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*from*  
*Adams County*

written by: **Commissioner Randy Phiel**

February 23, 2018

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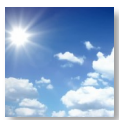
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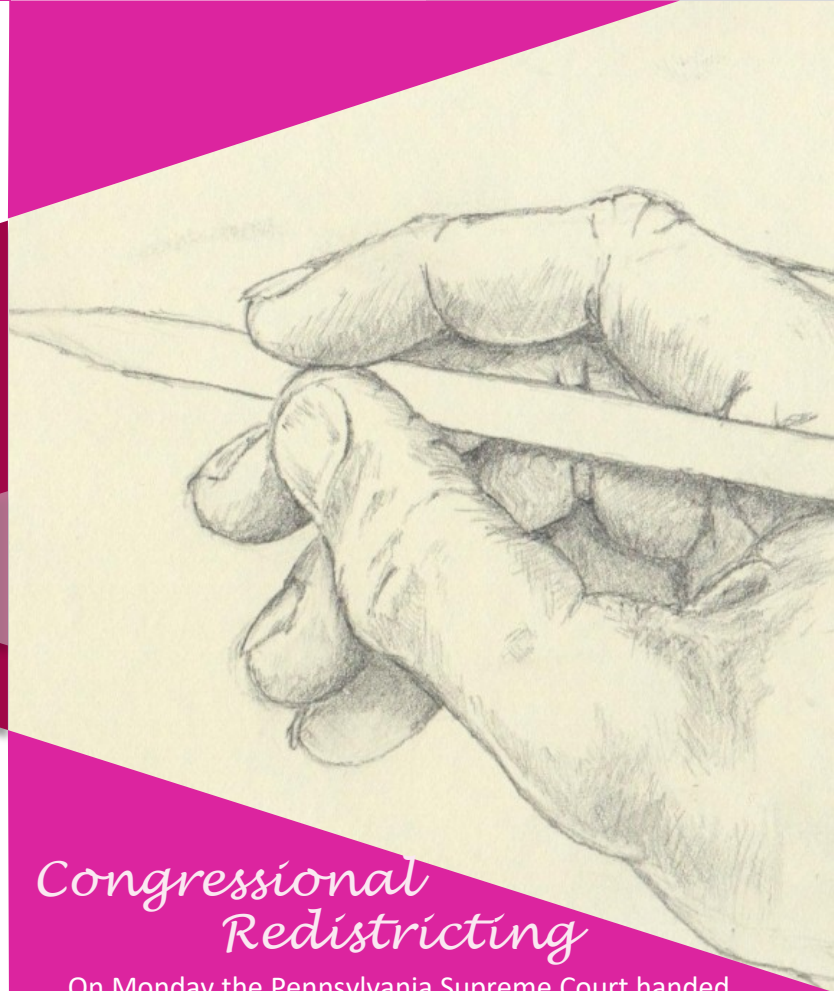
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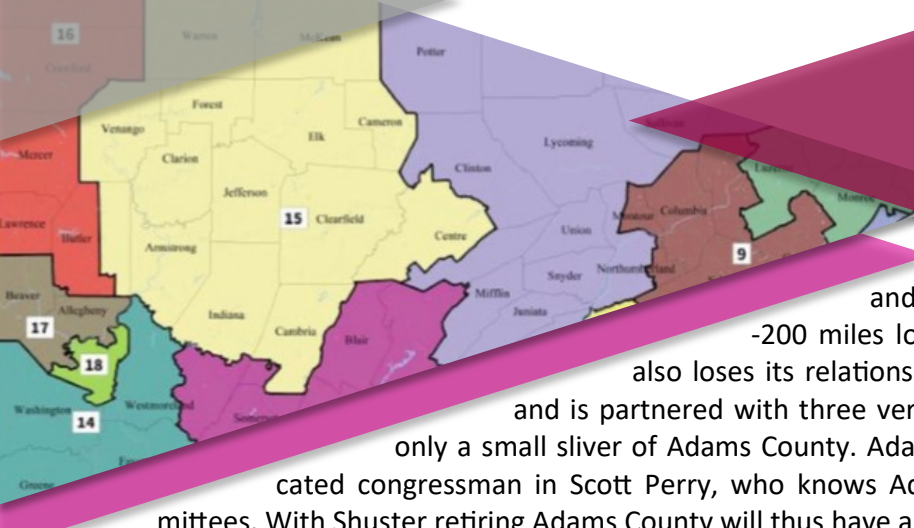
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## *Congressional Redistricting*

On Monday the Pennsylvania Supreme Court handed down a new Congressional District map. Charges of gerrymandering against Republicans by Democrats, and counter charges of less than objective mapping decisions made by the state Democratic Executive branch and Supreme Court have and continue to reverberate. PA Republicans say they will appeal the State Supreme Court decision to the US Supreme Court, who earlier this month rejected an emergency appeal on the matter. Until Monday, many Congressman including Scott Perry, did not know who their constituents would be as other candidates circulated petitions.

For Adams County the change is significant and possibly detrimental. Most of Adams County would be on the far eastern end of Congressman Bill Shuster's 9<sup>th</sup> District. The District goes clear out to western PA



and is probably 150  
-200 miles long. Adams County  
also loses its relationship with York County  
and is partnered with three very rural counties. Perry retains  
only a small sliver of Adams County. Adams County is losing a veteran and dedi-  
cated congressman in Scott Perry, who knows Adams County and is on several influential com-  
mittees. With Shuster retiring Adams County will thus have a freshman congressman with no seniority.

According to the PA Department of State, nomination petition packets will be available for congressional candi-  
dates by the end of this week. Congressional candidates will follow a revised circulating and filling schedule or-  
dered by the court. The revised petition filing schedule, which applies only to congressional candidates, allows for  
circulating and filing petitions from February 27 through March 20. There are 54 counties that lie entirely within a  
single district, so candidates for those congressional districts will be able to identify significant numbers of voters  
even before the updated lists are ready.

Having legislators whom we know, and who know us and our issues, has been extremely important during this  
Adams County Board of Commissioner's tenure. We pride ourselves on those relationships. We admittedly have  
some concerns about the situation that has developed for Adams County and await the US Supreme Court deci-  
sion.

## Pennsylvania Budget Outlook & County Impact

On Tuesday, Feb. 6, Gov. Wolf delivered his fourth budget address, announcing his \$32.9 billion fiscal proposal for  
FY 2018-2019 before a joint session of the House and Senate. The proposal represents an increase of about  
\$989.8 million, or 3.1 percent, over FY 2017-2018. The proposal does not call for any new broad-based tax in-  
creases such as a sales or income tax, but Gov. Wolf again called for a gas severance tax. Rather than a percentage  
-based tax, though, the governor recommended a flat tax per thousand cubic feet that would range from four  
cents when natural gas prices range up to \$3.00, to seven cents when natural gas prices are \$6.00 or more. The  
current impact fee under Act 13 of 2012 would remain unchanged.

The governor's plan again recommends consolidation of several state agencies, including the consolidation of the  
Department of Corrections and the Board of Probation and Parole, as well as the restructuring of the current  
Health and Human Services agencies into the Department of Health and Human Services. Unlike his FY 2017-2018  
proposal, however, this restructuring would not include the departments of Aging or Drug and Alcohol Programs.

From Adams County's perspective, the governor's proposal represents generally level funding across line items,  
particularly in human services, but does include several positive elements such as funding for a waiting list initia-  
tive to move individuals with intellectual disabilities and autism into services, and state and federal funding to  
address the opioid epidemic. As the process goes forward, top priority for 2018 remains advocacy  
for human services funding, recognizing that county capacity to meet service needs has  
been compromised by a steady decrease in funding over more than a  
decade, at the same time that mandates and service  
needs continue to increase.





## **Staff Well Being Opportunities**

The HR Department reminds you that our first 2018 Well-Being Challenge “Kick the Can” continues into week #3. We have nearly 80 people participating. Please remember to report your weekly totals by close of business on Tuesdays. Also, remember to visit the ADP Portal for Well-Being updates and reimbursement opportunities. Thank you HR for arranging the opportunity and to the 150 employees who took advantage of our annual onsite multiphasic screenings over the last two weeks. This is a great pathway to identifying possible health issues and maintaining good health.

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## **Adams County Children & Youth Services Training**

Adams County Children and Youth and Adams County Courts had the opportunity to host a training on February 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, sponsored through AOPC, on Family Finding. The Family Finding model focuses on identifying relatives and other supportive adults who are willing to become permanent connections for children that are either in out of home care, or at risk of entering out of home care. Upon completion of the process, children have a range of commitments from adults who are able to provide permanency, sustainable relationships within a kinship system, and support in the transition to adulthood and beyond. Child outcomes may include increased reunification rates, improved well-being, and placement stability, transition out of the child welfare system, decreased re-entry rates, and stronger sense of belonging for children.

Family Finding works to significantly increase the number of relatives and other important known adult connections and involve the supportive adults into the day-to-day support, planning and decision making activities for children and adolescents in out-of-home care. The training was very interactive and focuses on expanding and sharpening the skills of workers in family meeting facilitation in conjunction with Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice Professionals and other key stakeholders in our community. The training also focuses on expanding strategies, techniques and activities to create powerful family and community meetings that move planning and decision-making teams to action on behalf of children and their families.

The Board of Commissioners commends Adams County Children & Youth Services, Adams County Courts and APOC for being proactive in facilitating this training. There were 80 participants, including county employees and members of our community that participated in this training. It was truly a gift to Adams County and will result in enhanced and improved services to the children and families that we serve.





# Spotted Lantern Fly News

Some good news on the Spotted Lantern which is plaguing nearby counties and a threat to our Adam County fruit industry. It has had a devastating impact in Berks County and has been identified as close as Lancaster County. U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue recently committed \$17.5 million in new emergency funding for Pennsylvania to combat the spotted lanternfly. The insect is an invasive species that has spread to 13 southeast Pennsylvania counties and could have a significant negative impact on the state's agriculture industry. The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture has been working in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, other state agencies and partners to prevent the spreading of the spotted lanternfly. In a related move, Gov. Wolf proposed nearly \$1.6 million in funding specifically for spotted lanternfly surveillance and response as part of his FY 2018-2019 budget plan. In Adams County, we hope and will strive to advocate that some of that funding be funneled to Penn State Fruit Research & Extension Center.

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## Law Enforcement Firearms Training Range

With spring just around the corner, the prospect of completing the Adams County Law Enforcement Firearms Training Range beside the 911 Center grow closer. Actual firing range construction, overall footprint, berms and lanes were completed late last fall; but too late to use. This spring the memorial flag plaza, shoot/storage building and pavilion will be completed using volunteer labor and some donated materials.

The community stepped forward to make this long anticipated and needed training facility happen at no taxpayer cost. The Adams County Law Enforcement Association is still seeking funds to complete the structure phase this spring. Donations can be mailed to the Adams County Law Enforcement Association (ACLEA), 1935 Mummasburg Road, Gettysburg, PA. 17325. For more information contact Sheriff Jim Muller at 717-337-9828 or Commissioner Randy Phiel at 717-337-9820.



*The* **End**

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This week the outside thermometer in my vehicle registered 79 degrees. That afternoon I was actually on a ladder, in my shorts and t-shirt painting an upstairs outside window I had no intention of painting until spring. I see in the forecast it will be in the 60's several days next week, so quickly get those outside tasks completed before March comes roaring in with winds and an always potential blizzard. I am getting a bit tired of the rain and mud.

I really enjoyed going to the BSA Troop 73 Benefit Spaghetti Dinner/Buffer at General Pickett's on Monday evening. This is an annual affair with all proceeds benefiting a charitable cause. I have attended the dinner for years, as my two sons were troop members and Solicitor John Hartzell was the troop leader for many, many years. Besides different types of spaghetti, it is an amazing smorgasbord of food at a very reasonable price, with all proceeds benefiting the community. There seemed to be a great turnout for this year's beneficiary Ruth's Harvest.

The BSA Troop 73 dinner is only one example of the many fundraising activities in Adams County that only succeed with your support. 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.