

T

G

I

F

from
Adams County

written by: **Commissioner Randy Phiel**

April 27, 2018

In this issue...



Page 2

**Pillow Tax Ordinance
Amendment
Bill Proposal**



Page 3

**Bike Ride
Conservation District
Envirothon**



Page 4

**Drug Take Back
Used Tire Collection
The End**



Adams County **DES Radio Update**

The Adams County Department of Emergency Services (ACDES) recently completed the “County-Wide Radio Update/Re-Program Project”. This project involved having ACDES staff travel out into the community to meet with local first responders and local government officials to update and re-program their portable, mobile, and base station radios. This is the first time the end-user radios have been updated and re-programmed since the County’s P25 Digital 800 MHz system went live in late 2015. The upgrade included a “firmware” update, which updated the components in the radios; an update to the York County radio system (which went live in late 2017), and added voice announcements into the radio.

(Continued)



The integration of the York County fleet map into our radios means that units from Adams and York Counties can now talk directly to each other while operating on an incident without the need for a dispatcher to establish a “patch”; or tie the radios together electronically. The voice announcements allow radio users to switch talk groups without having to look at the radio; thereby ensuring that the end-user can keep their attention focused on the task in front of them. Over several months, the Adams County Department of Emergency Services staff travelled over the entire county and touched over 2,000 radios to complete this project.

Pillow Tax Ordinance Amendment

Pillow Tax is an important revenue source for providing resources caused by visitation and also for marketing our tourism industry. At the Wednesday April 18, Adams County Commissioners Meeting, a revised Pillow Tax (Hotel Room Rental Tax) was approved to increase penalties for non-payment or paying late. The fines range from \$50 to \$150 + 1.5% interest per month. Aside from these penalties, any willful or negligent failure to comply could result in a \$200 fine the first month, \$400 for the second month occurring within ninety days of the previous occurrence, and \$600 for each third and subsequent occurrence within 90 days. Operators could face a municipal tax claim or civil action if they repeatedly fail to make payments.

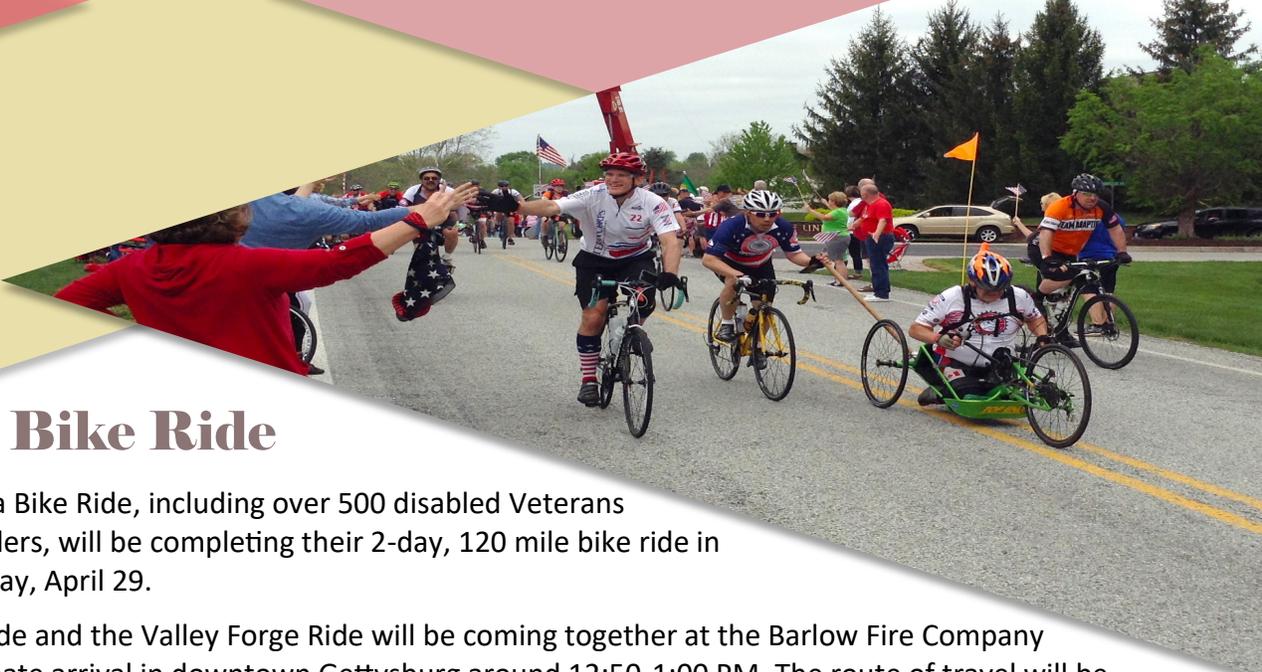
Adams County has approximately 150 operators of hotels, motels, bed/breakfasts, private residences that rent through the internet and campground rentals. Most of the businesses are professional and timely in their reporting requirements - but a few are not. In the past minimal penalties have not been an adequate tool for compliance. Also, identifying and collecting from small internet based private residence rentals is a growing increasing issue (see following topic). The ordinance will become effective May 1. Anyone having questions on the Pillow Tax should contact Adams County Treasurer Crissy Redding at 717-337-9837.

Bill to Address Home Sharing & Short-Term Rentals

On April 9, the House Tourism and Recreation Development Committee held a hearing to discuss HB 1810 that would require online home sharing and short term rental companies doing business in Pennsylvania to register and share information with taxing authorities.

It has been challenging to assure consistent collection from rooms rented through online platforms such as Airbnb, VRBO and Homestogo. Beside the collection of taxes due to promote and support the impact of tourism, this legislation would also promote a more level playing field for the entire lodging industry. Given the amount of lodging activity in Adams County, combined with our Pillow Tax ordinance that was previously mentioned, we will be watching this legislation closely.





Bike Ride

The Face of America Bike Ride, including over 500 disabled Veterans and able-bodied Riders, will be completing their 2-day, 120 mile bike ride in Gettysburg on Sunday, April 29.

The Arlington DC Ride and the Valley Forge Ride will be coming together at the Barlow Fire Company at noon, and anticipate arrival in downtown Gettysburg around 12:50-1:00 PM. The route of travel will be Steinwehr Ave, up Baltimore Street, around Lincoln Square and out Chambersburg Street. The Ride finishes at the Eisenhower Inn on the Emmitsburg Road at approximately 1:30 PM. Volunteer staff members from the Adams County government include Judge Campbell, Angie Vines, Laura Rowlands, Ron Kriel, and County volunteers who bake cookies for the Riders.

The finish line event has been coordinated and executed by Adams County Veterans Affairs Director, Stan Clark since its inception in 2006. Come out to the Finish Line Celebration at All Star, or anywhere along the route, to cheer on our Veterans and Riders as they accomplish this poignant Bike Ride.

Conservation District Envirothon

Each year the Conservation District holds a Middle and High School Envirothon. All of the private and public schools in the county are invited to send multiple teams to complete in the 5 station event (Wildlife, Aquatics, Forestry, Soils, and a Current Issue). Sponsorships from local businesses make it possible for the district to provide t-shirts for each participant, free lunch, and awards for each station. Volunteers from the Pennsylvania Game Commission, Adams and Franklin County Natural Resources Conservation Service, Adams County Trout Unlimited, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, and the Department of Conservation & Natural Resources all take part in creating a successful event for our County's youth.

The Adams County Commissioners help to handout awards along with the respective agency from each station (example: PA Game Commission – Wildlife Station). The Gettysburg Times supports the event by putting a picture in the paper of the winning team, teacher, and Commissioners. The events will be held this year at the McSherrystown Fish and Game. Kudos to the Adams County Conservation District for making this hands on environmental education available to area students.

Drug Take Back

The Gettysburg Community Theater is not only a tremendous cultural resource in our community, but also does education and outreach for youth including summer day camps, classes, the Penguin Project, after school programs and scholarships. The Penguin Project pairs youth with special needs, with a mentor from the first rehearsal through the final show of the production. It has an important impact on young lives.

Mr. Dan Sebright has just sponsored Gettysburg Community Theater Education & Outreach Programs for 2018 and has offered to match additional contributions raised for Education & Outreach as GCT celebrates its 10th year. If you are looking for a community non-profit to support, please consider The Gettysburg Community Theaters Education and Outreach program. When making the donation please write "EDUCATION" in the memo section. You may contact GCT at 49 York Street,, Gettysburg, PA. 17325 or call 717-334-2697. Email CHAD@GETTYSBURGCOMMUNITYTHEATER.ORG.



The **End**

Well spring is officially here because I cut my lawn for the first time - and the dandelions are popping up faster than you can blink an eye. Unfortunately it is time to start weeding as well. Ugh! I am also stating to think about flowers, shrubs and mulch; but think I am going to wait a few more weeks to be safe.

There are lots of things do in Adams County this time of year. This evening I am going to an event at The Thirsty Farmer at The Round Barn. I have been hearing really good reports on this new microbrewery. Also, if you are in that neighborhood, Hauser Winery is having a Hard Cider Run + an After Hours Party on Saturday + music and food on Sunday. Oyler's Fruit Farm is having a Spring OnTheFarm event this weekend from 11-2 with a variety of free family activities. Hollabaugh Brothers Bees 'n & Blossom Festival takes place this weekend and also features a variety of free family activities. The Gettysburg College Symphony Orchestra presents Beethoven, Beyoncé & Beyond at The Majestic Theater at 8PM on Saturday. The admission fee is only \$5. Gettysburg National Military Park present living history and live firing every weekend this spring and summer at Spangler's Spring, Pitzer' Woods on West Confederate Avenue and at the Pennsylvania Monument. On Sunday afternoon, Music Gettysburg begins a series of public concerts with a Hymn Festival at the Lutheran Seminary Chapel at 4PM. On Sunday May 6, The Gettysburg Children's Choir and Chamber Chorale will honor the life and work of their co-founder and Board President Jane Jones, who recently passed away, with a concert supported by Music Gettysburg. The recital begins at 4PM at The United Lutheran Seminary Chapel.

Those are just a few of the many things going on in Adams County. Get off the couch, get away from your computer, and get out there and experience all the historical, recreational, agricultural, natural and cultural opportunities that beautiful Adams County has to offer!