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from  
*Adams County*

written by: Commissioner Randy Phiel

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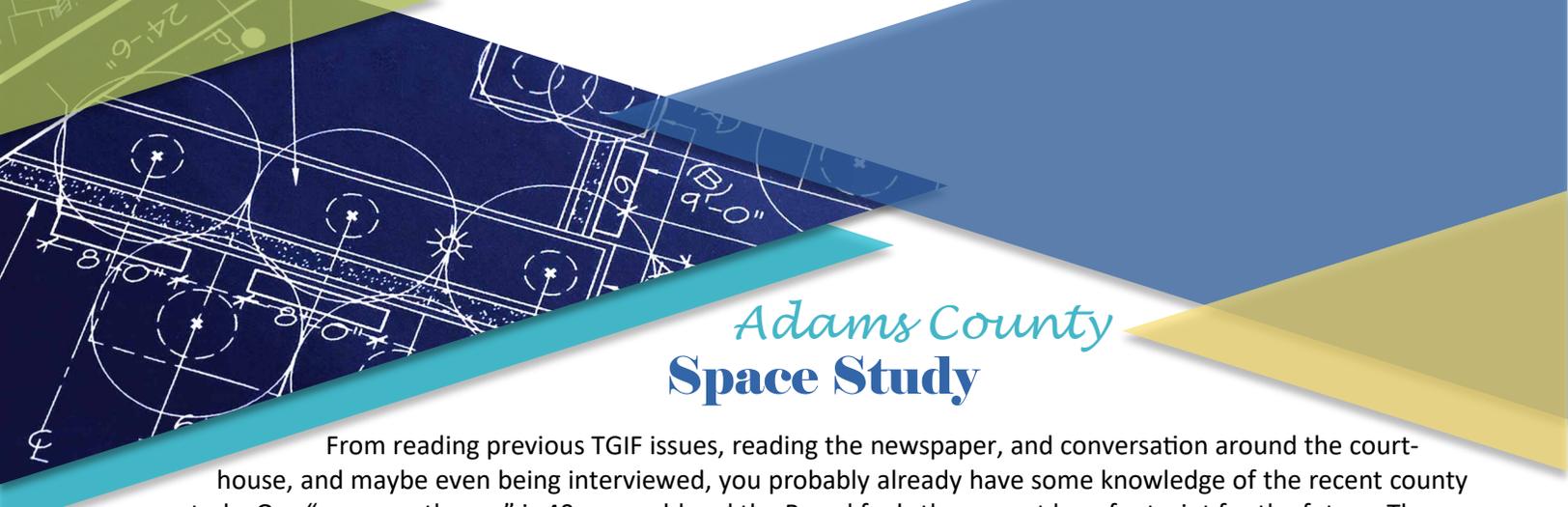
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## *Congratulations* **Masemer and Myers**

Adams County Sheriff's Deputy Mark Masemer has re-enlisted and was recently sworn in for another four years with the Navy. Army Brigadier General & Congressman Scott Perry administered the oath. Congratulations Mark and thank you for your service to our country from all your colleagues!

On Saturday, Adams County Sheriff Deputy Dakota Myers graduated from the Sheriff's nineteen week Basic Training Academy at Penn State. Congratulations Dakota and best wishes for a long, fulfilling and safe career!



## Adams County Space Study

From reading previous TGIF issues, reading the newspaper, and conversation around the courthouse, and maybe even being interviewed, you probably already have some knowledge of the recent county space study. Our “new courthouse” is 40 years old and the Board feels there must be a footprint for the future. Thus, a space study was undertaken by county staff and an outside firm. The assistance of an outside consultant was essential. Crabtree & Rohrbaugh was paid \$10,000 for their technical expertise, assistance and compilation of the analysis. That study has numerous components, including interviews with department personnel, development of options, and conceptual plans. In addition, there are numerous ways to approach any changes that might be considered, including having County employees undertake a portion of the work, having it completed by contractors, having it done using a phased approach, or having the improvements completed as quickly as possible. What buildings are included is still another variable. The Commissioners have talked about different options; but have not made any decisions about County office space and future building use.

To be simplistic, the options involve making some necessary mechanical/ structural repairs and some minimal movement of office staff, a floor by floor renovation of the existing building and a total new build. It is fair to say that currently a total new build has only a remote chance of success. Regardless of what action may eventually be undertaken, the Commissioners want all County personnel to realize that no decision will be made until there is a discussion with elected officials, directors and staff about the options, and that if any consensus is developed action will not be taken until staff is notified. The Board recognizes that employees need a comfortable work environment, with minimal surprises. We will endeavor to ensure all employees are treated in such a manner. If and when there would be any decision to proceed with any major renovation - the public will also have an opportunity to view and have input to the process as well. While most of the study is appropriate for public review – there are security components that will not be made public.

The Space Study Team’s work is extremely valuable for recognizing issues and identifying options for Adams County moving forward; but at this time no decisions have been made on any of the options. The Board would like to recognize and thank the Space Study Team for their commitment and diligence to this significant project!

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## EMS Week Recognition

At last Wednesday’s Commissioners Meeting Adams County Telecommunicator Samuel Biesecker was recognized by the Commissioners and the Emergency Health Services Federation for his actions in the successful resuscitation of a cardiac arrest patient in Germany Township. At this week’s commissioners meeting we recognized EMS emergency responders and approved a proclamation for EMS Week.

Too often we take for granted the folks we call for Emergency Medical Services, whether they be the dispatchers, or the personnel that respond directly to provide basic and advanced life support and transport. May 20th to the 26th is EMS week. Please take the time to give both thought and thanks to our Adams County EMS Dispatchers & Responders.



## Memorial Day

Several years ago it was my honor and privilege to deliver the Memorial Day remarks at the Wenksville Memorial Day Ceremony in the shadow of Bear Mountain. If you ever need a fix for a patriotic and wonderful slice of Americana, attend any of several Memorial Day programs around Adams County. With Memorial Day weekend upon us, I decided to reflect on some of the remarks I made that day and include them in this Memorial Weekend TGIF for you to ponder.

*“Memorial Day is the most solemn day of all veterans’ remembrances. There are many stories as to the actual beginnings of Memorial Day, with over two dozen cities and towns laying claim to being the birthplace of Memorial Day. Memorial Day was officially proclaimed on May 5 1868 by General John Logan, national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, in his General Order No. 11, and was first observed on May 30 1868, when flowers were placed on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery.*

*The first state to officially recognize the holiday was New York in 1873. By 1890 it was recognized by all of the northern states. Interestingly, the South refused to acknowledge the day, honoring their dead on separate days until after World War I (when the holiday changed from honoring just those who died fighting in the Civil War to honoring Americans who died fighting in any war). Memorial Day is now officially celebrated in almost every State on the last Monday in May. I found this fact interesting that several southern states still have an additional separate day for honoring the Confederate war dead: January 19 in Texas, April 26 in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and Mississippi, May 10 in South Carolina; and June 3 (Jefferson Davis' birthday) in Louisiana and Tennessee.*

*This service in Wenksville has been a tradition for decades. In another bit of historic trivia, Gettysburg, has the Memorial Day Parade dating back 148 years. In fact it is so old that even I marched in it - and placed flowers during all my primary school years. As a youth, the Memorial Day Parade was a school day in Gettysburg and attendance was taken at the parade. My parents and I always drove through the National Cemetery that evening to view the flowers strewn by the students and then headed to the Twin Kiss out the Emmitsburg Road for a frosted mug of root beer and a twist cone.”*

On that Memorial Day I concluded my remarks that day with a quote from President Ronald Regan at Arlington National Cemetery in 1996. *“Today is the day we put aside to remember fallen heroes and to pray that no heroes will ever have to die for us again. It's a day of thanks for the valor of others a day to remember the splendor of America and those of her children who rest in this cemetery and others. It's a day to be with the family, across the country children and their parents will be going to the town parade, and the young ones will sit on the sidewalks and wave their flags as the band goes by. Later, maybe, they'll have a cookout or a day at the pool. And that's good, because today is a day to remember.”*



The Gettysburg Memorial Day Parade steps off at 2PM on Monday with the ceremony in the National Cemetery at 3PM. This year's Grand Marshall is our own Adams County Veterans Director Stan Clark. I know that Stan is very proud to serve in that role this year. Get out there and wave to Stan. I wish you all a pleasant Memorial Day Weekend, with family and friends, as we remember those who serve our country and those that made the ultimate sacrifice for us!

# Gettysburg Station Sale

Since this Board of Commissioners took office seven years ago, we have been working with the Adams County Industrial and other entities to facilitate the sale and appropriate development of the two acre N. Stratton Street property formerly known as the REDDI Site and now as Gettysburg Station. This Board has always indicated that their position was a blend of mixed use would best serve the community. I am pleased to report a New York developer has signed a contract on the property, subject to a due diligence period to review environmental conditions and go through planning, permitting and land development processes. It is my understanding Mr. Harrison already has fairly extensive knowledge of those site dynamics.

The County of Adams took on the role of loan guarantor in 2013 for ACIDA to purchase the land. The sale price of reportedly \$1M would allow the county to free up these guarantor funds to use as seed money in other economic development projects. We would like nothing more than to stimulate other viable economic projects. We are hopeful that everything will finally line up to make this long overdue development happen.

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## Advanced Care Planning & College Savings

On Tuesday, June 5, from 12-1, you will have an opportunity to attend a presentation on Advanced Care Planning to learn how to speak with your family about your wishes if you are not able to provide directives. Advance Care Planning is not just about old age. At any age, an accident or a medical crisis could leave you too ill to make your own health care decisions. Even if you are not sick now, making health care plans for the future is an important step toward making sure you get the medical care you would want, even when doctors and family members are making the decisions for you.

On Wednesday, June 20, 12-1, Pennsylvania 529 College Savings will present for us to learn more about the Pennsylvania 529 College Savings Program. A representative from the Pennsylvania Treasury will be discussing the PA529 plan, tax benefits and ways to save for your children or grandchildren's college education. Both the Advanced Care Planning and 529 College Savings presentations will be held in the former Children & Youth Office in the courthouse.



The **End**

Many of you have very kindly asked me how my son Connor is doing on the Appalachian Trail. The answer in short – quite well! He is through Georgia, North Carolina, Smokey Mountain National Park and is meeting some friends at Lake Wataka in Johnson County, Tennessee this weekend. He has covered approximately 700 of the trails 2200 miles and reports his feet and equipment are holding up well. He plans to come off the trail in mid-June, near VA Tech in Blacksburg, where he went to college, to be in a wedding and help with the reenactment. Connor tells us he is meeting and making many new friends along the way. He may walk with some for a few hours or a few days. His favorite lay over stop so far was Elmer's B&B, owned by a former Duke professor who hiked the trail in the 70's. The inn has big porches and an even bigger library; so Connor took a respite two nights instead of one. He said he gained 10 pounds back at Elmer's because the food was so good. He says he is averaging 17 miles per day. His goal is still to be 1 of approximately 700 folks that thru hike the trail this season.

Beside all the Memorial Day programs and parades across the county there are a multitude of scheduled activities. There is a Car & Bike Show at the Gettysburg Outlets and the Totem Pole is featuring *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. Get your fill of fresh strawberries and pancakes at Hollabaugh's *Strawberry Festival & Pancake Breakfast*. Go to the *Farm Fresh Market* at The Outlets and chow down at the *Gettysburg BBQ Festival* at Gateway Gettysburg. See *Gettysburg – The Musical* on the top of the new Gettysburg Best Western on Steinwher Avenue. Music Gettysburg is presenting Wayne Hill & Friends at the Lutheran Seminary. Most of the county brew pubs and wineries are having special events this weekend. Go to Destination Gettysburg's Event Calendar for an extensive listing of events.

Whatever you do this Memorial Day Weekend, get out there and experience all the historical, recreational, agricultural, natural and cultural opportunities that beautiful Adams County has to offer!