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Real Estate Tax Rebate For First Responders

At the November 15th public meeting the Commissioners approved Ordinance #3 of 2023. This Ordinance provided tax relief for qualified fire fighters and volunteer personnel residing in Adams County.

The State Legislature recently passed a bill that allowed Counties to provide tax relief for volunteer responders – without providing any funding. Thus, each County had to decide if they chose to fund this initiative. Given the value and commitment of volunteer first responders in Adams County, the Commissioners determined that implementation of this program was very appropriate. It is hopefully another recruiting and retention tool. The money will come from the County's General Fund. Qualifying volunteer responders will receive a \$250 tax credit. Qualifying hours will be tracked by the President or Chief of the organization with an approved formula for that department. The Adams County Board of Commissioners recognizes the significance, value, and commitment of our volunteer first responders and hopes this small gesture provides our volunteer responders both fiscal and personal recognition!

2024 Tentative Budget Adopted

At the November 15th public meeting the Commissioners adopted a 2024 tentative budget of \$88M with **No Tax Increase**. This includes both the General

Fund of \$69,955,111 and the Special Funds of \$14,591,346. It also includes

the Bridge Fund and Hotel Tax Fund. Adams County is in a strong fiscal position with an ample

reserve and retains its Aa2 bond rating. The entire budget is on-line, and a hard copy is open for review at the Commissioner's Office counter.

Adams County Conservation District Board Appointments

If you are involved in any phase of agriculture in Adams County, you understand how important the Adams County Conservation District is toward supporting this economic and preservation engine. To provide effective service to the ag and preservation community, it takes a committed Conservation District staff and Board of Directors. Fortunately, we have both.

At the November 15th public meeting, upon the recommendation of Conservation Director Adam McClain, the Commissioners reappointed two directors. Charles Bennet was re-appointed as Public Director. Carl Keller was re-appointed as Farmer Director. Carl currently serves as Board Chairman. Jim Martin was re-appointed as Commissioner Representative. Thank you to each of these individuals for their time and willingness to serve on the Adams County Conservation District Board!

Adams County Assessed Property Value

Pursuant to the PA Consolidated Assessment Law §8844, Subsection "f", the Board of Assessment Appeals on 11/15/23 certified the following assessed values:

- Real Property \$10,006,677,400 (47,170 properties) Per Capita 77,778
- Occupations 17,533,800

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Supporting the Adams County United Way

Unfortunately, the COVID period seems to have greatly diminished Adams County's stellar track record of staff supporting the Adams County United Way. Several years ago, we were honored for having one of the highest participation percentages in Adams County. The participation has fallen off the radar since then. After participating for many years, I determined I had failed to renew. I believe like for me, it has fallen off the radar for others. Thus, we are going back to each staff member receiving a paper pledge form. Please read the notice from HR below and join me in giving at least \$5 per pay period that will be used exclusively in our community! If you need any additional incentive, Adams County Commissioner Jim Martin is this year's Adams County United Way Capital Campaign Chairman. Let's make him proud!!

It's time for our annual United Way campaign! Did you know that the United Way of Adams County focuses on health, education, and financial security for this community and has been doing so for 75 years? Many lives are enhanced and changed but this can only happen if YOU help. Soon you will receive a paper pledge form. Please consider donating through our payroll deduction plan. This is a great way to honor the community we serve every day. If you have any questions, please contact Michele Miller, Director of HR. She is sending out a challenge-match her \$5.00 per paycheck this year! Together we can do so much. Deductions begin with the first paycheck in January. Just return your completed form to your Office Manager, Elected Official, or Director by 12-20-2023. Thank you in advance for giving this local and worthy organization your support.

Staff Health Insurance

Health Insurance is high on everyone's priority list and Adams County staff is no exception. The Commissioners understand how important health insurance is to county staff and strive to provide the highest quality health insurance at the lowest possible employee contribution.

At the November 15th public meeting the Commissioner's approved the 2024 agreement with Capital Blue Cross. Staff can choose a \$500 or \$1000 deductible - unless their union contract differentiates. The contract again includes PPO & RX programs along with Vison & Dental. Here is the best news for staff - there is no increase in employee contributions this

year! In today's health insurance climate, the Board is very pleased to hold the line on health insurance contributions by staff - while providing quality health insurance!

> Adams County staff, please remember to complete your benefit elections by today. No changes will be accepted after this date!!

• A Gettysburg Christmas Festival December 1-3. Downtown Gettysburg. Three stages of entertainment, free activities, shopping, dining, food, beverages, carriage rides, markets, tours, kids' activities, and crafts. Tickets for screening of the movie "A Gettysburg Christmas" unfortunately are sold out.

• Gettysburg Choral Society "Joy to the World" Performance. Friday 7PM. Lutheran Seminary Chapel. Free!

• **Dueling Pianos Live,** Boyer Cellars, Biglerville. Friday 6-9PM. Audience driven all request format. If you haven't experienced dueling pianos is a great time!

• **Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer Jr**, 60-minute musical. Gettysburg Community Theater, Saturday 2PM. \$15 on-line & \$20 at door.

• *Homespun Christmas & Holiday Market,* Historic G.A.R. Building, 53 East Middle Street. Friday & Saturday. Hand-crafted gifts with traditional baked goods, Eisenhower's famous fudge and holiday greens.

- **Daniel Lady Farm Candlelight Tours.** Next 2 Saturdays. 5:30-9PM. \$10-15. Learn about Christmas in different periods with the house decorated for Christmas. 1008 Hanover Road, Gettysburg.
- **Songs & Stories of a Civil War Hospital.** Christ Lutheran Church Chambersburg Street. Open House from 2-4 and Christmas Carols of the Civil War 4-5PM.
- Gettysburg Garden Club Annual Greens & Gourmet Gifts Sale, Gettysburg Fire Department, Saturday, 9AM.

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!