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from
Adams County

written by: Commissioner Randy Phiel

October 19, 2018

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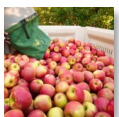


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County Picnic **Success**

A final shout out to those who made the 2018 Adams County Staff Picnic at the Ag Center a roaring success. This was the largest turnout in memory with over 305 staff attending. An added bonus was that everyone was tired of rain and starved for sunshine and it was the first sunny, beautiful day in quite some time. Over 440 lbs. of food was donated for Bag The Bounty to help folks in our community. This surpassed our previous donations. It was a pleasure for the commissioners and judges to serve staff!



Mercy House **Recovery Center**

After a review period that took over nine months, Adams County has finally been approved to receive a \$654,428 grant towards the construction of a substance abuse recovery center in Adams County. The project will involve renovating the Mercy House beside St Francis Church in downtown Gettysburg. The Mercy House had been a convent for the sisters of Charity, who in 1863 helped to care for the wounded soldiers, and for generations taught students at the St Francis Xavier grade school. We are proud to announce that this history of caring for others will continue at this location.

When completed in 2019, the building will be rented to the RASE project, a regional non-profit specializing in substance abuse recovery services. The RASE project anticipates a drop in center for clients seeking services, individual and group counseling rooms, case management offices, and four apartments for clients in recovery. The location is ideal in that it is located close to medical services, county offices, the Gettysburg police station, and public transportation routes. The building will be largely renovated with grant funding, while the county will continue to own the property and will collect rent.

As a board we have prioritized increasing drug and alcohol services in our prison and at the Human Services Building. This facility will add one more tool in our tool box to fight substance abuse and the growing opioid epidemic in our community.

Oak Lawn Cemetery

The Board of Commissioners, Adams County Veterans Affairs and Cumberland Township have formed an Oak Lawn Action Team to respond to the obvious, and not so obvious, short and long-term issues at Oak Lawn Cemetery. The cemetery is private property which has caused a variety of legal and administrative issues when considering and implementing actions. Most of us have friends or relatives who are interred there and Oak Lawn also has over 600 veteran's graves.

While the team diligently continues to work on long-term solutions, with the help of the community, we took a noticeable short-term action last Friday. With financial assistance from the Gettysburg Eagles Aerie 1562, assistance from Adams County United Way, six zero turn mowers from Sheppard's Lawn Care and nine community service volunteers from the Adams County Correctional Facility, with oversight from County Maintenance, as well as several other volunteers, Oak Lawn was completely mowed and trimmed. The work detail began at 10:00 and concluded about 4:00. It was an excellent group effort to re-gain some degree of respect for the cemetery and those interred.

The Eagles have generously provided the financial resources for mowing to be done one or two more times to get us to the end of the Fall growing season. This is certainly not a permanent solution; but is a fine example of the community responding to an immediate need while we seek some permanent remedies.

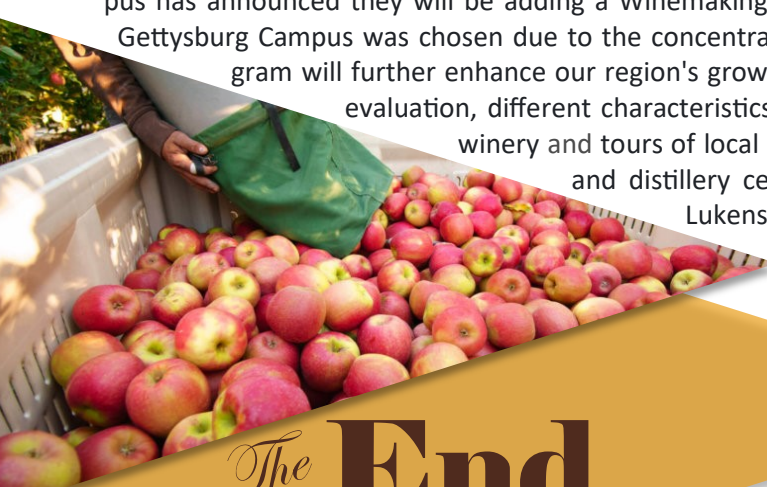


Human Services Building Dedication

The Adams County Human Services Building dedication is tentatively scheduled to take place at 11AM on Wednesday, November 14. The dedication will take place in the multi-purpose room. Both staff and public are invited. The dedication will be followed by a tour of the building in available areas. The Human Services Building is a wonderful addition to effectively serve residents and staff that will resonate for decades!

HACC Winemaking Course

HACC continually strives to add curriculum that has occupational relevance to our community. HACC Gettysburg Campus has announced they will be adding a Winemaking and Grape Growing Certificate program in January 2019! The Gettysburg Campus was chosen due to the concentration of wineries and tasting rooms in Adams County. The program will further enhance our region's growing and winemaking industry. The program will cover: sensory evaluation, different characteristics of wine, how to pair wine with food, an internship at a local winery and tours of local vineyards. Sounds like my kind of course! How about brewery and distillery certificate's? To learn more about this program, contact Holly Lukens, coordinator of corporate and business services, Workforce Development & Continuing Education Division. Contact Holly at 717-780-1179



The **End**

I am sure that some of you made the trek to Apple Harvest Festival the last two weekends. Except for the first Saturday, the weather was iffy each day with rain in the mornings. Despite the rain the turnout overall seemed fair. I worked the chicken pit the first weekend and sold some apple bread and cookies the second weekend. The Apple Harvest Festival is a great community event that appeals to locals and visitors alike. I got four new brooms for myself and family from the "broom man" who makes them while you watch. He even gave me a volume discount.

What a shock more rain! It started raining in April and has not stopped. If the precipitation does not stop this winter, I will be waking up Loretta and Judge George at 5AM for weather calls on a frequent basis.

Last Friday I was given some tickets, at the very last minute by some friends who could not go, to see Sarah Evans at the Eichelberger Theater in Hanover. An excellent sold out show. On Saturday, I went to Fairfield to see a community theater production *Moon Over Buffalo*, directed by Carroll Valley Mayor Ron Harris. The show was held at the Fairfield Fire Department with ½ of the proceeds benefiting the Fairfield Fire Department. The show was hilarious. Great job Mayor Harris! My wife Kathy was out of town for the weekend and she accused me of doing more fun stuff when she is not around? My reply was that sometimes you need to go with the way the cards are dealt. My point is that there is a lot of great stuff to do in Adams County – even when you don't plan it!

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!