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April 22, 2020

Welcome to the PSATS Morning News, our new email digest.

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



[Congress, Administration Reach Deal on COVID-19 Funding](#)

The Senate passed a \$484 billion deal for small businesses and hospitals today after cash

for sorely needed loans dried up last week. Congress and the Administration have agreed on a \$484 billion COVID-19 relief package to provide funding to small businesses and hospitals and for testing. The proposal includes \$310 billion for the Paycheck Protection Program, which was depleted. However, the proposal does not include any assistance for local governments. [Read full story.](#)

Flagger Certificates Extended Until July 1, 2020

As part of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the state Department of Transportation has canceled all in-person flagger training courses. All flaggers in need of retraining after March 16, 2020, may continue to perform flagging operations until July 1, 2020, with their existing certification. Once restrictions are removed and live training is restarted, flaggers will need to obtain the training within 60 days. Flaggers may continue to obtain online training now, such as through virtual flagger sessions like the one this Friday, April 24 provided by PSATS, to renew their certification. Flaggers seeking first-time certification or whose training expired before March 16, 2020, will need to continue to follow certification requirements outlined in PennDOT Publication 408, Section 901.3(y).

[Office of Open Records offers Advice on Act 15](#)

The OOR has updated their Sunshine Act Advisory to reflect Act 15 of 2020. [Click here](#) to read the advisory.

[DCED Unveils CarryoutPA Website](#)

The state Department of Community and Economic Development has released a CarryoutPA website, which offers a comprehensive list of restaurants offering takeout, curbside, or delivery services during the state's stay-at-home order. CarryoutPA.com was developed by the Pennsylvania Restaurant and Lodging Association to serve as a go-to resource for dine-out options. Pennsylvania restaurants that would like to be added may register on the site. [Click here](#) for CarryoutPa.

[Census Response Rates - 52.2%](#)

The 2020 Census is continuing even in the midst of a global pandemic. As of Tuesday, the self-response rate for Pennsylvania was 52.2% with roughly 46% completed online. As comparison, the final 2010 self-response rate was 70%. Townships can go online at 2020census.gov/en/response-rates to keep tabs on their local response rates. The map is updated daily around 3 p.m.

Legislative and Policy



Local Government Capital Project Loan Fund Legislation Approved by House

On April 21st, the House approved House Bill 1822 (PN 3595).

Senior Property Tax Credit Legislation Approved by House

On April 21st, the House approved House Bill 974. This legislation would authorize municipalities to implement a real property tax credit to senior residents in exchange for volunteering within the municipality.

COVID-19 Enforcement Officers Disability Benefits Legislation

The Senate and House passed HB 1869 and sent it to the Governor's desk for his signature. This bill was originally drafted to allow the PA Dept. of Health to grant staffing waivers to EMS crews on a case by case basis. It was amended last evening to include benefits for National Guard members injured during this emergency. It also includes language to provide disability benefits, in accordance with Section 1(A) of the Enforcement Officer Disability Law (Heart & Lung Act) to first responders that contract or are diagnosed with COVID-19.

Learn

[2020 PAAZO Spring Educational Virtual Seminar - May 6 & 8, 2020](#)

The PAAZO Spring Seminar is now a separate 2-day virtual event. Each morning's agenda includes important issues that zoning officers, planning and zoning officials face on a regular basis, and discusses effective strategies to address them. [Click here](#) to view agenda and register.



[PFESI Web Series- Session 7- Developing and Using a Volunteer Fire Department Annual Report - 4/27/20](#)

An annual report is an excellent tool to communicate to elected officials and members of the community. In this session, we will review how to collect important information for a report and discuss what important information should be included in the report. [Click here](#) to register



[PFESI Web Series- Session 8- Building/Maintaining Effective Relationships with Twp/Boro Officials - 4/29/20](#)

This session will identify why unclear expectations between public officials and leaders of VFCs can lead to problems. Solutions to those problems may be easier than expected. As they say, it's all about relationships. [Click here](#) to register.



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



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