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from
Adams County

written by: Commissioner Randy Phiel

August 26, 2022

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Photo from Gettysburg Times

Chief Clerk Paula Neiman Recognized for 50 Years of Distinguished Service

At our August 24TH public meeting, the Adams County Board of Commissioners, and the staff of Adams County, was privileged to recognize and honor the anniversary of 50 years of service to Adams County residents by Chief Clerk Paula Neiman. According to available HR records Paula is the longest serving staff member in the history of Adams County. The proclamation that was read by all three commissioners, with each reading excerpts, best describes the tribute and the basis for it. Thus, the proclamation is printed at the end of the newsletter. The surprise recognition took place with a full courtroom of colleagues and Paula's family.



World War II Veterans Reunion

The Adams County Veterans Affairs Department is co-sponsoring a World War II Veteran's Reunion, Saturday, November 12, 2022, 10:00AM - 3:00PM at the WWII Experience & Museum. Adams County Veterans Affairs will provide a free luncheon for all WWII Veterans + 1 Guest. Lunch will be available to others at a nominal fee. There will also be a free tour of the museum for all WWII Veterans and their guests. The WWII Museum is located at 845 Crooked Creek Road, Gettysburg, PA. Go to www.visitww2.org for more information. Please RSVP to Stan Clark or Sonny Freeman at the Adams County Veterans Affairs Office at 717-337-9835.

Adams County Wins Pennsylvania Road & Bridge Safety Award

At The County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania Summer Conference, Adams County was awarded the Pennsylvania 2022 Road & Bridge Safety Award for rehabilitation of the Rhodes Mill Bridge over Middle Creek on Shorbs Mill Road. Shorbs Mill Road is located off Old Business 15 (Emmitsburg Road) near the Maryland line. The bridge is an historic engineering gem that also serves a very important function since the other egress is unpassable for residents during flooding. The reconstruction cost of \$653,591 came from the Marcellus Shale Legacy Fund created by Act 13 in 2012. Built in 1905, the bridge is an historic, single span, Warren pony truss bridge with concrete and stone masonry abutments. This is one of 42 county owned bridges. Besides being functional, several county owned bridges are both historic and beautiful.

HGAC Civil War Barn Dance

Historic Gettysburg Adams County (HGAC) is sponsoring a Civil War Barn Dance at beautiful Beech Springs Farm on Saturday, October 1st at 6PM. The proceeds will benefit HGAC's Barn Preservation Project and Grant Program. Civil War dance music by The Susquehanna Travelers. Only 100 tickets will be sold for \$35 in advance and \$40 at the door. Go to www.HGAConline.org or call event chairman Bob McIlhenny at 717-420-6500.

Five Adams County Farms Preserved

Ellen Dayhoff, Administrator of the Adams County Agricultural Land Preservation Program, presented offers on five farms for the Commissioners approval to preserve them in perpetuity. These farms are part of a larger preservation project in the Pigeon Hills area, where we find some of the best soils in the County.

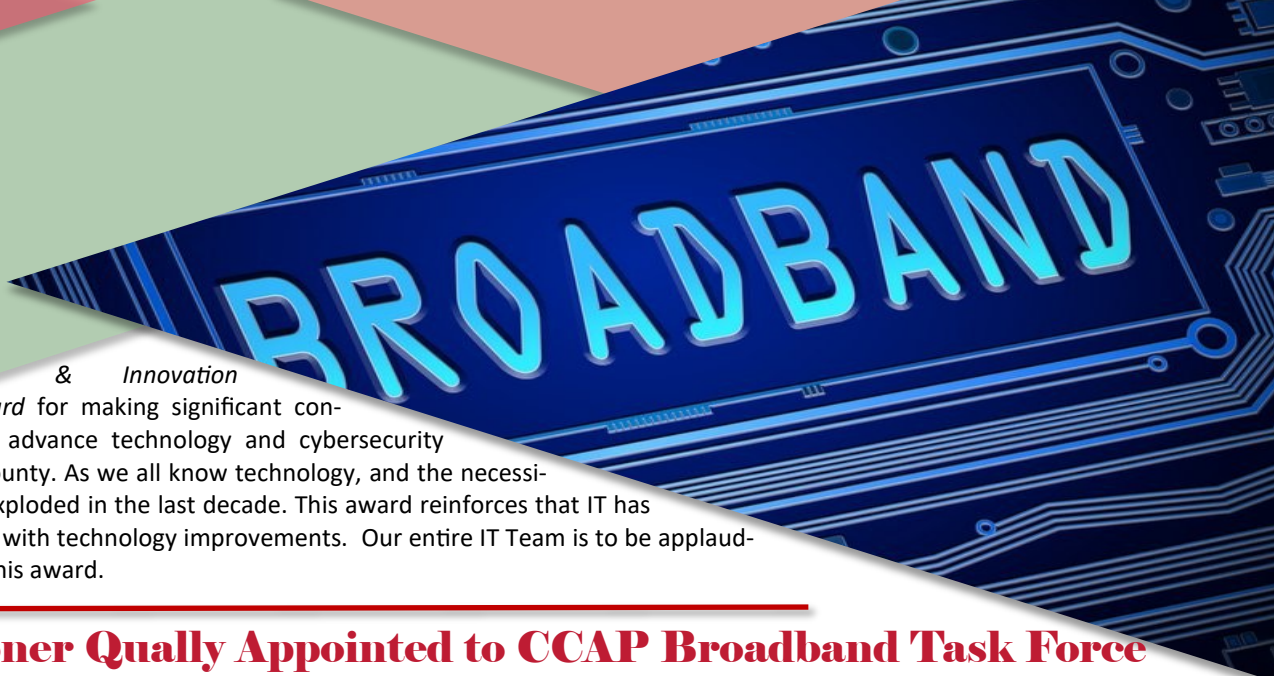
These five farms are in both Union and Conewago Townships. Both Townships have committed funds toward the purchase of these farms, as they recognize the importance of this area to the economy of Adams County. As Commissioner Qually stated during the meeting, people assume these areas will stay the way they are. Unfortunately, that is not always the case, and by preserving these farms we are preserving not only the economic value of these farms, but an area known for its iconic viewshed as well. If you have never traveled from Littlestown to Hanover on Route 194, do yourself a favor one Sunday afternoon and take that drive, you won't be disappointed.

When this entire project is complete, we will have preserved almost 1,000 acres of farmland in perpetuity, utilizing State, Federal, County and Township funds.

IT Award

Congratulations to Adams County Chief Information Officer Phil Walter for being presented the *County Commissioner Association of Pennsylvania 2022 Technology*





& Innovation

Award for making significant contributions to advance technology and cybersecurity initiatives within the county. As we all know technology, and the necessity of technology, has exploded in the last decade. This award reinforces that IT has followed the right path with technology improvements. Our entire IT Team is to be applauded for contributing to this award.

Commissioner Qually Appointed to CCAP Broadband Task Force

At CCAP’s August 7 meeting, the CCAP Board of Directors approved the creation of a short-term Broadband Task Force, to help coordinate county input into the state broadband plan being developed by the State Broadband Development Authority. The Task Force will bring together multiple policy committees with additional county resources to include technology, GIS and planning, to drive the conversation in an efficient way. Commissioner Marty Qually was invited to serve on the Broadband Task Force as a representative of the Community and Economic Development Committee.

This will be a short-term Task Force to meet the Authority’s request for county input and to provide feedback to each of its four subcommittees, which we anticipate will begin meeting in September. By creating a task force, CCAP can ensure a strong partnership and timely feedback loop between counties and CCAP staff to maximize our stakeholder participation. This would also enable the Association to incorporate other important county expertise in technology, GIS mapping, data, planning and other areas.

IT Update

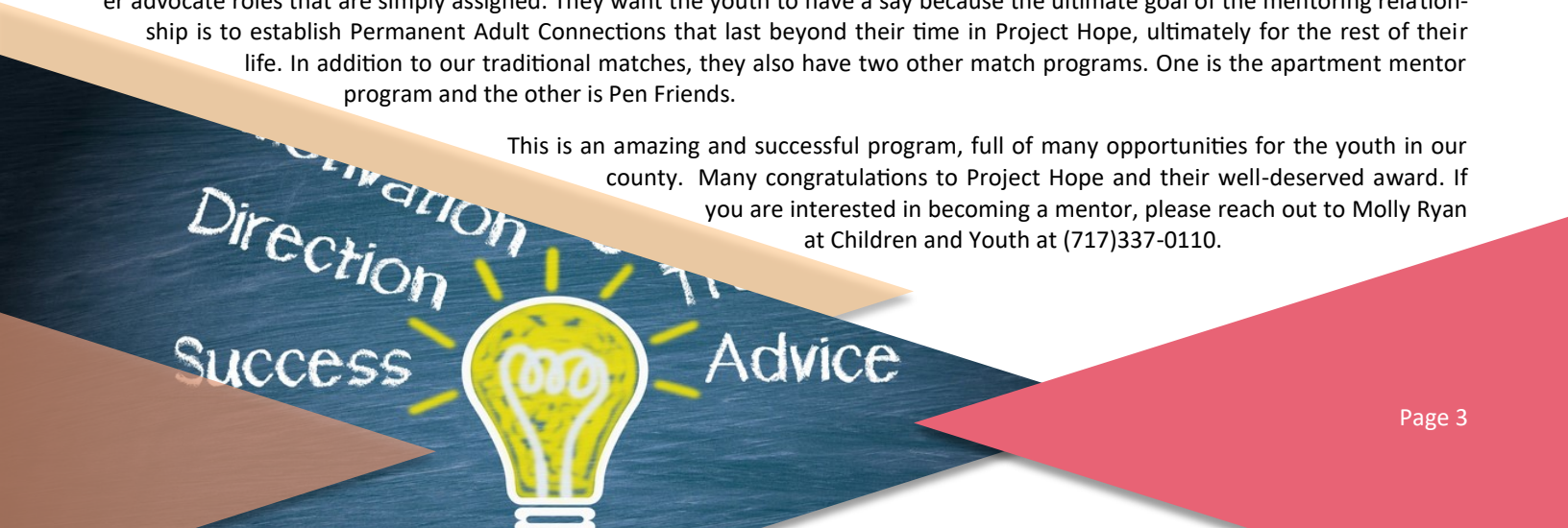
The Information Technology Department is continuing to prepare for the migration of the County website and email to **adamscountypa.gov**. The go-live date will no longer occur in September. An updated timeframe with more specific cutover dates will be provided in early October. The goal is to have all cutovers completed in 2022.

Children & Youth Services Receives Youth Transition Award

Our very own Project Hope Program through Adams County Children and Youth Services received an award for helping older youth transition to adulthood. They received this award on August 5th at the PA Youth Advisory Board’s Older Youth Retreat.

Project Hope recruits and trains volunteer mentors who work or reside in Adams County to be matched with current or former foster youth and have been doing so since 2013. The program is set up to begin accepting referrals for youth starting at age 13. While Independent Living (IL) services aren’t available until age 14, they look to begin when youth are no longer eligible for services through Big Brothers, Big Sisters. With the recent changes, they have adjusted the program and can serve youth through age 23. One of the things that makes this program unique is that they do what is called Thoughtful Matching. This is different from other advocate roles that are simply assigned. They want the youth to have a say because the ultimate goal of the mentoring relationship is to establish Permanent Adult Connections that last beyond their time in Project Hope, ultimately for the rest of their life. In addition to our traditional matches, they also have two other match programs. One is the apartment mentor program and the other is Pen Friends.

This is an amazing and successful program, full of many opportunities for the youth in our county. Many congratulations to Project Hope and their well-deserved award. If you are interested in becoming a mentor, please reach out to Molly Ryan at Children and Youth at (717)337-0110.



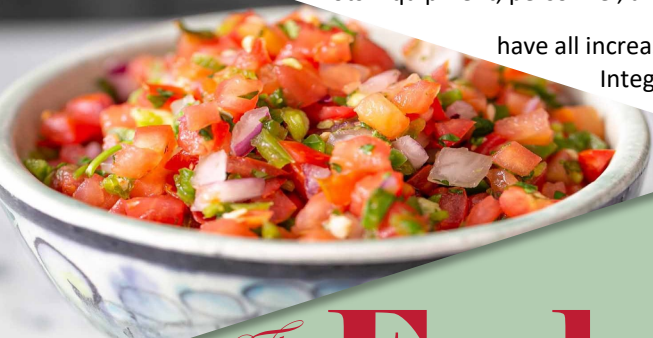
Opioid Settlement Funds

At Wednesday's public meeting, as a prelude to receiving opioid award funds, the Board approved Resolution #12 to use opioid settlement funds allocated to the County in accordance with settlement, agreement, and remediation standards. Adams County is anticipating being awarded a total of approximately \$3.2M over the next 20 years to be used for specific community efforts to combat opioid abuse and addiction. The Board recognized Solicitor Molly Mudd for her proactive and diligent efforts to maximize the award to Adams County.

Elections Integrity Grant

In the past 2 years the cost of administering elections has spiked considerably with election regulations and mail in ballots. Equipment, personnel, and material costs

have all increased dramatically. On Wednesday, the Board ratified the approval of The Election Integrity Act, through the PA. Department of Community & Economic Development. This contract allocates \$365,842 in grant funding to Adams County for eligible election costs.



The End

Enjoy the *Summer 2022 Concert Series at the National Apple Museum*, this evening 7-9PM. "From The Grey" is onstage with cider and food trucks to satisfy your hunger and thirst!

Music On The Mountain at Liberty Mountain Resort, presented by Troegs, takes place every Friday in August, from 6-8PM. Get on out there for a fun evening of beer, BBQ, and great live music.

Improv at the Gettysburg Community Theater, Saturday, August 27, Doors open at 6:30 for general admission seating and show begins at 7:00PM. Price \$10 advance and \$15 at door.

Salsa Family Cooking Class at Hollabaugh Bros, Saturday from 1:30-3:00PM. Cost is \$48 for table up to 5 people. Participants will be making traditional salsa or Pico de Gallo. Each table will make a pint of salsa, a pint of Salsa Verde and a pint of guacamole. Call Hollabaugh's at 717-677-8412 for a reservation.

The Iron Brigade in Herbst Woods with LBG's Jim Hessler & Eric Lindblade. On Saturday, the Adams County Historical Society is sponsoring a tour that will cover the history of the famous Iron Brigade at the Battle of Gettysburg. The tour will be from 9AM-12PM and will begin at the West End Guide Station. Tickets are \$15 for members and \$25 for non-members. Contact the Adams County Historical Society at www.achs.org. As a trivia sidenote, Civil War artist Dale Gallon has the Iron Brigade fighting on the 1st Day in my driveway in his famous print *Men Of Iron*.

The Historic Annual Buchanan Valley Picnic, Saturday, August 27, from 12PM to dusk. This picnic has been a tradition for 175 years. It is held in the picnic grove of St. Ignatius Loyola Church nestled in the beautiful hills of The Buchanan Valley. Homecooked family style ham and chicken served all day. Games for the children + drawings, bingo, music, and good food all day. \$15 for adults and \$7 for children. Call 717-677-8012

Cormorant's Fancy & Irish Step Dancer Free Concert at Lutheran Seminary, Sunday, August 28 at 6PM. The performance takes place at the new performance platform in Schmucker Grove. In case of inclement weather, the concert will be moved to the Seminary Chapel. Bring a lawn chair, blanket or even a picnic supper!

Gettysburg Ministerium Amphitheater Worship Services every Sunday at 8AM on West Confederate Avenue at Gettysburg National Military Park. The last service for the season will be on September 4.

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

Proclamation

“Paula Neiman Day in Adams County”

August 28, 2022

WHEREAS, the Adams County Board of Commissioners, and the Staff of Adams County, is honored and privileged, to recognize and celebrate one esteemed staff member’s 50 years of significant, loyal, unwavering, and compassionate service to the staff and residents of Adams County; and

WHEREAS, Adams County Chief Clerk Paula Neiman, began her service to Adams County on August 28th, 1972, with the Adams County Planning Department, when the department consisted of two employees. Paula was with the Planning Department for 6 years, and during that time assisted at the county home (Green Acres) when the need arose. After those first 6 years, Paula was transferred to The Adams County Commissioners Office, where she has been a professional and steady anchor, as well as a friend to many, for the past 44 years; and

WHEREAS, in the role of Chief Clerk & Assistant Chief Clerk, the need to deal with a staggering amount of staff inquiries, public inquiries, internal and public meetings, commissioners schedules, plus internal and external documents, is a never-ending responsibility that requires exceptional patience, good listening skills, superior organizational skills, and outstanding interpersonal skills. It also requires a fair degree of discipline (which she exhibits most of the time) when Paula is in a meeting with the Commissioners where decisions are being made that she may, or may not, agree with. That is evidenced by the fact that she has navigated and succeeded 15 different Adams County Commissioners from 1978 to the present Board today; and

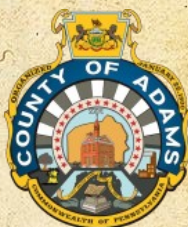
WHEREAS, anyone who knows or has worked with Paula, certainly knows that she loves music, is a music aficionada, goes to concerts, listens to the radio at her desk and even sings along in the office. Thus, it is only fitting and proper, that as part of this tribute, we now play for Paula a selection of the most popular hits of 1972; and

WHEREAS, it is also well-known that Paula is frugal with County resources, with duct tape being a teammate of her “sharpened pencil” to keep costs under control. Paula’s worn out and duct taped office chair, and duct taped file folders, are prime examples of that trait. She puts a new chair in the budget each year as directed, but a new chair never appears. She keeps claiming that she will go to St. Francis to search for a used one. On behalf of all the Adams County staff, it is our privilege to present to Paula today, a brand-new exact replacement office chair, with the old one to be retired to the Adams County Historical Society for permanent display; and

WHEREAS, according to Adams County HR records, Paula, has achieved the distinction of the longest serving county employee in the history of Adams County. In 50 years Paula, you have touched countless lives, have been a superior co-worker, been many positive things to many people, have gained the respect and trust of your co-workers, have always performed professionally and with integrity, and in a superhuman effort – have been able to navigate hundreds of Commissioners, Judges, Department Directors and Elected Officials. This recognition today is not only for you, but also to give your co-workers and friends at Adams County, the opportunity to recognize your 50 years of service – and tell you how special you are to all of us!; and

WHEREAS, on this 24TH day of August 2022, the Adams County Board of Commissioners, declare **Sunday, August 28TH, 2022** as “**PAULA NIEMAN DAY IN ADAMS COUNTY**”, granting the rights, privileges, and recognition that declaration entails.

WHEREAS, in conjunction with the just completed courthouse staff lunchroom renovation, there will be a reception in the lunchroom immediately following salary board, so staff has an opportunity to provide their own thanks and well wishes for your past and future service to Adams County.



IN WITNESS THEREOF, We have herewith set our hands and caused the Great Seal of the County of Adams to be affixed on this 24th day of August, 2022.