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from
Adams County

written by: Commissioner Randy Phiel

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Earth Day Celebration at Ag Center

On Monday, the Adams County Conservation District, in partnership with Penn State Extension of Adams County, held the first ever *Earth Extravaganza* at the Adams County Agricultural and Natural Resources Center. The Earth Day event was a gathering of 14 environmental organizations and agencies offering a variety of engaging activities and programs suitable for audiences of all ages. There were workshops, interactive displays, story times, fly-casting demonstrations, guided tours, and a soil pit to explore. The event saw over 150 visitors, including Commissioner Martin and I, learning how to preserve and enhance our precious resources and discovering what makes Adams County unique. Stay tuned next year for what looks to be an annual event!



Butler Township Complex Groundbreaking

Congratulations to Butler Township! Commissioners Martin and I were pleased to attend the groundbreaking ceremony on April 18 for their new 8400 sq. ft. township complex just outside Biglerville. It was a long 7-year process, for previous and existing supervisors, but the project will soon come to fruition aided by state grants facilitated by Senator Doug Mastriano and State Representative Torren Ecker. As part of this improvement, Butler will potentially have a new modern voting location.

Adams County Conservation District Envirothon

On April 9th, the Adams County Conservation District held the 39th Adams County Envirothon. The Envirothon program is designed to test high school and middle school students' knowledge of natural resources and environmental sciences. The Envirothon's goal is to provide future generations with the ability to address the complex natural resource concerns facing today's world and the challenges of the future, as well as introduce students to the job opportunities and career paths that exist in the environmental field. The Adams County Conservation District hosted 126 students from nine local high schools and middle schools to test their knowledge about Forestry, Wildlife, Aquatics, Soils and a Current Issue this year of Roots and Resiliency: Forest Stewardship in a Canopy of Change. The winning team of the high school Envirothon were the Great Horned Owls from Littlestown. The winners of the middle school Envirothon were the Colonial Climate Crusaders from New Oxford.

Affordable Senior Housing

At the April 16 meeting, the Board acted upon a recommendation from Sherri Clayton-Williams, Director, on behalf of the Adams County Act 137 Housing Committee, that the Board of Commissioners approved a grant from the Housing Trust Fund in the amount of \$250,000.00 to Luminest to support the construction of 40 affordable senior rental housing apartment units, veterans preferred, to be located on a parcel adjacent to Misty Ridge.

At the same meeting the Board of Commissioners approved the re-appointment of Commissioner James E. Martin to the Adams County Housing Authority Board of Directors for a four-year term, effective April 1, 2025 through March 31, 2029.

Adams County Supports Municipalities Websites

Adams County's IT Department is proud to support website services for Adams County municipalities. There is no doubt that municipal websites provide valuable and timely information to municipal residents.

At the April 16 Commissioners Public Meeting the Board of Commissioners signed Memorandums of Understanding with the following municipalities concerning Website services provided by County IT: Abbottstown Borough, Arendtsville Borough, Bendersville Borough, Biglerville Borough, Bonneauville Borough, Butler Township, Cumberland Township, Freedom Township, Hamiltonban Township, Highland Township, Huntington Township, Liberty Township, Littlestown Borough, McSherrystown Borough, Mount Pleasant Township, Reading Township, Reading Township Municipal Authority and Tyrone Township.

The terms of the MOUs commence on April 16, 2025, and terminate December 31, 2025.

AG Land Preservation Approval

Preserving our Agricultural Lands in Adams County is preserving our heritage and quality of life. At the April 16 meeting the Board accepted a recommendation from Ellen Dayhoff, Rural Resource Manager, that the Board of Commissioners approve the Agreement for the Sale and Purchase of an Agricultural Conservation Easement with Ervin and Audrey Ridinger and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. This Agreement provided that the Commonwealth and the County will jointly purchase a conservation

easement consisting of 178.86 acres of agricultural land in Butler Township, Adams County owned by the Ridinger's at a total cost of \$536,580.00, of which the County will pay 10% (\$53,658.00) and the Commonwealth will pay the remainder as well as closing costs.

CYS - Independent Living Annual Recognition

Last evening, I had the pleasure of attending and delivering some opening remarks at the annual Adams County Children & Youth Services Independent Living "It's All About You" recognition. Judge Simpson also made remarks. This is a "dressy affair" held at Gettysburg College - with dressy meaning different things to different folks! It never grows old for me recognizing and honoring the progress and achievements of these young adults. The evening results in much applause, a lot of smiles and a few tears. Most of the participants have had to pull themselves up from varied and difficult situations. This program helps them transition to independence in the real adult world, providing an increased chance of success.

Although the focus is on the program participants as it should be, CYS staff, parents, caregivers, and mentors are also in attendance. You are thus surrounded by many unselfish and unsung heroes. To these heroes – important work well done! Thank You!

Emergency Preparedness Class Scheduled For May 1

Get your staff ready for the busy summer season with Destination Gettysburg's upcoming event for businesses and organizations throughout Adams County. This session on emergency preparedness, "To the Rescue Starts with You" will be held on Thursday, May 1 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Gettysburg Fire Department Social Hall, 35 Stratton St., Gettysburg. Light snacks and refreshments will be available. The deadline to sign up is April 28. Through this effort, Destination Gettysburg aims to create community engagement and support between businesses, front-line workers and our local law enforcement, fire department, emergency responders parking enforcement, EMS and the National Park Service. At this free event, you and your staff will hear brief overviews targeted to business owners and front-line employees who may encounter a variety of situations in or near their businesses. While attendees will not earn certification through this session, they will hear more about how to obtain those relevant certifications. Please RSVP prior to April 28. For more info, contact Amy Welsh, Director of Partnership, at amy@destinationgettysburg.com.



The End

- **Farmers Market 2025 Opening Day.** Rec Park. Saturday 8-1.
- **Spring Open House Battlefield Harley.** Friday, Saturday & Sunday. Live music, vendors and food trucks. Scenic test rides.
- **"Brothers At The Battle Of Gettysburg."** Gettysburg Foundation Spring Muster Friday Evening Program. Friday 7PM. GNMP Visitor Center.
- **Spring Blossom Event.** Hollabaugh Brothers. Saturday 10-3. Sample delicious food and the beautiful apple blossoms at the farm.
- **Adams County Apple Blossom Festival.** National Apple Museum Biglerville. Saturday 9-3. Food and beverage vendors, 30 craft vendors, live music, bluegrass, comedy, hourly raffles, face painting, mini petting zoo, and carriage rides. Free!
- **The 2025 Spring Stream Clean For Earth Day. Sachs Mill Covered Bridge.** Join the Gettysburg Nature Alliance to clean up the stream, fields and roadway leading to and around the Sachs Mill Bridge. Saturday all day from 9AM. Check in at the Nature Alliance Barn and get your supplies.
- **Gettysburg Festival of Races.** All-star complex. Registration and Sports Expo on Saturday and North/South Marathon, Blue/Gray ½ Marathon and 5K on Sunday.
- **Gettysburg Children's Choir.** Music Gettysburg. Lutheran Seminary, Sunday 4PM. Free!
- **Sunderman Conservancy Opera Workshop.** The musical culmination of a semesters study. Majestic Theater. Friday 7:30. \$5.00. Students free.
- **Gettysburg Film Festival – Victory in WWII.** May 8-11. Majestic Theater. Featuring many films and celebrities including Ken Burns. Ticket prices vary.

No matter what you do, get out there and experience all the historical, agricultural, recreational, natural, and cultural opportunities that beautiful Adams County has to offer!