

T.G.I.F. *from Adams County*

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Adams County Court Names Clowney New County Commissioner

What's New

FOUR NEW ADAMS COUNTY
POLL LOCATIONS

2026 AUXILIARY TAX APPEAL
BOARD APPOINTED

ELECTION INTEGRITY GRANT
APPROVED

PA GOVERNMENT 101 FORUM AT
AMBLEBROOK

DOBBIN HOUSE AMERICA250
SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL BELL
DEDICATION

The Adams County Court of Common Pleas entered an order this morning naming Mark Clowney as the County Commissioner to replace Marty Qually who resigned to accept a position with PA State Department of Agriculture. Clowney's tenure as Commissioner, until the end of the current term is effective immediately. The full Court accepted resumes and interviewed several candidates prior to selecting Clowney. Mark is well known to County staff, residents and partners in his 27-year role as Adams County Senior Planner in the Rural Resources Division of the Planning Department. On behalf of Commissioner Martin and myself - we welcome Mark to the Adams County Board of Commissioners and look forward to his input and contributions!

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We would also like to recognize and thank the other candidates who stepped up to submit their resumes to the Court. Your willingness to engage in public service to Adams County residents is commendable. The current commissioner term is the remainder of 2026 and 2027. All county commissioners in Pennsylvania are up for election in 2027 for the 2028-31 term.



Four New Adams County Poll Locations

For the November 3rd General Election four polling locations have changed as approved by the Board at the September 2nd public meeting.

- **Arendtsville Borough** - From Arendtsville Fire Company to Arendtsville Borough Office
- **Butler Township** – From Oakside Community Park to Butler Township Building.
- **Cumberland Township 3 & 4** – Moving from former Gettysburg Country Club back to renovated Cumberland Township Building.
- **Littlestown Borough** – From Littlestown YMCA to Littlestown Borough Office.

2026 Auxiliary Tax Appeal Board Appointed

September and October is the season of tax appeals in the courthouse. While the Board of Commissioners hears all the Commercial and Clean & Green Appeals and Exemptions, an Auxiliary Board normally hears residential appeals. The following four residents were approved as the 2026 Auxiliary Appeals Board: Barbara Underwood, Cumberland Township, Barbara Walter, Butler Township, William Arrington, Cumberland Township, and Lisa Moreno-Woodward, Mt. Joy Township. They all have extensive experience in this role. The Adams County Board of Commissioners is very appreciative of the service provided by these residents.

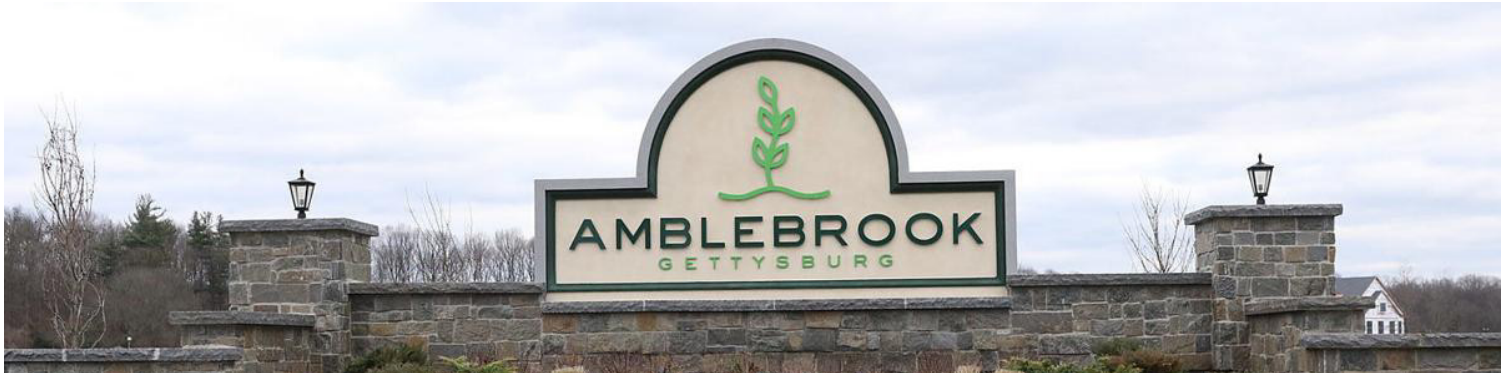
Election Integrity

Election Integrity Grant Approved

As a primary county responsibility, elections have become increasingly costly to oversee, administrate and execute. Fortunately, the State has been providing supplemental funding to offset some of the cost. At the September 2nd public meeting the Board approved Election Integrity Grant Funding of \$338,630.23 for eligible election expenditures incurred between July 1, 2026, and June 30, 2027, in accordance with Act 88. Hopefully, the State continues to recognize the cost of this fundamental freedom and provides supplemental funding for the resources, equipment and personnel.

PA Government 101 Forum At Amblebrook

Pennsylvania government can be confusing to folks that come from states that have a strong county government, where law enforcement, schools, roads and emergency services are under the umbrella of the county. This is unlike Pennsylvania, whose forefathers wanted strong government at the local township, city, borough level and thus ceded these responsibilities to them. Further confusing is that School Districts are their own governmental entity.



On Thursday, August 27th I participated in a panel at Amblebrook, attended by approximately 200 residents, answering questions involving county government. Kathleen Pratt represented the Gettysburg School District and Gettysburg Borough Council President Matt Moon represented municipalities. Many questions involved school taxes, ACTI, and emergency services and response time. It was hopefully made clear that just because residents have a Gettysburg address, they do not live in Gettysburg Borough and that Straban Township has primary responsibility for Fire & EMS.

Beside myself also attending were County Administrator Steve Nevada, Tax Director Daryl Crum, and VA Director/Amblebrook resident Stan Clark. Our group was able to answer questions from the residents such as Director Crum explaining Earned Income Tax. The forum was very satisfying and educational for us and hopefully for the residents. As Amblebrook grows from 700 households to 2000 households, it is both helpful and beneficial to have a constructive dialogue as we welcome these new residents to Adams County!

America250PA Semiquincentennial Bell Dedication At Dobbin House

On Saturday, August 29, I had the honor and pleasure of being one of the speakers at the Dobbin House America250 event which coincided with the 250th Anniversary of the historic Dobbin House. What a fabulous day and event in Adams County! The ribbon was cut for the Dobbin House Square Public Park that displays the Charters of Freedom documents, and the 2200-hundred-pound Semiquincentennial Bell which is 1 of only 4 in Pennsylvania. The Charters of Freedom include the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution, the Bill of Rights, selected Civil Rights amendments and the Gettysburg Address. These are real size documents and mounting pedestals with the same historic calligraphy.

Having personally transported a copy of the Gettysburg Address that was displayed at the old Cyclorama back and forth between Gettysburg and the Library of Congress for several years in the

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1980's, this event was special for me as I feel a connection to anything Gettysburg Address. Here are some short excerpts from my remarks that day:

The Charters of Freedom & Dobbin House Plaza will not only be a monument to our Nation's 250TH anniversary but will be a symbol of the fundamentals of our democracy. It will be a place where residents and visitors alike can stop, sit, and reflect on our nations and this community's history - and just what it means to be an American!



As we stand here on the Actual Ground where our democracy was saved, the High-Water Mark, the Turning Point of the Civil War, where brother fought against brother, where state fought against state, this place where are Nation as we know it was preserved, this is a powerful moment as we look at these five United States of America Founding documents and the full scale Liberty Bell on that plaza.

I will plagiarize a sentence in the Gettysburg Address to symbolize what I believe is the inherent conveyance of this Charters of Freedom Plaza "It is far beyond our poor power to add or detract." May this plaza, and the six poignant pieces on it, that have found a permanent and appropriate home in Adams County, in front of Adams Countys most historic building constructed in 1776, stand as a testament to our founding fathers, and their ideals for a new nation, and their ideals for our Nation, our State, our County and our Town's proud heritage! May this plaza stand for decades as a permanent monument to those ideals!

The End

- **Chicken BBQ:** This Saturday from 11am-2pm, there will be a drive-thru style Chicken BBQ at Faith UCC 1018 White Hall Road Littlestown. Proceeds will go towards an expansion of the church to better house their growing preschool. Tickets are \$12.00 and can be purchased by contacting Lisa Mills or Ashley London in Judge Snyder's office! Also, Good News Church, Orrtanna, is having a drive thru chicken dinner on Saturday, September 26 from 12-2. Call Traci Lochbaum at 717-778-7884. Proceeds for bell tower repairs.
- **Land Conservancy of Adams County Annual Summer Picnic:** This Sunday from 4-7, the LCAC Annual Summer picnic will take place at the historic Daniel Lady Farm. Tours of the farm, house, barn and Eisenhower Reception Center Museum will be available to attendees. The farm is operated by the non-profit Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Association with a conservation easement administrated by LCAC. If you would like to attend or consider joining go to www.preserveadams.org

- **Apple Core & Littlestown Municipal Band:** The Apple Core Band will celebrate its 50TH Anniversary and the Littlestown Municipal Band will celebrate its 40TH Anniversary with a combined performance on Sunday, Sept 20th at 3PM in the Biglerville High School Auditorium. Come out and celebrate the music these two bands have provided to Adams County.
- **Historic East Berlin Fall Festival & Car Show:** The festival and car show will take place at the East Berlin Community Center this Saturday from 8-2. There will be food trucks, craft vendors + hog maw platters beginning at 11.
- **Heritage Festival:** The 2026 Heritage Festival and Bike Parade will take place on Sunday, September 20th at Gettysburg Rec Park. The Kids Bike Parade for kids under 12, and the community walk along the Biser Trail begins at 1PM. To register for the parade and prizes email habpi2021@gmail.com This is a great annual community event with ethnic food, music and non-profit vendors.
- **Biglerville Fire Company Fall Festival:** September 9 -12. Music, midway, cash bingo, small games of chance + lots of great food make this an Upper Adams Fall tradition. You still have this evening and Saturday to take advantage of the festival while supporting your local emergency responders.
- **United 93 – 25TH Anniversary Screening & Conversation:** Saturday, Majestic Theater, 6-9:30PM. Family members of the 40 heroes aboard Flight 93 will share their personal stories and memories in a moving conversation involving their loved ones. Author Tom McMillan will be there to meet patrons and sign his book. Tickets are \$25.
- **Music Gettysburg:** Gettysburg Chamber Orchestra, this Sunday at 4PM at the United Lutheran Seminary Chapel. Visit music-gettysburg.org for additional information.
- **Gettysburg Wine & Music Festival:** Saturday & Sunday at Granite Hill Campground. Wines, crafted spirits and live music. Free parking on site with free shuttle service to Wyndham. The event is sponsored by the Chamber of Gettysburg & Adams County.



**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 !**