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May 4, 2021

Township Video News



TVN's Training Tuesday | One Month, Lots of Workshops

Join us each week in May as we present our Virtual Conference Workshop Series. Learn what's coming up and how you can be a part of this special educational event. Plus, we have news about this summer's in-person Regional Forums at seven sites statewide. (3:03)

Latest News

We Need Your Legal Advertising Stories!

PSATS has been asked to testify in support of [HB 955](#), which would give municipalities the option of placing public notices on their own website or that of a newspaper and expand printed publication options, in addition to a newspaper of general circulation. PSATS supports this bill, which would fulfill a PSATS resolution.

As we prepare for the hearing, we need your help! If your township would use one of these options for public notices, how would it make it easier for your residents to find important township notices? Is a newspaper readily available in your township, and if so, do residents subscribe? What are the challenges of publishing a legal notice? How much would your township save by using a website or other printed publications to provide notices? Send your input and stories about why your township would like an electronic or other legal advertising option to grassroots@psats.org by **Wednesday, May 19**. Any documentation of expenses or the advertising process is much appreciated!

Reminder: Applications for EMS Agency Grants Due May 15

EMS agencies have until May 15 to apply for a \$10 million grant program funded by Highmark. The Pennsylvania EMS Provider Foundation is administering the grant funds, which must be used for equipment and supplies to provide EMS services. Grants are limited to \$250,000 each. Consideration will be given to retroactive grants for purchases made during calendar year 2020. Grants may be full or partial reimbursement. To learn more or apply, [click here](#).

State Revenues Dip Due to Extension of Income Tax Filing Deadline

The Independent Fiscal Office (IFO) and state Department of Revenue have released April 2021 revenue reports. State General Fund collections totaled \$3.96 billion and were \$277 million below the IFO's revised estimates. The shortfall was the result of lower than expected personal income tax collections due to the extension of the annual payment date to May 17, when the shortfall in collections is expected to be eliminated. Overall collections for the fiscal-year-to-date are higher than expected (*\$274.5 million, or .8% above estimate*).

The Motor License Fund received \$283.2 million in April, \$14.4 million above estimate. The Motor License Fund includes liquid fuels taxes and other license, fine, and fee revenues. Motor License collections for the fiscal-year-to-date total \$2.3 billion, 0.6% below estimate.

[Click here](#) for the Independent Fiscal Office report. View the state Department of Revenue press [release here](#).

Conference Virtual Workshops Week 2

Can't get enough of PSATS Virtual Conference Workshop series? Here's what is coming up next week for week 2! To view the full list of workshops and to register, go to <https://learn.psats.org/virtual-conference>.



2021 Educational Conference
Virtual Conference Workshops
May 3-6, 2021

May 3, 2021:

- Fire & EMS Issues in Your Township: A Panel Discussion @ 1:30 p.m.
- The Pros and Cons of Fire Department Stipend Programs @ 3 p.m.

May 4, 2021:

- Staying Open for Business: Learning from COVID-19 @ 9:30 a.m.
- Technical Assistance Programs Available from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers @ 11 a.m.
- Digital Newsletters — Connecting You with Your Residents @ 1:30 p.m.
- How to Better Organize Your Website to Communicate More Effectively @ 3 p.m.

May 5, 2021:

- New Uses & Zoning Regulations: What We Learned From 2020 @ 9 a.m.
- MS4 Pollutant Control Measures @ 1:30 p.m.
- Managing Municipal Finances After the Effects of COVID-19 @ 3 p.m.

May 6, 2021:

- The Evolution of Bid Management @ 9:30 a.m.
- Collection Strategies in Times of Crisis @ 11 a.m.
- Workers' Compensation and Volunteer Fire Companies @ 1:30 p.m.
- MS4 Funding Strategies for Stormwater Solutions @ 3 p.m.

To register for these workshops go to learn.psats.org/virtual-conference

National Teacher Appreciation Day

National Teacher Appreciation Day, also known as National Teacher Day, recognizes dedicated educators across the country. As part of Teacher Appreciation Week, the celebration takes place on the Tuesday of the first full week in May each year. After a year of a pandemic, teachers were found in public, private, charter and home school settings.

The National Education Association describes National Teacher Day “as a day for honoring teachers and recognizing the lasting contributions they make to our lives.”

All who teach play a critical role in educating and shaping our children, the future leaders of our country. These kind, patient, hard-working, dedicated, and understanding professionals help mold our children and guide them in positive directions.

Legislation & Policy



The House will be in session today, May 4. Watch session live [here](#).

Learn

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

[Staying Open for Business: Learning from COVID:19 - Virtual - 5/4/21](#)

This workshop analyzes the lessons learned from COVID-19 and what your township can do to successfully continue operations -- especially financial operations -- during the next significant business interruption, whenever and whatever it may be. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.



[Digital Newsletters - Connecting You with Your Residents - Virtual - 5/4/21](#)

During this session, the presenters will offer tips and shortcuts on everything from email software to content creation to help you establish your own digital newsletter. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.



[How to Better Organize Your Website to Communicate More Effectively - Virtual - 5/4/21](#)

Attend this session to learn how to organize your township's website to better communicate with residents. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.



[Managing Municipal Finances After the Effects of COVID-19 - Virtual - 5/5/21](#)

This session focuses on state and local resources available to townships and their constituents as a result of the pandemic. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.



[The Evolution of Bid Management - Virtual - 5/6/21](#)

In celebration of PSATS centennial conference, this session will explore the evolution of competitive bidding. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.



[Collection Strategies in Times of Crisis - Virtual - 5/6/21](#)

Strategies will be discussed that allow townships to work with struggling residents while still bringing in revenue from those who are able to pay. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.



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