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August 11, 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



Rob Ghormoz, Gov. Tom Wolf's Secretary of Intergovernmental Affairs, discusses Pennsylvania's response to COVID-19, efforts to secure federal funding to offset state and local budget deficits, and encouraging signs for the future. (8:56)

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## Latest News

### [FEMA Announces Hazard Mitigation Assistance Application Period](#)

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has announced that applications for \$660 million in hazard mitigation grants will open on September 30 and it will accept applications through the FEMA Go Portal until January 29, 2021. [Read full story.](#)

### [Commonwealth Awards Small Business COVID-19 Grants, Opens Another Round](#)

Gov. Tom Wolf announced that 4,933 businesses in all 67 Pennsylvania counties received state grants due to COVID-19 impacts and the governor's business closure order. [Read full story.](#)

### [Commonwealth Issues School Guidance](#)

The state Departments of Health and Education have released recommendations for which instruction models should be implemented based on the changing levels of community transmission of COVID-19 in their counties. [Read full story.](#)

### [PUC Damage Prevention Committee Releases Agenda for Today's Meeting](#)

The agenda for the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission's Damage Prevention Committee is available for its August 11 meeting, which will be held by teleconference. [Read full story.](#)

### [DCNR Issues Overcrowding Alert for Certain State Parks, Forests](#)

The state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) has issued an alert that a number of state parks and several areas of state forests are reaching capacity and experiencing unsafe overcrowding and/or turning away visitors. [Read full story.](#)



### **2020 Census: Encourage Your Residents to Respond Today!**

PSATS is promoting Constitution Day (September 17) as Township CENSUS 2020 Response Day. We are asking townships to promote this day and urge residents to participate in the census. Remind your residents why they choose to live in your township and how the population count from the census determines state and federal funding to your township. This week, we are focusing on recreational opportunities and how grants for parks and recreation are often awarded based on a community's population numbers.

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## Learn

### [Webinar - How To Manage Utilities In ROWs In 2020 - 8/12/20](#)

Numerous companies have facilities or wish to install new facilities in the narrow ribbon of real estate known as the public rights-of-way. Yet, townships are charged with the task of managing these facilities to protect public safety. This webinar will review how to balance those competing interests, including by covering three major legal rulings that have fundamentally altered the ability of townships to perform this task--the 2019 PA Supreme Court decision in *City of Lancaster v. PUC*, the 2019 FCC Cable Franchise Order, and the 2018 FCC Wireless Order. Qualifies for 1 PMGA Planning/Zoning Point. Eligible for 1 CLE Credit. [Click here](#) to register.

### [Transparency & Communication In Local Government - Virtual - 8/12/20](#)

Local governments are tasked with delivering a wide breadth of services, such as public works, zoning, solid waste, recycling, etc., to our communities. It is no longer "good enough" to simply deliver these services; local governments must be customer service-oriented, transparent and actively communicate. This workshop will review various ways in which local governments can communicate, using various media, all the while incorporating an emphasis on increased transparency into the process. Qualifies for 1 PMGA Administration Point. [Click here](#) to register.



**[The Township Role In Emergency Management - Virtual Training - 8/18/20](#)**

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.



**[Developing Your Township Budget - 8/25/20 - Cumberland Co.](#)**

This class will provide proven and effective methods and techniques to help new and veteran township supervisors, secretaries, treasurers, managers, road masters and public works officials develop budgets that work. This course is eligible for 2.5 PMGA Administration Points. [Click here](#) to register.



**[CDL - Probable Cause Training For CDL Supervisory Personnel - Virtual Training - 9/8/20](#)**

Participants will learn what to do if they suspect or verify that a CDL employee is under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol while on duty. Each attendee will receive a comprehensive student handout packet containing relevant instructional material. Each participant who completes the workshop will receive a certificate of attendance at supervisory personnel training for permanent retention in their employer's files. This training is required at least once for all



personnel who have any supervisory responsibilities for CDL employees. All your CDL and CMV employees will benefit from attending this workshop. 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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