best avoid finding itself in the unwanted spotlight due to an Ethics Act issue.

Preparing Your Township For Winter Maintenance - 10/26/22

In this webinar, township elected officials and staff will learn about how they can best position their townships to tackle the many issues that arise from winter maintenance of township roads.



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