

T.G.I.F.

from Adams County

WRITTEN BY: COMMISSIONER PHIEL



What's New

AMERICA250 ADAMS COUNTY
KICK-OFF

ANNUAL TAX COLLECTOR
SETTLEMENTS

CONGRATS HR DIRECTOR
DANETTE LAUGHMAN

ADAMS COUNTY BOARD
APPOINTMENTS

PA COUNTY LEADERS
ANNOUNCE CCAP'S 2026
PRIORITIES

CUMBERLAND TOWNSHIP
MILESTONE CELEBRATION

2026 Pennsylvania Farm Show

The Pennsylvania Farm Show is the nation's largest agriculture exhibition. Held at the beginning of January, it was true to form since it is known for being a precursor for snow and winter weather. This year's theme of "Growing A Nation" was directly tied to the nationwide America250 Celebration.

The three Commissioners, County Manager Steve Nevada and Senior Rural Resources Planner Mark Clowney attended Public Officials Day and heard remarks from Adams County's own Secretary of Agriculture Russell Redding, Governor Shapiro, PA Congressman AG Chair GT Thompson and PA America250 Executive Director Cassandra Coleman. Secretary Redding noted Pennsylvania's historic and contemporary agriculture role in growing and sustaining our nation.

Besides the luncheon, tons of other good food, checking out the livestock and hundreds of exhibits, it provides a great opportunity for us to network with municipal, county and state officials. The only downside of the day was when we went to depart at 2:30, and grab a milkshake for the road, the lines were too long, and we left thinking what might have been? Everything considered, it was a great day at the Pennsylvania Farm Show!

America250 Adams County Kick-Off

What a fabulous Adams County America250 Kick-off last Thursday at the Gettysburg Hotel. I can't say enough about the great turn-out of enthusiastic attendees! Besides hearing remarks from PA America250 Director Casandra Coleman, Adams County Commissioner Chair Randy Phiel, State Representative Dan Moul and Senator Doug Mastriano, the Adams County Bell created by local artist Wendy Allen was on display beside the speaker's podium. With so many Adams Countians pictured on the Adams County Bell - it's like "Where's Waldo" searching for someone. The Bell will be on display outside the Adams County Historical Society Museum.

It is anticipated there will be 250+ events, both big and small this year in all parts of Adams County. The 163rd Anniversary Civil War Reenactment is being held July 3,4,5 at the Daniel Lady Farm and Abraham Lincoln's visit to Gettysburg in November, are expected to garner a lot of interest, but events like the Upper Adams 250TH Anniversary Celebration on June 13, and the National Apple Harvest America250 Mobile Experience are just two examples of many other exciting events in Adams County throughout the year.

When the State notified the County of this initiative, the Adams County Commissioners' initial appeal was that this be a collaborative effort for all Adams County organizations, municipalities, groups, and individuals to participate. Since that first meeting some folks have done yeoman's work to make that happen. County Manager Steve Nevada was the initial point guy for the County. Then a huge thank you to Destination Gettysburg's Carl Whitehill for taking that point as Chairman forming 3 committees. Committee members are Sherri Clayton Williams, Director, Adams County Planning, Charles Gable, Gettysburg Borough Manager, Chris Gwinn, Interpretation GNMP, Erin Pearce, Philanthropy Gettysburg Foundation, Jill Sellers, Ex. Director, Main Street Gettysburg, Jenna Smith, Adams County Planning, Jackie White & Andrew Dalton Adams County Historical Society. Thank you to the committee members who have been the organizers and facilitators. This is going to be a great America250 Celebration in Adams County this year due to these and many other dedicated Adams County volunteers!

Annual Tax Collector Settlements



Every January the Board gets a visit from each Adams County Tax Collector as they come into the Treasurer's and the Commissioner's Office to settle and sign their audit for the previous year. It is always nice to have a few minutes of "one on one time" with each collector to catch up and hear what is happening in their municipality. In some cases, we are saying goodbye and thank you to a few collectors that are retiring. We are always happy to report that there were no fiscal issues and that was the case this year.

Thanks to Treasurer Crissy Redding and Chief Clerk Paula Neiman the reconciliation process has been streamlined to be both quick and efficient. An even bigger shout out to Treasurer Redding and her office staff for picking up collecting for some municipalities that cannot get the position filled. Paying taxes is painful for all of us, but it is an important cog in delivering services and impacting our quality of life. Thank you to our Adams County Tax Collectors for the service you provide to Adams County, to your municipality and to your school district!

CONGRATS

HR Director Danette Laughman

After the retirement of Human Resources Director Michele Miller in October, Deputy Director Danette Laughman was elevated to Acting Director. After serving commendably for many years in the role of Deputy Director, and recently as Acting Director, beginning January 26, Danette was approved as Adams County Human Resources Director. We certainly know Danette, and just as importantly she knows us and the organization. This is a very important position, for our organization, and for each of us. Danette, we could not be happier to provide this opportunity and have every confidence you will continue to excel! Now... *Danette, why did they not approve this prescription?* 😊

Adams County Board Appointments

At the Commissioners Public Meeting on January 21, Pat Naugle, Matt Sheads and Ellie Vranich were re-appointed for another 4-year term to the Parks, Recreation and Green Space Committee, effective January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2029. Robin Crushong was appointed as the Township Representative replacing Gus Fridenvalds, for a 4-year term effective January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2029.



At the same meeting, the Board of Commissioners made appointments for the Adams County Housing Committee. Effective January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2027, for a 2-year term were Yemi Bautista, Lucy Lott, Vicki Huffaker, and Dennis Murphy. For 3-year Terms effective January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2028, were Stacey Rice & Robin Fitzpatrick. Also, Roxanne Whitaker was appointed to a 3-year term effective January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2028

Thank you to these dedicated Committee volunteers who have stepped up to serve our community in roles that make Adams County an even better place to live!

Cumberland Township Milestone Celebration

On Friday, County Manager Steve Nevada represented Adams County at Cumberland Townships Milestone Celebration, held at the soon to be completed Cumberland Township Municipal Office & Police Department. Supervisor Chair Shaun Phiel thanked and expressed appreciation to Senator Mastriano, Representative Moul, Adams County Commissioners, community partners, township staff, and residents for their support of this project that is replacing a 45-year-old building.

When completed, the new structure will consolidate municipal operations and police department into a purpose-built building intended to improve efficiency, accessibility, safety, and emergency response. We congratulate the folks at Cumberland Township for their vision and wish them the best in their new facility!

Adams County Board Appointments

County leaders from across the Commonwealth came together on the steps of the Capital on Wednesday to announce and discuss our 3 legislative priorities for 2026. They are:

- **Increased 911 Funding**
- **Adequate Mental Health Base Funding**
- **Assist Counties to conduct timely reassessments**

These 3 priorities emphasize great significance for counties this year. Additional meetings with key legislators were conducted throughout the day. Commissioner Martin was able to attend the event representing Adams County.

THE END

- **Matilda the Musical.** Gettysburg Community Theater. The Matilda show run concludes this weekend. See our own Thespian/Asst. Solicitor Lindsey Ringquist perform as this musical is a high energy production with hilarious characters, spectacular dancing, and unforgettable songs. Tickets are \$25. Call 717-334-2692 or gettysburgcommunitytheater.org
- **2-Mile Walk.** The Adams County Physical Fitness Task Force will meet at the GNMP lot across from the cemetery, on Wednesday, February 4th, at 1:30pm, for a 2-mile walk on Park roads.
- **St James Traditional Fastnacht Sale.** This annual tradition will be held for three days on February 15, 16, & 17. These are delicious, old fashioned Fastnacht donuts made by hand. Pre-ordering is suggested at 717-337-1372. Payment is at pickup. The sale benefits youth programs and church ministries.
- **Line Dancing With Lessons.** Sponsored by Adams County 4-H, this evening, 6-9:30, at the Adams County AG Center, Old Harrisburg Road. Both line and partner dancing. Cost \$10 with snacks available. Get out there and shake a leg supporting Adams County 4-H.
 
- **Adams County Glass Re-cycling.** The collection site at 911 will be open next Saturday, February 7th from 9-12 at the Adams County Department of Emergency Services on Greenmyer Lane next to the prison. Glass can also be dropped at the Adams County Rescue Mission on Saturday, February 21st.
- **Adams County Library "The American Revolution."** Screening today from 2-4 at the Gettysburg Library. Offers a curated series of clips from Ken Burns series and evokes the opportunity for discussion afterward. This is one of many Adams County America250 programs.

- **Adams County Glass Re-cycling.** The collection site at 911 will be open next Saturday, February 7TH from 9-12 at the Adams County Department of Emergency Services on Greenmyer Lane next to the prison. Glass can also be dropped at the Adams County Rescue Mission on Saturday, February 21st.
- **Adams County Library “The American Revolution.”** Screening today from 2-4 at the Gettysburg Library. Offers a curated series of clips from Ken Burns series and evokes the opportunity for discussion afterward. This is one of many Adams County America250 programs.
- **History Kids Reading Adventures: A Flea For Justice.** Saturday 11:00am. Join a GNMP educator in the Visitor Center Theater each Saturday at 11:00am to read a learning children’s book with pages on the big screen. The History Kids Reading Adventures Club 2026 theme is “America: 250 Years of Change – Makers.



- **The Barn Resort Wedding Showcase.** This Sunday there is an opportunity for couples to step into luxury at the Cunningham Ballroom to connect with the award-winning wedding vendors and plan their dream day. At The Barn Resort, Sunday, 12-3. Event is free to attend. Go online thebarn.com

- **Martha Graham Dance Company.** See the oldest dance company in America perform live at the beautiful Majestic Theater on Tuesday, February 3rd at 7:30pm. Features contemporary dance with narration. The performance is made possible by J. William Wareheim Fund Majestic Endowment, Wareheim Foundation and the Lydia Zeigler Clare Fund. Tickets \$35-65.
- **Owl Painting With Julie Gross.** Join Julie Gross at Strawberry Hill near Fairfield on Saturday, February 7th, from 3-6 for life painting techniques, The event includes a live owl meet and greet. All painting materials are provided. Bring a flashlight and wear sturdy shoes. For ages 13 and up. Cost \$40.

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!