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from
Adams County

written by: Commissioner Randy Phiel

MEMORIAL
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REMEMBER AND HONOR

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*Remembering On
Memorial Day*

On Monday, I was honored to be invited to provide Memorial Day remarks at Fairfield's Union Cemetery. Recognizing Memorial Day is both appropriate and important!

Unfortunately, many of us who have some water under the bridge have observed that traditional observance of Memorial Day has diminished over the years. I believe it is fair to say that many Americans nowadays have forgotten the real meaning and traditions of Memorial Day. At many cemeteries, the graves of the fallen are increasingly ignored or neglected. Many no longer know or remember the proper flag etiquette for the day. While there are towns and cities that still hold Memorial Day parades, many have not held a parade in decades. Some think the day is for honoring all dead - and not just those fallen in service to our country.

We are blessed that Gettysburg has a Memorial Day Parade dating back 158 years. In fact, it is so old that even I marched in it during all my primary school years in the 1950's/60's and concluded by placing flowers in the Soldiers National Cemetery. For myself and my parents before me, the Memo-



Day Parade Day was a “school day” with school attendance taken. That evening we would drive through the cemetery to look at the flowers, and then drive out Emmitsburg Road to the Twin Kiss, located near the Peach Orchard, for a twist cone and a frosted mug of root beer. It is a great memory! As an adult, many times in my 30-years I proudly drove an NPS patrol vehicle in the parade with one of my small children beaming in the passenger seat and waving their flag. The Gettysburg Memorial Day Parade has been and still is a poignant and wonderful slice of Americana!

Memorial Day was officially proclaimed on May 5, 1868 by General John Logan, National Commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, in his General Order No. 11, and was first observed on May 30 1868, when flowers were placed on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery. The first state to officially recognize the holiday was New York in 1873. By 1890 it was recognized by all the northern states. Interestingly, the South refused to acknowledge the day, honoring their deceased on separate days. This remained until after World War I when the holiday changed from honoring just those who died fighting in the Civil War to honoring Americans who died fighting in any war. Memorial Day is now officially celebrated in almost every State on the last Monday in May. You may not know that it is still a State holiday in Alabama, Mississippi, South Carolina and Texas. It is not an official State holiday but is still commemorated in North Carolina, Florida, Kentucky and Tennessee.

President Ronald Regan made these remarks at Arlington National Cemetery in 1996, and I think it is an excellent summation of Memorial Day!

Today is the day we put aside to remember fallen heroes, and to pray that no heroes will ever have to die for us again. It's a day of thanks for the valor of others, a day to remember the splendor of America and those of her children who rest in this cemetery and others. It's a day to be with the family across the country, children and their parents will be going to the town parade and the young ones will sit on the sidewalks and wave their flags as the band goes by. Later, maybe, they'll have a cookout or a day at the pool. And that's good, because today is a day to be with the family and loved ones and today is a day to remember.

Primary Election

The weather was perfect for Tuesday’s Primary Election; but only 23.36% of Adams County’s 62,457 registered cast their ballot. That is down 5% from the 2024 primary. Of the 14,592 votes cast, 9,439 were cast at the polls and 5,153 were by mail. In comparison during the 2024 General Election, 18,681 mail ballots were received and processed.

Of particular interest were the contested seats for Adams County Court of Common Pleas, Adams County Sheriff, school board races and municipal seats. Write-ins and cross-filing will defer the outcome on some of these races until the November 4th General Election. The last day to register to vote for the November General Election is October 20th, and the last day to apply for a Mail-in Ballot is October 28th.

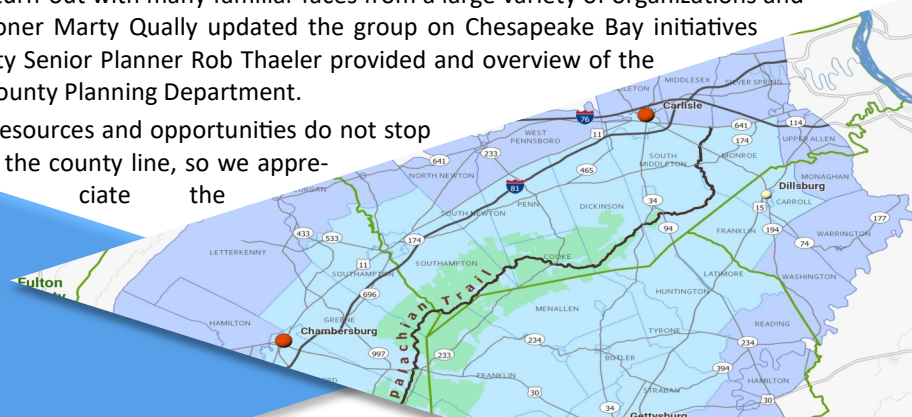
For any Election information contact the Adams County Elections & Voter Registration Office by going to www.adamscountypa.gov or call 717-337-9832.

South Mountain Partnership Meets In Adams County

The South Mountain Partnership is a collaborative network of people and organizations protecting and promoting the agricultural, natural, cultural and recreational resources in South-Central Pennsylvania. SMP is one of Pennsylvania DCNR eight identified conservation landscapes.

Last Friday, I had the pleasure of providing the welcome for the SMP Spring Partnership Meeting at Oakside Community Park in Biglerville. It was a very nice turn-out with many familiar faces from a large variety of organizations and interest groups. Commissioner Marty Qually updated the group on Chesapeake Bay initiatives and Adams County Senior Planner Rob Thaeler provided an overview of the Adams County Planning Department.

Natural resources and opportunities do not stop at the county line, so we appreciate the



efforts of this organization to regionally communicate, coordinate, collaborate and provide information to sustain and improve the quality of life in South-central Pennsylvania!

Healthy Adams County Walk

On Wednesday, I was slated to lead a Healthy Adams County Walk at the historic Daniel Lady Farm where I volunteer. Knowing the farm well, I had mapped out a very scenic and interesting 1.5M route. You may recall that Wednesday was a very rainy and cool day. I was told that the walk is on unless there is lightning, so it was head out to the farm at 1:00 and see who shows up? I knew that GIS Planner Lisa Angstadt had agreed to be a walk chaperone, so I knew it was a good bet she would show up!

Adams County Human Resources Doing School Outreach

Staff recruitment is an on-going process for many employers, and Adams County is always looking at effective recruitment tools. Two members of the Adams County HR Team made a visit to Gettysburg High School on May 15 to introduce students to county employment opportunities. A display regarding the various careers with the County of Adams was shared with them. Students were informed as to what type of educational background and experiences are required for positions. A fun game, with candy prizes, was enjoyed by many students. The game had the student answer questions based on the position they'd been discussing with a member of the HR Team. The visit was well received and the goal of letting young people know about career opportunities in their community was successful. Thanks to Danette Laughman and Jannie Abanto for the extra effort it took to make this happen!

Give It Up For Good Sale

Mark your calendars for this Saturday's United Way *Give It Up For Good Sale*. This annual sale is 7am - 12pm. The location is the Gettysburg College's Hauser Fieldhouse at the end of East Lincoln Avenue. There is plenty of parking in the stadium lot. The Early Bird Sale begins at 7am with an entry fee of \$5. Early Bird allows those buyers to have first choice of the bargains. After 8:00am entry is free. This sale is one of Adams County United Way's major fund raisers. I hear that Commissioner Jim Martin personally surveyed and helped price the items for sale so we can guarantee there are some great deals! There are truly many bargains to be had such as furniture, appliances, kitchen supplies, bicycles (some new), household supplies, books, toys, clothing and more. Make Give It Up For Good your first stop this Saturday!



The **End**

- **Inaugural 2025 Summer Music Fest:** Saturday, 2-8, Gettysburg Rec Park. Six musical acts, food vendors, alcohol vendors, games of chance and family friendly fun. Bring lawn chairs and blankets. This free family event will benefit the Rec Park's Live Music and Arts Program.
- **Adams County Farmers Market:** Saturday, 8-1 Gettysburg Rec Park. This week is The Pollinator Festival & Native Plant Sale. After the Farmers Market stay and head to the Music Fest!
- **Family Day at the George Spangler Farm:** Memorial Day Weekend 10-3. Join the Gettysburg Foundation at the George Spangler Farm & Field Hospital with a free day of living history programs and adventure when you explore the meticulously restored historic site. On-site parking will be available.
- **Adams County Library Family Fun Fest 2025:** Friday, June 13, 3-7. Games, music, food trucks and tons of family fun.
- **Living History: 4TH US Artillery:** Saturday & Sunday. Pennsylvania Monument. GNMP
- **Living History: 2ND US Calvary:** Pitzer Woods, West Confederate Avenue. GNMP.
- **Gettysburg Choral Society Concert:** Sunday, 3PM, United Lutheran Seminary Chapel. The concert will honor America showcasing music that celebrates our country from the Civil War to the present. Free to the public!
- **Gettysburg Memorial Day Parade & Ceremony:** Parade at 2PM with National Cemetery Program at 3PM.
- **One Hundred Nights Of Taps:** Pennsylvania Monument. Taps at 7PM, May 26 – September 1. Taps is preceded by changing interpretative topics.

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!