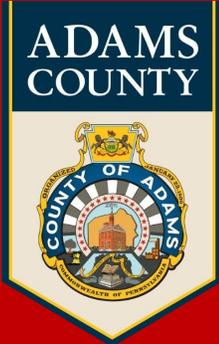


NEWSLETTER

October 10th, 2014
Edition



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Adams County's
NOVEMBER 4TH
2014
election
Don't Forget to Vote!



T.G.I.F.

Written by: *Commissioner Randy Phiel*

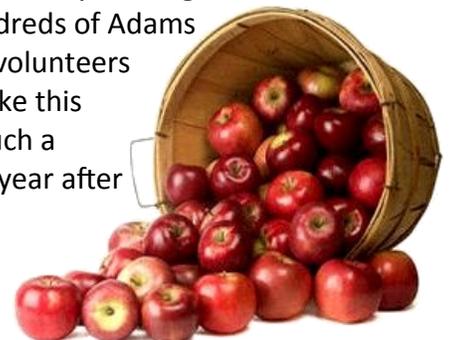


I walked out of the house at 6:15 on Sunday morning on my way to volunteer at the National Apple Harvest Festival and Kathy's black car was white with frost. The Sunday before I went to Raystown Lake and the upper mountains were showing lots of color. Fall has arrived folks... and I am eyeing my wood stove with some trepidation.

On Saturday all three commissioners were invited to participate in the ribbon cutting ceremony for the 50TH Anniversary of The National Apple Harvest Festival. About 40 years ago when the event was much smaller, I was the inventor of Apple Ice Cream for the Gettysburg Jaycees. Back in the mid 70's when Mason Dixon Dairy had a retail dairy store; we mixed the right amount of apple cinnamon pie filling with vanilla ice cream as we attempted to get the proportions correct. Finally

after numerous attempts and tastings – Apple Ice Cream was invented. It was good stuff! It sold successfully at the festival for about 30 years. Over the years, The National Apple Harvest Festival has grown in regional and national prominence. The festival attracts up to 100,000 visitors in two weekends. The National Apple Harvest Festival and the Gettysburg Battle Anniversary events have been named 2 of the top 100 events by the American Tour Bus Association for 2014.

When you combine these events with fruit stands, wineries, corn mazes, and other opportunities for Adams County visitors it spells A..G..R..I..T..O..U..R..I..S..M – which is very important to the economic well being of Adams County. When I got to the festival at 6:45AM both Saturday & Sunday, preparations for the day by numerous volunteers were already well underway. A huge shout out to the hundreds of Adams County volunteers who make this event such a success year after year!



Health Insurance

It must be fall because it is time for tax appeals, budget and... health insurance renewal. The Board and County administration is extremely cognizant of just how important health insurance is to every staff member. It seems to become increasingly important every year as premiums increase, coverage's decrease and Affordable Health Care regulations cause various concerns.

When looking at other organizations, and compared to the market, I believe this administration has done a stellar job of holding the line on costs, personal contributions and keeping coverage at a reasonable level. Some group plans have increased 20-40% this year. If we had not switched plans the last two years our increase would have been **40%** higher. In a very tough health insurance environment, our administrative team has their sleeves rolled up and is working diligently to keep both the taxpayer's contribution and your personal premium reasonable and your coverage sufficient. Your contribution with staff participation in the wellness program is also to be commended and has also resulted in significant benefit when negotiating with vendors.

We also understand your desire for consistency and are hoping to lock in a longer-term contract + to avoid switching around. I am cautiously optimistic that you will be satisfied with the result. We should have more information in the next month.



On Monday, September 26, the Board held their 13TH Adams County Commissioners Community Forum at HACC's Gettysburg campus. Since taking office, the Board has held these forums in all corners of Adams County covering a broad array of subjects that are important to Adams County.

The Serious Impact of Prescription Drugs in Our Community was the topic for the forum. Adams County Coroner Pat Felix spoke to the increasing problem of prescription drugs and the increase in prescription drug overdoses. Adams County District Attorney Shawn Wagner related the increase in property crimes and driving under the influence due to prescription drug abuse. Shawn also emphasized the need for better prescription drug monitoring in the state and provided information on the Adams County District Attorney's

installed medicine drop boxes at the Cumberland Township & Conewago Police Departments. WellSpan Medical Director Robert Fawcett said our community has a huge problem with prescription drugs. He said the entry drug used to be marijuana - but now it is prescription drugs. He is concerned that doctors very readily prescribe opioid drugs for pain. He also pushed for a state-wide prescription drug monitoring. Sharron Michels from the Center for Youth & Community Development presented how prescription drugs can and are affecting the youth of Adams County.

To view the entire forum go to <http://communitymedia.net/> or just turn on Community Media TV Comcast channel 12 most evenings. I would like to thank HACC Gettysburg Campus for allowing us to use their excellent facility and Community Media for taping the forum for re-broadcast. In the next two months we will be headed to another corner of Adams County!



Human Services Building Update

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

UPDATE

The Information Technology Department would like to extend a special “thanks of appreciation” to the Maintenance Department for the installation of a new air conditioning system in the server room. The staff analyzed the cooling requirements for the new equipment, selected the appropriate air conditioning model, and installed the unit. This effort saved a significant amount of cost by performing these tasks internally and not outsourcing the work to a vendor.

The Information Technology department continued the computer system upgrades with additional configuration of the core network infrastructure. The department is working closely with network engineers to ensure knowledge transfer is accomplished during the critical upgrades. Staff members were trained on network switch configuration and deployment strategies in preparation of the new hardware cut-over. The new network switches will be deployed to each floor of the courthouse as fiber connections are successfully established back to the data center. With the deployment of the newly designed network infrastructure, the department will have more control managing the network. Each floor will be equipped with added fail-over capabilities in the event of a network outage to a particular floor.

In addition to the capital project, members of the department recently attended a CCAP training session for the Microsoft SharePoint 2013 product. The product is the foundation for the County’s web site and Intranet sites. The training provided information on the new release of the product regarding new functionality and capabilities that were not available with prior releases. Enhancements include optimization for mobile devices such as smartphones and tablets, enhanced user behavior tracking for improving usability, and enhanced user collaboration.

As you may be aware the courts and the county have engaged in an initiative to determine whether it is feasible to build a new Human Services Building at the county site on Major Bell Lane in Straban Township. The location was recommended by a citizen advisory group last March - independent of six other options they were presented for consideration.

When examining and comparing county rentals and leases to a new consolidated county-owned building, we are looking for favorable fiscal results, increased operational efficiencies and enhanced service to our residents. Although we are very confident the later two will be achieved, the upcoming bid process will dictate the fiscal result. The architectural phase preceding the bid phase has now been completed.

Planning and coordination with Children & Youth Services, Probation Services, Domestic Relations & Opera-

tional Services has been underway for several months. A highlight of Judge George’s update and presentation to the Board at Wednesday’s workshop was that we have recently engaged in a dialogue with York/Adams Mental Health for them to rent and locate personnel at the proposed new facility. That option seems to be a very good possibility. Having mandated mental health services located in Adams County is highly anticipated since it has both positive resident service and fiscal applications.

At the work shop, I again acknowledged and extended the Board’s sincere appreciation to the Community Advisory group, the Human Services Building Team and the aforementioned Departments for their cooperation, collaboration and vision moving this project forward to this point.



The End

The National Apple Harvest continues this weekend so either plan to volunteer or attend. My tip is to get there about 7:30am, park in the field right across the street and head to the Cashtown Lions fresh sausage and ham sandwich stand inside the gate for a breakfast sandwich. Then go straight ahead to the apple pancake stand before cruising the festival before it gets really crowded. As you depart, grab a big pit beef sandwich from

the Upper Adams Jaycees and pick up some apple cider on the way out. You will be home by noon – with plenty of time to do all of your chores and errands.

No matter what you do this weekend...get out there and experience all the historical, recreational, agricultural, natural and cultural opportunities that beautiful; Adams County has to offer.