

Adams County, Pennsylvania

NEWSLETTER

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Edition



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T.G.I.F.

Written by: *Commissioner Randy Phiel*



The Veterans Affairs Office would like to welcome Michelle Schaffer from Berwick Township to the office. Michelle comes to Adams County from the Victims Witness Assistance Unit in Carroll County, MD. She will also be assisting in the Commissioner's office in Special Projects and programs. Michelle will be attending the Veterans Service Officer Accreditation Course in September and will be a significant asset to our Veterans Affairs Department and the 9,300 Veterans and their families that reside in Adams County. Please stop by and introduce yourself to Michelle.

Also, our Veterans Affairs Director, Stan Clark, will be hosting a Veteran's Town Hall Meeting on September 30, 2015 from 6:30 PM – 8:30

PM at the Gettysburg American Legion Post located at 528 E. Middle Street, Gettysburg, PA. There will be representatives there from both the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Lebanon, PA and the VA Regional Office in Philadelphia. They will be available to answer questions on all aspects of Veteran's benefits and services that are available. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to Stan Clark at Ext. 320 or sclark@adamscounty.us.



Adams County Farmers Market Ribbon Cutting

On Wednesday afternoon the Adams County Farmers Market Association, celebrated Produce Month in Pennsylvania by highlighting the achievements of one of the state's most progressive farmers markets. All three commissioners attended a ribbon cutting of the market's new location on Culp Street beside the Heritage Center. It was also announced the FMNP/SNAP voucher was doubling. This is an example of tying together tourism and agriculture - and showing how farmers markets contribute to a healthy lifestyle. Presentations, included remarks by PA Secretary of Agriculture Russell Redding.



As a side note, I walked away as a happy customer with a dozen ears of fresh bi-color corn and a peck of those old time favorite Sun High peaches - that were the only ones my grandmother and mother would can. Had the corn for dinner and it was outstanding.

Farm Bureau Tour

Yesterday all three commissioners had the pleasure of touring *Apple Valley Creamery* near East Berlin and *AG COM* in New Chester outside New Oxford. It is always our pleasure to get out around the county to see businesses and meet with Adams County business owners.

Apple Valley Creamery is a small, family-owned dairy farm, creamery, and home delivery service located in East Berlin, PA. They began their current business in 2005 with a commitment to carrying healthy and safe products that would be beneficial to our families. They are committed to reducing the use of antibiotics, pesticides, and genetically modified crops in American agriculture. They also believe in the benefits of products from animals that are treated ethically and allowed to freely roam and forage on large pastures. Apple Valley Creamery is the only creamery in the state of Pennsylvania that provides both pasteurized and raw milk from pastured grass-fed cows with



the Animal Welfare Approved certification.

Ag Com Inc. is a diversified agricultural commodities company. Their feed mill at Granite Station in Gettysburg specializes in the custom manufacture of all natural feeds for large animals in south central Pennsylvania. All natural soybean meal processing also commenced in the mid 1990's and would become a key component in future years as Ag Com began to specialize in feed made naturally. The company continues to off load the many feed commodities providing logistical advantage to its customers. The fertilizer blend plant still provides nutrients for the corn, wheat and soybeans that supply the operations, which was the plan from generations ago. Today, the fourth and fifth generation of the Sharrer family remain exceedingly proud that the old flour mill that runs by the Conewago Creek in New Chester is still grinding flour, with superior ratings.

CCAP TGIF Award In Pittsburgh



Attached above is the photo of CCAP President Craig Lehman, Commissioner Martin, and IT Department staff members Loretta Weaver and Chip Guise and myself receiving the CCAP Excellence Award for Electronic Newsletters in Pittsburgh last Tuesday. The Adams County IT Department

takes TGIF every other week and makes it a visual pleasure. At Wednesday's Commissioners Workshop the Board of Commissioners presented the award to the Adams County IT Department to hang proudly on their wall.

Information Technology UPDATE

The Information Technology Department went live with a new website for Abbottstown Borough on August 7, 2015. The new site contains a welcome video showcasing the borough. The site also includes a documents center, meetings schedule, and contact information. This is a much needed resource for the Abbottstown Borough to communicate with their residents. It also provides documents and online information to reduce the necessity for residents to call or travel to the borough office.

Also, a member of the IT Department attended the 39th Directors & CEOs Leadership Convention. During the convention, there were several breakout sessions focused on best internal IT practices. The best practices discussed were centered on ways to reduce data breach incidents. The breakout session was led by Theresa Payton, former White House CIO. Payton spoke about the importance of understanding the different types of suitable material for Facebook and the negative effects some posts can have. A simple portrait picture of oneself at work could be harmless, but if the picture held sensitive information it could potentially compromise the organization. A final preventative measure learned during the convention was to make sure work related devices are only connected to secure WIFI signals. Sending emails and information over WIFI, which is not password

protected, is a very easy and probable way for hackers to acquire precious information. The practices learned from the session will be discussed by the IT team to continue enhancing the security posture of the County.

A video conferencing test pilot was completed between the Adams County Courthouse and Prison using high definition video equipment. The test was used to provide feedback on the use of video conferencing equipment in the Courtroom to reduce the transportation of inmates between the Courthouse and Prison. Members from the Courts, Public Defender, Sheriff, District Attorney, and Prison participated in the test. Initial feedback proved positive and the group concluded that further testing should continue. The core group members will continue testing the equipment over the next few weeks and the Courts will make the decision if a live session will be scheduled. The test is aligned with a National effort to utilize video conferencing equipment through "Cisco's Connected Justice initiative." Through the use of the internet of everything for Law Enforcement, Courts, and Corrections a connected justice system will provide a high-tech and always connected workforce.

The END

There were two large events in the area last weekend and the weather finally cooperated. With 20" of rain in the first half of the summer it was great to see blue skies and sunshine. Gettysburg Rocks and the Annual Civil War Reenactment attracted many visitors to the area. At the reenactment a friend and I drove down one long row of cars - and counted license plates from 24 states including 1 from Alaska, and 3 from Ontario.



Sometimes we locals fail to realize the appreciation and interest that visitors have in Adams County.

Don't forget the South Mountain Fair begins next week. 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.

Prison Inspection Excellence

Recently the Adams County Adult Correctional Complex received a Compliance Inspection by the PA Dept. of Corrections. The preliminary findings indicated there were no concerns requiring a Plan of Action. This is good news in a prison environment and a true reflection of Warden Clark's leadership and the great team effort of the prison staff. A well-deserved thank you goes to all of the staff for their contribution to another good rating. Given the excellent rating the 2016 inspection will be deferred to 2017.



Although a formal compliance report will follow as part of the official protocol, we felt it was important to get this positive report, regarding the administration of the Adams County Correctional Facility out to the public.