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September 23, 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.

Latest News

[Legislative Leaders Seek Stay of Supreme Court Election Decision](#)

House and Senate Republicans are seeking a stay of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's recent election decision in PA Democratic Party v. Boockvar while the decision is appealed to federal court. [Read full story.](#)

[Federal Judge Denies Wolf's Stay Request for Gathering, Stay-at-Home Rulings](#)

Gov. Tom Wolf's request to stay a federal ruling that found several of the commonwealth's mitigation orders to be unconstitutional while under appeal has been denied. [Click here](#) for more from the TribLive.

[Deal Struck to Avoid Federal Shutdown](#)

In one day, Congress and the Trump administration struck a deal to fund the government until Dec. 11, removing the threat of a shutdown. The House cleared the bill Tuesday night. [Click here](#) for details.

Governor to Sign Pay Raise Freeze for 2021

After unanimous passage yesterday in the Senate (and earlier in the House), legislation to freeze legislative, judicial, and some executive branch salaries for 2021 is on its way to the Governor's desk to help deal with funding shortfalls brought on by COVID 19 restrictions.

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

The Commonwealth has announced the release of a new \$1.9 million COVID-19 exposure notification mobile app, COVID Alert PA, which is now available to smartphone users. [Read full story.](#)

[DEP Approves Mariner East 2 Permit Modification, Collects Fines](#)

The state Department of Environmental Protection has approved requests for permit modifications for Mariner East 2 in Upper Uwchlan and West Whiteland Townships, Chester County and Middletown Township, Delaware County. [Read full story.](#)

[CDC Says NO to Halloween and Releases Fall Holiday Guidance](#)

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention has released guidance on how to reduce the risk of COVID-19 for fall holiday activities and events, including Halloween and Thanksgiving. The guidance gives examples of how to celebrate the fall season while being mindful of the level of risk for different activities. To learn more, [click here.](#)

[Department of Agriculture Releases COVID-19 Restaurant Enforcement Numbers](#)

The state Department of Agriculture has released COVID-19 restaurant enforcement actions taken during the period of September 14-20. [Read full story.](#)

[New Grant Funds for Emergency Preparedness](#)

The Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) just announced that this year's FEMA 2020 Non-Disaster Mitigation Grants application will be open from September 30 to November 18, 2020. The two grant programs covered by this announcement include a new grant, the Building Resilient Infrastructure & Communities (BRIC) grant, which replaces the earlier FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation grant and has \$500 million available in competitive grants. The second program, the Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) grant, will have \$160 million available in that national application competition. To start the grant application process for the BRIC and/or the FMA grant, potential applicants MUST submit the required Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) Letter of Interest (LOI) by October 15, 2020; this non-contractual but required form can be found [HERE.](#)

Last Call for Butler Virtual Regional Forum Registration! Clearfield, Lehigh in October
Butler and surrounding counties should be sure to register for the [PSATS Virtual Regional Forum – Butler September 30](#) and take advantage of this incredible learning and networking opportunity.

Among the topics to be covered include fire service challenges, post-COVID HR and employment issues, how to stretch your township public works budget, the Right-to-Know Law, municipal “Jeopardy,” and more.

Log on and join us for this great opportunity! To register for Butler’s Virtual Regional Forum, [click here](#). To see the full list of sessions, including the [Clearfield session](#) dated October 6 and [Lehigh session](#) dated October 15, go to the [PSATS Regional Forums page](#).



Legislation & Policy



The House will convene for voting session today, September 23. Watch session live [here](#).

The Senate will reconvene on October 5, unless sooner recalled by the chair.

Senate Approves Move Over Legislation

On September 22, the Senate unanimously 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.

Learn

[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 - 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.

[2020 PAAZO Virtual Fall Seminar - 9/30/20](#)

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 enforcing floodplain regulations, zoning in the age of e-tail and ensuring proper enforcement of ordinances. You will also have an opportunity to interact and network with colleagues around the region. Eligible for 5 PMGA Planning/Zoning points. Eligible for 5 CZO continuing education points. Eligible for 5 CLE continuing education points. [Click here](#) to register.



**PSATS' Regional Forum - Butler County -
(Virtual) - 9/30/20**

In the PSATS (Virtual) Regional Forum – Butler, 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, post-COVID HR and employment issues, how to stretch your township public works budget, the Right-to-Know Law, municipal “Jeopardy,” 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.



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



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