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from
Adams County

written by: Commissioner Randy Phiel

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CCAP 2026 Priorities

As announced at the closing session of the recent County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania Conference in Hershey attended by all 3 Commissioners, three proposed priorities from the slate voted on during the Monday business meeting rose to the top as the counties' highest priorities for 2026:

- **911 Funding and Statute Updates**
- **Continue to advocate for adequate county Mental Health Funding**
- **Assisting counties with conducting Timely Reassessments**



County Retirement System Receives Excess Interest

Its good news when your retirement system gets a cash infusion. Adams County belongs to the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System. PMRS is a conservative but steady and secure retirement annuity mechanism. Adams County recently received positive information that we have been awarded a total \$1,800,935 in 2023 Excess Interest. The Active & Deferred Plan Members group receives \$449,089, Retired Members & Survivors group \$654,096, Municipal Reserve \$697,748. For information or questions regarding your retirement annuity questions please contact HR.

Agreement To House Adams County Juveniles In York County

Housing adjudicated juveniles, or those awaiting adjudication, is an extremely significant issue for many counties including Adams County. It is also very expensive. At the November 26 public meeting, the Board approved an Intergovernmental Agreement with York County to accept housed detained juveniles or emergency placements in their secure facility at the rate of \$1,240.60. The Agreement is effective through June 30, 2026.

Prison Medical Service Agreement Approved

While we are discussing the significant cost of our criminal justice system, the cost of providing statutory and necessary medical care to the inmate population at the Adams County Adult Correctional Facility certainly impacts the County Budget. Inmate health care has always been expensive, but just like other health insurance across the board, it really jumped this year from our last contract. At the November 26 public meeting the Board signed a 3-year agreement with Prime Care Medical to continue providing mental health, dental, medical, and related healthcare services to the prison.

The base annual fee will be \$2,078,877 (\$173,239 monthly) with adjustments attached to Medical Care Services CPI published by the US Department of Labor. The effective date of this Agreement is January 1, 2026, for a period of 3-years with 2 additional 1-year options. I know how much work and negotiation went into this agreement to bring it to fruition with these terms, and recognize our administrative team for their efforts to obtain the end-product!

Adams County Library System Awarded Gold Star

A shout out to the Adams County Library System for obtaining Gold Star status as part of the PA Forward initiative, a statewide literacy program of the Pennsylvania Library Association. This honor recognizes the library's exceptional commitment to advancing literacy and lifelong learning opportunities throughout the community. Gold Star status is the highest level of achievement within the PA Forward® Star Library Program. To earn this distinction, the Adams County Library System demonstrated excellence across a series of rigorous standards set by a team of peer libraries.

The commissioners attended the celebration yesterday afternoon at the library to recognize this award. Through the PA Forward framework libraries promote five key literacies: Basic Literacy, Information Literacy, Civic & Social Literacy, Health Literacy, and Financial Literacy. The Adams County Library System was found proficient in all of them. The library is a critical lynchpin for quality of life, resources, and education in our community. Congratulations to library staff and administration on reaching this award level!!



A Gettysburg Christmas Festival This Weekend

If you are not already aware of the road closures around the Courthouse for the Gettysburg Christmas Festival - be aware that the south quadrants of Lincoln Square, & Baltimore Street from Lincoln Square to High Street will be closed Thursday – Sunday. Some sections of Steinwehr Avenue will also be closed.

The festivities kick-off on Lincoln Square with the annual Tree Lighting on Friday at 6:30PM followed by the Tuba Carol Fest at 7:00. To view a schedule of all events for the weekend go to info@mainstreetgettysburg.org. Get out there and enjoy some of these events and our beautiful community dressed up for Christmas!



The End

- **Complimentary Carriage Rides.** Friday & Saturday evening from 4-8PM at the Outlet Shoppes through December 20. Pick up and drop off at the food court.
- **Christmas Lights & Country Nights.** Fields of Adventure, Aspers. A twinkling holiday winter wonderland for the whole family. Friendly farm animals, hayride and tons of stuff to do. Evening hours. Go to fieldsofadventure.com for hours and attractions.
- **Million Dollar Quartet Christmas.** At the Majestic Theater. Rock around the Christmas tree through December 14. I loved The Million Dollar Quartet, and I can't wait to see this on Sunday.
- **Holiday Santa Train Excursion.** Climb aboard the Holiday Santa Train at Gettysburg Railroad for a magical journey complete with Santa, Mrs. Claus, Elves, Christmas music and photos. Runs through December 21st. gettysburgrailroad.com
- **Daniel Lady Farm Christmas Candlelight Tours.** This Friday and Saturday tour the beautiful Daniel Lady Historic Farmhouse decorated for Christmas to experience America's history. Each room will house a relevant vignette from America's history that illustrates America's road to independence. All proceeds go to Daniel Lady Farm preservation. events@danielladyfarm.com
- **Christmas Tree Lighting & Tuba Fest.** This evening be on Lincoln Square at 6:30 for the annual tree lighting and stick around for the always enjoyable Tuba Fest in front of the Gettysburg Hotel at 7:00. These events will put you in the Christmas spirit.
- **Gettysburg Choral Society Christmas Concert.** They are performing two concerts. One is this evening at 7:00 and the other Saturday at 3:00. Both are at the United Lutheran Seminary. The concerts entitled *In Sweet Rejoicing* will perform timeless Christmas favorites. The concert concludes with a joyous sing-along. The concert is free with tax deductible donations to the Gettysburg Choral Society Inc. appreciated. gettysburgchoralsociety.org
- **16TH Annual Gingerbread Celebration & Market.** This Friday through Sunday at the Adams County Arts Council. Bakers enter their creations to be judged with prizes awarded. Local artisans will be offering unique affordable gifts. Bidding on houses will be available. The event is free for children and \$1 donation suggested for adults. adamsarts.org
- **HGAC Homespun Christmas & Holiday Market.** This weekend Friday – Sunday at the GAR Hall on East Middle Street. Hand-crafted gift items made by HGAC volunteers and artisans. Greens and Mamie's Homemade Fudge available. All proceeds support the preservation of GAR Hall. hgaconline.org
- **Sunderman Conservatory Of Music Choir Concert.** This evening at 8PM at 325 South Washington Street. cglink.me
- **Alice In Wonderland Jr.** A Gettysburg Community Theater Penguin Project, this timeless stage musical version of Alice In Wonderland is full of music, adventure, imagination and pure fun! Runs December 6 -20. Recommended for ages 4 and up. info@gettysburgcommunitytheater.org
- **Open House At Evergreen Gatehouse.** During the Gettysburg Christmas Festival this weekend the historic gatehouse will be open to committee members and visitors. See where Generals Sickles, Slocum & Howard were served by caretaker Elizabeth Thorn during the battle. Admission is free with donations helping to preserve the gatehouse. evergreencemetery.org
- **Civil War Christmases.** Join Historian Tim Smith, at the Adams County Historical Society Beyond The Battle Museum, as he discusses Christmas during the Civil War and the troubles and anxiety of Christmas in Gettysburg 1863 post-battle. Saturday at 11:00. gettysburghistory.org

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!