



July 30, 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.

Township Video News



COVID-19 has created challenges for townships, some of which we'll be addressing in this month's Questions of the Week. Today, we address whether virtual public meetings can continue in the state's green phase. Also, [click here](#) to catch up on previous Questions of the Week. (2:17)

Latest News

[Commonwealth Reviews State, Local Enforcement of COVID-19 Mitigation](#)

The Commonwealth reviewed state and local enforcement of current mitigation orders to restrict the transmission of COVID-19 and noted that residents may report suspected violations of these orders to keep people safe. This includes the state's Worker Safety, Building Safety, Universal Masking, and July 15 mitigation orders. These orders are enforceable under state law by all state and local law enforcement agencies. [Read full story.](#)

[PSP Bureau of Liquor Control Enforcement Update](#)

The Pennsylvania State Police Bureau of Liquor Control Enforcement announced that its officers visited 5,163 licensed liquor establishments July 22-28 to ensure that businesses are abiding by COVID-19 mitigation requirements. [Read full story.](#)

[US DOT Releases Applicant Toolkit for Rural Transportation Funding](#)

The U.S. Department of Transportation has a new Applicant Toolkit to provide help rural communities find and apply for transportation funding as part of the Rural Opportunities to Use Transportation for Economic Success (ROUTES) Initiative. The toolkit is designed for all levels of grant applicant experience. To access the toolkit, [click here.](#)

[Mental Wellness Support Available for Firefighters, EMS Personnel](#)

State Fire Commissioner Bruce Trego announced the launch of several new online training resources designed to provide mental wellness resources for fire, rescue, and emergency medical services personnel. [Read full story.](#)

[EPA Takes Action to Address PFAS](#)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced that it is taking action to address per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). [Read full story.](#)

Contact County Commissioners for Deadline to Access CARES Dollars

The federal CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) Act that was signed into law on March 27, 2020, provided a \$2 trillion economic relief package aimed at helping our state and local governments, families, and businesses recover from the negative public health and economic impacts caused by the COVID-19 disaster.

7 counties got a direct allocation from Congress. The state's 2020-2021 budget allocated \$625 million in CARES funds as block grants to the remaining 60 counties to offset some of the costs their municipalities incurred for response and planning efforts (including PPE costs), and to deploy broadband to unserved or under-served areas of the state. Eligible expenditures must be incurred during the period from March 1, 2020, through December

30, 2020.

Townships in all 67 counties are reminded to contact their county commissioner's office promptly to determine when the deadline is to submit your application to receive such funds.



[Lycoming County Regional Forum](#) [Happening Soon! Get Registered](#)

Township supervisors and administrators in Lycoming County and surrounding counties should be sure to register for the now virtual [PSATS Regional Forum Lycoming County](#) happening August 13 and 20 and take advantage of this incredible learning and networking opportunity close to home.

This "mini conference" is designed for you to learn more about issues that matter to your community and discuss common interests with other local leaders. Each forum features general sessions, workshops, networking, and the opportunity to earn [PSATS Municipal Government Academy](#) and other professional credits.

We hope to see you soon or at another [PSATS Regional Forums](#) location! To learn more about the Regional Forums, visit our page or call the Association at (717) 763-0930, ext 171.

Census Bureau Now Using Email to Encourage Census Participation

The U.S. Census Bureau has begun emailing households in low-responding areas (lower than 50%) to encourage them to respond to the 2020 Census. The email messages will come from 2020census@subscriptions.census.gov and will include a link to complete the census online. The Census Bureau is also considering sending text messages to areas that have low response. [Read more here.](#)

Continue to remind your residents to complete their census and cooperate with census takers

A promotional graphic for the 2020 Census. It features the text "DID YOU KNOW...?" in large, bold, blue letters. Below this, it says "If you respond to the 2020 Census now, you can avoid the need for a census taker to visit your home later. Participate online, by mail, or by phone. Go to **2020census.gov** or **pa.gov/census** or call the Census Bureau at (844) 330-2020. Remember, critical population-based dollars for local services and infrastructure, including health care, jobs, schools, roads, and bridges, are at stake. #2020Census". The graphic also includes the "United States Census 2020" logo, the "CENSUS United States Population" logo, and a stylized graphic of a census taker's clipboard and a map of the United States.

who are going door to door. To help townships promote the census, PSATS has created various “Did You Know...?” boxes like this one. You can find these boxes along with other useful resources on the [PSATS website](#).

Learn

[Temporary Traffic Control Planning And Deployment - Virtual - 07/31/2020](#)

Attend this virtual workshop to learn techniques to properly plan and deploy work zones. The presenter will also be reviewing helpful publications and policies that will impact local work zone safety. Qualifies for 1 PMGA Public Works Point. [Click here](#) to register.



[What Has Your Building Code Official Done For You Lately? - Virtual - 8/6/20](#)

This interactive session focuses on the crucial role of the township's building code official. These professionals are a critical part of the building process from reviewing projects to upholding safety standards. Qualifies for 1 PMGA Planning/Zoning Point. [Click here](#) to register.



[Meet Pollutant Reduction Goals With Floodplain Restoration - Virtual - 8/6/20](#)

Attend this session to learn about floodplain restoration, a unique approach that townships can use to reach their PRP requirements. Backed by real data, the presenters will use case studies to illustrate how this cost-saving strategy can increase buildable land and provide multiple other benefits to land owners and municipalities. Qualifies for 1 PMGA Public Works Point. [Click here](#) to register.



**[Keeping Your Township Out Of Headlines:
Tips To Avoid Fraud - Virtual - 8/13/20](#)**

Be sure to send a representative to this session, which will provide techniques and practices to help local leaders avoid fraud in their municipality. Real-life township case studies will be discussed. Qualifies for 1 PMGA Administration Point. [Click here](#) to register.



[PSATS' Regional Forum - Lycoming County - \(Virtual\) - 8/13 & 8/20](#)

Learn more about issues that matter to your community. Attend general session as well as workshop sessions. Earn PMGA and other professional credits for workshop attendance, and discuss common interests with other local leaders. [Click here](#) to register.



[The PUC And Your Municipality - Virtual - 8/13/20](#)

This session will focus on the far reach of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission and its impact on townships of all sizes. The presenter will discuss case studies and practical tips. Qualifies for 1 PMGA Administration Point. Eligible for 1 CLE Credit. [Click here](#) to register.



[Developing Your Township Budget - 8/27/20 - Westmoreland Co.](#)

This class will provide proven and effective methods and techniques to help new and veteran township supervisors, secretaries, treasurers, managers, road masters and public works officials develop budgets that work. This course is eligible for 2.5 PMGA Administration Points. [Click here](#) to register.



[Removing Barriers To Adaptive Reuse Of Older Buildings - Virtual - 8/27/20](#)

Both zoning and building regulations can pose barriers to adaptive reuse of older buildings. This session will focus on those legislative barriers that are incompatible with your township's economic development goals and provide strategies for removing them. Qualifies for 1 PMGA Planning/Zoning Point. [Click here](#) to register.



[PSATS' Regional Forum - Bedford County - \(Virtual\) - 8/27/20](#)

Learn more about issues that matter to your community. Attend general session as well as workshop sessions. Earn PMGA and other professional credits for workshop attendance, and discuss common interests with other local leaders. [Click here](#) to register.



[Public And Private Partnerships Enhance Parks/Rec. Programs - Virtual - 8/27/20](#)

Today's recreation customers want a diverse range of facilities and programming. Most communities, however, cannot meet these needs on their own so some are opting to form public and private partnerships to enhance programming. This workshop will provide examples of how communities are using partnerships to increase offerings, resources, and audiences. Attendees will also learn how to form effective partnerships of their own. Qualifies for 1 PMGA Planning/Zoning Point. [Click here](#) to register.

[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.

- 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.

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





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