

T

G

I

F

from
Adams County

written by: Commissioner Randy Phiel

March 14, 2025

In this issue...

Page 2

Oak Law One Step Closer To Non-
Profit Foundation Administration
Land Conservancy of Adams County
Month



AG Land Preservation Appt

Page 3

Adams County 2016 Fruit Belt Study
May Be Revisited
Electronic Poll Pads in Adams
County's Future?
County Match Results in Significant
Easement Return



Page 4

Staff Healthy Bunny Hop Walk
The End



Photo from Gettysburg Times

***Best Wishes
Joe Swatsworth***

When Joe Swatsworth ended his distinguished career with the Pennsylvania State Police, his commitment to community service did not end. Last month, Joe finally retired "for real" after 25 years of dedicated service to the residents of Adams County. Joe has been a fixture in the Courthouse and at HSB in Probation, the Sheriff's Department, and most recently in Security. Joe was recognized at our February 19 public meeting and given a standing ovation for his lifetime of service. We will all miss seeing Joe daily and wish him safe and enjoyable travels!



Oak Lawn One Step Closer to Non-Profit Foundation Admin

The long-term saga of Oak Lawn Cemetery has been a well-publicized and agonizing community concern for years. Left with few options, the County temporarily took over the Cemetery as a temporary caretaker when many other options failed. Allowing the cemetery to fail and become dormant was not an option!

At the March 6 Commissioners meeting, the Board approved the purchase agreement between the County and the Adams County Industrial Development Authority ("ACIDA") of real property described in the Agreement as Lot 1, totaling approximately 15.81 acres upon which the Oak Lawn Cemetery is located, and Lot 2 totaling approximately 9.63 acres of vacant land, with the exception of a structure that previously served as an office for the Oak Lawn Cemetery. The intent of the agreement is Lot 1 will be conveyed to the Oak Lawn Foundation, a Pennsylvania non-profit organization organized and existing to operate and maintain the Oak Lawn Cemetery, and that Lot 2 be conveyed to an appropriate entity for development consistent with the terms and conditions and covenants in the Agreement. Lot 1 will continue to operate as a cemetery, while the 9.63 acres on the western end will be sold by the ACIDA with the proceeds conveyed to support the non-profit.

Oak Lawn Cemetery has been one of the most difficult, frustrating, agonizing, and challenging issues this Board has faced in 14-years. I am sure that Cumberland Township, lot owners and families of those buried there would agree! We will hopefully see a fully operating and vibrant cemetery again in the not-too-distant future!

AG Land Preservation Appointments

Upon recommendation from Ellen Dayhoff, Rural Resource Manager, the following were re-appointed to the Adams County AG Land Preservation Board. We thank each of the volunteers for their dedication and service for AG Land preservation in Adams County:

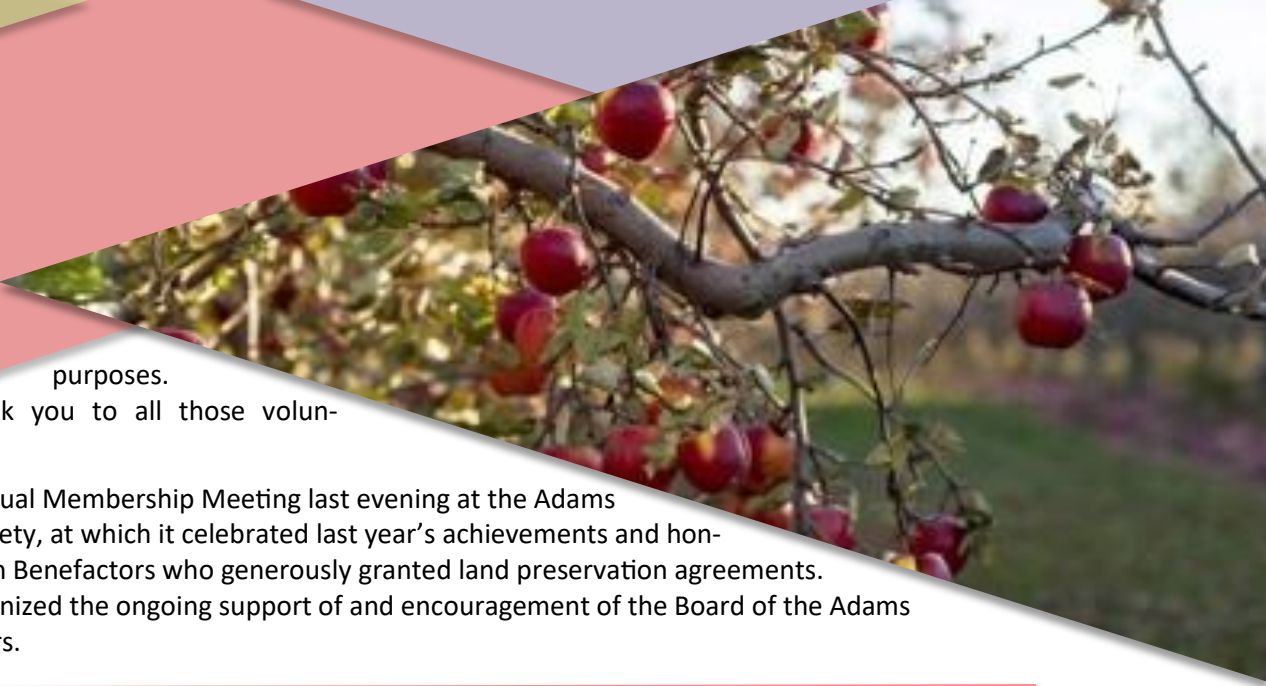
- David Boyer – 3-year term
- Craig Yingling as Chairman
- David Wenk, Vice-Chairman
- Staff – Ellen Dayhoff, Acting Treasurer; LeighAnn Abraham, Secretary; Mark Clowney, Assistant Secretary

Land Conservancy of Adams County Month - March 13 to April 22

At the March 6TH public meeting the Commissioners had the pleasure of recognizing March 13 – April 22 as *Land Conservancy of Adams County Month*.

The Land Conservancy of Adams County (LCAC) is an accredited, member-supported nonprofit land trust with the mission to preserve the rural lands and character of Adams County, using conservation easements, outreach, advocacy, and collaboration to maintain the benefits of open space and water quality to preserve our community's way of life and to protect our unique heritage and ecosystems.

The LCAC is in its 30th year of operation and has recorded 193 easements, enabling Adams County landowners to preserve over 13,518 acres of farmland and open space. LCAC volunteers are the core of the organization, donating their time and energy to support its goals and



purposes.
Thank you to all those volunteers!

The LCAC held its Annual Membership Meeting last evening at the Adams County Historical Society, at which it celebrated last year's achievements and honored the Conservation Benefactors who generously granted land preservation agreements. LCAC attendees recognized the ongoing support of and encouragement of the Board of the Adams County Commissioners.

Adams County 2016 Fruit Belt Study May Be Re-visited

We know that Tourism and Agriculture are the straws that stir Adams County's Economic drink! Until 2016, we knew that fruit is a major Adams County commodity and why a portion of our manufacturing is located here. A comprehensive study, led by the Adams County Office of Planning and Development, in partnership with the Adams County Fruit-growers and Penn State Extension, concluded that our fruit belts economic impact exceeded \$580M annually.

At the February 19 Commissioners meeting, the Board ratified the Professional Services Contract with The Chesapeake Group, Inc. They were a party to the 2016 study. This Agreement provides that The Chesapeake Group will review and recommend updates to the Economic Impact Model for the Historic South Mountain Fruit Belt in Adams County, which has not been updated since 2016. Such updates will include economic impact statistics, recommendations of actionable items to support the fruit industry, and a revised Model.

Electronic Poll Pads in Adams County's Future?

KNOWiNK Poll Pads are the most widely used electronic poll book. Poll pads are used in place of paper poll books to check in voters, see whether they already received or voted a mail ballot, and direct them to the correct polling place if they are at the wrong location. The poll pad software runs on commercial off the shelf Apple iPad tablets.

With voter experience, poll worker convenience, and election security as paramount, at the February 19 public meeting, upon the recommendation of Election Director Angie Crouse, the Board authorized signing an agreement for 16 electronic polling pads for trial use during the 2025 Primary Election on May 20. We will keep you apprised of how well they worked!

County Match Results In Significant Easement Return

Adams County continues its strong commitment to preserving our agricultural heritage. This year, the County's match of \$657,677 leveraged \$1,189,041 in state funding through the Pennsylvania Agricultural Conservation Easement Program—an impressive 1.81 to 1 match! These funds will help protect valuable Adams County farmland, ensuring that agriculture remains a vital part of our community for generations to come.



Staff Healthy Bunny Hop Walk

Adams County HR wants to remind you that the deadline to sign up for the Adams County staff Healthy Bunny Hop Walk coming up Friday, March 28. Join us on Saturday, April 5 to walk at Carrol Commons Park between 8:30 – 9:30AM and you'll receive a Kennie's Market voucher towards your Easter dinner! To register go to www.workforcenow.adp.com. Leashed pets are welcome. You might meet my 4-month-old English Golden Retriever pup Sammi!



The End

- **St Francis Fish Fry.** 5-7. This iconic annual event runs this Friday night, and other Friday nights, through April 4. St Francis Center. Table Rock Road.
- **The Irish at Gettysburg.** Gettysburg/Adams County has always had a strong Irish population. To celebrate St. Patrick's Day join Adams County Historical Society historian Tim Smith, for a program celebrating the Irish at Gettysburg on Saturday at 11:00.
- **Welcome To The 60's Piano Bar Cabaret.** Gettysburg Community Theater. Tonight & Saturday 7PM. \$25
- **Josephine: A Burlesque Cabaret Dream Play:** The one-woman biographical musical that combines cabaret, thereafter, and dance to tell the story of iconic Josephine Baker. Majestic Theater. March 20 – 23. 7:30.
- **Land Conservancy Adams County Annual Art Auction.** Every year the LCAC host 2 major fundraisers. They are the Fall Classic Road Rally in October and the Art Auction in April. Artwork Preview is on display at the Adams County Arts Council from April 4 - 22. The Premier Party is on Friday, April 1st from 5-7. Bidding is on-line through Bidding Owl.
- **Gettysburg College Wind Symphony & Choir Concert.** The Wind Symphony Concert is on Saturday, April 4 at the Majestic Theater. Adult ticket price \$5. The Choir Concert will be held at Christ Chapel. The performance will consist of various musical styles. The cost is \$5 for adults with tickets sold at the door.

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!