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from
Adams County

written by: Commissioner Randy Phiel

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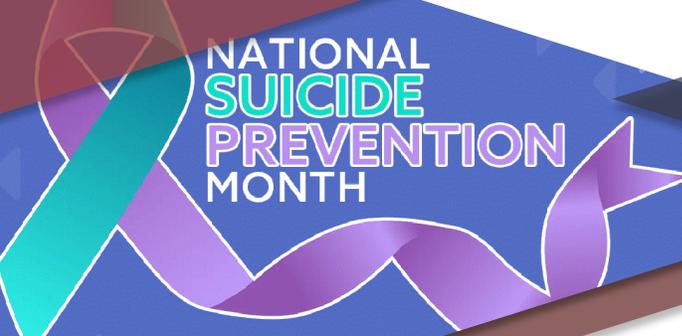
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Heritage Festival Sunday, September 18th

The annual *Adams County Heritage Festival* will take place from 12PM-4PM on Sunday, September 18 at the Gettysburg Area Recreation Park on Long Lane. The purpose of the festival is to promote understanding and respect among all racial and ethnic backgrounds in Adams County and honor their ancestries. If you haven't attended previously, it is an important and family-oriented community event with lots of tasty and diverse food, music, crafts, displays, non-profit booths and other activities. The event kicks off with a children's bicycle parade with bike decorating materials and prizes, plus there is a special children's activities area. There is no cost for parking or admission. Hope to see you at the festival!



NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH

Suicide Prevention Awareness Month

At Wednesday's meeting the Board approved a proclamation declaring September as *Suicide Prevention Awareness Month in Adams County*. The proclamation was presented by Healthy Adams County and the Behavioral Task Force. Millions of Americans consider suicide, and many of us have been personally touched by suicide. The campaign this year focuses on awareness, learning about warning signs, risk factors, myths, and facts. Prevent Suicide PA and partner organizations including the Adams County Library System, Knouse Foods, WellSpan Health, all members of the behavioral health task force and our local restaurants and bars, are committing to connecting with those who are struggling and encouraging communities, organizations, and governments to work together to prevent suicide. There is hope, and it begins with each of us to do our part.

In 2019, suicide was the 10th leading cause of death in the United States, and the second leading cause of death for young people between the ages of 10 and 34. For many, feelings of isolation, exhaustion, and economic and public health-related anxieties associated with the COVID-19 pandemic have increased rates of depression and have sparked concern that we will see a further increase in suicide rates. In Adams County since 2010 there have been 168 suicides, the majority males and cause of death by gunshot. Too many of our Nation's veterans and active military service members have also considered suicide or taken their own lives. In many cases, they did not receive the mental health services they need and deserve. Suicide awareness and prevention begins with each of us. If you suspect someone has depression or despair, please seek professional assistance. You could be saving someone's life!

Upcoming November 8th General Election

A reminder of some important General Election dates.

- The last day to register to vote or make any changes to your current registration before the November election is **October 24**.
- The last day to apply for a mail-in or civilian absentee ballot is **November 1**.

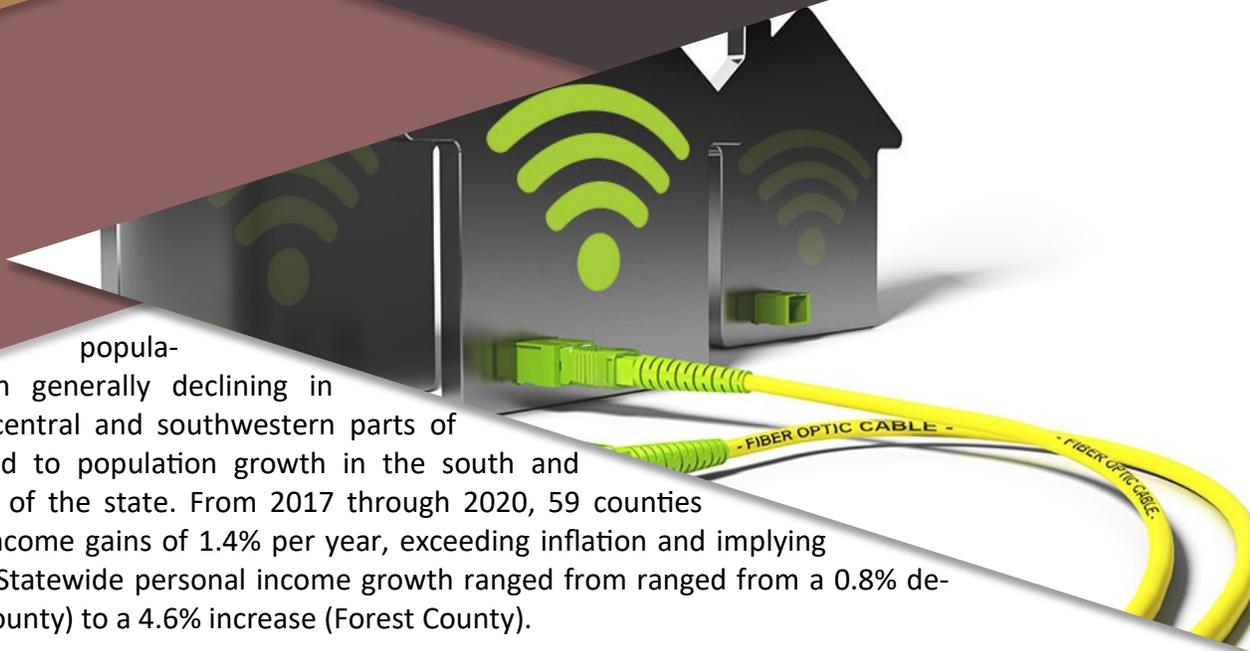
Mail-in and absentee ballots must be received by 8:00 pm by the County Board of Elections on **November 8** (Election Day). Mailing the ballot on election day will void your vote.

Pennsylvania Population Declines

The Independent Fiscal Office (IFO) released its August 2022 report on county income patterns, which uses recent demographic and income trends at the county level to analyze per capita income trends across the commonwealth.

Overall, the IFO reported an average population decrease of 0.03% per year from 2017 through 2020, ranging from the highest increase of 0.87% (Cumberland County) to the lowest decrease of 2.07% (Cameron County), with



An illustration showing three grey houses with green Wi-Fi symbols on their roofs. A yellow fiber optic cable is connected to the houses. The cable is labeled "FIBER OPTIC CABLE" in black text. The background is a gradient of brown and white.

popula-
tion generally declining in
the north, central and southwestern parts of
the state compared to population growth in the south and
southeastern parts of the state. From 2017 through 2020, 59 counties
showed personal income gains of 1.4% per year, exceeding inflation and implying
real income gains. Statewide personal income growth ranged from a 0.8% de-
crease (Cameron County) to a 4.6% increase (Forest County).

State & CCAP Broadband Initiative

The Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority (PBDA), created under Act 96 of 2021, recently submitted an initial draft plan to the federal government to access \$5 million in planning funds from the \$100 million Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program funding each state is guaranteed. Additionally, the Authority has developed four subcommittees – data and mapping, technical, workforce and supply chain and outreach and education – to allow for stakeholders to provide input and expertise to the Authority in development of the broader state plan, which is required to apply for the state’s share of the \$42 billion national pot. CCAP has been appointed a seat on the data and mapping subcommittee and will also have opportunities to provide input and feedback to other committees.

At its August meeting, the CCAP Board approved the creation of a CCAP Broadband Task Force to help direct specific county asks as part of the statewide broadband planning process, as well as provide a timely and effective feedback loop to assure CCAP can fully represent Pennsylvania counties as critical stakeholders. The task force will be chaired by Clearfield County commissioner Dave Glass and members represent county commissioners and council members, chief clerks, solicitors, GIS professionals, planning directors and IT professionals. Adams County Commissioner Qually has been appointed to the CCAP Broadband Task Force by the CCAP Board of Directors.

New Courthouse Breakroom

The newly renovated courthouse breakroom was unveiled for Paula’s “after proclamation reception.” It has received rave reviews. I again want to thank Michelle Miller, Steve Nevada, Larry Steinour and Paul Lloyd for their vision and efforts into making this overdue project happen. The push code lock on the door will soon be replaced with a card swipe – which is a relief to infrequent users like me who cannot remember the code!



The End

office wall!

Things are finally settling down in the commissioner's office after the recognition of Paula's 50 years with Adams County - and 44 years in the commissioner's office. What a great poignant (and somewhat unique) proclamation for Paula at the August 24th commissioners meeting! There were some tears, a lot of laughs, several standing ovations, music from the 1972, and presentation of a new office chair. Thank you to all that attended and to those that have personally recognized Paula for her service and friendship. There is no doubt it was really a celebration for all of us. I am pleased to report that Paula is settled comfortably in her new (same model as the old one) chair, and is listening to those old tunes, with her proclamation soon to beautify her

Make sure you put the *Biglerville Fire Company FallFest* on your calendar. The 3-day event continues this evening and Saturday evening. Kitchen opens nightly at 4PM. Entertainment begins at 7PM. It sure is hard to pass up those roast beef and turkey platters. On Saturday the *Gettysburg Fire Department Cash Bash Bingo* begins at 12PM. There will be over \$8,500 in cash prizes + free food and beverages. The event is being held at the Gettysburg Area Rec Park on Long Lane. Get out there and support your local volunteer fire departments - so they can support our community!

Take a *Sunset Guided Double Decker Bus Tour* on Saturday, September 10 at 6PM. The special tour is 2 hours in length and covers all 3 days of the battle. Adults \$37 and Children \$22. Gettysburg Tours, 778 Baltimore Street. 717-334-6296

On Saturday it's *Dance Night at the New Red Shed at Hickory Bridge Farm*. Come dance the night away with East Coast Stroke, a 12-piece band featuring music with horns from the 60's through the 80's. Concession stand, and bar will be open. Only \$10 at the door. Hickory Bridge Farm, 96 Hickory Bridge Road, Orrtanna, PA 717-642-5261.

Enjoy live music with *Music At The Markets* at Amblebrook this Saturday from 10AM-1PM. Enjoy live music by Pomona's Trio and shop for fresh produce from Hollabaugh Bros, Sweeter Than SAP, Farmstead Butcher, and Battlefield Blooms. Call 717-345-8150.

2022 Fall Harvest Festival at Fields of Adventure, 64 Tree Lane, Aspers PA. Enjoy all your favorite fall things. My grandchildren love this place. Check out their website for changing activities and season passes. Fields Of Adventure www.fieldsofadventure.com or 888-677-0093.

The *18th Annual Gettysburg Wine & Music Festival* opens Saturday & Sunday at 11AM, with sampling beginning at 12:00PM at 85 Presidential Circle, Gateway Center. Taste top wines and spirits from across the state. There is music each day. Buy a ticket and sample to your hearts content. Cost is \$30 in advance, \$35 at the gate and 2-day pass is \$50.

Next weekend head out to the historic Daniel Lady Farm on Saturday & Sunday for the *160TH Anniversary Reenactment of Antietam*. The featured battles will be Dunkers Church and West Woods, the bloodiest day on American soil. There will be an extensive living history village with one on one interaction. See an embalmer, cooking demonstrations, civil war music and much more. Food and beverages available. For more information or tickets go to www.danielladyfarm.com

Fairfield's Pippinfest will be celebrating 41 years when the streets of the town come alive on September 24 & 25. This old-fashioned street festival is a celebration of community, harvest, tradition, and of course the *pippin* (apple). There will be crafts, entertainment and food throughout the village + many other events. For the kids there are inflatable rides, games, pony rides, dime pitch, and petting zoo beside the fire hall. There will be a variety of musical entertainment both days at various locations. Saturday features Main Street Yard Sales. On Sunday, there is a car show beside the fire department. There are several parking locations including Fairfield High School, where the \$5 parking fee goes to support community youth organizations. For information go to www.pippinfest.com

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!