



January 21, 2021

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## Township Video News



### TVN's Question of the Week | Can We Give One Fire Company More Than Another?

If multiple volunteer fire companies serve your township, can you give one more funding than the others? The answer may surprise you. Also, [click here](#) to catch up on previous Questions of the Week. (1:13)

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## Latest News

### State Closes More Restaurants

**Pa. Department of Agriculture:** Last week, inspectors closed 15 restaurants after confirming they were operating in violation of COVID-19 orders, three of which were reopened after a reinspection to verify compliance. Between January 11 and 17, the Bureau of Food Safety performed 720 total inspections, 114 of which were complaint-

driven and 107 of which were COVID-19-specific complaints. The bureau received 220 food facility COVID-19-related complaints, 138 of which were referred to local and county health jurisdictions. [Click here](#) for more.

**Pennsylvania State Police:** Officers issued 49 warnings and 36 violations for failing to follow COVID-19 requirements, including the suspension of in-person dining, after visiting 1,752 licensed liquor establishments between Monday, January 11, and Sunday, January 17. That brings the total violation count to 618 over the last 202 days (*3 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 State:** Between January 10 and January 17, the Bureau of Enforcement and Investigation performed 503 inspections of licensed professions' compliance with COVID-19 mitigation requirements. The bureau opened 21 investigations that were COVID-19-specific and distributed three warning letters and no compliance letters. [Click here](#) for more.

#### **Deadline Extended for Local Government Excellence Awards**

The deadline to nominate projects for the 2020 Governor's Awards for Local Government Excellence has been extended to January 31. The awards recognize townships and officials who have found creative ways to improve their communities.

- Townships may nominate projects in the following categories:
- Building community partnerships
- Responding to adversity
- Promoting community/economic revitalization
- Innovative community/governmental initiatives
- Fiscal accountability and best management practices
- Innovative planning and sound land use practices Intergovernmental cooperation
- Information technology
- Health and wellness initiatives

To learn more about the judging criteria for each category, view past award winners, and submit a nomination, [click here](#).

#### **Rite Aid to Provide Vaccinations to Residents of Long-Term Care Facilities**

The commonwealth has announced a new partnership with Rite Aid to administer COVID-19 vaccinations to staff and residents of long-term care facilities and congregate care settings that are licensed by the state Department of Human Services and prioritized for vaccination but not included in the federal Pharmacy Partnership Program. The new

partnership begins January 27, and Rite Aid will provide on-site vaccinations at facilities where residents served are not able to travel to clinic sites. [Click here](#) for more.

### **Biden Signs Executive Orders on Masks, COVID-19 Response**

President Joe Biden signed an [executive order](#) to require the use of masks on federal property by federal employees and contractors. He also signed an executive order organizing and mobilizing the U.S. government to provide a unified and effective response to COVID-19, including creation of the position of COVID-19 Response Coordinator to coordinate the federal government's effort to provide vaccines, testing, and response to the pandemic. The order requires agency heads to promptly bring any issues about the response to the COVID-19 Response Coordinator for prompt resolution. [Click here](#) for more.

### **Wolf Announces Funding for PennVEST Water, Stormwater Projects**

Gov. Tom Wolf has announced the investment of \$178 million in grants and loans for 14 drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater projects across 11 counties through the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority. [Click here](#) to view the awards.

### **Wolf Appoints Citizen Commission for State Law Enforcement**

Gov. Tom Wolf has announced the members of the Pennsylvania State Law Enforcement Citizen Advisory Commission and the appointment of Sha S. Brown to serve as the Deputy State Inspector General for Law Enforcement Oversight and chair of the commission.

The commission's goal is to improve policing practices within law enforcement agencies under the governor's jurisdiction by examining events and conducting reviews of policies, practices, and procedures. The commission is comprised of 21 voting members, including one representative of each of the Pennsylvania State Police's current 15 troop geographic areas, and six citizen members chosen at large. To learn more, [click here](#).

### **USDA Seeks Applications for Grants to Support Rural Community Development Projects**

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) yesterday announced that USDA is seeking [grant applications](#) for projects to improve housing, community facilities, and community and economic development in rural areas. These grants will be made to qualified intermediary organizations that will provide financial and technical assistance to recipients to develop their capacity and ability to undertake projects related to housing, community facilities, or community and economic development that will support the community. Eligible recipients include public bodies, nonprofit organizations, and qualified private (for-profit) organizations. Grants will be awarded to organizations that will use the USDA funding to provide support to entities to develop their capacity to undertake projects that will benefit rural communities. Applicants must provide matching funds in an amount at least equal to the federal grant. For additional information, townships are encouraged to

contact Loan Specialist Rebecca Hurst by telephone (717) 237-2267 or email at [Rebecca.Hurst2@usda.gov](mailto:Rebecca.Hurst2@usda.gov).

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## Legislation & Policy



### **New Administration Begins in DC**

Yesterday, Joseph Biden was sworn in as the 46th President of the United States and Kamala Harris was sworn in as the 49th Vice President of the United States.

Additionally, three U.S. senators: Georgia's Jon Ossoff and Raphael Warnock, as well as Harris' replacement, California's Alex Padilla, were sworn into the United States Senate. The Senate now stands with 50 Republicans, 48 Democrats and 2 Independents who caucus with the Democrat. Vice President Harris, in her role as President of the Senate, will hold the body's tiebreaking vote on legislative issues.

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## Learn

### **QuickBooks for the Beginner - Virtual Class - February**

This four-session virtual class is designed to provide each student with a fundamental understanding and working knowledge of QuickBooks Accounting Software, and is intended to demonstrate the application of QuickBooks and QuickBooks Pro to assist in municipal accounting. The sessions will review how to set up your company files and create your DCED Compliant Chart of Accounts. From start to finish, how to write a check, make a deposit and reconcile your checking account. You will learn how to set up vendors and customers for all of your information that you could possibly need to replace that old rolodex.



(note: no payroll will be addressed in this class). Eligible for 6 PMGA Administration Points. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.

**Webinar - Take Advantage of Market Conditions While You Can for Updated/New Facilities- 2/11/21**

This webinar will cover the benefits of planning, financing, building and renovating township facilities during an economic downturn by taking advantage of lower interest rates, lower construction bids, stimulus funds, grants and other initiatives. Presenters will include planners/architects, a finance professional who specializes in securing funds for municipal projects, an expert in the real estate market and a grant writer who will together be a complete planning resource for you and your township. Eligible for 1 PMGA Public Works point. [Click here](#) to register.



**CMV/CDL Records Management - Virtual Training - 2/19/21**

This virtual training workshop will review CMV/CDL employee and vehicle paperwork, including pre-employment inquiries regarding a CDL applicant's records in the FMCSA Clearinghouse; requests for CMV driver's license information from PennDOT; annually reviewing each CDL drivers records in the Clearinghouse; CMV daily vehicle inspection, maintenance, and repair reports; the employer's required policy on CDL drug and alcohol testing; and a general overview of all the CDL regulations. This class is eligible for 3 PMGA Public Works points. [Click here](#) to register.



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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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