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April 23, 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.

Township Video News



The list of township employees who must file the annual Statement of Financial Interests is a lot longer than you may think. PSATS staff reviews who it covers and where to turn for help if you're unsure. *Please note: This TVN segment was recorded in advance.*

Latest News

[Wolf Provides More Detail on Plan for Phased Reopening](#)

Yesterday, Gov. Tom Wolf provided additional detail on his plan for a phased reopening of the commonwealth and eyed May 8 as the possible start of reopening in the northcentral and northwest regions of the state. In addition, Wolf announced that he was moving up the start of all construction statewide to May 1 from the previously announced May 8. [Read full story.](#)

[Voters May Apply for Mail-in Ballot; Steps Taken to Protect In-Person Voting](#)

Voters that wish to vote by mail in the June 2 primary must request to do so by 5 p.m. on May 26. Voters may apply online for a mail-in or absentee ballot at votespa.com. Ballots must be returned by 8 p.m. on June 2. In-person voting at polling places will remain open; however, counties may consolidate polling locations due to the COVID-19 emergency. Check for county announcements noting the possible relocation of polling places or check the Department of State's Polling Place Locator. The department is providing infection protection kits for precincts so that poll workers can maintain a safe voting environment. These kits include masks, gloves, hand sanitizer, other sanitizing supplies, and floor marking tape.

[Independent Fiscal Office Releases Monthly Economic Update](#)

Pennsylvania's Independent Fiscal Office has released its monthly economic update for April 2020. The two-page report includes a snapshot of job growth or decline in different sectors, unemployment claims, and a decline in consumer prices in March. [Click here](#) to view the report.

[Residents Encouraged to be Vigilant as First Spotted Lanternfly Hatch is Confirmed](#)

Pennsylvania residents are encouraged to be vigilant for lanternfly nymphs as the first confirmed spotted lanternfly hatch has occurred in Philadelphia. Secretary of Agriculture Russell Redding urged residents to scrape and destroy any remaining egg masses that they find and band trees. To scrape egg masses, use a putty knife or other firm, blunt-edged tool. Report your sighting online or by calling 1-888-4BAD-FLY. For more information, [click here.](#)

[Pa. State Police Enforcement Totals for COVID-19 Orders](#)

The Pennsylvania State Police data has been updated for actions taken through April 21 against non-life-sustaining businesses that failed to comply with Gov. Tom Wolf's order closing their physical locations. The PSP have issued 276 warnings and no citations. In addition, since April 1, the PSP reported issuing 22 warnings and 4 citations for failure to

comply with the stay-at-home order. Gov. Tom Wolf said this week that the PSP will not be aggressively enforcing the stay-at-home order. Rather, Wolf is relying on Pennsylvanians' good judgment. [Click here](#) for more information, including breakdowns by PSP Troop.

[DCNR Accepting Applications for Grants to Fight Wildfires](#)

The state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources is now accepting applications to help Pennsylvania's rural communities increase protection from wildfires. Funded through federal grants, this money helps fire companies in rural areas or communities with fewer than 10,000 residents with training and equipment purchases directly related to fighting forest and brush fires. [Read full story.](#)

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