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from
Adams County

written by: Commissioner Randy Phiel

February 14, 2020

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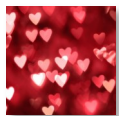
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*Alone we can do
so little;
together we can
do so much*

-Helen Keller

Managers Musing *How 'Bout Them Apples?*

Well here I am again:) I'd like to thank Commissioner Phiel for inviting me back for edition #2 of How 'Bout Them Apples. Maybe I'll keep getting invited back? Time flies! Has it been 30 days already? If you want to be precise it has been 24 days. I want to thank everyone as you have been so incredibly welcoming and supportive. The first few weeks have gone by very fast and security has not thrown me out yet. In all seriousness, a big thank you to the security team that does such a great job for us all. In my first month here I have been part of a wide and varied range of activities. Everything from meeting each tax collector in the county, to attending a Criminal Justice Advisory Board (CJAB), where I learned about the great collaboration between CareerLink and the County. I also attended the York & Adams County Commissioners health joinder meeting prior to CJAB.



Having grown up here, I knew Adams County was a great place, but daily you reinforce that point with me. Thanks to each of you for taking the time to meet and educate me on the county operations (and for inviting me to your Super Bowl parties!).

Seeing the wonderful work being done in our county is something to behold. I feel blessed to have the opportunity to work collaboratively with such great people. Your dedication and passion for making our community a great place to live, work, and play is unsurpassed.

If we have not yet met, and you would like to catch up, please do not hesitate to call or email me and we can schedule a time to meet. You each have set the performance bar very high. Please hold me to that same standard. I welcome any feedback on what I could be doing better to make your job easier! I also want to take a moment to specifically thank Paula Neiman and Lisa Moreno-Woodward who have put up with the brunt of my incessant questions. Your patience with my questions is truly amazing and much appreciated!

I'd like to leave you with a quote that sums up the spirit I have seen in those working here for Adams County, "Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much." - Helen Keller. Till next time? – Steve

County Investment Returns Are Strong

It has been a goal of the Board to maximize investment income as part of maintaining Adams County's strong financial position. To that end, we have formed a Financial Team approach that puts Finance, Treasurer, Controller and the Commissioner's office at the table with regular meetings to discuss financial operations, practices and strategies. Treasurer Crissy Redding is reporting that last year investment interest income totaled \$538,478. In 2018 it was \$492,300 and in 2017 \$268,200. An improving economy plus seeking and leveraging better interest rates have resulted in this upward trend. A shout out to our Financial Team for their collaboration and contributions to our strong financial position - which directly correlates to the scope and volume of service we provide to Adams County residents.

Health & Wellness

The details for the next Health & Wellness activity on Thursday evening February 20th is on the ADP portal. You need to pre-register and sign a waiver by February 18. The event is open to spouses, children and grandchildren under 18. Sliding down the mountain begins at 4:00 and goes until 10:00. Snow Tubing at Liberty Mountain was a big hit last year and we are hoping for a large turnout again next Thursday. It sounds like the next few days will be conducive to blowing snow. Thank you to HR for making these events a reality for staff!

Law Enforcement Firearms Training Range

After beginning fundraising three years ago, the long-awaited Adams County Law Enforcement Firearms Training Range has become a reality with the finishing touches now being applied. Although the range has been in use for nine months, recently the lanes have been leveled, a pavilion erected, and the memorable flag plaza and donor wall is being



completed. The lighted American Flag will majestically fly over the range 24/7. A special thank you to Maintenance staff member Brad Weaver for his expertise in making the memorial flag plaza a special part of the range. Community organizations, businesses and individuals donated approximately \$200,000 to support our Adams County Law Enforcement community to enhance their safety and the safety of our community. Job well done!

Mercy House Final Approvals

At Wednesday's Commissioner Meeting, the final approvals for the Mercy House contractors was approved and the proceed with construction directive was also approved. The asbestos remediation was reported as completed. You will soon see contractors' vehicles parked in front of Mercy House with a completion date hopefully by September. The Board would like to express our gratitude to our York/Adams Health Joinder, Adams County staff, Crabtree & Rohrbaugh Architects, and the many community organizations and individual donors that made this project a reality.



The **End**

Happy Valentine's Day to everybody! I hope this day is special for you or has special memories. It seems that winter is finally making a brief appearance; but is supposed to warm up this weekend. That's good because there is a lot to do in Adams County this weekend. Out at the Livery they are having a *Chowder Fest*. For \$10 you get to sample a variety of chowders prepared from chefs around the county plus sample a variety of microbrews. You will get a ballot to vote for the best chowder. The *Adams County Builders Show* is going on at the All-Star complex for all you folks who are thinking about building, remodeling or simply looking for some fresh ideas for your home or business. The Adams County Arts Council is hosting the All County Student Art Show Exhibit in the Arts Council Reception Hall through February 24. On Saturday at 9AM, the National Park Service, in partnership with the South Mountain Audubon Society, are hosting the *Great Backyard Bird Walk*. The walk will take place on the historic Emanuel Harman Farm which was formerly the Gettysburg Country Club (I lost a lot of golf balls there). This activity will help identify the distribution and abundance of the birds. Bring your binoculars and bird guidebook if you have one. Also, on Saturday head up to Strawberry Hill for their annual *Maple Sugar Hike* where you get to tap trees for Maple Syrup. The hike begins at 1:00. On Monday, Presidents Day, the NPS hosts *Community Appreciation Day* at the Visitor Center. Entrance to the museum, film and Cyclorama program is free to residents with ID. Check out the GNMP website for a variety of other activities this weekend.

For some culture in Gettysburg catch *Romeo & Juliet* at the Gettysburg Community Theater both this weekend and next weekend. Tickets are \$15 and the play is two hours with an intermission. On Sunday, The Majestic Theater is hosting the *Wind Symphony and Family Concert* at 3PM. Adults are \$5 and children are Free. The Heidlersburg Fire Company's famous Roast Beef, Shrimp and Oyster Diner kicks off in the fire hall dining room tomorrow at 4:00. The dinner is held monthly in the winter months and you will not be disappointed. I made it to the Cashtown Community Fair for not only one - both nights last weekend for turkey and oysters, followed by chicken & waffles the next evening.

No matter what you do get out there and experience all the historic, recreational, agricultural, natural and cultural activities that beautiful Adams County has to offer!