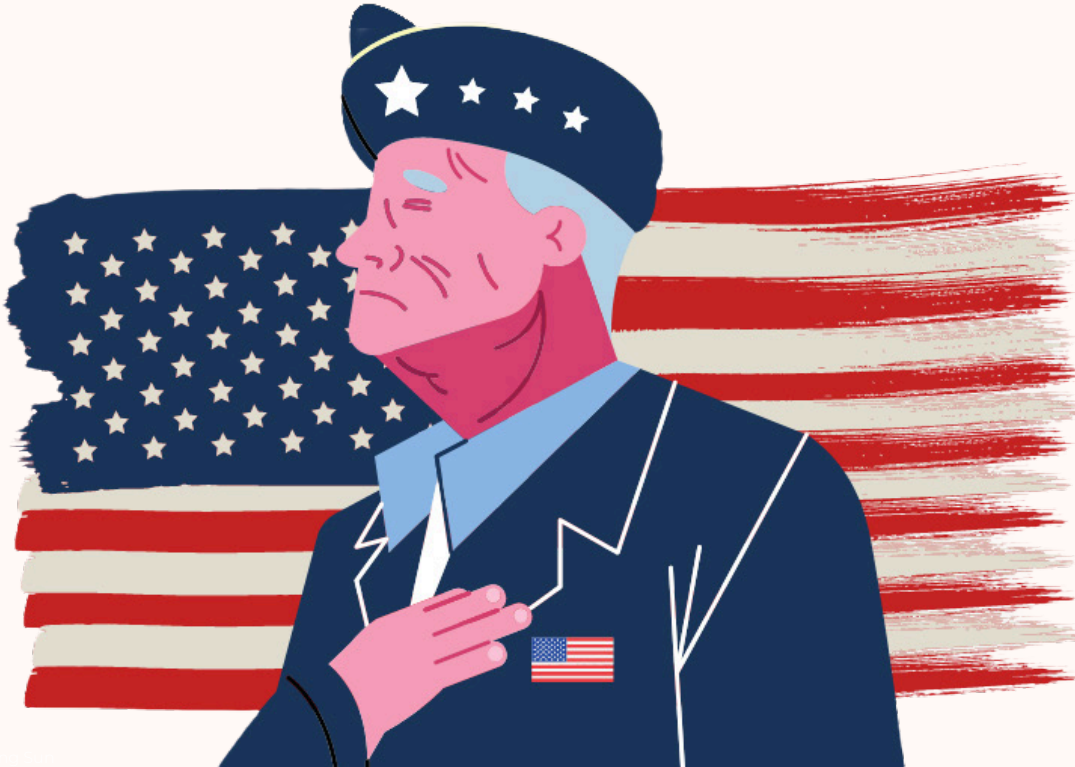


# T.G.I.F. *from Adams County*

WRITTEN BY: COMMISSIONER PHIEL



## ***VA Benefits Support Veterans & County Economy***

### ***What's New***

OAK LAWN CEMETERY CLOSE TO REVITALIZATION

ADAMS COUNTY TREASURER'S OFFICE STEPS UP AGAIN TO COLLECT TAXES

ADAMS LIBRARY SUMMERQUEST PROGRAM & FUNFEST RECOGNIZED BY COMMISSIONERS

ADAMS COUNTY GIVING SPREE APPLICATIONS OPEN

UPPER ADAMS CELEBRATES AMERICA 250TH

Every year the Veterans Administration releases detailed reports of expenditures and other statistics relating to the benefits provided to our Nation's Veterans. Some of these statistics are broken down by State and County. In FY-24 these are some of those expenditures showing the benefits (in dollars) provided by the VA to Adams County Veterans.

Indirect Expenses which account for such items as Memorial Benefits, Education & Vocation Rehab, VA Home Loan Guarantees, and most of all VA Health Care totaled \$26,636,795.00. It is important to note that over \$24,000,000 in health care alone was provided to County Veterans by the VA, relieving local hospitals and private sector providers from that burden and enabling them to provide more efficient service to the rest of the population. Direct Expenses, which are actual monthly

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dollar amounts paid to Veterans in the County for Service-Connected Disability, Wartime Veteran Pensions and surviving spousal benefits totaled \$ 37,808,343.00. The combined total is a whopping \$ 64M in veterans' benefits streamed into our Adams County economy. This does not happen without the hard work and dedication of the Veterans Service Officers of all Veterans Service Organizations, including our own Adams County Veterans Affairs Officer Stan Clark and Veterans Affairs Service Officer Mike Meehan. Our Adams County Veterans Affairs office is responsible for a significant 38% of the above benefits being delivered to our County Veterans. The Adams County Veterans Affairs office, located on the 1st floor of the courthouse, is prepared to welcome and assist any veteran in navigating the VA bureaucracy. They do an exceptional job of assisting veterans! Please stop in or make an appointment with Stan or Mike by calling 717-337-9835.



## ***Cemetery Close To Revitalization***

At last Wednesday's May 27 public Commissioners meeting, the Board approved resolutions that passed Oak Lawn Cemetery and monies from the sale of the western portion to the Adams County Industrial Development Authority, in preparation for the transfer to the non-profit Oak Lawn Foundation. Beginning in 2015, the tragic Oak Lawn Cemetery saga was front page news in Adams County and caused tremendous angst for plot owners and the community. Ten years after the cemetery ceased operations and became an eyesore, and the owner was eventually sentenced to prison for committing fraud by stealing more than \$2.2M from 900 victims, a positive conclusion is on the horizon. The Oak Lawn Foundation Board is intent on restoring the cemetery to a viable and proud community resource, that again offers a dignified final resting place for 650 Adams County veterans, police, firemen, family, friends, and neighbors as well as future internments.

The volunteer non-profit 501c3 Board of Directors includes Al Moyer, Mark Clowney, Cathy Kunkel, Crissy Redding, Steve Toddes, Cindy Codori-Shultz, John Kuhn, and Randy Phiel. After being derailed by COVID and then awaiting the sale of the western portion, the board has been meeting in earnest for the past year to assume the takeover and re-open the cemetery. A Friends of Oak Lawn support group is being formed to facilitate volunteers and donations to maintain the cemetery and establish a sustaining endowment. The address is Oak Lawn Foundation, PO Box 3121, Gettysburg, PA 17325. Feel free to contact any board member for additional information. The Board is also seeking a part-time cemetery administrator for 10-15 hours per week. This is potentially an ideal part-time job for a retired professional with good interpersonal and organizational skills + records management, looking for a very meaningful contribution to our community and some extra income. To apply please send resume and a brief statement of interest to oaklawnggettysburg@gmail.com

Looking back on this 10-year experience, it was eye opening to find out just how unregulated cemeteries are in Pennsylvania, and how deeply one person's actions can negatively impact a community. It is also extremely gratifying to experience the resiliency of our community coming together, to ensure that our veterans, families, friends, and neighbors are not forgotten or ignored, but held close, remembered, honored, and cherished!

## ***Adams County Treasurer's Office Steps Up Again To Collect Taxes***

Once again, the Adams County Treasurer's Office has stepped to the plate to fill the gap when municipalities have found themselves without a tax collector. At the May 27 public meeting, the Board approved a recommendation from Treasurer Crissy Redding to approve two inter-governmental agreements related to the collection of taxes in Arendtsville and Bendersville Borough to collect municipal and county taxes through December 31, 2027. As smaller municipalities struggle to find residents to assume this position, the Adams County Treasurer's Office continues to be the viable and experienced alternative. The Board again recognizes and applauds Treasurer Crissy Redding and her staff for being willing to assume this responsibility along with their other obligations!



## ***Adams Library SummerQuest Program & Funfest Recognized By Commissioners***

At our May 27 public meeting, the Adams County Library received a proclamation from the commissioners for their SummerQuest program. SummerQuest is a free all-ages summer reading and activity program running from June 1 to August 9. The Board of Commissioners also recognized the Library's June 12 Funfest event as a very positive literary and cultural opportunity for our community to benefit all ages!

As part of the SummerQuest reading program, prizes are awarded in August for reading at least 20 minutes a day to help defray the "summer learning slide." Library branch locations in Gettysburg, Biglerville, East Berlin, Carroll Valley, Littlestown, and New Oxford will host regular events all summer, including family movie nights, craft workshops, and story times. In partnership with WellSpan, the Library will also host a physical activity program where families can hike and find wooden marker posts placed in local parks. Funfest at Gettysburg Rec Park, Friday, June 12 from 3-7, is the popular SummerQuest kick-off event that encourages children and families to participate in SummerQuest, as well as experience everything the community has to offer. This year's theme is "Unearth A Story." Funfest is a great family event chock-full of non-profit booths and tons of things to do and see. Food trucks will be on site and best of all the event is FREE! Hope to see you at Funfest next Friday!

# Summer Quest

## *Adams County Giving Spree Applications Open*

The Adams County Community Foundations Giving Spree is an increasingly amazing and successful community event every year. Last year \$4.3M was raised for area non-profits. Any Adams County non-profit wishing to participate in the next Giving Spree on November 5 is invited to apply to the Adams County

Community Foundation by June 23. Application and guidelines are available online at [www.ACFGivingSpree.org](http://www.ACFGivingSpree.org). You may contact the Community Foundation at 717-337-0060 or [info@adamscountycf.org](mailto:info@adamscountycf.org). Thank you Community Foundation and all of the benefactors that make us a great and giving community!

# Giving Spree

November 5, 2026

[ACCFGivingSpree.org](http://ACCFGivingSpree.org)



## *Upper Adams Celebrates America 250th*

On Saturday, June 13, Upper Adams celebrates America250 with gusto! The parade with over 57 entries kicks off from Biglerville High School at 1:00. After the parade festivities relocate to Oakside Community Park with music, ceremonies, cars, and food trucks. This is a wonderful family friendly civic patriotic event celebrating the communities in Upper Adams and America250! A shout out to all the Upper Adams Communities for organizing Celebrate America250! The Adams County Commissioners will be there joining and enjoying the celebration. Hope to see you there!



- **Gettysburg Civic Chorus** - America Sings: Gettysburg Area Middle School, This Saturday & Sunday at 3PM. FREE will offering at intermission
- **Diving Dogs at Thirsty Farmer:** This Friday, Saturday & Sunday experience regional qualifier dog dock diving competition at the Thirsty Farmer. In addition to the competition, WestWind Diving Dogs offers practice sessions and training for dogs and handlers at all experience levels. I've seen these diving dogs in action and their distance is amazing. What could be better than a cold brew, blue skies, and diving dogs?

- **Visit Lee's Headquarters:** Open House on Fridays from 1-3 during June, July & August. Join interpreters from the Seminary Ridge Museum and the American Battlefield Trust to tour the house and grounds of the Mary Thompson House – more commonly known as Lee's Headquarters. The experience highlights Gettysburg's central place in American history while supporting ongoing preservation efforts tied to the Nations 250th Anniversary. Visits to the site are FREE. [battlefields.org](http://battlefields.org)
- **Adams County Arts Council juried Art Exhibition:** This exhibition showcases the talent and creativity of artists from across the region. The exhibition will remain on display at the Adams County Arts Council with regular gallery hours Wednesday through Friday from 10-7 and Saturdays/Sundays 10-4. The Opening and Awards reception begins this evening at 4:30 followed by the Artists Celebration 7-9.
- **A Night With Janis Joplin:** Totem Pole Playhouse. May 29 - June 13. This show celebrates Janis Joplin's powerful voice, bold individuality, and rebellious essence captured the cultural revolution of the 1960's. As a teenager in the 60's, on Saturday evening I will be in the back section (front row) tapping my feet and singing along. If you are by chance also at Totem Pole on Saturday evening, stop by and say hello – and maybe bring me some popcorn and a Coke!
- **Gettysburg Foundation & GNMP Volunteer Workday:** This Saturday 8-3. Volunteer registration begins at 7AM at the Visitor Center Bus Parking Lot. This annual event brings community members together to support on-going maintenance and restoration efforts at both GNMP & ENHS. This is a great way to experience both the history and the landscape of the park. After registration at the Visitor Center, park staff will assign participants specific projects based on the day's needs. This event takes place entirely outdoors and volunteers should wear long pants, long sleeves, and close-toed shoes are advised. Bring a reusable water bottle. Volunteers receive lunch and a free volunteer T-shirt. Sign up on [Volunteer.gov](http://Volunteer.gov)
- **Monte Leister Quartet** – At Arts Oasis Lincoln Square: Saturday, 1:30-4:30. Arts Oasis venue returns to the Chambersburg Street corner of Lincoln Square through October. Monte Leister Quartet is a swinging, jumping and jiving group that plays Swing, Jazz, and Blues. Some seating is provided but folks are encouraged to bring their own chairs. This is a sponsored event FREE to the public.
- **33rd Oakside Annual Bluegrass Gospel Series:** Sunday June 7. Oakside Community Park, Biglerville. Evening concert begins at 6:30. Chapter VII Gospel Quartet delivers traditional gospel favorites backed by rich vocal arrangements in a family friendly atmosphere. Uplifting music in a relaxed outdoor setting. FREE concert rain or shine!
- **Electronic Re-cycling:** Saturday, June 13. 8AM-10AM Bonneauville Sewage Treatment Plant. For Bonneauville residents only.
- **Gettysburg/Adams County Barn Art Show:** June 12-14, G.A.R. Hall. Opening reception Friday, June 12 6-8PM. The event is FREE and the public is invited.
- **Hamiltonban Music In The Summer Concert Series:** The series begins this Sunday at 6PM with Jalopy Deluxe performing covers and original tunes. Bring a lawn chair, picnic, family, and friends. The event is FREE.
- **York Springs Lions Strawberry Event Fundraiser:** This Friday, Saturday & Sunday at Peters Orchards, Carlisle Pike just outside York Springs. Ice cream, sundaes, sandwiches, and drinks.

**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 !**