June 1, 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**.

Learn

On the first and third Monday of each month, PSATS will be providing a full list of virtual classes and webinars to view.

Virtual Classes

2020 Spring Emergency Management Virtual Forum - June 1, 2 & 3, 2020

PSATS Virtual Boot Camp

Flagger Training - Virtual Class - 6/26/20

Webinars

The Pros and Cons of Selling Municipal Water/Sewer Assets - 6/3/20

Is Your Township Prepared for More De Facto Takings Claims - 6/4/20

[Creating a Traffic Impact Fee - in Plain Speak! - 6/10/20](#)

[Collective Bargaining in the Age of COVID-19 - 6/17/20](#)

[Today's Liability Issues: From COVID-19 to Sexual Assault to Government Immunity - 6/18/20](#)

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

Virtual Workshops

To access all virtual conference workshops, [click here](#).

[Save Time and Money When Purchasing With COSTARS - Virtual - 6/4/20](#)

[Roadmaster Roundtable - Virtual - 6/5/20](#)

[Bridging Your Infrastructure Challenges - 6/8/20](#)

[Municipal ENewsletters: Communicating with your Audience - Virtual - 6/8/20](#)

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

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

[Making Your Community Safer for Pedestrians - Virtual - 6/12/20](#)

[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](#)

[Traffic and Parking: A Discussion with Traffic Engineers - Virtual - 6/22/20](#)

[20 Ways to Improve your Public Meetings - Virtual - 6/22/20](#)

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

[Enviromental Potpourri - A Regulatory Primer - Virtual - 6/25/20](#)

Flexible Zoning, Subdivision, & Land Development Solutions - 6/25/20

Stormwater Compliance: What Your Municipality Needs to Know - Virtual - 6/29/20

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

Latest News

REMINDER - Virtual Conference Workshops Start Thursday!
For the first time in PSATS history, members can experience Conference workshops online. View more than 60 workshops all summer long. This week we begin with:

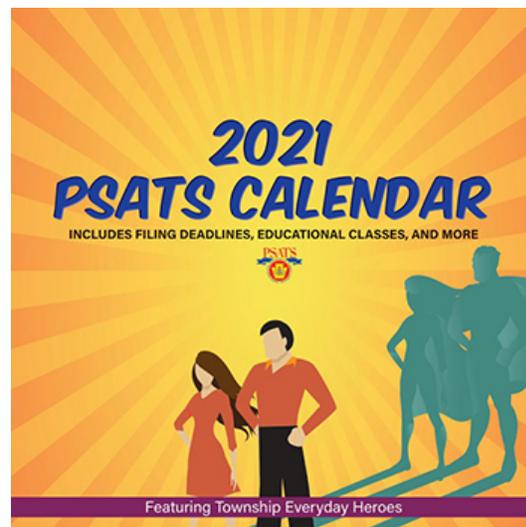Save Time And Money When Purchasing With COSTARS and Roadmaster Roundtable.

Click here to register and view all conference workshops.

The June issue of the Township News, including a Digital Version, Is Now Available
COVID-19 has reinforced how quickly bad news can happen. This month's cover article explores how townships can prepare for a crisis and why it's important to have a solid plan in place. The issue also contains articles on Second Amendment sanctuary cities, how COVID-19 is changing the workplace, and how the State Historic Preservation Office can help townships with their historic preservation efforts. Subscribers to the News can access their digital copy by signing in to connect.psats.org and clicking on the "Your Monthly Magazine Just Went Digital" box. Not yet a subscriber? You can check out the free cover article here and learn how to subscribe to the News here.

PSATS Looking for Photos of Township "Everyday Heroes"
Attention, township officials! PSATS wants photos of your "Everyday Heroes" for its 2021 calendar! Read more for details.

Wolf Signs Emergency Declaration to Assist Municipalities During Protests
Gov. Tom Wolf signed a disaster emergency declaration to provide all necessary assistance to municipalities in Allegheny, Dauphin, and Philadelphia counties as they respond to the escalation of protests. Read full story.

More Counties Moving to Green on June 5
On Friday, Gov. Tom Wolf announced that 16 additional counties across the commonwealth will move to "green" status under the governor's phased reopening plan effective June 5, while affirming that those counties remaining in red will move to yellow on June 5. Read full story.

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

Starting today, 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](#).

[DEP Accepting Feedback on Regulations to Reduce Air Pollution from Natural Gas Development](#)

The state Department of Environmental Protection is accepting public comment until July 27 and will hold three virtual public hearings on regulations to reduce air pollution from existing unconventional natural gas wells and infrastructure. [Read full story](#).

[More PennDOT Driver's License Centers to Open in Yellow Counties](#)

The state Department of Transportation has opened additional driver's license centers in yellow counties with restrictions set by the commonwealth, including in Dauphin, Franklin, Lebanon, and Luzerne counties. Note that limited services will be available and numerous COVID-19 safety protocols will be in place. For a full list of driver's license and photo license centers currently open and their hours of operation, please visit the [DMV website](#).

Legislation & Policy

The House and Senate are scheduled to return to Harrisburg on Monday June 8th.

Governor Signs Short-Term State Budget

On May 29th, Governor Wolf signed the 2020 five-month budget package into law. The $25.8 Billion 5 month budget does not include any tax increases and does fund the state's schools, institutions of higher learning and child care programs through the entire next

fiscal year, giving them universities and school districts stability as they chart their budgets. The state will also make its usual contributions to SERS and PSERS and will fund an entire year's worth of some crucial health and environmental programs.

$625 million from the CARES Act will go to the 60 counties that did not receive direct aid from the federal government. The Department of Community and Economic Development is required to distribute this money to counties by July 15, 2020. These distributions are based on population and each eligible county will receive no less than $1 million which must be prioritized for subgrantees not awarded money from CARES I and used for the following purposes:

- Offsetting cost of direct county response, planning, and outreach related to COVID-19, including PPE;
- Small business grant programs to support businesses with fewer than 100 employees, priority to those that did not get paycheck protection funds;
- Grants for economic development;
- Assistance to municipalities for response and planning efforts related to COVID-19, including PPE purchases;
- Behavioral health and substance use disorder treatment;
- Nonprofit assistance for 501c3 or c19;
- Broadband internet deployment with priority given to unserved or underserved areas.

Coronavirus Relief Fund Legislation for Fire and EMS Signed into Law
On May 29th Governor Wolf signed Act 26 of 2020 (*formerly SB 122*) into law. Act 26 allocates $44 million from Federal stimulus dollars to provide grants to fire companies and $6 million to EMS organizations.