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February 4, 2022

Latest News

2022 Parade of Flags at the Annual Conference

PSATS is planning a new way to celebrate townships and their presence at the 2022 Educational Conference and Exhibit Show with a new event: The Parade of Flags. More information will follow soon, but to register for this event which will take place Monday, April 25, [watch this short video](#) about how to enter your township in the 2022 Parade of Flags at PSATS' Annual Conference this spring.

Homeowner Assistance Program Now Open

Homeowners struggling with mortgage payments or other housing expenses due to COVID-19 pandemic-related financial hardships may apply for relief if their household income is at or below 150% of the area median income. The Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency has \$350 million in American Rescue Plan funds available to provide eligible homeowners with assistance to prevent and/or ease mortgage delinquencies, defaults, foreclosures, displacement, and utility disconnection. Funds will be distributed directly to lenders, servicers, utility providers, and other authorized third parties, not to homeowners.

Homeowners may learn more and apply online for these funds through the Pennsylvania Homeowner Assistance Fund by visiting www.pahaf.org. For those who need assistance, local housing agencies can help or call toll-free 888-987-2423.

Today in History.....

On February 4, 2004, a Harvard sophomore named Mark Zuckerberg launches The Facebook, a social media website he had built in order to connect Harvard students

with one another. By the next day, over a thousand people had registered, and that was only the beginning. Now known simply as Facebook, the site quickly ballooned into one of the most significant social media companies in history. According to stock prices, Facebook is one of the most valuable companies in the world, with over 2 billion monthly active users today.

Legislation & Policy



Gov. Tom Wolf vetoed [HB 979](#) yesterday because it would have discouraged local governments from attempting to regulate firearms. HB 979 would have further clarified the existing prohibition on municipal regulation of firearms and ammunition. The bill would have allowed persons and organizations adversely affected by a municipal ordinance adopted in violation of existing law to seek damages attributable to the violation in an appropriate court, including the awarding of reasonable expenses by the court if the judgment is against the municipality. [Click here](#) to read the governor's veto message.

Learn

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

[Webinar - State Police and Municipal Truck Fleets - 3/2/22](#)

During this one-hour webinar, troopers from the State Police Motor Carrier Enforcement Office will discuss a number of important requirements that all municipalities must implement in order to ensure they are conducting safe and legal commercial motor vehicle operations.



[2022 Emergency Management Spring Educational Forum - 4/24/22](#)

Join your EMC colleagues from around the state at this highly-interactive session, and hear informative presentations from local and state emergency management personnel and hear the latest news and information from PEMA and TEMA.



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