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from
Adams County

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In this issue...



Page 2

MDJ Harvey Moves to
HSB
2019 PA Counties Priority



Page 3

Controversial New
Waters of the U.S.
103rd PA Farm Show



Page 4

PA Population Increases
Third Floor Renovation
The End



Health Insurance Transition

HR reports that the January 1 transition to Capital Blue Cross for health insurance has been a very smooth transition so far. All staff received a copy of their new information to present to providers until the actual cards are received. HR Reports that new cards are being mailed to your home address today. I have had both physician and pharmacy visits this week and providing the new information was seamless with the information HR provided. We realize that as members refill prescriptions they may experience a difference with the drug formulary. Danette Laughman will continue to help with these and any other challenges you may experience. Remember to check the ADP portal for benefit information and the drug formulary. Here's to your good health in 2019!



MDJ Harvey **Moves to HSB**

On January 2 Magistrate Matt Harvey and his staff moved from their East Middle Street location to the Adams County Human Services Building. Magistrate Harvey has expressed his appreciation of the expanded office space, enhanced security and a significantly improved courtroom with court technology. Magistrate Harvey now joins Magistrate Beauchat at that location. It is the previously announced intent of the county to sell the property on East Middle Street at public auction this spring. The Board of Commissioners extends our best wishes to Magistrate Harvey and staff at their new office!

2019 Pennsylvania County Priorities

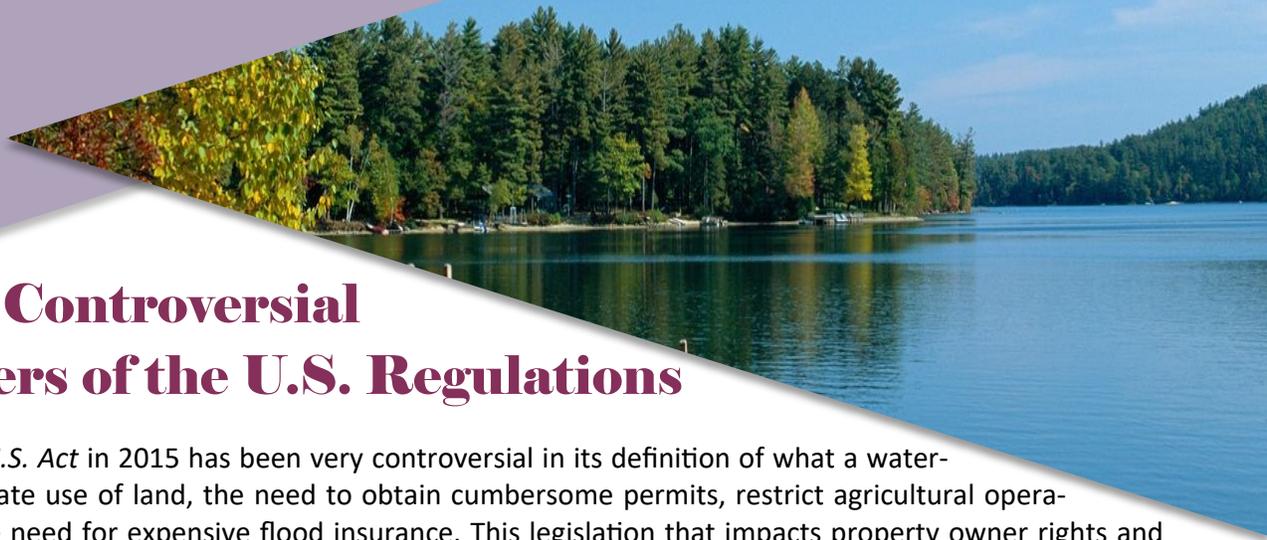
As the New Year begins, Pennsylvania County Commissioners have chosen six legislative priorities for 2019, each of which highlights a commitment to county core responsibilities and ultimately to the residents and communities of Pennsylvania.

The counties' priorities are led by a call for a strong state-county partnership to meet the requirements of a recent litigation settlement agreement between the Pennsylvania Department of State and the Jill Stein campaign which, among other things, requires voter-verifiable paper audit trail voting systems to be in place by April 2020. The state has the authority to de-certify existing machine even though they leave a paper trail and work well. While Gov. Wolf's administration has indicated its intention to seek state funding of at least 50 percent of the cost of new systems, a chief county objective under this priority is obtaining full funding, noting that every dollar that does not come from federal or state funding will be a local property tax. The price tag is estimated to be \$500,000 for Adams County.

Counties also continue to prioritize the expansion of resources to allow more options for care and treatment of individuals with mental illness and developmental disabilities outside of the prison system. While counties and the state Department of Human Services have formed a strong partnership to address forensic bed shortages and expand community-based services, much remains to be done to expand services across the mental health system as a whole, regardless of an individual's involvement in the criminal justice system.

Commitment of full state and federal funding for human services also remains a county priority. Programs have suffered more than fifteen years of funding stagnation or decline, even in the face of the daily challenge of serving the ever-growing needs of vulnerable residents. Funding is critical to protect children suffering from abuse, those fighting substance abuse issues, individuals with mental illness and seniors in need of long-term care.

The 2019 priorities are rounded out with a focus on developing strategies for rural broadband expansion, encouraging all counties to use newly developed tools to maintain fair and uniform assessment practices, and implementing a comprehensive approach to addressing substance abuse in all of its forms. As a Board member of the Pennsylvania County Commissioners Association (CCAP), I will keep you apprised of the status of these priorities as we progress through the year.



Controversial New Waters of the U.S. Regulations

The *Waters of the U.S. Act* in 2015 has been very controversial in its definition of what a waterway is as it can dictate use of land, the need to obtain cumbersome permits, restrict agricultural operations and create the need for expensive flood insurance. This legislation that impacts property owner rights and has come been on the agenda of The County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania for the past several years. Some of the water designations falling under current regulations can be viewed as not making any sense. The Trump Administration has ordered the EPA and The Army Corps of Engineers to review and reconsider the 2015 rule which is being challenged in several federal courts.

The new proposed definition would create six categories of regulated waters including traditional navigable waters, tributaries, certain ditches, certain lakes and ponds, impoundments and adjacent wetlands. The proposal also clarifies that such as ground water, features that are only wet during rainfall events, and storm water control features do not fit under the definition, which was not clearly defined by the 2015 rule. This legislation can significantly impact property owners so for more information go to www.epa.gov/wotus-rule.

103rd Pennsylvania Farm Show

On Wednesday, Commissioner Martin represented the Board of Commissioners during Public Officials Day at the 103rd PA Farm Show. The luncheon meeting featured Adams County's own Russell Redding, Secretary of Agriculture, and presenters of their stories impacting agriculture in Pennsylvania. Jim said one of the most interesting stories was about the Dennis Farm in northeastern PA. It was begun in the 1700's by a free African-American farmer and has stayed in family operation for over 200 years. A descendent of that family gave the presentation. The operation became very successful as the years advanced, aided by a diversity of products they sold locally. A forestry CEO also spoke to the group. Forestry is often forgotten as a major element of PA agriculture. Most people do not realize that PA is the nation's leading state producer of hardwood lumber. When you add all the remaining hardwood producing states in the northeast together as one, Pennsylvania sill ranks high at number 2.

As Adams County is in the heart of the state's fruit belt, we certainly appreciate the efforts of our fruit growers. Our growers competed in a variety of categories at the farm show. The king of those categories is the market display competition. Several Adams County growers won ribbons in the market display competition. Most notable, was Adams County's Hollabaugh Brothers, Inc. winning first place. A shout out to our growers in the face of a very difficult growing year. If you are thinking about attending the Farm Show this Saturday is the last day.



PA Population Increases

CCAP reports that Pennsylvania's resident population grew to 12,807,060 as of July 1, 2018 according to the latest population estimates from the U.S Census Bureau's Population Estimates Program. This estimate marks a slight growth just over 100,000 persons since 2010 when Pennsylvania's population was 12,702,873. Pennsylvania remains ranked fifth in terms of population size, having surpassed Illinois in 2017. Pennsylvania had the eighth lowest rate of growth (0.8%), similar to other Mid-Atlantic and Northeastern states like New York (0.8%). The nation as a whole grew by over 18.4 million (6.0%). Utah (14.4%), Texas (14.1%), and Florida (13.3%) were the three fastest growing states although the District of Columbia outpaced all states' growth from 2010 to 2018 (16.7%). Texas added the most population numerically at over 3.5 million, followed by Florida (2.5 million) and California (2.3 million). Look out for our county-level analysis as the estimates release in March 2019.

Third Floor Courthouse Renovation



Recently you may have heard banging or drilling sounds emitting from the third floor. I know we have in the commissioner's office. Maintenance reports the in-house renovation should be completed by late February. The District Attorney's Office & Victim Witness will be moving to their new spaces on the third floor when the renovation is completed. The Board has not made any firm decision yet on the use of the Historic Courthouse space that is being vacated; but we know space is always at a premium and we will be doing so in the near future.

The **End**

Wherever you rang in the New Year, I hope it was enjoyable - and dry. A shout out to the Adams County Arts Council and all the local individuals and organizations that make the community celebration in downtown Gettysburg a reality. Although it was a damp New Year's Eve, there was plenty of inside entertainment and culinary opportunities to enjoy. Although I am a regular attendee of the celebration on the square, I must admit after an excellent dinner at Inn 94 New Year's Eve, I was in bed asleep by 1030.

Mark your calendar. Gettysburg College is sponsoring 39th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration on Monday, January 21. This year's event will feature keynote speaker, Dr. Scott Hancock. Hancock is an associate professor of history and Africana Studies at Gettysburg College.

Admission is free and the public is invited to attend. A freewill offering will be taken to support the Adams County Career Aid Project which provides need-based financial aid to Adams County students. The evening will also include performances by the Morgan State University Choir, the Chamber Chorale of the Gettysburg Children's Choir, and a prelude by the Biglerville High School Jazz Band at 6:30 pm. The celebration also features a presentation of the Living the Dream Award, sponsored by the YWCA and United Way of Adams County.

Here's a great and tasty idea! Support the Adams County Arts Council by enjoying an "Ice Dinner" with a five course dinner and flights of wine with a winter theme. You'll be transported to other regions and parts of the world that are known for their wintry faire. Discover the history of these regions and what make the dishes and wines so special. The evening will include a special ice carving by Subarna. You don't want to miss this unique and sumptuous event. The event is being held at the Arts Council located on N. Washington Street, Friday, January 25TH from 6-8:30. The cost is \$50 for members and \$55 for non-members. Call the Arts Council at 717-334-5006 for reservations.

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!