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from
Adams County

written by: Commissioner Randy Phiel

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In this issue...



Page 2

Share of Opioid Litigation
Conewago Creek
Purchase Completed



Page 3

Treasurer's Office
Collection Taxes
Gettysburg Polling
Precinct #2 Change
Oak Lawn Cemetery
Update



Page 4

The End



Swearing in Ceremony

On Thursday, December 30 at 1:00P.M., the Adams County Historic Courtroom was the site of the traditional swearing in of all recently elected county officials and many municipal officials who chose to be sworn-in by the Court. This ceremony in the historic courtroom is always very poignant. County officials sworn in were President Judge Michael George (retention), Magisterial Judge Christopher Snyder, Treasurer Crissy Redding & Sheriff Jim Muller. Clerk of Courts Kelly Lawver was sworn-in prior to the ceremony.

At 2PM approximately 50 municipal officials chose to be sworn in by the Court. The Board appreciates their sense of duty and respect for their positions by taking the time to participate in this tradition laden ceremony. A shout out to the Court and County staff that make this a very special event for the elected officials, their co-workers, friend, and families.



Adams County Share of Opioid Litigation

After several years of litigation and settlement negotiations, there are currently (2) proposed nationwide settlement agreements on the table that could resolve all opioid litigation brought by the states and local political subdivisions, including Adams County, against the three largest pharmaceutical distributors and one pharmaceutical manufacturer. McKesson, Cardinal Health and AmerisourceBergen are the (3) Distributors and Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc. and its parent company Johnson & Johnson is the manufacturer.

These proposed settlement agreements, which have not yet been approved by the Court, would require the Distributors and Janssen to pay up to \$26 Billion to abate the opioid epidemic. Of that settlement amount, approximately \$22.7 Billion is earmarked for use by participating states and political subdivisions to remediate and abate the impacts of the opioid crisis in our states, counties, and communities. The Settlements also contain injunctive relief provisions governing the opioid marketing, sale, and distribution practices at the heart of the lawsuits.

Of the \$26 Billion, an “Allocation Percentages & Share” chart now circulating from the Pennsylvania Attorney General’s Office shows a potential \$1 Billion coming to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Of that \$1 Billion, \$700 Million is to be allocated directly to the (67) counties by population, an additional 15% to the litigating counties (the dollar amount going to each litigating county will also be determined by population), and 15% to the Commonwealth to be deposited into a restricted account for opioid abatement. If all (67) counties sign onto the settlement, Shapiro’s chart estimates that Adams County will receive \$2,392,983, with an additional share as a litigating county estimated at \$695,000.

If the settlements are ultimately approved by the Court, Adams County could be receiving its first payment as early as August 2022.

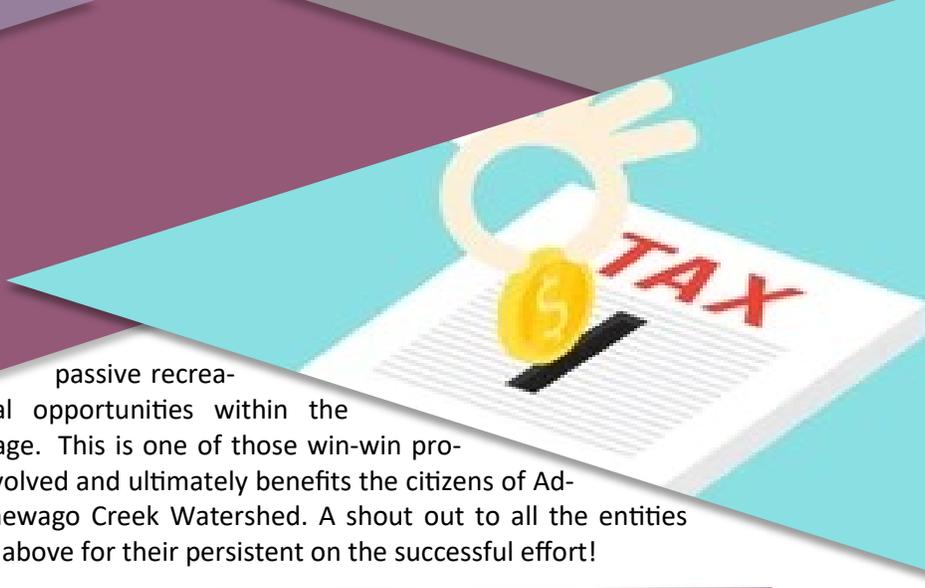
Conewago Creek Purchase Completed

At the end of 2021, 58 acres along the pristine waters of the Conewago Creek were officially transferred to the PA Fish & Boat Commission after a two-year project to purchase the land from Knouse Foods. What started out as a conversation between Knouse Foods and the Planning Office on the future of the Alda Miller Farm along Zeigler Mill Road turned into a group-wide effort to permanently protect and maintain the 58 acres for the public.

Representatives from the Adams County Office of Planning and Development, the Watershed Alliance of Adams County, Adams County Trout Unlimited (ACTU), the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, and the Land Conservancy of Adams County developed a plan in cooperation with Knouse Foods to buy the 58 acres with various grant funding and private donations. The Land Conservancy was asked and obliged to do the bulk of the grant writing. Two years into the project, when some other hoped-for grants were not awarded and fruition of the project seemed uncertain, the Adams County Conservation District (thanks to Commissioner Martin’s suggestion) stepped in to fill the remaining gap, contributing the final \$75,000 needed to meet the purchase price through the Conservation District’s Act 13 Unconventional Gas Well Fund.

The Adams County chapter of Trout Unlimited and the PA Fish and Boat Commission have now entered a lease agreement for the management of the property. ACTU will act as steward, maintaining fly-fishing access and developing other





passive recreational opportunities within the wooded acreage. This is one of those win-win projects for everyone involved and ultimately benefits the citizens of Adams County and Conewago Creek Watershed. A shout out to all the entities and individuals listed above for their persistent on the successful effort!

Treasurer's Office Collecting Taxes

As municipalities find it increasingly difficult to attract residents to fill the role of municipal tax collector, Adams County Treasurer Crissy Redding continues to step up and act as the tax collecting agent for those municipalities. At the December Commissioner's meeting, the Board approved the Adams County Treasurer's office collecting taxes for Arendtsville. The Treasurer's office already collects for Abbottstown. Thank you to Treasurer Crissy Redding and her staff for their actions to better serve the residents of Adams County!

Gettysburg Polling Precinct #2 Change

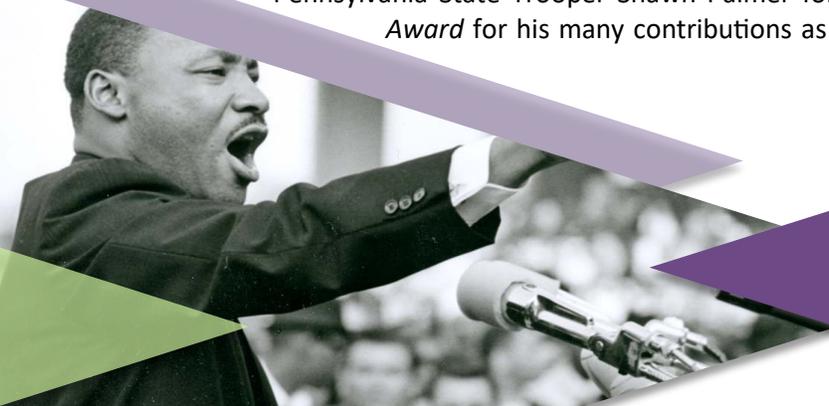
A reminder that the Gettysburg #2 voting precinct has temporarily changed to the Gettysburg Fire Department. The change from the Gettysburg College Union Building was approved at the December 29, 2021, Commissioner's meeting due to the on-going impact of COVID-19. As evidenced by several previous elections, the change has proved seamless with ample parking in close proximity to the building.

Oak Lawn Cemetery Update

You are probably aware that in December, Adams County took possession of Oak Lawn Cemetery from Cumberland Township in preparation for a 501 (c) (13) Board being formed to guide and sustain the cemetery in the future. Since last Friday, five new flags from each service branch are now proudly flying at the cemetery. The Adams County Allied Veterans Honor Guard placed the new service flags at the Veterans Memorial in the cemetery. The new flags were purchased by the Adams County Veterans Affairs Department. This is hopefully the beginning of many positive dynamics for the beleaguered cemetery and is symbolic of a brighter future!

Martin Luther King Day Proclamation & Award

At Wednesday's Commissioner Meeting the Board approved a proclamation for Martin Luther King (MLK) Day in Adams County. In conjunction with the MLK proclamation, we also recognized retired Pennsylvania State Trooper Shawn Palmer for being honored with the *Living Dream Award* for his many contributions as an example, educator, mentor, and ad-



vocate for equality in our community. The award was sponsored by the Gettysburg/Adams YWCA. Congratulations and thank you Shawn for your community advocacy!



The End

Hopefully you already have your reserved seat for this year's *Dancing With The Local Stars* at The Majestic Theater this evening at 7PM. My seat is reserved in the front row of the balcony. Some Adams County superstars have been sitting at home the entire pandemic just itching to dance! Produced by the YWCA Gettysburg & Adams County and Adams County Arts Council, this is an exciting event that pairs a local celebrity with a trained choreographer. After several months of practicing, the pair show off their moves on the Majestic's grand stage. *As an attendee each year, I guarantee that you will enjoy this event. I am sure some of you still recall Ernie Krainias and Mark Clowney's unforgettable award-winning performances. On top of the great entertainment value, all proceeds benefit the YWCA Gettysburg & Adams County and the Adams County Arts Council.*

The National Park Service is offering its popular *Winter Lecture Series*. Featuring National Park Service rangers and historians from across the region, the 10-week series of hour-long presentations will examine pivotal individuals, events, and locations from the American Civil War era. From the Compromise of 1850, the Battle of Stones River, and the Lincoln – Douglas Debates, to the legacy of George Meade, these moments and individuals mark significant epochs in the course of the conflict. The Winter Lecture Series is held at 1:30 P.M. on weekends in the Gettysburg National Military Park Museum and Visitor Center from January 8 through March 12, 2022. Price is Free! This Saturday evening, The Gettysburg Foundation is presenting *An Evening With The Painting from 4 P.M.-6 P.M.*, featuring a close-up and personal study of the historic Gettysburg Cyclorama painting. Call 877-874-2478 or visit their website at GettysburgFoundation.org for ticket information. On Saturday evening *Music Gettysburg* is back live at the Lutheran Seminary featuring the Baroque Ensemble. The performance is free and begins at 4. Call 717-339-1334 or visit musicgettysburg.org for details.

Heidlersburg Fire Company is well-known for their *Roast Beef & Oyster dinners*. This Saturday, from 3-6, they will hold a carry-out only dinner. Platters of roast beef & oysters with all the sides are \$20. Fried shrimp and fish is also available. Orders will be taken on site only. 717-528-8867.

Our neighbors to the west in Franklin County will be having their 20TH *Annual Ice Fest* in Chambersburg January 27-29. There will be over 80 ice sculptures to enjoy with lots of good food and activities downtown. If you haven't attended Ice fest before it is worth the short trip over the mountain.

Gettysburg Community Theaters production of *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street* is set to open this evening and run through January 30. Due to some HVAC issues the shows will be FREE, but dress warmly! Go to www.GettysburgCommunit-Theater.org to order tickets.

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