

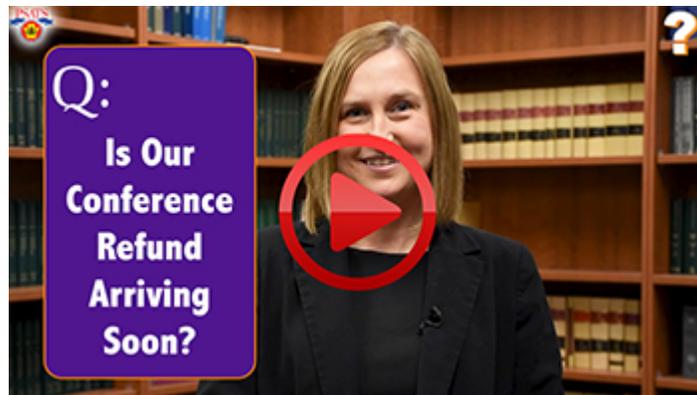
Click [here](#) to view this email in your browser.



April 29, 2021

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## Township Video News



### **TVN's Question of the Week | Is Our Conference Refund Arriving Soon?**

If you registered for the now-canceled PSATS Conference and Exhibit Show, your refund is being processed. We tell you when to expect it. Also, [click here](#) to catch up on previous Questions of the Week. (1:08)

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## Latest News

### **Correction: FCC Data and Missing Link!**

We apologize, the link to submit broadband data to the Federal Communications Commission was accidentally left out of yesterday's Morning News. [Click here](#) for the link for you and your residents to submit connection or lack of access feedback to the FCC.

### **PennDOT Asking for Public Feedback on Automated Vehicles**

The state Department of Transportation is surveying Pennsylvanians to better understand their perception and knowledge of automated vehicles. The survey is being done in partnership with the state Highly Automated Vehicle Advisory Committee, and asks for participants understanding of the technology, their level of comfort, and expectations. [Click here](#) to take the survey.

### **Reminder: Applications for Wildfire Grants Due May 13**

The state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) is accepting applications to help Pennsylvania's rural communities increase protection from wildfires until **May 13 at 4 p.m.** Funded through federal grants, this money helps fire companies in rural areas or communities with fewer than 10,000 residents with training and equipment purchases directly related to fighting forest and brush fires. Grants are on a cost-share basis and cannot exceed 50% of actual expenditures or \$10,000. [Click here](#) for more information.

### **IFO Monthly Report Shows Stimulus Driving Lottery, Gaming Revenues**

The Independent Fiscal Office posted a monthly economic update featuring a report on record lottery sales and gaming revenues, driven by economic stimulus payments. Internet gaming and video gaming terminal posted the highest revenues to date. [Click here](#) to read the report.

### **Commonwealth COVID-19 Enforcement Update**

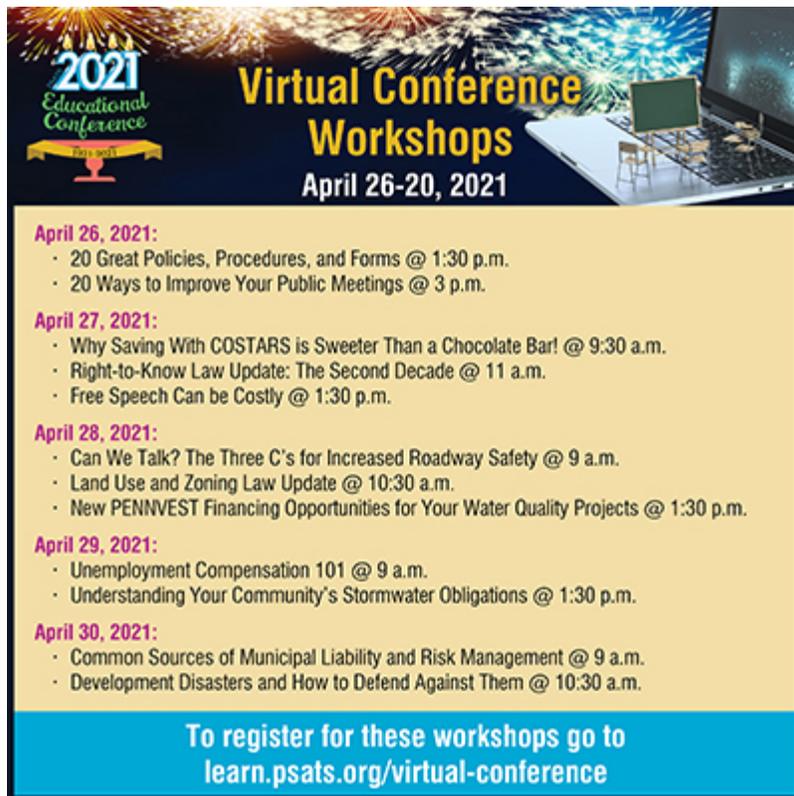
The following COVID-19 mitigation enforcement reports were released this week. The Pennsylvania State Police did not release an enforcement report.

[Pa. Department of State](#): For the week of April 18, the Bureau of Enforcement and Investigation performed 460 inspections of licensed professions' compliance with COVID-19 mitigation requirements, opened 11 COVID-19-specific investigations, and distributed four warning letters and one compliance letter.

[Pa. Department of Agriculture](#): For the week of April 12, the Bureau of Food Safety performed 700 total inspections, seven of which were the result of COVID-19-related complaints. No restaurants were closed this week.

### **Conference Virtual Workshops Start this Week!**

This week is the start of the PSATS Conference Virtual Workshops. This is a snapshot of what is coming up this week. To view a the full list of workshops or to register, to go [learn.psats.org/virtual-conference](http://learn.psats.org/virtual-conference).



**2021 Educational Conference**  
Virtual Conference Workshops  
April 26-20, 2021

**April 26, 2021:**

- 20 Great Policies, Procedures, and Forms @ 1:30 p.m.
- 20 Ways to Improve Your Public Meetings @ 3 p.m.

**April 27, 2021:**

- Why Saving With COSTARS is Sweeter Than a Chocolate Bar! @ 9:30 a.m.
- Right-to-Know Law Update: The Second Decade @ 11 a.m.
- Free Speech Can be Costly @ 1:30 p.m.

**April 28, 2021:**

- Can We Talk? The Three C's for Increased Roadway Safety @ 9 a.m.
- Land Use and Zoning Law Update @ 10:30 a.m.
- New PENNVEST Financing Opportunities for Your Water Quality Projects @ 1:30 p.m.

**April 29, 2021:**

- Unemployment Compensation 101 @ 9 a.m.
- Understanding Your Community's Stormwater Obligations @ 1:30 p.m.

**April 30, 2021:**

- Common Sources of Municipal Liability and Risk Management @ 9 a.m.
- Development Disasters and How to Defend Against Them @ 10:30 a.m.

To register for these workshops go to [learn.psats.org/virtual-conference](https://learn.psats.org/virtual-conference)

### **National Poem in Your Pocket Day**

During National Poetry Month in April, National Poem in Your Pocket Day shares the way poetry brings joy by simply carrying one in your pocket. When you share the poem, you'll bring joy to others.

There are many different styles of poetry. This day, however, places no restrictions on the rhyme, rhythm, syllables or length. The goal is to share a poem. You may scribble it on a receipt or recite one while waiting in line. Add a poem to the back of an envelope on outgoing mail. Don't be surprised if you discover a poem tucked into a book. You might even find one jotted down on the side of your coffee cup. No matter where you find them, we're sure they'll bring surprise and joy.

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## Legislation & Policy



### **PSATS Testifies During 5G Wireless Technology Hearing**

Yesterday, PSATS Director of Government Relations Joseph Gerdes testified before the Senate Communications and Technology Committee on the expansion of 5G Wireless Technology in Pennsylvania. Gerdes emphasized that the expansion of broadband to Pennsylvania's communities is a critical need, and a priority of the Association. He also explained that this needs to be done in an orderly and safe fashion and that these small cells must comply with right-of-way management ordinances and zoning provisions.

Gerdes also explained that it important that townships be able to continue to exercise reasonable oversight of their right-of-way from a safety perspective and be able to negotiate for and collect reasonable fees for collocation of wireless facilities on municipal infrastructure.

[Click here](#) to read the full testimony.

### **Senate Passes Fire Training Pilot Program Legislation**

The Senate unanimously passed SB 83 which would create the secondary education fire training pilot program to provide high school students with instruction through a partnership between institutions of higher education and school districts or area career and technical schools. This legislation would help with the recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters by encouraging school districts and career technical schools to partner with institutions of higher education. SB 83 is now awaiting committee assignment in the House.

### **No Bids Received Legislation Moves Forward**

Yesterday, the Senate Local Government Committee approved **SB 478** which would create a process for a municipality to enter a contract for services when it first advertises a bid for services and no bids are received. SB 478 would also authorize municipalities that have advertised for bids twice and received none to then contract for services with any provider not otherwise disqualified by law. SB 478 is now before the Senate.

### **Online Fundraising Legislation Moves Forward**

Yesterday, the Senate Community, Economic, & Recreational Development Committee approved SB 243 which would authorize organizations that hold Small Games of Chance Licenses, including volunteer fire departments, to conduct certain raffles and drawings online during the COVID-19 emergency. SB 243 is now before the Senate.

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## Learn

PSATS educational events will be listed as follows: Mondays – All webinars; Tuesdays – Administrative; Wednesdays – Planning/Zoning; Thursdays – Public Works; Fridays – Public Safety.

### **[Understanding Your Community's Stormwater Obligations - Virtual - 4/29/21](#)**

This program, designed specifically for new township officials, will cover the basics of municipal stormwater management. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.



### **[Technical Assistance Programs Available from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Virtual - 5/4/21](#)**

Learn about the technical assistance programs that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has developed to help townships with flooding and water resource management. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.



### **[MS4 Pollutant Control Measures - Virtual - 5/5/21](#)**

This session is for MS4 communities that are preparing to address the pollutant control measure phase of their permit. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.



**[Workers' Compensation and Volunteer Fire Companies - Virtual - 5/6/21](#)**

Join this session to learn about workers' compensation for volunteer firefighters. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.



**[MS4 Funding Strategies for Stormwater Solutions - Virtual - 5/6/21](#)**

Scheduled for launch in Summer 2021, a new Center for Water Quality Excellence (CWQE) will provide assistance to help townships as well as agricultural and other landowners with stormwater responsibilities to navigate the universe of grant and loan program assistance. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.



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Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors

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