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July 7, 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](mailto:morningnews@psats.org).

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## Township Video News



Need a little (socially distanced) networking? Then watch this month's Training Tuesday for details on our upcoming Regional Forums, which kick off July 29 in Erie County and continue into the fall at seven other locations. (3:00)

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## Latest News

### **COVID-19 Grants for Fire and EMS Now Open**

The Office of State Fire Commissioner has [released program guidance](#) and applications for grants under Act 26 of 2020, which provides COVID-19 grants for fire and EMS. Applications are due August 7, 2020. Each fire company and EMS company that received 2019-2020 grants through the Fire Company and Emergency Medical Services Grant program will receive, at a minimum, the same amount as their 2019-2020 award. Due to federal compliance guidelines, **All fire, rescue, and EMS companies must register for the new program to receive a grant.**

These one-time grants are to be used by eligible fire, rescue, and EMS companies to provide services during the COVID-19 pandemic, and funds are to be used to supplement operational expenses due to a lack of opportunities for fund raising and the inability to create revenue due to compliance measures. These include expenses for cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting equipment and property or other expenses incurred to prevent the spread of communicable disease. [Click here](#) for more information!

### **DEP Grants Available for DC Fast Charging, Hydrogen Fueling Stations**

The state Department of Environmental Protection has \$1.8 million in grants available through the DC Fast Charging and Hydrogen Fueling Grant program, part of the Driving Pa. Forward Initiative **until September 4, 2020**. This funding is for light-duty zero-emissions vehicle supply equipment projects with expanded use of DC fast charging and hydrogen refueling infrastructure, preferably in community hubs, transportation corridors, and destinations. Townships may apply for these grants. [Click here](#) for more information.

### **DEP Releases Draft State Water Quality Report**

The state Department of Environmental Protection released its [draft 2020 Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report](#) that details the health of Pennsylvania's 86,000 plus miles of streams and rivers and more than 160,000 acres of lakes. The draft report is open for public comment until August 11, 2020, through the [DEP eComment system](#).

The report has a map viewer that allows users to view individual stream or rivers sections and export information, which could be a useful tool for township officials. [Click here](#) to view the report.

### **2019 Common Level Ratio Released for Realty Transfer Tax**

The state Department of Revenue has released the real estate valuation factors compiled by the State Tax Equalization Board in 2019, which are the mathematical reciprocals of the actual common level ratio (CLR). For Pennsylvania realty transfer tax purposes, these factors apply to documents accepted from July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021. [Click here](#) to

view the 2019 CLR from the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.

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## Legislation & Policy



The Senate remains at the call of the President Pro Tempore. The House is scheduled to return to session today, July 7th. Watch session live [here](#).

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## Learn

### **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. On July 8, from 9:30-11:00 am, PSATS will be hosting a virtual class on "Police Use of Force & Local Government Oversight," in which Christopher Gerber and Andrew Rongaus of Siana Law will familiarize local elected and appointed officials with the fundamentals of lawful and excessive use of force, internal affairs procedures, and lawful and unlawful public protests. They will also identify common mistakes by municipal police policymakers. For more information and to register, [click here](#).



### **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.

### **CMV/CDL Records Management - Virtual Training - 7/14/20**

This workshop will review CMV/CDL employee and vehicle paperwork, including pre-employment inquiries regarding a CDL applicant's past drug and alcohol test results and driving safety reports; requests for CMV driver's license information; annually reviewing each CMV driver's qualification to continue driving; CMV daily vehicle inspection, maintenance, and repair reports; the employer's required policy on CDL drug and alcohol testing; and a general overview of all the CDL regulations. This class is eligible for 3 PMGA Public Safety points. [Click here](#) to register.



## The Township Role In Emergency Management - Virtual Training - 7/21/20

One of the most fundamental responsibilities of every township is to protect the health, welfare, and safety of its residents. Whatever the natural and man-made hazards your township faces, it must prepare to “handle them all”. And while the leadership of the Board of Supervisors is crucial to the ultimate success of your emergency management responsibilities, so, too, is the active involvement of your township’s appointed Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC) and the rest of your emergency management team. This course will provide detailed instructions on how to structure your emergency management team and make an emergency operations plan (EOP) that is responsive to the threats faced by your township. This course is eligible for 3 PMGA Public Safety Points. [Click here](#) to register.



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



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