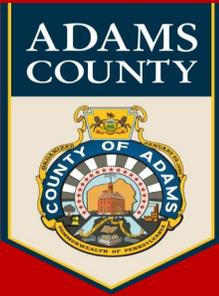


# NEWSLETTER

November 7th, 2014  
Edition



### Previous Editions

- ◆ October 10, 2014
- ◆ October 24, 2014

### Page 2

- ◆ 4-H Benefit Auction
- ◆ Congratulations Michele Miller
- ◆ Incoming CCAP President Visit
- ◆ Grand History Bike Trail

### Page 3

- ◆ Eisenhower Drive Parkway/Bypass
- ◆ Brethren Home at Cross Keys Village
- ◆ IT Update

### Page 4

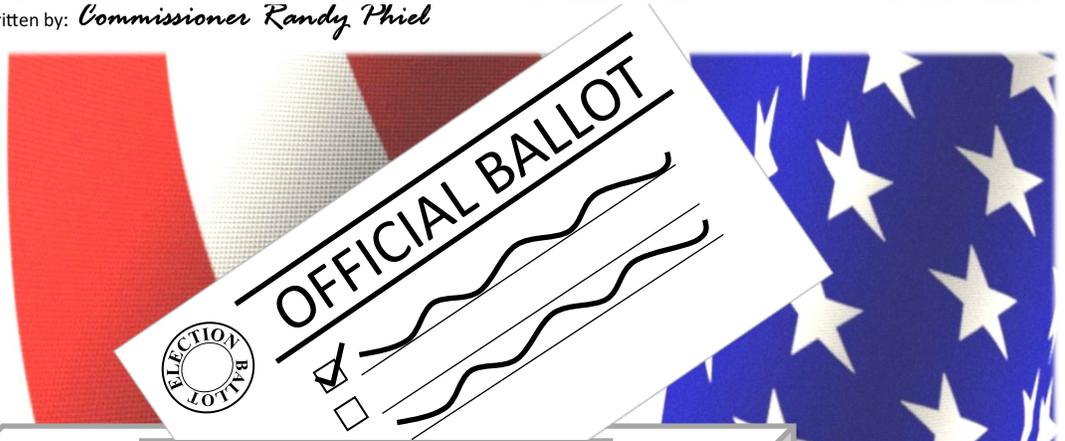
- ◆ The Giving Spree/Adams County Foundation
- ◆ Veterans Affairs Recognition
- ◆ Adams County Thanksgiving Food Drive

### Page 5

- ◆ Adams County Energy Conservation
- ◆ Health Insurance
- ◆ The End

# NOVEMBER

Written by: *Commissioner Randy Phiel*



## GENERAL ELECTION DAY 2014

On Election Day I stopped in and visited twenty-one of Adams County's forty-nine precincts. My fellow commissioners and I break the county into sections and attempt to visit all of the polls. From the time I voted in Cumberland Township at 7:30am, until I visited my last poll in Barlow at 6:30pm, it was obvious that voter turnout for this non-presidential election was going to exceed anything we anticipated. Although lines were not out the doors like the presidential election two years

ago, voting was very steady all day with no let up for the poll workers. It seems both the beautiful 70 degree weather and significant interest in the gubernatorial race may have combined to exceed our expectations for voter turnout. Non-presidential races sometimes do not exceed 25-28% voter turnout. To have precincts coming in with 40-50% turnout is encouraging and county voters are to be commended. Cumberland 4 had 60%. Next year county elected officials will be on the ballot.

### 4-H Benefit Auction

Its 4-H Benefit Auction time again this evening at the Adams County Conservation District Building. Commissioner Martin is seeking donations of products and services that can be auctioned off to support our Adams County 4-H. Auction inspection begins at 5PM and bidding begins at 6PM. Please support our Adams County 4-H by providing or purchasing bid items.

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### Congratulations Michele Miller

Michelle has just attained the IPMA-CP designation from the International Public Management Association For Human Resources. This is sort of like an accountant getting their CPA... in the HR world. Individuals who receive this designation have met the professional standards set by IPMA-HR to recognize excellence in the public sector. The candidates have demonstrated to a panel of senior level professionals their commitment to public sector HR by undertaking a rigorous review of their technical experience and understanding of the importance of behavioral competencies to the role of HR professionals.

Michelle certainly has a role that is critical to all departments and staff in this organization. Michelle: We appreciate your professionalism, and the efforts of you and your staff to make our HR Department emanate the professional and caring quality that it does!



Last Thursday incoming County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania President Craig Lehman stopped by the courthouse to visit us. Craig is a Lancaster County Commissioner and has been a fellow CCAP Board member with me. Early in my tenure Craig asked me if I was any relation to a Jean Phiel who was his middle school history teacher in Lancaster. I informed him she was my cousin's wife. It's a small world. Craig assured us that CCAP's #1 priority was 911 Fee Legislation. Currently the fee is assessed only to land line phones, when

## *Incoming CCAP President Visits*

the use cell phones and other mobile devices that can call 911 are exploding. Not only is the placing an unfair burden on our senior citizens who retain their land lines, the decreasing volume of land line fees is eroding the base of funding for our 911 centers. The deficit between 911 reimbursements to the counties and the cost of operating these centers is becoming mushrooming each year. This means taking large chunks of taxpayer dollars to make up the difference. In Adams County that amount is approximately \$400,000. Representative Will Tallman is on the House 911 Fee Committee and we have been meeting with him to provide fee input. I am sure this will also be a primary topic of this month's Commissioners Conference at the end of November. We are hopeful that appropriate legislation will be passed this year providing some fiscal relief.

## *Grand History Bike Trail*

Last week the Board attended a summit at GNMP regarding the *Grand History Bike Trail*. The GHT is an approximately 250 mile loop of which about half is completed. It links to other significant bike trails in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia and Washington D.C. The proposed circular corridor will connect important heritage sites such as the National Mall, DC, Harpers Ferry and GNMP. It will run through Adams County.

Besides the benefits of exercise and recreation, the potential economic benefits can be significant. Bicycling is now the 3<sup>rd</sup> most common vacation activity. 27 million Americans have taken a bicycling vacation in the past five years. Bicyclists eat a lot, drink a lot, explore area attractions and utilize various types of lodging. We thank local bicycling enthusiast Tom Jolin for his efforts as one of the key facilitators in Adams County.



## *Eisenhower Drive Parkway/Bypass*

Yesterday we attended a project kick-off meeting with Penn DOT at the Conewago Township Building for *Eisenhower Drive Extended*. The Adams County Planning Department was also in attendance. The project involves the potential 2.5 mile extension of Eisenhower Drive from Rt. 94 - to Rt. 116 just west of McSherrystown to improve traffic safety and management. This project is a really big deal for folks that live in the eastern part of Adams County. It will also positively impact folks from the western part of the county that travel to North Hanover area.

The project has been on the state's radar for about twenty years. The original project was proposed gained momentum around 2005 and then fizzled out around 2007. Representative Dan Moul has been

instrumental in obtaining \$9.9M from last year's state transportation bill to revitalize the proposed three stage project. It seems there is now a commitment from all the entities to make this project happen.

The County was recently involved in a land preservation agreement that allowed a strip of property on the edge of a large tract to assist in enabling this project. There are a lot of stages yet to be completed; but we were told that completion could be 4 years on the inside and 7 years on the outside.



## *Brethren Home at Cross Keys Village*



Yesterday afternoon we attended the groundbreaking for a new section of homes at the Brethren Home At Cross Keys Village. Just by driving by on Rt. 30 you would have no concept of the scope and vibrancy of this community. To drive back into the village is a visual awakening. The quality of service to the residents, maintenance of facilities and participation by the residents is commendable and evident. As of one the largest year-round private employers in Adams County, the need for

outside services required by the residents and the need for consumable goods within the facility, the village does have an economic impact on Adams County & York County. I would suggest you take the time to drive back into the village and stop for breakfast or lunch at the very inviting and pleasant Harmony Café to better acquaint yourself with this significant Adams County resource.

### INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

## UPDATE

The Information Technology Department continued the capital project upgrades with the initial configuration of the Cisco blade server and storage environment. The new blade server will be responsible for hosting all county virtual desktops, which will replace the traditional personal computer environment. To complement the blade server, high performance disk technologies will be installed for data storage. These modern technologies will provide the county with the latest advances in desktop virtualization and allow for storage scalability into the future. Along with the capital project, the Public Defender's office upgraded to latest release of the departmental Legal Edge software. The new release provides a modern web based platform, as well as advanced case management capabilities.

Members of the Information Technology Department attended the first CCAP State and Local Government Technology Summit. The meeting provided information on current business and technology trends, issues, and solutions that impact government agencies. The topics included mobile architecture, data loss prevention, and advanced technologies. The guest speaker was Charles Gerhards, Co-Director Government Technology Institute, Harrisburg University. Staff members also attended a training session for the Cisco Unified Computing System. The training, which was held in combination with the York County Information Technology Department, provided a hands-on lab for configuring and deploying new server technology.

Department members met with staff from Mount Pleasant and McSherrystown to initiate the development of web sites for their communities. The meetings were utilized for requirements gathering to define the structure and expectations of the website. With the addition of the two new websites, the County now supports seven municipalities.

*The Giving Spree!*  
*Adams County*  
*Foundation*

In 2013, the Adams County Community Foundation raised over \$28,500 for Adams County non-profit organizations during their Holiday Giving Spree. The mission of the Spree is: *To Inspire Donors Across Adams County To Impact Lives By Making Charitable Gifts To Non-Profit Organizations To Match Their Passion In Philanthropy.* This year, the Adams County Community Foundation has pledged matching funds of up to \$20,000 for gifts that are made on the day of the Giving Spree, Wednesday, November 12.

The Community Foundation staff will be available in the courthouse lobby Wednesday, November 12 from 11am-2pm for county employees who are interested in making a donation to the Independent Living and Mentoring programs of Adams County Children and Youth Services. These programs assist current and former foster youth, and others in need, ages 13-21 with their transition to adulthood. The mentoring program, Project Hope, matches community volunteers with these youth to provide supportive relationships during this transition. Stop by the courthouse lobby for information, refreshments and to support these programs and the youth they serve. Donations may be made by cash or check.

*Veterans Affairs*  
*Recognition*

It is always gratifying for us to get these kinds of compliments for the important work that all of our staff does for our residents...and even more so when the compliment involves service to our veterans. We recently received this correspondence in the commissioner's office and I wanted to share it with you. Thank you Stan Clark for your passion and commitment to Veterans!

*October 26, 2014*

*We have heard many stories about the VA System not working, the problems that are happening and because my husband is a Vietnam Vet we have seen firsthand a few of the problems. We want to say there is one person that does his job right who works in the, Adams County Veterans Affairs Office, the Director Stan Clark, which goes above and beyond his job. He is one person in the VA System that does his job and more. We have been working with Stan for a long time now and he has done so many things for us that we cannot list. Stan has pushed us to do the things that we needed to do and also supplied us with help that we needed. We don't know where we would be right now if it wasn't for him. Stan has put us on the right track and has made our life so much better. We want it known that Stan Clark does his job and pushes until the job is done and it's done right. We appreciate all his efforts and the difference he made in our life and want to thank him and the office. We wish Stan all the best and he deserves to go far!*

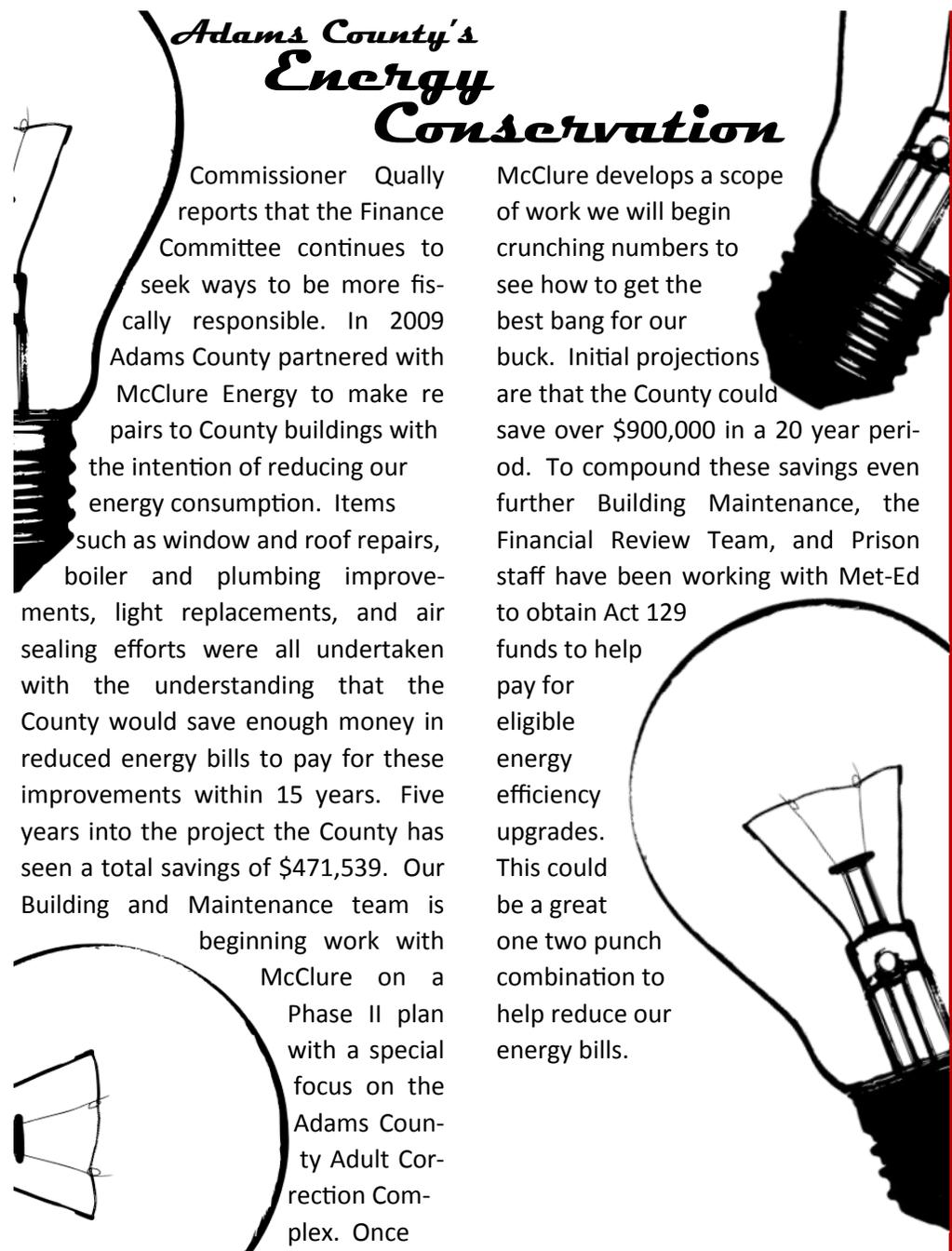
*Adams County*

**THANKSGIVING**

*Food Drive*

Please don't forget to bring  
nonperishable food items to the HR  
Office from now through Friday Nov 21<sup>st</sup>  
for our annual Thanksgiving Food Baskets.

These baskets are given to families in need served by  
our Children and Youth Department. There is a table in  
HR for the donated item. As always, thanks for giving!



## Adams County's Energy Conservation

Commissioner Qually reports that the Finance Committee continues to seek ways to be more fiscally responsible. In 2009 Adams County partnered with McClure Energy to make repairs to County buildings with the intention of reducing our energy consumption. Items such as window and roof repairs, boiler and plumbing improvements, light replacements, and air sealing efforts were all undertaken with the understanding that the County would save enough money in reduced energy bills to pay for these improvements within 15 years. Five years into the project the County has seen a total savings of \$471,539. Our Building and Maintenance team is beginning work with McClure on a Phase II plan with a special focus on the Adams County Adult Correction Complex. Once

McClure develops a scope of work we will begin crunching numbers to see how to get the best bang for our buck. Initial projections are that the County could save over \$900,000 in a 20 year period. To compound these savings even further Building Maintenance, the Financial Review Team, and Prison staff have been working with Met-Ed to obtain Act 129 funds to help pay for eligible energy efficiency upgrades. This could be a great one two punch combination to help reduce our energy bills.

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### *The End*

I am definitely staying home this weekend to do get some work done around the house and do some of the things necessary to get ready for winter – but I do need to eat. Since there is always something to do in Adams County, I am heading to the Adams County Fruit Growers *After The Harvest Feed* at the Biglerville Fire Hall this Saturday evening. Doors open at 4 and dinner is served at 5:30. I

am still sad about being out of town and missing the Orrtanna United Methodist Chicken Dinner last weekend. Oh well.....turkey and oyster dinners on the horizon in Adams County! 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!

## Health Insurance

We are hoping to soon conclude our review of health insurance plans and premiums. So far in comparison to the current market, the review looks very promising in regard to rates, coverage's, co-pays and longer term contract security. As I have said previously, we have saved over 40% what we would have otherwise paid having changed carriers the past three years; while keeping rates and coverage reasonable. We have done this by specifically focusing and drilling down on this issue and understanding the impacts to our staff and to Adams County taxpayers. The days of simply accepting routine and large rate increases without tough comparative shopping are over. We were recently at an event where one of the administrators mentioned he was appreciative of the fact that his large organizations health insurance was only going up 11% this year. The three of us looked at each other - as we are hoping to do much better than that.

We also understand that any change we make requires we effectively educate our staff to the changes; and conversely requires our staff to make the commitment and take the time to become educated if changes occur.