



July 22, 2016  
Edition



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Written by: *Commissioner Randy Phiel*

*Information Technology Department*  
**CCAP Excellence in Website  
Design Award**

Congratulations and a shout out to our Adams County IT Team that won the CCAP Excellence in Website Design Award for our new updated mobile version of our county website. The accomplishment will be recognized at the CCAP Annual Conference on Aug. 9th. For those of you that haven't noticed - this will be the 3rd year in a row our IT Department has received state-wide recognition through CCAP. Way to Go IT !



## *Walking Taco Kranias Fundraiser*

For those of you like me that noticed the wonderful smell of food and salsa music wafting up the stairs from the lunch room, I hope you took advantage of the opportunity and had a walking taco lunch for a great cause. I also cannot help but mention that seeing Hombre' Danette in a big sombrero was also a big treat. The Wellness Committee wants to thank those that participated in the "Walking Taco Luncheon". The luncheon raised \$357 for the 3rd Annual Linda Kranias Memorial 5K, inspired by Stacy Hobbs. Keep an eye out for more information on the Wellness Committee's upcoming scavenger hunt in August.



## **Human Services Building Bids Opened**



With the opening of bids on Wednesday, the Adams County Human Services Building became one more big step closer to reality. By statute there were four bid categories opened including General Contracting, HVAC, Plumbing and Electrical. I believe it is fair to say that bids were well within our estimates of being both operationally more effective and fiscally responsible.

We have come a long way in our visioning and planning for Human Services Building from where we started nearly three years ago. Several times we began to move forward and then pulled back when it was not the right fit. It seems this is the right fit. This is also an enhanced project from when we started with many more value added programs and benefits for our staff and residents.

We anticipate bids to be awarded in the next two weeks and renovation to begin early fall. There are 3 phases. Phase 1 is scheduled to be completed by December 31. Phase 1 has Probation and CYS settled in their new quarters. The entire project is a testament to the visioning and collaboration between the County, Court and our staff.

Don't forget that next Thursday at 1PM, in order to get ready for renovation, there will be a public on-site auction for various contents. About 50 showed for the inspection last evening. The doors open at 9AM for inspection and the sale begins at 1PM next Thursday. You may view a list of items for sale on the Adams County website.

*Pennsylvania*

## Farmland Preservation News



Pennsylvania has an approved FY 16/17 budget. Ellen Dayhoff passed along the following information regarding several significant farmland preservation items that are related to the new budget. There is a \$5 million increase in farmland preservation program funding as a result of cigarette tax increase (tax code amendment). Typically, the program receives a flat \$20.485 million per year from cigarette tax. This amount will increase to \$25.485 million. As a result, the 2016 allocation may be adjusted to reflect a higher match rate for counties.

The Realty Transfer Tax issue has

been resolved in favor of the program tax code amendment. The Department of Revenue recently issued an order that agricultural conservation easements are subject to realty transfer tax. PA Tax code has been amended to clearly exempt farmland preservation program transactions from this tax.

The Preserved Farms Resource Center is being funded by a fiscal code amendment. The Grant Assistance Program was expanded to allow for direct grants from the department to preserved farm owners in the amount of \$5,000 per family for costs associated with transitioning farms to new owners.

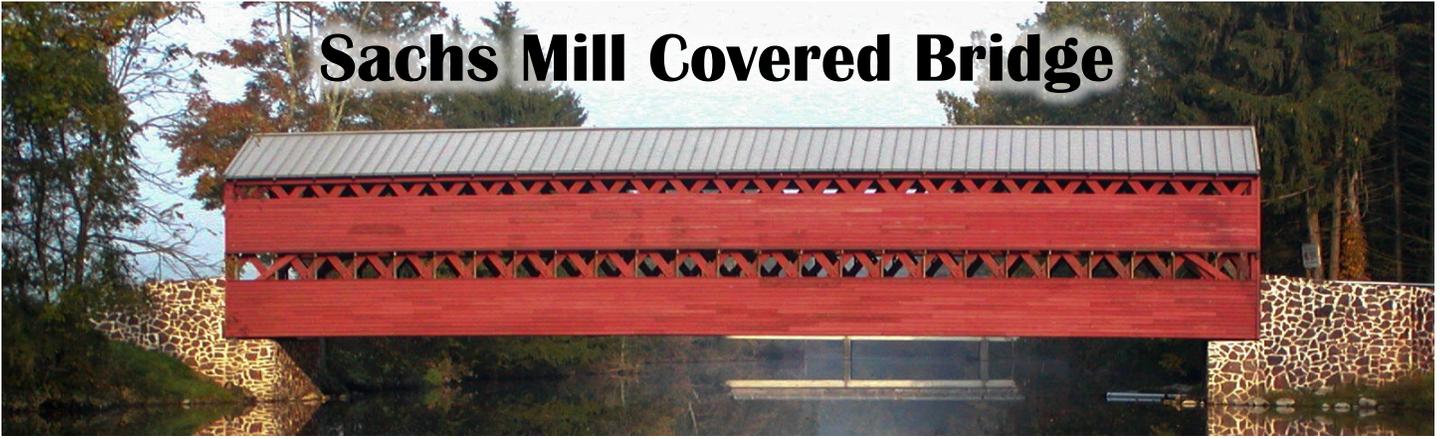
This is all good news for the farmland preservation program in Pennsylvania - and especially Adams County!

## LIGHTING EFFICIENCY

The Building & Maintenance department recently completed a lighting project at several county locations. By replacing the standard light bulbs with new LED energy-efficient lights on outside parking lot lights and building fixture lights electricity consumption has been cut by 85-90%. The Finance office teamed up with the Maintenance department by applying for Act 129 rebates for installing these energy efficient bulbs and the project that would have cost the County nearly \$20,000 was free because we received a rebate check that covered 100% of the cost of the lights. Due to the success of this project there are several other projects that are now in the planning stages where we intend to take advantage of more program incentives.



# Sachs Mill Covered Bridge



From the time I was a teenager the Historic Sachs Mill Covered Bridge was one of my favorite spots in the world. There is nothing more beautiful than standing or stopping on the Pumping Station Road Bridge in the fall and looking down the stream at the covered bridge. When I was a teenage we used to play ice hockey there in the winter – you know when winters were really cold and we walked a mile to school in deep snow drifts.

Yesterday's paper had articles about recent vandalism at the county owned bridge. Despite its beauty and historic integrity, unfortunately vandalism and other illicit behavior have been going on there as long as I can remember. My guess is that people carved their initials into the beams from the time it was built in 1852. Because land to the south of the bridge is owned by the NPS, I had the occasion to deal with various dynamics at the bridge over my 30-year law enforcement career with the NPS. When the reenactment is at the Yingling farm, the covered

bridge looms prominently in the foreground - with the Round Tops majestically in the background. The visitors can look to the east and almost imagine the Federal and Confederate troops passing over and through the bridge. In a recent development there is no doubt that in the past 10-years the interest in paranormal activity has significantly exasperated issues at the bridge after dark.

After facilitating an cooperative effort to repair and open the historic Iron Bridge off Red Rock Road to pedestrian and bike traffic several years ago, a year ago I engaged GMA Manager Mark Guise, Cumberland Twp. and Liberty Township Police Chief Brand Briggs (Freedom Twp) in conversation as to what we could do to deal with some Sachs Mill Bridge issues. One of the options was to run electric from the authority plant for vandal resistant dusk/dawn lighting. Mark went to his board and they seemed agreeable to working out an MOU with the county to make that happen. We had also talked

about making the interior of the bridge a Closed Area from dusk to dawn with PSP, Freedom Twp. & Cumberland Twp PD being able to enforce on their patrols. They could also consider posting hours on their respective sides. We will re-visit those conversations. I am sure that lightning will not be the answer to all of the issues; but it seems it will have some value. I am aware that Cumberland and Freedom are pursuing an agreement to allow one another to enforce regulations on the others side of the bridge. That would also have value. I have also had conversation with the adjoining property owner about improving the parking esthetics at the bridge on the Freedom side. The bottom line is we must take some measures to ensure this iconic and historic county land mark is protected and preserved for future generations – and we will.



You know that it is summer when.....

- ◆ half your work emails come back with an away message saying the recipient will be back in about a week.
- ◆ you open the fridge and inside are fresh peaches, tomatoes, corn, zucchini, watermelon and some other fresh stuff you don't know the name of.
- ◆ you begin to mow your grass less; and you need to water your flowers every evening.
- ◆ your electric bill goes way up because of the air conditioning.
- ◆ your "let's go get ice cream" desire spikes.
- ◆ you are going to a picnic on Saturday.
- ◆ your desire to get to the lake or beach is overwhelming.
- ◆ wearing a jacket (or tie) doesn't even cross your mind.

I know its summer when I think about my Mom canning, freezing and pickling vast quantities of fruits and vegetable that we ate the entire year.

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Commissioner Martin told me he had the pleasure of representing the Kiwanis Club in making a special presentation to Girl Scout Gold Award winner Celia Caldwell of East Berlin. Celia's project featured what we can do to help prevent the declining population of the Monarch Butterfly. Her three-pronged approach featured raising butterflies, growing milkweed (essential to their survival); and an educational awareness pro-

gram. Jim also wanted to thank everyone that purchased Kiwanis blueberries as their major fund raiser for children's programs throughout Adams County and the world. They had a record sale this year of 993 ten-pound boxes. I get credit for 3 boxes myself. Jim said they hope to top that next year to help fund a special playground project with Gettysburg Area Recreational Authority. PS: Put the berries in snack baggies and

they freeze great for quick consumption all year-long. In fact I put some in my Raisin Bran this morning.

Speaking of berries, I was up at Boyer's Nursery last week and there were quite a few folks in the pick your own blueberry patch. 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!