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October 1, 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 options townships have for raising revenues when their real estate taxes reach 14 mills, the maximum amount allowed by law. Also, [click here](#) to catch up on previous Questions of the Week. (1:34)

Latest News

[State Police Liquor Violations Up](#)

Pennsylvania State Police liquor control enforcement officers visited 2,696 licensed liquor establishments from Wednesday, September 23, through Tuesday, September 29, 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.](#)

House Joins Senate in US Supreme Court Election Integrity Appeal

House Republican lawmakers have joined their Senate counterparts in asking the U.S. Supreme Court for a stay on a recent ruling that extended the deadline for mail-in ballots to be collected and counted, allowing counties to collect ballots received up to three days after Election Day.

The House filing came just two days after Senate Republicans did the same, arguing that the recent decision from the Pennsylvania Supreme Court could "destroy the American public's confidence in the electoral system as a whole."

[DEP Declares More Drought Watches, Drought Warning](#)

Yesterday, the state Department of Environmental Protection declared a drought watch for additional counties: Bradford, Clarion, Cumberland, Jefferson, Montour, Northumberland, Snyder, Sullivan, Union, Warren, and Wyoming. [Read full story.](#)

[PennDOT Extends Expiration Dates for CDL Licenses](#)

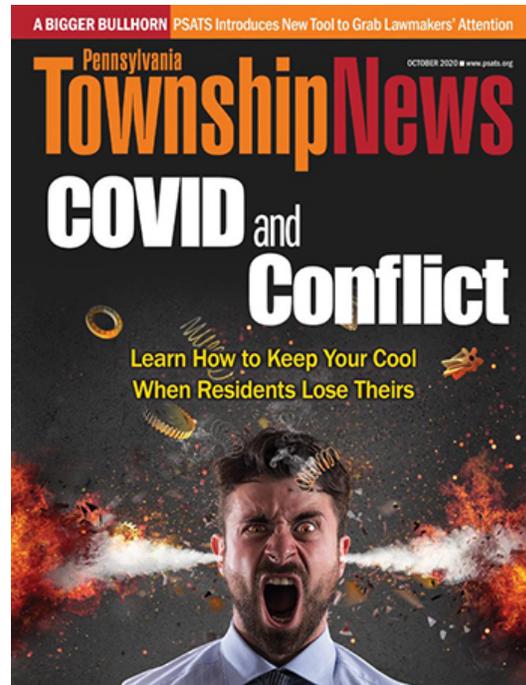
The state Department of Transportation has extended expiration dates for commercial driver's licenses and commercial learner's permits through November 29, 2020. This applies to CDL licenses and learner's permits that were scheduled to expire from March 16, 2020, through November 29, 2020. Please note that the extension deadlines on non-commercial driver's licenses, photo identification cards, learner's permits, and camera cards expired on August 31. [Click here](#) for more information.

The October issue of the Township News Explores Conflict Management

The coronavirus is messing with more than our bodies; it's making people irritable and quick to anger. The cover article of this month's Township News magazine reviews strategies for managing conflict in the COVID-19 era. Other articles in this issue explore PSATS' new digital tool making it easier for townships to connect to their legislators, the Association's partnerships with affiliate and associate members, and how townships can help to preserve a unique piece of Americana — keystone-shaped, cast-iron road markers that date from the 1920s and '30s.

Subscribers to the News can access a digital copy by signing in to connect.psats.org and clicking on the "Your Monthly Magazine Just Went Digital" box.

Not yet a subscriber? You can check out the free cover article [here](#) and learn how to subscribe to the News [here](#).



Legislation & Policy



The House will reconvene for voting session today, October 1. Watch session live [here](#).

House Local Government Committee Approves Bidding Legislation

On Wednesday September 30th, the House Local Government Committee approved SB 494 which would create a process for a municipality to enter a contract for services when it advertises a bid for services and no bids are received.

This legislation would authorize municipalities that have advertised for bids twice and received none to then contract for services with any provider not otherwise disqualified by law. SB 494 would require that such a contract for services, which is defined as the furnishing of labor and time by a contractor, be disclosed at an advertised public meeting. SB 494 has passed the Senate and is now before the House.

House Transportation Committee Approves Move Over Legislation

On Wednesday September 30th, the House Transportation Committee approved SB 1281. This legislation would rename Pennsylvania's "Steer Clear Law" the "Move Over Law" to clarify how motorists should react when approaching or passing an emergency response area. SB 1281 would also increase fines and penalties for drivers who fail to move over or slow down when approaching an emergency response area. SB 1281 has passed the Senate and is now before the House.

Learn

[2020 TEMA Fall Forum - Virtual - 10/8-9/20](#)

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](#) to register and view agenda.



[PSATS' Regional Forum - Lehigh County - \(Virtual\) - 10/15/20](#)

In the PSATS (Virtual) Regional Forum – Lehigh, 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, road & paving, connecting with residents, zoning, emergency management, and more. You will also have an opportunity to interact and network with colleagues around the region. [Click here](#) to register and view the full agenda.



[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. [Click here](#) to register.



[Quickbooks - Using QuickBooks For Meeting And Year-End Reports 10/29/2020](#)

Part of the [PSATS Summer/Fall 2020 QuickBooks Series](#)

What information should you be giving your township supervisors and auditors? What information can you provide through QuickBooks? In this session, learn how to customize and filter reports, export reports into Excel and format for Right-to-Know Law compliance. [Click here](#) to register.



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



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