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*from*  
*Adams County*

written by: Commissioner Randy Phiel

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## In this issue...

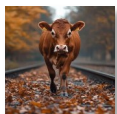
### Page 2

Farm Show Week  
Glass Recycling  
Board Meets With New CCAP  
Executive Director  
Brighter Tomorrows Center  
(CAC) To Be Even Brighter  
Welcome Newly Elected  
Officials



### Page 3

4-H Tractor Safety  
Annual Adams County  
Conservation District  
Meeting Award Winner  
The End



## ***Welcome 2026!***

As we welcome 2026, the Board would like to take a moment to thank each Adams County Staff Member for your dedication and service to our community. Your hard work, professionalism, and commitment make a real difference in the lives of Adams County residents every single day. Together, we've accomplished so much in 2025, and we are proud of the positive impact you've helped create.

This new year brings fresh opportunities to strengthen our programs, improve services, and continue building a county government that works for everyone. Let's embrace 2026 with optimism, collaboration, and a shared vision of excellence in public service. Thank you for all you do to make our county a better place to live, work, and thrive. Wishing you and your loved ones a joyful, healthy, and prosperous New Year!

## Farm Show Week



Its Pennsylvania Farm Show week again with the doors open from January 10–17, 2026. Did you know The Pennsylvania Farm Show is one of the largest indoor agricultural events in America? Admission is free, and the show offers something for everyone: farmers, families, and “foodies” alike. Parking is \$15 at the farm show complex or from one of the various satellites lots.

Next Wednesday is Public Officials’ Day which we normally attend every year. There is a ton to do, see, eat and drink; but one of my favorites, beside the butter sculpture and the Adams County apple displays, is looking at the amazing and unusual varieties of beautiful evergreen Christmas trees grown and produced in Pennsylvania. A visitation tip is to go early or late for closer parking and a less congested more enjoyable experience as mid-day can get really crowded!

## Glass Recycling

Several years ago, a community glass recycling initiative was launched with the drop-off point being at the Adams County Department of Emergency Services Parking lot beside the firearms training range. This was entirely a collaborative grass roots community initiative, executed and manned by volunteers in partnership with Adams County. I am gratified to report that in 2025 the DES complex received a total of 72.16 tons of glass. That is up from 46.27 tons in 2024. The initiative has grown from one to three glass re-cycling opportunities per month. The 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month at DES from 9-12. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month at the Adams Rescue Mission from 8-5. For 6-months from May-October at the Adams County Farmers Market 9-1.

A shout out to Cynthia Salsbury, Steve Zimmerman, and Matthew Crouner, Gettysburg Green Gathering, Adams County Rescue Mission, Adams County Farmers Market and all the volunteers, and the residents of our community for joining together to make this environmentally important project successful!

## Board Meets With New CCAP Executive Director

On December 19<sup>TH</sup>, the Board of Commissioners and County Administrator met with newly appointed CCAP Executive Director Kyle Kopko in the Commissioner’s Office. Dr. Kopko is an attorney, professor with a PhD and M.A. in political science, and was previously Executive Director of the Center for Rural Pennsylvania. CCAP plays an important role in County government. The resulting free-flowing dialogue and exchange between the Board and Director Kopko was very beneficial to both parties. We appreciate Director Kopko visiting Adams County and wish him the best as CCAP’s Executive Director.

## Brighter Tomorrows Center (CAC) To Be Even Brighter

On Wednesday, the Board was invited to tour the Children’s Advocacy Center (Brighter Tomorrow’s) on Baltimore Street with DCED Deputy Secretary Richard Viello. Secretary Viello was in town to tour the center, which is to undergo major renovations to enhance their service to our community’s youth. CAC has requested various grant funding for the project. Our takeaway was that the Secretary was obviously impressed with what he saw and heard, so we are very optimistic that State funding will help bring this improvement to fruition for a critical community service!

## Welcome Newly Elected Officials

It was great to see the historic courtroom jammed on New Year’s Eve at 1PM for the newly elected officials swearing in. Beside the Court and Row Offices, approximately 90 municipal officials chose to be sworn in. In my view that is a tribute to these folks, who demonstrated both pride and the importance of their elected position. Every position is very important! We are a sum of our parts! The Board would also like to welcome newly elected Judge Ecker & Sheriff Fitting, while congratulating Treasurer Crissy Redding and Clerk of Courts Kelly Lawyer.



# 4-H Tractor Safety

Something most of us don't think about very much is *Tractor Safety*. We are a rural County with thousands of tractors for farm, garden, and yard. In my lifetime, I am aware of several tractor fatalities that were horrific. We need to get the word out that Adams County 4-H, with Penn State Extension, will once again offer the National Safe Tractor & Machinery Operation Training Program (NSTMOP). This opportunity is targeted for youth ages 14-18 years old. However, they are accepting registration from members who are 13 years old, but they will not be able to operate any machinery. This program is open to anyone who can commute to and from each event.

It is important to teach youth about hazards on the farm. Once the student completes the coursework, they become certified through a paper test as well as a practical pre-operations test at Messick's of Abbottstown and an operational driving test at Bermudian Springs High School in April. Not only will youth learn about safely operating a tractor with wagon, but they will also dive deeply into topics such as: emergency plans and how to respond for various locations on the farm, manure pit safety, livestock safety, electrical hazards, airborne hazards, safety hand signs and equipment signs and safety, how to safely hook up and unhook a wagon, and PTO safety. For more information or to register contact Penn State Extension at 717-334-6271 or [AdamsExt@psu.edu](mailto:AdamsExt@psu.edu)

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## Dave Swope - Annual AC Conservation District Meeting Award Winner

At the December 18, Adams County Conservation District Annual Meeting, Dave Swope Sr. was awarded the 2025 Bill McCleaf Conservation Leadership Award. As Adam McClain, Conservation District Manager stated, "*Dave is a true leader in conservation and is such a blessing to have in our community. If you talk about stream restoration projects, trout, or youth conservation programs in Adams County over the past 40 years, Dave has been involved.*"

This periodic award is given to an individual that has supported and enhanced the goals of the Adams County Conservation District in the wise use of our natural resources, who not only preaches this message but practices it as well. Whether at a stream project in Caledonia State Park, or the recent Conewago Creek Project, or managing the fish hatchery at Fairfield High School, I can tell you from those personal experiences that no one deserves this award more than Dave Swope! Congratulations and well-deserved Dave – and I am sure he is not done yet.



# The End

- **Life & Death At Swope Manor.** Saturday, 2PM. Adams County Historical Society. Writer Kellie Gromly chronicles the history of Swope Manor, the Gettysburg home that sheltered the towns wealthiest family and sheltered wounded and dying soldiers. Free to members \$10 to public.
- **Winter Lecture Series: Violent Struggle For Reconstruction.** Saturday at 1:30PM. GNMP Visitor Center. Free!
- **The Cow On The Tracks.** Adams County Historian Tim Smith relates how a cow on the railroad bridge over Swift Run may have altered the Gettysburg Campaign. Saturday, 11AM at the Adams County Historical Society.
- **Melee At The Brickyard - July 1.** You will probably see me at this one since Coster Avenue (the Brickyard location) off Stratton, now consisting of Victor & Pine Street, was my family home on that ground. It was also Phil Walters family home where he now lives, with that mural on Coldsmith's block building fading but still worthy of viewing. This is part of the Park Winter Lecture series. Sunday 1:30 at the NPS Visitor Center.
- **Second Saturday Civil War Dancing.** Fairfield Village Hall this Saturday 7:30 – 10:00PM. Informal civil war dancing with the Gettysburg Dance Society. All levels of dance welcome with no experience necessary. Free but suggested donation!
- **Music Gettysburg.** Gettysburg Chamber Orchestra Baroque Ensemble! United Lutheran Seminary, Sunday, 4PM. Free!
- **National Theater Live: Mrs. Warrens Profession.** Sunday at 2PM & 7PM. Tickets \$21.
- **Live Music - Stable Shakers.** Sign of the Buck. Monday 7-9PM.
- **Open Mic Wednesday.** Wednesday 6-9PM Ploughman's Tap Room, Lincoln Square.
- **Dancing with the Local Stars.** Next Friday at the Majestic Theater. This is an annual local favorite. Look for me in the balcony!
- **Painting Cozy Landscapes with Julie Gross.** Next Saturday. 1-3PM at Strawberry Hill. Materials and canvas provided. Cost \$40. [StrawberryHill.org](http://StrawberryHill.org)

**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!**