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July 10, 2020

Welcome to the PSATS Morning News.

Missed yesterday's PSATS Morning News? No problem! A [PSATS Morning News Library](#) is available online for your viewing pleasure!

We're excited about this new concept and want to hear what you think. Email comments and suggestions to morningnews@psats.org.

Latest News

Commonwealth Released Updated FAQs for Summer Recreation, Camps, and Pools

The Wolf Administration released [updated frequently asked questions about summer recreation, camps, and pools](#). These replace the original FAQs released on May 22 that covered summer camps and recreation.

The primary updates include how to implement the Commonwealth's Universal Face Coverings Order. For youth sports, coaches, athletes, and spectators must wear face coverings unless they are outdoors and can consistently maintain social distancing of at least six feet. All staff at summer camps must wear face coverings and the FAQs cover when younger children must wear masks.

For pools, people should not wear face coverings when swimming or engaged in any activity involving water that may cause the face covering to become wet and make it difficult to breathe. When swimming, people should maintain physical distance both in the water and by the pool.

The administration also reminded Pennsylvanians to wear a mask when participating in outdoor recreation if you cannot be consistently at least six feet away from others not in your household.

Wolf Extends Homeowner and Rental Relief

Gov. Tom Wolf as he signed a new [executive order](#) extending protection for Pennsylvanians from foreclosures or evictions through August 31, if they have not received assistance from the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency or a federal moratorium or judicial order. The original executive order was scheduled to expire today. Renters and homeowners are still required to continue making monthly payments and if they are struggling to make their payments, they should contact their landlord or mortgage servicer immediately. They may also [seek relief through the PHFA program](#). For more information, [click here](#).

Census 2020: How is Pennsylvania doing?

With 65.1% of Pennsylvanians returning their census survey as of this week, the commonwealth continues to run ahead of the 61.9% national average. The following townships currently make up 7 of the top 10 response rates among Pa. communities:

- #2 – N. Londonderry Twp., Lebanon Co. 85.7%
- #3 – Hanover Twp., Northampton Co. 85.6%
- #4 – Baldwin Twp., Allegheny Co. 85.4%
- #6 – Lowhill Twp., Lehigh Co. 85%
- #7 – Rockland Twp., Berks Co. 84.6%
- #8 – Bethel Twp., Delaware Co. 84.3%
- #10 (tie) – S. Heidelberg Twp., Berks Co., & Clay Twp., Lancaster Co., 84.1%

The following counties remain below the 50% response rate: Monroe Co. 48.8%; Susquehanna Co. 47.2%; Potter Co. 46.7%; Wayne Co. 45.1%; Cameron Co. 41.4%; Pike Co. 37.5%; Sullivan Co. 29.1%; and Forest Co. 25.3%.

Please continue to urge your residents to fill out their census ASAP. Census takers are gearing up now to begin reaching out to non-responding households. To find out how your township response is, [click here](#) and in the parameters to the right of the map, select “Pennsylvania” and then click on “Town and Township” under “Geographies.”



In Harrisburg, The House and Senate will both be in session Monday July 13.

Learn

[PSATS Summer/Fall 2020 QuickBooks Series](#)

These virtual QuickBooks sessions are a great opportunity to learn about specific ways to use QuickBooks to bring greater efficiency and value to your township. From using QuickBooks for budgeting and meeting reports to preparing for the township audit or year-end reporting, these classes will cover a wide variety of important QuickBooks functions.



- July 30 – “QuickBooks Q&A”
- August 27 – “How to Use Customers and Classes for Grants and Reimbursables”
- September 24 – “Budgets and QuickBooks”
- October 29 – “Using QuickBooks for Meeting and Year-End Reports”
- November 19 – “Getting Ready for the Township Audit”
- December 17 – “Year-End Employee Functions”

[Click here](#) for more information and to register.

Defending Against Claims Of "Past Practice"
- Virtual - 7/13/20

"This is the way we've always done it" is a frequent excuse for employee misconduct and lack of productivity. This session will educate attendees on what is considered a "past practice" under labor contracts and provide step-by-step advice on how to handle employees who use it to thwart management objectives. Officials in nonunion workplaces will also benefit from this session. The presenters will offer them practical advice on implementing rule changes along with effective discipline strategies when "this is the way it's always been" is used as an excuse for bad practices. Qualifies for 1 PMGA Administration Point. Eligible for 1 CLE Point. [Click here](#) to register.

Investigating Harassment & Other Claims In The "Me Too" Era - Virtual - 7/13/20

During this session, the presenters will help township officials navigate the ever-changing "harassment investigation" landscape. Attendees will learn about policies and procedures they should have, how to implement them, and who should handle your investigations. The presenters will provide sample policies and share their investigation experiences to protecting victims, employees, and the township while keeping cases out of the courts. While a serious subject, the presenters will include humor to keep everyone's attention and better make their point. Qualifies for 1 PMGA Administration Point. Eligible for 1 CLE Credit. [Click here](#) to register.



[PennTIME: How Traffic Incident Management Can Keep Our ERS - Virtual - 07-17-2020](#)

Attend this virtual workshop to learn about PennTIME -- The Pennsylvania Traffic Incident Management Enhancement program, which is focused on improving first-responder safety while keeping traffic moving. The presenters will talk about training, quick clearance, and the need for state agencies and municipalities to work together to keep workers, responders, and citizens safe. Qualifies for 1 PMGA Public Safety Point. [Click here](#) to register.



[Posting Local Roads For Infrastructure Preservation & Safety - Virtual - 07/24/2020](#)

Safety- and weight-related postings are two tools available to help townships protect their roads when heavy hauling is occurring. Representatives from PennDOT will explain the differences between 4902(a) weight and 4902(b) safety postings and cover several related issues, including vehicle exemptions, weather-related restrictions, why bridge postings differ from road postings, and PennDOT policy updates. Qualifies for 1 PMGA Public Works Point. [Click here](#) to register.



For full list of webinars and classes please visit <https://learn.psats.org>.



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