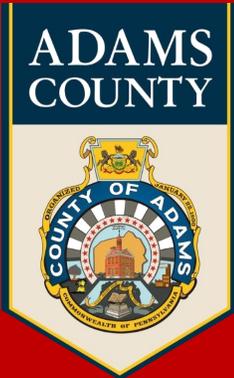


NEWSLETTER

December 5, 2014
Edition



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Sgt. Mac National Wreath Project

Written by: *Commissioner Randy Phiel*

Cemetery. Many other Adams County staff will also be out there today donating their time to this very worthy and rewarding project.

I was fortunate to know Marine Sgt. Eric McColley from Boy Scouts, from my daughter's high school swim team and as a lifeguard at the pool my family went to. To the contrary, most of the hundreds of volunteers and administrators of the Sgt. Mac Foundation never knew Eric personally; but still fully grasp the meaning, symbolism, benefit and fulfillment of participating in The SGT MAC Wreath Project. This year is the Ninth Anniversary of the project and 9,000 wreaths will be placed on veterans graves. Next year's milestone Tenth Anniversary - will be celebrated with distributing 10,000 wreaths. Over the years participants have come to include many groups, including my wife's fifth grade class from Lincoln Elementary.

I would strongly urge you to participate in the event at Giant or in the National Cemetery. It is rewarding beyond description. If you cannot participate - take the time to walk through the Gettysburg National Cemetery or ride through Quantico National Cemetery after the wreaths have been placed. I can assure you it will be a beautiful and moving experience. Contact Adams County Veteran's Affairs Director & Sgt. Mac Administrator Stan Clark at sclark@adamscounty.us for more information.

Believe it or not - December is here folks! With the arrival of December comes a day I look forward to every year. For me, this day provides a keen sense of what the season is really all about. This morning I will be at Giant Food, with about 100 other volunteers, helping to fabricate wreaths. This afternoon I will be in the Gettysburg National Cemetery for the wreath ceremony and distribution of the wreaths on the graves. I am sure Commissioner Qually will be at his now traditional "tall man spot" stacking finished wreaths in the tractor trailer at Giant. Then on Saturday morning I leave town at 4:30AM headed for the even larger wreath distribution at Quantico National

ADAMS COUNTY PROMOTIONAL

VIDEO COMING SOON

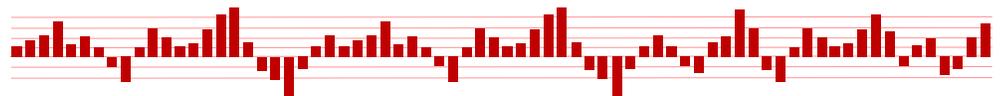
Coming to our Adams County website very soon is an excellent video promoting the many attributes of our beautiful county. Commissioner Martin was the moving force behind this promotional video that includes a Welcome Overview by yours truly with my elbow propped on a cannon, and segments on Education, Quality of Life, Tourism, Economic Development and Health Care. It is very well done and provides a great overview of Adams County. Look for it on the Adams County Home Page.

UPDATE



Look for the above icon on the left hand side of the County Website for the Video Tour of Adams County. Plus check out the supports sponsors:

- ◆ ACNB
- ◆ Littco Littlestown Foundry, Inc
- ◆ George H. Bixler Inc.
- ◆ Carl Bert & Associates
- ◆ J.A. Myers Homes
- ◆ Schroeder Family Dentistry
- ◆ High Performance Homes
- ◆ State Farm— Susan Beckner
- ◆ Little’s Funeral Home
- ◆ Campbell & White , P.C.
- ◆ Nationwide, Adamik Insurance



Cost Saving Measures

The Controller’s office is tasked with the duty of processing and paying all invoices. In 2013 the County issued over 8,700 checks. As you can imagine, that requires a lot of time and money to process. The Controller’s office and the Financial Review Team are looking at ways to reduce the costs of processing checks by simply reducing the amount of checks written. This in turn reduces the costs of check stock, ink, envelopes, stamps and labor. To this end we have set up an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) option in our new financial software and will be testing it next week. Once testing is complete we will encourage employees to sign up to receive their expense reimbursements via EFT. Instead of receiving a check,



you will receive an e-mail confirmation that your expense reimbursement has been electronically transferred to your bank account.

The next step is to extend this option to our regular vendors, such as Staples, Independent Stationers, and Aramark. In addition to these two areas, we are working with our procurement card (P-card) vendor to review our vendor list and determine which vendors may be open to using the P-card. The County will receive a rebate back from the P-card vendor based on usage which could become substantial. These changes are small but significant steps contributing to the County’s goal of being fiscally responsible.



I am pleased to report that the Adams County 2015 Tentative Balanced Budget, with no tax increase and having a stable reserve - is holding strong. Other than a few minor tweaks - it looks like we should be ready to adopt the 2015 Adams County Budget at

next Wednesday’s, December 10th Commissioners Public Meeting. The budget still includes a GWI for all bargaining and non-bargaining unit staff. This is a great way to fiscally end the year for Adams County!

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

The Information Technology Department staff successfully migrated the docSTAR system to the new environment. Personnel from the Prothonotary's Office, Clerk of Courts Office, and the Information Technology Department performed testing on Sunday to ensure the system was functioning correctly. The testing verified that the responsiveness of the system had vastly improved. The system was closely monitored over the week to ensure it maintained the improved processing levels and to identify any potential anomalies.

The migration was originally scheduled to be one of the final tasks in the project, but due to significant performance issues, the task was moved up in priority. There remain two additional tasks that will also contribute to even better responsiveness in the near future. The tasks include finalizing the server configuration and the mi-

gration to virtual desktops.

The Information Technology Department would like to extend the department's appreciation to Bev Boyd and Kelly Lawver for coming in over the weekend and testing the system to ensure it was functioning correctly for processing on Monday. Testing is a vital component of any system migration or update.

The department also deployed several internal Wi-Fi hotspots. The locations chosen for deployment were the Children and Youth conference rooms as well as conference rooms on the second floor of the courthouse. The internal wireless network will allow county employees to connect through a password protected wireless signal using only approved county owned devices. This will grant employees access to internal information in a safe and secure manner.



The Christmas tempo is picking up and it's beginning to look a lot like winter. If you are looking for a great family Christmas activity go the *The Christmas Carol* by Totem Pole at the historic Capitol Theater in Chambersburg. It was a family tradition for my family for years – and it is back again after a hiatus.

It's also that time of year when bad weather is looming and I am up at 4AM, waking up every hour, sticking my head out the door, listening to weather reports, watching radar and talking to Judge

George about weather conditions. Your best source of delay or closure information is the Adams County Home Page. Once a decision is made, Loretta Weaver from IT is my first call to put it up on the web before calling our 911 Center, the news outlets and my colleagues. Hopefully, this is not a repeat of last winter. It took me all summer to catch up on my sleep.

This is a season for so many social events and activities. No matter what you do..... get out there and experience all the historical, recreational, agricultural, natural and cultural activities that beautiful Adams County has to offer!



PCORP AWARD

I am proud to report that Adams County received several awards at the recent County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania Annual Conference in Hershey. Commissioner Martin and I attended the PCorp dinner and accepted the PCorp *Loss Prevention Training Award*. PCorp is our liability & property insurance program cooperative that is administered by CCAP. Adams County also had/has an excellent loss ratio. As a result of our participation and performance, we just received a dividend check of **\$70,966.00** from PCorp. Commissioner Martin serves on their Board. I would like to give a shout out to all of our Adams County staff for understanding the importance of being proactive in loss prevention.



At the annual conference County Manager Al Penksa was awarded *The CCAP Academy of Excellence Award* at a special reception for the awardees. This status results from satisfactory completion of a formal program of classes and seminars pertaining to applied discipline professional advancement. Congratulations to Albert for receiving this award !