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November 17, 2020

Township Video News



In uncertain times, experts say that gratitude can be a valuable tool because it shifts our focus to what we have instead of what we might be missing. On the eve of Thanksgiving, PSATS Executive Director Dave Sanko discusses this new way of thinking. (2:15)

Latest News

Reminder: Townships May Apply for Alternative Fuels Grants

The Energy Programs Office of the state Department of Environmental Protection is accepting grant applications under the Alternative Fuels Incentive Grant Program for innovative, advanced fuel and vehicle technology projects **until December 11, 2020.**

Townships, as well as school districts, municipal authorities, and nonprofit and for-profit entities, may apply for approximately \$5 million in grants. The funds may be used to retrofit or purchase a vehicle to operate on alternative fuels as a bi-fuel, dual-fuel, hybrid, or dedicated vehicle and to purchase and install fleet refueling equipment. Funding priorities are for zero-emission vehicles, renewable natural gas vehicles and infrastructure projects, and publicly accessible alternative fuel projects. [Click here](#) for more information.

McNees Law Firm to Host Roundtable on Covid-19 Municipal Budget Shortfalls

McNees, Wallace, & Nurick is hosting a Municipal Leader Roundtable to discuss ideas about how governments can address expected budget shortfalls due to the pandemic on December 7 from noon to 1 p.m. The discussion will include an update of available options and the efforts of the state's elected officials to help municipalities facing budget constraints.

Panelists will include C. Kim Bracey, executive director of the Governor's Center for Local Government Services; Dan Connelly, Marathon Capital Strategies; and David A Greene, Esq., executive director of the Pennsylvania Local Government Commission. Moderators will be Timothy Horstmann and David Unkovic, attorneys with McNees, Wallace, & Nurick. Participants will be able to ask questions and share best practices in the open forum roundtable. [Click here](#) to register. Contact Karen Swaringen with any questions at kswaringen@mcneeslaw.com.

Department of Health Highlights October Nursing Home Inspections

The state Department of Health released its [October 2020 nursing home report](#). During October, nursing home surveyors conducted 396 inspections of nursing homes, including 314 complaint investigations, 175 of which were COVID-19-specific. Three sanctions were finalized against nursing home facilities, including the issuance of two provisional licenses and three civil penalties totaling \$26,750.

The number of newly reported long-term care facility cases due to COVID-19 has increased in recent weeks due to the fall resurgence. To view current data for COVID-19 cases in nursing and personal care homes in your community, [click here](#).

Legislation & Policy



The Senate is scheduled to be in session today, November 17.

The House is scheduled to meet for non-voting session. Watch session live [here](#).

Learn

[Strategic Planning For Fire Service Operations In Townships - Virtual - 11/18/20](#)

This virtual session will review the top 10 challenges facing volunteer fire departments and identify the responsibilities of the township when it comes to volunteer fire companies. Methods for assessing community expectations will also be discussed. Participants will be provided “show and apply” methods to conduct a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats) analysis of their current fire service operations and how to develop a standard of response based on public expectations. Qualifies for 4 PMGA Public Safety points. [Click here](#) to register.

[Webinar-How To Assure Your Township's Families Benefit From PA's Child Development Account-11/18/20](#)

Learn about Keystone Scholars and the PA Saving Pledge and working with the PA Treasury. We'll share ways you can make sure your residents are aware of both new programs, how to gain access to their Keystone Scholar account and how to win money for their child by taking the PA Savings Pledge. Join PA Treasury for a webinar on winning and success! Qualifies for 1.0 PMGA Administration Point. [Click here](#) to register.



Webinar - New PENNVEST Financing Opportunities - 11/24/20

Is your township looking for funding for water/sewer projects? In this webinar, you will learn about how PENNVEST has improved its funding methods to better accommodate all water quality projects and practices. Eligible for 1 PMGA Public Works Point. [Click here](#) to register.



The ABCs For Elected Auditors - Virtual Class - 12/15/20

In this virtual class, you will learn about the responsibilities of elected auditors under the Second Class Township Code, the nuts and bolts of conducting a thorough audit of the township's finances, how to best navigate DCED's online financial reporting requirements, and ways to ensure a healthy working relationship between the elected auditors and the township. This class will benefit not only elected auditors, but also those township employees who are responsible for coordinating the audit from the township's side. The presenters will be Lisa Myers, a CPA from Boyer & Ritter with substantial experience with municipal finance, Scott Coburn, PSATS' Counsel and Education Director, and Michael Williams with DCED's Municipal Statistics Office. Eligible for 1.5 PMGA Administration Point. [Click here](#) to register



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

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We're excited about this new concept and want to hear what you think. Email comments and suggestions to morningnews@psats.org.



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