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May 5, 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](mailto:morningnews@psats.org).

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## Township Video News



The PSATS Conference may be canceled, but you don't have to miss out on any of the learning. We're bringing many of the workshops directly to your home and office with our brand-new virtual classroom. Watch for all the details, including our special package

pricing.

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## Latest News

### [PSATS Looks Ahead to Turning 100 Next Year](#)

Did you ever have to make a decision that you REALLY didn't like but knew it was the right thing to do? Of course you have, but it still isn't easy. [Read full story.](#)

### [Administration Releases Business Guidance for Yellow Phase](#)

The Wolf Administration yesterday released guidance on the detailed procedures that businesses and nonprofits must follow to conduct in-person operations in counties in the yellow phase of reopening. [Read full story.](#)

### [Pennsylvania Joins Multi-State Agreement to Buy Medical Supplies](#)

Pennsylvania has teamed up with the northeast states of Connecticut, Delaware, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, and Rhode Island to jointly purchase necessary medical equipment to increase market power and bring down prices. This equipment will include personal protective equipment, tests, ventilators, and other medical equipment. Gov. Tom Wolf said, " By working together, we can combine our strengths to build the capacities we all need. We can exploit our market size to encourage producers to make what we need, we can exploit our financial strength to give that encouragement added weight, and we can exploit the great research institutions and the brainpower in our region to increase our chances of success." [Click here](#) for more information.

### [DCNR Releases Plan for Partial Reopening of State Park and Forest Facilities](#)

This weekend, the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) released its plan for partially reopening state park and forest facilities. Beginning May 15, state park and forest facilities in counties that are in the yellow phase will be open to the public. This includes offices and campgrounds. However, cabins in these areas will not open until June 12. Campsites and cabins should only be used by members living in the same household. [Read full story.](#)

### **Commonwealth Heavy Equipment Auction Canceled in Response to COVID-19**

Due to ongoing mitigation efforts to address the spread of COVID-19 and a pause on routine state government purchasing, the commonwealth will not be holding the spring Heavy Equipment Auction that usually takes place in early May for municipalities and in June for the general public. The commonwealth will explore options for a future auction in September 2020. As a measure of fiscal restraint, the commonwealth will continue its operations with its current inventory of heavy equipment and hold on any new purchases

until a later date.

### [Grant Applications Being Accepted for Complete Streets, Active Transportation Plans](#)

WalkWorks is accepting grant applications from municipalities to assist with the development of Active Transportation Plans, Complete Streets policies and/or Vision Zero policies. [Read full story.](#)



### [2020 Census: Did you Know?](#)

The 2020 Census will determine how many seats Pennsylvania will have in the U.S. House of Representatives and how many electoral college ballots the state will receive for electing a president. Help ensure our state is accurately represented by making sure you're counted. Visit [here](#) for more information.

### **Accessing FEMA Reimbursements**

Starting today, townships can participate on PEMA applicant briefings telling you how to submit for federal reimbursement for COVID-19 expenses. Please contact your county emergency management office for details and sign in information.

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## Legislation & Policy



**The House will convene for session today, May 5th at 11:00 AM. The Senate remains on a 12-hour call of the chair.**

Watch session live [here](#).

### **Senate Local Government Committee and Senate Health and Human Services Committee**

On May 4, the Committees held a joint public hearing on the Wolf administration's plan for reopening Pennsylvania. Committee members heard testimony from members of the Wolf Administration on the Governor's plan and asked questions on a number of issues including data, the stockpiling of medical supplies, and where specific counties stand in the reopening process, just to name a few. [Click here](#) to read more.

### **House Approves Tax Exemption of CARES Act Payments**

On May 4, the House unanimously approved HB 2408. This legislation would require payments received from the federal government through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) not be included in income, earned income or taxable income of the individual for the 2020 tax year for the purposes of the Local Tax Enabling Act, the Tax Reform Code and the Taxpayer Relief Act. HB 2408 would also establish loan forgiveness for a loan guaranteed under the Small Business Act issued to assist with maintaining payroll costs during the period beginning after February 29, 2020, and ending before July 1, 2020.

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## **Learn**

### **[WEBINAR WEDNESDAY: The Right-To-Know Law For Law Enforcement - May 6, 2020](#)**

This webinar will focus on those aspects of the Right-to-Know Law that are specific to police departments, such as investigatory records, the impact of Act 22 (which includes video records), and CHRIA. This will be an invaluable session for any open records officers or police officers who manage department records. Click here to register. Qualifies for 1 PMGA Public Safety Point. Eligible for 1 Substantive CLE. [Click here](#) to register.

### **[LAST CALL: 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. Eligible for 5 continuing education credits toward their "Certified Zoning Officer" designation, 5 PMGA Planning/Zoning points, & 5 CLE Credits. [Click here](#) to register.

### **Developing And Nurturing Your Township's Organizational Resiliency - May 12, 2020**

3-part Virtual Classroom series Whether your township's employees are continuing to work in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, facing layoffs or furloughs, or are adjusting to a work-from-home environment, their resiliency will be a vital key to your township's long-term health.



In the Developing and Nurturing Your Township's Organizational Resiliency workshop series, we will explore what resiliency is and the components of organizational resiliency. During this series we will also focus on employee resiliency and the impact resiliency has on your township's organizational culture. We will discuss where resiliency comes from, what skills support the development of resiliency and the benefits it has on individuals and organizations. Township leaders will have the opportunity to discuss and learn what role they play and strategies they can use in developing and maintaining a resilient township team. This virtual classroom course is eligible for 6 PMGA Administration points. [Click here](#) to register.

### **Flagger Certification Extended to July 1st**

The following will apply to flaggers in-need of re-training after March 16, 2020, as described in PennDOT Publication 408, Section 901.3(y):

- Flaggers can perform flagging operations until July 1, 2020 with their existing certification.
- Once restrictions are removed and training is restarted, flaggers will need to obtain training within 60-days.



Flaggers seeking first-time training or flaggers whose training expires prior to March 16, 2020 will need to continue to follow certification requirements outlined in PennDOT Publication 408, Section 901.3(y). Business partners who offer web-based trainings and knowledge tests for flaggers may continue to provide to participants. Should you have any

questions or require additional information, please contact Brian Crossley, Manager,  
Temporary Traffic Control Unit, at 717.265.7562.

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

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