

T

G

I

F

from
Adams County

written by: Commissioner Randy Phiel

January 31, 2025

In this issue...

Page 2



NextGen911 Now Live In
Adams County
Volunteer Fire/EMS Tax
Rebate First Year
Jury Scam Alert
Hanover Chamber County
Government Presentation/
Affordable Housing

Page 3



AG Discovery Center Update
Penn State Extension Seed
Propagation Workshop
The End



Adams County's 225th Anniversary

The January 22nd Commissioners meeting coincided perfectly with date of Adams County's 225th Anniversary. Adams County was formed on January 22nd, 1800. At the beginning of the meeting Adams County Historian Tim Smith provided a brief history of the County as well as displaying several significant County artifacts from the Adams County Historical Society archives.

As part of the celebration, Adams County residents were invited to enjoy free admission at Beyond the Battle Museum at the Adams County Historical Society that day. One artifact was an image of the first Adams County Courthouse that was in center of the town square until 1859. I was aware of that fact. One provided fact I did not know, was that prior to Adams being part of York County, both Adams and York were part of Lancaster County. You learn something every day!



NextGen911 Now Live In Adams County

On Wednesday, I was asked to attend and make remarks at a Pennsylvania Emergency Management press conference at Franklin County Department of Emergency Services. The purpose of the press conference was to highlight the statewide implementation of NEXTGEN911. Adams & Franklin Counties have a strong partnership in supporting each other with their 911 Centers operations.

The benefits of NEXTGEN911 are significant and many. They include enhanced compatibility with cell phone calls, better and more specific location capability, use of fiber which is more stable and reliable resulting in less down time, improved data transfer, and redundancy that supports the primary system.

NEXTGEN 911 was made possible largely through the .30 cents a month increase in cell phone surcharge passed by the legislature in 2023. What a small price to pay for response enhancement! This improvement was made possible by the Administration, Legislature and Counties working collaboratively to make this critical service improvement happen! Counties did a lot of the heavy lifting and thus a shout out to our Department of Emergency Services staff is warranted. Thank you for helping us fulfill our primary responsibility to the Health, Safety, Welfare & Life of Adams County residents!

Adams County Volunteer Fire/EMS Tax Rebate First Year

It is a well-known fact that it has become increasingly difficult to attract, train and equip Volunteer First Responders. In many Pennsylvania counties, like Adams, volunteers have historically been the backbone of emergency services. As a result, the state legislature passed into law Act 172 giving the authorization for counties and municipalities to provide tax credits to volunteers who meet service goals and hours. Unfortunately, it should also be noted the legislation did not provide any funding.

In November of 2023 the Adams County Board of Commissioners approved an ordinance providing for a tax rebate of up to \$250 for qualified volunteer firefighters and EMS personnel residing in the County who meet service requirements. When reviewing this program with tax services, at the end of this first year, 245 volunteers from 12 of 17 Adams County departments participated. These Adams County volunteer first responders qualified by meeting minimum guidelines and having their names and documentation submitted by their department. Thank you to all our volunteer responders! The goal is to have all Adams County departments participate in this incentive program.

Adams County Jury Scam Alert

The Adams County Court of Common Pleas is reporting a *jury phone call scam* that is taking place all over the country. It has recently been reported in Adams County. The scam begins with a phone call accusing the victim of failing to report for jury duty. The caller then demands payment for a purported fine, threatening jail time if payment is not forthcoming. Residents need to be aware that they will never receive a call over the phone regarding failure to report for jury duty, and they will never receive a phone call from the Court or Law Enforcement requesting payment. Anyone receiving this type of call should promptly contact your local law enforcement agency.

Hanover Chamber County Government Presentation/Affordable Housing

The eastern side of Adams County has a ton of interaction with York County - especially in the Hanover area. Last Friday, I was invited to a Hanover Chamber of Commerce County Forum to provide an Adams County update at their forum. York County Commissioners Julie Wheeler & Doug Hoke presented for York County. Through the York/Adams Health Services Joinder the two Boards interact frequently with three different and shared programs to administer.

Besides imparting information, you always gain knowledge from these encounters,

whether it was sitting between developer Harry McKean and Representative Kate Klunk at lunch or catching up with WellSpan Government Relations VP Bob Reilly.

During the presentation, I mentioned our critical need for affordable housing in Adams County. Bob and I discussed this specifically after the presentation. As a result on Wednesday, I received an invitation from President of Gettysburg Hospital and Vice President of WellSpan Health Mike Cogliano, inviting me to an event this morning on South Washington Street across from the hospital. WellSpan is turning over two residential properties to Habitat for Humanity for affordable housing units. Most of us recognize the tremendous work and product that Habitat produces for communities. On behalf of the Adams County Board of Commissioners, and the community, a shout out to WellSpan for this important community initiative!

AG Discovery Center Update

To have received the nod from the Pennsylvania Dairyman's Association to locate the Pennsylvania AG Discovery Center in Adams County, is not only exciting and a great compliment to our Tourism industry, but it will educate the public and our youth to Pennsylvania's agriculture diversity, food origin and job opportunities.

The project is alive and well. An executive director has been hired and the search committee has been in the process of locating a suitable parcel along the RT 15 corridor. Although there have been some starts and stops, several new possibilities have surfaced, and we hope this very important project can begin the journey to reality soon!

Penn State Extension Seed Propagation Workshop

It's not too early to think SPRING. Penn State Extension offers Seed Starting for the Advanced Gardener on Feb 6th at the Adams County Ag & Natural Resource Center. Seasoned growers can learn to enhance their skills in the art and science of seed propagation. This hands-on workshop will delve into the nuances of seed starting, exploring which plants thrive indoors and the essential equipment required for success.

From native plants to annual flowers, vegetables, trees, and shrubs, participants will gain insights into the unique needs of different seeds, including special treatments and growing media. By the end of the session, participants will be equipped with the knowledge to confidently cultivate a diverse array of plants from seed, elevating their gardening expertise to the next level. More information and registration link: <https://extension.psu.edu/seed-starting-for-the-advanced-gardener> or contact Mary Ann Ryan, Master Gardener Coordinator, 717-334-6271.



The **End**

- **Bruce Hollabaugh 5K Run.** April 13, 9AM. Hollabaugh Brothers Farm. Early Bird registration \$30 now thru February 28. T-shirt, food trucks, raffles, awards. Benefits the Bruce A. Hollabaugh Memorial Endowment Fund.
- **8 Track Sounds of the 70's.** Gettysburg Community Theater. This evening and Saturday 7-9. Sunday 2-4.
- **Nick Mich At Michaux Brewing Gettysburg.** This evening 7-9. A great vibe at a very cool new brew pub on Baltimore Street. Nick is a well-known local entertainer with a musical repertoire that will have you singing along!
- **Neil & Shannon At Garryowen Irish Pub.** This evening 8-10.
- **Winter Lecture Series Frederick Douglas & John Brown.** NPS Visitor Center. Saturday 1:30-2:30.
- **Nat Myers: Blues Poet.** A poet with a staggering and true voice, Korean American troubadour Nat Myers folksy blues and remarkable pickin' are authentic, timeless and enduring. Majestic Theater. Thursday, February 6, 7:30 PM.
- **Zuckerman Trio.** Schmucker Hall, Gettysburg College. The Sunderman Conservatory at Gettysburg College presents this trio consisting of a violinist, cellist, and pianist performing classical works. This event is free and open to the public.
- **History Kids Reading Adventures.** NPS Visitor Center. Saturday, Feb. 8, 11-1. Read a new book each week. Recommended for families with children ages 4-10.
- **Smooth Jazz At Olivia's.** This evening 5:30-8:30 at Olivia's Restaurant, 3015 Baltimore Pike. Dine on great cuisine and be entertained with some smooth jazz at the same time.

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!