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March 18, 2021

Township Video News



TVN's Question of the Week | Can We Customize a COSTARS' Contract?

When it comes to COSTARS' contracts, is there any wiggle room on the terms, options, or specifications? We explain the fine print. Also, [click here](#) to catch up on previous Questions of the Week. (1:10)

Latest News

Join PSATS for Virtual Town Hall on the American Rescue Plan

Join PSATS staff on Monday, March 22 at 2:30 p.m. for a Virtual Town Hall on *What the American Rescue Plan Means for Your Township*. With the recent passage of the American Rescue Plan Act, state and local governments are now set to receive \$350 billion in federal funds to be used for responding to COVID-19. Of that, \$13 billion is coming to Pennsylvania – the Commonwealth will receive \$7.5 billion and municipalities with populations of less than \$50,000 will receive almost \$1 billion. As a result, EVERY Pennsylvania township will receive funds. These township amounts will range from a low near \$1,000 to a high of \$8.6 million. Check our website for how much your township gets.

While many of the details are still being worked out at the federal and state level, this PSATS Virtual Town Hall will provide critical information about the timing of the funding, permitted and prohibited uses of the funds, and more. [Click here](#) to register for the town hall.

IRS Postpones Federal Income Tax Filing until May 17

The Treasury Department and the Internal Revenue Service announced that the federal income tax filing due date for individuals for the 2020 tax year will be automatically extended from April 15, 2021, to May 17, 2021. [Click here](#) for more.

USDA Increases Limits for Water, Wastewater Loans

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is increasing funding limits for loans financed under the Revolving Fund Program to support water and wastewater infrastructure projects in rural America from \$100,000 to \$200,000. The funds may be used to extend and improve water and waste disposal systems, including pre-development costs, and for small short-term capital improvement projects that are not part of regular operations.

While nonprofits apply for these grants, that may be used for water and sewer districts operated by local governments.

For more information about the program, contact Tom Wellington, acting water and environmental program director for Pennsylvania, at Thomas.wellington@usda.gov or 717-237-2188, or [click here](#).

Commonwealth COVID-19 Enforcement: Nursing Home Sanctions Imposed

The following state agency reports are for the week of March 8:

[Pa. Department of Health](#): Nursing home surveyors conducted 497 inspections, including 283 complaint investigations of 377 separate nursing homes. Of these, 162 were COVID-19-specific investigations. Three new sanctions were finalized against nursing home facilities in the past month resulting in a total of \$31,762 in fines.

[Pa. Department of Agriculture](#): The Bureau of Food Safety performed 681 total inspections, 32 of which were the result of COVID-19-related complaints, and received 244 food facility COVID-19-related complaints, 35 of which were referred to local and county health jurisdictions. The Bureau closed one restaurant this week.

follow COVID-19 requirements after visiting 1,279 licensed liquor establishments. The Commonwealth is directing most enforcement activity towards local police departments.

[Pa. Department of State](#): The Bureau of Enforcement and Investigation performed 540 inspections of licensed professions' compliance with COVID-19 mitigation requirements, opened seven COVID-19-specific investigations, and distributed 15 warning letters and 10 compliance letters.

National Biodiesel Day

Each year, National Biodiesel Day on March 18th commemorates the birthday of Rudolf Diesel and a few that continue to gain a growing interest across the country and around the world.

Rudolf Diesel invented the diesel engine and unveiled it at the World Fair in 1900. The engine was originally designed to run on peanut oil, and R. Diesel was a big believer in the role plant oils could play in fueling America.

Biodiesel is a cleaner-burning, petroleum-free alternative to diesel that can be made from animal fat, vegetable oil, and recycled cooking oil. It is reducing U.S. dependence on imported diesel and creating green jobs as well as improving our environment. Biodiesel is America's first advanced Biofuel and has become an increasingly popular fuel.

Legislation & Policy



Special Election for 60th House District Seat Announced

A special election to fill the 60th state house district seat left vacant by the resignation of Representative Jeff Pyle will be held on May 18, to coincide with the May primary.

Senate Passes Dozer Hauling Legislation

Yesterday, the Senate unanimously passed SB 120 which would allow the hauling of a dozer with an attached blade in excess of 12 feet in width, but not wider than 15 feet, to move upon a highway. Would require a traffic protector guiderail device to be securely fastened to the dozer or the blade is angled so the total width of the load does not exceed 12 feet. Would require a blade over 15 feet in width to be removed and hauled separately.

SB 120 is now before the House Transportation Committee.

House Passes Pedalcycle Lane Parking Legislation

Yesterday, the House passed HB 140 which would amend Title 75 (Vehicles) by requiring vehicles parking along a pedalcycle lane or pedestrian plaza to park parallel with their right-hand or left-hand wheels within 12 inches of the outside lane of the buffer area between the pedalcycle lane or plaza and in the direction of traffic flow. Would allow local authorities to adopt alternative parking regulations related to parking adjacent to a plaza or pedalcycle lane. HB 140 is now awaiting committee assignment in the Senate.

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