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September 17, 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



If a vendor has a COSTARS contract for one piece of equipment, but your township wants another, do you still have to go through the bidding process? Learn what you can – and can't -- do. Also, [click here](#) to catch up on previous Questions of the Week. (0:58)

Latest News

Celebrate Constitution Day: Complete Your Census TODAY

Happy Constitution Day! Did you know the U.S. Constitution mandates a count of our nation's population every 10 years? [Click here](#) to read why Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and the other founders enshrined the census in the constitution as a tool of political empowerment for the people.

In recognition of the census and Constitution Day, help us celebrate today as Township CENSUS 2020 Response Day and encourage your residents to complete their census if they haven't yet done so. You can follow along on PSATS' social media and share the census links posted there today.

With the September 30 deadline to complete the census less than 2 weeks away, your township's population count for the next decade is at stake! The 2020 count will be used to distribute valuable federal dollars to communities and determine Pennsylvania's political clout in Washington. Learn more at 2020census.gov or pa.gov/census.



[Federal Health Agencies, Defense Have Plan for Vaccine Distribution](#)

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the U.S. Department of Defense have developed a plan for the distribution of a free COVID-19 vaccine when one or more become available. [Read full story.](#)

[PennDOT Resumes Issuing REAL ID](#)

The state Department of Transportation has now resumed issuing REAL IDs at reopened driver license centers throughout the state. [Read full story.](#)

[DEP Releases 2019 Oil and Gas Report](#)

The state Department of Environmental Protection has released its 2019 Oil and Gas Annual Report. [Read full story.](#)

Quickbooks Price Increase Around the Corner?

Rumor has it that Intuit is looking at a price increase for QuickBooks desktop 2021... Don't get caught having to pay higher prices next year.

Get your order in now for QuickBooks Pro 2020 at \$219.95 before the deadline of Friday, September 18 and get the free upgrade to 2021 after it's released Monday September 21, 2020 (due to sunset rules, next upgrade is 2024).

Contact your provider or call 607-738-0932 to get your order in before tomorrow.

Columbia Gas, Northeast Gas Association Offer First Responder Training

Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania and the Northeast Gas Association are offering a free, self-directed online training that provides emergency response personnel with the information they need to safely identify and respond to natural gas incidents. [Read full story.](#)

State Police Liquor Control Officers Issue Violation Notices and Warnings

Pennsylvania State Police liquor control enforcement officers visited 3,247 licensed liquor establishments from Wednesday, September 9, through Tuesday, September 15, 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.](#)

Legislation & Policy



The House will convene for voting session, today September 17. Watch session live [here](#).

Local Government Commission Meeting

The Local Government Commission will hold a meeting today, September 17, to discuss

propose changes to Act 47, the Municipalities Financial Recovery Act. The proposed changes would create an optional oversight process for municipalities that is more self-directed than the current process and would allow for the creation of multi-county, regional recovery authorities. PSATS submitted our objections to the creation of multi-county regional recovery authorities intended to oversee local governments. We also expressed a willingness to work toward changes to the existing law that would be beneficial to township government. [Click here](#) for details

Learn

[Flagger Training - 9/18/20 - Washington County](#)

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](#) to register.

[Quickbooks - Budgets And QuickBooks 9/24/2020](#)

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

Learn how to pull years of financial data from QuickBooks and send to Excel to more easily create your proposed township budget. [Click here](#) to register.

[Webinar - Creating An Affordable Retirement Plan - 10/1/20 \(MEMBERS ONLY\)](#)

The Trustees Insurance Fund, through PSATS, is offering a webinar to provide an introduction to our 457 Plan and help your township officials determine if this is a valuable benefit to offer to the employees. [Click here](#) to register.



**PSATS Trustees Insurance
and Retirement Services**

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

Learn more about issues that matter to your community. Attend general session as well as workshop sessions. Earn PMGA and other professional credits for workshop attendance, and discuss common interests with other local leaders. [Click here](#) to register and view the full agenda.



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



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