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from
Adams County

written by: Commissioner Randy Phiel

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Election Night Ballot Return Process

On election night Tuesday, May 17th, poll judges will have a new more convenient and secure method of bringing the ballots to the Courthouse. In the past the poll judges would park at the curb in front of the Courthouse, the boxes would be loaded on a cart, and the judges would carry their paperwork into the lobby of the Courthouse to check out. In this age of attention to election security, and given the age demographic of many poll workers, we have changed the drop off method.

The poll judges returning the ballots will enter Courthouse Alley from South Washington Street across from the Arts Council. They will drive up the alley to Baltimore Street. Staying in their vehicle, they will be met by Elections Office staff and Security. They will sign over the ballot boxes to an Adams County elections staff member, and then the boxes will go into a secure area of the Courthouse accompanied by the election



office staff member and security personnel. This not only establishes a chain of custody; but also, is much more convenient and easier for our very important poll workers who are essential to the elections process.

Information Technology Prepares for Election

The Adams County Information Technology Department has been planning and preparing for the upcoming primary election on May 17th, 2022. Several staff from the Information Technology Department work alongside the Elections & Voter Registration office by providing technical support for various election devices at the polling places and the courthouse. The various election machines include devices that read and scan ballots from voters.

An employee from the Information Technology Department recently trained new and current poll workers on the election devices. The training included many small group sessions over a three-day period. The poll workers were engaged and asked thoughtful questions. They were excited to learn more about the election devices. Feedback from the poll workers stated that the training of the technology and the other election processes from the Elections & Voter Registration office provided valuable information to thoroughly prepare them for future elections.

Oak Lawn Cemetery Cleanup

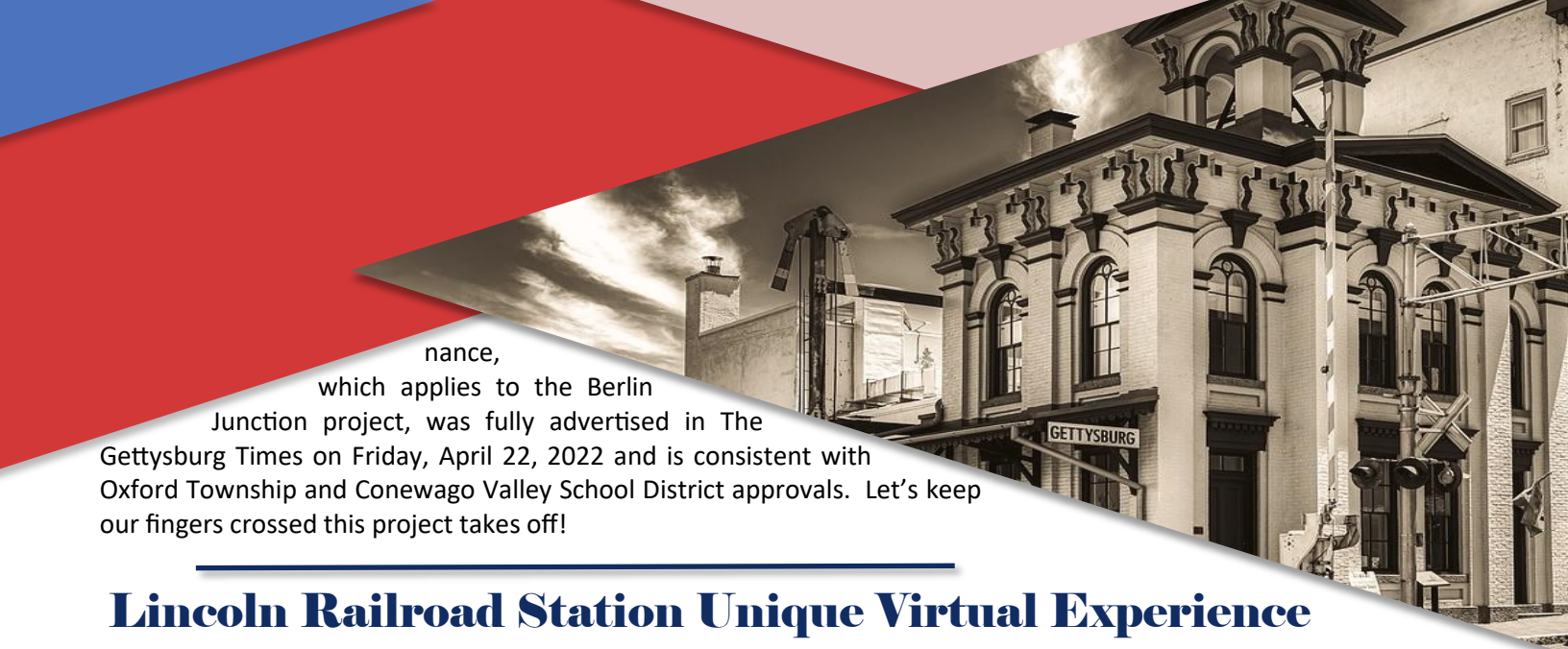
As the Oak Lawn Cemetery debacle, that severely impacted our community, continues to slowly fade in our rear-view mirror, I am happy to report on two recent cleanup initiatives. The 1st was a joint effort by Cumberland Township and Adams County Maintenance staffs to cut, mulch and remove a multitude of trees, limbs, branches, and other debris. The resulting wood chips filled two dump trucks. A week later, Volunteers Clean Up Day took place on a Sunday, with Adams County Maintenance also participating with community volunteers. A variety of tasks were performed including mulching, filling ruts and re-positioning sunken obscured markers.

Local lawn care business Sheppard's Lawn Care has been contracted to provide mowing service and we anticipate they will take great pride in the appearance of Oak Lawn.

Berlin Junction LERTA Approved

We are always on the lookout for significant economic opportunities for Adams County. The site of the former Alwine Brick Company outside New Oxford is ripe for development, manufacturing and industry. Beside extensive acreage, the site has strategic access to a rail spur. The Adams County Economic Development Corporation has been helping to facilitate growth on this property for several years.

Sometimes it can be difficult to get three governmental bodies to agree. This was not the case at Wednesdays Commissioners Meeting when the Board passed Ordinance #2 of 2022, agreeing with Oxford Township and the Conewago Valley School District, to provide for a Tax Exemption (LERTA) for certain improvements to designated, deteriorated areas, pursuant to Pennsylvania Acts No. 42 of 1977 and 76 of 1977, defining certain exempt property, providing for an exemption period, and establishing a schedule of percentage exemption for that time period. This Ordi-



nance,
which applies to the Berlin
Junction project, was fully advertised in The
Gettysburg Times on Friday, April 22, 2022 and is consistent with
Oxford Township and Conewago Valley School District approvals. Let's keep
our fingers crossed this project takes off!

Lincoln Railroad Station Unique Virtual Experience

It was a pleasure to attend the Opening Reception and the Grand Opening of the *Gettysburg Lincoln Railroad Station* last week. Administered by The Gettysburg Foundation, in partnership with the NPS, the extensive renovation and unique virtual reality interpretative technique promises to be a positive and popular visitor attraction. Step inside the station and journey back to 1863. Witness the journeys of three real-life individuals who played a role in the battle - Cornelia Hancock, Eli Blanchard, and Basil Biggs. After viewing historical displays in the first room, chose either the nurse, musician soldier or free black Gettysburg resident to engage in a virtual experience with that person in room #2. In room #3 view President Lincoln's arrival by train and his deliverance of The Gettysburg Address. You will be sitting in the station watching the train and Mr. Lincoln arrive.

You could return two more times to virtually experience all three individuals. Adults \$9.95 & Youth \$7.95. The station is closed Tuesday & Wednesday. Days open will vary with season. For hours of operation, tickets and other information go to: <https://www.gettysburgfoundation.org/exhibits-tours-events/exhibits-tours-events/ticket-to-the-past%E2%80%94unforgettable-journeys> Allow 45 minutes to fully experience the Gettysburg Lincoln Railroad Station.

Community WWII Heritage Site Nomination

Many Adams County residents are not aware of the connection Adams County has with WWII. Our community played a vital role in the WW II war effort 80 years after the Civil War. The historic battlefield saw future leaders visit for training and housed an active training camp for psychological warfare and an active prisoner of war camp in the area of McMillan Woods. Gettysburg College became a training ground for Army Air Corps cadets and local residents volunteered to harvest crops to support the war effort. Most folks do know that former Supreme Allied Commander General Dwight D. Eisenhower purchased a 189-acre farm in Cumberland Township, and during his Presidency, hosted leaders from around the world. Eisenhower also played a significant role year's earlier in establishing Camp Colt, home of the newly organized Army Tank Corps on the portion of the battlefield known as Pickett's Charge Field.

At this time the National Park Service, by legislative directive, is establishing one city per state or territory to be designated as an American World War II Heritage City in regard to WW II war effort contributions. In partnership with Gettysburg National Military Park (GNMP)/ Eisenhower National Historic Site (ENHS) and Destination Gettysburg, as Commissioner Chairman, I have nominated the Gettysburg Community for the designation of an American WWII Heritage City. The nomination was submitted on April 28 to Director of the National Park Service (NPS)

Charles F. Sams III. I appreciate GNMP/ENHS Supt.

Simms and Destination Gettysburg bringing

this nomination to our attention. If the nomination is successful, it will certainly be a beneficial recognition for our community.

Penn State Extension Garden Activity

“Wellness in the Garden” takes you into the garden to introduce techniques that will help you relax and de-stress. Join Penn State Extension, Saturday, May 21, 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., at the Adams County Agricultural and Natural Resources Building, 670 Old Harrisburg Road, Gettysburg, to learn the stress-reducing benefits of qigong and yoga, as well as get introduced to herbal teas and their healing benefits.

You will also have the opportunity to learn about what plants you can grow in your garden to help enhance your wellness. After some light refreshments, you will be taken on a garden tour so that you will be able to see firsthand the plants discussed in a garden setting and how you can best introduce these plants to your garden! Registration fee is \$35.00.

Registration deadline is May 16, 2022. To register, go to: <https://extension.psu.edu/wellness-in-the-garden> or call 1-877-345-0691, Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.



The End

Music and Fun Fridays at Jacks Hard Cider this evening. Great music, locally sourced food, cider and other beverages.

If you are like me and enjoy jazz, *The Jazz Doctors* are performing at the Gettys Square Art Oasis on the southwest corner of Lincoln Square this evening at 7PM. Bring your chairs. Can't beat the cost – free!

Hear *Tommy McCann* live at *Garryowen Irish Pub* tonight from 8-10 PM. Also, hear live music every Thursday evening at *The Mansion House* in Fairfield. Music is outside or inside depending on the weather.

Have you ever been on a *Mystery Walking Tour*? Meet a Town Guide at 6PM Saturday evening for a *Mystery Walking Tour of Untold Tales*. Is it fact, fiction or folklore? All tours must be booked 1 hour before tour departs by calling 717-253-5737 or going to www.gbtlg.com

Looking for kid's educational and fun activities? At The Gettysburg Foundation *Children of Gettysburg 1863*, 451 Baltimore Street, on Saturday from 1 PM - 2:30 PM kids can create their very own customized map of the Gettysburg Battlefield and landmarks. Event registration is required. Call 877-874-2478 or visit www.gettysburgfoundation.org

Who says they only have good sunsets in Key West? Gettysburg Battlefield Tours is offering *Sunset Double Decker Bus Tours* on Saturdays in May. Call them at 717-334-6296 for ticket information.

A *Wild West History Show* in Gettysburg? Get outta here! Get out to the Wild West Show at the Daniel Lady Farm on Hanover Road this Saturday & Sunday from 9-5 for this all-day family event celebrating the days of America's Wild West. Call 717-398-2026 or go to www.gbpa.org There are two more Wild West events scheduled for this summer + a large 159TH Battle Anniversary Reenactment on July 2nd & 3rd.

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!