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from  
*Adams County*

written by: **Commissioner Randy Phiel**

May 17, 2019

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**VOTE.  
YOUR  
VOICE  
MATTERS.**

## Get Out & Vote!

Don't forget that this Tuesday is Election Day. The polls are open from 7AM-8PM. This is a Municipal Primary with a Special Election in Adams County. The Special Election is a result of 33<sup>RD</sup> District Senator Rich Alloway stepping down from office before the completion of his term. For the Special Election note that Independents may also vote in the Special Election. They will be given an exclusive ballot with the Senatorial candidates. Independents will only vote for a senatorial candidate. Democrats and Republicans will have the matter as the 1<sup>st</sup> item on their ballots. The winner of this Special Election will fill out the term.

The normal voter turnout for municipal elections is often dismal. Sometimes only 20-30% of registered voters go to the polls. Municipal elections have significant day to day impact on the lives of residents. Also, Adams County voters will be seeing new voting machines in the General Election. Let's get out there on Tuesday and exercise this fundamental right and freedom to vote that so many have given so much to retain.



## Alpha Fire Company Dedicates New Fire Complex

Last Saturday was a proud moment for Alpha Fire Company and the Littlestown Community. The dedication of the new fire station was attended by several hundred residents along with the Adams County Board of Commissioners. In lieu of a ribbon cutting, there was a ceremonial uncoupling of a firehose. The hose uncoupling was a culmination of much hard work, collaboration and perseverance by Alpha members and residents to make this project a reality.

Despite Alpha having a healthy building project fund, when the project was given the green light by the members several years ago, the potential for grant funding was very positive. As Alpha moved forward on the project, grant funding by the Federal government diminished. Despite this obstacle, the company re-grouped and utilized all available resources at the local and government levels to keep the project on track. Alpha members are to be commended for their resourcefulness, persistence and dedication.

As I said at the ceremony, the building is more than just beautiful new bricks, mortar and steel to house equipment and protect the community; this is also about a sense of community and a gathering of community that we have in many towns and villages all over Adams County. As the sun came out and shone brightly as the ceremony began, it was a good day in the Littlestown community. Job well done Alpha Fire!

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## Finance Office—GFOA Certified Budget Document

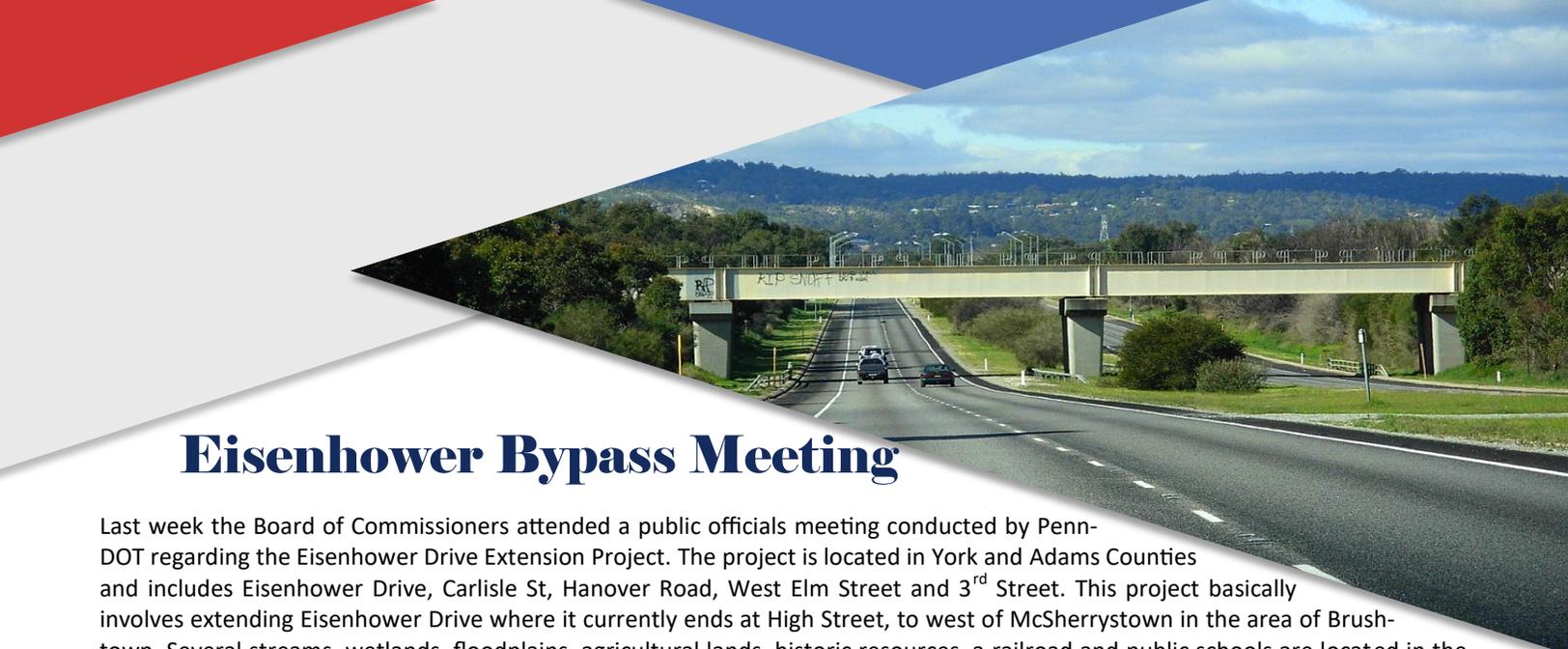
The Finance Team has been working on a project that has never been done before in the history of the County. As the County has grown over the past ten years and resources are scarcer than ever, the Finance Office continues to provide many services to all the departments within the County structure. This Team plays an integral part in developing the Annual Adams County Budget while working with the Commissioners and Department Directors throughout the year helping manage their budgets. The Finance Team continues to maintain high standards through being a member of an organization known as the Government Finance Officers Association. This Association offers many certification programs and one of which is known as “The GFOA Distinguished Budget Presentation Award Program”. For the first time, our Finance Team has applied, developed, and submitted a Budget Document to this program on April 25, 2019.

Finance Director Melissa Devlin expresses her thanks to the Board of Commissioners for allowing the Finance Team this opportunity to move forward and allow the staff a chance to excel and illustrate their skillsets by building and presenting a budget document that provides so much more information to the County employees as well as the citizens of the County.

Melissa also wanted to provide a huge thank you to all of her staff, Phil Swope-Staff Accountant; Sara Brensinger, Purchasing Coordinator; and Todd Garret, Budget Analyst. Without this team effort this document would not have been possible. Melissa noted each team member put time, effort and extra hours to meet the deadline. Special thanks to Sara Brensinger for her persistence, patience and leadership that she demonstrated throughout this project. Sara has a special quality about her that allows her to be a natural leader. For her leadership she has contributed greatly to the Finance Team and continues to do so. Finally, Melissa would like to thank Nate Swartz, CPA from ZA, our Auditing firm, for his guidance and assistance with this project.

Our Controllers Office recently received a GFOA Award for financial reporting. Both our Finance Office and Controller’s Office are to be congratulated for seeking and maintaining high standards! The fiscal collaboration that is taking place between the Commissioners, Finance, Controller and the Treasurer’s Office is recognized and to be commended!





## Eisenhower Bypass Meeting

Last week the Board of Commissioners attended a public officials meeting conducted by PennDOT regarding the Eisenhower Drive Extension Project. The project is located in York and Adams Counties and includes Eisenhower Drive, Carlisle St, Hanover Road, West Elm Street and 3<sup>rd</sup> Street. This project basically involves extending Eisenhower Drive where it currently ends at High Street, to west of McSherrystown in the area of Brush-town. Several streams, wetlands, floodplains, agricultural lands, historic resources, a railroad and public schools are located in the study area.

The project was first conceived in 1997 when the Hanover Area Transportation Planning Study was presented to PennDOT. Between 2005-2007, PennDOT initiated the Eisenhower Drive Extension Project evaluating environmental constraints, existing traffic patterns, and coordination with municipalities. It was then put on hold due to funding constraints. In 2011, Adams County issued the Eisenhower Parkway Study, which was a local planning effort to identify potential new alignments for Eisenhower Drive. PennDOT re-initiated the project in November 2014 and are moving ahead with the required environmental studies and preliminary design efforts.

PennDOT reports that SR 116 (Hanover Rd) carries 16,100 vehicles through McSherrystown daily, which is estimated to increase to 29,200 vehicles per day by 2040. PennDOT has reduced the project to three potential options. Option 1 is the No Build (Do Nothing) Alternative. Option 2 is called the Transportation System Management Alternative with updating of existing roadways with potential widening, roundabouts and new lights. Option 3 is the Off-Alignment (Bypass) Build Alternative that extends Eisenhower Drive from its existing terminus at High Street to SR 116 near Brushtown. For more information regarding the project contact Ben Singer, PennDOT Project Manager at (717) 787-6690, or the project website [www.eisenhowerdriveextension.com](http://www.eisenhowerdriveextension.com)

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## State Revenue Surplus

The County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania is reporting that according to the state Department of Revenue, the Commonwealth collected nearly \$465M, or 11.8% more than anticipated in General Revenue in April. That puts fiscal-year-to-date collections at \$29.2 billion, about \$828 million, or almost 3% above estimate. County governments watch the state budget process with great interest this time of year as it relates to providing service programs to our residents. Governor Wolf has requested supplemental appropriations for FY 2018-2019 of \$495M, mostly for unbudgeted Human Services costs. Given budget difficulties the last few years that resulted in delayed funding to critical programs, we are hopeful that the Governor and our legislators can come to reasonable terms and compromise to pass a responsible and on-time budget.

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## Domestic Relations Open House—June 11

On Tuesday, June 11, Adams County Domestic Relations will have an Open House *Helping Families Secure Employment*. Adams County Domestic Relations strives to help families by providing resources that can lead to securing employment. Domestic Relations is very excited to host this Open House with the goal to potentially hold a job fair at the Human Services Building in the late fall. This will allow all the departments at the Human Services Building to utilize community resources



**OPEN  
HOUSE**

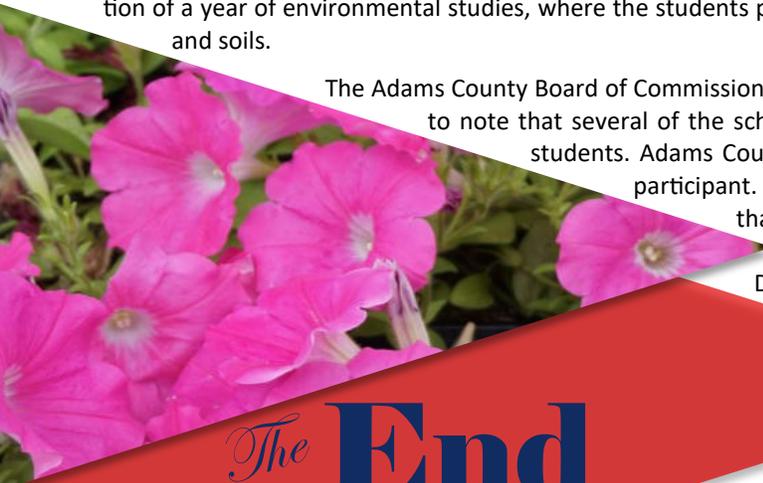
such as PA Career Link, PA Commuter Services, Lincoln Intermediate Unit and Office of Vocational Rehabilitation. The location of the Open House will be held at the Adams County Human Services Building, Multipurpose Room, 525 Boyds School Road, Gettysburg PA. 17325. PH: 717-337-9804

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## Adams County Envirothon

Upper Adams & Littlestown claimed the title of Grand Champion over other area schools last Wednesday and Friday at the Littlestown Fish & Game. This year's competition had 178 students on 36 different teams – with some pretty unusual team names. This program is sponsored and coordinated annually by the *Adams County Conservation District*. The annual Envirothon is the culmination of a year of environmental studies, where the students participate in a variety of stations related to wildlife, aquatics, forestry and soils.

The Adams County Board of Commissioners attended the event on Friday to present awards. It was interesting to note that several of the school teachers had been participants in the program when they were students. Adams County Conservation District Director Adam McClain was also a student participant. Besides congratulating the students, the Board recognized and thanked the school teachers and their administrator's for recognizing the importance of this program. A shout out to the Conservation District staff and Adams County Planning & Development for making this valuable educational program happen each spring!



*The* **End**

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Last Tuesday the Board attended the Chamber Awards luncheon at The Lodges. On Wednesday the Board and several department directors attended a lunch meeting at the Battlefield Bed & Breakfast to celebrate National Tourism Week and get a tourism update from Destination Gettysburg. We headed to the Envirothon on Friday and the Alpha Fire Company Building dedication on Saturday.

This weekend is packed with activities - and promises to be gorgeous with little or no rain! The Gettysburg Bluegrass Festival is in full swing this weekend at Granite Hill Campground from Thursday-Sunday. Speaking of live music, I hope you saw the Oak Ridge Boys last night at the sold out Majestic concert. The Gettysburg Outdoor Antique Market will line the streets of Gettysburg tomorrow from 7:00-4:00 with over 120 vendors. While you are browsing those antiques, stop by the GAR Hall for a bowl or take home quart of their famous homemade bean soup beginning at 11:00. When the soup is gone – it's gone! The Gettysburg Garden Club will hold their annual spring flower sale on Saturday at the Gettysburg Fire Department from 8:00-2:00. Historic Gettysburg Adams County will hold an Architectural Salvage Sale at the Daniel Lady Farm on Saturday from 10:00-2:00. Sample a variety of wine and engage in other enjoyable activities at the Littlestown Wine Festival on Saturday from 12-6 at the Littlestown Community Park.

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!