



September 24, 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 answers an important question: How much does it cost to research an employee's driving history? Also, [click here](#) to catch up on previous Questions of the Week. (0:57)

Latest News

[AG Announced More Charged for COVID-19 UC Fraud](#)

Attorney General Josh Shapiro announced charges against 20 additional inmates and accomplices in three state prisons in central and eastern Pennsylvania for illegally obtaining \$300,000 in COVID-19 unemployment benefits. [Click here](#) for more.

[Independent Fiscal Office Releases Monthly Economic Update](#)

The Pennsylvania Independent Fiscal Office (IFO) has released its September 2020 Monthly Economic Update, which features growth in new businesses in Pennsylvania, expansion of U.S. personal income, and increases in used car prices. [Click here](#) to read the update.

[PA- 4% of National COVID-19 Deaths Proportional to 4% of U.S. Population](#)

Yesterday, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that deaths nationwide due to COVID-19 passed 200,000. The current national total is 200,275, of which 8,023, or 4%, were Pennsylvanians (proportional to total population). For more information, [click here](#).

[PFBC Accepting Municipal Applications for Boating Facility Grant Program](#)

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission is offering Boating Facility Grants to help communities capitalize on the surge in new boating activity. [Read full story](#).

[PUC Directs Sunoco to Schedule Public Awareness, Education in Cumberland County](#)

The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission directed Sunoco to work with Frankford Township, Cumberland County, and the Cumberland County Commissioners to schedule a public awareness and public education meeting in Cumberland County concerning the Mariner East pipeline system and to pay a \$1,000 fine due to failure to attend scheduled public outreach meetings. [Click here](#) for more.

[State Police Liquor Control Officers Issue Violation Notices and Warnings](#)

Pennsylvania State Police liquor control enforcement officers visited 2,418 licensed liquor establishments from Wednesday, September 16, through Tuesday, September 22, 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](#).

The 2020 Census is in the Final Homestretch: Help Spread the Word!

With less than one week to go until the [2020 Census](#) deadline, townships should be making a final push to get all their residents counted by September 30.

Census takers are currently visiting households that have not yet responded. According to the latest 2020 Census report, almost 97% of Pennsylvanians have been counted, including 28% through field visits. You can check out the nonresponse follow-up rates by area census offices [here](#).

Please continue to remind residents, friends, family members, co-workers, and neighbors to make sure they are counted! It has never been easier to respond to the census, whether online at 2020census.gov (link), by phone at 844-330-2020, or by mailing back their paper questionnaire.



Legislation & Policy



Both chambers are now in recess. The House is scheduled to reconvene on September 29 and the Senate on October 5.

House Override Vote Fails

On September 23, the House failed to receive enough votes to override Governor Wolf's recent veto of HB 2787. This legislation would give school districts the authority to decide whether to hold sports and extracurricular activities this school year as well as the ability to determine how many spectators can attend. The override vote was 130-71, a mere five votes short of the two-thirds' majority required for a veto override.

House Approves Restaurant Reopening Legislation

On September 23, the House concurred on Senate amendments to approve HB 2513 which would allow restaurant operations to operate at 50 percent capacity and prohibit the requirement that a meal must be purchased in order to purchase alcohol. This legislation would also allow establishments to operate above 50 percent capacity for indoor dining if the guidelines issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Commonwealth allow, or they maintain physical barriers. Establishments would be able to use their bar service and immediate operating authority would be provided to outdoor space operations (for a club, catering club, restaurant, retail dispenser, hotel, limited distillery, distillery, brewery or limited winery) for outdoor dining during the disaster emergency. HB 2513 has passed both chambers and will be presented to the Governor for his signature.

Learn

[2020 PAAZO Virtual Fall Seminar - 10/7/20](#)

In this PAAZO (Virtual) Fall Seminar, learn from experts on a wide variety of topics from the comfort of your office or home. You will also have an opportunity to interact and network with colleagues around the region. The complete agenda will be posted once it is finalized. Eligible for 5 PMGA Planning/Zoning points. Eligible for 5 CZO continuing education points. Eligible for 5 CLE credits (additional fee per credit hour). [Click here](#) to register.

[Webinar - Fire And EMS Issues In Your Township: A Panel Discussion - 10/7/20](#)

It's no secret that many townships are struggling to provide adequate fire and EMS services. Attend this webinar to hear from and question a panel of fire and EMS leaders ((1) William Jenaway, Chair of Upper Merion Township Board of Supervisors, President, MCATO, President, Congressional Fire Services Institute Board of Directors and President/Assistant Chief, King of Prussia VFC; (2) Bruce Trego, Pennsylvania State Fire Commissioner; and (3) Jerry Ozog, Executive Director, Pennsylvania



Fire & Emergency Services Institute), and about trends, best practices, and other public safety issues, including leadership, funding, volunteerism, consolidation and what recent legislative efforts may mean for the future of fire and EMS services in your township. Qualifies for 1 PMGA Public Safety Point. [Click here](#) to register.

[Flagger Training - 10/21/20 - Pike 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.

[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 overed 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.

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



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