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from
Adams County

written by: Commissioner Randy Phiel

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Thank you!

Thank You John Phillips!

As John Phillips soon vacates the position of Adams County Controller, and departs the area to join his family in Connecticut, the Adams County Board of Commissioners would like to applaud and recognize Controller John Phillips for his significant contributions to our County institution and our Community. John not only brought his skills, experience, and wisdom to the Controller's office, he has been an extremely valuable addition to the County Team in many areas. His thoughtful counsel on a variety of matters was very appreciated and will be greatly missed!

John's County contributions are only surpassed by his contributions to our community. John and his family's legacy will be the formation and growth of the Adams County Community Foundation, where he has been a leader and past President. I appreciated that recently John stepped forward to be the Vice-Chairman of the non-profit Oak Lawn Cemetery Foundation and was instrumental in the formation of its non-profit status.

John, it is with deep gratitude and respect that we wish you and your family the best! The Phillips are leaving Adams County a better place!



Grants

Lake Meade Awarded \$250,000 ARRG Grant

At Wednesday's public meeting the commissioners approved the final grant submission for the Lake Meade Property Owners Association. The grant funding is for the purpose of investing in water and sewer infrastructure, including measures to manage and treat stormwater or sub-surface drainage water on existing and proposed roadways in Lake Meade.

With Lake Meade's award on Wednesday, of 14 County awardees, only 3 remain to reach final approval. Review of these applications is very technical and time consuming, to assure compliance by the County and the awardee. This is a heavy lift for County Planning and their effort is recognized and appreciated!

Treasurer Gets New Software for Collecting Hotel Tax

The Adams County Treasurer's office is getting a new software program to improve the collection process for both the County and lodging facilities. Collection of the tax is very important for marketing and promotion of this critical Adams County economic engine. *iGovServices* will be providing the software and support in the amount of \$14,400. At the meeting Adams County Treasurer Crissy Redding recognized Deputy Treasurer Kierstyn Green for her efforts in researching and evaluating this product to enhance the hotel tax collection process!

Adams County AG Land Preservation News

At Wednesday's public meeting the Board approved two Ag Easements presented by Adams County Rural Resources Manager Ellen Dayhoff. One was the Bruce Pohlman & Son Hog Farm. It is an agricultural conservation easement consisting of 43.23 acres in Germany and Union Townships. The total cost was \$129,690.00, with the County share being \$12,969.00.

The other ag easement was for the Arentz Family L.P. in Union Township. The total cost was \$240,000.00, with the County share being \$12,020.00. Thank you to Adams County Rural Resources for their efforts in preserving our heritage agricultural lands!

Final County Budget Approval Slated for Dec. 20 Public Meeting

Due to the upcoming Christmas and New Years holidays, please note the next Commissioners public meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 20 at 9:00AM. Voting on the final county budget will be on the agenda. The Adams County Tentative Budget, with no tax increase, is currently listed on the county website with a hard copy on the Commissioner's Office counter. This will be the last public meeting for 2023.

Adams County Conservation District Annual Planning Meeting

The Adams County Conservation District's Annual Planning Meeting will be held on Thursday, December 21st from 8:30am to 1:30pm at the AG Center on Old Harrisburg Road. The staff will be providing highlights for each of their major programs and covering some topics where they are looking for guidance. Lunch will be provided. Following the Planning Meeting, they will be holding the regular monthly Conservation District Board of Directors Meeting.



BUDGET

Newly Elected Swearing-In Ceremony December 29th

Congratulations to all the candidates that were recently elected or re-elected to serve our community! A "Swearing in Ceremony" will take place on Friday, December 29th at 1:00PM in the Historic Courtroom for any Newly Elected that would like to participate. This includes Borough, Township, and County positions. For those wanting to participate and receive a certificate contact Donna Cassatt in Court Administration at 717-337-9846 or email at dcassatt@adamscountypa.gov



The End

Publisher Editorial: The Grand Canyon hosts 5 million visitors each year. There is a good reason it is 1 of the 7 Wonders of the World. Just standing on the South Rim is stunning and breath-taking. Of those 5 million visitors, only 1% ever go below the rim in any capacity.

Last Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday, I hiked to the bottom and spent two nights at Phantom Ranch on the Colorado River for the 5th time since I retired from the National Park Service in 2008. The Colorado is evidently like a magnet for me, but it is also very physical magnet - so I am sure it will be my last hike there (much to the relief of my family)! I have done it 2 times each with sons Shaun & Connor, twice with wife Kathy, once with daughter-in-law Cami, and once with my oldest daughter Kate. I will confess the last time with Kate was 7 years ago. That only left youngest daughter Kelly, who is a teacher. Grand Canyon heat is downright dangerous and deadly in the summertime - making a late Fall and early winter descent most viable - which is not an ideal schedule for a teacher. Kelly knew Dad's time was running out to make one more attempt and she graciously took off school last week to humor me. Going down 8 miles and 4,000' in slope is extremely tough on the legs, and coming up tests you aerobically to the max. A few times last week Grand Canyon came close to prevailing. Despite inflicting some falls, scrapes, bruises, and very sore muscles, and doing the "Kaibab Shuffle" for several days afterward - Final score: Randy 5 - Grand Canyon 0. Cost? Priceless!!

- **A Christmas Carol** – Majestic Theater. December 15, 16 & 17. Presented by Totem Pole Playhouse. \$34-40.
- **Free Holiday Carriage Rides** – Outlet Shoppes at Gettysburg, December 15-23.
- **Five Christmases at the Schriver House** – December 15-31. Tour times vary. Schriver House 309 Baltimore Street.
- **Christmas Vendor Pop-up**, Lincoln Social Food Market, Baltimore Pike. Saturday 10AM-2PM.
- **Simo Sunday Christmas Shoot**. Orvis Hill Country. Sunday 8:30AM. \$55 per shooter.

From the Adams County Board of Commissioners, Best Wishes for a Joyous Holiday, Happiness, and Good Health in the New Year! Remember, no matter what you do, get out there and experience all the historical, agricultural, recreational, natural, and cultural opportunities that beautiful Adams County has to offer!