



Snyder County News

Na, Na, Na, Na, Hey, Hey, Hey Goodbye!!!

Many people have said, "I can't wait until 2020 is behind us." Well, it is now 2021 and that does not mean everything will be better, but we certainly hope this year will bring better days. Let's resolve to work together, look for ways to help our neighbors, do our best to keep a positive attitude, and just be the best person we can be. Some of the commissioners' goals for 2021 include:

- Lowering the county's overall expenses wherever possible
- Completing the Snyder County Courthouse Annex building project on time and under budget
- Renovating a house the county purchased to enhance our Planning Department and Emergency Management Agency's accessibility to the public
- Undertaking a parking lot expansion project at the Faylor Lake Outdoor Recreation Area (FLORA), if we receive a grant for which we've applied
- Continue to protect our employees as we navigate a "since COVID-19" daily business model
- Unveil the new Snyder County Website

All of these goals are included in our recently passed 2021 budget. We are happy to say this budget, although very difficult to get through this year, does not include a tax increase and actually eliminates the county's outdated Per Capita tax of \$5 per resident. Some municipalities have already followed suit and are planning to eliminate their Per Capita tax as well. As always, we appreciate your ideas and thoughts on how we can improve our service to you. As we bid 2020, the County Per Capita Tax, hopefully COVID-19, and any other negative items farewell, we say "Hey, Hey, Hey, Goodbye."



Above: Commissioners Ewig and Kantz sit with Legion Commander Richard Chalmers at the Veteran's Day Celebration at the Middlecreek Area Community Center in Beaver Springs. State Representative David Rowe, Congressman Fred Keller and Commissioner Steininger were also in attendance.

Below: Magisterial District Judge Lori Hackenberg swears in Commissioner Kantz to the Pennsylvania Election Law Advisory Board. Snyder County Election Director Debbie Bilger holds the Bible. Kantz was appointed by Governor Wolf and confirmed by the PA Senate in September of this year.



Update on Construction Project...

December 28th, 2020 was the kick off for the remodeling project of the former M&T bank building. This much needed addition to the Courthouse will be overseen by general contractor T Ross Brothers. The drastic increase in workload with this past year's election proved that the expansion project of the "Courthouse Annex" will not be finished too soon. Expected completion of the Annex is late August 2021 and the rest of the project should be complete by the end of the year. With the final payment of the county's prior debt taking place in December, the commissioners decided to borrow the needed money to pay for this renovation project with a 10 year loan. The competitive bid process produced a great effective interest rate of 1.39% from Mifflinburg Bank and Trust Company.



Right: The Commissioners were happy to find a company in Klingerstown, PA, which wanted to invest three weeks of their time and effort into removing the old bank vault. We estimate the total weight of the entire steel lined vault to be 20 tons.

Employee Receives Statewide Recognition!

Snyder County's Chief Assessor, Wendy Cook, was recently awarded the Matylda Zurowska Hudak Award from the Association of Assessment Professionals. Wendy has been employed by the county for over 15 years and has been the Chief Assessor since 2009. Wendy has always been dedicated to the county residents and does an excellent job of dealing with folks in an office that does not always make people happy. Most people don't really want to pay property taxes, but Wendy oversees the staff that does their best to make sure everything is done according to Pennsylvania law. We are thankful to have Wendy leading this office and thankful for the long days she puts in to get the job done.



Chief Assessor, Wendy Cook, receives her AAP Award virtually during this year's Assessors Virtual Conference.

2021 is a Municipal Election year. If you plan to run for a local office, you need to call in to or stop by the Elections Office to pick up your petitions beginning February 16th.

The Snyder County Commissioners
Chairman, Joe Kantz
Vice Chairman, Chuck Steininger,
Secretary, Adam Ewig

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Do you Recycle? If so, please consider this...

Over the past four years, the county has been helping to fund recycling at some of our municipal recycling centers. These grants have been made possible by Act 13 funds. With the reduction of these funds each year, from the state, and with the difficult budget cycle we had due to COVID this year, this funding was not able to be included for 2021. This could increase the difficulty of municipalities to fund recycling programs. For this reason, we are asking everyone who recycles in Snyder County to consider doing two things. 1.) Please consider dropping a few dollars into the collection system at your recycling center. 2.) Please call our state legislators and let them know how important recycling is to you and ask them to please pass legislation that reinstates a tipping fee to fund recycling programs in our Commonwealth. This funding stream ended over ten years ago when the State Supreme Court ruled in favor of waste haulers and said the fee could no longer be collected without proper legislation being passed. Our recycling centers are in jeopardy of closing if we don't find a permanent way to fund them. If you recycle, you know you are saving money on your garbage collection bills. Please consider one or both of these two options. Be good stewards of this earth. We've only got one.



Living in Central Pennsylvania...

Sometimes we take the beautiful scenery of Central PA for granted. To close out this newsletter, we thought we'd remind you of the beauty with some photos taken in Snyder County in the past year...

