



December 17, 2020

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## Township Video News



### TVN's Question of the Week | More Help for Firefighters

PSATS staff explains a new state law that has loosened the cap on real estate tax credits for volunteer firefighters. Also, [click here](#) to catch up on previous Questions of the Week. (1:24)

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## Latest News

### Newly Updated PSATS COVID Fact Sheets Help Townships Follow Commonwealth Orders

For the latest guidance on COVID-19, state orders, and township options for compliance, check out the [COVID Resource Page](#) on [psats.org](#). **Newly updated fact sheets will help you navigate all the latest mitigation orders**, including what to do if an employee

becomes sick or is exposed to COVID-19 and how to evaluate options for safe public meetings. [Click here](#) for fact sheets and full story.

### **IFO: Refinancing Up, Business Travel Down, PA Impact Fee Could Drop to Record Low**

The Independent Fiscal Office (IFO) has released its [Monthly Economic Update](#) for December 2020. Articles include these headlines: refinancing activity breaks records, business travel could permanently decline, and Pennsylvania renters will owe \$224 million by December 31. [Click here](#) for full story.

### **Commonwealth Adds Testing Sites**

Beginning tomorrow, the state Department of Health is adding COVID-19 testing sites in Cambria, Franklin, Luzerne, Mercer, and Montour counties. The sites in Cambria, Franklin, and Montour will have drive-thru and indoor walk-in testing available, while Mercer and Luzerne will be drive-thru testing only. Testing will be available 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at these sites December 18-22, except the Luzerne site will open at noon tomorrow due to the weather. Tests are free and do not require preregistration, and each site can perform up to 450 tests per day. [Click here](#) for exact locations. If your township needs to find a testing site in another county, [click here](#) to find the closest one.

### **State Agencies Continue to Issue COVID-19 Violation Notices**

**Pennsylvania State Police:** Officers issued 50 warnings and 24 violations for failing to follow COVID-19 requirements after visiting 1,292 licensed liquor establishments between Monday, November 30, and Sunday, December 6. That brings the total violation count to 417 over the last 166 days (*2.5 per day statewide*). To view a summary of the number of checks and warnings issued by enforcement officers since July 1, [click here](#) and scroll down.

**Pa. Department of Agriculture:** Between December 7 and 13, the Bureau of Food Safety performed 590 total inspections, 35 of which were complaint-driven and 23 of which were COVID-19-specific complaints. The bureau received 538 food facility COVID-19-related complaints, 91 of which were referred to local and county health jurisdictions. The bureau issued one formal warning letter and one citation. A county-by-county breakdown can be found by [clicking here](#).

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Learn

### [Quickbooks - Year-End Employee Functions](#) [12/17/2020](#)

Learn how to print W-2s and 1099s and file all year-end taxes and reports with the Internal Revenue Service and state agencies. [Click here](#) to register.



### [How Effective Communication Can Help Implement Community Planning- Virtual- January 21 & 28, 2021](#)

Learn about different approaches to policy implementation and the importance of strong communication between Municipal Officials, Planners, and Code Enforcement Officers. This two-part, interactive training session will highlight how people who must take on multiple roles can effectively adapt messages to convey different perspectives through different levels of interaction. Participants will learn about their own communication strengths and weaknesses and how to recognize different personalities and communication styles in others, enhancing their management efforts. Best practices and real-life scenarios will be included to provide practical, every-day application of the information shared in the session. Attendance for both sessions qualifies for 3 PMGA Administration points. [Click here](#) to register.



### [Webinar - Stormwater Management - What to Expect in 2021 - 1/27/21](#)

Stormwater will continue to be the most pressing environmental issue facing most municipalities in 2021. Compliance with MS4 permits, minimum control measures, water quality requirements and, in many cases, TMDLs and Chesapeake Bay requirements will be among those challenges facing municipalities. This webinar, presented by attorney Steve Hann, will update municipalities



on their latest compliance obligations (including urban runoff), the impact of new federal and state initiatives, and the critical economic issues and financial challenges facing municipalities in addressing their stormwater obligations. This webinar will also cover the creation of stormwater authorities, stormwater fee litigation, and the recent developments on the availability of grants for municipal infrastructure needs.

Eligible for 1 PMGA Public Works 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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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](mailto:morningnews@psats.org).

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