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October 22, 2021

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## Latest News

### **Enjoy the Colors of Fall This Weekend!**

The week of October 21st through 27th is the optimal time to experience vivid fall colors across the state according to the [weekly fall foliage report](#) by the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Northwest counties are reporting at or near-peak conditions in a mix of oranges, reds, and amber shades of their maple, sassafras, and oak trees. West-central and Southwestern counties have seen cold temperatures kick fall color into full gear, notably seen in birch, poplar, and beech trees. In the Central and Southcentral counties, tulip poplars and black gum trees are ushering in the transition to peak fall foliage while hickories, witch hazel, and dogwoods are approaching their most vibrant. While several Northeastern counties have begun to move past peak foliage season, plenty of red maple, white and red oak, and aspen trees are still showing off their beautiful fall colors.

### **Wolf Pushes Duplicative OSHA-like Rules and Fines for Public Entity Workplaces**

Gov. Tom Wolf is directing the state Department of Labor and Industry and Office of Administration to study the feasibility of implementing Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards in offices under the governor's jurisdiction. Wolf is also calling on the legislature to require that all state and local governments follow OSHA safety rules. PSATS policy opposes unfunded mandates, including OSHA rules for local governments. State-issued fines on public entities penalize taxpayers.

Wolf is also pushing for a higher state minimum wage and for mandatory paid sick

leave. [Click here](#) for more.

### **State Working to Address Bus Driver Shortage**

The state Department of Transportation is working to help address the bus driver shortage by reaching out to 376,000 individuals with CDLs to help find interested drivers and connect them with school districts. PennDOT also temporarily opened CDL skills testing on Mondays for four weeks, beginning October 18. It is unclear what impact these actions may have on township's ability to retain and attract CDL drivers. [Click here](#) for more.

### **Today in History.....**

On October 22, 1962, President John F. Kennedy announced in a televised speech that U.S. spy planes discovered Soviet missile bases in Cuba. These nearly completed missile sites housed medium-range missiles capable of striking a number of major cities in the United States, including Washington, D.C. Kennedy announced that he was ordering a naval "quarantine" of Cuba to prevent Soviet ships from transporting any more offensive weapons to the island, and made it clear that America would not stop short of military action to end a "clandestine, reckless and provocative threat to world peace."

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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.

### **Emergency Management Fall Exercise Forum**

This full-day class is designed for everyone responsible for your municipality's emergency management program, including elected officials, municipal managers, road crew/public works personnel, and, most importantly, local emergency management coordinators (EMCs).

[10/28/21 – PSATS \(Cumberland Co.\)](#)

[11/4/21 – West \(Washington Co.\)](#)

[11/9/21 – East \(Montgomery Co.\)](#)

[11/18/21 – Central \(Centre Co.\)](#)



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