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from  
*Adams County*

written by: Commissioner Randy Phiel

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## ***PA Accelerating Vaccine Strategy***

The Department of Health (DOH) in conjunction with the COVID-19 Vaccine Task Force announced on March 31 the start of a special initiative to vaccinate targeted industry workers and to accelerate the vaccination timetable for those in Phases 1B, 1C and 2. **All Pennsylvanians will be eligible to schedule vaccination appointments beginning April 19.**

Pennsylvania's vaccine providers have dramatically stepped up the pace of vaccinations to an average of 83,000 per day, moving the Keystone State higher and higher in the rankings with other states. As Phase 1A vaccinations are completed, this will provide open eligibility to more Pennsylvanians so providers can continue to fill appointments efficiently, effectively and equitably vaccinate more people every day.



Pennsylvania has begun the following accelerated phased roll-out. Beginning on March 31 workers in the four targeted industries began receiving vaccinations:

- **Law enforcement**, which includes police, sheriffs and deputies, constables, corrections officers, and staff, as well as probation and parole staff.
- **Firefighters**, including career and volunteer firefighters.
- **Grocery Store workers**, including all workers in supermarkets and grocery stores.
- **Food and Agriculture workers**, including all food processing company employees, including meat, poultry, and dairy processing, fresh fruit and vegetable packing operations, food manufacturing, all farmworkers, farm operators, and farm managers, including urban agriculture operations.

**April 5**, all residents in Phase 1B were eligible to start scheduling vaccination appointments.

**April 12**, all residents in Phase 1C will be eligible to start scheduling vaccination appointments.

**April 19**, all residents will be eligible to start scheduling vaccination appointments.

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## Community Vaccination Center Open 6 Days/Week

The Community Vaccination Center (CVC) has been open 3 days per week, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday. Beginning on Wednesday, April 7, the CVC at the Adams County 911 Center, will be open 6 days a week Sunday thru Thursday and will be closed on Friday. Hours are 11-8 and appointments are required. **Appointments are available** by going to [www.wellspan.org](http://www.wellspan.org) or by calling the Wellspan COVID Hotline at 855-851-3641.

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## PA Ag. Secretary Russel Redding Tours CVS

Adams County's own, Secretary of Agriculture Russell Redding, toured the Adams County Community Vaccination Center located at the Department of Emergency Services on Wednesday. Secretary Redding was accompanied by the Adams County Commissioners and Wellspan Vice President Anne Kunkel prior to the facility opening for the day. Secretary Redding's visit highlighted vaccinations for agriculture and food workers, in Adams County and across the Commonwealth, how important it is to the entire food chain. Vaccinations for that group began on March 31.

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## CHIRP Awards To Be Announce April 21st

The Hospitality Industry Recovery Program grants will be announced at the April 21 Adams County Commissioners meeting. The Board applied for the grant funding and designated the Adams County Economic Development Corporation to administer the program, review applications and make recommendations to the Adams County Board of Commissioners. The total grant funding is \$1.16M. There were over 60 applications submitted and reviewed. The Board would like to extend our appreciation, and the appreciation of the community, to the Adams County Economic Development Corporation for stepping up to make this community benefit happen!



## Free Vaccination Transportation Available

Our community transportation entity rabbittransit, has partnered with area organizations to offer free shared ride transportation service to any community member who needs transportation to and from their scheduled COVID-19 vaccination appointment. Advance reservations for rides are required. When scheduling a shared ride trip to a vaccination site, riders must have a confirmed COVID-19 vaccine appointment at the location they are requesting transportation. Residents will need to call rabbittransit no later than noon the business day prior to their appointment. Transit staff will assist individuals through the reservation process. If you are in need of transportation to a COVID vaccination site, contact the rabbittransit Call Center at 1-800-632-9063 Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00AM and 5:00PM.

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## Primary Election Polling Place Changes

There have been four polling places changes for the May Primary Election & November General Election - with most being COVID related. The changes are listed below.

- Gettysburg #2 Polling Place temporary change for May Primary Election and November General Election from the Gettysburg College Union Building to the Gettysburg Fire Hall on North Stratton Street, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the Gettysburg College health and safety concerns for its resident student population.
- Straban #1 Polling Place temporary change for May Primary Election and November General Election from the Lutheran Retirement Village to the Adams County Alliance at 1300 Proline Place, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the Lutheran Home's health and safety concerns for its residents.
- McSherrystown #1 and #2 Polling Places permanent change beginning with the May Primary Election moving from the Knights of Columbus to the McSherrystown Senior Center at 201 S Third Street, pending final approval from the McSherrystown Borough Council.
- Oxford #2 Polling Place permanent change beginning with the May Primary Election moving from the Nicarry Meeting House at the Brethren Home to the Irishtown Fire Hall at 934 Irishtown Road, pending final approval from the Irishtown Fire Hall.

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## Mercy House Ribbon Cutting / Open House

The *Mercy House Ribbon Cutting & Open House* will be held on May 14, 2021 from 12:00-4:00. The ribbon cutting and program will begin at 12:00. The facility will be open for touring following the program until 4:00. The 1<sup>st</sup> floor will be a community walk-in center. The 2<sup>nd</sup> floor will provide residential accommodations for seven male residents enrolled in the treatment program and working full-time day jobs. Residents must participate in weekend and evening treatment and counseling programs to be a resident.

The renovations include an elevator which will



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serve that venue and could later serve the former St Francis Xavier School Building if appropriate. Mercy House will be administered by the RASE Project, who successfully administer similar programs in Lancaster, Harrisburg & York. Adams County will receive rental reimbursement by terms of a lease between the RASE Project and Adams County. The ribbon cutting for this facility will mark a significant step for our community in acknowledging and addressing addiction recovery!

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## County Facilitates Municipal Bidding Waste Contracts

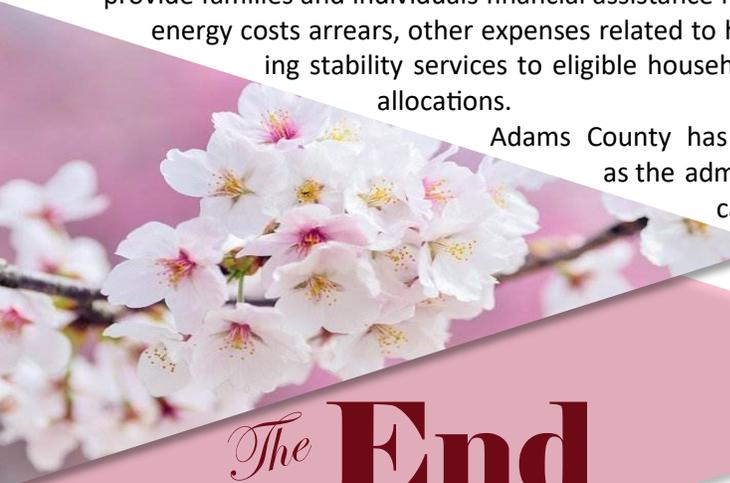
Under the premise that larger numbers create more competitive pricing, Adams County Office of Planning & Development has traditionally facilitated the coordination of competitive bidding process for municipal waste collection. This year Adams County Planning has received requests on behalf of 22 of the 34 municipalities in Adams County. Those boroughs include, Abbottstown, Arendtsville, Bendersville, Biglerville, Carroll Valley, East Berlin, Fairfield, Gettysburg, and York Springs. The townships include Butler, Conewago, Cumberland, Franklin, Freedom, Hamiltonban, Highland, Huntington, Latimore, Liberty, Menallen, Straban, and Tyrone. The Board hopes that this coordination results in competitive pricing and quality refuse service for our county residents.

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## Rental Assistance Applications Still Being Taken

Adams County has applied for and received \$6,774,933 in Rental Assistance funds from the Federal Government through the State. Emergency Rental & Utility Relief (ERAP) monies are for use in Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-2021. ERAP will provide families and individuals financial assistance for rent, rental arrears, utilities / home energy costs, utility / home energy costs arrears, other expenses related to housing incurred due directly or indirectly to COVID-19, and housing stability services to eligible households. Counties will have until December 31, 2021 to utilize their allocations.

Adams County has appointed South Central Community Action Programs (SCCAP) as the administrator of the funds. Applications are being accepted and you can go to [www.sccap.org](http://www.sccap.org) for information and to download ERAP forms or call 717-334-7634. In addition, forms can be picked up or dropped off at SCCAP offices on Stratton Street in Gettysburg and South Main Street in Chambersburg.



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Thank goodness these unusual 70-degree days have resulted in a lot more outdoor time. After being confined indoors for so long, with more limitations and less activities than what we are used to because of weather and COVID, this Spring my sensory perceptions seem more acute. Don't the blossoms seem brighter, the grass greener, the Robins more active and the daffodil's exhibiting outstanding brilliance? There is no doubt that right now in Adams County, Mother Nature is doing her best to lift up our spirits and refocus on the natural splendor around us.

I have never looked so forward to mulching, weeding, mowing and planting flowers. Most of all I look forward to being with family and friends. There is always a lesson to be learned in every life experience, and appreciating the things we sometimes take for granted seems to have been a poignant lesson learned this past year. How long we retain that lesson is up to each of us!

No matter what you do, get out there and experience all the historical, agricultural, recreational, natural and cultural opportunities that beautiful Adams County has to offer!