



January 7, 2021

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## Township Video News



### TVN's Question of the Week | New Bid Limits for 2021?

The state recently announced new bid limits for municipal purchases. Did they go up or down? Watch and find out. Also, [click here](#) to catch up on previous Questions of the Week. (1:26)

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## Latest News

### PSATS' 2021 Calendar on Its Way

PSATS' printer mailed the 2021 PSATS Calendar to every township secretary on December 23. Due to post office staffing issues, high mail volume and the holidays, your calendar could have been delayed. The calendar includes critical filing deadlines, upcoming PSATS training, major holidays, and more. [Read full story.](#)

### **Office of Open Records Provides Training**

The Office of Open Records is offering two webinar training opportunities in the coming days. [Click here](#) for class information and to register.

### **Thursday State Agency Covid Enforcement Update**

**Pa. Department of Agriculture:** Between December 28 and January 3, the Bureau of Food Safety performed 373 total inspections, 99 of which were complaint-driven and 96 of which were COVID-19-specific complaints. This was the final week of enforcement of the temporary mitigation orders on indoor dining, which expired January 4. The bureau received 244 food facility COVID-19-related complaints, 101 of which were referred to local and county health jurisdictions. Inspectors closed 36 restaurants that were open for dine-in service and refused to comply with the temporary order. The state has closed over 100 restaurants including 22 on December 23 and 36 between the holidays. [Click here](#) for more.

**Pennsylvania State Police:** Officers issued 70 warnings and 62 violations for failing to follow COVID-19 requirements, including the suspension of in-person dining, after visiting 1,785 licensed liquor establishments between Monday, December 28, and Sunday, January 3. That brings the total violation count to 546 over the last 187 days (2.9 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 December 27 and January 3, the Bureau of Enforcement and Investigation performed 288 inspections of licensed professions' compliance with COVID-19 mitigation requirements. The bureau opened three investigations that were COVID-19-specific and distributed one warning letter and two compliance letters relating to COVID-19 mitigation efforts. [Click here](#) for more.

### **Just Do It!**

That is the motto practiced by township leaders every day. They don't think their actions are remarkable or heroic (and they certainly don't do them for recognition or credit), but best practices and great things happen every day in townships all across Pennsylvania. Don't miss these upcoming opportunities to nominate your township and/or its officials for various awards. The recognition programs and their deadlines are:

- [PSATS President's Leadership Awards - January 29](#)
- [Governor's Awards for Local Government Excellence - January 31](#)
- [PSATS Excellence in Intergovernmental Cooperation Awards - March 5](#)
- [Road & Bridge Safety Improvement Awards - March 5](#)
- [PennDOT Build a Better Mousetrap Awards - March 5](#)

The deadlines for the [PSATS Youth Awards](#) are also approaching. Youth organizations must submit their projects to their county association president by March 1, and county associations must submit entries to PSATS by March 15. Townships will receive details and promotional materials this month.

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## Learn

### [CMV/CDL Records Management - Virtual Training - 1/26/21](#)

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.

### [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.

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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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