

*Adams County, Pennsylvania*

# NEWSLETTER

December 4th, 2015  
Edition



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# T.G.I.F.

Written by: *Commissioner Randy Phiel*

## SGT. MAC WREATH PROJECT

*10th Anniversary*



This is the tenth anniversary of the SGT MAC Wreath Project. It was the goal of the organization to place 10,000 wreaths on this poignant anniversary. That goal will be achieved. As you read this TGIF, a group of your colleagues, friends and neighbors will be out at Giant helping to attach bows to 10,020 wreaths, put the wreaths onto trucks; and then place approximately 1,620 wreaths this afternoon at Gettysburg National Cemetery. Early tomorrow morning two tractor trailers will head to Quantico National Cemetery where 600 volunteers will place ap-

proximately 8,400 wreaths. This symbolic act of honor, respect and recognition is certainly a highlight of my holiday season. I strongly suggest that you take the time to contribute and volunteer in the future. I would also suggest you take a few minutes from your busy schedule and walk through the National Cemetery this month and view the result. I guarantee the vision will be worth a thousand words!



# Human Resources News

In the spirit of the holidays, thirty-four families under the care of our Children & Youth Department were given Thanksgiving Dinner thanks to the generosity of county employees.

HR also reports that \$7,209.00 was raised for the United Way. That is the most ever raised by Adams County Staff. A shout out and thank you to everyone that contributed to these programs that benefit Adams County residents.



HR is putting the finishing touches on an Updated Employee Handbook. The update process began about eight months ago in HR along with a staff handbook committee reviewing and making suggestions. The draft was recently presented to the commissioners and solicitor. The handbook is expected to be on-line by the end of the year. On behalf of the Board, I would like to express our appreciation to HR and the staff who worked on this important and labor intensive project.



On Wednesday the Board approved the adoption of a tentative balanced budget with no tax increase. Part of good fiscal management is carefully managing our health care for cost and benefits. We are very proud to report that due to excellent administrative management, and staff participation in programs, there is a pool surplus from 2015. As a result of that surplus

there will be a reduction in employee health contributions for 2016. This is generally unheard of in today's health care market. The public has twenty days to examine the budget and make comments. It can be viewed on the county web site or at the counter in the commissioner's office.

## **Adams County Planning & Probation Moving**



This may be old news to many, but by the end of the year we plan to have the Adams County Planning Department re-located to the Ag Center and Adams County Probation re-located to the Herff Jones complex. As part of the Planning re-location, The Land Conservancy of Adams County will be moving upstairs in the Penn State Extension area. A shout out to Penn State for their cooperation and input helping to facilitate

### **Student Visits**

Yesterday afternoon I enjoyed hosting the 3rd grade from Vida Charter in the historic courtroom. I have done this for several years with 5th grade classes from Lincoln Elementary, where we talk about the history of the courtroom, what a commissioner does and what their county government does. Yesterday, as a new wrinkle, after our session in the historic courtroom, I took the students to Judge George's courtroom where he graciously spoke to the students, answered a multitude of questions, gave them a tour of the courtroom, put a robe

this very positive transition. Adding Planning as a whole entity to the Ag Center, is a very positive compliment to the Ag Center and all the other organizations that are already there. It is also very convenient for the public. Probation will be moving to temporary quarters in Herff Jones by December 31; while their permanent office is completed in the same building.

Lacking for better terms, for the moment we will call our new building on Boyd's School Road either the Herff Jones Building or the new Adams County Human Services Building - until we come up with its new name. Sure sounds like an upcoming naming contest to me?

on one of the students and explained the role of the stenographer. The students got their wish to see a "real judge." For the students to have this experience, especially comparing the historic courtroom to a contemporary courtroom, is one they will long remember. It also produced quite a few smiles from the adults present. When I was in 7th grade civics class, I came to the Adams County Courtroom when it was obviously a working courtroom in session. Even though that was about 50 years ago - I have never forgotten it.

## *The* **END**

Late yesterday afternoon, my oldest son and I continued our family tradition of going and getting our two Christmas trees. Over the years we have become very efficient at picking beautiful cut trees, having them shaken, bailed and drilled for our tree stand. We get one for our great room and a smaller one for the front porch that Kathy insists on having. I love the smell of fresh pine in the house that you especially notice when you first bring the tree in. The tree is now sitting in its corner spot waiting to be decorated. As I walk in my front door, or go past the great room entrance, seeing the tree in place brings a certain sense of family and tradition to our household.



I know I have mentioned the Christmas Carol at the Majestic several times before; but the season and the production is now upon us. I will be there on Friday, December 11th, after I attend the Christmas Tuba Fest on the square at 6PM. Treat yourself to this wonderful seasonal production right here in Adams County.

There are lots of holiday happenings. No matter what you do, get out there and experience all the wonderful historical, recreational, agricultural, natural and cultural opportunities that beautiful Adams County has to offer.