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*Adams County*

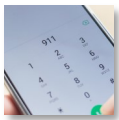
written by: Commissioner Randy Phiel

June 16, 2023

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## ***Honoring Flag Day June 14th***

To many across the nation this past Wednesday, Flag Day, was a minor named holiday with underappreciated meaning and significance. This motivated me to feature Flag Day as a TGIF item. Flag Day commemorates the day the first flag resolution was passed June 14, 1777. This was 1-year after Betsy Ross received the order from General George Washington to make the first flag. It was resolved that the flag would have 13 stripes, alternating red and white; that the union would be 13 stars, white in a navy-blue field, representing a new Constellation.

The first national observance of Flag Day was June 14, 1877, 100 years after the flag resolution was adopted. In 1916 President Wilson issued a procla-



mation stating that June 14 shall be National Flag Day. It subsequently was made official by an Act of Congress. Flag Day is a reminder that every American should pause at least for a moment on that day and reflect on what the United States of America means to them, and celebrate the history, sacrifice and freedom the American Flag symbolically represents.

The Adams County Allied Veteran's, in conjunction with Biglerville American Legion Post 262, organize an evening flag retirement ceremony and program at Legion Woods in Biglerville each year on Flag Day. The event which was held on Wednesday, is normally well attended and has a wonderful patriotic and community vibe. The program is followed by a picnic supper. Put Flag Day in Legion Woods on your list of events to attend in the future.

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## **Adams County Ag Center Landscaping**

Staff of the Adams County Office of Planning & Development spent part of the afternoon on May 17<sup>th</sup> planting flowers that were graciously donated by Musselman's Greenhouse. The Planning Department has an activities committee that helps to organize events like this for team building and to foster staff interaction. If you are visiting the Ag Center, take a stroll along the property to enjoy all of the flowers and the wildlife the area has to offer. In addition to these beautiful planters located in the patio area at the rear of the building, Penn State Extension also provides the landscaping around the building and has a wonderful garden area to enjoy while visiting. Thank you to all the staff who help make the Ag and Natural Resources Center a beautiful place to work and for the center's visitors to enjoy.

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## **Sachs Mill Covered Bridge To Get Face Lift**

The historic Sachs Mill Covered Bridge is a cherished iconic landmark in Adams County. It is certainly one of my go to favorite views in Adams County. In the Fall when the leaves are bursting with color, stop on the Pumping Station Road bridge and look south down Marsh Creek. It's a picture postcard! When Marsh Creek is frozen and snow covered in winter it is stunning! Thank goodness a previous board of commissioner chose to preserve it when it washed downstream in the 70's during hurricane Agnes.

At the June 7<sup>th</sup> commissioners public meeting the board signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with The Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Society of Pennsylvania, Inc., a nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation and restoration of covered bridges in Pennsylvania. This MOU provides for the painting of the historic Sachs Covered Bridge by the Society - at no additional cost to the County. The Society will paint the outside of the bridge and apply flame retardant to the inside of the bridge. Work is anticipated to begin the first week of August 2023. The MOU is effective June 7, 2023.



## Maintenance & Repairs of County Bridges



It is a fact that we take for granted the 40 county owned bridges that allow us to traverse Adams County. The bridges are very diverse in age, history, and structure. Each year maintenance of the bridges is prioritized by inspections of county bridges by Bridge Engineer Pennoni Associates. Based on bid price and the ability to perform, at the June 7 public meeting the commissioners signed a \$489,628.19 contract with Jay Fulkroad & Sons of McAllisterville to perform the repairs and maintenance.

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## Community Development Block Grant Applications Open

At Wednesday's Commissioners Public meeting an initial public hearing was held to announce the next round of Community Block Grants. Any government agency or non-profit with a qualifying project can apply to the Adams County Office of Planning & Development. Applications must be submitted by July 28, 2023. Broadly speaking, Community Block Grants can be utilized for community development and social services. Block grants are fixed pots of money that the federal government gives to states to provide benefits and services. For more information and guidelines contact Deana Duvall, Grant Coordinator 717-337-9824 ext. 3006

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## 911 Funding Bill Passes House

Funding emergency and 911 service is an essential and critical service, but costly to provide. County's get some reimbursement but the difference comes out of the General Fund – thus the taxpayer's pocket. The Pennsylvania House on Wednesday passed 121-82 a bill that will increase the existing \$1.65 monthly fee to \$1.97 on Pennsylvania telephone bills. The funds will support equipment, operations and upgrade outdated technology. The new fee is expected to generate an additional \$30 million per year. Both the Adams County Board of Commissioners and the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania supported the increase, but have called for a higher amount in the range of \$2.20. According to Adams County Department of Emergency Services Director Warren Bladen and Budget Office of Budget, the cost of County funded emergency services is approximately \$700 per Adams County household per year. The total 911 budget is \$3.7M with revenues of only \$2.1M. The overall Department of Emergency Services budget is approximately \$4.5M with revenues of \$2.2M. Unfortunately, neither the current rate, or the newly enacted rate, off-set the cost of service of the deficit for 911 !





# The End

• Commissioner Martin and I had the pleasure of attending the *CYS Independent Living Picnic* at the AG Center on Tuesday. It was an absolutely gorgeous day for a picnic with food, beverages, games and socializing. A shout out to our CYS staff for making this a special event for the program participants.

- *One Hundred Nights of Taps*, June 16 - September 5, in Gettysburg National Cemetery. Guide Program at 5:30 and Playing of Taps at 7 PM.
- See *The Elephant Live Music*, Thirsty Farmer Brew Works, this evening 5-8.
- *Summer Weekend of Living History, Friday – Sunday*. George Spangler Farm & Field Hospital. 11:15 The Spangler Farm in 1863. 2:00 An Army Field Hospital at Spangler Farm. Shuttle from NPS Visitor Center
- *Gettysburg Mercantile Museum & Goose Brothers Ice Cream*, 250 Baltimore Street. An 1800's General Store and ice cream. \$13.50 Adults, Children \$10.50.
- *New Oxford's 67<sup>TH</sup> Market on the Square*. This Saturday, 8-2. Over 150 vendors selling antiques, collectibles, craft items, farmers market, entertainment and food. Sponsored by New Oxford Chamber of Commerce.
- *John Burns: The Hero of Gettysburg*, Beyond the Battle Museum ACHS. Saturday 1-2. *Embattled Borderland: Harpers Ferry* Saturday 7-8.
- *HGAC Architectural Salvage Warehouse*, Saturday 1-2 at The Daniel Lady Farm, 986 Hanover Road.
- *Adams County Farmers Market Fairy Festival*. Fairy or magic themed items, kid's activities, prizes, costumed entertainment, storytelling and face-painting. Saturday at the Gettysburg Rec Park, Long Lane.
- *Juneteenth Parade & Jamboree*, Monday 12-6 at Gettysburg Rec Park. Community event to support and celebrate African Americans in Adams County. Music, children's water fun, food, re-enactments and ethnic vendors.
- *Wednesday Night 2023 Majestic Summer Classics*, June 7 – August 23<sup>rd</sup> every Wednesday evening. 7:30PM. Quite a line-up of classic movies from The Blues Brothers Cost \$8.
- *Kids Day Fun Day at the Historic Round Barn*. Kids activities, games. prizes and storytelling. 12-4 Sunday, June 24.
- *160<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary Civil War Reenactments*. There are two 160<sup>TH</sup> civil war reenactments coming up.

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!