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from
Adams County

written by: Commissioner Randy Phiel

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Adams County Bar Association **Seeks Grant Applicants**

The Adams County Bar Association is seeking grant applicants for appropriate causes related to law and justice in our community. The Adams County Bar Association generously gives back to our community to support causes that promote justice and equality. There will be more specific information regarding the grants in a following email or TGIF; but for further information contact Attorney Jack Phillips at 717-334-3353 or any member of the Adams County Bar Association Board of Trustees.

We are all very much aware of the opioid crisis in our community. Here is some very good news for Adams County. Next week the York/Adams Drug & Alcohol Commission will open a new assessment center for individuals seeking substance abuse treatment. The new Adams County Drug & Alcohol Assessment Center will be housed within the Adams County Human Services Building.

Pennsylvania residents seeking drug and alcohol treatment must undergo an assessment, which evaluates substance use and identifies treatment options. Until now, Adams County residents could only get such assessments by going to individual treatment providers.

The assessments are free of charge and individuals seeking assessments can call the Assessment Center at 717-398-0330 to schedule an appointment. Walk-ins are also welcome. Hours are from 8:00 -4:30. The new Adams County Human Services facility has made this service possible and the Adams County Board of Commissioners welcomes the staff of the Adams County Drug & Alcohol Assessment Center to Adams County.

Stop the Bleed Forum

When Adams County Department of Emergency Director Warren Bladen came up with the idea of utilizing our community forums to present an emergency first aid program to stop significant bleeding, the Board quickly agreed to the suggestion.

On Tuesday evening Warren, with the assistance of Adams Regional EMS Director Eric Zaney, presented the training to all three commissioners, the public and Community Media. The one hour training instructed the participants how to properly apply a tourniquet, pack wounds and apply pressure.

As a 30-year professional emergency responder, my belief is that this type of training is a prime example of how everyday folks, with very little effort, can increase the odds of rendering aid and possibly saving the life of strangers, neighbors, friends and family. Emergency first aid training such as Stop The Bleed, CPR, the Heimlich Maneuver (for choking victims) and using an Auto Electronic Defibrillator (AED) are all fairly simple courses that are not just for emergency responders. When you are the first one to encounter life threatening situations; some practical knowledge and training can go a long way towards saving lives.

It is our hope that this information through the print media and Community Media, reaches a large segment of our population and may make a difference when we are faced with a medical crisis.

Finance, Treasurer and Controller Collaboration

A well-deserved shout out to our Finance Department, Treasurer and Controllers Office for their collaboration in reaching out to various banks to receive enhanced terms and better rates of interest and return on investments and other accounts. This initiative exemplifies great teamwork within and between our departments that benefits our organization and our residents.

IT CCAP Review

The Information Technology Department recently had the pleasure of hosting Rita Reynolds, Chief Information Officer, of CCAP for a day. The purpose of the visit was to provide a thorough 3rd party assessment of current IT operations. This is a service that the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania offers free of charge to members of the CCAP technology program. The IT assessment brings high value to other counties who participate because it has been developed and utilized over many years specifically for PA County government. A previous assessment had been completed by Reynolds in June, 2012 and was used as a baseline to determine the progress of the department over the past six years. The primary areas of focus included: strategic planning, organizational structure, development of formal documentation and web-based service catalog, customer service requirements, critical position review, after-hours procedures, and overall technical systems.

The report will be utilized to help expand the IT Departments current 3-year rolling strategic plan. The information from the assessment will be closely aligned to the departments initiatives related to continuous improvement. The current 3-year rolling strategic plan can be found on the County intranet and is accessible for all County staff to view. The plan is updated annually at the beginning of each calendar year.

HR & IT Present to County Administrators

The Human Resources Department, along with IT, participated as panel experts at the 2018 County Administrators Conference. Both departments received an invite from CCAP to present on the “technology skills assessment prior to hire program.” It was found that Adams County is one of few Counties in the Commonwealth that have developed and utilized a technical assessment program. The purpose of the assessment is to ensure that computer skill sets are being evaluated to confirm they match the technical requirements of the position they are seeking. Those that attended the break-out session provided valuable feedback following the presentation, indicating that the approach Adams County has taken is of interest for use in their particular counties. Future training opportunities will be offered to existing staff as the program continues to develop. The IT training room at the Human Services Building is available for all departments who would like to schedule technical related events or trainings.

The **End**

Will the rain ever end? For those of us complaining about yard mowing, from a farmer’s perspective, the hay is still standing and deteriorating and they have not been able to plant corn and soy beans. I believe I heard that last weekend was the first weekend in several months without rain. This weekend promises more of the same – rain. Supposedly blue skies are forecast next week - but I will believe it when I see it. My fingers are crossed the rain holds off tomorrow because there is a 1-year old birthday pool party at my house for my granddaughter, and with that comes a lot of little cousins, who will create chaos in the house if contained.

This is the time of year we will have a lot of visitors in our community with vacation season starting, NPS special events, the Reenactment Week and Bike Week. Although it is understood at times their presence can be inconvenient for us, these visitors are critical to our community. Put yourself in their shoes and when presented with the opportunity, be kind and courteous and welcome them to Adams County.

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