

Adams County, Pennsylvania

NEWSLETTER

September 25, 2015
Edition



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T.G.I.F.

Written by: *Commissioner Randy Phiel*



United Way FUND DRIVE

It's that time of year again. The approaching holidays reminds us of how fortunate we are. We are privileged to have steady employment, a roof over our head, meals on our table, and family and friends who are there for us through good times and bad. That is the case for most of us; but not everyone is so lucky.

The United Way does remarkable work in Adams County. Each year I urge staff to contribute a few dollars a pay to the United Way of Adams County. United Way has a selection menu where you can designate the funds be used for the nonprofit of your choice - or you can just make a general donation. Thank you to those of you who participate and invest in our community through this program. I would ask those of you who do not participate to please consider doing so. To be candid - our participation is very low at 10% of the staff. That's correct only 10% of the staff participates! If you are in the other 90% it is very simple to fill out the contribution form, indicate the amount of donation each pay period, designate the beneficiary(s) and let HR do the rest.

So, for 2016, we are asking you to consider just giving \$1.00 per paycheck, \$26.00 per year

to our local United Way drive. There is strength in numbers. If just half of us on the payroll here at Adams County gave \$1.00 per pay we would pour roughly \$6500.00 back into helping others. I would surmise that we will never miss the \$1.00, but those benefiting from it will certainly value it. The Adams County United Way supports worthy non-profits like Adams County Office for Aging-Faith in Action, A Woman's Purse (supports our Independent Living program), Adams County Literacy Council, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Children's Aid Society (New Oxford), Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania, Healthy Adams County, Holiday Family Outreach, YWCA or YMCA's, Lutheran Social Services, Manos Unidas Hispanic-American Center, MidPenn Legal Services & Ready to Learn.

Besides the ones I named, you can also designate other non-profits where you would like the money to go and you will get proof that your money was sent there. I would like to recognize and thank Michelle Miller for her efforts with United Way and for spearheading the program for Adams County. Contact Michelle Miller in HR at Ext 289 for more information or to sign up.

Information Technology **UPDATE**

The Information Technology Department is in the final stages of designing a new network infrastructure for the Adams County Prison. Upgrades to the network infrastructure include the deployment of new switches, Wi-Fi, and full fiber optic connections. The upgrades will support initiatives towards greater mobility within the prison through the use of tablets and laptops. Additional video conferencing units and system upgrades will require the increased need for bandwidth capacity. With the new network equipment in place, future plans for technology deployments will be properly supported as IT expansion continues at the Prison.

The IT staff met with the County printing vendor to review upcoming printer leases for the coming year. All printers that are due for either upgrades or replacement were discussed. The IT staff will be reaching out to departments to discuss these printers and any changes that need to be made for the upcoming year. The leased printing platform will continue to provide County departments the ability to refresh printing hardware and software to meet the demands for future printing needs.

County Picnic

Mark your calendars and sign up! The county staff picnic is just around the corner on Friday, September 25 from 11-2 at the Ag Center. This is a great opportunity for enjoying this excellent venue, partaking of delicious food and socializing with your colleagues. Several years ago we started the tradition of the commissioners and judges serving lunch to all of the staff and we look forward to serving you again.

Besides the interesting characters on the grille, there will be one new unique twist this year – a Dunk Tank! I also understand there will be some very familiar faces in the tank? This should not only create a lot of laughs – but all the dollars collected will be donated to the Wellspan Cancer Patient Help Fund and Free Mammography Program in honor of Linda Kranias.

TIF Hearing Cancelled

The Adams County Tax Incentive Finance Hearing for the Gettysburg Crossings Project has been withdrawn due to anchor store Wal-Mart removing itself from the project. Last month the largest taxing body, the Gettysburg Area School District, voted in favor of the project. The anticipated vote by Straban Township on the project scheduled for this past Tuesday evening was also withdrawn. We have been told that developer ATAPCO will pursue a strip mall project along Shealer Road; but will not be pursuing the larger Gettysburg Crossings project. We have heard that Wal-Mart re-evaluated their position and decided to stay with a smaller store for economic reasons.

It is obvious that a tremendous amount of work, effort, energy and dialogue by a lot of folks went into getting to this point. To have the project derailed at the 12th hour prior to the county hearing was disappointing to the Board. Losing over \$3.2 million in intersection improvements garnered by our legislators is also frustrating. According to PSP, this is the most accident prone area in Adams County. Besides the potential loss of tax income, I hear over and over from residents they are

simply tired of running to Hanover, Chambersburg and Frederick to shop. Tax incentive financing whether it be LERTA or TIF can be a valuable tool in the economic development toolbox. It makes you question how quickly other developers without extremely deep pockets will come to Adams County; and how much of a negative residual impact this unsuccessful process will have on future development projects?

Although the TIF dialogue was challenging and divisive at times, no matter what your personal feelings are regarding tax incentive financing, this has certainly proven to be an educational and informative experience that hopefully has some lasting value. I know I am much better informed on the topic. This Board supports appropriate economic development as well as preservation, and understands the sometimes difficult challenges of balancing the two. Finding and implementing that balance is essential for the future of Adams County. It is important we retain this information, keep the conversation alive and look toward attracting appropriate development to Adams County.

Radio Project Volunteers Still Needed

In the last TGIF, I mentioned the need for volunteers for testing the new 911 radio system. Well the testing began Tuesday and volunteers are still needed. Prior to flipping the switch on the new 911 digital radio system, over 2200 grids must be tested to assure at least 95% reception. Beginning in early September, three test groups will go out and begin to test each of the grids across the county. They will use GPS equipped vehicles to go the center of that grid. Once on location - a series of testing will be done to establish that appropriate reception has been achieved. It is anticipated this process will take about three weeks and volunteers are being sought to assist county and technical staff with driving and testing.

On Tuesday, October 20 county law enforcement will begin to use the new system with the old system running parallel until it is deemed appropriate to discontinue. Then Fire and EMS will follow the same procedure with all systems anticipated to be converted by the end of the year. We urge all municipalities to ascertain their staff participates in this training. Municipalities can send their staff, send one staff to train the other staff, or request Adams County Emergency Services to come to your facility to train your staff. We cannot emphasize enough the importance of this training.



**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED**

The **END**

For all of you folks going to the Gettysburg/Adams Chamber of Commerce Wine Festival at Gateway this weekend have fun, be safe and take a designated driver. If you don't have designated driver, Freedom Transit is offering free trolley rides from the event back into

Gettysburg.

No matter what you do get out there and experience all the historical, recreational, agricultural, natural and cultural opportunities that beautiful Adams County has to offer!