



March 3, 2021

PSATS' email vendor had an issue this morning which caused the delay of the Morning News. You may receive two emails of today's Morning News.

Latest News

Vaccine Rollout Slowly Accelerates; Teacher Vaccinations Planned

An additional 203,089 Pennsylvanians became fully vaccinated last week, which is a quarter of the total of the 762,733 individuals fully vaccinated to date. An additional 958,165 individuals have now received one dose of vaccine. According to the CDC, Pennsylvania remains 41st for total doses administered per capita.

This week, Pennsylvania will receive 336,870 first doses, a 49% increase over last week, and 189,410 second doses of vaccine. This is due in part to expanding supplies of all vaccines, as well as the addition of the Johnson & Johnson single-dose vaccine, which began shipping this week.

Gov. Tom Wolf and the COVID-19 Vaccine Joint Task Force will announce a plan today to use the new doses of Johnson & Johnson to vaccinate teachers and school staff members so that schools can fully reopen. These will be administered by the National Guard at respected Intermediate Unit headquarters. [Click here](#) for more.

DEP Enters into Consent Agreement with ETC Northeast Pipeline

The state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has entered into a consent order and agreement with ETC Northeast Pipeline, LLC, which owns and operates the Revolution Pipeline, a natural gas gathering pipeline that crosses Butler, Beaver, Allegheny, and Washington counties. The agreement addresses the construction and monitoring of steep slopes along the pipeline right of way and allows the pipeline to be put

into service. [Click here](#) for more.

IFO Releases Natural Gas Production Report for Fourth Quarter 2020

The Independent Fiscal Office (IFO) has released a natural gas production report for October to December 2020 that is based on data that operators reported to the state Department of Environmental Protection. The report found a small increase in production compared to the fourth quarter of 2019. [Click here](#) for the report.

National Anthem Day

National Anthem Day commemorates the day the United States adopted “The Star Spangled Banner” as its National Anthem. Written by Francis Scott Key, the “Star Spangled Banner” became the National Anthem in 1931.

Legislation & Policy



Public Notice Legislation Introduced

Senator John DiSanto (R-Dauphin/Perry) reintroduced legislation to modernize a costly and unfunded state mandate requiring municipalities to publish all public notices in the legal section of a printed newspaper of general circulation.

SB 252 would provide townships with the ability to meet advertising requirements through a menu of print and electronic options such as a local government’s regularly printed publications or internet website.

“Print newspaper requirements for local government notices were created long before the internet changed the ways people receive information,” DiSanto said. “Allowing advertisements to be published electronically is not only more cost-effective, but also more transparent as notices will be more easily searchable and available to residents on their smartphones, tablets, and computers.”

SB 252 is before the Senate Local Government Committee and would fulfill a PSATS resolution.

Learn

[Webinar - Taking Your Municipality to New Heights with UAV/Drone Technology - 3/10/21](#)

In this webinar, learn more about how you can utilize UAV/Drone services as another tool for your municipal projects while saving time, saving money, and increasing safety. Representatives of Carroll Engineering will explore the full capabilities of drones, including examples of uses at the municipal level, requirements needed for becoming a licensed UAV/Drone pilot, typical procedures and regulations, equipment/hardware, and the expansion of future uses for this technology. Attendees will also be eligible for a prize compliments of Carroll Engineering. Eligible for 1 PMGA Planning/Zoning point. [Click here](#) to register.

[Webinar - The Criminal and Civil Consequences of Municipal Firearm Regulation - 3/17/21](#)

While many municipal officials and employees are not aware of the restrictions that exist when it comes to local governments enacting and enforcing firearm and ammunition-related regulations, the consequences for municipalities and their elected officials can be extreme -- and they don't end merely with taxpayer disgruntlement over the wasted expenditure of taxpayer funds spent to enact, enforce and defend such regulations. Join us for a one-hour discussion on Pennsylvania's firearm, ammunition, and range preemption statutes so that you can protect your municipalities from more than just taxpayer disgruntlement. Eligible for 1 PMGA Public Safety point. Eligible for 1 Continuing Legal Education Credit (CLE). [Click here](#) to register.



Webinar - High Cube and Automated Warehouses - Are You Prepared? - 3/17/21

A new land use, the high cube or automated warehouse, is starting to pop up around Pennsylvania and the county. These warehouses have a variety of forms, from “a warehouse on top of a warehouse” to largely robotic retrofits in an existing building, but in essence will have significant transportation, emergency management services, workforce, tax and environmental implications, among other things. Because they come in a variety of forms including, new developments, site redevelopments and existing building additions, and retrofits, high cube and automated warehousing affect subdivision and land development, zoning and/or building codes needs. The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission has drafted a series of municipal considerations that its representatives will review with webinar attendees. This is a first of its kind community guide in the US to address this emerging form of development and its associated technology. Eligible for 1 PMGA Planning/Zoning point. Eligible for 1 CLE credit. [Click here](#) to register.

Webinar - Sinkholes - A Perplexing Geologic Condition - 3/24/21

The word sinkhole has several connotations to various audiences. In the municipal world, information about sinkholes is relevant to planning for future land development and for the protection of private and public property. This discussion will provide you with an uncomplicated explanation of geology in Pennsylvania, review the triggers that cause land subsidence and give an overview of some basic investigative tools that your township can employ to better prepare itself to manage potential and actual sinkholes. A few relevant references for further study will be provided. Eligible for 1 PMGA Public Works. [Click here](#) to



register.

[Webinar - The Anatomy of Limiting Municipal Loss - 3/31/21](#)

Every public entity, regardless of size or location, is responsible for identifying risks that may cause loss. Many townships, especially smaller ones, often face barriers such as lack of personnel and resources that prevent them from identifying and controlling risk. In this webinar you will learn how to identify core areas of municipal risk and ways in which you can achieve the most benefit for a minimal investment of time and money. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.



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We're excited about this new concept and want to hear what you think. Email comments and suggestions to morningnews@psats.org.



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