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June 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

[Additional COVID-19 Testing Sites Open Today in Areas with Limited Access](#)

Today, five more COVID-19 drive-thru testing sites will open in Walmart parking lots in areas of the state that have had limited access. This includes Walmart Supercenter parking lots in Bradford, Cranberry, Mill Hall, Punxsutawney, and Warren, which will be open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. to test up to 50 registered patients daily. [Read full story.](#)

[Center for Rural PA Releases DataGram Showing Unemployment Rates for April 2019 and April 2020](#)

This datagram from the Center for Rural PA compares rural and urban unemployment rates from April 2019 and April 2020. In addition, the graphics show the Pennsylvania counties with the highest and lowest unemployment in April 2020, as well as the U.S. states with the highest and lowest unemployment rates. [Click here](#) to view.

[Prepare for Severe Summer Weather During COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

The Wolf Administration is urging the public to consider how COVID-19 could change or alter emergency preparedness plans leading into summer when we face the threat of severe weather that comes with warmer weather. [Read full story.](#)

[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. These plans and policies establish activity-friendly routes that connect people to everyday destinations and opportunities for physical activity. Active transportation includes walking, wheeling or biking, and public transit. Applications are due July 2, 2020. [Read full story.](#)

Legislation & Policy



The House and Senate are scheduled for session today, June 10th.

The PA Disaster is Over? Or Maybe Not?

On Tuesday, the House and Senate both passed a [concurrent resolution](#) in a bipartisan, but not veto-proof, vote that directs Governor Wolf to issue a proclamation or executive order to end the COVID-19 disaster emergency. Expect the Governor to veto the action, but the legislature says a Governor can't veto a resolution. This one will likely end up in court as a separation of powers issue among co-equal branches of governments with the courts picking the winner. Either way, in a pandemic, the Secretary of Health has specific powers, so don't expect any changes soon.

Senate Passes No Bids Received Legislation

On June 9th, the Senate unanimously passed Senate Bill 494. SB 494 would create a process for a municipality to enter a contract for services when they first advertise a bid for services and no bids are received. SB 494 is now before the House Local Government Committee.

Note: This legislation would fulfill a PSATS resolution.

Senate Transportation Committee News

On June 9th, the Senate Transportation Committee reported Senate Bill 793 from committee. SB 793 would exempt municipal vehicles as well as vehicles operated by a person under contract with a municipality from posting and bonding requirements when operating on a state road while constructing or maintaining a local road.

SB 793 would also create an exemption from commercial driver's license (CDL) requirements for a driver, employed by a political subdivision, operating a commercial motor vehicle within the boundaries of the political subdivision for the purpose of removing snow or ice from a roadway by plowing, sanding or salting, if one of the following conditions are met: the properly licensed employee who ordinarily operates a commercial motor vehicle is unable to operate the vehicle; or the political subdivision determines that a snow or ice emergency exists that requires additional assistance.

SB 793 is now before the Senate for their consideration.

Learn

[Vendor Oversight: Controls All Townships Must Implement - Virtual - 6/11/20](#)

Does your procurement process ensure only qualified vendors are hired? Will your vendors safely and securely handle the confidential data and information you provide them? Are you sure you're not giving favorable treatment to vendors who have relationships with township employees? Are you sure you haven't hired a fictitious vendor intent on committing fraud? This session will answer these questions and more to ensure your township has adequate vendor oversight. Qualifies for 1 PMGA Administration Point. [Click here](#) to register.



[Employee Discipline: A Toolkit For Township Supervisors - Virtual - 6/11/20](#)

Attend this session to learn the rules of the road for public employee discipline and get practical advice on how to document and handle the disciplinary process. Qualifies for 1 PMGA Administration Point. [Click here](#) to register.



[*NEW* Webinar-COVID-19 Preparedness: Planning, Design & Engineering For Health, Safety & Success - 6/16/20](#)

One of the biggest concerns of municipalities right now is how to reopen safely when allowed to do so. In this webinar, which is designed for anyone involved in the reopening process, join Martin Kimmel, President at Kimmel Bogrette Architecture + Site, Hoyt Emmons, Senior Health & Safety Consultant at Med-Tex Services, and township representatives for this 90-minute panel discussion as they review some of their thoughts on building use, design and modification to help townships reopen their buildings safely and efficiently. The panel will also cover concerns for staff, public spaces and special use facilities such as libraries, rec centers and swimming pools. Qualifies for 1.5 PMGA Administration Point. [Click here](#) to register.



[Webinar - Collective Bargaining In The Age Of COVID-19 - 6/17/20](#)

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, municipal employers in Pennsylvania still maintain bargaining obligations with their unionized employees. For contracts expiring in 2020, the time to start negotiations is approaching. Some employers may have already been contacted by employees and unions seeking to simply roll over the existing contract for another year. Given all of the challenges that COVID-19 has presented, the temptation is high to put off contract discussions for a year. This webinar will explore some of the factors that you should consider before making this important decision for your municipality, as well as the longer-range implications of each side of the decision. Qualifies for 1 PMGA Public Safety Point. [Click here](#) to register.

[How To Build - And Rebuild - Public Trust In Government - Virtual - 6/17/20](#)

During this session, the presenter will discuss the continuing decline of public trust in government and provide valuable strategies to help public officials build and rebuild that trust with their citizens. Qualifies for 1 PMGA Administration Point. [Click here](#) to register.



[Webinar - Run, Hide, Fight! - Responding To Active Shooter/Intruder Situations - 6/24/20](#)

Are your township employees and officials prepared to appropriately respond in the event of an active shooter or intruder in your township building or at one of your public meetings? In this webinar, Trooper Kelly Smith with the Pennsylvania State Police will focus on active shooter/intruder awareness, outline the key safety concepts of Run, Hide, Fight, and provide best practices for your townships to implement to enhance personal and public safety. Qualifies for 1 PMGA Public Safety Point. [Click here](#) to



register.

[When To Call Your Solicitor: 5 Volunteer Fire Company Issues - Virtual - 6/24/20](#)

This session brings together a panel of solicitors, who will discuss five real-life legal issues with volunteer fire companies. The discussion will touch on the Right-to-Know Law, potential employment concerns, authorizing fire protection service, conflicts and ethics issues, and litigation. Qualifies for 1 PMGA Public Safety Point. [Click here](#) to register.



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



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