

Written by: *Commissioner Randy Phiel*

T.G.I.F.

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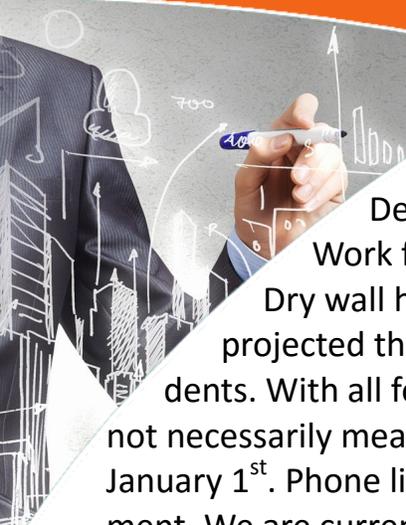
- ◆ **October 28, 2016**
- ◆ **October 14, 2016**
- ◆ **September 30, 2016**



The Election

I can assure you that Monica, Angie and Nancy are breathing a sigh of relief that this year's Presidential Election is over. Besides registering over 3000 new Adams county voters and answering an incalculable number of questions and inquiries, the heavy 71% turnout caused long lines at the polls with the last ballot boxes coming back into the courthouse at approximately 1230 Wednesday morning. The Board of Commissioners is also the Election Board and spends the day and evening traveling the county to all 49 precincts. We are also here at night until the last ballot box is se-

cured. Thanks go out to Al, Paula, Lisa, Barb, John, Molly, Loretta, Phil and Judge Wagner as well as Security & Maintenance for the work they did election night. Sometimes we end the night with a beverage at a nearby watering hole; but after this election we all were happy to head home at 1AM. This year we just settled for Angie's famous peanut butter cup brownies, chicken salad and Paula's chicken corn soup. Not a bad compromise!



HUMAN SERVICES *Building*

It is hard to believe that December 31 is approaching so rapidly. Work for Phase 1 is progressing at a speedy pace. Dry wall has been installed and painting is underway. It is projected that CYS, Probation, Security and IT will be Phase I residents. With all four contractors fulfilling their timeline for Phase 1, it does not necessarily mean all the aforementioned departments will be in there by January 1st. Phone lines and computers will still need to be installed by our IT Department. We are currently working on a number of options to facilitate a mid-winter move for Phase 1. On Tuesday we had a team meeting of department stakeholders at the Human Services Building. It is exciting to see this building taking shape that will provide so many benefits to Adams County residents.

BUDGET 2017

The budget process has become more difficult as we look at the volume of capital requests from departments. Although the state of the county is very healthy financially with a positive bond rating and reserve, balancing the budget with the amount of capital requests becomes more challenging. Some items like replacing an old patched together \$200,000 chiller to make sure the building is air conditioned in the summer are obvious. Other items are not so obvious like vehicles and equipment at the prison. The situation is exasperated by another year of totally flat revenue. The total additional net tax revenue for 2017 over 2016 is estimated to be only approximately \$200,000 for a total approximate \$75M budget. How we come to terms financially with the necessary capital excess is a matter the Board will need to determine. The proposed budget will be presented at the November 30 meeting.

District Justice NEWS

By now most of you know it was the desire of the county and the court to put District Judge Harvey and Beauchat's offices at the Adams County Human Services Building. The move will result in numerous benefits. The one missing link was approval from The Supreme Court of Pennsylvania to move Judge Harvey's Court. On November 3rd 2016, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court order approving this move "*provides for the relocation of Magisterial District 51-3-01 within Adams County, outside the boundaries of the magisterial district from which the judge is elected, to be effective immediately, is granted.*" Court construction is in Phase II scheduled to be completed on or about May 1st.

We are in the process of finalizing details for 2017 health insurance with South-central Preferred as our Third Party Administrator. South-central Preferred is an arm of Wellspan and we anticipate that service, convenience and payment turn around for most users will be significantly enhanced. South-central also partners with Pinnacle and Summit for those that live outside the immediate area. We approved the South-central Administrative Services Agreement pending final solicitor approval at Wednesday's meeting.

Thanks to a significant effort by our Administrative staff and Human Resource Department, we have again defied the industry standard by keeping our quality benefits while keeping premium and employee co-pay at reasonable levels. We do anticipate adjusting the employee co-pay slightly higher than they are now – but lower than many organizations. The Board understands that employee health benefits are extremely important to the quality of life of our staff and we work diligently to provide good benefits at reasonable cost in comparison to what is going in the health insurance world.

Adams County Veteran Affairs News

The Veterans Affairs Department had a busy Veterans Day weekend as they do every year. Director Stan Clark officiated at the annual United States Marine Corps Birthday Celebration at VFW Post 15 on Thursday evening. The traditional Cake Cutting Ceremony was preceded by the reading of the Commandant's Message.

Friday included the annual Adams County Veterans Day Ceremony hosted by the Adams County Allied Veterans Honor Guard and was held at American Legion Post 202. United States Army Colonel Sullivan rendered an emotional Veterans Day message to the crowd of approximately 150 people. After the ceremony, the names of the Veterans who passed away in the last year were read followed by the traditional 3 volley salute and sounding of Taps. The ceremony was attended by many Adams County officials including the County Commissioners and Judges.

The Littlestown Veterans Memorial was dedicated Saturday November 12th at the Littlestown Recreation Park with a crowd of approximately 125 people attending. This memorial was the idea of Travis Hartlaub. He chose this as his Eagle Scout Project and raised \$ 18,000.00 to fund the cost of the monument and associated expenses. During the very moving ceremony, Travis said "the price of freedom is high and we cannot afford to forget those who defend and protect it." After the attending Veterans were asked to stand and be recognized Travis said "You have made our Armed Forces the most respected in the world....we want Littlestown to be recognized as a place where Veterans are honored and respected".

Adams County is very fortunate to have approximately 9,200 Veterans that have served our Nation during peacetime and in every conflict from World War II to the present. We salute you.

Beside the scope of the election in Adams County on November 8, this November was also memorable for me when on November 1, 2 & 3 I hiked to the bottom of the Grand Canyon and back out for the fourth time with two of my children Kate and Connor. After hiking down Tuesday we camped at Phantom Ranch on the Colorado River and came back out Thursday. According to the NPS only 1% of Grand Canyon visitors ever go anywhere below the rim. Having just qualified for Medicare, it was extremely satisfying to do this one more time with my children. I fared fairly well for except for a still bandaged big toe. The view from the rim is breathtaking; but the experience, vista, sunrises and sunsets down in the canyon are indescribable. I would highly recommend it to anyone physically able. It takes quite a bit of advance planning and permits - but is worth it!

This weekend is full of activities grand with Dedication Day at the National Cemetery on Saturday at 10AM and the Remembrance Day Parade at 1PM. Very seldom does the anniversary of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address fall on the same day as the Remembrance Day Parade. If you have never attended the Dedication Day ceremony I urge you to do so as it very poignant. Actor/Director/Producer Levar Burton is the featured speaker this year. Last Saturday, I had the pleasure of going to the Majestic Theater and seeing Director Bill Putch's premier of *The Old Man & The Bear*. Bill grew up at the Totem Pole Playhouse, where his father Bill Putch was artistic director and mother Jean Stapleton performed when she was not shooting *All In The Family* as Edith Bunker. The film was a tribute to his parents and featured The Totem Pole. The film was shot entirely in Franklin/Adams County. *The Old Man & The Bear* beautifully addressed the subject of Alzheimer's which Bill's mother Jean Stapleton suffered in her later years.

Thanksgiving at the Phiel household will be especially meaningful as our Rotary exchange student from Italy will be with us over Thanksgiving. He and my youngest son were on the high school golf team - and thus we are playing in a Black Friday scramble - whether it is 30 degrees or 60 degrees. On behalf of the Board, I wish all of you a meaningful and blessed Thanksgiving. No matter what you recreational, agricultural, Adams County has do get out there and experience all the historical, natural and cultural opportunities that Beautiful to offer.

"....get out there and experience all the historical, recreational, agricultural, natural and cultural opportunities that beautiful Adams County has to offer!"

The End