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from  
*Adams County*

written by: Commissioner Randy Phiel



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### ***Oak Lawn Cemetery Volunteer Cleanup Day***

***Sunday, April 14th 11am-4pm***

It's that time of year for sprucing up Oak Lawn Memorial Gardens. Calling all civic minded volunteers to bring rakes, shovels, weedwhackers and garden tools to maintain the dignity and appearance the cemetery deserves. I can assure you from personal experience this is a very satisfying and rewarding community activity. Adams County Maintenance personnel will be there to assist and provide resources; but your help is needed to really have an impact. Cleanup is Sunday, April 14 from 11AM-4PM. Lunch and water provided. For more information contact Oak Lawn Volunteer Coordinator Cindy Codori Shultz at [sleepyhollowghostwalks@comcast.net](mailto:sleepyhollowghostwalks@comcast.net) or 717-357-9684.

# Primary Election Day Looming April 23rd

The April 23<sup>RD</sup> primary election is rapidly approaching. Here are some critical election dates to remember:

- **April 8** is last day to register to vote.
- **April 16** is last day to request mail-in or absentee ballot.
- Last day to receive completed ballots is **April 23<sup>RD</sup> by 8PM.**

A reminder that the Adams County Elections Office has moved from the historic courthouse to the lobby of 911 Center, next to the Adams County Prison on Greenmyer Lane. The location provides easy parking, more lobby and office space, and increased storage, oversight and security of elections materials and equipment. The Adams County Voter Registration & Elections Office telephone # is 717-337-9832

## Thaddeus Stevens Museum Now Reality in Downtown Gettysburg

On Thursday evening, I had the privilege of delivering remarks and a county citation for the opening of the Thaddeus Stevens Museum on Chambersburg Street. The museum is beside the Christ Lutheran Church and directly across the street from Thaddeus Stevens home where he practiced law in Adams County from 1816-1842.

Stevens was a monumental facilitator at every level of government - who walked the same streets, and frequented many of the same establishments that we frequent in Adams County for 26 years. He was a founder and savior of keeping Gettysburg College in Gettysburg and was instrumental in Gettysburg's public water system. From an Adams County perspective, he owned the Caledonia Iron Works and planned the Tapeworm Railroad, which was the forerunner of Gettysburg train service to the west. On the state level he is called the father of public education in Pennsylvania for his support of public education for all classes in Pennsylvania. Stevens crowning national achievement while in congress was his embrace, support, and key role with President Lincoln in getting the Emancipation Proclamation over the finish line.

Thaddeus Stevens chose to lean into the prevailing wind to create positive change – instead of taking the easy path of drifting with the wind. As you pass by his statue in front of the historic courthouse on Baltimore Street, notice how the sculptor captured that element as Stevens is leaning forward. Several years ago, when the Board was approached by several entities to approve their organization erecting a Stevens statue in front of the historic courthouse, the Board understood the relevance and contributions of Thaddeus Stevens and supported the effort by the Thaddeus Stevens Society. I must say, it is very satisfying to look out the courthouse window, or drive by, and see pedestrians gathered around the statue and reading the narrative plaque.

Congratulations to Ross Hetrick, and the Thaddeus Steens Society, for their enduring dedication and persistence, and their facilitation of the courthouse statue and the museum we dedicated Thursday evening. Through these efforts, may Thaddeus Stevens accomplishments, values, and countless contributions, not be forgotten, but utilized as a preserved history lesson for future generations!

## National Prescription Drug Take Back Day – April 27th

At the April 3<sup>rd</sup> public meeting the Board approved a *Proclamation for National Prescription Drug Take Back Day, April 27<sup>TH</sup>*.

Prescription drug abuse is the fastest growing drug problem in the United States, with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention stating national prescription drug overdose rates have reached epidemic levels. According to the Pennsylvania Youth Survey in 2021, 3.4% of Adams County youth report pain reliever abuse. Due to the increase in prescription drug overdoses, there are more fatalities in the United States related to drug overdoses than car crashes. Since 2003, there have been more overdose deaths related to prescription opioid analgesics than to heroin, cocaine, hallucinogens like LSD, and inhalants combined.

For every one overdose death related to opioid pain relievers, there are nine treatment admissions, 30 emergency department visits for misuse / abuse, 118 people with abuse and dependence, and almost 800 past year non-medical users.

Everyone can help prevent prescription drug abuse by properly securing and disposing of expired and unused medicines at home or by turning them in year-round at one of the 12 permanent Medication Return Box locations in the county.

Committed volunteers and entities, including, but not limited to, various Adams County Police Departments, Biglerville Hose & Truck Co. #1, Gettysburg Housing Authority, McSherrystown Moose Lodge, the Adams County Overdose Awareness Task Force, and Collaborating for Youth are partnering to curb the misuse / abuse of medicine. We urge you to dispose of unused or expired medications, including pet meds, at a local collection site on Saturday, April 27, from 10 AM – 2 PM. You may also contact Collaborating For Youth, at 717-338-0300 for details, including volunteer opportunities prior to the event.



# Take Advantage of PA Treasury Consumer Programs



On Tuesday, the Board of Commissioners met with PA Treasury Regional Relationship Manager Larry Booker to be updated on current programs available to Pennsylvania residents. There are plans that many Pennsylvanians are not even aware of. I have listed 4 of the programs below.

**The 529 College & Career Savings Plans** are designed to help PA families steadily and strategically save for future educational expenses. Treasury offers two plans; the PA 529 Guaranteed Savings Plan, which allows you to save at today's tuition rates to meet tomorrow's tuition costs, and the Morningstar Gold rated PA 529 Investment Plan that offers a variety of investment options. PA 529 plans have significant state and federal tax advantages and can be used for a wide variety of qualifying technical, collegiate, apprenticeship and K-12 educational expenses. To learn more, visit [pa529.com](http://pa529.com) or call (800) 440-4000.

**The Keystone Scholars Plan** jumpstarts educational savings by providing a universal \$100 automatic, at-birth investment for every child born to a PA family on or after January 1, 2019. The program uses no taxpayer money, and the funds are invested by Treasury to grow as your child grows. Keystone Scholars accounts can be used for a wide variety of qualifying technical, collegiate, and apprenticeship educational expenses. To learn more, or to access your child's account, visit [pa529.com/keystone](http://pa529.com/keystone) or call (800) 440-4000.

**The PA Able Plan** is a tax-advantaged way for disabled Pennsylvanian's and their families to save for disability-related expenses while maintaining government disability benefits. PA ABLE allows for up to \$18,000 in savings per year and up to \$100,000 total without impacting means-tested benefits. Funds are easy to access and may be used for a wide-range of expenses. PA ABLE is helping Pennsylvanians with a disability to Achieve a Better Life Experience. For eligibility information and details, visit [paable.gov](http://paable.gov) or call (855) 529-2253.

**The Unclaimed Property Program.** The Treasury receives hundreds of millions of dollars in unclaimed property every year. They want to return it to its rightful owner. Currently Treasury safeguards over \$4B of unclaimed property in Pennsylvania! One in 10 Pennsylvania residents has unclaimed property - are you one of them? Be certain to search online, visit [patreasury.gov](http://patreasury.gov) or call the unclaimed property team at (800) 222-2046 with questions.

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## National Library Week - April 7-13

Public libraries play an important role in every community. The importance of a vibrant library(s) in Adams County is no different! Libraries provide the opportunity for everyone to pursue their passions and engage in lifelong learning, allowing them to live their best life. Libraries have long served as trusted institutions for all members of the community. Libraries adapt to the ever-changing needs of their communities, continually expanding their collections, services, technology, and partnerships. The community library plays a critical role in the economic vitality of communities, provide internet and technology access, literacy skills, and support for job seekers, small businesses, and entrepreneurs. They promote a sense of local connection, advancing understanding, civic engagement, and shared community goals.

At Wednesday's public meeting the Board recognized April 7-13<sup>TH</sup> as National Library Week in Adams County – and wished the Adams County Library staff tremendous success in their upcoming Building Campaign.

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## Two Conservation Easements Approved

History & Agriculture are in the fabric of Adams County. Preserving Adams County Ag Lands that meet the ranking criteria has always been a priority and been supported by this Board. It is even better when different levels of government, non-profit and private interest collaborate to make it happen. The 2<sup>nd</sup> agreement mentioned is a great example of that collaboration.

At Wednesday's public meeting the Board approved an Agreement of Sale for Hollabaugh Farm, which provides for the purchase of a conservation easement to preserve 15 acres of agricultural land owned by Rodney and Kelly Hollabaugh. The farm is in Reading Township, Adams County. The total purchase price of the easement is \$27,675.00, which shall be borne solely by the County.

Also approved at the same meeting was an Agreement of Sale for Arentz Family Farm – for the purchase of a conservation easement to preserve 71.9 acres of agricultural land owned by Arentz Family L.P. and located in Union Township, Adams County. The total purchase price of the easement is \$269,625.00, of which \$13,481.25 will be paid for by the County, and the remainder will be paid for by the Commonwealth and Union Township.

## Child Abuse/Neglect Prevention Month

There were 3,694 calls to Children and Youth Services related to alleged child abuse or neglect reported in Adams County in 2023. It is fundamental that children deserve to have a safe, stable, nurturing home and communities that foster their healthy growth. Unfortunately, child abuse has been identified as a national health crisis.

The Adams County Board of Commissioners was very pleased to have a large contingent of Adams County Children & Youth staff in attendance at Wednesday's public meeting to recognize Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month, April 2024.

President Judge Michael George presented a vivid description of what caseworkers encounter daily. Director Sarah Finkey recognized the staff for their service, commitment, and dedication under sometimes very difficult circumstances. Children and Youth staff are dedicated, risking their own safety at times particularly during an international pandemic, working 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and 365 days a year, to protect these children, our greatest resource, as they are the future of our county and our community. There are children in our county that deal with unspeakable pain that plagues many victims of abuse and neglect, often at the hand of their own parents, caretakers, and those that they trust most in life.

The Adams County Children's Advocacy Center staff was also present for the recognition. Adams County Children and Youth Services, the Adams County Children's Advocacy Center and their multidisciplinary investigative team partners are committed to giving every child a chance to succeed and to ensure that every child grows up in a safe, stable, and nurturing environment that is free from abuse and neglect.

The Board of Commissioners expressed their gratitude, confidence, and support of Adams County CYS staff, which was concluded by a standing ovation from the full courtroom!

## Solar Facility Impact Study Agreement

At Wednesday's public meeting a recommendation from Solicitor Molly R. Mudd was approved that the Board of Commissioners approve the System Impact and Facility Study Agreement with Adams Electric Cooperative, Inc. for the interconnection study of the County's proposed roof-top solar generation project located at the Human Services Building, 525 Boyd's School Road in Cumberland Township. The study will assess the system impacts of interconnecting the proposed Project with the Adams Electric Cooperative's electric system. Estimated cost to the County of study fees is \$5,000.00.

FIRST

FRIDAYS

The End

- **First Friday Gettysburg.** This evening from 5PM-8PM at participating locations. Special events and discounts. Look for First Friday flags at participating businesses.

- **Ken Burns: Lessons From Lincoln**, this evening, 7PM, Adams County Historical Society. \$50/\$30. **Ken Burns Democracy Challenged.** Saturday, 10AM. **An Evening with Jay Ungar and Molly**

**Mason.** Saturday 7:30PM. Hear the iconic soundtracks of Ken Burn's documentaries since the 1980's. Cost \$20/\$30.

- **Rhapsody in Blue**, Sunderman Conservatory Symphony Orchestra Concert, Majestic Theater, this evening, 8PM. Cost \$5. Students Free. **Jazz Combo Concert.** Gettysburg College West Building Attic. Saturday 8PM. Event is Free!
- **Mansion House Spring Wine Dinner.** 5-Course Dinner with wine pairing. This evening at 6:30PM. Main Street, Fairfield.
- **Spring on the Farm, Baby Animals & Tulips.** Fields of Adventures Aspers. \$10 includes tons of activities - picking tulips extra. Saturday 6<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 7<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup>.
- **Amblebrook Farmers Market.** Saturday 11AM-2PM. Fresh produce and local goodies.
- **Janes Gettysburg Academy Tea Room.** Traditional English Tea this Sunday at 12PM & 3PM at the Gettysburg Academy, 66 W. High Street. Cost \$25. 717-334-0224. [www.gettysburgacademy.com](http://www.gettysburgacademy.com)
- **Taylor's Greenhouse Get Your Hands Dirty.** Plant a perennial planter to get a jump start on the planting season. Saturday 10AM-2PM. Cost \$35.
- **Spring Wedding Showcase.** Liberty Mountain Resort. Sunday 1PM. \$10 General Admission. \$50 Elevated Tasting Experience. [www.libertymountainresort.com](http://www.libertymountainresort.com)
- **Lincoln Social First Friday Comedy Night with DJ Biz.** This evening 8PM-11PM. \$20 online \$25 at door. Doors open at 7PM.
- **Music Gettysburg Boston Shawm & Sackbut Ensemble.** Saturday, Seminary Chapel, 4PM-6PM. Free and open to public. Donation collection.
- **Improv at Gettysburg Community Theater.** Saturday 7PM-10PM. Gettysburg Community Theater, 49 York Street.

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!