

Click [here](#) if you are having trouble viewing this message.



February 18, 2021

---

## Township Video News



### TVN's Question of the Week | In Search of...the Township Code

PSATS has a new and improved website, but some members are wondering: Where do we find a link to the Township Code? Also, [click here](#) to catch up on previous Questions of the Week. (0:51)

---

## Latest News

### Unemployment Fraud Is Back Again – Victims Beware

The state Department of Labor & Industry warned Pennsylvanians who receive a 1099-G tax form for unemployment benefits that they did not apply for are likely the victim of fraud

and should take steps to report the fraud and protect their identity.

Victims of unemployment fraud that receive a 1099-G should file a fraud report with the department. [Click here](#) to learn more or file a claim. If you suspect or know that someone is using your personal information, such as date of birth, without your knowledge or consent to file for UC benefits, complete and submit an Identity Theft Form with the department by [clicking here](#). Victims of identity theft may also file a report with the Federal Trade Commission and start a recovery plan by [clicking here](#). Victims also need to file a police report where they live and provide a copy to the Office of Unemployment Compensation.

If you know of individuals who are collecting UC benefits illegally, report it by completing and submitting the [Unemployment Claims Fraud Form](#) or by calling the PA Fraud Hotline at 1-800-692-7469.

### **Reminder: Deadline Approaching for USDA Loan and Grant Program**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is accepting applications **until the end of February** for its Community Facilities Direct Loan & Grant Program. Townships with populations of 20,000 or less are eligible for the program. Funds may be used to purchase essential community facilities, equipment, and related project expenses. Examples of eligible projects include broadband, street improvements, community centers, public safety services such as police, fire, and public works, libraries, and food banks.

The current interest rate for loans is 2.125%. Loans, grants, or a combination are available. Priority for funding is for communities with a population of 5,500 or less and low-income communities with a median household income below 80% of the state non-metropolitan median household income. To learn more about the program, [click here](#). For contact information for your local office, [click here](#). [Click here](#) to see a township public works project that was funded by this program.

### **Joint Task Force Addresses Vaccine Distribution Plan Change**

After the Health Department previously told providers to use shipped 2nd doses immediately to boost the number of people vaccinated, they are now saying those who followed their direction were wrong. Pennsylvania's COVID-19 vaccine rollout has been fraught with challenges, the latest of which is the use by some providers of Moderna doses intended to be used as second doses as first doses. This issue threw a wrench into the state Department of Health's logistics when it received orders for nearly 200,000 second doses for next week, essentially the entire Pennsylvania allocation. On investigation, the problem had begun weeks ago and had been building. Distribution of the Pfizer vaccine is unaffected.

Faced with the possibility of not having any Moderna first doses available for next week,

the Department met with the COVID-19 Vaccine Joint Task Force to evaluate options. The agreed upon solution was to go back to the original contingency plan to adjust the timing of the second dose in accordance with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines, which provides for a window for the second Moderna dose at 21 to 42 days after receiving the first shot. This will make some Moderna first doses available while ensuring that all patients receive their second dose within the allowable timeframe.

This week, Pennsylvania will receive 183,575 first doses and 143,275 second doses. To date, 82 percent of first doses and 38 percent of second doses have been administered. [Click here](#) for more.

### **Commonwealth COVID-19 Enforcement for Week of February 8**

[Pennsylvania State Police](#): Officers issued 59 warnings and 24 violations for failing to follow COVID-19 requirements after visiting 1,653 licensed liquor establishments. That brings the total violation count to 747 over the last 230 days.

[Pa. Department of State](#): The Bureau of Enforcement and Investigation performed 473 inspections of licensed professions' compliance with COVID-19 mitigation requirements, opened 16 COVID-19-specific investigations, and distributed 1 warning letter and no compliance letters.

### **National Battery Day**

Get a charge out of National Battery Day! Observed each year on February 18th, the day serves to appreciate the convenience batteries provide to our everyday lives.

Today we would be hard-pressed to find someone in the United States who doesn't benefit from a battery. Even those who live "off the grid" have battery-operated devices such as a flashlight, radio, or watch.

How many batteries do you rely on in your life? From your car to your smoke detectors, batteries are everywhere. Count the items in your home that use batteries. Don't forget, our phones, watches, hearing aids, and many more items all use batteries. Medical devices rely on them to keep people alive, too. They monitor children as they sleep, and they serve as backup systems for our security and safety.

Discover the best ways to recycle your batteries. Some batteries are easier to recycle than others.

### **PennDOT's Agility Program for Local Governments**

Agility is a 25-year-old, first-of-its-kind program that allows PennDOT and its eligible partners, such as local government, schools, non-profits and others, to exchange equal services at no cost to help optimize resources and complete work that otherwise may not

have been done, while developing strong and rewarding relationships. Please visit PennDOT's Agility Website for more program information. LTAP is offering a session on the program. [Click here](#) to register.

---

## Learn

### [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.



### [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). [Click here](#) for more information and to register.



### [Webinar - Zoning Implications for Agritourism in Pennsylvania - 3/18/21](#)

The intersection of farming and entertainment is a popular business in Pennsylvania. Many farmers across Pennsylvania have diversified their farms by inviting the public onto their property for everything from hayrides and corn mazes to barn weddings and events. While this past year has placed barriers on many of these activities, they will return. There are several important legal considerations regarding agritourism operations in Pennsylvania, such as zoning, regulations, insurance and other matters. Zoning laws regulate land uses, including agritourism. These may address the ability of property owners to use their property in such a manner to parking, hours of operation, traffic, noise, and lighting. Gretchen Moore and Alexis Wheeler from Strassburger McKenna Gutnick & Gefsky will present and explore the caselaw and analysis relative to this burgeoning farm use. Eligible for 1 PMGA Planning/Zoning point. Eligible for 1 Continuing Legal Education credit (CLE). [Click here](#) to register.



---

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).



---

Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors  
4855 Woodland Drive  
Enola, PA 17025

Click [here](#) to unsubscribe or to change your Subscription Preferences.