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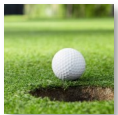
written by: Commissioner Randy Phiel

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Happy
Retirement

***HR Director
Announces Retirement***

Adams County HR Director Michele Miller notified the Board on Monday that she will be retiring at the end of this month. Although we are certainly going to miss Michele's steady guiding hand, husband Larry who has been retired for 7-years, is happy to finally have a full-time date!

Michele began her career with Adams County in 2011, bringing with her a wealth of experience from the private sector. There is probably no other position that naturally, and by the responsibility of the role, integrates you with the entire organization as does HR Director. You get to see and experience the best, the worst, the tragic and the exhilarating. You have organizational morale and the well-being of staff squarely on your shoulders. Michele has done a superb job of balancing those dynamics! From serious personnel discussions, to supporting staff, to Wellness Programs, or a candy bar on your desk for your birthday, or being a community advocate, Michele's fingerprints are too numerous to mention.

One trait of a good administrator is nurturing a strong team to manage transition and maintain sustainability. Michele leaves a strong HR team that we are confident will carry on at the highest level. Michele's professionalism, and genuine passion for the organization, the staff and the community was worn on her sleeve every day! Michele on behalf of the organization, your colleagues and the community – Thank You For A Job Well Done!

2025 Tax Appeals In Progress

PROPERTY TAX

Fall in Adams County means that the leaves will change color, and that tax appeal hearings are on the horizon! To review, Adams County residents must file their notice to appeal by August 1 to be heard that year, for the changed results to take effect the following year. The Board began to hear Commercial, Exempt, Catastrophic Loss and Clean & Green appeals this past Wednesday. Those appeal hearings will continue this month. Residential appeals are being heard by an experienced auxiliary board appointed by the commissioners. All appeals must be heard by October 31 and Board's decisions must be made by November 15. All appellants have the right to appeal the Board decision to the Court of Common Pleas.

This year we have 106 total appeals scheduled. Compare that to over **10,000 appeals** after the reassessment in 2010! They breakdown as follows:

- Commercial/Industrial Appeals: 13
- Tax Exemption Requests: 26
- Clean and Green related Appeals: 9
- Catastrophic Loss Appeals: 3
- Residential/Farm Appeals: 55

On another tax related note, this year Tax Claim Sales are on September 26 and bidder pre-registration must be done, in-person, by September 16 to be eligible to bid at the sale!

Adams County Staff Picnic

Besides changing colors and tax appeals, Fall also means it's time for the *Adams County Annual Staff Picnic*. As always it will be held at the Adams County AG Center on the lower level and at the outside pavilion on Friday, September 26 from 11-2.

Along with great food and game activities, the picnic is again featuring BAG THE BOUNTY to benefit community food kitchens. Canned and dry goods will be collected at the event and then distributed to the community. Any department directors willing to donate desserts please contact Lisa or Paula. Thank you to all the folks who make this a wonderful organizational event for both food and comradery!

Adams County Library Card Month

At the September 3rd public meeting the Board approved a proclamation for **Library Card Sign-up** in September. There is no doubt that a library card opens the doors to endless possibilities, from books and technology to life-long learning and imagination. There is a reason the Adams County Board of Commissioners have historically and contemporarily been significant supporters of the Adams County Library System. The library is a multi-faceted and key element in the fabric of our community. Whether its information, use of technology, children's programs, or books and magazines on-line, the library is there for everyone equally at no cost to use it.

Exciting times are ahead for the Adams County Library with their acquisition of property for a new building and campus at the United Lutheran Seminary. I urge all Adams County residents to come together to support this important project. A shout out to all the staff, board, and supporters of the Adams County Library System!

2027 LPGA Legends Tour Event Coming To Adams County

The LPGA announced at a press conference last Wednesday that the 2027 LPGA Legends Tour will be coming to Adams County late summer 2027. The press conference at The Links At Gettysburg included officials from the LPGA, LPGA Legend and former #1 women's player in the world Danielle Ammaccapane, Links At Gettysburg officials, and numerous community stakeholders.

About a year ago, when Links management was contemplating making application to obtain the Legends Tour, I was asked to bring community partners together to support the visitation, marketing, revenue, and recognition the event would bring to Adams County. I was glad to help facilitate those connections. After several starts and reboots, the event has become a reality for our community.

Sitting next to Danielle Ammaccapane at the press conference last week was very cool and she was very kind and engaging! After the press conference, Danielle held a short game clinic where I walked away with "use the bump on the bottom of your club" imprinted in my brain. If we are lucky, we might even get the Golf Channel here for the event. Thank you to all the community partners for their support and interest in this unique and exciting community event.



New Bollards Installed At DES

You may have noticed the new “concrete planters” on the sidewalk in front of the Adams County Department of Emergency Services front entrance. While we anticipate that our Maintenance Crew & the Elections Office crew will turn them into a botanical masterpiece, as we know the real value is protecting the building and its occupants. It is unfortunate that the world we live in requires that we take these precautions, but I am going to look at the bright side and can’t wait to see what goes in these “planters” and enjoy the new botanical vibe!

911 Maintenance Agreement

As the Adams County Board of Commissioners, we have no greater responsibility than the safety and protection of our residents. In providing that service the 911 call center does come with a hefty price tag! At the public meeting on September 3rd, we authorized Dauphin County, as the fiduciary and fiscal agent of the South-Central Inter-County Communications Network (SCICNET), of which the County is a member, to approve the Multi-year Maintenance and SUA II Agreement – SCICNET Master & DSR from Motorola Solutions, Inc.

In plain English, this agreement provides for maintenance and life cycle services for the SCICNET-owned components of the ASTRO 25 radio system. The term of the Agreement is six (6) years, commencing on October 1, 2026, and terminating September 30, 2032. Pursuant to Resolution No. 6 of 2025, the County is responsible for 25% of the total cost of this agreement. Total cost to the County for the 6-year agreement is \$2,551,811.



- **Historic HGAC Barn Tour:** Join the HGAC historic barn tour on Saturday, September 20 from 10-4. Tour 5 historic barns with friendly family activities. Tickets available at Eventbrite and may be purchased the day of the event at The Round Barn. No charge under 18.
 - **United Way Bingo Fundraiser:** United Way will be having a Bingo Fundraiser on Saturday, September 20, at the Gettysburg Rec Park Charlie Sterner Building. It sounds like a nice evening for a good cause. Doors open at 3:00 and bingo begins at 4:00. The cost is \$30 for 20 games. Beside cash prizes for bingo, there will be door prizes, 50/50 raffles, small games of chance and food available.
 - **Biglerville Fire Company Fall Festival:** Thursday – Saturday. Carnival rides, games, food, bingo and live music. Kitchen opens at 4PM and entertainment at 7PM.
 - **Bonneauville Borough Movie Night With The Mayor:** Saturday, October 4 at 6:30. The movie “Hook” will be shown at Norm Weaver Memorial Park. Bring your lawn chair.
 - **Gettysburg Walking Club Gateway Theater Walk:** Meet Tuesday, September 16, 10AM at Gateway Theater to walk the area with lunch afterward at 11:00 at Gateway Diner.
 - **Adam County Office of Aging 50 Year Celebration:** Adams County Office of Aging celebrates their 50TH Anniversary at the Hotel Gettysburg on Friday, September 26, 5-10PM. The cost is \$75 and includes dinner, program and silent auction. Former long-time ACOFA Director Steve Niebler will MC. Let’s celebrate this important community resource!
 - **Buchanan Valley FD Outdoor Drawing:** Outdoor drawing Saturday, September 27. Gates open 10AM. Last draw at 6PM. Tickets are \$10. Meal and refreshments included. Purchase on-line or call 717-677-0870
 - **Fairfield FD Meat Raffle & Meal:** This Saturday. Doors open at 4PM with meal at 6PM. Adults \$15. Raffle at 7PM. Small games of chance. Buy tickets at door.
 - **Candlelight Illumination Legacy Weekend:** This evening, from 7-10, 700 luminarias will line the historic tan bark path leading to Schmucker Hall memorializing the soldiers broken in battle who sought refuge in Schmucker Hall, as well as those who toiled in their care. Musical tributes and TAPS from the Seminary Cupola. Open to the public with donations accepted.
 - **Historic East Berlin Fall Festival:** This Saturday from 8-2. Peruse the handmade craft vendors, eat some great food, browse the vast book collection at the annual Book Sale and check at the Fall Fest Car Show when you are not occupied at one of the food trucks.
- No matter what you do, get out there and experience all the historic, recreational, agricultural, natural, and cultural opportunities that beautiful Adams County has to offer!**