



October 20, 2020

Township Video News



The pandemic. Budget negotiations. Financial strain. It's easy to understand why some local leaders may be feeling down. This month, PSATS Executive Director Dave Sanko talks about why it's important to give yourself a break. (2:43)

Latest News

PA Tourism Job Loss Above National Average

Since February, Pennsylvania sustained a 29 percent loss, with tourism jobs declining from 584,000 in February to 414,800 by August, researchers found. That's above the national tally of 24.5 percent. Tourism accounted for 9.5 percent of all jobs in Pennsylvania in 2019, according to a report by the [Pew Charitable Trust](#).

[PA Ballots Can Be Counted After Election Without Postmark](#)

The U.S. Supreme Court has denied a request from Pennsylvania legislative leaders to halt a Pennsylvania Supreme Court decision that gave counties an extra three days to collect mail and absentee ballots even if there is not a clear postmark. Their argument was a dispute to decide who sets deadlines in law...the Legislature or the Courts. [Click here](#) for more information.

[Texas off, PA on Quarantine Advisory](#)

The Commonwealth has removed Texas from the list of states that Pennsylvania residents are urged to quarantine for 14 days upon their return. In reverse, PA residents must self-quarantine prior to non-essential travel TO Washington DC. To view the advisory and the current list of states the list, [click here](#).

[COVID Spending Pushes U.S. Budget Deficit](#)

The U.S. Department of the Treasury recently released the final budget results for fiscal year 2020, which ended on September 30. [Read full story](#).

[Don't Miss PennDOT Virtual Innovation Week November 2-6](#)

Township officials interested in participating in PennDOT's Virtual Innovation Week, scheduled for November 2-6, must register by this Friday, October 23. This first-of-its-kind Virtual Innovation Week is for federal, state, and local government transportation representatives from across Pennsylvania. Join in this innovation sharing event to learn about solutions implemented at the state and local levels. [Click here](#) to learn more!

[Reminder: Commission Accepting Township Applications for Boating Facility Grants](#)

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission is offering Boating Facility Grants to help communities capitalize on the surge in new boating activity. Townships and other municipalities may apply for these grants, as well as certain nonprofits, by December 30, 2020. [Read full story](#).

[Apply for 2021 DEP Section 319 Grants before Oct. 23!](#)

Municipalities, watershed associations, and schools can [apply now for 2021 DEP Section 319 Grants](#) to develop or carry out Watershed Implementation Plans. These grants support projects that improve and protect Pennsylvania's waters from nonpoint source pollution associated with stormwater runoff, agriculture, abandoned mine drainage, energy resource extraction, and streambank and shoreline degradation. Applicants are encouraged to submit proposals for multiple WIP project sites and/or multiple proposals, particularly if the projects may significantly improve water quality. Application deadline is 5:00 pm on October 23, 2020.

[Webinar to Apply for 2021 DEP Environmental Education Grants](#)

A webinar is available to help formal and nonformal educators apply for 2021 DEP

Environmental Education Grants. Water quality, environmental justice, and climate projects are top priorities for funding. [Click here](#) to view the webinar on how to apply. Application deadline is 11:59 pm on December 11, 2020.

Legislative & Policy



The House and Senate will convene for voting session today October 20. Watch session live [here](#).

Senate Transportation Committee Approves CDL Legislation

On Monday October 19, the Senate Transportation Committee approved HB 2296 which would require a commercial driver to notify their employer if cited, charged or arrested for violating a federal or state law or a local ordinance relating to vehicle traffic. HB 2296 would also provide an exemption from CDL requirements for municipal employees during a snow or ice emergency if the properly licensed employee is not available or if it is determined that additional assistance is needed. The bill will now go to the full Senate for consideration.

Senate Passes EMS Operating Fund Legislation

On October 19, the Senate unanimously passed HB 1838 which would require 30 percent of the money from the Emergency Medical Services Operating Fund be allocated to provide training to underserved rural areas. HB 1839 would also require that not less than 10 percent of funds be provided to emergency medical services agencies to assist with medical equipment purchases for ambulances.

Learn

[Flagger Training](#)

This instructor-led Flagger Training will be conducted for individuals who have flagging responsibilities on ANY ROAD OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. Others who would benefit from this course include: utility companies working on low volume roads, law enforcement personnel, municipal managers and elected officials (to understand the importance, and for budgeting purposes). This class is eligible for 2 PMGA Public Works points. Click here on a location below to register.



[10/21/20 - Pike County](#)

[10/27/20 - Washington County](#)

[2020 Virtual Fall Solicitors Seminar - 10/21/20](#)

In the Solicitors (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 medical marijuana use in townships, flexible zoning, subdivision and land development solutions, use of force and government oversight of police operations, lessons learned during COVID-19 and a recent case update. Eligible for 5 CLE credits and/or 5 Administrative PMGA points. [Click here](#) to register.



[Webinar - Police Reform Efforts Under Pennsylvania And Federal Law In Post-George Floyd Era - 10/21/20](#)

In this webinar, Andrew Rongaus of Siana Law will review police reform legislation that has recently been enacted at the state and federal level in the wake of well-publicized police incidents this year. Among those to be covered include the Presidential Executive Order on Safe Policing for Safe Communities, Act 57 of 2020, which addresses police hiring and background checks, and Act 59 of 2020, which covers police mental health evaluations for PTSD. This should be a must-attend webinar for



any townships with police departments to ensure that their policies and procedures reflect these new requirements. Qualifies for 1 PMGA Administration Point. Eligible for 1 CLE Credit. [Click here](#) to register.

[Building And Maintaining Effective Relationships With Volunteer Fire Companies - Virtual - 10/21/20](#)

Too often, the only communication between the volunteer fire company and a township occurs either at budget time or when a crisis hits. Yet, positive relationships between fire companies and public officials are essential to providing the best possible service to a community. This virtual session will identify why unclear expectations between public officials and fire company leaders can lead to problems and how solutions may be easier than expected. As they say, it's all about relationships. Eligible for 2 PMGA Public Safety points. [Click here](#) to register.

[Webinar -Addressing Roofing-Related Issues In Challenging Budget Times - 10/27/20](#)

Public agencies face unique facility management challenges, even under the best of circumstances. They need reliable solutions customized to meet the need for speed, quality, transparency and ROI. This discussion focuses on how to address challenging budget constraints while protecting roofing assets, extending performance life and planning for long-term needs while addressing the most urgent roofing problems. This course is eligible for 1 PMGA Public Works Point. [Click here](#) to register.



CDL - Probable Cause Training For CDL Supervisory Personnel - Virtual Training - 11/3/20

State and federal regulations require every employer who has CDL employees driving vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating or operating weight of more than 26,001 pounds used on public roads to participate in a drug and alcohol testing program. These same regulations also require that such employers train all personnel who supervisor employees with commercial driver's licenses (CDLs) in handling suspected on-the-job drug or alcohol use. This workshop addresses these federal requirements by providing supervisory personnel with a working understanding of the federal CDL regulations, including on-the-job probable cause procedures. In addition to those supervisory personnel required to attend, all township CDL employees should attend this workshop to ensure that everyone is on the same page regarding this important public safety training. Eligible for 3 PMGA Public Safety points. [Click here](#) to register.



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

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.



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