

ADAMS TOWNSHIP
BUTLER COUNTY

Adams Township Newsletter

October 2026

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Greetings neighbor! We hope that you find this newsletter resourceful as we are committed to keeping you informed on township business, news, and events.

Message from the Board of Supervisors

Dear Adams Township Residents,



Photograph: Vice Chairman Ron Shemela (L) with Officer Mike Bordt (R) (2026)

As we approach the November 3, 2026 referendum on the proposed merger of Adams Township and Mars Borough, we want to share important information about the proposal and what it could mean for our community.

Adams Township and Mars Borough already operate as one community in many ways. We share a school district, fire and EMS services, a library, and sewer services. The proposed merger would bring our two municipalities together under one local government, named Mars Township, effective January 1, 2028, if approved by voters in both municipalities.

The proposed merger offers an opportunity to improve municipal services, eliminate unnecessary duplication, coordinate resources, and strengthen long-term financial stability while maintaining the quality of life our residents value through responsible planning and investment in our shared community.



Photograph: Chairman Russ Ford (L) with Mars Borough Council President Mike Fleming (R) (2026)

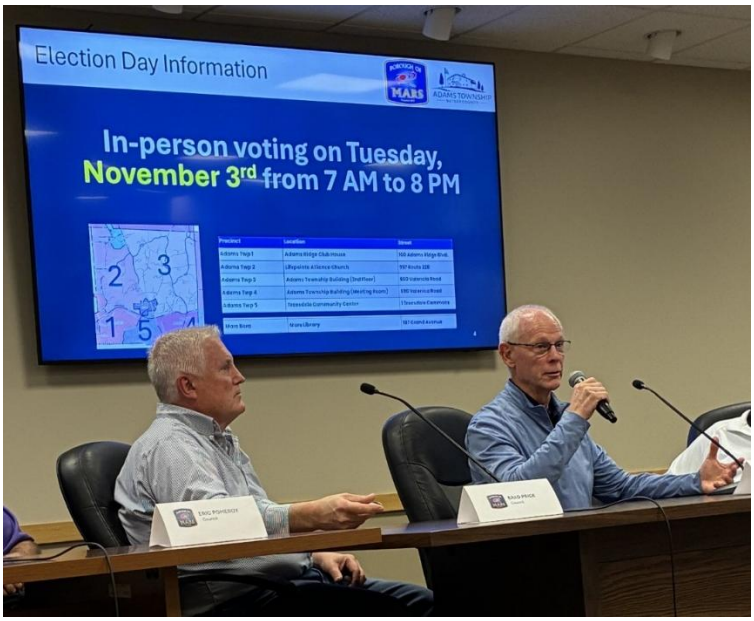
Message from the Board of Supervisors

Municipal Finances and Taxes

There is no municipal tax increase proposed as part of the merger. Mars Borough's municipal taxes would be brought into alignment with Adams Township's.

Neither municipality currently has municipal debt, and Mars Borough would bring millions of dollars in assets into the combined township.

Combining two governments will reduce duplicative administrative expenses, professional services, and other operating costs. Over $950,000 in duplicative costs have been identified to date.



Photograph: Supervisor Darryl Brandon speaks (R) with Mars Councilman Brad Price to his right

Police Protection

Adams Township has a highly regarded police department providing 24-hour coverage. The merger would add two officers and extend that coverage to Mars Borough, which currently does not have around-the-clock local police service.

Adams officers already respond in Mars through mutual aid when needed. Following the merger, Mars would continue contributing its existing police funding to the combined budget, sharing the cost of services Adams Township currently provides through mutual aid.

Public Works and Roads

Adams Township has an impressive public works department. The merger would add another crew, funded through Mars Borough's existing budget, to assist with road maintenance, snow removal, and storm response throughout the combined township.

The merger would also combine state liquid fuels funding to better coordinate road improvements. Adams Township paved more miles this year than Mars Borough has in total utilizing this state funding source, not local tax dollars. We share one road network, and combining resources would help us maintain it more efficiently.

Community Investment and the Library

Adams Township demonstrated its commitment to community investment with the construction of a state-of-the-art fire station that supports emergency services and helps attract volunteers. We see a similar opportunity with the proposed downtown Mars library, which could become a valuable community resource and a catalyst for economic development. The merger could also strengthen coordinated planning, expand grant opportunities, and support future investments in parks, recreation, and infrastructure.

Message from the Board of Supervisors

Services That Would Continue

The merger proposal does not call for changes to existing fire and EMS coverage, downtown Mars events, or postal services.

The Municipal Water Authority of Adams Township (MWAAT) and the Breakneck Creek Regional Sewer Authority are not for sale as part of the proposed merger. This Board will not entertain any such proposal and has publicly stated so.

The combined municipality would also have opportunities to strengthen administrative, code enforcement, and parks and recreation services.



Photograph: Supervisor Dave Goodworth speaks (R) with Mars Councilman Jim Garrity and Mars Councilwoman Jana Snavely to his left

The Mars Township Name and Representation

The proposed name, Mars Township, reflects the Mars identity already associated with our school district, most of our mailing addresses, and community. The Adams name would remain on the Community Park in homage to the past.

Mars officials would participate on a transitional advisory board before and after the merger, providing input and continuity during the transition.



Photograph: Supervisor Ron Nacey speaks (L) with Mars Councilman Bill Lambert to his left

November 3rd Ballot Question

SHALL THE BOROUGH OF MARS, A PENNSYLVANIA MUNICIPALITY ORGANIZED UNDER THE BOROUGH CODE, BE MERGED INTO THE TOWNSHIP OF ADAMS, A PENNSYLVANIA TOWNSHIP OF THE SECOND CLASS, AND WITH THE TOWNSHIP BEING RENAMED MARS TOWNSHIP, A PENNSYLVANIA TOWNSHIP OF THE SECOND CLASS, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2028?

A Final Message

Adams Township has a proud history of providing quality services, investing in infrastructure, and managing taxpayer dollars responsibly. As our community continues to grow, the proposed merger offers an opportunity to build on those accomplishments by bringing together two municipalities that already share many essential services. By combining resources, reducing duplicative expenses, and coordinating operations, we can build a more efficient approach to local government while maintaining the quality of life our residents value.

We recognize that this is an important decision, and we encourage every resident to review information at adamstwp.org, ask questions, and participate in the November 3rd election.
Our community has a shared history. Your vote will help determine its future.

Honored to serve,
Adams Township Board of Supervisors

Board of Supervisors & Administration

Thank you to all who attended our 2nd HOA Forum, 4th, 5th, and 6th Merger Meetings.

Facts About the Proposed Merger

- ✓ **More Efficient Government:** Reduce duplication, with over $950,000 in potential cost savings identified.
- ✓ **Stronger Finances:** Neither municipality has debt and Mars brings millions in assets.
- ✓ **Improved Services and Infrastructure:** Add two police officers and a public works crew using existing funding sources while combining resources for roads, maintenance, and community improvements.
- ✓ **Greater Community Investment:** Strengthens opportunities for grants, the Library, and downtown economic development.
- ✓ **Water and Sewer are NOT for Sale:** Neither authority is for sale as part of the merger.
- ✓ **NO Proposed Tax Increase:** No municipal tax increase is proposed as part of the merger.



Photograph: Supervisor Darryl Brandon, Township Manager Mike Tylka, The Fightin' Planet, Mars Mayor Gregg Hartung enjoy Applefest in Mars

VOTE INFORMED on November 3rd

We invite you to view merger materials, submit questions/comments, and look for updates at:

Link/Web Address:
https://adamstwp.org/borough-of-mars-and-township-of-adams-possible-merger-information/

Photograph: 6th Joint Merger Informational Meeting on October 29, 2026



Parks & Recreation

9th Annual Car Cruise Raises funds for Rocket Fuel Café

Adams Township's 9th Annual Car Cruise was another great day at the park! Held on Saturday, September 12, the event brought together car enthusiasts, families, volunteers, and community members for an afternoon of great cars, good food, and even better company—all while supporting a great local cause.

This year's event benefited the Rocket Fuel Café, a student-run program at Mars High School that brings together special education and general education students. Through their work at the café, students develop valuable workplace, social, and life skills while serving their school community.

Thanks to the generosity of event participants and attendees, $1,700 was raised for the Rocket Fuel Café through participant donations, the 50/50 raffle, and raffle baskets.

A special thank you goes out to Classic Automotive for sponsoring our dash plaques. We would like to thank the Mars Area High School student volunteers and Rich-Mar Rotary volunteers who helped throughout the event. We also appreciate Penn Town Dogs and Kona Ice for providing delicious food and refreshments for everyone to enjoy.

And, of course, thank you to everyone who brought out their cars, participated in the raffles, volunteered their time, or simply stopped by to enjoy the afternoon. Your support helped make this year's Car Cruise a success—and helped support a wonderful program benefiting students in our community.









We hope to see you at this new event!

More details will be coming out soon!

Parks & Recreation

Disc Golf at Adams Township Community Park

The Parks and Recreation Department tested out a new recreational opportunity at the park. Three temporary disc golf holes were installed at the end of September on the southern end of the park to gauge resident interest and gather feedback on the possibility of a future permanent course.

The temporary course featured tee box markers, signage, an informational board with a QR code to log your visit, and a bin of loaner discs for anyone interested in giving the sport a try. The baskets were generously donated by Pittsburgh Flying Disc.

On October 6, Parks and Recreation hosted a Learn to Play event with an instructor from Pittsburgh Flying Disc. Participants learned the basics of disc golf while Stick City Brewing and Back Home BBQ were on hand with beer and BBQ for purchase.





The opportunity has just wrapped up. Thank you to all that came out to give disc golf a try.

Halloween Fun at Adams Township's Halloween in the Park

Adams Township hosted its annual Halloween in the Park event on Saturday, October 17, bringing families together for an afternoon of fall fun. Guests enjoyed a variety of games, crafts, and activities, along with refreshments and plenty of candy. The event also featured a popular Touch-a-Truck experience with local emergency services, including the Adams Township Police Department, Adams Area Fire District, Callery Fire, and Quality EMS. Families had the opportunity to meet local first responders and get an up-close look at their vehicles and equipment.

A special thank-you goes to the Mars Area High School students who volunteered their time to help make the event a success. Their enthusiasm and support helped create a fun and welcoming experience for everyone.



The festivities wrapped up with a parade through the park and a costume contest, showcasing plenty of creative and festive Halloween costumes. Thank you to all the volunteers, emergency service personnel, and families who joined us for another memorable Halloween in the Park!

Public Works

Wintertime is approaching and we have a few tips for residents.

- ✓ Please trim trees away from roadways so that branches do not damage plow trucks.
- ✓ Inspect your mailboxes and make sure they are securely embedded into the ground.
- ✓ Do not throw snow from your driveway or sidewalks into the street.
- ✓ Do not park on streets during a snow event so plows can come through.

Police

As the leaves change and the air turns crisp, we want to remind you of some important safety tips for the fall season. With Halloween approaching, please ensure that your children are safe while trick-or-treating by accompanying them and checking their candy before consumption.

Additionally, as we prepare for the upcoming holiday season, remember to report any suspicious activity in your neighborhoods, it's also a great time to replace all batteries in our smoke alarms and CO detectors with the heating season. Together, we can keep Adams Township a safe and welcoming place for all.

Stay safe and enjoy the beautiful fall season!



Photograph: Adams Police visit Downtown Mars (2026)

Police

Residents and visitors to the Adams Township Community Park be advised:

The Police have been fielding complaints of dogs running in the park off leash, with the large number of complaints received the police will be taking action for the violation regarding the existing ordinance below.

ADAMS TOWNSHIP BUTLER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-04

A RESOLUTION AMENDING AND SUPERCEDING RESOLUTION NO. 2014- BY ADOPTING RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR ADAMS TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY PARK OFTHE TOWNSHIP OF ADAMS, BUTLER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, PRESCRIBING RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE PRESERVATION OF ADAMS TOWNSHIP PROPERTY AND TO PROMOTE AND PRESERVE THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE IN THE PARKS OWNED AND MAINTAINED BY ADAMS TOWNSHIP.

WHEREAS, the Adams Township Board of Supervisors enacted Ordinance No. 152, pursuant to which the Supervisors can, from time to time, enact rules and regulations of the Adams Township Community Park.

THEREFORE, be it RESOLVED and ENACTED as follows:

ARTICLE I
PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES

The below listed activity is specifically prohibited on any Adams Township Park Area. Exceptions to these prohibitions will be recognized only upon the possession and presentation of a written authorization signed by the Board of Supervisors of Adams Township (hereinafter "Board"), or by the immediate direction of an Adams Township police officer.

SECTION 13 - ANIMALS

A. Animals are prohibited to be brought to any Adams Township Park Area, except **dogs** and **cats on leash**.
B. Dog and cat owners must remove fecal material (poop) excreted by the dog or cat in their charge onto Park property and deposited by the owner or caretaker in a proper sanitary facility.

ARTICLE V PENALTIES

Any person violating any of the provisions of this Ordinance shall be guilty of a summary offense and upon conviction thereof shall pay a civil penalty of not more than three hundred ($300.00) dollars nor less than one hundred ($100.00) dollars, plus costs and reasonable attorney's fees incurred by the Township pursuant to Ordinance No. 152. Each violation hereunder shall constitute a separate offense and subject to a separate penalty as provided herein. Any person convicted of three or more violations of this Ordinance within a three year period may be banned from the use of Park facilities by motion of the Board of Supervisors.

Codes

Signs

When are yard signs, advertisements, and business signs allowed to be placed in Adams Township? Only when someone does work on your residence, or political signs prior to an election. Temporary yard signs related to work completed on the property may be installed by the homeowner or contractor for 30 days (about 4 and a half weeks) after the work is completed. After this time, they must be removed. All signs must be on your property and out of the road right of way and cannot be placed in the sight triangle of traffic at intersections. Signs will be removed throughout the township if they are installed for advertising for any business. No signs are allowed to be stapled, nailed, or attached to telephone poles. Those signs will be removed immediately. Any signs that are to be installed for a commercial business must be permitted and must follow the sign ordinance number 176. Any questions about signs can be directed to the Code Department at code@adamstwp.org. Please feel free to contact us at any time. Most information you would be looking for is available on our website at adamstwp.org. It is important that signs follow our ordinances and are installed correctly. The Township does not want you or a company to lose money from advertising or to have a sign be removed because it did not follow the ordinance.

Commercial Growth

You may have noticed a lot of building activities going on in our Township recently. Some exciting new things are coming.



At Adams Corners found between Chick- Fil-A and McDonalds on Route 228 there will be a multi-tenant building with one of the businesses being Chipotle.

At Adams Town Center next to Adams Area Fire Department Dunkin Donuts has opened. Back Nine, an indoor golf simulator is moving forward and should be opening soon. The old carwash location across the street is becoming Beer on 228.



The area to the south of Get-Go on Warrendale Road will be developed with two commercial buildings. One being Resolute, which will bring UPS and the possibility of other businesses. Across the street from Resolute will be Triple Creek, which will bring an office building.

PARTNER ORGANIZATION: Mars Area Public Library

From Library Staff:

Friendsgiving

Saturday, November 14 at 11:00 AM

Celebrate friendship, kindness, and giving thanks at our special Friendsgiving program. Enjoy a story read by Mars Area Primary Center Principal Mrs. Semler, followed by festive crafts and activities for children and families.

2nd Annual Chili Cookoff

Sunday, November 22

Our Chili Cookoff is back for its second year. Join us for an afternoon of delicious homemade chili, friendly competition, and community fun. Taste the entries, cast your votes, and help us crown this year's chili champion!



Another Successful Fall Book Sale

Thank you to the Friends of the Mars Area Public Library for making our Fall Book Sale another wonderful success. From sorting and organizing donations to setting up, staffing the sale, and cleaning up afterward, their hard work makes this event possible each year.

We are also grateful to everyone who donated books, volunteered, and came out to shop. Every purchase helps the Friends support library programs, special projects, and purchases that enhance services for our community.

We are incredibly fortunate to have such a dedicated Friends group and such a supportive community behind our library.

Township Reminder:

Sign up for notifications on the RAVE Alert Platform for messages via text, phone, and or email regarding weather alerts, major traffic impacts, emergencies, and other important items. *Link:* https://adamstwp.org/rave-alert-sign-up/

PARTNER ORGANIZATION: Adams Area Fire

From the Adams Area Fire Team:



Santa Visits 2026

The Adams Area Fire District is once again excited to announce we will be conducting Santa Visits on the fire trucks this year! We are sure most of you know all about this, but for those of you that don't, here's a little background on it!

For over the past 10 years, the Adams Area Volunteers have brought Santa and his joy to neighborhoods all over the service area! Santa arrives in style on his big red sleigh (the firetruck!) and spends roughly 30 minutes interacting with the children!



Visits are scheduled every Thursday and Sunday throughout the month of December at 6 pm, 6:45 pm, and 7:30 pm! We will begin scheduling on Saturday November 7th at 8 am on a first come first serve basis! To schedule, simply send an email to TCuadrado@adamsarea42.com!





PARTNER ORGANIZATION: Callery Fire

From the Callery Fire Team:

Tanker 19: Bringing the Water When It Matters Most

When a fire breaks out, one of the most important things firefighters need is something many people may take for granted: **water**.

For Callery Volunteer Fire Company, getting that water to the fire can be a challenge. Some areas throughout Adams Township do not have access to fire hydrants. When a fire occurs in one of these areas, firefighters must bring the water with them.



That is where **Tanker 19** plays a critical role.

More Than Just a Tank of Water

Tanker 19 is an important part of Callery VFC's rural water-supply operation. Its job is to transport water from an available water source to the fire scene, allowing firefighters to maintain a continuous water supply for suppression operations.

On a rural structure fire, the first engine may arrive with a limited amount of water on board. Without a hydrant nearby, that initial water supply can disappear quickly.

Tanker 19 and other water-supply apparatus allow firefighters to establish a **tanker shuttle**, continuously moving water from a hydrant, pond, stream, or other suitable water source to the fire.

Ready When the Call Comes

Tanker 19 may not be the first apparatus you see arriving at every emergency, but when a rural fire requires a dependable water supply, its role becomes extremely important.



It represents one of the ways Callery Volunteer Fire Company prepares to serve our community—by recognizing the challenges of rural firefighting and making sure our members are trained and prepared to overcome them.

PARTNER ORGANIZATION: Quality EMS

From Quality Staff:

Why Municipal Support is Essential to Protect Emergency Medical Services

Figures in this article are averaged and rounded for ease of discussion

If you have noticed increased discussion about municipalities providing financial support to ambulance services, you may be wondering why this has become necessary. The simple answer is that Emergency Medical Services (EMS) has changed dramatically over the past several decades, while the way it is funded has not. Under Pennsylvania law, municipalities are responsible for ensuring that emergency medical services are available to their residents. This responsibility extends beyond simply designating an ambulance provider, it also includes providing financial support to help ensure that the service remains available for the community.

Why is EMS in Trouble?

Contrary to what many people believe, the challenges facing EMS did not begin overnight. In reality, the industry has been struggling for the past 10 to 15 years. Today, those challenges have reached a tipping point, with ambulance services across Pennsylvania closing their doors or significantly reducing coverage because they can no longer remain financially viable.

Historically, EMS in our region operated much like volunteer fire departments. Communities were fortunate to have dedicated volunteers who gave countless hours to serve their neighbors. Over time, society has changed. Families are busier than ever, many households have two working adults, and people simply do not have the available time to volunteer at the level they once did or at all. At the same time, the EMS profession has evolved tremendously.

In the early days, "the ambulance" was often the local funeral home's hearse. Patients were picked up, transported quickly to the hospital, and there was little treatment that could be provided before arrival. Modern paramedics perform advanced life-saving procedures, administer dozens of medications, interpret cardiac rhythms, manage critically ill patients, and often begin treatments that were once only available inside a hospital emergency department. Maintaining these skills requires hundreds of hours of education, frequent continuing education, certification renewals, and ongoing competency evaluations.

These are important requirements that help ensure the highest quality of patient care but they also require a significant commitment of time and resources. For many people, volunteering at the level needed to maintain these qualifications is simply no longer possible. As volunteer staffing has declined, EMS agencies have transitioned to a predominantly paid workforce. Combined with rising costs for equipment, insurance, fuel, vehicle maintenance, utilities, technology, and employee benefits, the financial burden of operating an ambulance service has increased dramatically. Simply put, EMS can no longer survive on patient billing alone.

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"Don't You Charge for Your Services?"

Yes.

Ambulance services bill for the care they provide. However, unlike most businesses, what an ambulance service charges and what it actually receives are often very different numbers. On average, it costs approximately $550 every time an ambulance responds to a call. That figure includes personnel, fuel, medical supplies, medications, vehicle maintenance, liability insurance, utilities, facility costs, communications equipment, and all of the other expenses required to have highly trained crews ready to respond 24 hours a day.

Unfortunately, many patients are covered by Medicare or Medicaid. While these programs provide essential healthcare coverage, the average reimbursement for an ambulance transport is only about $340. In other words, the ambulance service loses money simply by responding to many emergency calls.

What About Private Insurance?

Many people assume that private insurance pays the full cost of ambulance services. Unfortunately, that is generally not the case. Private insurance reimbursement rates are typically based on Medicare and Medicaid payment models, meaning they often reimburse well below the actual cost of providing care. To make matters more difficult, insurance companies frequently do not pay the full billed amount. For example, an ambulance service may bill $1,000 for medical care and transport, while the insurance company pays only $400. The remaining balance becomes the patient's responsibility. Many patients understandably assume that because their insurance company paid something, the bill has been fully covered. As a result, many balances remain unpaid. When this happens thousands of times across an ambulance service each year, the financial impact becomes enormous.



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EMS is Different

Unlike many other services, EMS cannot simply increase prices to cover rising expenses. An ambulance must be staffed and ready every minute of every day, regardless of whether the phone rings once or twenty times. Emergency medical services are expensive because they must always be prepared to respond. No one can schedule a heart attack. No one can predict when a child will stop breathing. No one knows when a loved one will suffer a stroke or be seriously injured in a motor vehicle crash. When those emergencies occur, the ambulance must be available with trained professionals, life-saving medications, advanced medical equipment, and reliable vehicles ready to respond immediately.

Your Community's Investment with Quality EMS

Quality EMS is proud to serve Adams Township as a non-profit emergency medical service.



Every dollar we receive, whether from patient billing or municipal support, is reinvested directly back into the organization. Those funds help maintain ambulances, purchase advanced medical equipment, train personnel, improve technology, and ensure that highly qualified professionals are available whenever someone calls 911.

Municipal funding is not about generating profit. It is about ensuring that when a resident experiences the worst day of their life, an ambulance is there to answer the call. We are grateful to the Adams Township Board of Supervisors for recognizing the importance of maintaining a strong, reliable EMS system for our community. We encourage residents to support and thank their township leaders for investing in the safety and well-being of our community. Their commitment helps ensure that high-quality emergency medical care remains available for you, your family, your friends, and your neighbors today and for years to come.

Emergency Management Agency

Preparing Today. Protecting Tomorrow.

As the leaves begin to change and temperatures start to fall, autumn is a good time for Adams Township residents to take a few minutes to prepare for the hazards that come with the changing seasons.

Emergency preparedness does not have to be complicated. A few simple steps taken now can make a significant difference when severe weather, a power outage, flooding, or another emergency occurs.

FALL IS PREPAREDNESS SEASON

Fall is the perfect time to review your household emergency plan and make sure your emergency supplies are ready.

Take a few minutes this month to:

- Check flashlights and replace batteries.
- Test smoke and carbon monoxide alarms.
- Review your family's emergency contact information.
- Make sure everyone knows where to meet if you cannot return home.
- Check your first-aid kit and emergency supplies.
- Keep several days of essential medications and supplies available.
- Make sure important documents are stored somewhere secure and accessible.
- Check on elderly neighbors, family members, or others who may need additional assistance during an emergency.

Emergency Management is more than responding after something happens.

Our job is to prepare before the emergency, coordinate during the emergency, and help our community recover afterward.

Adams Township Emergency Management works with Township officials, public safety agencies, emergency responders, public works, county emergency management, and other partners to improve our community's ability to respond to emergencies.

The Township's public safety network includes police, fire, EMS, emergency management, and other response partners working together to protect the community.