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from
Adams County

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In this issue...

Page 2

Human Services Building

Solar Ribbon Cutting

911 NextGen Outage

Investigated

Memorial To Adams

County Law

Enforcement Canines

Dedicated

Adams County Cadet Fire

Academy



Page 3

911 Surcharge Sunset

Approaching

The End



Office of Budget/Purchasing Receives Achievement Award

We are proud to report that our Budget/Purchasing Department has won the Distinguished Budget Award from the *Government Finance Officers Association* for the 7th consecutive year. They not only received the major award, but also for the 1st time received special recognition for improvement on a particular section of the Budget. A loud shout out to Mellissa Devlin, Phil Swope and Todd Garrett for continually striving to improve our budget process.

The importance of this process is fundamental to the Board of Commissioners, good government and all the services that we provide. As part of our outstanding Fiscal Team, this is one of the reasons that Adams County consistently maintains the highest bond rating possible.



Human Services Building Solar Ribbon Cutting

On Wednesday, the Board along with Senior Staff, Maintenance, and representatives of TEN cut the ribbon on solar at the Adams County Human Services Building. The solar array on the roof is not easily seen from the ground because the panels are generally flat, but when the sun shines it will supply all the electrical needs of the building and will deliver excess current to the grid for billing credits. The amount of current being produced is easily seen and recorded via the compatible software program.

The solar array was done in conjunction with needed roof improvements and thus took collaboration between several stakeholders. Special recognition to Adams County Building/Maintenance, Budget/Purchasing, Adams County Solicitor Molly Mudd and County Administrator Steve Nevada for their persistence in making this project a reality. Planner Mark Clowney produced outstanding drone photos before, during and after the project. Besides supplying electrical needs to the complex, this is an example of how solar can be utilized at industrial complexes, on large roof tops, or in brown fields to negate the impact on productive ag land.

911 NextGen Outage Investigated

Earlier this month you probably heard about the 911 outages across the state. The Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency recently advised counties of findings for that situation. The preliminary root cause analysis found that the issues were due to a defect in an operation system, which resulted in intermittent disruptions to Next Generation 911 call delivery. The disruptions are not believed to be the result of a cyber-attack that was initially considered a possibility. Corrective measures to improve redundancy are currently being executed. This is a wake-up call that every resident should make note of your county 911 ten-digit non-emergency number and have it at an easily accessible place if for some reason you cannot reach 911.

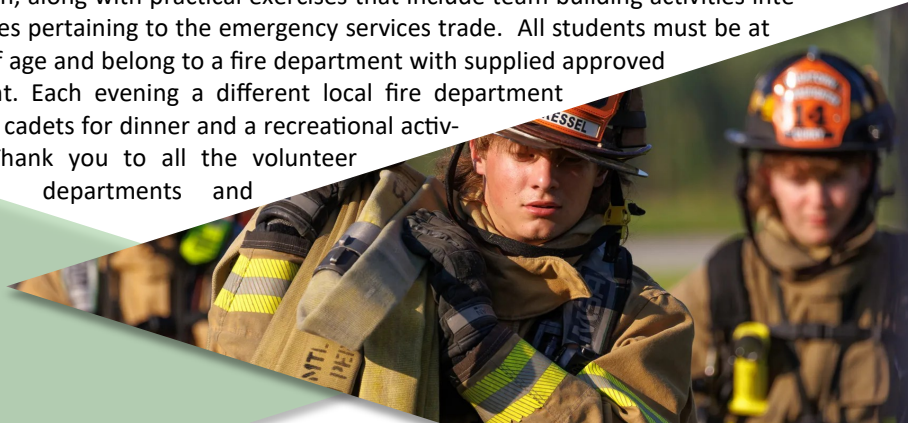
Memorial To Adams County Law Enforcement Canines Dedicated

On Wednesday, I attended the dedication of the Adams County Canine (K-9) Memorial at the 911 Center. The granite memorial displays the names of seven dogs that served for Adams County, CSX, McSherrystown, Biglerville and Cumberland Township. There is room for additional names to be listed in the future. There is no doubt, to have a working canine partner is a special bond and relationship. The memorial reads, *"DEDICATED TO THE K-9'S WHO HAVE SERVED THEIR COUNTRY AND HAVE EITHER DIED IN THE LINE OF SERVICE OR RETIRED FROM THEIR LAW ENFORCEMENT DUTIES.* The memorial was funded by American Bikers On A Mission and facilitated by Sheriff Muller.

Adams County Cadet Fire Academy

It is well-known that volunteerism in emergency services is declining, and volunteers are aging, while all costs for doing business in the volunteer fire service continues to increase. This is causing municipalities that are responsible for these services to pay attention. It is essential to create a pathway for young adults to have an interest in the emergency service as a career, or for the life skills entailed. At July's Adams County Council of Government meeting, Fountaindale Fire Department Deputy Fire Chief, Sam Ginn, provided an in-depth presentation on the Adams County Cadet Fire Academy. The 2025 Academy took place this week at the Adams County Department of Emergency Services (911 Center) with approximately 25 cadets graduating this evening. The cadets have lived at the complex for the entire week.

This week-long camp is conducted in a career fire academy atmosphere and includes physical training, uniform inspection's, classroom lecture and discussion, along with practical exercises that include team building activities integrated with hands on activities pertaining to the emergency services trade. All students must be at least 14-17 years of age and belong to a fire department with supplied approved equipment. Each evening a different local fire department hosts the cadets for dinner and a recreational activity. Thank you to all the volunteer departments and



senior firefighters that volunteer their time and experience to support these young adults at the academy to make a difference in our community!

911 Surcharge Sunset Approaching

The 911 Surcharge to cellphone issue is a huge deal to Pennsylvania Counties and residents! With just under 200 days remaining until the January 31, 2026, expiration of the current 911 surcharge at \$1.95, counties are growing increasingly concerned about the lack of a clear legislative path forward. County officials are emphasizing that maintaining the status quo is not an option. As the NG911 system and technologies continue to evolve – new costs around GIS, training, cybersecurity, connectivity, multimedia communications, and interoperability of services utilized by first responders are introduced – the existing surcharge is falling short of what is necessary. Without timely legislative action, counties may be forced to shoulder an even greater share of the cost, which could have implications for county budgets and ultimately, property taxpayers.

To ensure stability and preparedness, counties are respectfully urging the General Assembly and Administration to increase the monthly 911 surcharge to \$2.20 and to act quickly so that they can align planning and resources with their annual budget.

Time is of the essence – leaders in Harrisburg must come together to act now, finalize a path forward and take immediate action on a 911 surcharge increase and reauthorization that provides appropriate levels of funding for this essential system. Counties have come to a reasonable request of **\$2.20** to ensure counties can continue to properly support the emergency response system and ultimately county residents. Please ask your state legislators to support this critical funding!



The End

- **South Mountain Fair.** You have this evening and tomorrow to head on up to Arendtsville for some good old-fashioned entertainment. Whether it's the food, rides, livestock, displays, 4-H presentations or just socializing with other folks in the community this is a great community event! I highly recommend the chicken corn soup, chocolate milk shakes, fresh peach sundaes and new this year - chicken & waffles. Admission is \$8 and includes all the rides.
- **Military Weekend 2025.** WWII Museum. Friday, Saturday, Sunday. Three days of living history encampments, vehicle demonstrations, displays, militaria and military vehicle flea market. Vietnam Huey arriving at 10AM weather permitting. Get tickets and info at museum@visitww2.com
- **The Friends of the Library Summer Book Sale Bonanza.** Runs through today and Saturday. Redding Auction Service, Table Rock Road. Opens at 9AM.
- **Campfire Program: Slavery, Emancipation and the Second Maryland Campaign.** Hour long Park Ranger program at Pitzer Woods on West Confederate Avenue. Free program.
- **Battle Walk: The Sacrifice of the 16TH Maine.** Saturday 10-12. This 2-hour intensive program examines this First Day action in the area of the Eternal Peace Light. Please wear sturdy hiking shoes and carry plenty of water. Meet at the Peace Light. Free program.
- **The Debris of the Battle.** Join historian Tim Smith at the Adams County Historical Society, on Saturday at 11, as he discusses the aftermath of the battle and the resilient spirit of Gettysburg citizens in establishing the tourism economy in the years after the Civil War. Free program.
- **22nd Annual Old-Fashioned Corn Fest.** Sunday, 11:30-4:30 at the Round Barn. This is a very popular draw with roasted sweet corn, pulled pork and chicken. There is a range of live music along with grilled peach sundaes, games and other activities. Lots of fresh fruits and vegetables to take home.
- **York Springs Fire Company Carnival.** This evening & Saturday. Dining hall open 4-8, with outside area open at 4. Musical entertainment from 7-10. Fireworks tonight at 10!
- **Tom Walter Vintage Tractor Collection Exhibit.** Thursday, July 31st. Location 130 Benders Church Road near Oakside Community Park. From 8-8. All ages welcome and pictures encouraged.

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!