TGIF

from Adams County

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Reminder

Balitmore Street Closes at 2:00 PM Today

Today Main Street Gettysburg will be holding the first ever Long, Long, Long, Long Table Dinner Party. This will be held on the south side of Lincoln Square and Baltimore Street from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Baltimore Street will be closed to traffic from the square to South Street (Farnsworth House) beginning at 2:00 p.m. Please plan on taking detours and expect heavy vehicle and foot traffic. The street will reopen at approximately 10:00 p.m.

Record Breaker
Last Friday's County Staff Picnic

On Friday, September 27th the 13th Annual County Picnic was held at the Ag Building and we could not have asked for a better day. The weather was perfect, the food was very tasty, the music was wonderful, and everyone seemed to be enjoying the games. We had a record number of employees sign up – 360 – which is 55 more employees than last year's record breaker. It was nice to look out over the picnic area and see everyone enjoying each other's company. We will be giving away 65 vouchers for Kennie's Market in the amount of $25.00. The winners will be announced very soon. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Tom Leedy, and Rick Esenwine for their fine cooking, Warren Bladen, Barb Walter, Lisa Moreno-Woodward, Cecelia Billingsley, Cindy Sanderson and Paula Neiman for their great efforts in putting the picnic together. We can't forget our servers – Commissioner Phiel, Martin and Qually, Judge Simpson and Judge Campbell. And a big shout-out to all the employees who participated in BAG THE BOUNTY. Mark your calendar for the last Friday in September 2020!!!!!

Fun Fall Family Wellness Event/Door Decorating

Adams County HR is sponsoring another family wellness event scheduled for Friday October 18th. It will be held at Smithfield Farms in Aspers on Friday, October 18 from 5:30-8:30. It involves a corn maze. hayrides, and a bonfire with hot dogs and smores. It doesn't get much better than that for a fun Fall Family activity. Please check out the details on your ADP Portal and RSVP no later than October 7. You can also reach out to anyone in the HR department. Hope to see many of you there!

Last year the 2nd floor of the Courthouse had a *Winter Holiday Door Decorating Contest*. It was so well received that it will be repeated this year and the entire Courthouse as well as other county offices are invited to participate. There will be an independent judge with a pizza party and prize to the winning department! The theme must be secular and in good taste. The decorations must go up on Monday December 2nd and come down on Tuesday December 31st. Get creative and have some fun! We hear that Finance is going to be tough to beat!

Mercy House

It seems that contractors are busy, and the Mercy House renovation bids came in higher than anticipated. The General Contracting bid was deemed especially high. We are working on several strategies to bring quotes and construction costs down. Although the Board is fully committed to this significant need in our community, the timeline is now looking like late spring.

IT Update

The Information Technology Department is pleased to announce that the current County website will be upgraded in 2020. The project will be completed in partnership with the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP) who is currently the County's web hosting partner. As part of the project, the current 2010 Microsoft SharePoint platform will be moved to a proprietary software platform through Kentico. This web content management platform will provide the core software components and features necessary for the website to function. New tools will also be introduced, including digital web forms that can be submitted directly from the website. Throughout this transition, the IT department will notify departments on the progress of the migration. The project is expected to take most of 2020 to complete.

In addition, the IT department assisted the Public Defender's office in transitioning to a new records management system. The new records management system is part of an offering through CCAP called "Unified Case Management."

The new system will remove manual entry for managing cases by interfacing automatically with the AOPC databases. This trend is becoming the norm, as many localized County systems now have the ability to directly interface with the primary systems hosted by the state. This modernization effort should be considered by all departments who are currently doing manual entry and are encouraged to see what options are available.

Furthermore, the department has also been working through various department moves throughout the Courthouse. The Solicitor, Controller, Finance, Public Defender, and Prothonotary's office have requested IT services in some capacity to either move the entire office or begin work towards modernizing the existing office space. The IT department will work towards balancing department move requests, work orders, department requested projects, and IT specific projects throughout the rest of 2019 and into 2020. The IT governance committee will continue to be the primary group prioritizing which projects the IT department will be focused on. An up-to-date list of active department requested IT projects can be found on the county intranet on the IT page under Project Management.

Employee Benefits News

Annual benefits open enrollment is right around the corner. The specifics regarding benefits are expected to be made available by the middle of October so you can compare the costs and coverages with your spouses. As mentioned before, there will be no design changes; but a slight increase to health insurance and dental insurance is anticipated. Vision will remain the same. November 4th through the 15th are the target dates for online enrollment via your ADP portal (just like last year). Cornerstone has been chosen to take over the management of the John Hancock 457B optional retirement tool for employees. An announcement will be made soon as to when they will be on site to

The End

Bailey the pup turned 3 months old last week. She is still a pup in what is becoming an adult dog's body. She can now put her paws up on the kitchen counter and pull off plates, sweaters and hats as well as my apple pie and ice cream. If we are lucky we get to that sweater or hat quickly before it becomes a victim of those sharp puppy teeth. I have to keep reminding myself she is still a puppy and I cannot think of her as my previous adult Golden.

Wow this is a busy time of year in Adams County. The streets of Gettysburg will be teeming this weekend with the Long, Long, Long Dinner Party this evening, the Pennsylvania Municipal League Conference activities hosted by Gettysburg Borough, Gettysburg College Homecoming and the Gettysburg Foundation Fall Muster. Of course, the nationally acclaimed National Apple Harvest Festival impacts the entire county with traffic, lodging and visitation. I have the privilege of providing a welcome at the Pennsylvania Municipal League Banquet on Saturday evening and will certainly urge the attendees to return to Adams County for a great experience.

Boyer's Nursery has Pick-Your-Own Apples through October 20. When you are finished picking, or waiting while others are picking, you can grab a glass of wine or hard cider from Boyer's Cellars Winery. While you are in that neck of the woods stop by The Thirsty Farmer right across the street from the historic Round Barn. Take a Town Tavern Tour on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at 5PM with a Licensed Town Guide. You will not only learn about historical taverns, but also about presidents, fires, civil war activities and temperance societies. Meet in the Gettysburg Hotel Courtyard. For the next four Fridays in October, from 5-9, jump on the Adams County Pour Tour Shuttle. Your ticket includes a free gift, complimentary waters, a guide to the locations you are visiting and most importantly, a safe and reliable mode of transportation so you can enjoy the bounty of beverages available to you! There is an In-Town Tour and a Countryside Kin Shuttle to quench your thirst. So much to eat and drink in Adams County and so little time!

I guess I am eating the last fresh peaches of the season from my fridge and am now turning to those fresh off-the-tree Adams County apples. If you come to the Apple Harvest Festival this Saturday or Sunday stop by and say hello. I will be one of the pit masters at the chicken barbeque pit, with watery eyes and smoky clothes, making sure every halve is done to a golden brown at least 180 degrees. This is simply a great time of year in Adams County. Get out there and experience all the historical, recreational, agricultural, natural and cultural opportunities that beautiful Adams County has to offer!!