

Adams County, Pennsylvania

NEWSLETTER

March 27, 2015
Edition



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T.G.I.F.

Written by: Commissioner Randy Phiel

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

The Information Technology Department is working with the Solicitor's Office and the Sheriff's Office to develop a formal policy and procedure for the use of social media. The working group has drafted an initial document that outlines acceptable use guidelines, authorization and audit procedures, and identification of specific use and functionality. Based on the document, the Sheriff's Office has created a Facebook page as a pilot program. The intent will be to evolve the new policy and procedure and slowly begin to deploy social media capabilities to additional departments. The next time you are on Facebook, be sure to visit the Sheriff's Facebook page, Adams County PA Sheriff's Office and like his page.

Personnel from the Information Technology Department were invited to speak at the Adams County Boroughs Association meeting on March 16th. The presentation provided updates on the County's new technology initiatives and capabilities. A key focal point of the presentation included information on the county's web site assistance for the municipalities. The County offers this service which could save municipalities valuable costs and resources. In addition, The Information Technology

Department completed a Tax Services system upgrade on Monday, March 23rd. The Tax Billing, Tax Claim and Tax Collection programs were migrated from an outdated server platform to an up-to-date secure server platform. The Microsoft SQL database software was also modernized during the upgrade process to ensure application stability and that security standards are being met. An important application upgrade was also installed on each Tax Services workstation during the process. This will provide automatic updates on each employee's computer when a patch to the application is needed. All three programs will now reside on one dedicated server to reduce complexity and provide easier security management for the applications. It will also ensure that standardized vendor access procedures are being met when remote connections to the system are needed.



Weekend Courthouse WORK

This Saturday and Sunday, March 28th and March 29th Capital Area Communications will be installing the microwave dishes and antennas on the Courthouse Tower. They will begin working at 7:00AM daily. There will be a crane in the parking lot to assist with installing the equipment on the tower. Maintenance will block the lot entrance at 11:00 PM on Friday night to make sure that no one is parked there on Saturday morning. The crew will also be pulling the transmission lines from the tower into the building and into the 9-1-1 Center. These individuals are the individuals who have been working on various portions of the project at the courthouse. They installers will have access key cards and will be able to enter the building. Since the rear door is the only access on weekends to the courthouse, the Capital Area Communications crew will assist staff that must enter the building. For your personal safety you may need to wait a few minutes before you will be allowed to enter or exit the building. If you must enter the building this weekend please be aware of this construction.



Adams Regional EMS



I am very gratified to report that Gettysburg Fire Department & United Hook & Ladder have merged their EMS services to form Adams Regional EMS that will serve fourteen municipalities. The press release below that went out last weekend and has been reported in the media is very descriptive of the merger.

The Board of Directors of the newly formed *Adams Regional EMS*, is announcing the formation of a new entity with the merger of Gettysburg Fire Department and

these departments, and the *Adams Regional EMS Board*, as a visionary step that will hopefully be a springboard to maintaining quality and affordable EMS service for all Adams County residents. Consideration will be given to other EMS departments that may eventually want to participate in the coalition.

Gettysburg Fire Department & United Hook & Ladder had been talking cooperative EMS merger for many years. With Gettysburg Wellspan Gettysburg Hospital's



From left to right: Barbara Underwood, Amy Lebo, Al Knerr, David Blocher, Bryan Wasylkyk, Kevin Moul, Steve Rabine, Randy Phiel, Ronald Hankey.

United Hook & Ladder emergency medical service (EMS) resources to form this cooperative joinder. The members of both these departments voted unanimously in January to pool their emergency medical service resources to form this cooperative ALS/BLS joinder . The joinder will serve the residents of 14 municipalities. Fire service provided by the departments is not affected by the EMS merger.

Providing quality emergency response service becomes more challenging every year with decreasing volunteerism, increased training requirements, the increasing cost of equipment and training, and the spike in insurance costs – especially workman's comp. The merger of EMS services by these two departments is viewed by

November 2013 announcement that Wellspan would be exiting Advanced Life Support delivery (Medic 28) in the near future, the discussions between the two departments were re-kindled. When recent discussions among a county ALS/BLS steering committee stalled, with the announcement that Hanover Hospital was staying in the ALS business , talks between Gettysburg & United Hook & Ladder escalated again.

Since announcing they would be terminating Advanced Life Support Services, Wellspan has publically stated they would support a community model that promoted sustainability, consolidation and cooperation. *Adams Regional EMS* has engaged in a constructive dialogue with Wellspan regarding operational and logistical re-

sources. The talks have extended to *Adams Regional EMS* discussing resources with Wellspan Gettysburg.

Operationally, the projected plan is to provide 24/7 EMS services, including ALS, from Gettysburg Fire Department & United Hook & Ladder; while service from Bonneauville is in the discussion stage. Operations will be based out of Gettysburg and the business office will be based at United Hook & Ladder. United Hook & Ladder currently contracts EMTs with Gettysburg Fire Department and coordinates the operation from United Hook & Ladder.

The departments have also agreed to consolidate their EMS equipment and rigs into the joinder. Initially, some other area providers may be participating on a contractual or other limited basis.

The Adams Regional EMS merger is being guided by a Board of Directors. The members of the *Adams Regional EMS Board of Directors* include David Blocher, Al Knerr and Bryan Wasyluk from Gettysburg Fire

Department and Steve Rabine, Kevin Moul and Patrick "Sam" Taylor from United Hook & Ladder. Adams County Council of Government is represented by Barbara Underwood, the County of Adams is represented by Chair Commissioner Randy Phiel and the Community Member At Large is former ACNB Bank CEO Ronald Hankey.

Adams Regional EMS has already hired a Business Manager. Amy Lebo has 13 years of experience with United Hook & Ladder business operations. A job announcement for the organization's position of Operations Manager was posted and circulated on Tuesday. Position announcements for paramedic's and EMT's will be distributed within the next two weeks.

During the organization's formative stages, Randy Phiel has agreed to act as the Public Information Officer for the Board of Adams Regional EMS. He can be reached at 717-337-9820 or email rphiel@adamscounty.us.

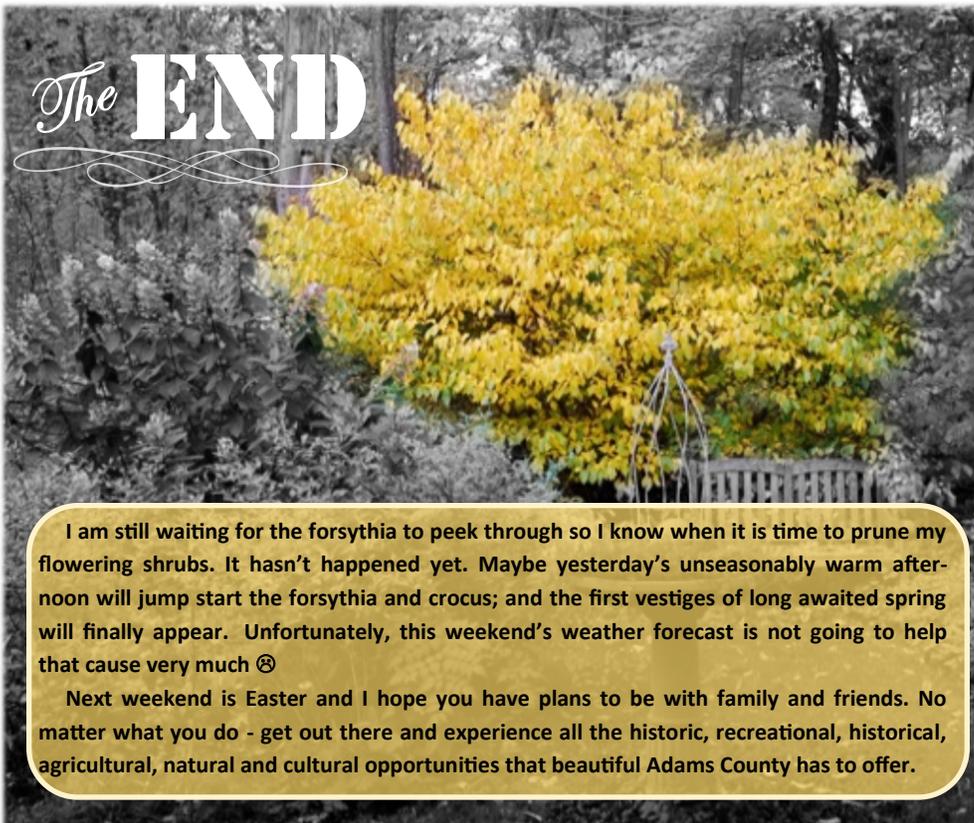
Callie Awards

Last evening all three commissioners attended the Callie Awards event at the Gettysburg Hotel honoring 5 local women.

The Callie Awards recognizes the significant achievements, both known and unrecognized, of women in multiple fields of service, including but not limited to education, business, agriculture, the arts, health and human services, community service, and public service. In addition, an exceptional young woman (high school junior-college senior) and a woman with a "Legacy of a Lifetime" of service are recognized.

This year's recipients are MJ Duffy for providing quality early childhood education while overcoming serious illness and personal loss; Stephanie Maitland for providing a Health & Fitness facility that promotes health, fitness and friendship; Joan Stremmel for spearheading the capital campaign that has resulted in Adams County SPCA shelter expansion and improvement; Mary Stevenson who is well known in the community for her tireless work and advocacy on the behalf of the homeless; and 16 year-old Lindsey Brehm from Bermudian Springs High School, whose variety of community volunteer activities, along with raising \$18,000 for Wounded Warriors as her senior project, resulted in Lindsey being the Legacy Award recipient.

Congratulations to all the ladies for their notable contributions to Adams County!



I am still waiting for the forsythia to peek through so I know when it is time to prune my flowering shrubs. It hasn't happened yet. Maybe yesterday's unseasonably warm afternoon will jump start the forsythia and crocus; and the first vestiges of long awaited spring will finally appear. Unfortunately, this weekend's weather forecast is not going to help that cause very much ☹

Next weekend is Easter and I hope you have plans to be with family and friends. No matter what you do - get out there and experience all the historic, recreational, historical, agricultural, natural and cultural opportunities that beautiful Adams County has to offer.