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from
Adams County

written by: Commissioner Randy Phiel

July 14, 2023

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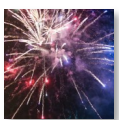


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Oak Lawn Update

At Wednesday's public meeting the Board voted to sell the vacant western portion of Oak Lawn Cemetery to WellSpan Properties. The majority of the \$500,000 sale price, after County administrative expense, will be utilized to fund the non-profit 501c3 Oak Lawn Foundation to sustain and reinvigorate the operations and revenue at Oak Lawn. Besides providing a critical and needed service to our community, the Board feels that WellSpan represents an appropriate buyer whose footprint, business operations, and hours of operation are compatible with the cemetery.

At present the Oak Lawn Foundation Board consists of Ron Hankey (Chairman), John Phillips (Vice-Chair) Harry Hartman (Secretary), Crissy Redding (Treasurer), Steve Toddes (Cumberland Township), Cindy Shultz (Public At Large) and Randy Phiel (Adams County) as non-voting County representative.



This action takes us one step closer to shutting the book on this long-lasting tragic and gut-wrenching chapter in our community. As I did at Wednesday's meeting, the Board would like to thank all the volunteers, community residents/groups, Cumberland Township, Adams County staff, and Foundation members that stepped to the plate when this final resting place was desecrated and dishonored by criminal actions and neglect. I believe the future is now bright for Oak Lawn Memorial Gardens!

Adams County Tax Assessment Update

Adams County Tax Services Department has completed the updating of the Adams County Tax Assessment Rolls to be effective July 1, 2023. The assessment rolls are open and available for inspection in Room 202 of the Adams County Courthouse during normal business hours. All Adams County property owners, or others with an interest in such real estate, have a right to file a property tax appeal in writing from any real estate assessment on or before the close of business Tuesday, August 1, 2023. The following summarizes the tax rolls as of July 1, 2023:

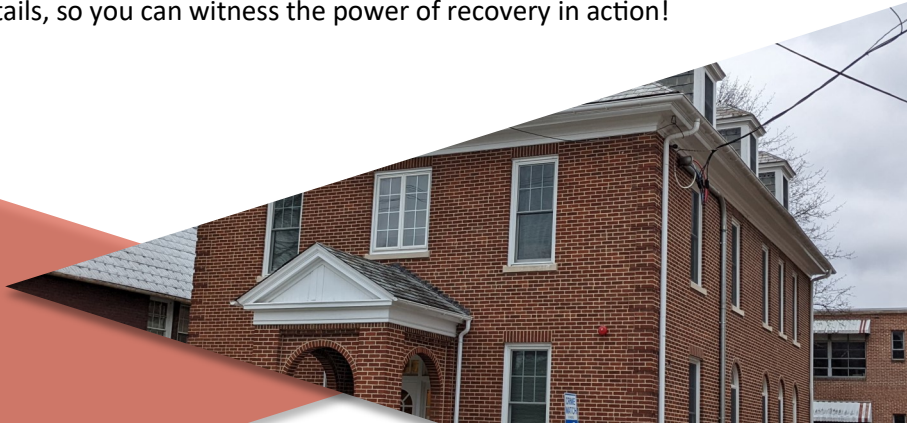
- Total County Real Property Assessed Value = \$9,997,656,600, consisting of 45,131 taxable parcels
- Total County Exempt Assessment = \$1,213,610,900, consisting of 1,967 parcels
- Total County Per Capita = 76,826 (Residents 18 and older)

Mercy House Re-Opens

Adams County is proud to announce the re-opening of Mercy House, our newly licensed Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs (DDAP) Recovery Center. This fantastic facility will provide recovery house services in partnership with The Nicholas House. Following a rigorous inspection process, Mercy House successfully completed the DDAP site inspection on June 9, ensuring compliance with all required regulations and standards. The Nicholas House is committed to creating a safe and supportive environment for individuals seeking recovery services. The original partner, RASE Project, terminated their service due to staffing and financial issues.

Mercy House is now actively accepting referrals, so if you know someone who could benefit from recovery house services, please don't hesitate to reach out. Their skilled team is ready to provide personalized care and evidence-based practices to support individuals on their journey to long-term recovery. In addition, The Nicholas House staff are actively coordinating services with local providers to offer a seamless continuum of care to our residents. By working together, we can address the diverse needs of individuals in recovery and promote their overall well-being.

The Board remains excited and optimistic regarding Mercy House and the positive impact it will have on our community. At a recent public meeting, a new resident of Mercy House came to personally thank the Board for their contribution to making this service available to him. We met with him one on one after the meeting with that interaction being very poignant. To celebrate this incredible milestone, Nicholas House is planning a future celebration event. Stay tuned for more details, so you can witness the power of recovery in action!



Thank you

Thank You Loretta Weaver

I am sure that Loretta Weaver will not miss me waking her at 5AM on a bad weather day to update the Adams County website. Loretta recently retired after 21 years serving the residents of Adams County as our webmaster and IT Help Desk expert. Loretta was always the comforting voice when you were ready to throw your computer or mobile device out the window. When Loretta started, the IT Department staff was 3. The last 10 years she saw explosive demand and growth in the IT world and in Adams County government. Loretta was recognized and honored at the June 28 commissioners public meeting. We thank Loretta for her superb service and wish her the very best! Now I guess I should find out who I call at 5AM, unless Phil Walter doesn't mind very early morning phone calls?

IT Update

The Information Technology Department recently partnered with a cybersecurity firm. The purpose of the partnership will be focused on continuous cybersecurity improvements to protect the County systems, networks, and data. Through this partnership, attention will be placed on meeting industry compliance standards and having those best practices implemented with limited impact to daily operations. This will help better position the County for the modern threats and risks cybersecurity challenges pose to mission critical technology.

Destination Gettysburg Plan Presentation to County

Destination Gettysburg recently presented their 2023-2025 Strategic Plan to the Adams County Commissioners & Adams County Planning Department. Their Vision is to be America's most welcoming and authentic destination by sharing history and creating a great experience. Their Mission is to promote Gettysburg-Adams County as a benefit and enhance our community. The plan has 6 core values Vision, Mission, Goals, Initiatives, Targets and Values. The Strategic Goals are Aggressive Sales & Marketing, Expanded Destination Alignment, Strong Sustainable Organization, & Collaborative Destination Management.

Whatever DG is doing must be working! Overnight stays continue to increase and break previous records. Congratulations to Destination Gettysburg and all the entities and individuals that recently helped Gettysburg achieve the #1 distinction of "The Most Welcoming City in the U.S." as designated by premier travel site Booking.com. The ranking was based on 240M reviews. Lancaster and State College also made the Top 20 from Pennsylvania!

American Flag Raising & Lowering Protocol

We often get questions on why the flag at County facilities are not lowered to half-staff after some occurrences. The short answer is only the President of the United States can order the U.S. flag lowered - with a few exceptions. An order by the Governor to lower flags applies to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania flag but does not apply to the United States flag - also with a few exceptions. Most often the confusion comes because some facilities that fly the United States flag chose to lower it by their own choice, or more often fail to realize that it should not be lowered unless ordered by the President of the United States or meets one of the exceptions.

Adams County does and will continue to adhere to the formal guidelines and protocol for lowering and raising the flag.

Title 4 of the U.S. Code (1942) sets out the rules on displaying the flag.



Section 7m authorizes only the president of the United States, governors, and the mayor of the District of Columbia to order the flag flown at half-staff, and then only for certain reasons. This includes the death of a present or former "principal figure" of the U.S. government and foreign dignitaries, or officials of government of any state, territory or U.S. possession, or the death of a member of the armed forces from any state, territory or possession who dies while serving on active duty.

A report prepared in 2008 by the U.S. Congressional Research Service for Congress notes that presidents "also have ordered the flag to be flown at half-staff on the death of leading citizens, not covered by law, as a mark of official tribute to their service to the United States. Martin Luther King, Jr. is among those who have been so honored.

This section of the code also specifies how long a flag should be flown at half-staff: 30 days for the president or former president; 10 days from the day of death of the vice president, the chief justice or a retired chief justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, or the speaker of the House of Representatives; from the day of death until interment of an associate justice of the Supreme Court, a secretary of an executive or military department, a former vice president, or the governor of a state, territory or possession; and on the day of death and the following day for a member of Congress.



The End

• For those who were not at the July 4 celebration at Gettysburg Rec Park you missed a great community event. Family and friends began gathering at 4:30 with lawn chairs and blankets to enjoy food trucks, music, bingo, Fourscore Brews and a fabulous fireworks display. The event was very well attended. I also was told that Carol Valley also had a similar great July 4 event at their park. Put these events on your calendar for next July 4.

- The Totem Pole season is in full swing. My wife Kathy went to see *Annie* last weekend and raved about the production. In 2 weeks, we are going to see *Million Dollar Quartet* which will be my 3rd time seeing that production. It is best called a Jukebox musical, featuring the music of Carl Perkins, Jerry Lee Lewis, Johnny Cash and Elvis Presley. In my opinion Jerry Lee Lewis steals the show every time!
- *Carlisle Brass Band*. Free open-air concert at the historic George Spangler Farm. This evening at 6PM. Gates open at 5:30. Bring your lawn chairs and drive directly to the property. Sponsored by the Gettysburg Foundation.
- *Homesteading & Green Living Expo*, Adams County Farmers Market, Saturday 8-1. Gettysburg Rec Park. Showcasing businesses, organizations and resources in Adams County that help implement environmentally friendly lifestyles.
- *Gettysburg National 19th Century Baseball Tournament & Festival*. Saturday & Sunday. 965 Pumping Station Road.
- *Music in the Park*. "Mimic Music" performs this Sunday at 6PM. Different performers on stage through every Sunday thru August 20. Free. Bring your lawn chair.
- *Majestic Summer Classics* every Wednesday evening at 7:30. Grab your popcorn and settle down in the historic and beautiful Majestic Theater. Next Wednesday the 1953 western "Shane." Cost \$8.00.

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!