

November 6, 2015  
Edition



Page 2

- ◆ James Getty, Citizen of the Year
- ◆ Radio Project Update
- ◆ Gettysburg Foundation Giving Spree

Page 3

- ◆ Human Services Building Update
- ◆ AC Law Enforcement Firearms Training Range Update
- ◆ The End

# T.G.I.F.

Written by: *Commissioner Randy Phiel*

# THANKS FOR VOTING

## *Election Is Over*

Well another election cycle is over and I want to thank Monica and Angie who work all year long to make our local, state and federal democratic voting process happen. I especially want to thank this year's Election Board, Glenn Snyder, Jim Waybright and Matt O'Brien for stepping up as the Election Board since all three current commissioners were on the ballot. I would also like to recognize our dedicated poll workers in each precinct. Many have been doing this for years working a 15 hour day for minimal pay as a service to their community. The turnout was

29% on a knockdown beautiful day. It never ceases to amaze me that we cannot have a better turnout on a day like Tuesday for local elections that affect our residents significantly?

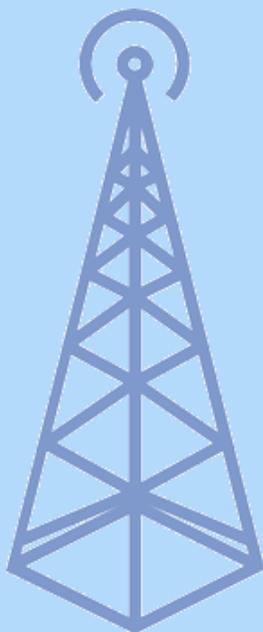
On behalf of the Board, I would like to say that we are honored and look forward to working with you for another 4 years, to provide the most efficient service in a fiscally responsible manner to the residents of Adams County. We really do enjoy being part of this Adams County Team and thank you for that privilege!



## RADIO PROJECT UPDATE

From testing the approximately 2200 grids we had anticipated the radio transition for law enforcement would go well. Adams County Emergency Services Director John Eline reports the transition has been going extraordinary well. As of this week almost all Adams County law enforcement has now been transitioned. The improved clarity and reception has markedly improved.

Radios for EMS will be distributed on November 17. It is anticipated EMS will go live by Thanksgiving. The old system will continue to run parallel to the new system until it can be assured that any issues with the new system have been resolved. So far there have been no significant issues. I will keep you updated as we bring the entire system on-line.



## James Getty Chamber Citizen Of The Year



On Wednesday evening, it was my privilege and honor to present a post-humous Adams County Proclamation for 2015 *Citizen Of The Year*, to Joanne Getty, for husband Jim Getty, during the annual Chamber Meeting at Hickory Bridge Farm.

Jim was known to everyone in our community as a friend, neighbor, historian, speaker, parade participant, teacher, musician, church and choir member and businessman. Jim was kind, compassionate, generous and a remarkable gentleman who made all that knew him smile as he shared his time and talents with them.

Jim was aware that six times I transported an original copy of the Gettysburg Address back and forth between GNMP and the Library of Congress during my NPS law enforcement career. That was many times a topic of discussion when Jim and I would chat. Jim was also a highlight of the Annual Gettysburg Reenactment for many

years reciting the Gettysburg Address to thousands. With Jim's health failing, he did not want to miss presenting at the very significant 150<sup>TH</sup> Reenactment in 2013. Thus, I made arrangements to seamlessly get Jim onto the site, recite the Gettysburg Address to thousands of appreciative reenactors and spectators, and get Jim off-site and headed home in short order. His presentation at the 150<sup>TH</sup> Reenactment was a pleasure for Jim and one of many highlights of the event for me.

Between working for the NPS and my involvement with the reenactment, I have heard Jim recite the Gettysburg Address many, many times. He was/is a measuring stick for Lincoln historians - where I would normally comment regarding other presenters "*They were ok.....but not as good as Jim Getty.*" Jim Getty was a gift to his family as well as to our community. Jim - you will be greatly missed and warmly remembered!

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### Gettysburg Foundation Giving Spree

The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Adams County Community Foundation Giving Spree will be held Tuesday, November 10 from 4-7 at the Gettysburg Area Middle School on Lefever St. Last year the Giving Spree Event brought in \$118,000 for 50 non-profits represented at the Spree. That is an incredible amount given by Adams County residents and businesses in one night.

This year there will be over 60 Adams County Non-Profits represented at the Spree. With the current Pennsylvania state budget impasse, this year it is more critical than ever that Adams County residents come through to support the incredible work that our numerous non-profits do for the good of all of us in Adams County. Show your favorite non-profit organizations that you appreciate the work they do for Adams County residents by making your end of the year and holiday donations at this event.

# Human Services Building Update

The County took possession and closed on the Herff Jones building on Friday, Oct 30th. We provided an interior tour to the media last week. The team members from IT, security, building/maintenance and administration have secured the building, changed the locks and are making basic changes to allow for further evaluation and planning for the use of this facility.

The building is being evaluated for temporary use while awaiting the design and engineering phase of the building for the future. We are lucky to have learned that the phone system hardware is identical to our current county system. Building access will be enhanced with our current Low V key card entry system hopefully in the next month. Fiber will be enhanced to the building by late Novem-

ber. Maintenance is sealing cracks in the parking lot and ensuring all lighting is fully operational. We will keep you updated on the transition.



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## Adams County Law Enforcement Firearms Training Range Update



Last Friday law enforcement officers from around Adams County gathered to symbolically break ground and kick off the capital campaign for the proposed Adams County Law Enforcement Firearms Training Range beside the Emergency Services Facility. The range has passed Straban zoning requirements; but must meet certain land development standards and requirements as part of the development process. The Range Committee will be working with the township and engineering to work toward construction.

At last Wednesday's Commissioners Meeting the County signed an agreement with the Adams County Law Enforcement Association to lease them the land and have the association manage the range under the guidelines of the agreement. The range will be used for a variety of law enforcement firearms training and will only be open to county law enforcement officials. Range construction on county owned land is being funded by a public/private partnership with no direct taxpayer funding.

# *The* END

What a whirlwind several weeks. Between transitioning the new emergency radio system, completing the purchase of Herff Jones for a new Human Services Building and breaking ground for the proposed Adams County Firearms Law Enforcement training Range; we also managed to squeeze a local and judicial election in as good measure. We can now turn our attention to Budget, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas. No doubt this year is flying by!

I think fall is my favorite time of year. Those warm Adams County days with crisp clear evenings, those vibrant colors with beautiful vistas and magnificent red sky sunsets are certainly an appetizer on a large Adams County menu of special attributes. Some of my fall duties later this weekend will be raking leaves and trimming my knock out rose bushes for winter. I guess I had better also be thinking about putting the porch furniture away, checking my fuel oil tank and moving some wood to the porch. No matter what you do - get out there to experience and enjoy all the historical, recreational, agricultural, natural and cultural opportunities that beautiful Adams County has to offer!