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from
Adams County

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Adams County Emergency Responder Honored

On Wednesday, August 11, Fairfield resident and Frederick County Fire/Rescue Battalion Chief Josh Laird, died while fighting an active fire when the first floor of an involved house caved into the basement. Josh had a strong family ethic and was very active and respected both in his community and the fire service. Josh was a member of the Fairfield Volunteer Fire Department and the Fairfield District School Board. Josh is survived by wife Sarah and daughters Erin & Madelyn. Representing all residents of Adams County, all three Adams County Commissioners attended the impressive and poignant memorial service at Mt. St Mary's honoring Josh's life and service. Josh will be remembered perpetually for his love of family, his personality, service to his profession, positive relationship with colleagues, and service to his community!



Updated Policy for Entering County Facilities

The requirement for everyone to wear a mask indoors at the Adams County Facilities was reinstated at the end of July. Why did this change take place?

For a little background, on May 28, 2021, Adams County Court of Common Pleas entered Supervisory Order 2021-SO-30 stating that CDC guidelines will be adhered to in judicial facilities. At that time, CDC guidelines did not require vaccinated individuals to wear a mask indoors. On July 27, 2021 the CDC changed their recommendations, stating that fully vaccinated people are to wear a mask in public indoor settings that are located in geographic areas of substantial or high COVID-19 transmission, which applied to Adams County.

It is understandable that people may be frustrated/disappointed with the change. Please keep in mind that the action is in keeping with the guidance of the medical/science communities to assure we are doing our best to protect each other and our community. We have greatly valued everyone's flexibility and understanding during these everchanging times. Please be aware that these protocols could change if the CDC changes their recommendations and/or Adams County moves below the substantial transmission level.

County Operational Update

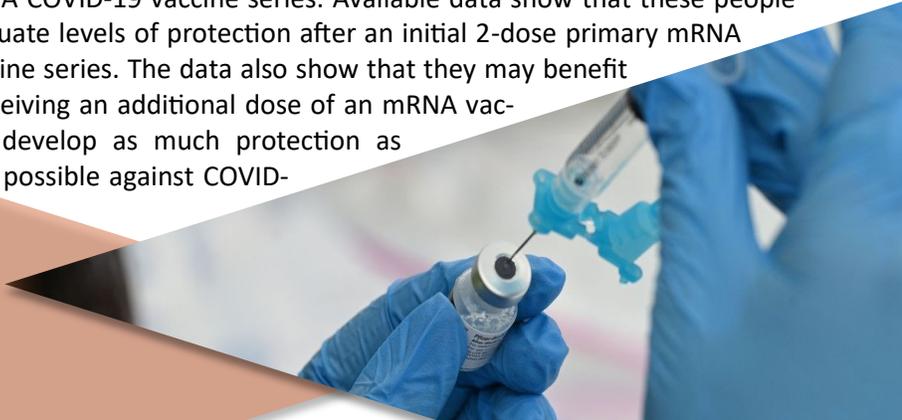
In some other County operational notes, the Courthouse and County offices remain open for business with the following operational exceptions: The Sheriff's office requires appointments for License to Carry Permits and fingerprinting, the Prothonotary's office requires appointments for passports, the District Attorney's office requires appointments, public viewing of Court proceedings is still via virtual viewing at the Human Services Building by contacting the Court Administrator at 717-337-9846 at least 24 hours prior to the hearing, and the Prison and 2nd floor of the Department of Emergency Services are closed to the public.

Board of Commissioners Urges COVID Vaccinations

Statistically only 43% of Adams County residents have been vaccinated for COVID. Given that vaccinating a high percentage of the U.S. population is a crucial strategy to curb the re-energized pandemic, the 43% number it is very concerning. In Pennsylvania 67% of the population has received one dose, while 53% have been fully vaccinated.

As of May 12, all Pennsylvanians over the age of 12 are eligible to schedule a COVID vaccination. Patients younger than 18 must be accompanied by a parent. To schedule an appointment, you may go to MyWellSpan or call 855-851-3641. You do not need to be a WellSpan client to schedule an appointment.

Effective August 13, 2021, CDC recommends that people who are moderately to severely immunocompromised receive an additional dose of an mRNA COVID-19 Vaccine (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna) at least 28 days after the completion of the initial mRNA COVID-19 vaccine series. Available data show that these people don't always build adequate levels of protection after an initial 2-dose primary mRNA COVID-19 vaccine series. The data also show that they may benefit from receiving an additional dose of an mRNA vaccine to develop as much protection as possible against COVID-





19. COVID-19 Booster Shots will begin September 20 for American adults who received the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines at least eight months after their second vaccine dose. Please consider getting this booster shot!

Human Services Building to Utilize Solar

Adams County is excited to announce its partnership with Kenyon Energy for the installation of a roof-mounted solar array on top of the Human Services Building. The practical and code requirements to reinforce the aging roof on the Human Services Building gave the County the perfect opportunity to take its first step towards embracing renewable energy.

Kenyon and its partners have been leaders in affordable solar energy for over a decade, installing solar projects for commercial giants like Walmart, Tesla, and Pepsi, along with local municipalities including Shippensburg Borough. Under the Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with Kenyon, the County will pay nothing for the installation and maintenance of the roof-mounted solar array and will receive solar-generated energy at a competitive rate (\$0.09/kwh with a 2% annual escalator over a 25 year period). The power generated from the roof-mounted array will substantially reduce the building's carbon footprint.

The solar array is a 446 kW DC fixed tilt system with Tier 1 Talesun solar panels, sized to produce all of the energy required from the Human Services Building each year (approximately 600,000 kWh). It is anticipated that the array will be installed in late fall of 2021, upon completing the reinforcement of the roof. This project will harness the same clean solar energy that has helped to make Adams County a premier agricultural environment for generations and will help to preserve the environment for generations to come.

Act 79—Sheriff's Department Needs to Expand Gun Storage

Act 79 went into effect on April 10, 2019. This law includes improvements to Pennsylvania's Protection From Abuse Act and deals primarily with increased safety provisions related to firearms in both Protection From Abuse (23. PA C.S.) and misdemeanor crimes of domestic violence (18 PA. C.S) to help prevent domestic violence. This has caused the seizure and secure storage of weapons to increase dramatically.

To meet the demand, the Adams County Sheriff's and Building/Maintenance collaborated to expand gun storage in the Sheriff's Office. The project has been completed professionally and expeditiously by B&M. This is one more example of various County departments collaborating to provide enhanced service to residents.

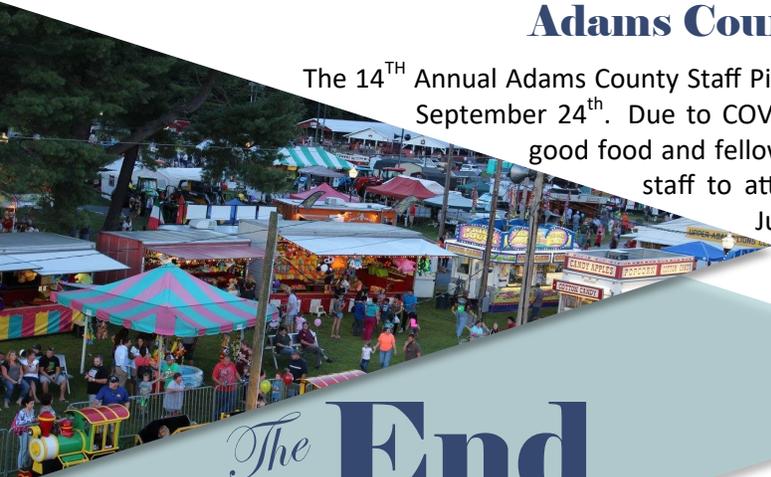


Real Estate—Co-Efficient Of Dispersion Stable

County Ordinance #3 of 2013, states that on an annual basis as of July 1, the Tax Services Department will calculate the Coefficient of Dispersion (COD) based upon the previous year's sales ratio studies. The results will guide the Board of Commissioners in determining whether to engage a reassessment task force to examine the need for a new countywide reassessment. A COD greater than 20.0 would trigger this action.

For the 2020 sales dataset, the COD has been calculated at 12.68. That is considered a strong COD and will not trigger such a task force and is well within the acceptable guidelines of the International Association of Assessing Officers (IAAO). The State, through the Tax Equalization Division (TED) of the PA Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED), has announced Adams County's Common Level Ratio to be 96.3%. This means that a property which is valued at \$100,000.00 today should be assessed at \$96,300.00. The ratio will be used in this coming year's assessment appeals. Last year's COD was 10.68% and Common Level ratio was 104.5%.

Adams County Staff Picnic



The 14TH Annual Adams County Staff Picnic is back. It will be held at the Ag Center Pavilion on Friday, September 24th. Due to COVID the usual format may be tweaked to enhance safety. The good food and fellowship will not change. The picnic begins at 11:00a.m. allowing staff to attend in shifts if necessary. As usual, the Commissioners and Judges will be on hand to serve you! More details will follow as we adapt to COVID protocols. Thank you to the folks for their dedication to make this picnic happen!

The **End**

The *South Mountain Fair* has wrapped up its 99TH edition and looks forward to celebrating their 100TH Anniversary next year. I was able to attend the SMF on a Thursday evening. There was good attendance as folks were anxious to get back to attending events. My granddaughters enjoyed the rides and animals – and as usual the chicken corn soup, milk shake and hot dogs with sauerkraut were darn good. Remember the Apple Harvest Festival is just around the corner the first two weekends of October.

The Totem Pole Playhouse goes live on stage again August 18-22 with the musical *I Do I Do*. Tickets are \$45. The *Majestic Theater Summer Classic Series* on Wednesday nights ends next Wednesday with *American Graffiti* (1973). A good deal for just \$7. Live theater is resuming at The Majestic with acts such as the Irish Musical group *Skerryvore* on September 29 and comic/impersonator Rich Little on October 15. In September and October see in-person performances of *Steel Magnolias* and the musical comedy *Murders of 1940* at *The Gettysburg Community Theater*.

Is stopped by a local fruit stand yesterday to buy peaches, a peach pie, sweet corn, and watermelon. Does it get any better than eating local sweet, tomatoes, peaches, and watermelon with dinner? I can have those as sides every day! It is a great family experience to patronize one of the many Pick Your Own orchards in Adams County!

The *Gettysburg Blue Grass Festival* kicked off yesterday through Sunday at Granite Hill Campground featuring Rhonda Vincent & The Rage as well as many other musical groups. Take home a piece of history and experience the *159TH Antietam/Sharpsburg Civil War Reenactment & Living History* at the historic Daniel Lady Farm on September 18th & 19th. Ticket cost is \$20 for one-day and \$35 for both days. Children 11-16 are \$5 and under 11 years of age are free. Bring the family to this historic farm to make those dusty old history books come alive. Go to www.gbpa.org for more information and tickets.

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!