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from
Adams County

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In this issue...



Page 2

WellSpan Covid Update
Community Giving Spree
Largest Per Capita In
Nation



Page 3

County Promotes
Affordable Housing
Project



Page 4

County Vying for "PA AG
Discovery Center"
The End

9-1-1

CALL IF YOU CAN
TEXT IF YOU CAN'T

County Launches Text-to-911

Citizens in Adams County can now send a short message service (SMS) text message to 911 for emergency help when unable to make a 911 voice call. This service is available to all wireless customers beginning on December 15th.

According to Adams County Department of Emergency Services Director Warren Bladen, Text-to-911 was not developed as a replacement to a voice call to 911 in an emergency situation, but rather as an enhancement to reach 911 services in three specific situations: 1) The caller is hearing/voice impaired, 2) a medical emergency renders the person incapable of speech, or 3) when speaking out loud would put the caller in danger, such as a home invasion, a domestic violence incident, or an active shooter scenario. When in an emergency,



**CALL IF
YOU CAN.
TEXT IF
YOU CAN'T.**

all wire-
less callers should remember
to “call if you can; text if you can’t”.

Using a phone to call 911 is still the most efficient way to reach emergency help. Texting is not always instantaneous, which is critical during a life-threatening emergency. It may take slightly longer to dispatch emergency services in a text-to-911 situation because of the time involved: Someone must enter the text, the message must go over the network, and the 911 telecommunicator must read the text and then text back.

Depending on your SMS service, there may be a character limit, so give the most important information first. Providing location information and nature of the emergency in the first text message is imperative, since the 911 center will initially only receive a coarse location. Text abbreviations, emoticons or slang should never be used so that the intent of the dialogue can be as clear as possible.

As with any 911 call, the texting function should only be used for emergency situations that require an immediate response from police, fire, or emergency medical services. For non-emergency situations, customers should contact their local public safety agency via a 10-digit non-emergency number (717-334-8101).

WellSpan Covid Update

WellSpan reported they have gone from 321 COVID-19 positive patients in their hospitals on December 2nd to 399 on December 8th. They expect those numbers to continue to rise. All of their hospitals are well over 100% capacity. WellSpan is greatly concerned with the influx of more patients in the coming days and weeks. WellSpan had previously reported that over 93% of their patients on ventilators are unvaccinated, 92% of COVID intensive care patients are unvaccinated, and 88% of hospitalized COVID patients are unvaccinated.

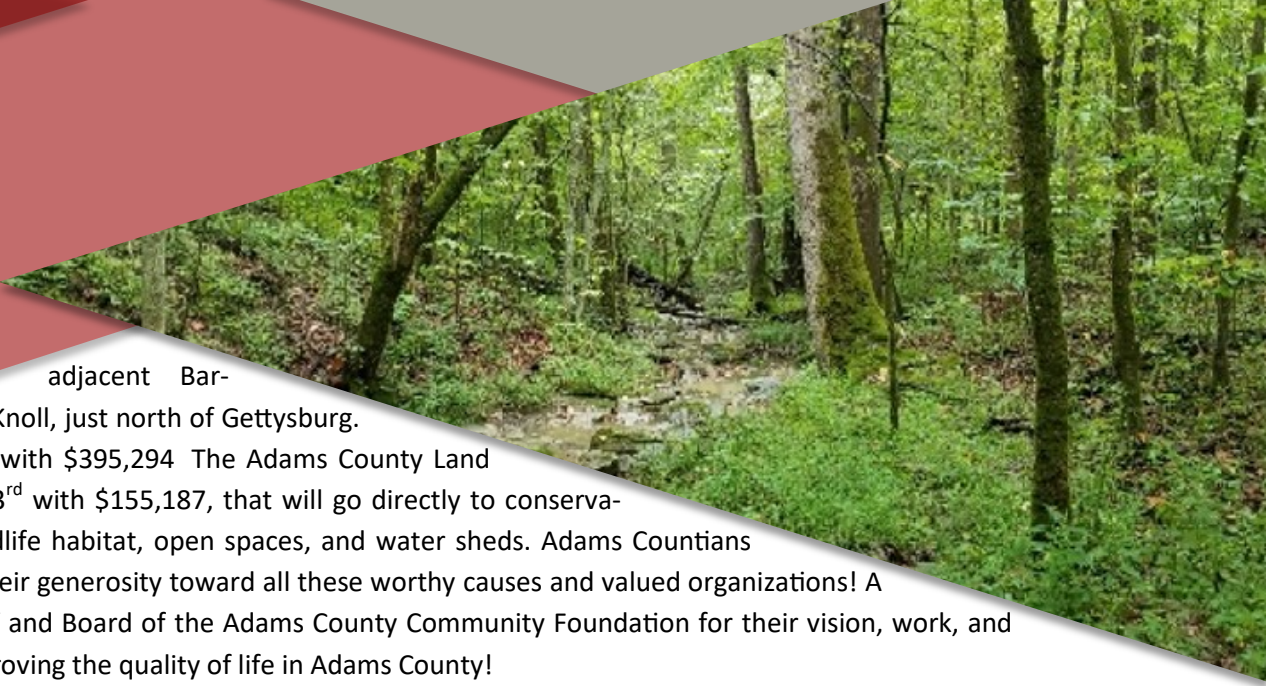
Medical facility capacity constraints don't just impact COVID-19 patients, but also anyone else seeking emergency care for heart attacks or strokes. WellSpan is striving to make sure they have beds available for all who seek emergency care. Thus, WellSpan announced they are also postponing elective procedures at many of their facilities to ensure enough space for those seeking emergency care.

Community Giving Spree Largest Per Capita in Nation

The Adams County Giving Spree shattered previous years giving by bringing in \$3.08 million to be distributed among 120 local non-profits. That total surpassed last year's \$2.14 million. The results were provided on Friday at The Great Reveal at the Gettysburg Fire Department. It was also announced that the Adams County Giving Spree raised more money per capita than any other Giving Day organization in the country.

The Adams County Historical Society was the largest recipient with \$789,533. They are in the process of raising \$10 million for a new museum and artifact storage facility,





adjacent Bar-
low's Knoll, just north of Gettysburg.

SCCAP was next with \$395,294 The Adams County Land Conservancy ranked 3rd with \$155,187, that will go directly to conservation of farmland, wildlife habitat, open spaces, and water sheds. Adams Countians should be proud of their generosity toward all these worthy causes and valued organizations! A shout out to the Staff and Board of the Adams County Community Foundation for their vision, work, and contributions for improving the quality of life in Adams County!

Adams County Promotes Affordable Housing Project

Adams County was pleased to share the groundbreaking on December 9, 2021, of an affordable housing unit, Meadow View, in Cumberland Township. Meadow View Townhomes are being developed by Luminest Inc, a not-for-profit Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) with the support of Adams County. According to the Central Adams Joint Comprehensive Plan, "New housing should be specifically targeted to Suburban Residential and Neighborhood Mixed Use areas" and "Accommodate at least 75% to 80% of the new housing demand within Designated Growth Areas," which includes Cumberland Township. The construction of Meadow View Townhomes will provide the Market Area with new, high quality rental housing units.

The current rental housing stock in the market area is old with over 50 percent of units having been built prior to 1960. Meadow View will be an autonomous development with ownership, property management and supportive services provided by Luminest Inc, which will be a complement to the adjacent Misty Ridge campus. Located on 5.64 acres of vacant land, 36 townhouses arranged in nine residential buildings will be constructed with a separate community building. There will be 24 two-bedroom and 12 three-bedroom units. Four will be fully mobility impaired accessible and one unit will be designed for persons with hearing and visual needs. Two units will have rents affordable to households earning 20% or less of the area median income (AMI), 17 units are targeted to at or below 50% AMI, and the remaining 17 units will be targeted to households at or below 60% AMI. The community building will contain a community room as well as a management and supportive services office. Maintenance will have a workspace and office as well. There will be an onsite property manager, supportive services coordinator, and maintenance mechanic to serve the residents and community.

Each home will be one or two stories with a front porch, rear patio, garage, and driveway; the two-bedroom units will have vaulted living/dining rooms ceiling and the three-bedroom units have an area for play/study. The community building will provide additional amenity space consisting of a community room with a full kitchen. Meadow View Townhomes is designed to achieve National Green Building Standard Silver Level and Zero Energy Ready Home Program certifications. Affordable Housing is one of Adams County's most significant needs and the Adams County Board of Commissioners applaud this project!



Adams County Vying For “PA AG Discovery Center”

The Pennsylvania Dairy Association is on a path toward facilitating a “Pennsylvania Ag Discovery Center” most likely to be located in South-Central Pennsylvania. Several counties, including Adams County, are in the process of making presentations to the association’s search committee to illustrate the appropriateness of the facility in their county. On Friday, December 10, an Adams County collaborative group made an outstanding presentation to the search committee. The presentation group included the Adams County Commissioners, Adams County Planning, Adams County Economic Development, and Destination Gettysburg. Congressman Joyce’s office, Representative Ecker and Representative Moul (Chris Kimple) all were in attendance.

The Pennsylvania Ag Discovery Center would result in economic benefits, as well as educating the public to the diverse agriculture industry that Pennsylvania offers. We believe that Adams County offers outstanding potential sites, diverse county-wide agriculture, Gettysburg National Military Park, an existing tourism industry to draw from, partner and expand, + easy access from urban centers. The collaborative effort between the groups for the presentation with such short notice is to be applauded. The group understood that to be the recipient of this complex would be both significant and meaningful given our Agricultural, Historical & Tourism heritage. We will keep residents informed of this exciting project as it develops.



The **End**

I had the pleasure of attending two local Christmas events last weekend. On Friday evening *The Christmas Tuba Fest* in front of the Gettysburg Hotel was well attended with spectators standing on all quadrants of Lincoln Square. There were brass participants from across the region with the youngest being 14 and the oldest 80. Sing-along Christmas Carols were accompanied with hot chocolate courtesy of The Hotel & Destination Gettysburg. Norman Rockwell would have been proud! I also took my 4-year-old granddaughter to see *A Christmas Carol* at The Majestic Theater. I realized there was some risk in taking a 4-year-old and I would report her attention span as “fair” but she looked really cute! If you are feeling Bah Humbug - it is a wonderful production that is guaranteed to provide you some Christmas Spirit! You still have time to see *A Christmas Carol* this weekend before it’s gone for another year. Last Friday & Saturday was also the 2nd weekend of The Gettysburg Christmas Festival, and the associated events, combined with good weather, seemed to result in brisk activity downtown. Let’s hope that 2022 brings an even large festival and New Year’s Eve celebration!

A reminder that the formal Swearing In of newly elected officials will take place in the Historic Courtroom at 1:00 & 2:00 on Thursday, December 30. County officials will be sworn in at 1:00 and municipal officials at 2:00. Please check with Court Administration as to COVID protocols.

As we put this final 2021 TGIF issue to bed, the Adams County Board of Commissioners wishes you and your family a Happy, Blessed and Healthy Christmas and New Year! 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!