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*from*  
*Adams County*

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## *Littlestown* **Fire Department New Building Ribbon Cutting**

On Monday the commissioners were invited to the ground breaking for the new Littlestown Fire Department Building. Early in the planning process, myself and some other area legislators and business persons were asked to engage in and support Alpha Fire Company's planning process. Five years later, both the fire company and the community are to be commended for their commitment, vision and work to make this project come to fruition.

Alpha Fire Company was founded in 1885. The project is not only very meaningful to the department, it is also very important to the overall Littlestown community as a community anchor. As vol-



unteer emergency services continue to decline, and as a community we engage in a needed re-calibration of our volunteer emergency services, this project both practically and symbolically illustrates that with appropriate vision, planning, and community support, our critically important emergency response volunteer organizations can succeed. Congratulations and best wishes to Alpha Fire Company!

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## **CCAP Spring Conference**

Having just returned from the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania Spring Conference, where I represent District 3 on the Board of Directors, it is worth noting a few of the major issues that are being addressed by CCAP - the voice of Pennsylvania Counties. CCAP is now pursuing action against pharmaceutical companies that have been contributing to the opioid epidemic and causing significant human residual, treatment and cost to counties. Some counties are pursuing relief independently and also in conjunction with the CCAP legal initiative. CCAP legal is in contact with those counties and the PA Attorney General's Office which is also pursuing action. Naturally there was also much discussion regarding opioid treatment. Another significant area of discussion of appropriate treatment is enhanced recognition and treatment of county inmates with Mental Health issues. Counties are beginning to focus more on mental health treatment to address the root of the problem, reduce recidivism and thus reduce jail populations.

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## **Congressional Redistricting Decision Rendered**

After the filing of a suit by The League of Women Voters claiming that congressional districts were gerrymandered, a Pennsylvania Supreme Court decision regarding the suit resulted in a Remedial Plan re-configuring congressional districts, a halt to candidates congressional petitions being circulated, candidates not knowing for certainty where their districts were and voters not knowing who their candidate would be, the appeal and request of a stay of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court decision to the Federal Court and US Supreme Court, charges by Republicans that the plan rendered by the PA Court was unconstitutional. A long anticipated decision was finally rendered on Monday.

It was announced by the Pennsylvania Department of State, Bureau of Elections that the Supreme Court of the United States denied the Legislative Respondents' emergency application for stay, and the Federal Panel in the Middle District Court granted the Secretary and Commissions motion to dismiss. The Remedial Plan will remain in place for the May 15 Primary Election.

Thus, ends one of the most unusual and confusing episodes in Pennsylvania election history. It does result in Adams County losing veteran Congressman Scott Perry, and being the eastern part of a congressional district that extends about 175 miles to





our west. With the retirement of veteran Congressman Bud Shuster in our new district, a freshman congressman will be elected. Among our commissioner colleagues at the CCAP Conference, due to geographic change in districts and shifting political considerations, we observed and spoke to some candidates that were going to run and decided to not run, and spoke to others that had no plan on running – and are now seeking office.

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## Commissioner Forums

Since taking office in 2012, this Board of Commissioners has probably done at least twenty-five Adams County Commissioners Community Forums purposely held in all areas of the county. We normally chose a timely and relevant subject, and bring along a panel of experts to discuss the subject. There is always time allotted at the end for residents to discuss any subject that is important to them.

I believe our next two forums are especially relevant. This Tuesday we will be holding a forum on *The Spotted Lantern Fly* at the Adams County Ag Center on Old Harrisburg Road. This invasive pest is a significant threat to agriculture in Adams County. Penn State Extension will lead the discussion. On Tuesday June 19, there will be a one hour training session called *Stop The Bleed* at the Adams County Department of Emergency Services Building. A person can be bled to death in five minutes. The course will teach the best methods of maximizing a victim's survival for bystanders arriving on the scene. A tourniquet and a stick are not necessarily the best option. Just like CPR, this is a very practical and useful knowledge base for all of us to have. At the conclusion of the training attendees will be invited to tour the 911 dispatch center upstairs. You can also check out the progress of The Adams County Law Enforcement Firearms Training Range at the east end of the parking lot.

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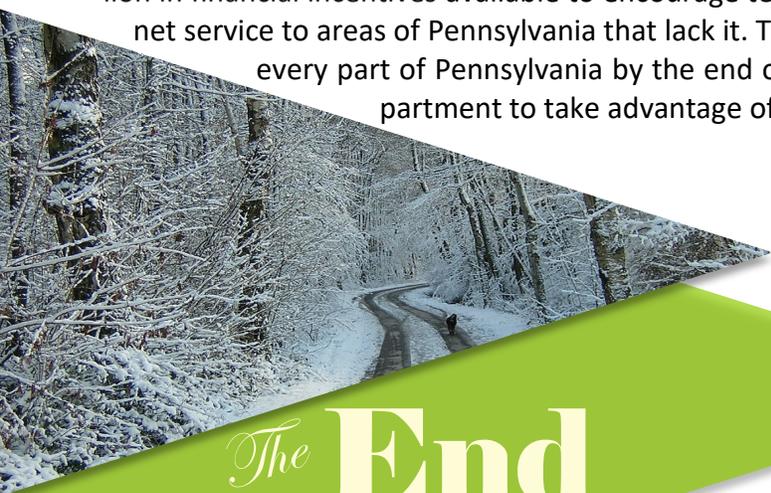
## Broadband Expansion In Pennsylvania

Almost 1 million Pennsylvania do not have access to high speed internet. The Adams County Commissioners have long advocated the importance of Broadband availability as a necessity for effective economic development. It was welcome news to this Board of Commissioners when on Monday, March 19, Governor Wolf announced a new initiative that will expand broadband access to businesses and households in Pennsylvania, ensuring that every Pennsylvanian has access to high-speed internet. Parts of Adams County can be included in areas that do not have broadband.

Wolf very accurately stated that High-Speed Internet access is essential to growing our economy, expanding educational opportunities for our children, increasing access to modern

healthcare, and improving the safety of our communities. He said that we must close the digital divide ensuring every citizen and business has the access it needs to connect to the ever-expanding digital world in which we live and work. In Adams County it should be noted that Broadband is also increasingly important to agriculture.

The governor announced the Pennsylvania Broadband Incentive Program, which will offer up to \$35 million in financial incentives available to encourage telecommunications companies to extend high-speed internet service to areas of Pennsylvania that lack it. The Administration said that it hopes to have broadband in every part of Pennsylvania by the end of 2022. The Board will be working with our Planning Department to take advantage of this opportunity.



## The End

Well spring has arrived? That was the most snow in March I can remember except for that monster blizzard in March 15, 1993 that shut everything down for three days. If the snow on Wednesday was an onion snow - then the onions will be gigantic. I know there were numerous complaints of aches and pains on Thursday caused by shoveling more than a foot of the heavy stuff. I am included in that group. I shoveled and plowed until 5pm Wednesday. The good news is I had no problem sleeping Wednesday night. A huge shout out to our Maintenance, 911 and Prison staff for the essential work that they do to ensure that our critical operations are maintained when we have weather events such as the one we just had!

If you are a skier, snow boarder, cross country skier or snow mobile person, your season just got extended. Despite the work that the snow creates, it also gives us some post card worthy beautiful Adams County scenes and vistas. In particular the cannons, monuments, cemetery and barns in our national park take on a unique, tranquil and majestic look.

For those of you who say there is “nothing to do today” - here are some ideas for great events in Adams County this weekend. How about learning how to make healthy sauerkraut yourself at Oyler’s Fruit Farm, Paint On Canvas at Adams County Winery, shop at The Children’s Nearly New Sale at the Gettysburg/Adams County YWCA, dine on Friday evening at the St Francis Lenten Dinner, or sip some wine and hard cider while listening to music at Hauser Winery’s “Hauser After Hours.” For the young and young at heart next weekend the Loomis Bros. Circus is coming to Adams County for two days at the All Star complex. On Tuesday, all the commissioners will be attending annual Callie Awards dinner honoring several exceptional women in Adams County.

No matter what you do get out there and experience all the historic, recreational, agricultural, natural and cultural opportunities that beautiful Adams County has to offer!