

# T G I F

from  
*Adams County*

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## *SGT. MAC Wreath 17th Year*

This morning beginning at 8AM, a diverse and dedicated group of hundreds of Adams Countians, will gather in the Giant Food Parking lot to assemble 16,000 wreaths to be placed on veterans' graves at Quantico National Cemetery on Saturday. What began 17 years ago at Quantico, when several wreaths were placed on the grave and the surrounding graves of Adams County native son, Marine Sgt. Eric McColley, has grown by approximately 1,000 wreaths each year. In 2006 SGT McColley was fatally injured in a tragic helicopter accident in Africa

For the 1<sup>st</sup> time in 17 years wreaths will not be placed at Gettysburg National Cemetery this afternoon. Viewing the post card image of wreaths in the cemetery after a snowfall will not happen. The pleasure of watching hundreds of students, as instructed by Stan Clark in the opening ceremony, to carefully place the wreath on the grave at the correct angle, making sure the bows are snug, and taking a moment to honor and think about the veteran's service, will not happen!

Consistently, for 17 years this very special program honoring



**VALIDATED**

veterans was both supported and attended by numerous Park Superintendents. With a change in Park administration, last year, after receiving pushback from the NPS regarding the event in the cemetery, it was only because of congressional intervention that the ceremony and wreath laying occurred last year, with permission coming at the last moment. Despite the purpose, reverence, poignancy, and educational benefits of the ceremony and laying of wreaths, SGT MAC organizers determined the purpose of this effort was not to spend time and energy battling with the National Park Service. To say this is frustrating and disappointing for the Adams County community and beyond would be a gross understatement. It is personally very disappointing to me as a proud career retired NPS alumni, and as a long-time supporter of this effort. Eric was in my scout troop and was an Eagle Scout with my son. Eric was a very engaging young man - and could always make you smile

The action by NPS, although frustrating and disappointing, does not diminish the core purpose of the initiative. Sixteen thousand wreaths will be placed this year, an increase of 1000 from 2021. Eric's parents, John & Susan McColley, and Adams County Veterans Affairs Director Stan Clark (who never meet Eric) have been the champions of this effort for 17 years. Support is needed to continue the program as we know it. You may contact the foundation by emailing [jmcolley@sgtmac.org](mailto:jmcolley@sgtmac.org) or by calling 252-722-4785. See you at Giant!

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## General Election Validated in Adams County

The Adams County Election Canvass was completed by the Adams County Board of Elections on Friday, November 11<sup>TH</sup>. The Elections Board is comprised of the 3 commissioners, unless running for office, then another elections board member of the same party is appointed by the Court. The canvass is required by statute and validates the election results. The votes are tallied and confirmed for each precinct. Military ballots, provisional ballots and mail-in ballots received the day of election as allowed are tabulated, with decisions made by the Elections board on provisional ballots or any other disputed ballots. Note that the elections canvass may result in the final election results being slightly different than the elections night results.

The November 11<sup>TH</sup> election canvass once again validates that we do have very accurate election results in Adams County. The elections world has changed dramatically in Pennsylvania with mail-in voting. The operations and budget impact with additional labor, equipment, materials, and staffing has been significant. The Adams County Elections Team takes their responsibility to administer accurate and efficient elections very seriously. Elections are now truly a team effort in Adams County, not only involving the high-level efficiency of elections office staff, but other departments in the County who roll up their sleeves and pitch in to make sure that voting results are accurate and expedient. Job well done – again!

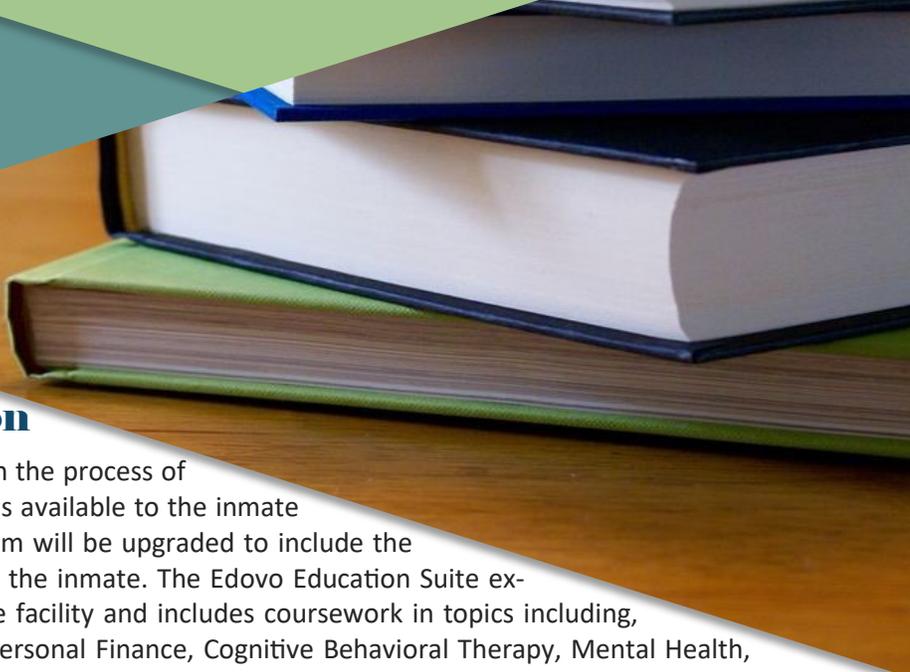
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## AdamsCountyPA.gov To Be Instituted December 18

The IT Department is finalizing plans for the transition of both the County website and email domain to *adamscountypa.gov*. On Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> county email will be changed to *@adamscountypa.gov* for all outgoing emails. Incoming emails will continue to be received if sent to *@adamscounty.us* for an indefinite period of time. On Monday, December 19<sup>th</sup> the Adams County Website will be changed to [www.adamscountypa.gov](http://www.adamscountypa.gov). Users that utilize [www.adamscounty.us](http://www.adamscounty.us) will automatically be re-directed to [www.adamscountypa.gov](http://www.adamscountypa.gov). This will also transition the County to the new website platform.



ADAMSCOUNTYPA.GOV



## **ACACC Continuing Education**

The Adams County Adult Correctional Complex is in the process of expanding the educational and vocational programs available to the inmate population at the facility. The facility's tablet system will be upgraded to include the Edovo Education Suite at no cost to the County or the inmate. The Edovo Education Suite expands the treatment programming available at the facility and includes coursework in topics including, but not limited to, GED and HiSet, Job Skills and Personal Finance, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Mental Health, Reading and Literacy, Health, Personal Development, Legal Topics, and Religion and Spirituality. While incarcerated, individuals can work towards earning Certificates of Completion, through self-paced learning that they can either be assigned by their case manager or that they voluntarily participate in. The Edovo platform also provides the facility's treatment staff with an opportunity to create and load other educational programs into the application, and for community partners to load their content in the future. Finally, post-release from incarceration, every inmate will continue to have free access to their Edovo Education Suite account, ensuring they can continue any educational programming they are interested in and have access to their certificates and transcripts in the future.

In order to support this initiative, ViaPath will be increasing the number of tablets to a 1:1 ratio, ensuring that every inmate is assigned their own tablet during their incarceration. The tablets also provide inmates access to LexisNexis for legal research, messaging with their families, recreational content, and facility specific information. This technology is safe and secure for use in a correctional setting, but also leverages technology to enrich the treatment, educational, and vocational programming available for individuals during their incarceration. The Adams County Board of Commissioners commends prison administration for their effort and vision to provide support that benefits the inmates and our community!

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## **Providing Input to Broadband Survey Strongly Encouraged**

We encourage everyone who lives and/or works in Adams County to provide input, on the future of a vital component for Adams County and in our daily lives which is Broadband Internet access. Over the past few months Adams County, Franklin County and Design Nine, Inc. have been developing a Broadband Community Assessment in an effort to bring affordable, high-speed, high-performance internet services to all residents and businesses throughout the county. In order to best determine solutions for achieving this, a public survey has been released to gather information about Broadband. Feedback from individual households and businesses is critical because it will determine which specific areas of the county need faster, more reliable internet service. We have developed a website for the Broadband Initiative which can be found here: <https://arcg.is/OSW8Ge>. The website will be the main source of all information for our Broadband Initiative, including the surveys. Physical versions of the surveys will also soon be available at each municipal office and library within the county. The Adams County Board of Commissioners encourages all Adams County residents and business owners to view the website and complete a survey.

# CYS Turkey Meal Drive

Adams County Children and Youth Services would like to express their sincere gratitude to all who donated to the Turkey Meal Drive.

With the help of so many generous givers we were able to serve

34 families complete meals to include turkeys and sides. Thank

you to those who donated monetarily. The total amount donated

was \$192.12. The money will be used to buy sides for ham meals

we provide to families in December. A special shout out to Proba-

tion Services, the Prison Staff, and Courthouse/HR for collecting

and delivering to the CYS office. Also, thanks to those of you who

donated turkeys. You are all very much appreciated and reinforce that Adams County cares!



## The End

The amount of activities this weekend is mind-boggling. Here are some that I picked out of the mass of activities.

- **Conservation District's Annual Planning Meeting** - Thursday, December 15, 2022. Adams County Ag Center, Old Harrisburg Road.
  - **Gettysburg Christmas Festival.** Today through Sunday. Check out all the events and activities. <https://www.agettysburgchristmasfestival.com/>
  - **Gettysburg Rec Park Holiday Craft Fair & Christmas Festival.** Snow Princess and Santa's elves. Christmas Trolley and bounce house + food trucks. Hours 10-4.
  - **Annual Craft & Vendor Fair,** Gettysburg American Legion. Crafts, poinsettias and baked goods. Lunch snack bar. On Saturday with hours 8-2.
  - **Christmas At The Eisenhower Farm.** Shuttle service only from the NPS visitor center. \$9 Adults Children \$5. Shuttle times vary but generally between 11-2. Contact Gettysburg Foundation 877-874-2478.
  - **Cookie Walk.** Foursquare Gospel Church 328 W. Middle St. Saturday from 9-12. Get a box and a glove when you enter. I also see that Barts Church United Methodist in Littlestown is also doing a similar Cookie Walk on Saturday. Load up with holiday cookies and treats. When you are finished weigh your box and pay by the pound. Sounds fun and delicious – especially for the non-bakers!
  - **Historical Tour of the Gettysburg Academy Bed & Breakfast.** On Saturday at 1 & 3:30 tour this historic structure next door 66-68 West High St. Join a Licensed Battlefield Guide for an historic tour of the 1813 structure. It was the first Lutheran Seminary in 1826 and used as PA College in 1832. Thaddeus Stevens held anti-slavery meetings there in 1836. \$25 Adult. Free for children under 10. [www.gettysburgacademy.com](http://www.gettysburgacademy.com)
  - **HGAC Homespun Christmas & Holiday Market.** Historic Gettysburg Adams County (HGAC) at the historic GAR Building, 53 East Middle Street. Friday 3-7 & Saturday 11-5. Hand crafted gifts and baked goods.
  - **Free Horse Drawn Carriage Rides.** Seminary Ridge Museum. Saturday 9-4. Courtesy of Robert C Hoffman Charitable Trust. Serving cookies and treats. Museum will be open.
  - **Gettysburg Pop-up Holiday Market.** Adams County Farmers Market, 108 N. Stratton St. Saturday 10-4. Over 40 vendors.
  - **Gettysburg Garden Club Christmas Greens & Gourmet Sale.** Gettysburg Fire Department. Saturday 9-2. Visit Gettysburg Garden Club Facebook page.
- Adams County Arts Council Jingle Bell Jam.** National Park Visitor Center Saturday 6-11. Cocktails, dinner and dancing to Philadelphia Orchestra. [www.adamsart.org](http://www.adamsart.org)
- **Hollabaugh & Boyer Nursery Holiday Open House.** Hollabaugh's Bros. Friday, Saturday & Sunday. Refreshments, Santa and seasonal gifts. 717-677-8412. Boyer Nursery. Saturday 9-5 & Sunday 12-5. Refreshments & Santa.
  - **Candlelight Tours Daniel Lady Farm.** Various evening tour times. Saturday, December 3 & Saturday, December 10. Each room of the historic house will have a drink and treat appropriate for the era. [www.gbpa.org](http://www.gbpa.org)
  - **13<sup>TH</sup> Annual Gingerbread Celebration & Holiday Mart,** Adams County Arts Council, Friday 9-8 – Sunday 9-3. Vote with dollars for your favorite and bid on your favorite house to take home. [www.adamsart.org](http://www.adamsart.org)

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