



June 24, 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.

Veggie Tales: Everyone Counts!



Join Bob the Tomato, Larry the Cucumber, and their VeggieTales pals as they talk and sing about the 2020 Census, the importance of counting young children, and the specialness of everyone. As part of our ongoing efforts to ensure that all township residents are counted as part of the 2020 Census, PSATS is asking all townships to share this video to your website and social media pages. Young children are one of the most undercounted populations, so be sure to remind your residents today to complete their

2020 Census and include everyone, especially young children!

Latest News

[Updated DCED COVID-19 FAQs Include Masks, Temperature Checks](#)

The state Department of Community and Economic Development recently updated its Frequently Asked Questions for Businesses Operating During the COVID-19 Disaster Emergency to include questions about compliance with the commonwealth's guidance, including use of masks in the workplace, temperature checks for employees, and occupancy limits. [Click here](#) to view the FAQs.

The commonwealth continues to promote the use of masks to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 and prevent the need for any future shutdowns.

[Wolf Extends Timeframe for DEP to Develop Rulemaking for Greenhouse Gas Initiative](#)

Gov. Tom Wolf has extended the timeframe for the state Department of Environmental Protection to develop rulemaking for Pennsylvania's participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative from July 31 to September 15, 2020. The extension is due to the COVID-19 pandemic. [Read fully story](#).

[Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society to Celebrate Park Professionals Across the State](#)

The Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society welcomes all Pennsylvanians to visit parks on July 17th to celebrate Park & Recreation Professionals Day. Across Pennsylvania, communities can show their appreciation for the numerous park and recreation professionals who continue to work to keep our parks safe year-round. [Read full story](#).

Legislation & Policy



The House and Senate are scheduled to be in session today, June 24th.

House Passes Tax Anticipation Note Legislation

On June 23rd, the House unanimously passed HB 2536. This legislation would amend the Local Government Unit Debt Act (LGUDA) to authorize local governments, as a means to manage cash flow during the COVID-19 emergency, to use alternative tax anticipation notes that mature at the end of the next fiscal year.

HB 2536 is now awaiting committee assignment in the Senate.

House Passes Blight Legislation

On June 23rd, the House passed SB 352 which would create the Tax Exemption and Mixed-Use Incentive Program to authorize municipalities to provide for tax exemption incentives for certain deteriorated industrial, commercial, business, and residential property. This legislation would also apply to new construction in deteriorated areas of communities. SB 352 has passed the Senate and the House and is now before the Senate on concurrence of House amendments.

House Local Government Committee News

On June 23rd, the House Local Government Committee approved HB 2141 which would authorize the governing body of a distressed municipality to vote to organize a study commission if the recovery plan adopted by the distressed municipality recommends the adoption of a home rule charter or amendment of an existing home rule charter. HB 2141 is now before the House.

Senate Finance Committee Passes Tax Credit Legislation

On June 23rd, the Senate Finance Committee approved SB 331 and SB 881. SB 1180 would establish a state tax credit for volunteer firefighters. In order to be eligible for the tax credit, a volunteer firefighter would be required to be a resident of the Commonwealth, have at least two full years of service as a volunteer firefighter, respond to at least 20 percent of the volunteer fire company's emergency calls during the two-year period, and be an active member of a volunteer fire company. The maximum tax credit available to an eligible volunteer firefighter would be \$500.

SB 875 would exempt firefighters from the sales and use tax when purchasing protective equipment and accessory communications equipment while using their own personal funds.

SB 1180 and SB 875 are recommendations of the SR 6 report and are now before the Senate for their consideration.

Senate Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee Passes Farmland Preservation Legislation

On June 23rd, the Senate Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee approved SB 881 which would expand Pennsylvania's farmland preservation program to land trusts, direct a portion of existing funding to private land trusts, and require matching funds. SB 881 is now before the Senate for their consideration.

Learn

[Flexible Zoning, Subdivision & Land Development Solutions - Virtual - 6/25/20](#)

Develop-able land is disappearing. Meanwhile, infrastructure and buildings are aging to the point where they are inconsistent with the needs of today's residents. The world is changing quickly, and it seems land use ordinances cannot be updated fast enough. As a result, it is necessary to employ zoning, subdivision, and land development strategies that are flexible, creative, and (at least for now) cutting edge. This workshop explains many of those strategies and how townships are employing them today. Qualifies for 1 PMGA Planning/Zoning Point. Eligible for 1 CLE Credit. [Click here](#) to register.



[Webinar - Emergency Management Q&A Panel With PEMA Area Offices - 7/1/20](#)

Join us on July 1 as PSATS welcomes representatives from PEMA’s Western, Central and Eastern Area Offices to answer your questions on emergency management-related topics. The panel will cover a variety of topics, including best practices for emergency management structure, handling emergency declarations, resource request procedures and reimbursement-related issues. Attendees will have an opportunity to ask questions during the webinar, but can also submit questions in advance at learn@psats.org. Qualifies for 1 PMGA Public Safety Point. [Click here](#) to register.

[Police Use Of Force & Local Government Oversight - Virtual Class - 7/8/20](#)

During these turbulent times, an assessment of your police department’s use of force policies and internal affairs procedures is recommended for municipal officials responsible for police oversight. Qualifies for 1.5 PMGA Public Safety Points. Eligible for 1.5 CLE Credits. [Click here](#) to register.

[Webinar - Blight Busting: A “Low Hanging Fruit” In The Fight Against Blight - 7/8/20](#)

In this webinar, you will receive an overview of the benefits and nuances of a commonly used tool – vacant property registries. Implemented correctly, a “VPRO” delivers your township valuable information, efficiencies, savings and revenue, all with no out-of-pocket costs to the township. Join Michael Halpern of MuniReg LLC as he reviews how adding this to your township’s toolbox will help it in the fight against blight. Qualifies for 1 PMGA Planning/Zoning Point. [Click here](#) to register.



[Five Cardiac Township Events And The CPR To Address Them - Virtual - 7/8/20](#)

The life of a township official and administrator has its highs and lows. Certain events, however, will stop your heart. The presenter will cover several of those, including the loss of an employee, failure to file a critical form, a cyber attack, a natural disaster, and a EPA fine or administrative order. While it's impossible to anticipate every heart-stopping event, there are systems and processes that officials can implement to mitigate the impact. Those solutions will be analyzed and discussed. Qualifies for 1 PMGA Public Works Point. Eligible for 1 CLE Credit. [Click here](#) to register.



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



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