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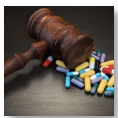
from
Adams County

written by: Commissioner Randy Phiel

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Swearing in Ceremony

For those who have occasion to visit or preside in the historic courtroom it is certainly a special place. Built in 1859, the Battle of Gettysburg raged on the streets outside and it was used as a lookout post and hospital by both armies. With the construction of the “new courthouse” in 1979, the historic courtroom was used mainly for ceremonial purposes. Having visited this working courtroom in the mid-1960’s as a middle school civics student who had not seen the courtroom for over 55 years, until just before taking office in 2012, it seemed beneficial to allow our residents to experience this beautiful and historic Adams County venue on a more regular basis. In collaboration with and support by the Court, Commissioners public meetings have been held in the historic courtroom since this Board of Commissioners took office. When entering the historic courtroom, a sense of history, respect, beauty, and jurisprudence prevail.

The courtroom was a working courtroom from 1859 to 1979. The historic courtroom was renovated between 1983-1985 and was named as one of the most well executed historic preservation projects by the Pennsylvania Historic Museum

Farewell

Commission in 1984. The courtroom continues to age gracefully and requires periodic maintenance. Adams County Building & Maintenance (B&M) is currently addressing a ceiling issue in the courtroom with deteriorating plaster. They are mitigating the aging plaster, increasing insulation, and installing some new efficient lighting. Thank you to Adams County B&M for preserving our historic courtroom for future generations!

Farewell To A Long-time Community Servant

While we are on the subject of elections, the Board would like to recognize and honor the life of Doris Redding, who provided about 50 years of service as an election board member in Union Township. We are so grateful to have had someone like Ms. Redding as a dedicated election board member and community servant. Union Township is on my election day "route", and it was the highlight of my day to walk and see Doris in her red/white/blue outfit with her patriotic scarf. Its like walking into a Norman Rockwell painting on election day. Ms. Redding passed away on January 30, 2022. She was a kind soul and will be greatly missed.

Re-districting Debate Impacts County Elections

The re-districting controversy is providing further frustration to PA counties in administering elections. The ability of counties to print ballots, know what districts legislators are in, and where district primary petitioners should engage, are all unknown at this time for the May 17 Primary Election. February 15 is the first date to circulate petitions with March 8th being the last day. We await to see if these timelines will have to change?


On February 2, 2022, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court issued an order granting a petition for King's Bench jurisdiction regarding the congressional maps, meaning that the decision moves immediately to the Supreme Court without waiting for a decision by the Commonwealth Court. Commonwealth Court Judge Patricia McCullough, who had been overseeing the case, has been appointed as Special Master, and is required to file a recommendation of a map to the Supreme Court, along with a report supporting that decision and proposed changes to the 2022 Primary election calendar, by Monday, February 7 (separately, Justice McCullough issued a statement yesterday, prior to the Supreme Court's order, indicating that her decision on maps would include changes to the timeline for candidates to circulate nominating petitions). Participants in the case will then have until Monday, February 14, to respond to the Special Master's choice, and the Supreme Court will hear arguments on Friday, February 18, before making a final decision on a map.

Counties have encouraged swift action by the General Assembly and Governor to complete and enact the congressional maps to allow counties to have enough time to prepare materials for candidates who will be running in the May 17 Primary Election, particularly those steps necessary to ensure candidates can begin circulating petitions on February 15 as scheduled. If changes are needed to the election calendar, they must be undertaken with an understanding of the domino effect that will have on counties' other election administration responsibilities and their ability to run a smooth May Primary Election.

Opioid Litigation Update

All of Pennsylvania's 67 counties + Philadelphia signed on to the Commonwealth's \$1 billion opioid settlement agreement by the January 26 deadline. This settlement, negotiated by Attorney General Josh Shapiro, is part of the nationwide resolution of several thousand lawsuits against drug manufacturer Johnson & Johnson and three major pharmaceutical distributors: AmerisourceBergen, McKesson, and Cardinal Health. Under the intrastate distribution agreement, counties will receive 85% of the funding directly to respond to the opioid crisis in their communities. Further, counties appreciate the flexibility that comes with this much-needed funding that can be used for a broad





variety of opioid crisis-related responses, including prevention, treatment and rehabilitation, community programs and services, medication, educational outreach and more.

Addressing the opioid crisis and providing resources to individuals and families in our communities has been a significant focus for counties in their response to this ongoing epidemic. Counties are pleased that the settlement recognizes the front-line role counties have and continue to play in providing services to those in our communities who are impacted by opioid use disorder. Adams County is slated to receive approximately \$2.3M toward opioid mitigation depending on some participation factors. The distribution is spread out, but the majority is front loaded.

Repeal of Act 77 Causes More Potential Headaches

The Wolf administration is appealing the decision of the Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court that no excuse mail-in ballots violated the Pennsylvania Constitution. The Court wrote that the law needed to be passed by a Constitutional amendment, opposed to the bipartisan bill that was signed into law in 2019. With the appeal being filed, Act 77 is still law meaning, no excuse mail-in ballots can still be used in the May Primary. Counties have been obligated to incur significant expense and staffing to comply with the flood of no excuse ballots. Stay tuned!

America PA250 Celebration Throughout Adams County

In 2026 America is celebrating its 250TH birthday. Pennsylvania has created the PA Semiquincentennial Commission to celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the United States of America. Planning is underway for the Adams County community to celebrate the Semiquincentennial by featuring Adams County's historical, agricultural, natural & cultural heritage.

After attending an informational session conducted by the AmericaPA250 Commission in December, the Commissioners & Adams County Planning will be collaborating with many County organizations to facilitate, organize and begin the planning process. The scope and character of events and when they will be held will eventually be a product of group collaboration between, organizations, businesses, and individuals. Next week the Commissioners and Adams County Planning are hosting a planning session for community organizations to begin that process. After that session there should be an opportunity for businesses and individuals to serve on committees. Beside events during 2026, there will hopefully be some appropriate lead up events in preceding years. This is a great opportunity for Adams County to feature its many attributes and benefits for the nation's birthday!

With the Board of Commissioners having passed a *AmericaPA250 Resolution* in Fall 2021, we anticipate having a kick-off event during a future commissioners public meeting, most likely to be followed by other kick-off events in the community.

Farewell, Thank You, See You Around Town

After 16 years of serving The Gettysburg Times and Adams County community as a reporter and newspaper editor, Alex has decided to put behind for the moment the ink, the constant barrage of opinions, ideas, issues, gripes, and philosophies, that come at the editor 24/7. He is putting his talents, energy, and continuing community commitment full-time toward the YWCA - and I am sure other community organizations and causes. The written word is important to a community such as ours, and Alex has done a terrific job carrying out that

All the best!

trust. Alex, on behalf of the residents of Adams County, thank you for engagement and what you have done to ensure fair and balanced reporting, while also being a valued contributor to Adams County! Job well done!



The End

A shout out to all the dancers that participated in *Dancing With The Local Stars* at the Majestic Theater. As usual, it was a very entertaining community event that supported the Adams County Arts Council & YWCA Gettysburg & Adams County and gave us another peek at how many talented folks we have in Adams County. It was fun telling Robin Fitzpatrick to “break a leg” and “have fun” in the same sentence! Great job by all the volunteer participants and thank you for all the work and practice you committed to this worthy cause!

Who doesn't love chocolate? If you are a chocolate lover head to New Oxford for the 6TH Annual *New Oxford Chocolate Tour + 1* to sample chocolate at your favorite shops. The Chocolate Tour event is taking place this Saturday, February 5th and Saturday, February 12th from 10-5. Go to Facebook events for more information and participating shops.

Calling all history buffs. The *Gettysburg National Military Park Winter Lecture Presentations* take place from 1:30 p.m. until 2:30 p.m. on Saturdays and most Sundays in the Museum & Visitor Center from Jan. 8 through March 12, 2022. The Winter Lecture Series programs will also be live streamed on the [Gettysburg National Military Park YouTube channel](#). For more information visit nps.gov/gett.

Did you remember Valentine's Day is around the corner? Hollabaugh Bros. is having a kids *Will You Be My Valentine* event on February 12 from 10:00-11:30. The kids will hear stories and make special Valentines. Recommended age is 3-8 and cost is \$10. Pre-registration is required with a participant limit. Call 717-677-8412.

Doesn't it make sense to take a Gettysburg President's Day Walking Tour on Presidents Day weekend? On February 19th at 11:00 and 1:00, In honor of President's Day weekend, take a 60-minute walking tour and learn about three Presidents (Lincoln, Eisenhower and Kennedy) who impacted the town of Gettysburg! Walk the streets of Gettysburg with a Gettysburg Licensed Town Guide and experience President Lincoln's 25 hours in Gettysburg. You will walk where he walked and see what he saw and hear civilian's stories of what they experienced those two days in November 1863. On this tour you will also hear about Eisenhower's Gettysburg experiences beginning in 1915 and ending with his retirement years in the 1960's. The Guides have stories about Ike and Mamie you will not find in history books! President Kennedy, Jackie and Carolyn visited Gettysburg March 31, 1963 on a bright sunny day. Find out what they saw and experienced during this visit. Reservations are required a minimum of an hour prior to each tour. Cost is \$15. Go to gbltg.com for more information or to make a reservation.

The *Healthy Adams County Winter Fitness Hike* will take place on Sunday, February 20th. The hike will begin at the Eisenhower Farm and go over the Sachs Mill Covered Bridge and the “John Eisenhower” Iron Bridge. Hike your way to better health with the guided Winter Fitness Hike! These fully guided hikes are open to beginner and seasoned hikers. There will be breaks as necessary and the pace will be moderate. Trails may be uneven or muddy. Please wear sturdy hiking shoes and bring a water bottle. Walks are held rain or shine. For more information on this hike and future hikes check www.facebook.com/healthyadamscounty

Thought from Commissioner Martin: “With all this inflation - a nickel for your thoughts has become a dime!”

No matter what you do get out there and experience all the historic, recreational, agricultural, natural, and cultural opportunities that beautiful Adams