



Community Christmas Festival

Last weekend both Christmas spirit and Christmas events were plentiful in Adams County. There was the annual Christmas Parade, concerts, Christmas bazaars, movies, carriage rides, face painting, recitals, art displays, jazz, free gift wrapping, gingerbread houses and lot of great food and beverages. During some of the time slots there were two or three events going on at different locations. The Adams County Historic Courtroom was part of the holiday festivities on Saturday evening hosting a harp and then vocal recital. Between the two programs in the historic courtroom, Judge George presented an informative historical narrative of the 1859 structure. A shout out to all the folks in the community who contributed to the success of the event.

Prison Receives Full Compliance

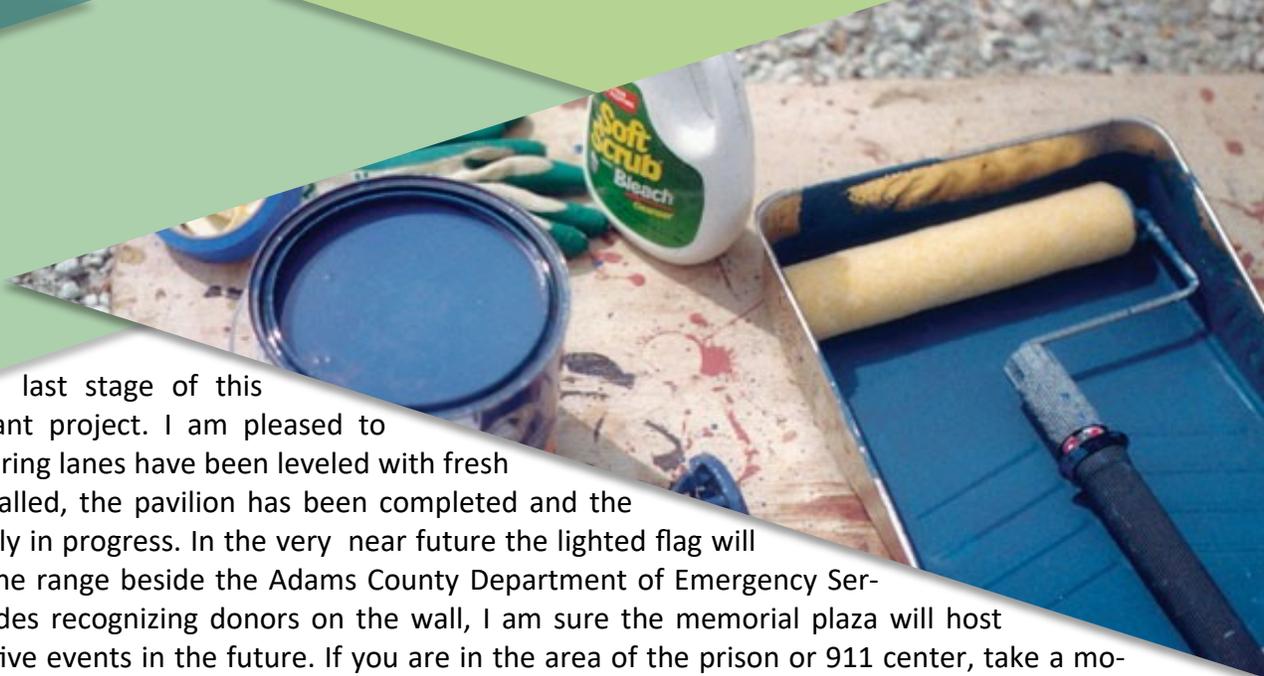
On December 4, the Adams County Prion Board received documentation that the Adams County Adult Correctional Complex earned full compliance during the 2019 inspection by the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections. The letter from Tabb Bickell, Executive Deputy Secretary of Institutional Operations, stated that “There are no deficiencies or citations to report. The results of the inspection show that the facility has achieved full compliance with Title 37, Chapter 95 County Correctional Institutions, Administrative Standards, Regulations and Facilities.” The inspection was conducted on November 21. Due to this achievement, the ACACC is exempt from the normal one-year inspection cycle with the next inspection being in 2021. The letter also stated that “staff commitment to compliance is evident throughout the facility.” Congratulations to Warden Katy Hileman and all the Adams County Corrections & County Maintenance Team for achieving this high level of compliance success.

Congressman Joyce Opioid Hearing Today

With the sponsorship of Congressman John Joyce, the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy James Carroll, will be holding a round-table drug impact discussion with Congressman Joyce and members of the Adams County law enforcement and treatment community that have been invited to attend. The roundtable is being held from 1-2pm today at the Adams County Ag Center. I am sure the event will be reported in the local media.

Firearms Training Range Nearing Completion

Although the Adams County Law Enforcement Firearms Training Range has been active for at least 6 months, leveling of the lanes, construction of a pavilion and completion of the memorial flag plaza recognition wall were planned as the



last stage of this significant project. I am pleased to report that the firing lanes have been leveled with fresh gravel and sod installed, the pavilion has been completed and the flag plaza is currently in progress. In the very near future the lighted flag will fly majestically at the range beside the Adams County Department of Emergency Services Building. Besides recognizing donors on the wall, I am sure the memorial plaza will host many commemorative events in the future. If you are in the area of the prison or 911 center, take a moment to stop by and see what a community can accomplish when we come together for a common objective. Donations are still being accepted for up-keep of the range. Donations should be directed to the Adams County Law Enforcement Association, 1935 Mummasburg Rd, Gettysburg, PA 17325.

Courthouse Painting

It has been hard to miss the ladders, high lifts and painting activity around the historic courthouse. The painting contractor from western PA, has had 6-8 workers swarming the building to utilize the last gasp of suitable weather. It was obvious that the upper reaches and clock tower of the historic courthouse were badly in need of scraping and fresh paint. The visual improvement is remarkable. The contractor needs a few more days of appropriate weather to finish the job. Thank you to everyone for the minor inconvenience occurred while we accomplished this much needed improvement. Speaking of building improvements, thank you to Paula Neiman, Lisa Moreno-Woodward and Sara Brensinger for facilitating the wreaths on the historic courthouse doors and the battery-operated candles in all the Baltimore Street windows. They look great from the street. Also, departments have done a great job of getting into the holiday spirit with some exceptional door decorations. It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas!

Angel Tree Donation at CYS

In the good news department, there are some Happy Holiday Things going on at Adams County Children & Youth Services. CYS Director Sarah Finkey reports Christmas gifts are coming in from our community for our kids. There are almost 90 Angel Tree Children that were sponsored by Wellspan. Families come into the hospital and sponsor a child by buying gifts that the child wants and returning them to the hospital for CYS to pick up. CYS also has an additional 44 older youth that will now have gifts that are sponsored through various individuals through the CYS Teen Angel program that is located at the Housing Authority. CYS also has benefactors in the community that are sponsoring some of our last-minute families that will need gifts. Forty hams have been donated for families along with some side dishes (thanks to donations from county offices). Lots of wrapping paper has been donated so parents can wrap

their own children's gifts. It is so nice to pass along these gestures of good will stemming from within our community!



The End

Pup update! Bailey, my Golden Retriever pup is still growing into her ever expanding body. She will be 6-months old on December 20 and weighed in at 47 pounds Wednesday at the vets. She got her booster shot, rabies shot and was chipped. She is now ready for her lifetime "senior citizen owner" Adams County Dog License from the Treasurer's Office. She has a lot of energy and wants something in her mouth all the time. She is about 80% house trained; but the other 20% is still frustrating. As such, her world revolves around the kitchen when she is inside or outside on our deck. In the evening she gets to hang out with me in the living room or my study - as long as I am close by. I must admit she is a great sleeper and lets me sleep the entire night in her soft crate on the floor beside me. My sons and I just got finished installing the 3rd invisible dog fence that I have installed in my life-time – and thank goodness it seems generally to be getting Bailey's attention. Her propensity for dashing off with reckless abandon to the neighbors when she hears their five Labs bark, or when she sees another dog or person on the walking path beside our house, has greatly diminished; but not totally disappeared.

This Sunday enjoy Music Gettysburg's "Christmas sampler" production of *A Christmas Offering* at the United Lutheran Seminary at 7PM. On Sunday at 3PM head south of the border to the National Shrine of Mother Elizabeth Ann Seton in Emmitsburg for *A Celtic Christmas* featuring the Celtic Band "Seasons." They will be performing a variety of Irish Christmas songs, original Christmas songs and traditional favorites. There is no charge and a free-will offering will be collected. Experience President Dwight "Ike" and Mamie Eisenhower's holiday decorations in their Gettysburg home. *Christmas At The Eisenhower Home* is an annual display. Tickets and shuttle bus to the site from the Park Visitor Center on Baltimore Pike are required. Adults \$9 and Youth \$5 includes shuttle and house tour. Enjoy skating at the *Gettysburg Ice Rink* for \$5. Bring your own skates or rent them. Since its first presentation in 1987, this live production of *A Christmas Carol* has been celebrated by thousands of theatergoers and had become a favorite holiday tradition for young and old alike in our community. See this production at the Majestic Theater on December 20, 21 & 22. Ticket prices are \$32 & \$38.

Thank you to all the volunteers that came out last Friday to support SGT MAC and help assemble approximately 16,000 wreaths at the Gettysburg GIANT for Soldiers National Cemetery in Gettysburg and Quantico National Cemetery in Virginia. The air was brisk but the weather and spirits were sunny and bright as approximately 300 volunteers filled four tractor trailers in about 2 ½ hours Friday morning. Following a ceremony at each location, the wreaths were distributed by volunteers on Friday afternoon in Gettysburg and Saturday morning at Quantico.

There is so much to do this holiday season. 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! Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for a joyous holiday season celebrating with friends and family!