



February 25, 2021

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## Township Video News



### TVN's Question of the Week | How Much Should We Pay Our Auditors?

We share the current pay rate for elected auditors and what they have to do to get their paycheck. Also, [click here](#) to catch up on previous Questions of the Week. (1:00)

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## Latest News

### Commonwealth COVID-19 Enforcement: More Restaurants Ordered Closed

The following state agency reports are for the week of February 15:

[Pa. Department of Agriculture](#): 4 more restaurants were ordered closed for violating Covid-19 restriction orders. The Bureau of Food Safety performed 486 total inspections, 21 of which were the result of COVID-19-related complaints and

received 502 food facility COVID-19-related complaints, 76 of which were referred to local and county health jurisdictions. [Click here](#) for more.

[Pennsylvania State Police](#): Officers issued 49 warnings and 39 violations for failing to follow COVID-19 requirements after visiting 1,383 licensed liquor establishments.

[Pa. Department of State](#): The Bureau of Enforcement and Investigation performed 294 inspections of licensed professions' compliance with COVID-19 mitigation requirements, opened nine COVID-19-specific investigations, and distributed nine warning letters and four compliance letters.

### **Participate in Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful's Pick Up Pennsylvania**

Townships and their residents are invited to participate in Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful's Pick Up Pennsylvania from **March 1 through May 31**. During this initiative, thousands of Pennsylvanians will participate in litter and illegal dump cleanups, tree and flower plantings, recycling collections, public education programs, and more.

Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful partners with the state Departments of Environmental Protection and Transportation to provide free trash bags, gloves, and safety vests to registered participants as supplies last. As part of this event, DEP and Pennsylvania Waste Industries Association are sponsoring trash disposal, at a free or reduced cost, for registered participants at participating landfills from **April 1 through April 30**, with prior approval.

Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful's Pennsylvania Litter Research Study identified an estimated 500 million pieces of litter on roadways, comprised of more than 37% cigarette butts and 30% plastic items.

To participate, register at [gacofpa.org](http://gacofpa.org). Contact Michelle Dunn, program coordinator, with questions at 877-772-3673, ext. 113, or [mdunn@keppabeautiful.org](mailto:mdunn@keppabeautiful.org). Registered events can also win cash for a nonprofit or charity by entering the Pick Up Pennsylvania's video contest. Visit [gacofpa.org](http://gacofpa.org) and choose "video contest" for details.

### **National Toast Day**

Would you believe National Toast Day honoring the humble slice is on the Last Thursday in February? But it is so very versatile. It carries a multitude of jams, jellies, marmalades and fruit compotes. Toast transports proteins and veggies, sprouts, and soaks up sauces and drippings. Whether we lightly toast it or char it to a dark crisp, it serves as a perfect medium for building breakfast or sandwiches. It accepts seasoning quite well, too. Add butter, gee, avocado, or honey. It doesn't matter your preference. Cinnamon and sugar? Well, it might depend on your mood.

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## Legislation & Policy



The Senate was in session yesterday and is now in recess until March 15.

The House has added Friday February 26 as a non-voting session day.

### **Senate Passes National Guard Vaccine Roll-Out**

The Senate unanimously approved HB 326 which would enlist the state National Guard to speed the state's COVID-19 vaccine rollout. HB 326 would also require the Governor to establish and submit to the General Assembly a report on the integration of the state National Guard into the Commonwealth's plan for the distribution and administration of any vaccine for COVID-19, including the administration of the vaccine to individuals by members of the Guard. HB 326 has passed the House and the Senate and will be presented to the Governor.

### **Senate Approves Police, Fire, and EMS Medal Legislation**

The Senate unanimously approved SB 158 which would establish a statewide medal program for the Governor to recognize law enforcement officers, firefighters, and emergency medical services personnel in the Commonwealth who have demonstrated bravery, sacrifice, or other exceptionally conduct in the line of duty. Three categories of medals could be awarded: a Star of Valor, a Heart for a line of duty injury, and a Medal of Ultimate Sacrifice for a line of duty death. The qualifications for the medal programs would be established by the Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission (MPOETC), the State Fire Commissioner, and the Bureau of Emergency Medical Services of the Department of Health, respectively.

SB 158 is awaiting committee assignment in the House.

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Learn

## [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.

## [Duties of a Zoning Hearing Board - 3/25/21 - Allegheny County](#)

From making decisions on contentious public issues to learning the ins and outs of the Municipalities Planning Code, being a member of a zoning hearing board can be a challenge. In this course, Elam Herr, retired PSATS' assistant executive director and the chair of the East Hempfield Township (Lancaster) zoning hearing board, has a wealth of experience and will help you to better navigate this challenge. Topics to be covered include procedures for deciding variances and special exceptions, handling hearing-related questions, Ethics Act requirements and much more. Attendees will also learn specific, practical tips that will leave them better prepared for their next meeting or hearing. While this course is geared more toward newer zoning hearing board members,



those looking for a refresher on their obligations will also benefit. This course is eligible for 2 PAAZO Continuing Education Credits. This course is eligible for 2 PMGA Planning/Zoning points. [Click here](#) for more information and 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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Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors

4855 Woodland Drive

Enola, PA 17025

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