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PENNSYLVANIA STATE ASSOCIATION OF TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS

news release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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East Brandywine Township Wins Top Award in Statewide Build a Better Mousetrap Contest

East Brandywine Township, Chester County, received the top prize in PennDOT's Build a Better Mousetrap Contest this morning during the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors' Excellence Awards ceremony.

The event, which recognizes the significant achievements of townships and their officials from across the state, was held as part of PSATS' 97th Annual Educational Conference and Exhibit Show in Hershey. Today is the opening day of the conference, which has attracted attendees from every county in Pennsylvania except Philadelphia, which has no townships.

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The Build a Better Mousetrap Contest honors projects built and designed by road crews or municipal employees to improve safety, reduce costs, or increase efficiency.

East Brandywine’s road department came up with a way to store the salt spreaders for their trucks.

“The spreaders were always on the floor taking up space, and if we needed to move them, we had to hook them up to a chain with the backhoe,” township roadmaster Matthew VanLew says. “We also used a backhoe to mount the spreaders on the trucks, which took two people.”

The road department devised a portable storage rack for the spreaders made of scrap lumber and \$50 purchased wheels. The rack holds four spreaders and can be moved around the garage and outside to a lift for mounting the spreaders on the trucks.

“This saves time for the department, using one person and no equipment to install and remove salt spreaders from the trucks,” VanLew says.

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The Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors represents Pennsylvania’s 1,454 townships of the second class and is committed to preserving and strengthening township government and securing greater visibility and involvement for townships in the state and federal political arenas. Townships of the second class cover 95 percent of Pennsylvania’s land mass and represent more residents — 5.5 million — than any other type of political subdivision in the commonwealth.

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