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July 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.

Latest News

Independent Fiscal Office Releases Monthly Economic Update

The Pennsylvania Independent Fiscal Office released its [July 2020 Monthly Economic Update](#), which notes that the NYMEX natural gas price is at its lowest level in decades, which will have a negative impact on impact fee collections. Pennsylvania findings from the U.S. Census Bureau's Household Pulse Survey are included, such as the ability to pay mortgages and use of stimulus payments. [Click here](#) to read the issue.

[Senate and White House Agree on Trillion-dollar Plus Coronavirus Aid \(CARES 2\)](#)

Highlights impacting local government include allowing CARES dollars to be used to make up lost revenue but cannot be used for pension/retirement payments or rainy-day surplus funds. [Read full story](#).

[Human Services Shares Public Assistance Enrollment Data](#)

The state Department of Human Services reminded Pennsylvanians that safety net programs are available for those struggling to afford food or access health care. [Read full](#)

[story.](#)

LCB Clarifies Guidance on Mitigation

The Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board has issued clarifying guidance to liquor licensees to reinforce the targeted statewide COVID-19 mitigation efforts at bars and restaurants. The guidance defines “meal,” allows the use of food trucks to serve meals at breweries, distilleries, and wineries, and states that a club cannot use its liquor license if it does not sell food directly or through a concessionaire. [Click here](#) to learn more.

Urge Your Residents to Avoid West Nile Virus While Enjoying the Outdoors

With Pennsylvania’s first 2020 probable human case of West Nile Virus in a Potter County resident, the state departments of Health and Environmental Protection strongly recommend that all residents minimize their exposure to mosquitos. [Read full story.](#)

Legislation & Policy



First Responder Legislation Signed into Law

On July 23rd, Governor Wolf signed Act 69 of 2020 (formerly HB 1459) into law. Act 69 creates the Statewide Critical Incident Stress Management Program, a statewide program to assist first responders with managing stress and preventing stress related illness.

Act 69 fulfills a recommendation of the SR 6 commission report.

Governor Signs Tax Credit Legislation

On July 23rd, Governor Wolf signed Act 66 of 2020 (formerly HB 732) into law. Act 66 exempts transfers of real estate to or by a volunteer fire company, volunteer EMS company, or volunteer rescue company from the real estate transfer tax. Act 66 also establishes a local resource manufacturing tax credit for eligible Pennsylvania manufacturing facilities that use dry natural gas to produce fertilizer and other petrochemical products.

Learn

Missed a Virtual Conference Workshop? No worries. All Conference workshops will be available On-Demand immediately after the live virtual workshop date. Simply go to learn.psats.org/virtual-conference to view the workshops.



[Taking The Politics Out Of Paving - Virtual - 7/27/20](#)

Evaluating and mapping your township's road system in GIS can help you develop a strategic plan that improves efficiency and reduces road maintenance costs. This workshop will use case studies to illustrate how to develop effective road programs with and without GIS. Both programs help townships better track road maintenance issues by identifying existing conditions, prioritizing needs, and determining costs for maintaining and repairing roads. Qualifies for 1 PMGA Public Works Point. [Click here](#) to register.

[U.S. Army Corps Of Engineers' Technical Assistance Programs - Virtual - 7/27/20](#)

If your township has problems with flooding and other water issues, attend this session to learn about the The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' technical assistance programs. The presenters will review available resources, including the Planning Assistance to States and the Floodplain Management Services Programs. These partnership-based initiatives offer, among other things, federal/nonfederal cost sharing and help developing technical products through comprehensive plans. Qualifies for 1 PMGA Public Works Point. [Click here](#) to register.



[Temporary Traffic Control Planning And Deployment - Virtual - 07/31/2020](#)

Attend this virtual workshop to learn techniques to properly plan and deploy work zones. The presenter will also be reviewing helpful publications and policies that will impact local work zone safety. Qualifies for 1 PMGA Public Works Point. [Click here](#) to register.



[PennDOT's Traffic Safety & Operations Funding Programs - Virtual - 08/07/2020](#)

This virtual workshop is designed to provide townships with up-to-date information on two PennDOT grant programs that improve traffic safety and operations: the Green Light-Go and the Automated Red Light Enforcement Funding Programs. The workshop will focus on how to apply for funding and develop a successful application. The panelists will also present case studies of completed projects that used this funding and explain the project delivery process. Qualifies for 1 PMGA Public Works Point. [Click here](#) to register.



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



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