May 13, 2021

Township Video News

TVN's Question of the Week | ARP Funding: Where Can We Get Reporting, Auditing Help?
Learn about PSATS' new premiere partner, who can help your township navigate the reporting and auditing requirements for the American Rescue Plan funding. Also, click here to catch up on previous Questions of the Week. (1:49)

Latest News

CyberAttacks in the News?
Many Americans seem to be just learning about cyberattacks due to the Colonial pipeline shutdown which has caused long gas lines and supply interruptions on the east coast. For township officials, PSATS has been helping prepare you for years. You have been reading about the risks data breaches and safeguards of cybersecurity in the Township News magazine for the past five years and we have been hosting classes on the topic for the last 4 years. Even when content may not seem immediately relevant to your community, always know that your PSATS membership offers an "eye on tomorrow" and helps you do your jobs better today and in the future!

Register for Tomorrow's Town Hall on Federal Guidelines for Recovery Funding
Be sure to join PSATS staff and Premier Partner Zelenkofske Axelrod in a Virtual Town Hall tomorrow, **May 14, at 10:30 a.m.** "The American Rescue Plan Act Funding Update" will discuss the ins and outs of the new U.S. Treasury Interim Final Rule for the American Rescue Plan. Nobody wants to get this wrong so join us for proper guidance on what is okay and how your expenditures need to be calculated. Click here to register.

Reminder: FCC Collecting Broadband Experiences, Speed App Data
The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is collecting broadband information from consumers to create maps that display fixed and mobile broadband availability, as well as lack of access. By reaching out to consumers, the FCC believes it can build more accurate maps that show where high-speed internet services are currently unavailable.

Township officials and their residents are encouraged to participate and **tell the FCC about their access or lack of access.** Consumers can share their broadband experience by filling out a short form detailing their lack of connectivity and uploading supporting documents. In addition, the FCC has a Speed Test app available that can be downloaded and run to show actual broadband speeds. Click here to learn more and to participate.

Commonwealth Awards Grant Funding
Gov. Tom Wolf has announced $5.4 million in competitive water and sewer grants from Community Block Grant funds. The projects will benefit township residents in four counties. Click here for more.

In addition, the state Department of Transportation awarded South Middleton Township in Cumberland County a $3 million aviation grant to purchase the privately owned Carlisle airport. Click here for more.

Conference Virtual Workshops Week 3

Can't get enough of PSATS Virtual Conference Workshop series? Here's what is on tap for week 3! To view a the full list of workshops or to register, to go learn.psats.org/virtual-conference.

On This Day in History....
May 13, 1890, Inventor Nikola Tesla received patent no. 428,057 for an electric generator. He was a Serbian-American inventor, electrical engineer, mechanical engineer, and futurist best known for his contributions to the design of the modern alternating current (AC) electricity supply system.

Tesla's work fell into relative obscurity following his death in 1943, until 1960, when the General Conference on Weights and Measures named the SI unit of magnetic flux density the tesla in his honor. There has been a resurgence in popular interest in Tesla since the 1990s. Today Tesla is leading the "charge' towards electric vehicles as an option to replace internal combustion engines.

Legislation & Policy

Senate Passes Breast Cancer Research Contribution Legislation
Yesterday, the Senate unanimously passed SB 445 which would give individuals renewing either their vehicle registration or driver's license the option to donate $5 to the Pennsylvania Breast Cancer Coalition. *The Coalition would be required to reimburse the motor license fund for the total cost of administering this program*. SB 445 is now awaiting committee assignment in the House.

Senate Majority Leader and former Township Supervisor Senator Kim Ward (R-Westmoreland) disclosed that she was diagnosed with breast cancer in December. PSATS sends her our support and will be keeping her in our thoughts.

According to statistics from the American Cancer Society, one in eight women in the United States will develop breast cancer in her lifetime. While not exclusive to women, breast cancer will count for over 276,000 new cases this year in the United States, and almost 50,000 cases in Pennsylvania. Unfortunately, breast cancer will claim the lives of roughly 42,000 women nationwide, and an estimated 2,000 in Pennsylvania alone.

Learn

PSATS educational events will be listed as follows: Mondays – All webinars; Tuesdays – Administrative; Wednesdays – Planning/Zoning; Thursdays – Public Works; Fridays – Public Safety. Click on the title of the class for more information and to register.

Stormwater Mapping Done Easy and with Purpose: Conewago Twp. Tells How - Virtual - 5/17/21
Learn about the experiences of Conewago Township, which was looking for a mapping solution for its MS4 permit that also allowed it to collect, manage, and maintain these assets moving forward.

MS4 Permit Holders: The Roles and Responsibilities for BMPs - Virtual - 5/18/21
Using plain English, the presenters will explain the responsibilities that MS4 permit holders have related to the operations and maintenance of private best management practices (BMPs).

Considering a Stormwater Fee? Learn from Township Leaders Who Already Did - Virtual - 5/18/21
Officials will also discuss what they've learned and offer tips to municipalities who may be considering a similar fee.

MS4 Municipal Partnerships - Virtual - 5/19/21
Attend this session to learn about PennDOT's MS4 municipal partnerships that are helping local governments and authorities save money.

[PennDOT RoadMaP Program - Virtual - 5/19/21](#)
This session will provide an overview of PennDOT RoadMaP Program. Topics will include core maintenance activities, low volume road resurfacing, alternative low-cost treatments, and agility.

[It's Not Just a Chip Seal! - Virtual - 5/20/21](#)
Attendees will learn about proper site selection and prep, lab testing, aggregate and emulsion selection, quality assurance, public education, fog seal treatment, and bid writing.

[The ABCs of Liquid Fuels Tax Funds - Virtual - 5/21/21](#)
Attend this session to learn the basics about liquid fuels funding, including how it's allocated, what can be purchased, and where townships can turn for support and assistance.