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from
Adams County

written by: Commissioner Randy Phiel

September 27, 2024

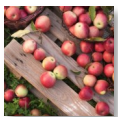
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Staff Appreciation Week & Picnic Today

Rain or shine, I hope to see everyone at the AG Center today for our 17TH Annual Staff Picnic. The picnic culminates Staff Appreciation Week, with staff being treated to breakfast, the Dairyman's Milkshake Truck and Traveling Tom's Coffee Truck. At the picnic, lunch will be served from 11:30-2:30, with Commissioners & Judges being guest servers. Games and prize drawings are always a part of the picnic. Don't forget to bring non-perishable "Bag The Bounty" donations for distribution in our community.

A person in a dark shirt and blue jeans is walking away from the camera towards a brick building. In the foreground, there is a wooden sign on an easel that reads "VOTE HERE" in large black letters, with "POLLING PLACE" in smaller blue letters below it. The sign is on a sidewalk.

Cumberland Township #3/#4 Polling Place Change

Due to renovation of Cumberland Township's administrative office and police department, Cumberland Township Precinct's #3 and #4 will move from their normal location in the Cumberland Township office, to the former Gettysburg Country Club at 730 Chambersburg Road. Entrance will be on the west-end of the building.

Tax Appeal Hearings

When mid-September rolls around, inevitably the Board is drilling down on next year's budget and is also engaged in tax appeal hearings. The deadline for filing a tax appeal is August 1. The Board of Commissioners, acting as the Tax Appeals Board, normally hears Commercial, Clean/Green and more complicated appeals. An Auxiliary Appeals Board, consisting of 3 appointed residents, hears most of the residential appeals. After the hearing, the appellant receives a letter of determination by November 15. If the appellant disagrees with the decision, they have the option of requesting a hearing with the Adams County Court of Common Pleas.

What a difference 13 years makes! In 2011 after the reassessment, there were 2,747 tax appeals. This Board took office in 2012. In 2015 there were 445 appeals, in 2020 164, and this year we have a total of 92. None of us likes to pay taxes! But the decline is hopefully indicative of fair and equitable valuation, based on our Adams County Tax Department professionally valuing properties, and the Appeals Boards doing the same. If you have questions regarding your valuation of property, contact Adams County Tax Services by stopping in their office on the 2nd floor of the courthouse, <https://www.adamscountypa.gov/departments/taxservices> or 717-337-9837.

Constitution Week Observed

You may have heard bells ringing at 4PM on Tuesday, September 17. I know I did. The bells ringing included the Adams County Courthouse. I am sure many folks had no idea why they were ringing. "Bells Across America" is an annual celebration of the signing of the U.S. Constitution. Participants gather to ring bells, much as the church bells of Philadelphia rang out when the U.S. Constitution was first signed at 4 pm on September 17, 1787.

The United States Constitution, America's most important document, stands as a testament to the tenacity of Americans throughout history to maintain their liberties, freedoms, and inalienable rights. And, Constitution Week is celebrated annually during the week of September 17-23 to commemorate its history, importance, and bring attention to how it serves still today.

This celebration of the Constitution was started by the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). In 1955, DAR petitioned Congress to set aside September 17-23 annually to be dedicated for the observance of Constitution Week. The resolution was later adopted by the U.S. Congress and signed into public law on August 2, 1956, by President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Human Services Building Roof Solar Moves Forward

Installing solar panels on the HSB roof took another step forward when the Board at the September 4TH public meeting approved Solar Photovoltaic System Engineering, Procurement, and Installation Agreement with The Efficiency Network, Inc ("TEN"). The agreement provides that TEN will design and install a 450 kW (DC) solar array on the rooftop of the County's Human Services Building. Total cost of the solar system, installation, and warranty is \$972,870.00. The County is eligible for a federal Investment Tax Credit to offset 30% of the total cost, resulting in an estimated final cost to the County of \$681,009.00.

Municipal Officials Tour 911 Center At COG

If you are a government representative at any level, a primary responsibility is the Health, Safety and Welfare of residents. At the Council of Government meeting on Wednesday morning, the presenter was Adams County Department of Emergency Services Director Warren Bladen. Uniquely, Warren is both an experienced paramedic with Baltimore County, and was also an attorney in the Adams County Public Defender's Office. Warren provided information to the group on several 911 updates and noted that 80% of 911 calls are now made by cell phone.

As many in the group had never seen the 911 Center in operation, the group went upstairs to view the Dispatch Center and the Emergency Operations Center that is attached. Warren also explained the rollover capability that Adams and Franklin Counties have when calls in one County are backed up. These public officials now have a much better understanding of what happens when Adams County residents dial 911!



The End

- **Fairfield Pippinfest:** 9-4 Saturday & Sunday. The streets of Fairfield are filled with yard sales, arts & crafts, entertainment, music, car show, food, and vendors.
- **Wind Symphony & Jazz Ensemble:** At the Majestic Theater from 8-10 this evening. The Gettysburg College Jazz Ensemble and the Sunderman Conservatory Wind Symphony kick-off their season with the show "Downbeat." A great deal and great entertainment for \$5!
- **60TH National Apple Harvest Festival:** At the South Mountain Fairground October 5/6 and 12/13. Tons of crafts, food, and jam-packed entertainment. My advice is to get there early like 8am, get a parking space on site, and avoid the mid-day crowds. Up to 25,000 can show up each day. If you are not an early bird, there is shuttle parking. www.appleharvest.com
- **Destination Gettysburg: Girl Scout Day 2024:** Saturday, September 28, 9-4, rain or shine. Begins with registration at NPS Visitor Center at 9. Tickets for each location and selected trek will be provided during registration. Family members are welcome. For registration questions involving the event or registration contact lindsay@destinationgettysburg.com
- **Gettysburg Commercialism - with Tim Smith:** Saturday at 11. Adams County Historical Society. Reminisce about the motels, restaurants, and museums of your childhood. Dutch Cupboard, Stuckey's, Home Sweet Home, Charlie Weavers, Dobbin House Diorama, Battlefield Motel, the Horse & Buggy Museum. I think I was around for all of them. Free!
- **Veterans of Foreign Wars Day:** On Sunday all veterans will receive free admission at Gettysburg Beyond the Battle Museum to celebrate Veterans of Foreign Wars Day.
- **Adams County Farmers Market – Triple Snap Day:** Customers with SNAP benefits will get triple the value for this one-day!
- **Salsa On The Square:** Today 3:30-11:30. Sponsored by Project Gettysburg-Leon. Celebrate the vital role that Latino's play in our community. Dancing, food, and music. Will take place in the first block of Carlisle Street.
- **Most Broadway – Gettysburg Community Theater:** A cabaret concert. Saturday from 7-9.

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!