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from
Adams County

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Great Job!

Controller Office Recognized for Excellence

Controller Tammy Myers reported at the Commissioners meeting on March 20, 2024, that the Adams County Controller's Office qualified for the Government Finance Officers Association's (GFOA) Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2022. The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management. This will be the 6th year in a row that the Adams County Controllers Office has received this award! Kudos to the Controller Team!



Vote By Mail Reforms

With another election cycle looming, both the PA House and Senate committees discussed a myriad of election-related issues during the Department of State's budget hearings. Secretary of the Commonwealth Al Schmidt fielded questions regarding voter education, recruiting new poll workers, use of mail-in ballot drop-boxes, modernizing the Statewide Uniform Registry of Elections (SURE) database, election misinformation, Gov. Shapiro's new Election Threats Task Force, and Pennsylvania's April 23 primary falling on the Jewish holiday of Passover.

Secretary Schmidt also advocated for additional pre-canvassing time for counties to provide appropriate time to process ballots. Counties have been clamoring for more pre-canvass time to process mail-in ballots. Legislators say they are all for it, but internal politics within the legislature have not allowed it to move forward as other riders are attached. Ask your legislators why this can't be moved forward as a single matter?

PA Election Threats Task Force

In some more election developments, on February 29, Gov. Shapiro launched the *Pennsylvania Election Threats Task Force* to establish strategic communication and information sharing among public agencies to identify and mitigate threats to Pennsylvania's elections. Spearheaded by Department of State Secretary Al Schmidt, the Task Force is composed of representatives from various state and federal agencies and law enforcement entities; CCAP and county election directors also have a seat at the table. This initiative is one part of a multi-faceted approach by the Administration to provide education and resources for Commonwealth voters on the election process in Pennsylvania. For more information on Pennsylvania's elections, including key dates and to register to vote, visit the Department of State's website, vote.pa.gov

911 Funding and Reauthorization

Effective 911 service and adequate funding are critical planks in providing for the health, safety, and welfare of our County residents. During the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency's (PEMA) budget hearing on February 21, the House Appropriations Committee discussed a number of topics related to 911 service delivery in Pennsylvania, including progress on the NextGen911 (NG911) rollout and addressing 911 staffing shortages. Questions also focused on recent efforts by counties to increase the 911 surcharge from \$1.65 to \$2.30, and the need to look ahead to 2026 when the surcharge is again set to sunset. Let your legislators know that taxpayers would rather pay a slightly higher fee on their monthly cell phone bill than have their property taxes raised to fund critical and essential 911 services!

County Mental Health Base Funding Increases

Year after year, the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP) has deemed mental health funding as an overwhelming priority for counties. Mental health





services were recently the subject of discussion across both chambers in several contexts, not only with DHS and the Department of Health (DOH), but also with the Department of Education, state-related universities, and others. Many agencies highlighted the need for increased services, and emphasized the Governor’s budget request, which includes \$20 million for county mental health base funding, the most flexible form of community-based funding for service provision and responding to community mental health needs. Coordination between counties and schools was also part of the conversations during the House DHS budget hearings. Gov. Shapiro's budget includes \$100 million annually for mental health services in schools, expanding on the previous one-time allocation of \$100 million in last year's Act 34.

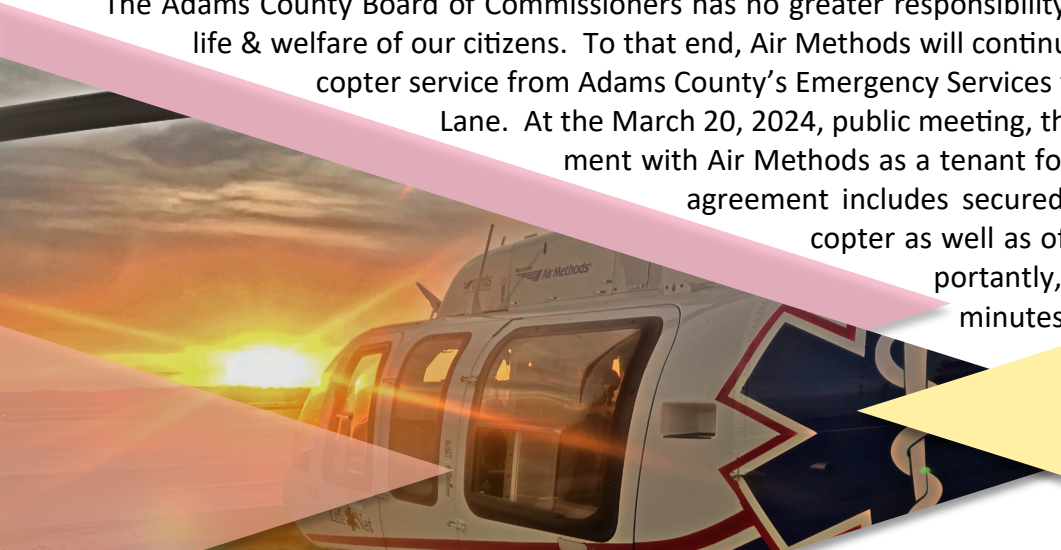
Inmates with Mental Health issues is a large component of the overall issue for Pennsylvania counties. The Senate budget hearing with DHS Secretary Val Arkoosh also recognized the reality that county jails have become de-facto mental health providers and discussed the department’s efforts to address a shortage of beds for justice-involved individuals or those with complex behavior health issues. Further, Arkoosh noted that the proposed \$5.8 million to expand a diversion and discharge program for inmates with behavior health issues would be spent on five regional projects to provide community placements and therefore avoid hospital stays for 150 people.

Adams County/Cumberland Twp Partner to Preserve Farmland

Strategic land preservation is important to maintain Adams County’s rural character, wonderful vistas, and agricultural economy. At Wednesday’s public meeting an agreement was approved that provides for a purchase of an easement for the purpose of preserving 94 acres of agricultural land owned by the Maring family in Cumberland Township. The total purchase price was \$309,381 of which \$93,776 will be paid by the County, and the remainder paid by the Commonwealth and Cumberland Township. This is just one stellar example of three different levels of government collaborating to preserve land that benefits current and future generations Adams Countians!

Board Renews Air Methods Helicopter Ambulance Contract

The Adams County Board of Commissioners has no greater responsibility than to protect the health, safety, life & welfare of our citizens. To that end, Air Methods will continue to operate its air ambulance helicopter service from Adams County’s Emergency Services facility (911 Center) on Greenamyer Lane. At the March 20, 2024, public meeting, the Board signed a new 1-year agreement with Air Methods as a tenant for the rate of \$34,900 annually. The agreement includes secured exterior staging for the helicopter as well as office space. Most importantly, when minutes



count, this med-vac helicopter will be staged and centrally located for rapid deployment to all of Adams County and the surrounding area.

Adams County Staff “Bunny Hop” Terrific Event

HR would like to thank everyone that joined us for our annual staff/family Bunny Hop last Saturday at the Carroll Valley Park. We had a wonderful turnout this year with 115 adults and 43 children attending with participants receiving a voucher for a Kennies Market ham. It was great to see so many new faces and we hope you had an enjoyable time with coworkers, family, and pets. Our event continues to grow each year thanks to your enthusiasm and support. The Bunny Hop is a great opportunity for all of us to come together and enjoy the spring weather. We hope to see even more new faces for our annual Turkey Trot in November!



The **End**

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- Shining Stars Therapeutic Riding Program **Written in the Stars Dinner & Silent Auction**, this evening at 5PM at SAVES Fire Hall. Dinner served at 6PM. Tickets \$30.

Walking Tour – Women of Gettysburg, Courage & Compassion. Gettysburg Licensed Town Guides. Weekends in March. Adults \$20. www.gbltg.com

- **Easter Fun at the Outlets.** Easter Bunny, Balloon Artist, Face Painting + Mickey & Minnie Mouse. 12-3 in the Food Court. Also, free carriage rides.
- **Gettysburg College Choir Spring Concert.** Saturday 8PM. Schmucker Hall, 210 N. Washington St. Adults \$5. Free under 18.
- **Donut & Wine Pairing.** Adams County Winery. Saturday 10AM. Pair Adams County Wine with Ziggy Donuts. Price \$22.
- **Grand American Riding Launch Party.** Battlefield Harley. Saturday. Live music 12PM-3PM, free beverage & hot dogs.
- **Eisenhower’s at Gettysburg.** Adams County Historical Society. Saturday 11AM. Explore the life and legacy of Gettysburg most famous resident with historian Tim Smith. Free event.
- **St Francis Lenten Fish Fry Dinner.** This is the final dinner for 2024. St Francis Center, Table Rock Road. March 22 5p-7p. Eat in or take out!
- **GARA Easter Egg Hunt.** Gettysburg Rec Park. Saturday. Thousands of eggs and some with special treasures. Music and food vendors. 9AM (Age 5 and under), 10AM (Age 6-9), 11AM (Age 10-12). Sounds like a ton of fun.
- **Land Conservancy Adams County 27TH Annual Art Auction.** Adams County Arts Council. Kick-off wine/cheese Friday, April 5TH. Auction will go live on BiddingOwl.com/LCAC. All art up for bid will hang in the Arts Council Gallery through the auctions close on Monday, April 22nd.

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!