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May 23, 2022

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## Latest News

### **Legal Advertising Reform Bill Scheduled**

The House Local Government Committee is scheduled to consider [HB 955](#), legal advertising reform, this Wednesday. HB 955 would give municipalities the option of placing public notices on their own website or a shopper and would expand the types of newspapers that could be used for legal advertisements, in addition to a newspaper of general circulation. PSATS supports this bill, which would fulfill a PSATS resolution.

To help PSATS build the case for legal advertising reform, we need your help! We are collecting examples of how much it currently costs your township for a legal advertisement and how long in advance advertisements must be submitted before publication. We are also looking for examples of townships that don't currently have a newspaper of general circulation available in your township. Please send your input to Holly Fishel, PSATS Policy & Research Director, at [hfishel@psats.org](mailto:hfishel@psats.org) or call 717-763-0930, ext. 138. Any documentation of expenses is much appreciated! Please send by **Monday, June 6!**

### **Standard Offer Electric Plan Rate Savings... Sign Up by June 1**

According to the PUC, a savings option consumers may want to explore immediately is their utility's voluntary [Standard Offer Program](#) – which is another alternative for default service customers not participating in the competitive electricity market. For the next 12 months, you can lock in a rate 7% lower than your current rate and avoid planned rate hikes as high as 35%. Consumers and small businesses can always use the PUC's [PAPowerSwitch](#) energy shopping website to explore and compare other offers from competitive energy suppliers which may provide savings.

### **PA Unemployment Rate Still Above National Average**

The state Department of Labor and Industry has announced that Pennsylvania's unemployment rate for April was 4.8%, down from 4.9% in March. In comparison, the national unemployment rate is holding steady at 3.6%. [Click here](#) for more information.

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

On May 23, 1960, a tsunami caused by an earthquake off the coast of Chile travels across the Pacific Ocean and kills 61 people in Hilo, Hawaii. The massive 9.5-magnitude quake had killed thousands in Chile the previous day.

The earthquake, involving a severe plate shift, caused a large displacement of water off the coast of southern Chile at 3:11 p.m. Traveling at speeds in excess of 400 miles per hour, the tsunami moved west and north. On the west coast of the United States, the waves caused an estimated \$1 million in damages, but were not deadly.

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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.

### **[Webinar - Leveraging Your Financial Foundation For The Next Phase: Can I Ever Retire - 5/24/22](#)**

If you are an experienced township employee starting to think about retirement, this webinar is for you. You will hear from representatives of PNC about a four-step checklist for planning your retirement income, and how to protect your retirement assets by safeguarding personal data.



### **[Webinar - Improving Stormwater BMP's & MS4 Compliance Through CBLP Certification- 5/25/22](#)**

Attendees will learn about the various Chesapeake Bay Landscape Professional (CBLP) certifications that are available to township officials and public works staff. CBLP, developed by a consortium of cross-Bay partners, teaches best practices for designing, installing, and maintaining the stormwater practices needed to meet MS4 requirements.



**Webinar - National Weather Service Resources For Townships - 6/1/22**

In this webinar, presenters from the National Weather Service (NWS) in State College will discuss how your township can take advantage of NWS resources to be better prepared for the weather challenges you are sure to face, whether it be severe rainfall, high winds, extreme cold or snowfall.



**Webinar - Creative Public Engagement Strategies To Get Diverse Input - 6/8/22**

This session will explore which groups are often under-represented in traditional outreach programs and provide creative engagement strategies to ensure all voices are heard. Participants will also hear real-world success stories from local municipalities that have used these strategies.



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**Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors**

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