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from
Adams County

written by: Commissioner Randy Phiel

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TGIF

TGIF is Back!

Approximately 3 months ago, due to the seriousness and extensive dynamics of the COVID-19 pandemic, we replaced the bi-weekly *TGIF Newsletter* with a more serious and straightforward *Weekly Adams County Commissioners Updates*. Although the pandemic is still serious and entails a lot of information dispersal, we thought it was time to again feature other topics as well. TGIF normally is compiled and sent by email every other Friday to approximately 650 staff and residents. I know some of those folks forward it to others. TGIF is also archived for reference on the Adams County Commissioner's homepage the next week, after IT works its magic with great graphics and visuals. Whether it be policy, county news, community information, shout outs, community events or things to do, we hope you enjoy reading TGIF and learn some new information with each edition.



July 4 Flag Burning

Like many other public officials, the Adams County Board of Commissioners has fielded many calls from residents concerned about social media reports and rumors of flag burning, Antifa actions and damage to monuments. The possibility of this activity has also spurred counter protest groups to mobilize and head in our direction.

After conferring with area law enforcement and the National Park Service, please be aware that federal, state and local law enforcement are very aware of these threats, real or fabricated, and have been gathering intelligence and planning to counter-act these threats if necessary. As of this time there is no hard evidence to ascertain these activities will take place, and that it may be social media agitation based.

There is no doubt you will see additional equipment and personnel resources in our community this weekend because of the possible threats. Along with concern and the need to prepare for all contingencies, we must also recognize the right to peaceful and lawful protest. The reports that counter protesters will be arriving seems to have validity. All residents can assist by being vigilant and report any suspicious activity to 911. There are over 1300 monuments and markers in Gettysburg National Military Park that surround the town of Gettysburg. When traveling through or enjoying the Park, if you see anything suspicious be sure and report it. A respectful and thankful nod to all our area and regional laws enforcement that will be out there to ensure our community and property is safe this July 4 weekend.

Commissioners Public Meeting New Schedule

Beginning this past Wednesday, the Adams County Commissioners Public Meeting returned to the Historic Courtroom. To return in person to this beautiful and historic venue, and pledge allegiance to the flag, was a delight. With the size of the courtroom it is easy to social distance. Most directors called in remotely. Please note that we have changed our meeting schedule to meet every two weeks to minimize personal interaction. The next public meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 15. If you prefer to participate via phone you can call (415) 655-0003 and enter meeting number 476-936-077#

Adams County CARES Funding Update

The Adams County Office of Planning and Development is currently assisting the Adams County Board of Commissioner in the preparation of the local process to distribute \$9.3 million in non-repayable grants to eligible community partners. This funding is being made available by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act which was signed into law on March 27, 2020. The \$2 trillion economic relief package aims to protect the American people from the public health and economic impacts of COVID-19. The CARES Act provides economic assistance for local governments and American workers, families, and small businesses.

The CARES Act stipulates that payments may only be utilized to cover costs as noted below:

1. Are necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19);
2. Expenses that were not accounted for in the budget most recently approved as of March 27, 2020 (the date of enactment of the CARES Act)



FUNDING



CARES Act

for the State or government; and

3. COVID expenses incurred during the period that begins on March 1, 2020 and ends on December 30, 2020.

4. COVID expenses that have not already been reimbursed by another program.

This funding is strictly for support of COVID-19 related activities to offset the cost of direct COVID-19 response; assist small businesses, and municipalities; provide behavioral health and substance use disorder treatment services; and fund nonprofit assistance programs.

These federal funds are being provided to the 60 counties with populations under 500,000, through the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development. The 7 counties with populations over 500,000 received their stipend directly from the federal government. Be advised there are numerous other programs available with different beneficiaries and guidelines. This funding source will be known locally as the *Fund for Adams Investment and Recovery* (FAIR). Once this process has been established and Adams County is in receipt of these funds, the local program guidelines will be made available to the public through a link on the main page of the Adams County website www.adamscounty.us. We will also be announcing acceptance of applications in a variety of releases including local media. Until then, please continue to collect all documentation related to your expenses during the COVID-19 pandemic. Again, any expenditures must have occurred between March 1, 2020 and December 31, 2020 to be eligible for these funds. Please review the resources available on our website currently and keep checking back for updates.

Tax Discount & Tax Appeals

A reminder that 2020 County and Municipal taxes, have now entered the par, or “face value” period of the COVID-19 tax deadline extensions as of July 1. This is the period of time to pay taxes before a 10% penalty is applied and will last through October 31, 2020. After that, from November 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020, a 10% penalty will be applied to the par tax amount. Taxpayers should consult their local tax collectors about collection procedures and hours, if any, for in-person payments.

The deadline to file an annual property tax appeal is Monday, August 3, 2020. Typically, the deadline is August 1, but because that date falls on a Saturday this year, the County will accept filings through that next business day. Appeal forms are available by contacting the Adams County Tax Services office via phone (717-337-9837); email (taxoffice@adamscounty.us); on the County website (www.adamscounty.us) or via US Mail (117 Baltimore St, Room 202, Gettysburg, PA 17325). Completed forms must be received by the close of business, 4:30 PM EST on Monday, August 3, 2020. Appellants are encouraged to use the Tax Services drop box, located just outside the main Courthouse entrance, mail, email or fax (717-337-5767) to submit the form.

Tax Assessment Numbers / COVID Projection

At Wednesday's public meeting, Tax Director Daryl Crum presented assessment numbers for the past year as required by statute. Pursuant to the Pennsylvania Consolidated Assessment Law, the Tax Services office must announce the updated tax rolls every year by July

1. As of July 1, 2020, Adams County has 44,452 taxable parcels with a combined assessment of \$9,553,950,300. Not included in these counts are 1,926 parcels that are exempt from taxation amounting to \$1,202,795,200. Further, the County has 75,159 persons listed on the Per Capita Tax Rolls. As compared to July 1, 2019, the number of parcels has increase by .3%, the tax rolls by .6% and the per capita rolls by .5%. Looking at year to date revenues, not surprisingly, the overall collection is behind schedule. Factoring that in, with the fact that tax discount and penalty deadlines were extended, the County stands to lose some previously budgeted cash flows due to COVID-19. Losses could amount to over \$1,000,000, but it is very speculative at this point. We will see how much this is off-set by decreased expenses. County Tax Services and Finance Departments will continue to monitor monthly revenue streams and will be constantly re-evaluating those impacts to update the Commissioners frequently during this ever- changing economic climate.

Apple Harvest Canceled

Most events have been canceled or postponed due to COVID; but the *National Apple Harvest Festival* is so much a part of the fabric of our county that it was a jarring reminder to me, when hearing of the cancelation Tuesday, of just how much this pandemic has impacted our lives and economy. I will miss arriving at 630AM when it is still dark, park my car and cross the bridge, to get the charcoal just right to barbeque chicken on the first weekend, visit with many friends and neighbors that I may see only once a year, and take my young granddaughters to enjoy and experience this iconic October potpourri of sights, sounds and smells. Last year, I was there all 4 days either volunteering or taking family.

Besides employment opportunities and supporting local business, unfortunately, the cancelation is symbolic of the economic loss to our community where area non-profits utilize their revenues to significantly benefit our community. This also reinforces the fact that even 3 months from now life is not going to be "normal." That is personally and emotionally frustrating for most of us. Thus, we all need to concentrate and focus on what's really important – to counteract those feelings of disappointment and frustration! Hopefully, events like the National Harvest Festival will be back on our calendars next year.



The End

One of Adams County's and most historic and iconic venues has been brought back to life by local chef George Keeney and the Keeney family. Last evening Kathy and I had the pleasure of dining at the *Mansion House* in Fairfield. The restaurant, bed & breakfast + tavern is formerly well known as the Fairfield Inn. It had been a pleasure to go there most of my life. We were excited to check it out for dining and to see this historic county treasure become vibrant again. The Mansion House is open for dining 5-9 Wednesday thru Sunday. The tavern is open until 11:00 with lighter fare. Reservations are accepted by calling 717-642-5410. Kudos and best of luck to the Keeney Family for their economic contribution to Adams County and for contributing to the preservation of this Adams County landmark built in 1757.

Don't forget that the Independence Day Fireworks in Gettysburg will go on. They will light up the sky at the Gettysburg Recreation Park. Destination Gettysburg and GARA have teamed up to offer this traditional holiday event. The parking opens at 7PM with the fireworks at 9:20. The \$2 parking fee will benefit Gettysburg Rotary for local donations. Bring a blanket, lawn chairs, a picnic and enjoy the outdoors show.

Next weekend don't miss Hollabaugh's Brothers Annual Blueberry Festival. They will offer all things blueberry, including ice cream, muffins, pies and other baked goods. If blueberries are not your thing - a lot of other tasty local produce is now available.

I have mentioned just a few of the outdoor activities available in Adams County. 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! Best wishes for a safe and enjoyable Independence Day weekend!