



June 9, 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



Pa. House Majority Whip Kerry Benninghoff says COVID-19, which highlighted Pennsylvania's broadband weak spots, will likely accelerate the expansion of high-speed internet into underserved areas. He also explains how townships, volunteer fire companies, and ambulance services can get their share of federal pandemic funding.

Latest News

6 New PSATS Fact Sheets Help Townships Navigate Reopening

Wondering when your township should fully reopen its parks and begin facility rentals? Not sure how to handle your township meetings? Want to learn how to keep your employees safe when dealing with the public? Do you have a plan in place if one of your employees becomes ill?

PSATS has developed new fact sheets to help you answer these and other questions, learn best practices, and navigate Pennsylvania's phased reopening. The fact sheets are a new PSATS member service that also link you directly to the supporting state and federal guidance. The fact sheets cover these areas:

- [Employee and Resident Safety](#)
- [Employer/Employee Issues \(Eckert Seamans\)](#)
- [Meetings](#)
- [Parks and Recreation](#)
- [Waste/Sewage Disposal](#)
- Public Works (LTAP) *Coming soon!*

[Click here](#) to learn more!

[Wolf Announces \\$225 Million Grant Program for Targeted Small Businesses](#)

Gov. Tom Wolf has announced \$225 million in grants to small businesses impacted by the COVID-19 health crisis. The program is part of the recently enacted budget and is funded through federal funds in the CARES Act. The \$50,000 grants will be distributed through the Community Development Financial Institutions (These 17 institutions are largely in metropolitan areas [click here](#). These grants are targeted to certain businesses impacted by the Governor's closure order (both Main Street and Historically Disadvantaged Businesses with fewer than 25 employees.) [Click here](#) for Governor's press release.

[Story Map Shares Tips, Benefits of Improving Water Quality in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed](#)

The state Department of Environmental Protection has released a new story map, Healthy Waters, Healthy Communities, an educational site that shares the importance of reducing nutrient and sediment runoff and shows the benefit of improving water quality in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. The new site contains resources for municipalities, farmers, businesses, and more while also highlighting successes, such as a park project in Jackson Township, York County, and an inter-municipal stormwater effort in Blair County. [Click here](#) to view the story map.

[Commonwealth Releases New Dashboard for COVID-19 Data, Issues Testing Order to Nursing Homes](#)

To help improve how the state reports its data, the commonwealth has released an enhanced dashboard to pull Pennsylvania's COVID-19 data and information together to better inform Pennsylvanians. [Read full story.](#)

2020 Census: Did you Know?

Each year, the Federal funding government provides \$675 billion in federal public funding. The Census will determine how those funds are divided among the 50 states for the next 10 years. Pennsylvania receives 26.8 billion dollars each year through our 16 largest federally-funded programs. That's about \$2000 per Pennsylvanian per year. Remind your township residents, family, and friends to complete their census today by going to my2020census.gov!

Legislation & Policy



The House and Senate are scheduled to convene for session today, June 9th.

House Speaker Supports Call for Special Session on Police Reforms

On Monday June 8th, and in response to a protest on the House floor led by members of the Legislative Black Caucus prohibiting the house from convening, House Speaker Mike Turzai provided remarks on the current events taking place across the country, and offered his support for a special session on police reforms.

Turzai stated "I would suggest that we draft a letter to the Governor, all of us, asking for a special session on police reform and dealing with the issues of police brutality." Following his remarks, Turzai met with leaders from both caucuses, as well as the Legislative Black Caucus. House session was cancelled and is scheduled to resume today June 8th at 11:00 AM. Additional meetings of both caucuses are also expected.

Senate Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness Committee Approves

Resolution to End Emergency Declaration

On June 8th, the Senate Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee reported HR 836 from committee. This resolution would end the Governor's COVID-19 emergency declaration. HR 836 is now before the Senate for their consideration.

PSATS Applauds Signing of Alternate On-Lot Systems Legislation

Governor Tom Wolf recently signed Act 34 of 2020 (*formerly SB 1030 Yaw (R)-Lycoming*) into law. Act 34 amends the Pennsylvania Sewage Facilities Act to require the state Department of Environmental Protection to accept any conventional or alternate sewage system that meets site conditions at a proposed new land development.

On Monday June 8th, legislative sponsor Senator Yaw released the following statement on the new law "I'm very happy Governor Wolf signed this bill into law," Senator Yaw said today. "Allowing for alternate on-lot systems in the planning process would widen the area to which development can take place and save valuable acreage that could otherwise be used for agriculture or other purposes. Undoubtedly, it will improve water quality in streams and rivers by using systems that have a proven performance record, and, in many cases, are superior to some conventional systems."

"Act 34 is a major step forward for rural communities across Pennsylvania, where growth, at times, has been slowed by outdated state laws," said David M. Sanko, executive director of the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors.

"Our thanks goes to Sen. Yaw, who through his leadership ushered in this much-needed change, which provides options and flexibility where none existed for municipalities and their residents. I'd also like to thank Gov. Wolf for signing this bill and acknowledging PSATS request to bring on-lot sewage management into the 21st century. Act 34 is a win for Pennsylvania, the environment, our communities, and landowners."

[Click here](#) to read the full press release.

Congress Offers A Police Plan, Too

On Monday in Washington, House and Senate Democratic leaders [introduced](#) the Justice in Policing Act of 2020, "the first-ever bold, comprehensive approach to hold police accountable, change the culture of law enforcement and build trust between law enforcement and our communities." Among other provisions, the legislation would: establish a national standard for the operation of police departments; mandate data collection on police encounters; reprogram existing funds to invest in transformative community-based policing programs; and streamline federal law to prosecute excessive force and establish independent prosecutors for police investigations. It is expected to be voted before the end of June in the House.

Learn

[Webinar - Creating A Traffic Impact Fee - In Plain Speak! - 6/10/20](#)

Sure, that developer will pay for and build the new road in his subdivision. But the increased traffic will impact roads throughout your township. Who will pay to improve this “off-site” infrastructure? Developers will... but only if your community has an Act 209 Traffic Impact Fee! Learn the basics about this important state law, without the technical-speak! Qualifies for 1 PMGA Planning/Zoning Point. [Click here](#) to register.



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



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