

# NEWSLETTER

February 5 2016  
Edition



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# T.G.I.F.

Written by: *Commissioner Randy Phiel*



## Thank You!

### Adams County Maintenance

There are a lot of shout outs to go around following the Snowstorm of 2016; but we would be remiss if we did not recognize our maintenance staff for the work they did beginning on Sunday morning following the storm. Their work on sidewalks and park-

ing lots, combined with good weather and cleared primary roads, allowed county services to resume on Monday/Tuesday.



Gettysburg Times Photo



Congratulations to Assistant Tax Services Director Barb Walter with 42 years in the assessment field! There was a great Get To Know You interview featuring Barb in the Assessor's Association of Pennsylvania Journal Winter 2016 issue that Assistant Solicitor Molly Mudd pointed out to me.

Here are some facts I learned about Barb from the article: If you want to irritate Barb - just pose a question and don't wait for the answer. Some residents make assumptions without really understanding her job. Did you know that Barb is actually shy?? Barb considers one of her biggest challenges is to have the angriest person leave with a smile on their face or at least satisfied that they received an answer to their question.

Barb's first job at eight was as a milk girl, helping her Penn supreme milk delivery dad on his route. Barb says she is lucky to have so many friends dating back to elementary school and continuing through her 42 years with the county and the assessors association.

I believe Barb's concluding answer to What I Like Best About My Job speaks for many of us. Her answer was "The best thing I like about the job is getting to work with so many great people and the public. And I hope at the end of the day, I made a difference." Rest assured Barb you have achieved that objective and your friends and colleagues recognize your contributions. Thank You!

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## Adams County Commissioners Community Forum February 17

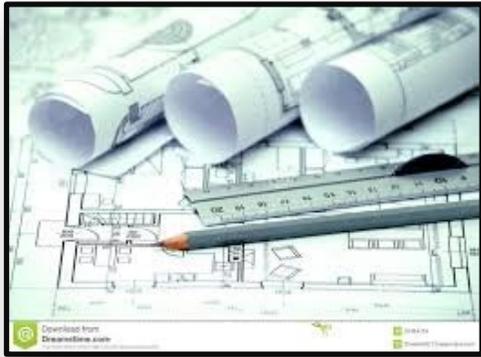
We hope to see you at the Agriculture & Natural Resources Center on Wednesday, February 17, for the first 2016 Adams County Commissioners Community Forum. There will be a Adams County Planning Department Open House from 5:30-6:30 featuring the Planning Departments new offices. I am fairly certain you will be impressed.



The Open House will be followed by all the departments and agencies at the Ag Center briefly presenting their mission(s) and how the various departments interact. The presentations begin at 6:30 and conclude by 7:30. I hear there will be a Hot Chocolate Bar in the planning office and other light refreshments will be served. We hope you can attend.

# *Adams County* **Human Services Building**

On Thursday we completed the first round of departmental architectural interviews with Probation, Domestic Relations, Court Operations, Men-



tal Health, Children & Youth, IT and Maintenance. Architect Crabtree & Rohrbaugh will now take pencil to paper and come up with the initial design (s). The initial design will then be reviewed by the core team in relation to many factors, before being resubmitted to the departments for a secondary review. Then back to the drawing board after department comments.

We hope to have this architectural back and forth completed and a final design by March, bid completion in April, bids awarded by May and renovation to begin in June. Estimated construction time is six to eight months.

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## **Adams County**

### **Law Enforcement Firearms Training Range**

The Range Committee continues to make positive progress in making a county law enforcement firearms training range a reality. After getting zoning approval we are in the process of meeting storm water management requirements. The committee has been working with CS Davidson to meet all requirements and complete final design with approvals. As promised, the

project will be completed without using taxpayer dollars.

The Range Committee will soon begin a community capital campaign to fund the range that will be built beside the emergency management complex. The Capital Campaign co-chairs are Sheriff Jim Muller, Commissioner Randy Phiel and Honorary



[Click here to view video](#)

Chair Senator Rich Alloway. We hope and anticipate the community will step forward to support this important initiative.

# Moody's Investor Service Credit Overview

Credit ratings are extremely important to government entities when we want to borrow from financial institutions. These ratings directly correlate to our borrowing ability and interest rates.

This Board of Commissioners is proud that our bond rating has increased twice to Adams County's highest level ever at Aa3.

Thank you to Controller Steve Renner for forwarding the February 3 issue of Moody's Investor Service profile of Adams County to us. I have included four relevant excerpts below. Thank you to our administration, elected officials and staff for their achievement and expectation of continued good fiscal management.

**Credit Overview:** Adams County's credit position is strong; however, its Aa3 rating is slightly under the US county median of Aa2. The rating reflects a robust financial position, a modest pension burden, and a manageable debt liability. It also incorporates a healthy socioeconomic profile and a substantial tax base.

**Finances:** Adams County has a very strong financial position, which is favorable in relation to the assigned rating of Aa3. The cash balance as a percent of revenues (53.2%) is well above the US

median and increased significantly between 2011 and 2014. In addition, the fund balance as a percent of operating revenues (39.4%) is materially higher than other Moody's rated counties nationwide.



**Debt and Pensions:** The debt and pension liabilities of the county are manageable.

The Moody's-adjusted net pension liability to operating revenues (0.19x) favorably is materially below the US median; however, this ratio grew slightly between 2012 and 2014. In contrast, the county's net direct debt to full value (0.9%) is slightly above the US median and the county has significant exposure to variable rate debt and swaps. Approximately 43% of net direct debt outstanding is in variable rate mode.

**Economy and Tax Base:** Adams County has a quite healthy economy and tax base, which are consistent with the county's Aa3 rating. The total full value (\$7.4 billion) is on par with other Moody's-rated counties nationwide, although it decreased from 2011 to 2014. Additionally, the full value per capita (\$73,055) is consistent with the US median, and the median family income equates to a solid 106.2% of the US level.

## The END

Even without last week's reminder from former county auditor Glenn Hartzell, on Thursday evening I made my annual pilgrimage to the Cashtown Community Fair on Turkey/Oyster night. Unfortunately, last evening was the only night I could go since I am also a big fan of Chicken/Waffles and Roast Beef. It was delicious as usual and I was proud that I limited myself to two servings. A reminder that tonight is Chicken/Waffles/Oysters and Saturday is Roast Beef/Oysters. Having gone to the Cashtown Fair since I was a child, the Farm Show & the Cashtown Fair always bring reminders and discussion of the possibility of severe winter weather. I have gone to the fair several times in snowstorms. Except for the snow covered fields that are normally used as overflow parking, it looks like the weather for the fair is looking very favorable this weekend, so take advantage of it.

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!