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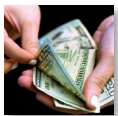
from
Adams County

written by: **Commissioner Randy Phiel**

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Adams County Broadband Update

The Adams County Community Broadband Task Force (BBTF) has been busy over the past few months making presentations to and receiving feedback from key stakeholders. Over the past few weeks, the BBTF has been reaching out to potential partners on a grant application. The county recently put out a public notice soliciting potential partners to attend the next BBTF meeting on February 8th at 1:30PM. This meeting is open to the public and will be held at the Economic Alliance offices located at 1300 Proline Place, Gettysburg. The BBTF meeting will be focused on receiving input from community partners of their interest to apply for the Covid-19 ARPA Capital Projects Fund Multi-Purpose Community Facilities Program grant. The purpose of this grant is “to carry out critical capital projects directly enabling work, education, and health monitoring”. Details about this grant are available at <https://dced.pa.gov/programs/covid-19-arpa-pa-multi-purpose-community-facilities-program/>. Potential applicants can reach out to Commissioner Qually for more information at, mqually@adamscountypa.gov

Coroner

National Coroner Week

With the recent change in Office of Adams County Coroner from Coroner Pat Felix to Francis Dutrow (who was Pat's long-time Deputy), it seemed appropriate to mention and recognize National Coroner Week.

Adams County is charged with providing many critical services that do not have a high profile and are often taken for granted. The Office of Coroner would make that list. January 21-27 was National Coroner's Week. The coroner's primary responsibility is to make inquiry into the cause of death and complete the certificate of death. An interesting and historical act is that the office of coroner (or crowner) dates back to medieval times in England when the "crown" was responsible for looking into deaths, to be sure the death taxes were paid to the king.

The job of Coroner responsibility breaks down generally into pronouncing death and what time death occurred, scene investigation, custody of the body, making positive identification, notification to next of kin, discovery of remains, issuing death certificates and completing all required reports. It obviously takes a special set of skills and character to perform this task effectively with professionalism and compassion. A huge thank you to both Pat & Dutty for their past service, and best wishes and appreciation to Dutty for continuing that legacy of service!

Adams County Council of Government 2024 Leadership

The role of ACCOG is to provide a forum by which Adams County governmental entities may meet to discuss issues of mutual interest, and to coordinate joint activities between members. The group meets once a month at the Adams County Department of Emergency Service bringing together boroughs, townships, the County, school districts and elected officials. There is normally a featured speaker on a current topic of interest with updates and reports from many entities. Barb Underwood, Collen Reamer, Bob Gordon, Dave Wheeler, and Dave Hazlett are a few of the folks whose vision created this municipal collaboration reality almost 15 years ago with the first meeting held on August 2009. I am proud to say it is not unusual to have all 3 county commissioners, the county administrator and county planning at the monthly meeting.

The 2024 officers are Carroll Valley Mayor Ron Harris, President, Cumberland Township Supervisor Chairman Shaun Phiel, Vice-President, Pat Smith Fairfield Borough Council President, Treasurer, and Butler/Menallen Township Secretary Danielle Helwig, Secretary. Thank you to these folks for stepping up to benefit our community!

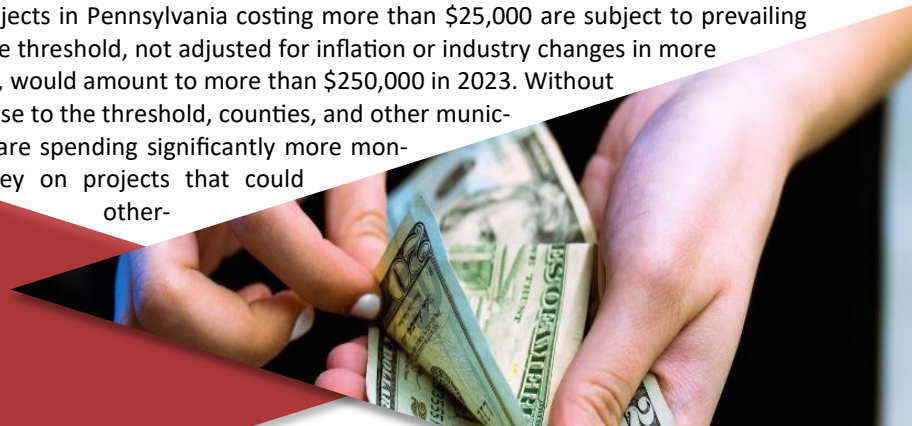
Courthouse Glass Re-cycling Now Available

The new Adams County Glass Recycling Initiative has been well publicized. Through the collaboration of Adams County, and several community volunteer groups and individuals, clean glass can be dropped off to volunteers at the county complex beside the 911 Center (230 Greenmyer Lane) on designated Saturday's. During the winter it will be the 1st Saturday of the month from 9AM-12PM. Drop-off opportunities are expected to be expanded in the Spring.

As part of this glass re-cycling initiative, the County has placed a green container, clearly marked "Glass Recycling Only" in the County buildings. Thank you in advance for doing our part to recycle during our work hours.

Prevailing Wage Threshold Impacts Projects + Taxpayers

Publicly funded construction projects in Pennsylvania costing more than \$25,000 are subject to prevailing wage requirements. The threshold, not adjusted for inflation or industry changes in more than 60 years, would amount to more than \$250,000 in 2023. Without an increase to the threshold, counties, and other municipalities, are spending significantly more money on projects that could other-



wise be utilized in other areas of their overall budgets. Prevailing wage requirements can increase the cost of many projects, generally by 10 to 15% depending on the region in which the project is being done. Projects hitting the threshold include lawn maintenance contracts, broadband projects, and the construction of prisons, juvenile detention facilities, and local courthouses, among many others.

In 2013 the state did amend prevailing wage from the threshold of \$25,000 to \$100,000 for only highway and bridge projects. 18 states now have no prevailing wage law with 10 of those having repealed prevailing wage. From the counties perspective Prevailing Wage Reform is needed by eliminating the prevailing wage mandate for state, local government, and school districts to free up taxpayer dollars for other priorities, allow school districts and local government to opt out of wage mandates, or raise the threshold at which prevailing wage is applied. Hopefully, the legislature will act on some point on these reforms.



The End

- **Erths Dinosaur Zoo Live**, Majestic Theater, 3PM, Saturday. Observe and interact with an eye-popping collection of amazingly life-like dinosaurs and other creatures presented in a theatrical performance. Tickets \$20-\$55.
- **History Kids Reading Club Book Activities**, Saturday, 11AM-12PM. Gettysburg National Military Park Visitor Center. Family activity with indoor or outdoor led adventure. Free with no registration required.
- **Frederick Douglas Returns to Gettysburg**, Adams County Historical Society, Saturday 7PM. Join Frederick Douglas, the former slave, writer, orator, and abolitionist, interpreted by Nathan M. Richardson for an hour-long conversation reflecting on his life and times including slavery and the civil war. Free to members \$10 non-members.
- **Healthy Adams County Physical Fitness Task Force Winter Hike**, Sunday, Appalachian Trail Hermitage Trail to Chimney Rocks. Meet at Old Forge Picnic Grounds, 8006 Old Forge Road Waynesboro. Experience wonderful views. Hike returns via the AT. Moderate uphill hike with breaks. 281-870-8813.
- **Gettysburg Community Theater Show Cabaret**. February 2-11. This classical musical set in Berlin nightclub will have a live band on stage. Gettysburg Community Theater only has 80 seats and tickets for some performances are almost sold out. Tickets \$20 in advance and \$25 at door. www.gettysburgcommunitytheater.org
- **Live Thursday Music at Mansion House**. 6:00PM-8:30PM. 2/8 Morning Sky, 2/15 Jeff & Julia, 2/22, Tom Edmond, 2/29 Mitch Morrill. No charge!
- **Lincoln Social Winter Market, Kids Café. Next Level Trivia. Country Line Dancing & Frist Friday Comedy**. Every Saturday features the Winter Indoor Market from 9AM-1PM with crafts, sweets, and \$4 breakfast. Parents and caregivers can bring the little ones to the play area from 11AM-1PM on Thursdays and Fridays and socialize with other adults while the kids play. Next Level Trivia is every other Thursday at 6PM. The other Thursday at 6:30PM put on your dancing shoes (or cowboy boots) for country line dancing with Lars & Dana. Dancing \$10. First Friday Stand-Up Comedy tonight at 8PM. \$20 on-line and \$25 at door.
- **Greenmount Fire Company Valentines Breakfast**. Sunday, February 11 from 7PM-10:30PM. All you can eat. Adults \$13, children \$6 and under 6 free.
- **Buchanan Valley Volunteer Fire Department Shrimp & Chicken Feed**. This Saturday. Doors open at 4PM. Meal at 6PM. Adults \$30, children \$15, under 5 free.
- **St James Lutheran Church Annual Fastnacht Sale**. This is a long-time delicious Adams County tradition. I can also tell you from experience to order ahead because even though they make a zillion - they sell out! Sunday, Feb 11, 8AM-12PM, Monday, Feb 12, 3-6pm, Tuesday, Feb 13, 5AM-10AM. Pre-order at StJamesGettysburg.org or call 717-337-1372.
- **Sunderman G.C. Conservatory Wind Symphony Family Pops Concert**. Majestic Theater, Sunday, Feb 18, at 3PM. Adults \$5 and free 18 and under.

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!