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from
Adams County

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Brian Sneeringer ***Nationally Recognized***

The National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) recognized winners of its national service awards at NACD's 77th Annual Meeting in New Orleans, LA on February 14, 2023. NACD is a nonprofit organization that represents the nearly 3,000 conservation districts across the United States and territories. The sole 2022 NACD Distinguished Service Award was presented to Brian Sneeringer of the Adams County Conservation District (ACCD). This award is given to an individual within the association, a conservation district, or a state association that has made significant contributions to the conservation and proper management of our nation's natural resources.

Adam McClain, Adams County Conservation District Manager states, "to describe Brian Sneeringer in a few words, it would be - *driven with unmatched commitment. For over 30 years, Brian has been a Conservation District leader in no-till, soil quality, the implementation of conservation practices. His well-established reputation with the farm community allows him to have 1 on 1 discussions with local farmers challenging them to think outside the box and testing of new and innovative*



techniques.

He is an innovator, leader, mentor, and the perfect example of a high performing conservation professional.”

In Sneeringer’s acceptance speech, he thanked his wife Kelly for not complaining too much about him arguably being married to his job. He also thanked others including the Adams County farmer community for accepting (him) a punk – kid straight out of college with no prior agricultural experience. As the Agricultural Supervisor for ACCD, Brian continues to be a mentor and is looked to as the expert for many conservation practices. He leads by example demonstrating, day in and day out, how to get conservation on the ground. Congratulations and job well done Brian!

Adams County Free Tree Program

Adams County landowners once again demonstrated their dedication to the conservation of our natural resources by planning to plant more trees around Adams County. Once again, the Adams County Planting Partnership (ACPP) is offering FREE trees through the Adams County Conservation District, Watershed Alliance of Adams County, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, and many other partners.

The tree and shrub seedlings will be approximately 3ft tall and will include a shelter, planting stake, zip-ties and bird-netting. Pre-ordering was required. Pre-ordering is required, and the order form can be found on the homepage of Adams County’s website under “Planting Partnership”. The order form went live on February 27th and the supply of trees are going quickly. If you are interested in volunteering with the distribution of trees at the Adams County Agricultural and Natural Resources Center, 670 Old Harrisburg Road, Gettysburg, on Friday and Saturday, April 21st and 22nd, please consider signing up as an ACPP volunteer by going to the homepage of Adams County’s website. If you missed getting free trees this Spring, you can sign up to get an email notification for future ACPP free tree giveaways at the same website.

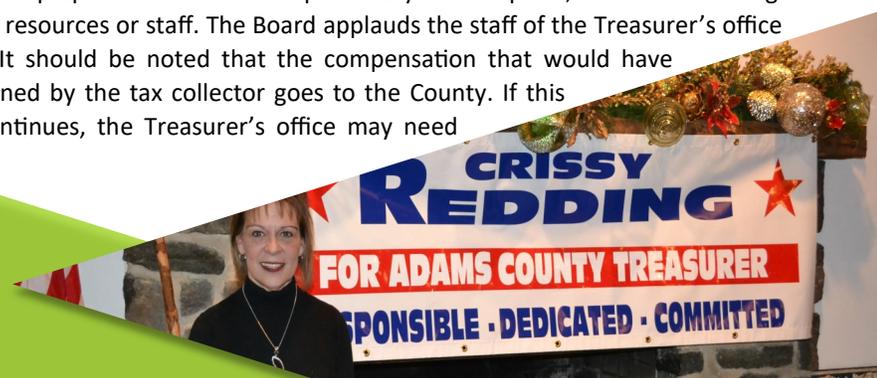
Adams County Live Staking Program

A Live Staking Workshop will take place at the Adams County Agricultural and Natural Resources Center, 670 Old Harrisburg Road, Gettysburg on Saturday, March 4, 2023, from 10 to 11:30AM. This free event is provided by the Adams County Conservation District and the Watershed Alliance of Adams County (WAAC). Registration is required and can be found on the homepage of Adams County’s website under “Planting Partnership”. Live staking is the simple and inexpensive technique of taking a cutting from certain dormant trees and directly planting them into the ground. This technique is often utilized at wetter sites around Adams County like along streams. Tools and gloves will be provided if needed. Weather delays will be emailed to registrants and posted on the WAAC website.

Treasurer Supports Three More Taxing Authorities

At the Commissioners public meeting on 2/23/23, the Board approved the collection of local taxes by the Adams County Treasurer’s office for Bendersville Borough, Upper Adams School District, and Hamiltonban Township. The Treasurer’s office is currently also filling that role for Abbottstown Borough and Arendtsville Borough.

When no residents run for the position of tax collector, or there is a resignation or vacancy, Treasurer Crissy Redding (who is a former tax collector) has agreed to step up and assume the responsibility. To this point, Treasurer Redding is doing that with no additional resources or staff. The Board applauds the staff of the Treasurer’s office for this initiative! It should be noted that the compensation that would have been earned by the tax collector goes to the County. If this trend continues, the Treasurer’s office may need





some additional resources for the additional workload. A shout out to the Adams County Treasurer’s office for their effort in serving Adams County residents!

Adams County Partners with Land Conservancy

The Board of Commissioners approved and signed a Grant Agreement with the Land Conservancy of Adams County in the amount of \$260,000.00 for the Hanover Shoe Farms project known as the Hartlaub Farm Grassland Project located in Mt. Pleasant Township. These funds will come from the County’s Parks, Recreation and Green Space Grant Program. This project was presented and recommended for approval by the Adams County Parks, Recreation, and Green Space Program in 2019 and has been working through the process since that time. This project also partners with the federal government through the NRCS ACEP-ALE program bringing in \$1.6 million in federal funding. The project will permanently preserve, through a conservation easement, approximately 628 acres of pastureland on a property owned by Hanover Shoe Farms located along Storms Store Road and Hanover Road in Mt. Pleasant Township.

CDBG Funds Used to Benefit Adams County

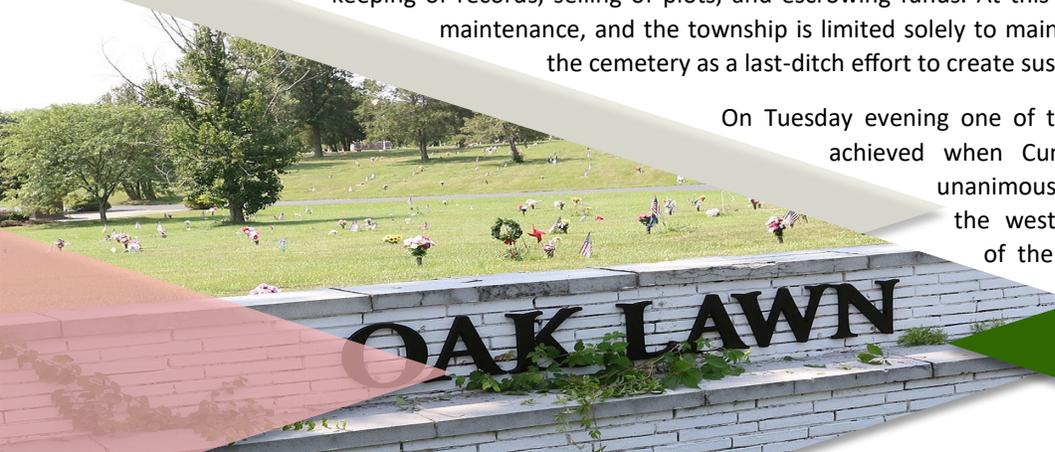
Adams County is excited to distribute Community Development Block Grant funding to Keystone Health in order to benefit low-income and moderate-income Adams County residents. Keystone Health will use \$40,312.00 in CDBG funds, in addition to private match funds, to purchase a four-wheel-drive mini-van. The van is necessary to provide transportation services for patients without access to a vehicle. The budget also includes the purchase of ten (10) tablets to allow staff to register patients. In addition to this project, Keystone Health will use \$228,346.00 in CDBG funds, as well as private match funds, to acquire a new mobile clinic facility. This mobile facility will allow Keystone Health to bring their health services to migrant farmworkers' location, giving them the ability to reach this population more effectively. Keystone Health is an important healthcare provider in our community, and we are happy to support them through the CDBG program.

Oak Lawn Cemetery Subdivision Approved

Most Adams County residents are aware of the tragic saga that has taken place at Oak Lawn Memorial Gardens. After numerous unsuccessful attempts were made over several years to unravel the situation within conventional channels, by default the County took over as intermediate custodian to assure the cemetery would be sustained. The cemetery is the final resting place of many area residents as well as approximately 650 of our Adams County military in the veteran’s section. For the time being the County has taken over maintenance, while Cumberland Township continues to oversee the records. Both entities are doing what it takes to make sure the cemetery moves toward sustainability.

It has never been the intent of the County, or the Township, to manage a cemetery which involves licensing, marketing, keeping of records, selling of plots, and escrowing funds. At this time the county is limited solely to doing maintenance, and the township is limited solely to maintaining the records. The County took over the cemetery as a last-ditch effort to create sustainability for Oak Lawn Cemetery.

On Tuesday evening one of the last hurdles to that sustainability was achieved when Cumberland Township supervisors voted unanimously to approve subdivision of the western unused portion of the cemetery.



The County has previously stated on numerous occasions that their goal was to sell a portion of the western property to a yet undetermined *appropriate entity*. The funds would then be given to a locally comprised non-profit cemetery board to manage the cemetery and return it to a valued community resource. As the County has also stated numerous times a potential buyer does not include businesses like a convenience store, gas station, dollar store, or car dealer. It also does not include residential such as high-density housing. A church, funeral home, or professional office are types of offers the County would entertain as appropriate.

As we move toward the non-profit board being formed, and initially funding it with the sale of this unused property, we will ask the community to support that board as it guides Oak Lawn Cemetery back to the standing and stability that it deserves!

Hiring Event at Human Services Building

If you or someone you know is in the job market, a CareerLink Hiring Event will be held on Thursday, March 30, 2023, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the Adams County Human Services Building, 525 Boyd's School Road, for those who are unemployed or under employed in the community. In partnership with Adams County Domestic Relations, event hosts PA CareerLink and many local employers, will be discussing employment opportunities and offering on the spot interviews and hiring. For further information contact Kelly Carothers, Executive Director, Adams County Domestic Relations at 717-337-9804.



The End

- Live music this evening at Mela Kitchen Core Theater. *From The Grey* performs from 6-9. Also live this evening at Thirsty Farmer is *Colby Dove*.
 - The Majestic Theater presents live theater *Lucy Loves Desi: A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Sitcom*. It is the hilarious and true story of Lucy & Desi's personal lives and battling with CBS over pioneering ideas that changed the face of TV forever. Show begins at 7:30 with tickets \$40-53.
 - An Adams County tradition is the *St Francis Lenten Fish Fry*. Takes place Friday, March 3,10,17,31. Each evening from 5-7 eat in or take out.
 - The Gettysburg Town Guides are featuring a walking tour, *The Women of Gettysburg – Episodes of Courage*. Saturday 11:00. \$20 adults and \$10 students.
 - *Mount Hope Maple Madness*, Saturday morning from 8-11. Treat your family to an all you can eat pancake breakfast and then take a tour of Strawberry Hill Nature preserve and see the process of maple syrup from tree to table. \$15 adult and \$10 child, under 12 free. www.strawberryhill.org
 - *Open Mic With Frank'n Bob*, Sunday at Reids Winery & Cider House from 2-5. *Trivia Time* at Boyers Cellars on Sunday from 1-3.
 - *Gettysburg Community Theater 15th Annual Gala - Once Upon A Time* takes place at 6PM, Saturday, March 18, at The Gettysburg Hotel. Food, cash bar, live entertainment, and photo opportunities. Adults \$50 and students \$25. Help support our community theater!
 - *Trinity Irish Dancers* at The Majestic Theater on Wednesday, March 23. Performance begins at 7:30.
 - *Land Conservancy of Adams County 26th Annual Art Auction* at the Adams County Arts Council will take place from April 7 with a kick-off First Friday Artists reception. Art will be on display with bidding closed on April 19. Bids may be placed on BiddingOwl.com
- 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!