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August 20, 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



PSATS staff explains the correct way to correct your township's meeting minutes. Also, [click here](#) to catch up on previous Questions of the Week. (1:17)

Latest News

[PENNVEST Announces Small Project Initiative Funding Program](#)

The Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority (PENNVEST) board of directors has approved a new funding opportunity for repairs and short-term construction for lower-cost water, wastewater, non-point source, and stormwater improvements. [Read full story.](#)

[Pennsylvania Pilots COVID-19 Exposure Notification Mobile App](#)

The state Department of Health has announced that it is conducting a \$1.2 million dollar pilot program for a new COVID-19 exposure notification mobile app, COVID Alert PA, which will be available to smartphone users starting in early September. [Read full story.](#)

[More Water and Sewer Funding Awards Announced](#)

The Commonwealth Financing Authority has approved more than \$8 million in additional funding to support H2O PA Flood Control projects, high-hazard dams, and water, sanitary sewer, and stormwater projects. [Read full story.](#)

[2021 Pennsylvania Farm Show Going Virtual](#)

Secretary of Agriculture Russell Redding announced today that Pennsylvania's agriculture industry will be celebrated virtually for the 2021 PA Farm Show, with no in-person events or competitions, to mitigate against COVID-19. [Read full story.](#)

[State Police Liquor Control Officers Issue Violation Notices and Warnings](#)

Pennsylvania State Police liquor control enforcement officers visited 4,031 licensed liquor establishments from Wednesday, August 12, through Tuesday, August 18, to ensure that businesses are abiding by COVID-19 mitigation requirements that include social distancing, masking, and other health and safety requirements of the Liquor Code. [Read full story.](#)

[Deadline Extended for Small Town Civic Volunteer Award Nominations](#)

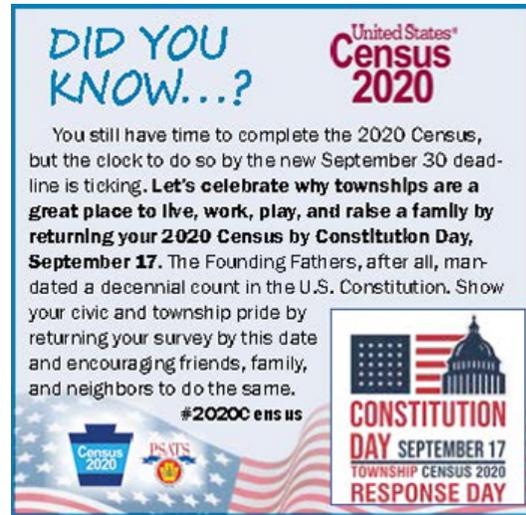
To ensure ample time is given to local governments that have been focused on COVID-related issues during the nominations period, the deadline for the Small Town America Civic Volunteer Award program has been extended one month to September 15. For more information, [click here.](#)

Help Promote Township CENSUS 2020 Response Day

PSATS is asking townships to promote Constitution Day (September 17) as Township CENSUS 2020 Response Day. To help do that, PSATS has created this [“Did You Know...?” box](#) that townships can use in social media posts, in newsletters, on websites—really, anywhere they think will help to get the word out to township residents about the importance of completing the 2020 Census. The final push is on to get everyone counted! You can find additional “Did You Know...?” boxes along with other useful resources on the [PSATS website](#). Remember, the census deadline is now SEPTEMBER 30

[ATTN ZONING OFFICIALS - Join us for the 2020 PAAZO Virtual Fall Seminar](#)

In this PAAZO (Virtual) Fall Seminar, learn from experts on a wide variety of topics from the comfort of your office or home. Among the topics to be covered include zoning overlay districts, enforcing dimensional standards, ways in which you can simplify your township's zoning, a legal update, and a panel discussion on lessons learned during COVID-19. You will also have an opportunity to interact and network with colleagues around the region. [Click here](#) to register.





[PSATS Provides Testimony on Transportation Task Force Legislation](#)

On August 19th, PSATS testified before the House Transportation Committee on legislation introduced as a result of the Transportation Infrastructure task force's fall 2019 report, Build to Lead: Investing in Pennsylvania Infrastructure. The report, found that, "There must be a stable, reliable, and permanently dedicated revenue stream for transportation infrastructure investment in the Commonwealth."

PSATS echoed that the state must provide a predictable, reliable, and dedicated method of funding for the entire transportation system (PennDOT, local government, and mass transit).

PSATS reiterated the member opposition to mandatory municipal fees for state police.

Additionally, PSATS testified that municipalities should receive a fair share of state liquid fuels funds to adequately maintain the local road portion of the entire commonwealth system and offered support of the use of a blend of revenue sources, including the oil franchise tax, registration fees, and public-private partnerships, to fund the state and local highway and bridge systems.

[Click here](#) to read a copy of PSATS' testimony.

Learn

Removing Barriers To Adaptive Reuse Of Older Buildings - Virtual - 8/27/20

Both zoning and building regulations can pose barriers to adaptive reuse of older buildings. This session will focus on those legislative barriers that are incompatible with your township's economic development goals and provide strategies for removing them. Qualifies for 1 PMGA Planning/Zoning Point. [Click here](#) to register.



Public And Private Partnerships Enhance Parks/Rec. Programs - Virtual - 8/27/20

Today's recreation customers want a diverse range of facilities and programming. Most communities, however, cannot meet these needs on their own so some are opting to form public and private partnerships to enhance programming. This workshop will provide examples of how communities are using partnerships to increase offerings, resources, and audiences. Attendees will also learn how to form effective partnerships of their own. Qualifies for 1 PMGA Planning/Zoning Point. [Click here](#) to register.



PSATS' Regional Forum - Bedford County - (Virtual) - 8/27/20

In the PSATS (Virtual) Regional Forum – Bedford, learn from experts on a wide variety of topics from the comfort of your office or home. Among the topics to be covered include fire service challenges, best practices for maintaining dirt and gravel roads, how to stretch your township public works budget, post-COVID emergency management Q&A, the Right-to-Know Law, and construction code challenges. You will also have an opportunity to interact and network with colleagues around the region. [Click here](#) to see the FULL agenda and register.



[PSATS Summer/Fall 2020 QuickBooks Series 7/30 - 12/17/2020](#)

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. You can purchase the entire six-part series for \$150 for PSATS members* and \$200 for non-members.



All sessions will run from 2:00-3:30 pm and will be recorded so that you have a continuing resource at your fingertips or if you cannot attend the live session. Each session is worth 1.5 PMGA Administration points.

All six sessions is \$150 for PSATS members /\$200 for non-members

- July 30 – “QuickBooks Q&A” (On-demand)
- 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”

[2020 TEMA Fall Forum - 9/17-18/20 - Virtual](#)

This is a separate 2-day virtual event that is designed to meet the educational needs and busy schedules of all those responsible for your municipality’s emergency management program, including elected officials, municipal managers, road crew/public works personnel, and emergency management coordinators (EMCs). [Click here](#) for more information and to register.



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



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