

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

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The Evening Sun

Adams County Commissioner Elected Board Vice-Chair of P.M.R.S.

What's New

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AMERICA 250TH 4TH OF JULY IN
ADAMS COUNTY

The Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System is a Pennsylvania based pension fund that provides pension benefits to eligible police officers, firefighters, municipal officials and authorities in Pennsylvania. PMRS is the retirement entity for Adams County staff. Based in Harrisburg, PMRS is governed by an 11 member board of trustees who are responsible for the organization and administration of the pension system, offering oversight of the systems operations and investments. PMRS serves 18,000-20,000 active and retired members across more than 1,060 government pension plans. It is my understanding that Adams County is the 2nd largest member of the organization - just slightly smaller than Allentown. There is no doubt that our retirement fund is a big deal for active staff and retirees!!

Several years ago, PMRS was suffering significant customer service, operational, and reporting issues. I was urged by our administrative team to request a seat on the board filling the county slot, given PMRS issues and Adams County's stature and investment in the program.

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I was honored to be appointed by the Governor and was seated. The interim Executive CEO Tim Reese was retained after his two-year temporary appointment, and has done an outstanding job with customer service, reporting, operations, personnel, and investments. There has been a significant culture change at PMRS with excellent operational and investment results. PMRS is now firmly positioned within the top tier of fully-funded pension funds nationwide. In the past 5 years the PMRS portfolio has grown from approximately \$2.8B to a reported \$4.2B at last week's board meeting. Based on gains, the board decided to increase the regular interest rate assumption from 5.25% to 5.5%. That means your retirement actuarial table just increased!

During Thursday's Board meeting I was asked by CEO Reese and the Board Chairman to accept the position of Board Vice-Chairman. This was a position I certainly was not seeking but given the importance to 600 active Adams County staff + retirees, I agreed to be nominated and was elected by my board colleagues. I am confident that under current leadership, PMRS will continue to prosper as a moderately conservative, but dependable, retirement fund for Adams County active staff and retirees.

Upper Adams Celebrates America 250



Photos from: [Gettysburg Connection](#)

It was one heck of a celebration in Upper Adams on Saturday June 13. The organizers deserved a beautiful day, and they got it hands down. This will probably be one of the best 250 events in Adams County, given the community planning, community support and participation, patriotism and the slate of events at Oakside Park.

Hats off to the municipalities in Upper Adams that came together to make this a good old-fashioned community event that celebrated who we are and where we came from. A special shout out to Biglerville Mayor Phil Wagner and the borough staff for their vision and efforts. Hopefully, you saw Commissioner Martin and I enjoying the parade waving from that classic black convertible. Commissioner Martin was the one with the straw hat. Job well done Upper Adams!

Scouts & Sheriff's Deputies Raise Flag In Honor Of 250th

On Wednesday morning I participated in a flag raising ceremony outside the Historic Adams County Courthouse with scouts and sheriffs' deputies honoring our nation's 250th anniversary. The event was part of the broader "Light to Unite" initiative between the sheriff's offices and scout councils to celebrate the nation's history at courthouses across the state. The initiative honors this special anniversary by raising a special traveling flag in each of the 67 counties across the Commonwealth.

How appropriate and poignant to raise the flag for this purpose in front of the Historic Adams County Courthouse. Built in 1859, the historic courthouse was utilized by both armies as an observation post and hospital during the pivotal battle that saved our nation. Adams County was appropriately the last stop in 67 counties before the flag was taken to Philadelphia. Kudos to Sheriff Josh Fitting for facilitating and accommodating the ceremony on short notice.



Adams County Library Trustees

At the June 24 public meeting, the board approved the recommendation from the Library Board of Trustees to approve and re-appoint Anna-Mae Kobbe and Julie Ramsey as Trustees of the Adams County Library System for another three-year term. In case you haven't noticed the Adams County Library's energy, programs, events and plans for growth are both commendable and exciting. With those dynamics a strong active board is essential. Thank you to Anna-Mae and Julie for volunteering their time and talents to this important community resource. The Board also recognizes the importance of scores of non-profit volunteer board members at dozens of non-profits who contribute to the fabric and quality of life in Adams County.

Also, a shout out to Adams County Library for another successful Funfest to kick off their Summer Reading Program.

Public Defender Resources

Both the Public Defender and District Attorney's offices often require outside resources in more serious cases. The County is obligated to pay for these resources. A high-profile contested homicide will result in hundreds of thousands of dollars that is normally not specifically budgeted. One example of these resources is that at Wednesday's public meeting the Board approved an agreement not to exceed \$1,500 with Specialized Investigative Consultants to provide examination of electronic evidence on behalf of a client. Both the Adams County Public Defender and the Adams County District Attorney play vital roles in our criminal justice system, and it is the Boards role to make sure they have the necessary tools in their toolbox.

Adams County Tax Collector Training

Adams County tax collectors play a vital role for municipalities, the County and school districts. They are the boots on the ground for collecting monies that turn the governmental engines. Smaller municipalities are having more difficulty filling that seat, and when that happens the County Treasurer Crissy Redding has been stepping up and filling that role. With normal turnover and changes, tax collector training is important to ensure that processes and compliance are upheld. At Wednesdays public meeting the Board approved retention of Conewago Tax Collector Tammie Knight to provide training, education and support of Adams County Tax Collectors, from August 1, 2026, to July 31, 2027. The cost to the County is \$20 per hour, not to exceed \$2,000 per year, or \$3000 in a year tax collectors are elected.



Information Technology Cybersecurity

The Information Technology Department recently started working with a new cybersecurity monitoring firm that will add another impactful layer to the overall County cybersecurity posture. The cybersecurity monitoring firm will be constantly checking alerts and logs from various County cybersecurity and network infrastructure products. The monitoring solution includes a cybersecurity team of experts that will help the County IT Department quickly and more efficiently detect and respond to possible malicious cyber activity.

The Information Technology Department's latest efforts in data governance include utilizing software which has scanned and classified files across County servers to identify sensitive data to automatically apply labels to the files. Data labeling is important to be able to know how to handle data and recognize potential misuse or cybersecurity concerns. Labeling also allows the County to implement data loss prevention policies that could help mitigate risk associated with the movement and transfer of files outside of the organization. This recent progress of these data governance efforts is in a testing phase which the new labels will warn and notify employees of large amounts of sensitive information transmitted.

America 250th 4th of July in Adams County

Celebrating America 250 makes this a special 4th of July. There are many events, but two that stand out are the July 4 celebration at the Gettysburg Recreation Park and the 3-day Civil War Reenactment at the Daniel Lady Farm. High attendance is anticipated for both events. The community celebration at Gettysburg Rec Park begins at 2:00 with live bands, food trucks, the Fort Meade Army Field Band, and a mega fireworks display sponsored by Destination Gettysburg. Bring your lawn chair, cooler and blanket to spend the day and evening with your friends and neighbors. It has been a great vibe for the past several years and this year promises to be even better!

The July 3, 4, 5 three-day reenactment at the Daniel Lady Farm will be extra special in celebrating the pivotal role that Adams County played in molding our nation's history at Gettysburg. There will be battles each day, battlefield demonstrations, living history programs and a living history village. You will be able to visit and talk to these living historians in their respective camps. Besides making those dusty old history books come alive, you would be helping to preserve and sustain this beautiful and historic 200-acre farm adjoining the National Park and just outside of Gettysburg on Hanover Road. For more information and schedule go to info@DanielLadyFarm.com



- **One Hundred Nights of Taps:** Every evening at 7PM in the Soldiers' National Cemetery. Special programs July 1, 2, 3. This event is FREE and takes place rain or shine.
- **Declaration 1776: Big Bang of Modern Democracy:** This traveling exhibit arrives at the Adams County Library from June 22-July 17. The exhibit explores the lasting global influence of the United States Declaration of Independence. The exhibition connects the nation's founding history with on-going conversations about democracy, civic identity, and preservation of historical knowledge. This event is FREE. adamscountylibrary.org
- **41st Latimore Fair:** June 26-28 Latimore Valley Fairgrounds, York Springs. John Deere and Gravelly equipment, live entertainment, food vendors, local merchants, games and activities for children and family friendly fun. This year's fair includes a PourFest from 5-9 on Friday and 12-6 Saturday with craft beer and spirits. Tickets for PourFest must be purchased and restricted to 21 and over.
- **Gettysburg National Military Park Campfire Programs:** Held Saturday evenings June 6 - August 8. An Interpretative ranger shares stories and history beside a campfire at the Park Amphitheater on West Confederate Avenue. It is a great FREE evening activity, and you just may learn something. Each program begins at 8:30 and is approximately one hour. There is bench sitting or you can bring a lawn chair.

- **Gettysburg Battlefield Walks:** Each Saturday at 10AM these walks offer an in-depth exploration of the battlefield through ranger led walks from June 6-August 8. Walks begin at locations such as Big Roundtop, Virginia Memorial, South Confederate Picnic Area, McPherson Ridge and Culps Hill Tower to name several. This is a FREE event with no reservations and pets welcome. Prepare to hike wearing sturdy footwear and bring water. Go to [nps.gov](https://www.nps.gov) and then Gettysburg National Military Park for complete schedule.
- **Bells of Fairfield:** The Bells of Fairfield will ring for 5-minutes on July 4 at 11AM to celebrate the 250TH Anniversary of America. Step outside and listen to the bells honoring 250 years of independence. This cool event is sponsored by The Fairfield Historical Society.
- **Flutes on the 4th:** Flutes on the 4th will celebrate its 5th Anniversary and America's 250th Anniversary with a performance July 4 at 10AM on the steps of the Gettysburg Hotel. After getting your coffee and breakfast at your favorite spot, stop by Lincoln Square at 10AM for this patriotic flute performance!
- **Children of Gettysburg 1863 Living History Encampment:** July 1,2,3 at 451 Baltimore Street. Encampment hours are 10-5 with a candlelight talk at 8PM. Featuring officers and ladies of the Union. Visit [GettysburgFoundation.org](https://www.GettysburgFoundation.org) for more information.



**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 !**