



June 16, 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



Reliable information – and lots of it – is more important than ever. PSATS Executive Director Dave Sanko discusses how COVID-19 has pushed the Association to look at member communications with fresh eyes and introduce new and exciting approaches. (2:45)

Latest News

[More Testing Sites Added in Areas with Limited Access](#)

Beginning tomorrow, nine additional COVID-19 drive-thru testing sites will open in Walmart parking lots across the state. Quest Diagnostics and Walmart are working with the state Department of Health to provide no-cost testing for residents living in areas where few testing sites are located. These sites will be available from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday to up to 50 registered residents per day. [Click here](#) to learn more.

[CDC Guidance Released on Staying Safe While Going Out](#)

The Centers for Disease Control recently released [updated guidance on venturing out](#) and staying safe. The guidance states that the more people you interact with and the longer that interaction, the higher the risk of COVID-19 spread. The guidance talks about the need to keep 6 feet of space between yourself and others and that indoor spaces are more risky than outdoor spaces. The guidance stresses the importance of wearing a cloth face covering, looking for the presence of physical barriers, like plexiglass screens, and choosing outdoor locations. The guidance walks through the considerations for many different scenarios, from traveling overnight to visiting the library and going to the gym. [Click here](#) for more.

DOH Highlights May Nursing Home Inspections, Announces New Partnership

The state Department of Health reported that it conducted 292 nursing home inspections, including 210 complaint investigations, during the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, nine sanctions were filed against facilities. The department stated that individuals with complaints about a nursing home can file them anonymously by calling 1-800-254-5164, filling out the [online complaint form](#), emailing c-ncomplai@pa.gov, or sending the complaint [in the mail](#). [Click here](#) to learn more.

The department has announced a new partnership with General Healthcare Resources, which will deploy onsite assessment teams to assist with infection control practices, staffing, and personal protective equipment training needs at long-term care facilities. The team will also assist with specimen collection and urgent staffing needs. [Click here](#) for more.

Shapiro Files Charges Against Cabot Oil and Gas; Range Resources Pleads No Contest

Pennsylvania Attorney General Josh Shapiro announced that his office is charging Cabot Oil and Gas for environmental crimes that occurred in northeastern Pennsylvania. This comes as part of a two-year grand jury investigation into environmental crimes committed by unconventional oil and gas companies across the commonwealth. The office is charging Cabot with seven counts of prohibition against discharge of industrial wastes, seven counts

of prohibition against other pollutions, and one count of unlawful conduct under the Clean Streams Law. [Click here](#) to learn more.

Shapiro also announced that Range Resources has pleaded no contest to negligent oversight of well sites in Washington County, also part of the grand jury investigation. Range Resources will pay \$150,000 in fines and contributions. [Click here](#) for more.

[State Fire Commissioner Accepting Applications for Act 13 Emergency Services Grant Program](#)

The Office of the State Fire Commissioner is accepting applications for the 2020 Act 13 Unconventional Gas Well Fund Grant program until July 31, 2020. Fire companies, rescue companies, and emergency medical services throughout the 40 counties in which unconventional gas wells are located or counties that directly border these counties are eligible to apply for the grants. Eligible projects include training, professional certification, and purchasing specialized equipment for gas well fires. To learn more, [click here](#).

2020 Census: Did you Know?

The census will determine how money for transportation, hospitals, schools, and other community service and programs is distributed. In Pennsylvania, state funds such as liquid fuels allocations for roads and natural gas impact fee distributions to communities are also based on population numbers. Visit 2020census.gov to learn how census data impacts your community.

[PRPS PA Park Maintenance Institute Launches New Website](#)

The PA Recreation & Park Society (PRPS) launched an initiative to build a community of park maintenance professionals, providing the latest tools, techniques, and strategies for efficient park maintenance to advance the capacity of public parks and recreation organizations. [Click here](#) to learn more.

Legislation & Policy



The House met briefly for non-voting session and is now in recess until June 22. The Senate remains on a 12-hour call of the President pro tempore.

House Judiciary Committee Approves Police Reform Bills

On Monday June 15th, the House Judiciary committee reported two police reform bills from committee.

The first, House Bill 1910 would require the Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission (MPOETC) to train police officers to recognize and report suspected child abuse. HB 1910 would also require the MPOETC to develop training that includes annual instruction on the use of force, including deadly force; de-escalation and harm reduction techniques. This legislation would require the MPOETC to train police officers in trauma with respect to interacting with persons with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and would provide a way for law enforcement officers to deal with PTSD by requiring an evaluation for PTSD by a licensed mental health professional.

The second, House Bill 1841 would create a database to maintain records of law enforcement officers. This legislation would require an employer to disclose employment information to a law enforcement agency that is conducting a background investigation of an applicant and would also permit a court to compel the release of such employment information if an employer fails to comply.

Both bills are now before the House for their consideration.

Learn

This Week in Workshops

Here is a list of all available Conference workshops this week:

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

- [Funding Municipal Stormwater Management in PA - Virtual - 6/18/20](#)

- [Using Checklists To Work Smarter - Virtual - 6/18/20](#)

[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.



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



Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors
4855 Woodland Drive
Enola, PA 17025

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