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May 5, 2021

Latest News



Happy 100th Birthday, PSATS!

On May 5, 1921, Gov. William Sproul signed a law creating the Pa. State Association of Township Supervisors. Today, PSATS celebrates its centennial anniversary as the 100-year-old champion of township government. To explore how PSATS has grown, adapted, and thrived over the decades, [read](#) the latest issue of the Township News.

Mark Your Calendars for October 14 and 15!

While pandemic restrictions forced the cancellation of our Annual Spring Conference last month where we were going to celebrate our 100th birthday, you should mark your calendars for 2 special events this fall. First, on Friday, October 15, voting delegates will be invited to Hershey to conduct PSATS' 2021 Annual Business meeting, hear committee reports, elect PSATS leadership, and most importantly, adopt resolutions that will guide state association policy for lawmakers in Harrisburg and Washington, DC.

The night before, on Thursday, October 14, the Pennsylvania Leadership Institute will be hosting a Centennial Celebration of PSATS first 100 years in the Great American Hall at Hershey Lodge. This fun filled historic evening, complete with dinner and light entertainment, is not to be missed! Some PSATS Standing Committees will also meet Thursday afternoon. Stay tuned over the coming days

and weeks for more information about committee meetings and the voting sessions, as well as the Centennial Celebration. While these events will not duplicate our Annual Conference, you will not want to miss them!

Pennsylvania's COVID-19 Mitigation Orders to be Lifted May 31

Yesterday, the Wolf Administration and the COVID-19 Vaccine Legislative Task Force announced that all mitigation orders, except for the masking order, will be lifted on Monday, May 31, 2021 at 12:01 a.m. The masking order will be lifted when 70% of eligible Pennsylvanians adults are fully vaccinated. [Click here](#) for the press release.

Restrictions that will end on May 31 include those on employers, businesses, and restaurants and include limits on social distancing, gatherings, facility capacity, restaurant dining capacity, and all remaining employee mitigation requirements. To date, the orders have not yet been amended. Further, the governor's [Proclamation of Disaster Emergency for the COVID-19 pandemic](#) is expected to remain in place.

When the mitigation orders are lifted, the Department of Health recommends that Pennsylvanians continue to refer to [Centers for Disease Control guidance](#) and recommendations regarding ongoing COVID-19 safety measures and procedures. As an aside, municipalities and school districts will have an option to continue stricter mitigation efforts for municipal property and their communities if they choose to do so.

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 Astronaut Day

National Astronaut Day on May 5th each year celebrates Astronauts as true heroes. The day's mission is to inspire ALL to "reach for the stars" by sharing "out of this world" Astronaut stories and experiences.

On May 5th, 1961, Astronaut Alan Bartlett Shepard Jr. became the first American in space aboard the Freedom 7 Space capsule. The brief suborbital flight lasted 15 minutes and reached a height of 116 miles into the atmosphere. It was a milestone achievement and a trailblazing example of heroic bravery. This adventurous spirit is the essence of what National Astronaut Day is all about.

By sharing the incredible stories, experiences, and perspectives of actual Astronauts, the mission of National Astronaut Day inspires us ALL to follow our dreams. The day includes both future Astronauts and those who seek to keep their feet on the ground!

Legislation and Policy



The House will be in session today, May 5. Watch session live [here](#).

House Passes Regulatory Reform Bill

Yesterday, the House passed HB 72 which would establish a process requiring the approval of a concurrent resolution by the General Assembly to approve “economically significant” final-form or final-omitted regulations. Would definite “economically significant” as regulations that impose a cost burden of \$1 million or more per year on the state, municipalities and/or the business community. HB 72 is now awaiting committee assignment in the Senate.

Brine Legislation Moves Forward

Yesterday, the House Environmental Resources & Energy Committee approved HB 1144 which would establish the Conventional Oil and Gas Wells Act creating a statutory framework for regulating the conventional oil and gas industry.

HB 1144 would also allow the use of salt brine from conventional oil and gas wells for road maintenance activities, including dust control and winter maintenance. HB 1144 is now before the House.

Committee Approves Hiring Parity Legislation

Yesterday, the House Children & Youth Committee approved HB 764 which would amend the Child Protective Services Law by providing employers with the ability to hire employees on a provisional basis on par with the 45-day provisional hiring window that is currently authorized for child-care providers. HB 764 is now before the House for their consideration. This will be helpful for township summer program hires.

Learn

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

Works; Fridays – Public Safety.

[You Just Received a Sewage Facilities Planning Module. Now What? - Virtual - 5/10/21](#)

Attend this session, where the presenters will provide simple, straightforward guidance to help your township process these modules with confidence.

[Click here](#) for more information.



[Grid Scale Solar Developments in Your Community - Virtual - 5/11/21](#)

This workshop focuses on the opportunities and challenges this presents for townships and provides resources to help guide this development. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.



[Strategies for Community Revitalization - Virtual - 5/12/21](#)

Attend this workshop to learn strategies for community revitalization, including streetscape improvements, blight inventories and remediation, land banking, beautification, signage, and more. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.



[Webinar - Recent Developments in Cellular Antenna Regulations - 5/12/21](#)

Topics of discussion will include the Federal Communications Commission's recent Small Cell Order and subsequent federal appeal, the Pennsylvania case *Crown Castle v. PA PUC* regarding the public utility status of wireless providers, and the future of wireless deployment and regulation. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.



[Forest Management and Timber Harvesting - Virtual - 5/20/21](#)

This workshop will help you avoid similar problems by introducing you to the newly updated guide, "Forest Management and Timber Harvest in Pennsylvania: Information for Citizens and Local Government Officials." [Click here](#) for more information and to register.



Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors

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