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from
Adams County

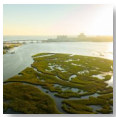
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2026 Adams County Budget Approved

At Wednesday's public meeting the 2026 Adams County Budget of \$98,468,592 was adopted. This was done with no tax increase utilizing \$4,945,963 in reserves. Budget challenges this year were rising salaries, benefits, cost of goods, and especially health care costs that jumped significantly from historic trends. It should be noted that the County not only incurs health care benefits for approximately 600 staff, but also for inmates at the prison. Required healthcare in prisons is extremely expensive and required a new 3-year contract this year which increased cost dramatically. Overall, the County is in a healthy financial position with ample reserves and a superior Aa2 bond rating indicating excellent fiscal health, robust fund balances, sound investing and responsible budgeting thru multi-year financial planning. This Moody's bond rating helps the County and our 34 municipalities borrow money at favorable rates.



Commissioner Qually on Chesapeake Bay Council

On December 2, the Chesapeake Executive Council meeting was held at the National Aquarium in Baltimore. The Executive Council is comprised of the Governors of Delaware, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia, the Mayor of the District of Columbia the Chair of the Chesapeake Bay Commission, and the Administrator of the EPA. The focus of the meeting was the revised 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement, which outlines the goals and outcomes renewed for the year 2040.

Commissioner Qually, Chair of the Council Local Government Advisory Committee, was quoted in that capacity “In the face of changing environmental and economic conditions. The new Chesapeake Watershed Agreement responds with unified vision. It balances the needs of diverse governments, economies, and people. We are in this together through better science, coordination, and investment. We will bring about a restored Chesapeake Bay Watershed.” Ed. Note: Marty in that mix make sure we get Big Crabs!

Governors Elected Officials Luncheon

On Wednesday, the Board was invited to an Elected Officials Holiday Gathering at Governor Shapiro’s residence. Commissioner Qually was able to attend the event accompanied by Gettysburg Mayor Elect Chad Alan-Carr. During the event they were able to mingle and convey the excitement regarding upcoming 250th Anniversary Events in Adams County.

Opioid Grants

The first seven awards from the Adams County Opioid Settlement Funds Grant Program (ACOSF) were proposed and approved at Wednesday’s public meeting. The pool of applications was vetted and recommended by County Planning and the Solicitor’s Office, after being deemed to meet very specific guidelines that are required. Moving forward there will be approximately \$500,000 available each year for distribution pending uninterrupted flow of funds and conforming applicants. During the public meeting I lauded our Adams County Solicitors Department for their role in maximizing statewide and county funds. Those recommended and approved were:

- Adams County Library Systems Bookmobile
- Club ODAT’s One Day at a Time Recovery Club
- York/Adams Drug and Alcohol Commission’s Recover with Wellspan program
- Conewago Valley School District’s (CVSD) Opioid Awareness and Prevention program
- Adams County Rescue Mission’s Single Women’s Shelter
- The Nicholas House Sober Living’s Recovery Navigation and Wraparound Support Pilot
- Center for Behavioral Health York Comprehensive Treatment Center and Chambersburg Comprehensive Treatment Center’s Adams County MAT Access and Transportation Initiative

Intermediate Punishment Grant Application Approved

The Intermediate Punishment Grant application with the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency for \$89,997 was approved by the Board on December 17. Approximately half the funds will support probation personnel and benefits, while the other half will be used for drug testing and assessment supplies. No County match is required.




Children & Youth Services Advisory Board Appointees

Volunteer advisory boards are critical to the operation and success of many organizations that provide critical services to our community. The Board of Commissioners recently approved the following to the Adams County Children & Youth Services Advisory Board. They are: Ann Crisci Perez, Amanda H. Wagner, Nancy Markle, Irene Q. Powell, Kathryn Yaroschuk and Katie Kirk. Thank you for volunteering your time and commitment to Adams County Children & Youth Services!

Christmas Door Decorations

The County Christmas Door Decoration Contest is always a lot of fun with unique creativity every year. This year's winners have been announced. First place goes to Building & Maintenance for their: "Dance To The Sugar Plum Fairy." Second place went to Children & Youth Services "I Want A Hippopotamus For Christmas." "The winners will be dining on Tommys Pizza, Subs, Wings or Salad!"

Sachs Mill Bridge



The Sachs Covered Bridge is one of the most recognized, photographed and beloved structures in Adams County. It is certainly one of my favorites especially in the Fall, when it is stunning with reflection on the water. Recently, the Theodore Burr Bridge Society put a new historical marker on the western side of the bridge. The plaque documents that the bridge was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1980, known for its role in the Battle of Gettysburg, its historic Town lattice truss design, and as a picturesque landmark.

The **End**

- **Elected Public Officials Swearing In Ceremony:** Historic Courtroom. Wednesday, December 31, 1PM. Open to all elected officials. You must contact Donna Cassatt at 717-337-9846 before December 23rd to participate.
- **A Gettysburg Christmas Movie:** Majestic Theater, December 19-20. After sellout runs in 2023/2024 it is expected to sellout again so get your tickets.
- **It's a Wonderful Life Movie:** A Christmas classic. Majestic Theater. December 19/20. Also get your picture taken with original taxi from the film at the WWII American Experience Museum next week.
- **Greenmount Annual Pork & Sauerkraut Dinner.** New Year's Day 11-3. Greenmount Fire Company. Cost \$16 Adults \$6 Children.

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!