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October 5, 2022

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## Latest News

### **Agriculture Highlights Improvements to Pennsylvania's Dirt and Gravel Roads**

Agriculture Secretary Russell Redding toured three [Dirt, Gravel, and Low Volume Roads](#) (DGLVR) projects yesterday that improve Pennsylvania's rural roads while reducing their environmental impacts. The stops were in Barree and Jackson townships in Huntingdon County. Click here to [read about the road projects](#). Click here for [pictures of the projects](#).

"We're celebrating a partnership of the Departments of Agriculture and Conservation and Natural Resources and Penn State, conservation districts, and townships that has made our rural roads better and our streams cleaner," said Redding. "Gov. Wolf increased funding from \$5 million annually to \$35 million annually in 2015, which was a critical turning point for this program and meeting both Pennsylvania's infrastructure and climate goals."

Pennsylvania has approximately 23,000 miles of dirt and gravel public roads, many of which are close to streams and are potential sources of sediment runoff pollution. The DGLVR Program provides local road-owning entities with grant funding for road and environmental improvements on unpaved and low-volume (500 or fewer cars per day) paved roads.

The DGLVR Program is celebrating its 25th anniversary. In that time, nearly 65% of Pennsylvania townships have completed a project, for a total of 1,546 completed projects in 1,007 townships over the 25 years.

### **EPA Releases 2-Year Milestone Evaluations on Chesapeake Bay Cleanup Effort**

The U.S. Environmental protection Agency announced the results of its evaluation of the Chesapeake Bay jurisdictions (*Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia*) two-year milestones, noting that although most of the Bay states are not on track to meet the 2025 water quality restoration goals, 2022 saw new significant successes. It appears as though COVID restrictions precluded many states from staffing and inspecting actual progress.

Only the District of Columbia and West Virginia are on track to meet their overall cleanup goals by 2025. The EPA noted the new programs, laws, and funding in Pennsylvania designed to help farmers. Click here to [learn more](#). Click here to view [Pennsylvania's evaluation](#).

### **More Broadband Funds Available Through USDA ReConnect Program Round 4**

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is accepting applications for funding high-speed internet expansion in rural areas under the [ReConnect Program](#), which received new funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Townships are eligible to apply directly or support a providers' application. This program will award up to \$150 million in loans, up to \$300 million in loan/grant combinations, and up to \$700 million in grants. The deadline is **November 2**.

To be eligible for ReConnect Program funding, applicants must serve an area where high-speed internet service is not available at speeds of 100 Mbps (download) and 20 Mbps (upload). Applicants must also commit to building facilities capable of providing high-speed internet service at speeds of 100 Mbps (download and upload) and will be required to apply to participate in the Affordable Connectivity program.

For more information, including an application guide, frequently asked questions document, and recorded webinar, head to the USDA's [webpage on the ReConnect Program](#). Tomorrow, **October 6 from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m., USDA will hold an "Ask Me Anything: ReConnect" webinar** to allow attendees to ask any question about the program. To register for the webinar, [click here](#).

### **Naloxone Availability Expanded**

Gov. Tom Wolf announced that the availability of naloxone standing orders for first responders and the public has been expanded to include a non-prefilled syringe with two single-dose vials of liquid naloxone that is injectable. Naloxone is used to combat drug overdoses. Click here to [read the press release](#).

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

On October 5, 2011, Steve Jobs, the visionary co-founder of Apple Inc., which revolutionized the computer, music and mobile communications industries with such devices as the Macintosh, iPod, iPhone and iPad, died at age 56 of complications from pancreatic cancer.

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



### **2022 PAAZO Fall Seminar**

In the PAAZO Fall Seminar, learn from experts on a wide variety of topics pertinent to your duties as a municipal Zoning official.

[10/13/22 - Montgomery County](#)

[11/17/22 - Butler County](#)

[11/3/22 - VIRTUAL](#)



### **[PSATS Zoning Academy - 11/30-12/1 - Butler County](#)**

This class will greatly benefit newer zoning officials, those looking to become zoning officials and municipal officials and employees seeking a better understanding of zoning's impact on municipal operations.

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### **Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors**

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