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from  
*Adams County*

written by: Commissioner Randy Phiel

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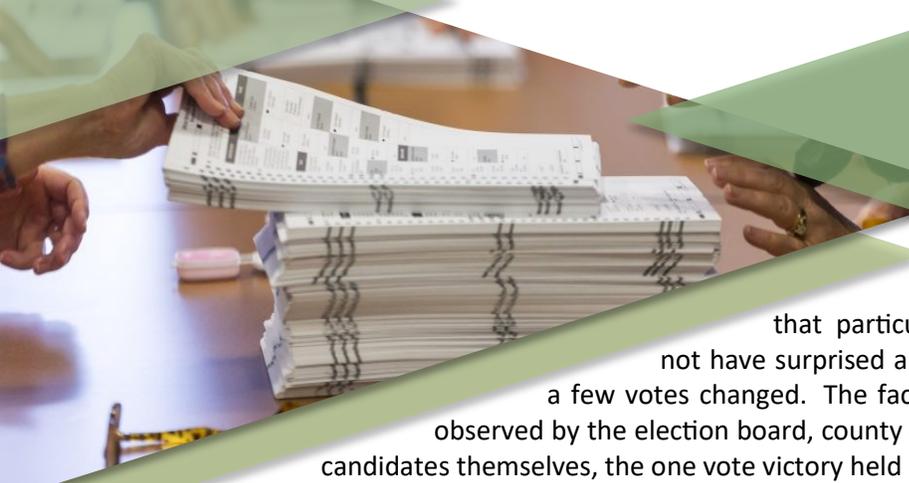


## Your Vote Does Count

As Chairman of the Election Board, a few things became even more obvious to me after election night, election canvass the following Friday and the four hour manual recount of about 1400 ballots on Monday. One fact is "your vote really does matter" is not just a cliché. The second fact was just how remarkably accurate our voting process is in Adams County.

The race for the 193rd State Representative came down to the wire for Torren Ecker and Barry Cockley on election night with Cockley having a one vote lead with approximately 3500 ballots counted. During the canvass the following Friday, a provisional ballot and an absentee ballot swung the one vote margin to Ecker. Not surprisingly, Cockley requested a re-count which led to Monday's court ordered manual tabulation.

Given provisional ballots, absentee ballots and especially "under voting" (where the voter does not vote for



that particular office), it would not have surprised anyone at the table if a few votes changed. The fact is despite manual counting observed by the election board, county election staff, county solicitors and the candidates themselves, the one vote victory held as reported.

I would like to thank Election Board substitutes Vickie Corbett and Jim Waybright for their civic dedication serving on the election board as well as county elections staff, court staff and county solicitors. On behalf of the Board, I congratulate the candidates for the races they ran and the professional manner in which they conducted themselves at all times during this often mentioned, but rarely seen and experienced, election process.

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## Information Technology Update

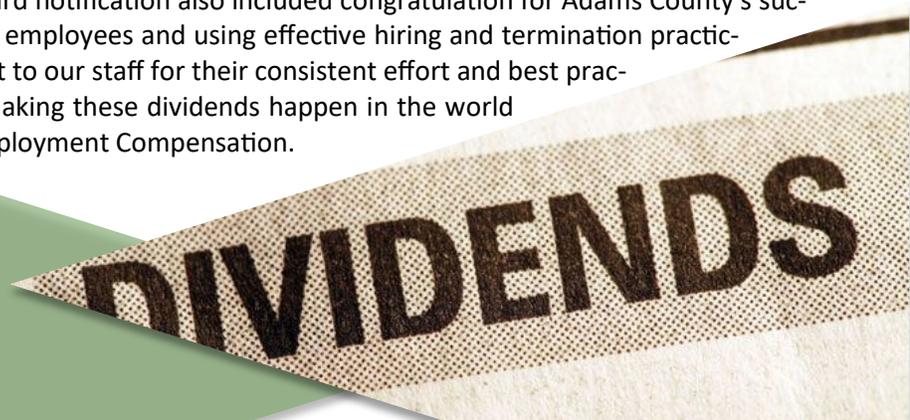
The Information Technology Department is in the final stages of completing the migration of the Courthouse to the new VOIP telephone system. With just three departments to go, the old Courthouse telephone system will be fully decommissioned. The final building to complete this project will be the County Prison which currently utilizes its own dedicated legacy telephone system. Throughout this two year project, IT has worked closely with departments to ensure a smooth transition from the legacy phone system to the new VOIP platform. This has been achieved through a diligent process to offer training to all interested departments before going live with the new system. This method of training will continue to be offered to departments at the HSB training center for all technology related matters. Please reach out to the helpdesk to schedule the HSB IT training room. If interested, basic IT literacy trainings on core County software products, such as Microsoft Office, can also be scheduled with IT at HSB.

In addition, the IT Department recently began working with Building & Maintenance on upgrading the current HVAC software used throughout many of the County buildings. The upgrade will allow for the maintenance department to consolidate separate logins to specific buildings into one single login. This will provide a comprehensive view of all buildings under one screen for the purposes of managing all aspects of the maintenance department's infrastructure. Also, the upgrade will provide further retention of logs which currently only go back a few weeks. With the history of data expanded by utilizing a server platform, the information will be valuable in evaluating and making better business decisions. With a proactive approach through computer automation, the efficiencies within the department will be greatly enhanced. All departments are encouraged to continue looking at newer technologies to enhance your business processes.

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## Adams County UC Dividend Earned

The Board was pleased to learn that the CCAP Unemployment Compensation (UC) Trust Board of Trustees has authorized a payment of a \$2.75 million cash dividend to all Trust members who, as of December 31, 2017, have an Eligible Account Balance with the Trust. As a result of this dividend Adams County will receive a \$38,808 dividend payment by the end of May. The award notification also included congratulation for Adams County's success in retaining quality employees and using effective hiring and termination practices. A shout out to our staff for their consistent effort and best practice in making these dividends happen in the world of Unemployment Compensation.



**DIVIDENDS**

# Bridge Closure

If you travel Rt. 234 in Upper Adams beware. The bridge that carries Route 234 (Narrows Road) over Conewago Creek in Franklin and Menallen Townships, Adams County, has been closed to all traffic for renovation. Traffic is now detoured around the bridge closure. The bridge should reopen in August. Also be advised that beginning on July 9 Table Rock Road northbound will be closed at Boyd's School Road. St Francis Xavier traffic may need to come southbound on Table Rock Road to access St Francis until work is completed in early September.

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## Gettysburg Brass Band Festival

The Gettysburg Brass Band Festival this weekend is a pretty big deal for our community offering a unique opportunity to experience some great music. The Gettysburg Brass Band Festival performers have included members of The United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps, The United States Army "Old Guard" Fife and Drum Corps, The United States Army Field Band and Soldiers Chorus, The Quantico Marine Band, The Atlantic Brass Band, The River City Brass Band, and the United States Army Herald Trumpets. The Festival is produced by a group of community volunteers in partnership with the Lutheran Seminary, The Music Gettysburg Concert series, and Destination Gettysburg.

This year the United States Army Herald Trumpets return to the Gettysburg Brass Band Festival along with 14 bands from five states. The 2018 brass festival will begin Thursday evening, June 7 on the Main Stage at the Lutheran Seminary with the Adams County Community Band and The Gettysburg Big Band. The Gettysburg Brass, Hot House Jazz Band, Lancers Drum and Bugle Corps, Antebellum Marine Band and others will perform Friday evening, June 8 at locations around the town of Gettysburg. The festival will host the Atlantic Brass from New Jersey, the Chesapeake Brass Band from Delaware, Spires Rockville and Benfield Brass Bands from Maryland, the Brass of the Potomac from Virginia, the Allegheny Brass Band from Pittsburgh and the Capitol Bones from Washington, DC. All will perform on the Main Stage on Seminary Ridge, Saturday June 9. The Gettysburg Brass Band Festival closes with the moving "Taps" Tribute as buglers bring honor at historic sites. A popular part of the GBBF is the Instrument Petting Zoo where youngsters of all ages have the opportunity to try brass instruments. A Saturday Gettysburg Lions Club Community Picnic will also be held at the Main Stage site.

Tax deductible donations are welcome and graciously accepted at Gettysburg Brass Band Festival, PO Box 3491, Gettysburg, PA 17325.



# The End

Will the rain ever stop? For most of us it is simply inconvenient attempting to dodge rain drops, cut our grass or plant flowers; but for area farmers it is very impacting. Crops like corn cannot be planted and hay cannot be made and continues to decrease in quality. There are some dry days forecast but we also need some heat to dry things out in the next several weeks. Let's hope for some blue skies and sunshine.

Agra-tourism in Adams County just keeps growing. If you are looking for some things to do in either wet or dry conditions, check out the *Adams County Pour Tour*. The Pour Tour is Pennsylvania's newest craft beverage trail and The Pour Tour has officially launched! Grab your passport and Get Poured! There are rewards and special offers for passport holders. You can take the quiz to find out which Adams County craft beverage you are! Are you wine, cider, spirits or beer? One of the best parts of the Adams County countryside is that throughout the summer and early fall several of our farms offer pick-your-own. Talk about truly knowing where your food comes from while having a great outing at the same time! *Pick Your Own Paradise* has also launched. Check it out! For more information on both these uniquely Adams County opportunities go to [www.destinationgettysburg.com](http://www.destinationgettysburg.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.