

Adams County, Pennsylvania

NEWSLETTER

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Edition



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T.G.I.F.

Written by: *Commissioner Randy Phiel*



On behalf of the Adams County Board of Commissioners and staff, I would like to welcome all newly elected officials and all new staff to the Adams County Team. Serving the residents of Adams County is a noble and honorable privilege. We look

forward to the ideas, experience, resources and contributions you bring to our organization. If the Board, or any member of senior management, can assist you in getting out of the starting blocks; please do not hesitate to ask us.

Swearing in Ceremony

A few of the adjectives I can use to describe the New Year's Eve Swearing In Ceremony that took place in the Historic Courtroom are meaningful, poignant, moving and special. The changing of the guard with two long-time judges retiring, and two new judges coming on board, added a unique element to the occasion. Remarks from the two incoming judges, the two retiring judges, and the presenters for the elected county officials were meaningful and captured individual expressions and feelings for each respective position.



I would like to congratulate the Court and all staff that made this event one that will be long remembered. The 1PM County/Court ceremony was standing room only. I would also like to commend the Court for having the perception to have a ceremony for Municipal Officials at 10AM and 1PM for county and judicial officials. The Historic Courtroom is a wonderful historic venue that all Adams County residents should experience and be proud of. Congratulations and best wishes to all the municipal, county and judicial officials that were sworn in last Thursday.

PLANNING & PROBATION HAVE MOVED

Two Adams County Departmental moves have taken place effective January 1. The Adams County Department of Planning has moved to their new offices in the lower level of the Ag Center. Also, a portion of the Probation staff has moved to temporary quarters in the Human Services Building. I am pleased to report that both moves took place seamlessly and folks are settling in quite well.

We are planning two events that will highlight these two departments in their new office space. The first event will also be our next Adams County Commissioners Forum that will be held at the Adams County Natural Resources (Ag) Center on Old Harrisburg Road. It will include an Open House of the Planning Department's new home - as well as highlighting the mission and accomplishments of the other natural resources organizations at the Ag Center. The Commissioners Forum will be held on Wednesday, Febru-

ary 17th from 5:30-7:30PM. The Planning Department Open House is 5:30-6:30PM with all the Natural Resource Center organizations presenting in the meeting room from 6:30-7:30. The public is invited and urged to attend.



The other Open House event will be a staff only event - as the Adams County Human Services Building is not yet open to the public for security purposes. On Wednesday, January 20, from 3-6PM, all available county staff are invited to

tour the Adams County Human Services Building in its pre-renovation state. You can formulate your own opinion; but after seeing it I can tell you that most folks marvel at the size, excellent condition and future of the building. The 3-6PM time period will hopefully accommodate staff coming during work; or on their way home from work. Our staff can be great messengers for the community. We request that department directors attempt to facilitate county staff touring the building. The commissioners will be providing light refreshments in the former lunch room.

ARCHITECT SELECTED FOR HUMAN SERVICES DESIGN

At Wednesday's Commissioner Meeting, Crabtree & Rohrbaugh from Mechanicsburg was tentatively selected, pending final solicitor contract review, as the Adams County Human Services Building Architecture & Engineering firm. The firm will begin a process of evaluating the building and then meeting with county/court individuals and teams working toward the final Phase 1 Plan - along with a vision to the future. A county/court team reviewed five proposals and conducted three final interviews. Pending final approval of

the contract, our desired time-line for the project is final plan by March, bid packages sent out by



April, contractor bid submission in

May and construction to begin in June.

This is an extremely important and significant project for our residents that will resonate for decades. Phase 1 will include Probation, Court Operations, Mental Health, Children & Youth Service, Domestic Relations and a yet undetermined level of maintenance and archives. Phase 2 will possibly include a District Justice Office(s) and other options. This has been a noteworthy County/Court Team Effort. We intend to be professional, diligent and resolute in achieving our objectives in the most



Congratulations Captain John Hartzell



Congratulations to our own Adams County Solicitor and U.S. Coast Guard Reserve Captain John Hartzell, who retired from the U.S. Coast Guard earlier this summer at a ceremony held onboard Coast Guard Sector Buffalo, New York, on June 14, 2015. Most recently Captain Hartzell had been assigned as Senior Reserve Officer, Sector Buffalo, where he supervised the 140 Coast Guard reservists attached to Coast Guard stations and units located along Lake Ontario and Lake Erie. He was awarded the Coast Guard Commendation Medal, as well as the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, for his tour at Sector Buffalo.

Commissioned via Coast Guard Officer Candidate School in March 1984, Captain Hartzell served over 30 years of combined active and reserve service, including active duty afloat tours onboard Coast Guard Cutters Dependable (WMEC 626) and Courageous (WMEC 622), then operating in the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea. Among Hartzell's tours as a reservist were assignments as a pollution responder and command duty officer at Marine Safety Office/Group Philadelphia, and assignment to the Joint Staff

(J-5), Strategic Plans and Policy Directorate, Washington, DC.

As a reservist, he was recalled to active duty to respond to the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, and to assist with the response to the Deep Water Horizon Oil Spill in June 2010.

Captain Hartzell's personal awards include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Coast Guard Commendation Medal (three awards), the Coast Guard Achievement Medal with Operational Device (four awards), the Commandant's Letter of Commendation Ribbon (two awards), the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal (two awards), and the Joint Staff Badge.

On behalf of the Adams County Board of Commissioners and all of the county staff, Congratulations John - and thank you for your 30 years of dedicated service to our country!

The **END**

What a change in the weather from when I last sat down and composed TGIF before Christmas. Remember the Sunday after Christmas when it was 72 degrees? Wednesday morning when I walked out the door it was 13 degrees. Last Sunday I drove over Jacks Mountain to Lowes in Waynesboro - and it was strange to see no snow at Ski Liberty in January. Well that is changing rapidly, making skiers happy and providing a jolt to our local economy.

Winter and cold weather has to be here because it is Pennsylvania Farm Show time. All three commissioners and some other county staff will be at Public Officials Day at the Farm Show next Wednesday. From the Farm Show I head to the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania Winter Board of Directors Meeting on Thursday and Friday.

Besides sitting on the couch watching the football playoffs, there are many enjoyable winter activities in Adams County. Don't forget all those delicious oyster feeds and fire hall dinners in January and February. One of my favorite oyster fire hall dinner is at Cashtown the first weekend in February; but then there is Heidlersburg with roast beef and oysters once a month in the winter..... and that ain't bad either. No matter what you do get out there and experience all the historical, recreational, agricultural, culinary, natural and cultural opportunities that beautiful Adams County has to offer!