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from
Adams County

written by: Commissioner Randy Phiel

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The Best to Security Director *Mike Baltzley*

The Mercy House and Recovery Center project is moving ahead full steam. The county team has finished up the last of the grant applications and are still waiting for some hopefully good news from additional funding sources.

Just to recap, the Mercy House will be a facilitator for recovery services in the county. It will be a drop in center during the day and will also contain five apartments for men as they work through their recovery process. Over the past year we have applied for funds from eight government and philanthropic organizations. We have been awarded \$11,500 from the Adams County Bar Association, \$55,000 from the Adams County Community Foundation, and \$762,000 from Health Choices for a total of \$828,500. While we have not heard



back from five organizations, we are optimistic that they are looking favorably on this project. So far the initial support has been amazing and we look forward to more philanthropic and community investment into this project.

With the last of the grants written, staff are turning their focus to the bidding process and getting the project ready for construction work. Once a contractor is approved, we will keep the community updated as the project progresses. Our hope is to have the project ready for move-in during the first quarter of 2020; but historic renovation may impact the time line.

Voting Machine Reimbursement Saga Continues

Governor Wolf has announced his intent to use a PEDFA bond issue to provide \$90M in funding to reimburse counties for up to 60 percent of the cost of purchase of new voting systems. The Department of State will be sending a more detailed notice to counties, but supposedly the funds will be available to counties that have purchased, or enter agreements to purchase, new equipment by December 31, 2019. In addition, counties with existing qualified hand marked paper systems will have an option to defer action until June 2021, but would qualify for a reduced reimbursement. We will see where this goes as the administration and the legislature continue to wrestle over the details. Adams County's new machines are in-hand and we await with some anticipation and concern how the legislature will react to this latest development for the voting machine reimbursement yoyo. Adams County residents will be using the new machines in the November 5th General Election.

Employee Investment Platform Update

After careful consideration and weighing numerous factors, the decision has been made by the Board of Commissioners to continue with John Hancock's employee investment platform for the 457 B product. Please disregard the mailing you received at home from Empower. These were mailed out prematurely. There will be no "black out" period and the name of the new broker will be announced very soon.

Governor Signs Budget

A budget stalemate is not in the cards this year – thank goodness! On June 28 Gov. Wolf signed HB 790 into law for Fiscal Year 2019-2020. This legislation spends nearly \$34 billion in state funds, representing an increase of about 2% over 2018-2019 spending, but less than the \$34.1 billion proposed by the Governor in February. Much of the increase is directed toward education and agriculture which are both worthy recipients; while

it should be pointed out that the majority of state funding for counties goes toward human services. Also, surplus monies of approximately 300M are to be transferred into the states rainy day fund. If you want to know more about the state budget go to: www.pacounties.org

Ransomware Attacks Increase

We all need to be very conscious with every click of our keyboards that Ransomware and Phishing Attacks are occurring frequently. Just recently the County had many users fail an actual spear phishing attack from a known outside email account that was hacked and used to send phishing emails. Many County and Court employees were on the persons contact list and assumed it was legitimate when it was not. The IT Department suspects that our outbound filtering system blocked the ransomware from executing the attack and taking down the network. This is a contemporary curse that is not going to end. We need to be diligent and self-policing in email safety. These attacks will not stop and it will come down to the user's decision to click or not click.....it's as simple as that. This is an organization-wide effort. IT will continue to test our system and county users with phishing tests – so think before you click!

Courthouse Renovation Update

If you are headed to the Controllers or Finance office on the 2nd floor of the courthouse, beware you will find some empty offices. Both departments have moved to their new renovated space on the 1st floor of the historic courthouse. This area formerly housed the District Attorney's office which is now on the 3rd floor with Victim/Witness. To prepare for the re-location some temporary walls were removed, carpeting and paint was refreshed and the HVAC was upgraded.

The next phase of renovation will be to refresh the vacated offices for the Solicitor to move to the 2nd floor and move the Public Defender from the basement to the historic courthouse 1st floor. After that is complete, Building & Maintenance will turn their attention to the row offices on the 1st floor as their schedule permits.



The End

This past Sunday afternoon was the Phiel Family's first time to visit and hang out with the new litter of 3-week old Golden Retriever puppies. They are still not very active and the six of them looked like they were in a rugby scrum pile just wanting to snooze. The four females each have pink fingernail polish on a different front and rear quarters to distinguish them. My son Connor thought one in particular had an especially cute face. Man are they soft. During our next visit in three weeks they will be more active and we can see them in action in the yard.

Now that the Reenactment and Bike Week are in the community's rearview mirror, we turn our attention to other summer events in Adams County. This Friday/Saturday is the international car show at Gateway from 8-3. Also in neighboring Franklin County on Friday/Saturday is a reenactment of The Burning of Chambersburg on the center square. The annual Irish Festival takes place this Saturday from 10-6 at Moose Park just off York Road. On Saturday at 1:00 a living history event, *Tea with Robert Smalls*, introduces the man who rose from slavery to the Senate. Tea begins at 1:00 at The Homefront General Store in Gettysburg Village on Baltimore Street. On Saturday from 6-8 learn more about the famous Cyclorama Painting in the Ford Center at the Gettysburg National Park Visitor Center. The annual 19TH Century Baseball Tournament takes place Saturday/Sunday at the Shroeder Farm, 965 Pumping Station Road, with 22 teams participating this year. There is no charge for admission and a donation to Gettysburg Little League for parking assistance is encouraged. On Sunday evening at 6pm the Gettysburg Big Band performs at the Lutheran Seminary outdoor amphitheater. Bring your lawn chair and hear some great music. On Thursday, July 25 turn back the clock and listen to Gordon Lightfoot at the Majestic Theater perform songs that will bring back memories for many of us. The South Mountain Fair kicks off from July 30 - August 3rd and don't forget the Friends of the Adams County Library Annual Book Sale at Reddings Auction on Table Rock Road. From July 31- August 3 you will find great deals on thousands of books while supporting your Adams County Library. I took home a bagful of books last year. If you have not yet been to the recently opened Thirsty Farmer Brewery at the Roundbarn - get up there to see the dog pool leaping contest while sipping one of their delicious beverages.

Local produce will soon be at its peak with peachfests and cornfests just around the corner. What a great culinary feast with corn, watermelon, tomatoes and peaches all on the table at the same time. No matter what you do, get out there and experience all the historical, agricultural, recreational, natural and cultural opportunities that beautiful Adams County has to offer!