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from
Adams County

written by: Commissioner Randy Phiel

November 25, 2020

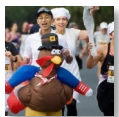
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AC Government Operational Update

It is well documented that COVID is spiking across the nation. Neither Pennsylvania nor Adams County are being spared by the resurgence. The Adams County Commissioners and the Adams County Court of Common Pleas have been monitoring this situation. Based on best practice and some specific incidents, the following operational directives are being implemented. These practices will reduce the potential for exposure and help ensure that critical human services continue to be provided to Adams County residents.

- All Adams County offices will be by appointment, phone or internet only beginning Monday, November 30th. These include the Courthouse, Human Services Building, Department of Emergency Services, Adams County Adult Correctional Facility, and the Adams County Conservation District Building on Old Harrisburg Road. A list of office phone numbers will be on the door of each building so that clients may call the de-



sired
office to check availability or
schedule an appointment. This proto-
col will be instituted until further notice.

- The Court has adopted an emergency Order similar to the order issued in the spring which prohibits in-person court filings at all Court filing offices with the exception of emergency pleadings. When possible, and unless otherwise required by interests of justice, court proceeding will be conducted by advanced technology systems. Where parties must physically appear, the proceedings will be limited to the parties, witnesses, and necessary court staff. All proceedings will be open to the public by prior arrangement with the Court Administrator's office which will make the proceeding available by advanced technology. The November 30, 2020 criminal trial term is cancelled.
- As of Friday, November 20, the Adams County Department of Emergency Services (ACDES) building is closed to the public until further notice. All meetings and training on the lower level of the building are temporarily suspended. The upper level housing the 911 Center has been closed to the public. For questions or information please contact Adams County Department of Emergency Services Director Warren Bladen.
- The Adams County Adult Correctional Facility has been closed and will remain closed to the public until further notice.
- By order of the Court of Common Pleas of Adams County, District Magistrate Beachaut's office 51-3-04, located in the Adams County Human Services Building on Boyds School Road is closed from 12:00PM today for a period not less than 14 days. The Adams County Court Administrators Office is directed to re-schedule or re-assign any proceedings within that time period.
- The Adams County Human Services Building, Boyd's School Road, will be closed to the public for 1 day, Monday, November 30, 2020 for cleaning and maintenance.
- Beginning Wednesday, November 25, all staff who are able to work from home, in collaboration and consultation with their supervisor, are directed to work from home to reduce COVID exposure.
- All staff remaining in county facilities are directed to refrain from all unnecessary and casual contact with other staff to reduce exposure. There are numerous methods of electronic communication available to staff to accomplish this beneficial exposure reduction objective.

General Election Certified

It was with a sense of relief and satisfaction that the Adams County Elections Office and the Adams County Board of Elections submitted the certified results of the November 3rd election to the Department of State. It was an arduous 8-month task for staff starting with the introduction of no excuse mail-in voting prior to the Primary Election and lasting until the results of the General Election were submitted to the State on Monday.

Adams County voter's turnout reached record proportions at 77.63%. Of Adams County's 72,388

registered voters, 56,919 voted in some manner. There were 19,073 mail-in ballots and 607 provisional ballots recorded. The debated and challenged issue of allowing ballots post-marked by November 3rd to be counted if they were received by November 6th resulted in 92 ballots in Adams County being identified and segregated with the submission.

The amount of dedication, work, flexibility, commitment, and stress that election staff endured the past 8 months is commendable and worthy of special recognition. Thank you to all Adams County elections staff, county staff, poll workers and constables for making a very difficult election process a process that we can be proud of in Adams County!

Adams County FAIR Program Homestretch

The third and final round of the Adams County FAIR Program concluded on November 13th. Staff continues to diligently review applications to ensure guidelines are met that will pass all levels of audit inspection. The Community Evaluation Team will be making additional recommendations to the Board of Commissioners at their December 2nd & December 16th meetings. There were 222 applications submitted to the program for consideration. To date, the Adams County Commissioners have awarded more than \$3.7 Million in FAIR funds to applicants. 71% of those funds have been awarded to assist small business and tourism related businesses, 16% to assist non-profits and health service agencies, 7% to assist municipalities and 6% of the funding was awarded exclusively to provide for PPE. The municipal awards were made at the November 18th Commissioners Meeting.

The final awards and disbursements from this program will be made prior to the end of the year to comply with federal and state regulation. It is anticipated that all \$9.3M that was allotted to Adams County, from the Federal Government through the State, will be disbursed to Adams County non-profit organizations, small business, and municipalities. We continue to recognize and thank our county staff and Community Evaluation Team, for their substantial effort to benefit our community!



The **End**

The HR Department would like to thank the 29 employees who brought their human and canine families to the First Wellness Turkey Trot event. It was a gorgeous sunny fall day. Everyone remarked how great it was to have a distanced outdoor event.

Thank you, Human Resources, for your facilitation of this event. We look to see more participants next year as hopefully this becomes an annual event to look forward to.

It looks like we are going to have a warm but rainy Thanksgiving Day tomorrow. The rain is supposed to stop in the afternoon, so I am looking forward to taking an after dinner walk with my family and our dog Bailey.

From the Adams County Board of Commissioners, a blessed, safe, and happy Thanksgiving to you and your family. 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!