



Morning News

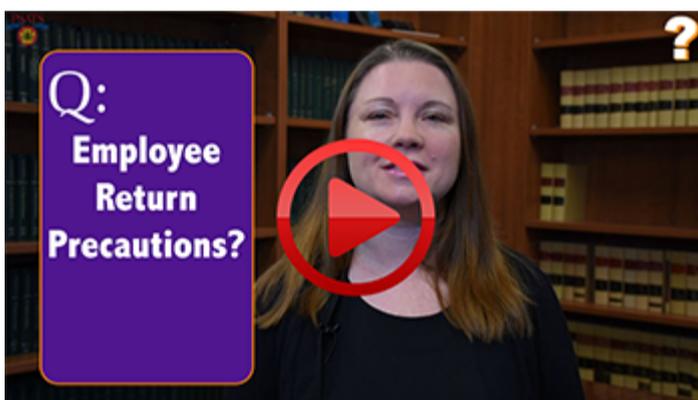
July 16, 2020

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



COVID-19 has created challenges for townships, some of which we'll be addressing in this month's Questions of the Week. Today, we focus on township employees, who may be apprehensive about returning to the municipal building, and on simple precautions that will make everyone feel at ease. Also, [click here](#) to catch up on previous Questions of the Week. (1:40)

Latest News

IFO Releases Local Government Study on COVID-19 Fiscal Impact

Today, the state Independent Fiscal Office will release a study examining the impact of COVID-19 on local government finances. The Office projected the outlook for the earned income tax and property tax revenues for 2020 by county, as well as gaming revenues for those counties with casinos, which will provide townships estimate revenues for the remainder of the year. The study was prepared based on a request received from the General Assembly Local Government Committee Chairs at the suggestion of PSATS and other municipal associations. [Look for more information here.](#)

Commonwealth Imposes New Restrictions on Restaurants, Gatherings...

Gov. Tom Wolf and state Secretary of Health Dr. Rachel Levine have signed new statewide orders to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. [Read full story.](#)

PSATS Submits Comments to PUC on Water, Wastewater, and Land Use

PSATS has submitted comments to the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission in response to an Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on water and wastewater utilities. The comments focus on the need for water and wastewater facilities to be developed in compliance with local land use ordinances and comprehensive plans. PSATS disagrees with the commission's goal of regionalization and consolidation of these smaller systems. [Click here to read the comments.](#)

Trump Announces Expedited Federal Reviews for Infrastructure

President Donald Trump has announced that his administration will issue a final rule to modernize and accelerate environmental reviews under the National Environmental Policy Act. The rule will reduce the time for completion and review of environmental impact statements. The intention is to allow infrastructure, including transportation, to be built in a more timely fashion. [Click here to read more.](#)

PHMC Grant Opportunity Available for Archival Records

The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission is now accepting applications for the Historical and Archival Records Care Grant Program until October 1. Funding is available for historical records repositories and collections care, including surveying, inventorying, preserving, arranging, and describing historical records significant to Pennsylvania. Local governments may apply for up to \$15,000 with a 50 percent match or up to \$5,000 with no match. [Click here to learn more.](#)

Door-to-Door Census Visits to Begin Next Week in Central Part of State

Starting next week, the U.S. Census Bureau will begin knocking on doors of households that have not yet responded to the 2020 Census in certain select areas of the country. In Pennsylvania, these in-person visits will occur in the region served by the State College Area Census Office.* If your township is in this targeted area, please alert community members and law enforcement that visits by masked census takers could occur. Census visits in other parts of the state are scheduled to begin August 11. Any households that have not yet responded to the census can expect to receive a reminder postcard in the mail next week. Continue to remind residents to complete their census ASAP if they want to avoid a census taker from visiting their home. *NOTE: The State College area covers the counties of Bedford, Blair, Bradford, Cambria, Cameron, Centre, Clearfield, Clinton, Columbia, Elk, Fulton, Huntingdon, Indiana, Jefferson, Juniata, Lycoming, McKean, Mifflin, Montour, Northumberland, Potter, Snyder, Somerset, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, Union, and Wyoming.

Learn

[PSATS Summer/Fall 2020 QuickBooks Series](#)

These virtual QuickBooks sessions are a great opportunity to learn about specific ways to use QuickBooks to bring greater efficiency and value to your township. From using QuickBooks for budgeting and meeting reports to preparing for the township audit or year-end reporting, these classes will cover a wide variety of important QuickBooks functions.



- July 30 – “QuickBooks Q&A”
- August 27 – “How to Use Customers and Classes for Grants and Reimbursables”
- September 24 – “Budgets and QuickBooks”
- October 29 – “Using QuickBooks for Meeting and Year-End Reports”
- November 19 – “Getting Ready for the Township Audit”
- December 17 – “Year-End Employee Functions”

[Click here](#) for more information and to register.

[PennTIME: How Traffic Incident Management Can Keep Our ERS - Virtual - 07-17-2020](#)

Attend this virtual workshop to learn about PennTIME -- The Pennsylvania Traffic Incident Management Enhancement program, which is focused on improving first-responder safety while keeping traffic moving. The presenters will talk about training, quick clearance, and the need for state agencies and municipalities to work together to keep workers, responders, and citizens safe. Qualifies for 1 PMGA Public Safety Point. [Click here](#) to register.



[PA 811 - Compliance Execution And New PUC Requirements - Virtual - 7/23/20](#)

Attend this session to learn about changes to Pennsylvania's One Call Law and the impact this has on your township's compliance responsibilities. The presenters will explain the Alleged Violation Report (AVR) process and the renotification response requirement for facility owners. They'll also discuss tools to enhance communication and collaboration. Qualifies for 1 PMGA Public Safety Point. [Click here](#) to register.



[Get The Dirt: Zoning, Subdivision & Land Development Basics - Virtual - 7/23/20](#)

The effects of land use ordinances are evident everywhere you look. They shape the feel and look of our communities. This workshop will provide a great foundation for anyone new to land use matters and reinforce the basic principles for those with more experience. Beginning with the history of zoning in the U.S., the presenters will guide attendees in making informed decisions whether they're enacting a zoning amendment or approving a land development plan. Qualifies for 1 PMGA Planning/Zoning Point. Eligible for 1 CLE Credit. [Click here](#) to register.



[Suburban Homestead: Best Practices And Management - Virtual - 7/30/20](#)

During this session, township officials will get some insight into residential agricultural land uses and how best to manage them. Uses include the keeping of bees and chickens, composting, and gardening. The panel will include bee and poultry experts to help attendees gain a greater of understanding of these practices while learning how they fit within residential zones and how to regulate/manage them. [Click here](#) to register.



[Addressing The Unaddressable - How To Resolve Difficult Parcels - Virtual - 7/30/20](#)

Participants will learn the tips & tricks of assigning addresses to the seemingly unaddressable parcels--landlocked, vacant, those with no room in the numbering sequence, and the like. [Click here](#) to register.



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

