

T G

I F

from
Adams County

written by: Commissioner Randy Phiel

May 9, 2025

In this issue...

Page 2

Gettysburg/ Adams Chamber of
Commerce Annual Awards
Presentation



National Tourism Week

Student Billboard Unveiling

Page 3

Gettysburg Foundation Opens
Immersive Experience at
Visitor Center



Adams County Fallen Officers
Memorial Program May 30 At
911 Center

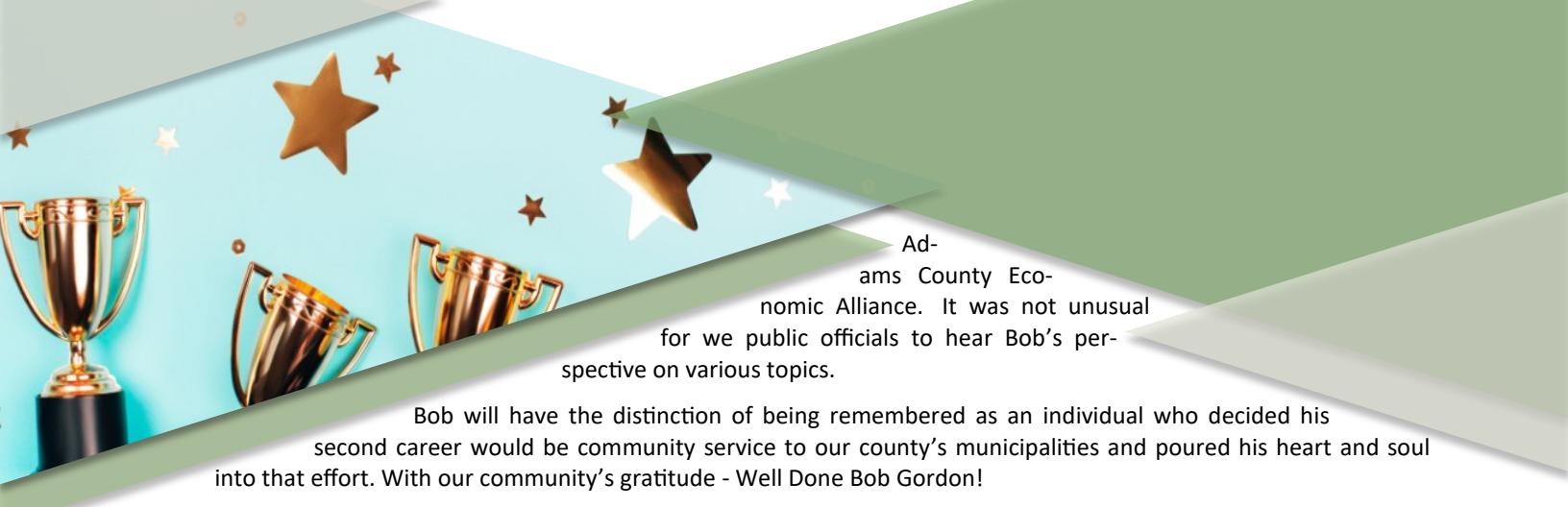
The End



Well Done Bob Gordon!

For the past 15 years it would have been impossible to have been involved in Adams County municipal government and not have crossed paths, be in meetings, or be on a committee without knowing Hamiltonban Township Supervisor Bob Gordon. Bob passed away at the age of 92 on Saturday. Bob continued to make a significant contribution, commitment and presence at Adams County Council of Government (ACCOG) meetings and committees until recently when his failing health required him to leave the area.

Bob was a guy whose commitment to municipal government excellence went far beyond his own township. Although his obituary spoke volumes about his vast and impressive banking career, it did not speak enough regarding his "second career" as an advocate for Adams County municipal government. Bob was one of the key founders of ACCOG and was very active in the Adams County Township Officials Association. He was the straw that stirred the drink on several ACCOG committees. Bob also had served on the Board of the



Adams County Economic Alliance. It was not unusual for we public officials to hear Bob's perspective on various topics.

Bob will have the distinction of being remembered as an individual who decided his second career would be community service to our county's municipalities and poured his heart and soul into that effort. With our community's gratitude - Well Done Bob Gordon!

Gettysburg/Adams Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards Presentation

On Thursday evening, at The Barn At Herrs Ridge, I had the pleasure of presenting four very special Recognition Awards to deserving Adams County recipients.

- *Small Businessperson(s)* – Kim & Jeff Erdman. VIBE Performing Arts
- *Small Business* – Weikerts Livestock
- *Non-profit of the Year* – Totem Pole Playhouse. 75TH Anniversary.
- *Educator of the Year* – Jennifer Fleming, St Francis Xavier Catholic School

National Tourism Week

Tourism and Agriculture are the lynchpin economic drivers in Adams County. Adams County tourism brings in \$780M annually in visitor spending, generating tax revenue of \$80M and directly supporting 5,000 jobs.

This week May 4-10, is *National Travel & Tourism Week*. I wanted to take this opportunity to give a shout out to Destination Gettysburg, and all the incredible workforce and businesses that have made Adams County such an established, vibrant and desired destination – beginning in 1863 immediately after the battle! During the Gettysburg 150th Battle Anniversary in 2013, visioning forward, Destination Gettysburg launched a campaign “*It’s Not Just About the Battle.*” Although the fundamental planks of the Battle, Address and Eisenhower will never change, the Adams County tourism industry is ever evolving, with the need for activity diversity, and generational demands, requiring both pragmatic and creative vision.

I will be attending a Destination Gettysburg Community breakfast this morning to celebrate Tourism Week. Also note that 24 area businesses and attractions are offering 50% off to locals to celebrate the week. Yes, folks like Gettysburg Tours and the NPS Visitor Center are 1/2 price! Kudos to all the folks in our community who make Adams County’s ever-expanding menu of travel experiences a reality!

Student Billboard Unveiling

Last Friday, I had the privilege of being invited to the unveiling of the Safe Driving Student Billboard in New Oxford. New Oxford High School students Ellie Diehl and Mina Gladson submitted the winning design, depicting a racetrack and urging drivers to slow down. The billboard is located just east of the Bourbon Mill Restaurant in New Oxford.

Each year the contest is sponsored by State Farm and organized by the Center for Traffic Safety. This year, 17 entries were submitted and judged. As I stated at the event, “*Ideally, this billboard and the creativity of these students may save a life.*” In 2023, PennDOT estimates there were 366 fatalities and 23,070 crashes due to excessive speed. Congratulations Ellie and Mina!



In order for the County calendar to be prepared in a timely

On Monday evening, County Manager Steve Nevada and I attended a reception at the GNMP Visitor Center for their new immersive experience. The Gettysburg Foundation is launching a new virtual experience at the NPS Visitor Center that is already proving very popular. *Ticket to the Past – Unforgettable Journeys*, an immersive virtual reality experience, is now available at the Gettysburg National Military Park Visitor Center.

Visitors can experience Gettysburg history as it was in the days surrounding the battle by picking one of three individuals to immerse with. *Basil Biggs*, a free black man, played a crucial role in the dignified reburial of Union soldiers in Gettysburg National Cemetery. *Cornelia Hancock*, a young Quaker nurse, defied expectations to provide care on the front lines. *Eli Blanchard*, a teenage drummer boy and soldier who became a battlefield medic. The program also features President Abraham Lincoln's historic arrival in Gettysburg on the eve of the dedication of the new national cemetery where he delivered the Gettysburg Address.

Each character's 8-minute segment offers the visitor a chance to walk in the character's footsteps and witness Gettysburg through their eyes. The cost is \$7.75 – \$9.75 and a reservation is advised through the [gettysburgfoundation.org](https://www.gettysburgfoundation.org) ticketing portal. This is a great new visitor opportunity so check it out!

Fallen Officers Memorial Program May 30 At 911 Center

If you have never attended the Adams County Fallen Officers Memorial Service, I would suggest you experience at least once if not annually. I have had the honor and privilege of speaking at the memorial, which certainly causes you to pause and reflect on those who have made the ultimate sacrifice and reflect on fundamental values.

The Fallen Officer Memorial program is held at the Adams County Emergency Services Building (911). The program includes a roll call of the 7 Adams County officers who died in the line of duty, as well as other fallen Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Officers in 2024.



The End

- **Gettysburg Film Festival: Victory In WWII.** Martin Sheen, Ken Burns, Susan Eisenhower, Stephen Lang and Trace Adkins are just some of the celebrities participating. Events at Majestic Theater and Adams County Historical Society. Go to [GettysburgFilmFestival.org](https://www.gettysburgfilmfestival.org)
- **National Apple Museum: Music On The Porch.** This evening at the National Apple Museum in Biglerville at 7PM. Kick back and listen to live music, free admission and food trucks.
- **Disney's Jungle Book For Kids.** This evening, Saturday & Sunday matinee. Gettysburg Community Theater. info@gettysburgcommunitytheater.org
- **Music Gettysburg: The Gettysburg Chamber Orchestra.** Sunday 4PM. Lutheran Seminary Chapel. Free to public.
- **Picketts Charge in Memory, Media & Reality.** Saturday, May 17 at the GNMP Visitor Center. An all-day event from 10:45-6:00. Lunch included. Be prepared to walk 1-mile over uneven terrain. Visit [gettysburgfoundation.org](https://www.gettysburgfoundation.org) for reservations and information.
- **God Bless The USA Choral Concert.** Gettysburg Choral Society will pay tribute to those in the armed forces with a special rendition of TAPS by acclaimed bugler Jari Villanueva. Sunday, May 25 at the Seminary Chapel.
- **Gettysburg Garden Club Annual Plant Sale.** May 24, 8-1 at the Gettysburg Fire Department.
- **Annual Memorial Day Parade and Soldiers National Cemetery Commemoration.** Monday, May 26. Parade begins at 2PM with program following in the Gettysburg National Cemetery.
- **One Hundred Nights of TAPS.** Begins May 26 through September 1. Gettysburg National Cemetery. Program begins at 5:30 with TAPS played at 7 by a different guest bugler each evening. [LincolnFellowship.org](https://www.lincolnfellowship.org) for details.

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!