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November 21, 2022

Latest News

FCC Releases New Broadband Maps, Challenge Process Opens

On Friday, the Federal Communications Commission released the draft of its new broadband maps and opened the mapping challenge process. PSATS urges township officials to look at the maps and share with their residents. The maps show both fixed and mobile broadband coverage, which was submitted by broadband providers. Anyone can submit an online challenge with the new, easy-to-use maps. [Click here](#) to view the new maps.

Type in an address to view the available providers for a structure, if any. If no data is available because an address is missing from the map, a location challenge can be submitted by clicking on the map where the location should be. If the location of a residence or business is shown, it will provide available broadband options and speeds, as well as available mobile broadband options. If the information is incorrect, including providers with service to that location or available speeds, a challenge can be filed using the map. To learn more about how to submit challenges, [click here](#). Challenges may be submitted on an ongoing, rolling basis. [Click here](#) for the press release and a fact sheet. Township officials interested in submitting bulk fixed challenges to the maps can learn more [here](#).

The FCC also launched an updated version of the FCC Speed Test App that will enable users to quickly compare the performance and coverage of their mobile networks to that reported by their provider. The app allows users to submit their mobile speed test data in support of a challenge to a wireless service provider's claimed coverage. New users can download the FCC Speed Test App in both the Apple App Store and Google Play Store. Existing app users should update the app to gain these new features.

Township officials should be aware that the final version of these maps will directly determine the federal broadband funding that Pennsylvania will receive. State allocations are expected to be announced by June 30, 2023.

FCC Requires New Broadband Labels to Help Consumers Comparison Shop

The Federal Communications Commission will now require broadband providers to display easy-to-understand labels to allow consumers to comparison shop for broadband services, both fixed and mobile. The labels will resemble the familiar food nutrition labels and must include prices, speeds, fees, data allowances, and other critical information. The labels must be prominently displayed at the point of sale, in existing customer accounts, and must be available upon request. [Click here](#) to read the press release.

PA Unemployment Rate Drops to 4.1%

The state Department of Labor and Industry announced that Pennsylvania's unemployment rate for October was 4.0%, down from 4.1% in September. This is a new record low for the commonwealth in recent years. The national unemployment rate increased from 3.5% to 3.7% in October. [Click here](#) for the press release.

Today in History.....

On the evening of November 21, 1934, a young and gangly would-be dancer took to the stage of Harlem's Apollo Theater to participate in a harrowing tradition known as Amateur Night. Finding herself onstage as a result of pure chance after her name was drawn out of a hat, the aspiring dancer spontaneously decided to turn singer instead—a change of heart that would prove significant not only for herself personally, but also for the future course of American popular music. The performer in question was a teenaged Ella Fitzgerald, whose decision to sing rather than dance on this day in 1934 set her on a course toward becoming a musical legend. It also led her to victory at Amateur Night at the Apollo, a weekly event that was then just a little more than a year old but still thrives today.

Learn

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

[Working Your Way Through The Second Class Township Code - 11/30/22](#)

Do you struggle with finding answers in the Second Class Township Code? Or, do you wonder if your township's practices actually match up with the law's requirements? Through this webinar, which will be set in a fun, game-style setting, you will become more comfortable with the Second Class Township Code and how it is organized and at the same time learn some new, or possibly forgotten, key aspects that will help you do your job in a more efficient and accurate manner.



Implementing A Residential Conservation Development Ordinance - 12/7/22

This webinar presentation demonstrates the preparation and implementation of a Conservation Residential Development Ordinance that has been proven in a Township/as it transitions from Rural to Suburban.



Get Prepared For The 2023 Organization Meeting - 12/13/22

If you are unsure whether you have everything ready for your township's 2023 Organization Meeting, required to be held the first Monday of January, then make sure to attend this webinar. Holly Fishel of PSATS will review best practices and checklists to help ensure that your township has a smooth organization meeting.



How We Can Better Recruit Volunteer Firefighters - 1/5/23

This webinar will share case studies of what works and does not work when recruiting volunteer firefighters and, more importantly, discuss the changes that are necessary to keep people volunteering within your communities.



The Municipal Chart Of Accounts - What And Why - 1/18/23

In this webinar, Terri Cunkle from DCED's Center for Local Government Services will provide best practices when operating within the municipal Chart of Accounts, which is a listing of the account numbers used for municipal budgeting.



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