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from
Adams County

written by: Commissioner Randy Phiel

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Application Form

Review all questions carefully before preparing your application.

Veteran's

Identification Cards

The Adams County Veterans Affairs Department wants our veterans to know that the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has announced that the application process for the National Veterans Identification Card (VIC) is now available for Veterans — yet another action honoring their service. This has been mandated through legislation since 2015 to honor Veterans, and November's rollout of the ID card fulfills that overdue promise. Only those Veterans with honorable service will be able to apply for the ID card, which will provide proof of military service, and may be accepted by retailers in lieu of the standard DD-214 form to obtain promotional discounts and other services where offered to Veterans.



“The new Veterans Identification Card provides a safer and more convenient and efficient way for most Veterans to show proof of service,” said VA Secretary Dr. David J. Shulkin. “With the card, Veterans with honorable service to our nation will no longer need to carry around their paper DD-214s to obtain Veteran discounts and other services.”

The VIC provides a more portable and secure alternative for those who served the minimum obligated time in service, but did not meet the retirement or medical discharge threshold. Veterans who served in the armed forces, including the reserve components, and who have a discharge of honorable or general (under honorable conditions) can request a VIC. To request a VIC, Veterans must visit vets.gov, click on “Apply for Printed Veteran ID Card” on the bottom left of the page and sign in or create an account. Veterans who apply for a card should receive it within 60 days and can check delivery status of their cards at vets.gov. A digital version of the VIC will be available online by mid-December.

If any of our veterans have questions about other benefits or eligibilities, please contact the Adams County Veterans Affairs Office advocates Stan Clark or Vic Woerner at 717-337-9835 located on the 2nd floor of the courthouse.

PA Emergency Driver’s License Extension

Are you confused about Travel ID requirements? If you are traveling in the near future, you should know that Pennsylvania is under an enforcement extension from the Department of Homeland Security until October 10, 2018, which means that Pennsylvanians may use their current driver’s license or ID card to board commercial aircraft or enter federal facilities that require ID until at least that date.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has stated that beginning January 22, 2018, travelers who have driver’s licenses issued by a state that is not yet compliant with REAL ID, and that has not received an extension will need to show an alternative form of acceptable identification for domestic air travel. Because Pennsylvania is currently under a REAL ID extension, travelers with PennDOT-issued driver’s licenses or ID cards may continue to use their licenses as usual.

A federally-accepted form of identification (whether it's the forthcoming Pennsylvania REAL ID driver's license or ID card, a U.S. Passport/Passport Card, a military ID, etc.) must be used as identification to board a commercial flight or visit a secure federal building on and after October 1, 2020. PennDOT anticipates that REAL ID-compliant driver’s licenses and ID cards will be available to customers that want them in spring 2019, and will continue to apply for extensions from DHS until becoming REAL ID compliant.





CCAP Board **Legislative Capital Visit And Summer Conference**

In previous TGIF's I have outlined the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania 2018 legislative priorities. As the CCAP District 3 Board representative, I will be participating in a legislative work day on Wednesday, February 7, at the Capitol, with the CCAP officers and policy committee chairs. The purpose of this work day will be to engage in a series of leadership and administration visits on the 2018 priorities, and we will also be inviting our legislative alumni from the House and Senate to an informal breakfast event. The alumni event is likely to begin with the breakfast at 8:30 followed by visits the remainder of the day. Networking and communicating with our Adams County legislative delegation, and state legislative leadership, to support county priorities is an important charge to enhance success.

On another CCAP note, the CCAP Board of Directors always has their January winter meeting in the host county for the CCAP Summer Conference. Thus, the CCAP Board of Directors was in Adams County last Thursday & Friday for the meeting and to prepare for the summer conference being held August 4-8. Besides meetings, the group toured the host Gateway complex and had dinner in Gettysburg. The conference brings about 500 commissioners, other county officials, vendors and families from all over the state. The Fall Conference is always at Hershey, the Spring Conference is always in Harrisburg and the Summer Conference moves to a different county each year rotating east, central and west. Adams County has not hosted a conference for many years and it is an honor to do so.

The conference will be a boost to our economy and introduce our beautiful county to scores of folks from across the state. From the reaction of the Board the past week I am expecting strong attendance.

HSB Auxiliary Parking Lot Now Operational

I am happy to report that the Adams County Human Services Building auxiliary parking lot and the sally port at the rear of the building are now operational. The parking lot adds approximately 80 new spaces to accommodate staff and clients. The sally port is an addition that will enhance safety when transporting prisoners. Sometime this spring we will be having a Human Services Building Open House and Ribbon Cutting for this valuable addition to county operations and for providing service to residents.

PA Supreme Court **Rules on Congressional Districts**

On Monday, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court threw out the state's congressional map and ordered lawmakers to redraw new, "nonpartisan" congressional districts. Five out of the seven justices ruled the state's congressional map "clearly, plainly and palpably violates the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania." The five Democratic judges found in favor of the plaintiff, while the two Republican judges voted in dissent. The order states that lawmakers are forbidden from using the current congressional map during the 2018 primary. The court ordered the Pennsylvania General Assembly to submit a new congressional district plan to Governor Tom Wolf for approval by February 9. Wolf would then have until February 15 to submit a new plan to the court. Senate Republicans object on several grounds and say they will request a stay from the U.S. Supreme Court. The ruling stems from a lawsuit brought by The League of Women Voters.

With the first day to circulate and file nomination petitions rapidly approaching on February 13, the timing of the ruling is sure to create issues and questions regarding just what each candidate's geographic district is. This should be an interesting few weeks in the elections office and for the candidates.

Emergency Services

The Adams County Department of Emergency Services has renewed their "StormReady" designation through the National Weather Service in State College, Pennsylvania. StormReady is the National Weather Service's program designed to acknowledge entities, such as counties or municipalities, that have achieved a high level of severe weather preparedness. In order to earn the StormReady designation, the following criteria must be met:

- Have a local 24 hour warning point and an Emergency Operations Center,
- Have multiple ways of receiving NWS warnings,
- Have a system to monitor local weather/river conditions,
- Have multiple ways of alerting the public,
- Promote public readiness through community seminars and presentations,
- Develop a formal hazardous weather plan,
 - Have trained weather spotters,
 - Conduct periodic drills/exercises, and
 - Interact with the local National Weather Service.

This designation is valid for a period of three (3) years, with an expiration date of September 19, 2020.



The **End**

What in world happened? We went from 0 something degrees to 64 degrees! I believe we were all weary of the consistent biting, bone chilling cold for that extended period of time. It looks like we have some more mild weather through the weekend so enjoy.

As I mentioned in the last TGIF there are a few great movies out at the moment that entertain and are historically and educationally relevant. I find that the Majestic Theater is always a great place to catch a movie and soak in the old theater ambiance. No matter what you do get out there and experience all the historic, recreational, natural and cultural opportunities that beautiful Adams County has to offer.