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from
Adams County

written by: Commissioner Randy Phiel

September 13, 2024

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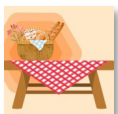


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Employee Appreciation Week

Although we appreciate and recognize our staff 365 days of the year, Monday, September 23rd through Friday, September 27th is the official *Adams County Employee Appreciation Week*. HR has been working overtime to make it a great week! Check the schedule for Traveling Toms coffee, donuts, and yogurt, + the PA Dairyman's Milkshake truck moving around to County facilities. On Wednesday, the Management Team at the Department of Emergency Services is providing breakfast to staff.

The week concludes with our Annual Staff Picnic at the AG Center from 1130-230. Remember "Bag The Bounty" to bring non-perishable items to provide food to families in need of food support!



GASD Public Officials Forum

Wednesday, September 4th, all three commissioners attended a *Meet Your Local Government Day* for Gettysburg High School Government class students. They were preparing for a debate on whether local government was more important than national government. We were joined by several Gettysburg Borough officials. We explained that local government probably impacts them more everyday than federal with the extensive menu of services. Also, local government is less politicized than state and federal government. We urged the students to become involved in their local governments, gain knowledge of the issues and candidates - and vote!

Seedling Distribution

The Adams County Planting Partnership, the Adams County Conservation District and the Watershed Alliance of Adams County, have been working together since 2018 to distribute almost 80,000 native trees and shrubs to Adams County residents. Trees planted along streams help stabilize the soil, take up excess nutrients, shade and cool the water, and provide food and shelter to fish and wildlife. Trees can also lessen the impacts of stormwater runoff and provide community and environmental benefits in urban and suburban areas as well.

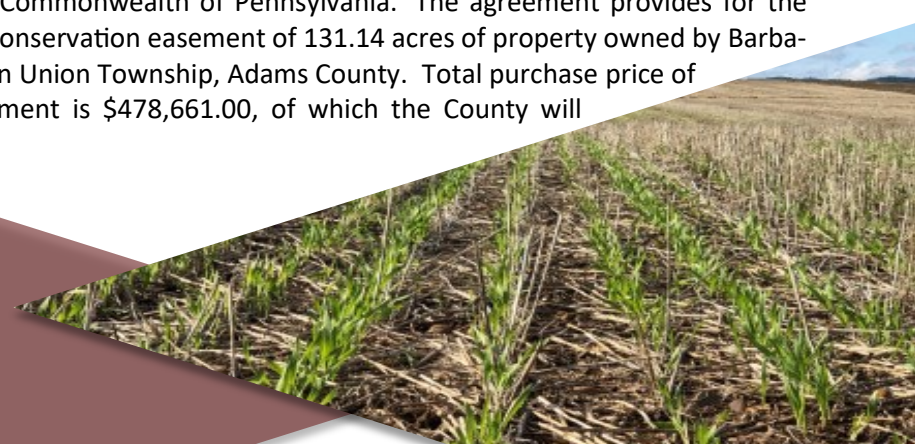
The Adams County Planting Partnership's Fall 2024 native seedling distribution is coming up. More than 8,000 trees and shrubs are being offered for FREE! [Click here for a list of available seedling species](#). The seedling request form will open at 9 a.m. on Saturday, September 14, 2024. A link to the form will be posted on [Adams County Planting Partnership's website](#). Seedlings will be available for pickup at the Adams County Agricultural and Natural Resources Center. Pick up dates are tentatively scheduled for October 18 and 19, 2024.

Agricultural Conservation Easements Approved

Preserving our agricultural lands and heritage is an on-going priority of this Board. At the last public meeting an Agreement for the sale and purchase of an Agricultural Conservation Easement for 274.62 acres with Hanover Shoe Farms, Inc. was approved. The parcel is in Conewago and Union Townships, Adams. County total purchase price of the conservation easement is \$823,860.00. The County will also cover the costs incident to the purchase of the easement in the amount of \$15,954.27, which is eligible for reimbursement by the State Board. This Agreement is effective September 4, 2024. This is the main farm of the Hanover Shoe Farm operation.

There are 1264.52 total acres preserved to date on 11 farms at Hanover Shoe which have gone to settlement and preserved to date. These totals do not count the farms preserved through the Land Conservancy of Adams County. There are two farms which will settle hopefully by the end of September, this farm (274.62 acres) and one that went to the state for funding of 161.32 acres. The entire project encompasses some of the best farmland in Adams County.

Also approved was an agreement for the sale and purchase of an Agricultural Conservation Easement with Barbara A. Martin, Union Township, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The agreement provides for the purchase of an agricultural conservation easement of 131.14 acres of property owned by Barbara Martin located in Union Township, Adams County. Total purchase price of the easement is \$478,661.00, of which the County will





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pay
\$23,933.05, with the remainder
to be paid for by the Commonwealth and the
Township. This Agreement is effective September 4, 2024.

Agreement Approved for Juror Parking

Getting that notice to step up for jury duty can create some anxieties. To make sure parking downtown is not an issue, at the September 4th meeting, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for “Parking Services For Citizens Called to Jury Duty” with the Borough of Gettysburg was approved. This Amendment reflects operational changes to the parking pass validation process at the Borough Parking Garage for jurors.

Brethren Home Tax Exempt Financing Approved

Many Adams County residents are not aware that the Brethren Home at Cross Keys is not only our largest county employer but is also a huge economic driver in Adams County both institutionally and for services required by residents. It is also a convenient and beneficial resource for our senior residents.

At the September 4th public meeting, the Board of Commissioners adopted Resolution No. 14 of 2024 approving the use of tax-exempt financing in the maximum amount of \$120,000,000.00 for the project for The Brethren Home Community doing business as Cross Keys Village, for the acquisition, construction, and furnishing of 59 independent living units and a personal care facility with 100 units, in Oxford Township, Adams County, and for the refinancing of several series of Revenue Notes, each issued for the benefit of the Corporation.

This Approval is given by the Adams County Commissioners as the elected representatives having jurisdiction over the Authority and the geographic location of the facilities to be financed, and solely for the purposes of Section 147(f) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, following a duly advertised hearing held on or about Monday, August 26, 2024 at the offices of the Adams Economic Alliance, 1300 Proline Place, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. The Approval granted does not in any way pledge or obligate the credit or taxing power of the County, nor shall the County be liable for the payment of, or interest on the bonds. The Resolution is effective September 4, 2024.

Election Office Gets New High-Speed Scanner

Getting elections results tabulated in an accurate and timely manner is critical to the elections process. With the surging popularity of mail-in ballots, and the inability to process the mail-ins before 7AM on election day, the Board is always seeking ways to improve the process.

On September 4th, the Board of Commissioners approved a sales order agreement with Election Systems & Software (ES&S) for the purchase of a DS950 High-Speed Scanner/Tabulator (to replace an older model), accessories, and a 5-year extended warranty at a total cost of \$129,230.00, - which will be paid for from Act 88 Election Integrity Grant funds. The unit can process 280 ballots per minute and is very secure! It should be in service for this Presidential Election.



ES&S
DS950



The End

- **Adams County Staff Picnic.** Friday, September 27, 11:30-2:30. AG Center. RSVP to Department Director appreciated!

- **Gettysburg Heritage Festival.** This Sunday from 12-4. Crafts, variety of music, ethnic food, non-profits, and children's activities. Kids Bike Parade and decorating 12:30 - 1:30.

- **2024 Legacy on the Ridge + Community Free Day.** Seminary Ridge Museum. This Friday evening and Saturday. Numerous historical presentations and free museum admission on Saturday for Adams County residents. [in-fo@seminaryridgemuseum.org](mailto:info@seminaryridgemuseum.org)

- **Adams County Farmers Market Street Food Fiesta.** Saturday. Gettysburg Rec Park 8-1. Celebration of Central and South American traditions. Free!

- **Open Recreation Plank Gym Gettysburg College.** This Saturday & Sunday 12-7. Free.

- **Amblebrook 5K Race.** This Saturday 830AM. 5k supports Adams County Office of Aging. Cost \$40. runsignup.com

- **Squabblers Mess - NPS Living History at Spangler's Spring.** Saturday 9-5 and Sunday 9-3.

Carlisle Brass Band – George Spangler Farm. This Saturday. Gates to farm open at 2:30 for you to explore this beautifully restored farm. Bring your lawn chairs and park on-site. reservations@gettysburgfoundation.org Parking is on-site.

- **The Drummer Boy of Fort McHenry.** This Saturday. Program by Historian Tim Smith. ACHS, Biglerville Road, 11AM. Free!

- **Unpacking the Vote: Public Q & A with Election Experts.** Join the Eisenhower Institute and WITF for a chance to ask questions about how elections work, featuring PA Secretary of State Al Schmidt. This Monday, September 16, 6PM, Majestic Theater. majestictheater@gettysburg.edu Seating is limited so register to secure your seat at Eventbrite.

- **WWII Weekend at Eisenhower National Historic Site.** September 20-22. Living history encampment, tours, and speakers. Parking on-site. Free!

- **Fairfield Pippinfest.** Saturday 28th & Sunday 29th. Old fashioned street fair. Crafts, vendors, live music, petting zoo, car show and more. www.pippinfest.com

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