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from
Adams County

written by: Commissioner Randy Phiel

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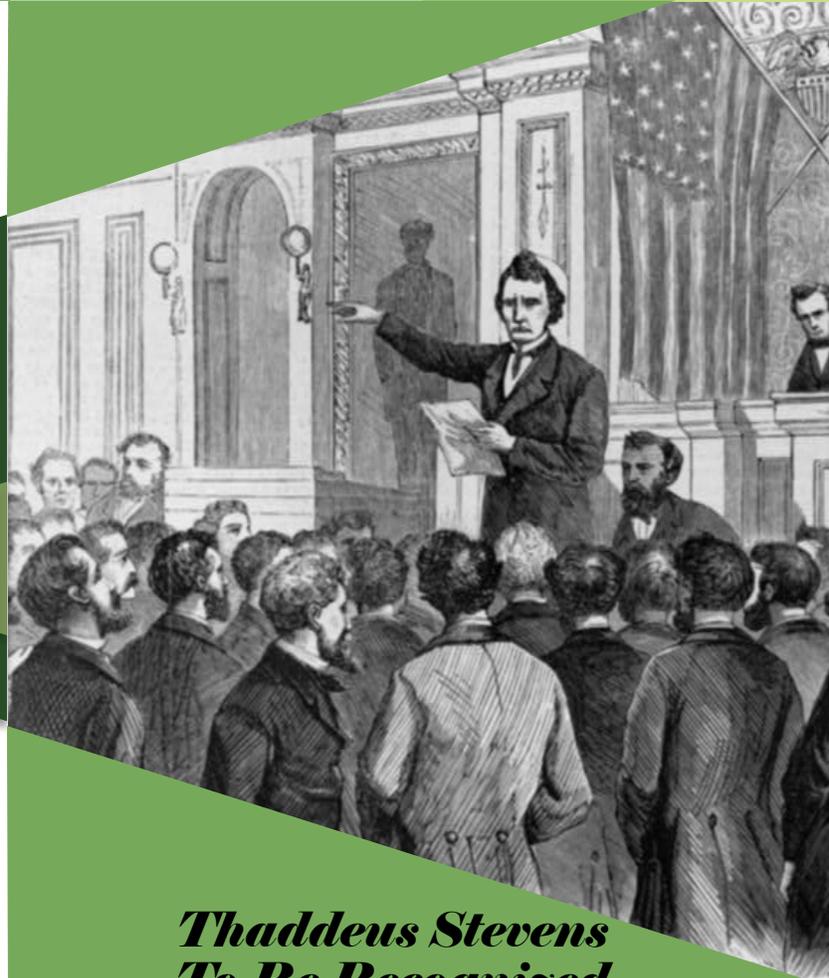
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Thaddeus Stevens To Be Recognized

On Saturday, April 2nd at 2:00PM, a statue will be dedicated in front of the historic Adams County Courthouse for a local attorney who first rose to greatness in Adams County, before becoming a national figure in the U.S. Congress. Thaddeus Stevens would impact our nation's history for championing equal rights and public education. The public is invited to attend the ceremony as part of a 3-day Thaddeus Stevens event sponsored by the Thaddeus Stevens Society.

Living in Gettysburg from 1816 to 1842, Stevens was not only an outstanding lawyer, but went on to greater fame as the savior of public education in Pennsylvania, and as the primary framer of the extremely important 14th Amendment to the Constitution.

The Thaddeus Stevens Society is looking for assistance in making the statue dedication a fitting tribute to Stevens. They are requesting contributions to help pay for the preparation of the statue site, and the wayside sign that is going next to it. A professional video about the statue and Stevens will be presented at a free public showing the night of the

Thank you

dedication at The Majestic Theater. The Society is also working toward the restoration of Stevens's house in Lancaster, where he moved to in 1842.

Please make inquiries or contributions to the Thaddeus Stevens Society, PO Box 3484, Gettysburg, PA 17325-3484, or see the complete schedule of events at www.thaddeusstevenssociety.com If your donation is greater than \$250, it will be acknowledged with your firm's logo in a full-page advertisement in the *Gettysburg Times*.

Commissioners Recognition For Pastor John Spangler

Pastor John Spangler, an exemplary member of the Gettysburg and Adams County Community, was recognized with a recognition plaque at the Commissioner's Public Meeting on Wednesday for his significant service and contributions to our community. Pastor Spangler served as the Executive Assistant to the Lutheran Seminary President for 25 years. Besides being an engaged Seminary liaison to our community, John was instrumental in installation of geothermal at the Seminary, a leader in Music Gettysburg and a multitude of musical concerts, head of the school's communications, provided critical leadership in the renovation of Schmucker Hall into the Seminary Ridge Museum, and provided Board service to Lutheran Social Services, SpiriTrust, and DIAKON Social Ministries. Some residents may also be aware he was a founder of the Seminary's popular Brewfest!

Thank you, John Spangler, for your service to our community. We thank you for your past service, and look forward to your continued community contributions in retirement!

Land Conservancy of Adams County Month— 3/10-4/24

The Land Conservancy of Adams County (LCAC) is in its 27th year of operation. It has recorded 177 easements, enabling Adams County landowners to preserve 12,198 acres of farmland, water sheds and open space. LCAC volunteers and members are the core of the organization, donating time and funds to the organization to support its goals and purposes.

Last evening LCAC held its annual Membership Meeting, which celebrated last year's achievements and honored the Conservation Benefactors who generously granted land preservation agreements. Along with their popular Road Rally in October, April 24th is the LCAC Art Auction, which helps continue the preservation mission through the sale of works by local artists. In 23 years, the Art Auction has raised \$300,000 to preserve and protect open space in Adams County. Go to BiddingOwl.com to view and bid. There will be a Wine & Cheese Reception at the Adams County Arts Council to celebrate the artists on Friday, April 1, 5:00-7:00PM.

Thank you to the Land Conservancy of Adams County and all of its members, volunteers, and supporters for preserving our Adams County landscape and natural resources!

County Record Retention

As our work-lives finally begin to return to normal, the Solicitor's Office and IT Department are excited to announce the resumption of their joint effort to implement a *County Record Retention Program*. With space at a premium, and the threat of cyberattacks ever present, it is incredibly important that each County department begin taking steps to reduce their records footprint by disposing of unneeded paper and electronic records. Freeing up physical space in our County offices leads to a better environment for our employees and allows us space to store essential items. Deleting unnecessary electronic records ensures that, in the event of a cyberattack, the County is not holding sensitive data which could have been disposed of long ago.





Over the course of this year, the Solicitor's Office and IT will meet with each department individually to review record retention policies and begin the process of disposing of eligible records. Already many of the departments we have met with are well on their way with this process. Treasurer Crissy Reading and Kierstyn Green recently sent twenty file boxes of unneeded records to the shredder. Tax Director Daryl Crum and Thomas Breivogel have cleared out so much space in their office that they now have room for an employees' lounge. We applaud these efforts and look forward to many more successes in the future. Thank you all for helping us keep Adams County an efficient, safe, and de-cluttered place to work!

Opioid Settlement

On February 25, we received the good news that both the distributors and J&J announced they will be moving forward with the opioid settlements. The next steps will be to enter the consent decree to formalize the settlement, set up the Trust and start getting money out to counties. Adams County is slated to receive approximately \$2.2M toward opioid mitigation.

The Trust overseeing distribution of the settlement funds is governed by a Board of 13 Trustees, including a non-voting chairperson appointed by the Governor, a secretary of one of the state's health and human services agencies, four legislative members, and seven regional trustees, two of whom are appointed by the mayor of Philadelphia and the Allegheny County executive, and the remaining five of whom are selected by the counties within the regions that are set out in the settlement agreement.

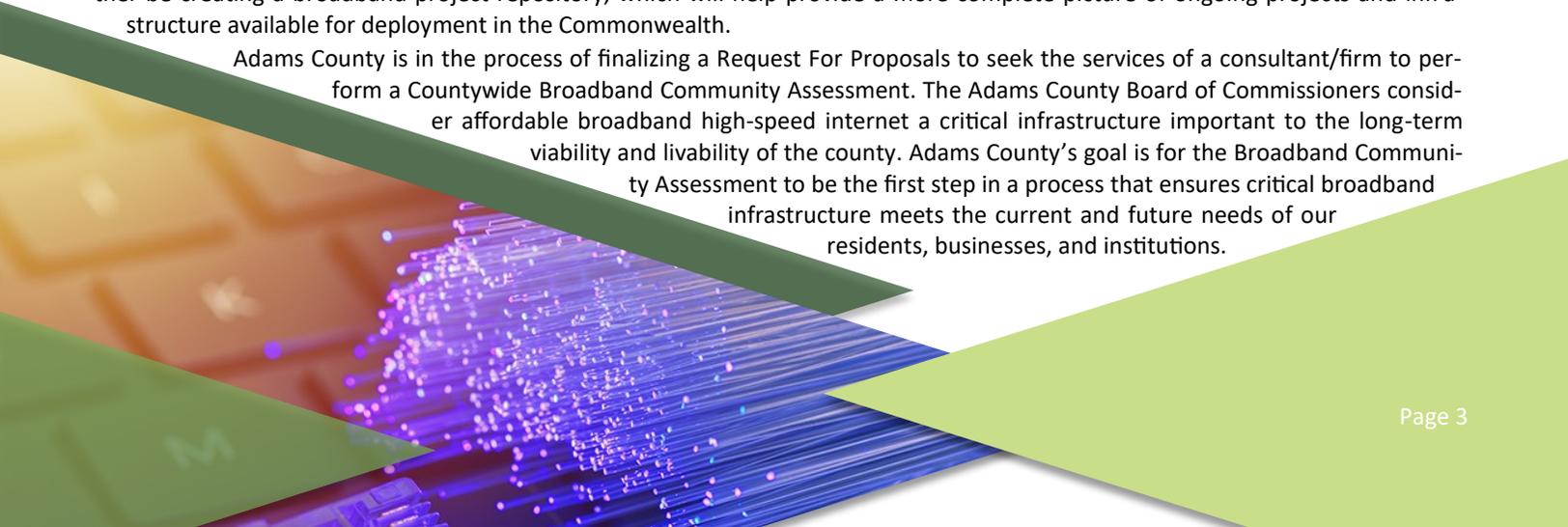
The Attorney General's office has decided to dispense with the complicated nomination and election system for the initial selection of the five regional trustees, and instead give the counties in each region the opportunity to select their trustee in the way they best see fit. The distributions to counties will be front-loaded, with the bulk, but not all the money up-front.

State Broadband Update

The state Broadband Development Authority, created under Act 96 of 2021, met for the first time on February 15 to discuss initial plans for the commonwealth's use of federal funding to tackle broadband deployment and access across the state. The authority serves as the one-stop-shop for broadband in Pennsylvania and is responsible for strategic planning and funding for broadband development to unserved areas and underserved areas, including access to millions in federal funding allocated to the Commonwealth in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

Pennsylvania is guaranteed at least \$100 million for broadband under the federal infrastructure law, with the prospect of applying competitively for more dollars under the Act's \$42 billion Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program. To access funds, the Authority must develop a statewide broadband plan, which is required to include local government input, and will further be creating a broadband project repository, which will help provide a more complete picture of ongoing projects and infrastructure available for deployment in the Commonwealth.

Adams County is in the process of finalizing a Request For Proposals to seek the services of a consultant/firm to perform a Countywide Broadband Community Assessment. The Adams County Board of Commissioners consider affordable broadband high-speed internet a critical infrastructure important to the long-term viability and livability of the county. Adams County's goal is for the Broadband Community Assessment to be the first step in a process that ensures critical broadband infrastructure meets the current and future needs of our residents, businesses, and institutions.



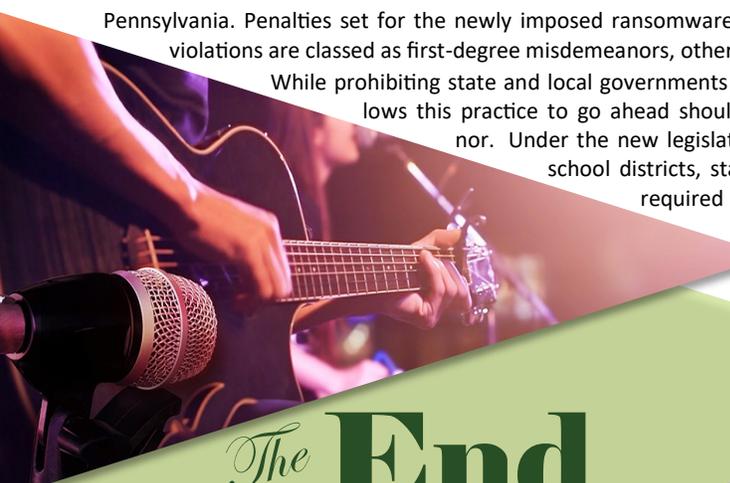
State Budget Update

The State Budget impacts the multitude of services that counties provide. The House Appropriations Committee began hearings with state agencies the week of February 14 to learn more about their respective funding requests as outlined in the Governor's FY 2022-2023 state budget, opening with the State's Independent Fiscal Office (IFO). IFO Director Matthew Knittel highlighted workforce trends on the economy, stressing the impacts on productivity in the state. Knittel noted these trends were not uncommon and mirror the national picture, including the impact the pandemic has played in individuals retiring early, seeking more consistent employment, or changing lifestyle and priorities. Knittel also indicated the state's revenue picture will look a bit different than other years, pointing to the temporary influx of \$120 billion in federal stimulus monies and how the loss of purchases in durable goods has led to a 3% retraction in sales tax projections. Discussions concluded with a caution about the future economic vitality of the Commonwealth, including the potential for a structural deficit to return in future years in the wake of the pandemic and other related historic investments.

Ransomware Bill Passes State Senate

IT Security and Ransomware concerns plague government at all levels. Senate Bill 726, amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, was approved by the Pennsylvania Senate. The legislation has now advanced to the House of Representatives for further consideration. The amendment defines ransomware and makes it illegal to possess, use, develop, sell, or threaten to use the malware in Pennsylvania. Penalties set for the newly imposed ransomware offenses vary depending on how much money is being exploited. While some violations are classed as first-degree misdemeanors, others have been designated a first-degree felony.

While prohibiting state and local governments from spending taxpayers' dollars on cyber ransoms generally, the legislation allows this practice to go ahead should a declaration of disaster emergency be made and authorized by the Governor. Under the new legislation, state agencies, including the General Assembly, local government entities, school districts, state-related universities, community colleges and charter and cyber schools are required to notify the Office of Administration of ransomware attacks within an hour of discovery. Commonwealth agencies must report ransomware within two hours. The Office of Administration is required to notify the FBI of ransomware attacks within 24 hours. In addition, the office must submit an annual report to the General Assembly on ransomware attacks.



The End

Do you occasionally need a live music fix? Get that fix with live acoustic music every Thursday evening from 6:00pm to 8:30pm at *Mansion House 1757* in Fairfield. The best part is great food and beverages – and no cover charge!

On Thursday morning we had the pleasure of cutting the ribbon for the recently restored historic Shorb's Mill Bridge. The bridge is located on Old Emmitsburg Road, just south of U.S 15 & Steinwher Avenue. I am sure you would enjoy seeing this old steel bridge with wood decking spanning Marsh Creek. It is a beautiful Adams County setting. The bridge also gives residents of Shorb's Mill Road ingress/egress when the southern portion of Shorb's Mill Road is flooded.

Get off the couch this Sunday afternoon for *Healthy Adams County's 4.5-mile walk* from the Rec Park to the VA Memorial, across the Pickett's Charge Field to the High-Water Mark, and back to the Rec Park. Commissioner Marty Qually is leading the hike and I will be imparting some Battle of Gettysburg 3rd Day history at the VA Monument. Everyone is welcome. Post questions to Healthy Adams County on Facebook.

St Francis Xavier will be hosting its 11th annual *Lenten Fish Fry* on Friday, March 11, 18, 25 and April 1 at the Xavier Center on Table Rock Road. Dine in or take out. Call 717-334-4048 or go to www.stfx-cc.org.

Heidlersburg Fire Company will be holding a *Roast Beef & Oyster Dinner*, Saturday, March 19 from 3pm-6pm. Cost per dinner is \$20 with orders accepted on site only.

Hollabaugh Brothers. *Pi Day Means Pie Day Cooking Class* that will be held Saturday, March 12 from 1:30pm – 3:00pm. Cost is \$45 up to 5 people per table. Assemble the pie at Hollabaugh Brothers and take it home to bake or freeze. Each table creates either two 6-inch pies or one 9-inch pie.

Jack's Cider House Sunday Concert Series with Luke Keyser is on Sunday March 13, from 3pm-5pm.

The Gettysburg VFW is having their annual *Chili Cook-off and Judging/Tasting* Saturday March 19. \$10 to enter and \$5 to Eat/Judge. To enter or judge call Linda at 717-398-7119.

The *Cashtown Lions Talent Show* has been around for a long time. I attended the show at Franklin Twp Elementary School in my youth because of my maternal roots in Cashtown and my dad was a Lions member. The show takes place on April 9th, at 7PM. Auditions are March 25, at 7PM. It is a great evening of local entertainment. For more information contact Gary Rebert at gkrebert@centurylink.net

The *Complete Works of William Shakespeare* begins this evening at the Gettysburg Community Theater. The show runs weekends through March 20th. All show time can be found at www.gettysburgcommunitytheater.org

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