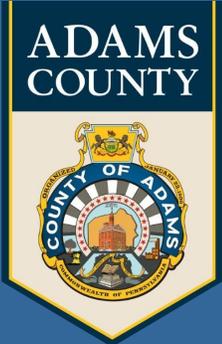


Adams County, Pennsylvania

# NEWSLETTER

October 24th, 2014  
Edition



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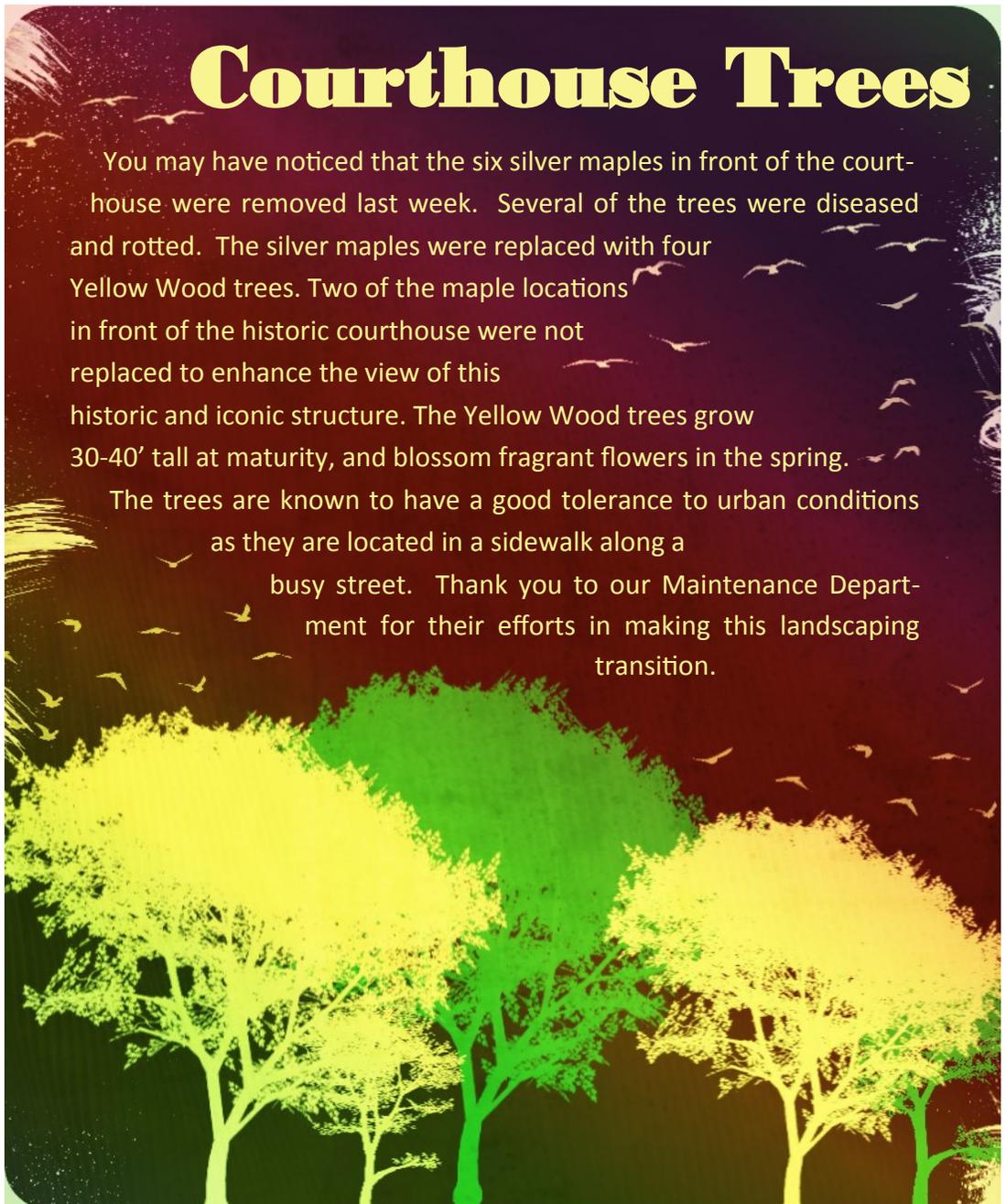
# T.G.I.F.

Written by: *Commissioner Randy Phiel*

## Courthouse Trees

You may have noticed that the six silver maples in front of the courthouse were removed last week. Several of the trees were diseased and rotted. The silver maples were replaced with four Yellow Wood trees. Two of the maple locations in front of the historic courthouse were not replaced to enhance the view of this historic and iconic structure. The Yellow Wood trees grow 30-40' tall at maturity, and blossom fragrant flowers in the spring.

The trees are known to have a good tolerance to urban conditions as they are located in a sidewalk along a busy street. Thank you to our Maintenance Department for their efforts in making this landscaping transition.



## 2015 Budget

The Commissioners met with the County Manager and Finance on Monday to review the base budget. By the time Department Directors receive this correspondence - they should have received the budget projections from Finance for their department. It should surprise no one that revenue projections are fairly flat and new construction is very slow. Tax appeals are slowing dramatically; but continue to chip away at our tax base. With all that said, given various variables and through your efforts, we hope to have a balanced budget with No Tax Increase completed in November.

To achieve that goal it is imperative that directors look at their budget and report to Finance any essential items(s) that are missing from their budget as soon as possible for review by the Board. Health insurance has been charged to each department and is contained in the department budget.

The Finance Department has done an excellent job of drafting the 2015 budget. There are a million details that need to be taken into consideration and this year the process has gone very smoothly. It is extremely important that Department Directors contact Finance by Wednesday, October 29 with any essential items. Upon final review the Board has the ability to determine discretionary items. Thank you to Adams County Finance, Administration and Department Directors for a constructive budget experience.

## Health Insurance

The Board of Commissioners, Human Resources and Administration continue to work diligently toward health insurance renewal that is deemed positive- in a very difficult health insurance environment.

The Board objectives are to keep an overall good level of service, mitigate premium spiking, keep employee contributions from significantly rising, keep co-pays the same or lower, make sure local physicians and providers you go to are part of any plan that is selected - and lock into a plan for at least three years to avoid jumping around. Yep - this is a fairly tall order by today's health insurance standards; but I believe we are on the right path. Hopefully, we will have more conclusive information for you very soon.

# PLANNING DIRECTOR

The Board is very pleased to welcome Sherri Clayton on board as the new Director of Planning for Adams County. Sherri was selected from a pool of strong candidates. She will assume the position on November 17. Sherri has been employed by Franklin County Planning for the past twenty-one years and currently holds the position of Senior Planner. Sherri is a certified AICP Planner and has been involved in many areas of planning and public relations. Sherri told us: *From personal knowledge I hold the Adams County Planning Department in high regard and am anxious to become a part of this professional team.*

In another action, with upcoming positive action by the Salary Board next Wednesday, Adams County Comprehensive Planning Manager Andrew Merkel will be named Adams County Planning Assistant Director. It is the opinion of the Board that these two individuals will appreciably compliment the critical mission of the Planning Department for the future of Adams County.

Please join us in welcoming Sherri to the Adams County Team and congratulating Andrew on his appointment as Assistant Director!

## Japanese Delegation

On Thursday, October 17, representatives of the Japanese battle city of Sekigahara toured the Gettysburg area to learn about marketing, tourism impacts, and battle reenactment logistics. The ten member delegation included the mayor of Sekigahara and the vice-governor of the Gifu Prefecture (state). The delegation made stops at GNMP, Gettysburg College and Gettysburg Borough Hall.

I was honored to be invited as one of the presenters to describe reenactment preparations, logistics, reenactor motivation, and battle choreography. Other presenters included Gettysburg Borough Manager Charles Gable, Main Street Gettysburg Chair Patti Lawson and Destination Gettysburg Executive Director Norris Flowers. Councilman John Butterfield and wife Judy acted as hosts for the delegation.

A translator was utilized throughout the presentations. I want to express my gratitude to the Adams County IT Department for taking excerpts of the program I pre-

sented at the International Festival & Event Association Conferences in South Korea and Denver, and through the miracle of Goggle Translation, in short order made the font in my presentation appear in Japanese on the screen. Beside several practical benefits, the Japanese delegation was obviously impressed by this effort. The Battle of Sekigahara is commemorated every year during the anniversary in October. The battle occurred in the year 1600. Gettysburg Times reporter Jim Hale said it was the first power point that he ever enjoyed watching. The English folk had an English version in hand.



## Adams County Fruit Growers Association Releases:

### *AMERICA'S ORCHARD*

As the Adams County Fruit Grower Association approaches its 60<sup>th</sup> year of hosting the Adams County Apple Blossom Festival, it is releasing a coffee-table book on the industry, titled *America's Orchard*. This book will be showcased for the first time at an "After the Harvest Feed" to be held at the Biglerville Fire Hall on

Saturday, November 8, 2014. Doors open at 4:00 pm, and the meal, which includes all you can eat shrimp and chicken, is served at 5:30 pm. To purchase tickets, please call 717-677-7444.

*America's Orchard* celebrates the fruit growing families and businesses that feed and support Adams County---from the first orchards to the newest field robotic technology. The fruit industry has shaped Adams County into an internationally recognized tree fruit supplier and a highly desirable place to live. This book commemorates our counties past, honors our present, and anticipates our future through photos and stories collected from



local growers, distributors, and educators. The ACFGAs have created a book that appeals to industry insiders and consumers alike. *America's Orchard* walks the reader through the entire fruit industry so at the close of the book, the reader will appreciate the heritage, cooperation, and innovation that contributes to our economy.

You will receive United Way contribution forms with your paychecks today. Please don't discard them without considering even a \$1.00 per paycheck donation! You can designate exactly where your money goes in Adams County - or designate it for a national nonprofit.

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

# UPDATE

The Information Technology Department continued the capital project upgrades with the completion of the core switch cutover in the data center on Thursday, October 9th. The new core switches will act as the central hub for moving data traffic throughout the entire county network with improved reliability and increased speed. Along with the capital project, multiple department level projects were addressed as well. The Prothonotary's office went live on Monday, October 13th with the new Cite Pay terminal. The upgrade allows the department to accept credit card payments within the Full Court system for the public. In addition, a system upgrade has been scheduled in early November for the Public Defenders Legal Edge system. The department also implemented a work order application for the Maintenance Department. The software is the same product used by the Information Technology Department. The application will allow the department to easily enter requests and track their progress by department, location, or category. The software application also provides numerous reports for analyzing requests, tracking open and closed work orders, and scheduling preventative maintenance processes. Lastly, configuration was completed on all leased printers within the county system to automatically send monthly copy counts to the vendor and a designee within each county department. The goal of this effort was to reduce unnecessary printing expenses as well as decrease the amount of time staff spent gathering monthly copy counts.

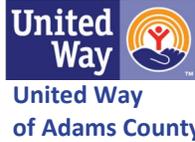
*The fruit industry is grateful  
for invaluable support from our  
County Commissioners and State Legislators.*

Pictured below left to right: Will Tallman, Marty Qually, Rich Alloway, Randy Phiel, Jim Martin, Dan Moul and Penn State Educator Judy Chambers



## Adams County United Way Participation

**GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.**  
**LIVE UNITED**



You will receive United Way contribution forms with your paychecks today. Please don't discard them without considering even a \$1.00 per paycheck donation! You can designate exactly where your money

**THANKS TO PEOPLE LIKE YOU OUR COMMUNITY IS IN GOOD HANDS.**

goes in Adams County - or designate it for a national non-profit.

The United Way of Adams County changes lives for many different groups of residents including foster youth, individuals with disabilities, women and children trapped by

domestic violence and the elderly. Big Brothers and Big Sisters is one Unites Way Program that gives children who are without a mother or father a role model and mentor as they grow. These are just a few of them many worthy programs United Way supports.

In 2014, Adams County staff will give over \$4,800.00 to the United Way. If every employee gave just \$1.00 per paycheck (\$26.00 per year) we would be giving in excess of \$13,000 in 2015! If you would prefer to donate online - you can give a onetime donation that is tax deductible. The campaign is kicking off with the \$425.00 profit made from the County Cooks Cookbook. The campaign starts October 24 and ends December 26<sup>th</sup>!

### The End

The sky is getting darker and the leaves are plummeting off the trees. My yellow black eyed Susan's are now totally black, my white hydrangeas are brown and my red roses are wilting. I guess it is time to think about taking the porch furniture off the porch and stacking some firewood on it - before it has to be done in colder temperatures. Monday evening I mowed my heavy fall grass and wondered how many more mowings were left? I personally prefer the easier and less effective method of mowing leaves..... as opposed to raking them.

Last week at the same time I was presenting to the Japanese Delegation, Commissioners Martin & Qually joined numerous organizations and local farms in dedi-

cating the 10 new Adams County Fruit Belt Signs identifying and branding the Historic Adams County Fruit Belt. More than 20,000 acres of orchards and vineyards make up the fruit belt and are part of the fabric of Adams County. Thank you to Bicky Redman and the Planning Department for their contribution to making this project happen.

Consider taking a drive this weekend through the fruit belt to observe the colors of fall - and trees that still have apples hanging. What a beautiful landscape! No matter what you do - get out there and enjoy all the historical, recreational, agricultural, natural and cultural activities that beautiful Adams County has to offer!

### Calendar Events

- ◆ Board of Commissioners Meeting- Oct. 29th @ 9am
- ◆ Board of Commissioners Work Session- Nov. 5th @ 9am
- ◆ Agricultural Land Preservation Board- Nov. 5th @ 7:30 pm
- ◆ Veteran's Day- Nov. 11th

### Announcements

- ◆ October is Nation Cyber Security Awareness Month



### Voter Registration

