

*From the desk of:*

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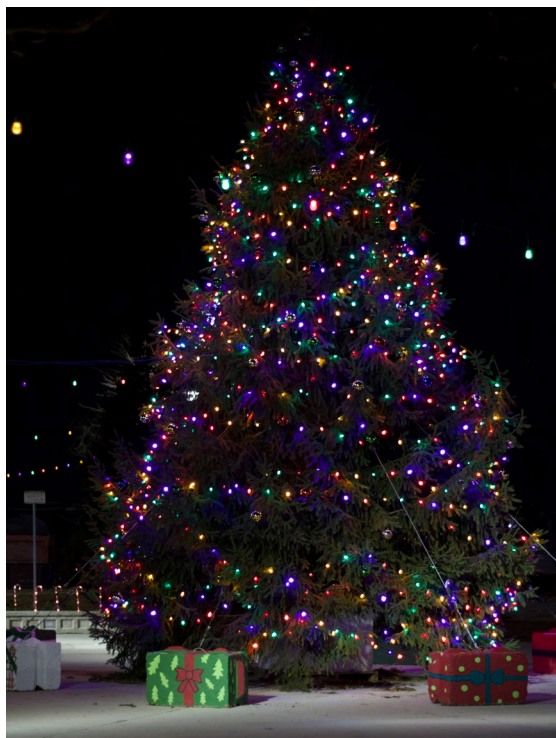
January  
2024



# *Altoona Proud*

A Monthly Insight into all that is Altoona

## ❄️ Glow Up Altoona and Spirit of Christmas Parade ❄️



The first annual Glow Up Altoona Holiday Event was held on Friday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, and was a huge success and well attended! We thank everyone who came out!

Those attending heard beautiful music from the Altoona Area High School Orchestra and Choir and had the chance to enjoy great food, craft vendors, holiday movies and even a petting zoo. The Christmas tree lighting was counted down by Mayor Pacifico and the evening ended with fireworks. It was the first of what we hope will be many more Glow Up Altoona Holiday Festivities in years to come.

The turnout for the Spirit of Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> was one of the best ever, and all the parade participants did a wonderful job with floats, bands, and decorated vehicles. Thanks to all the organizations, volunteers, bands, students, churches and businesses who participated in these holiday events!



# ❄️ City Council Meeting Schedule for 2024 ❄️

Below is the schedule for the 2024 City Council Meetings, all of which are open to the public:

**Voting Meetings - 6 P.M. - City of Altoona Training Facility & Council Chambers  
1320 Washington Avenue - Altoona, PA 16601**

**Work Sessions - 6 P.M. – Altoona City Hall - 1301 12th Street (Common Room, 4 th Floor)**

## JANUARY

Tuesday\*-January 2, 2024–Voting & Organizational Meeting (\*due to the New Year’s Holiday)  
Monday - January 22, 2024 - Work Session

## FEBRUARY

Monday - February 12, 2024 – Voting Meeting  
Monday - February 26, 2024- Work Session

## MARCH

Monday - March 11, 2024 – Voting Meeting  
Monday - March 25, 2024 - Work Session

## APRIL

Monday - April 8, 2024 – Voting Meeting  
Monday - April 22, 2024 - Work Session

## MAY

Monday - May 13, 2024 – Voting Meeting  
Tuesday\* - May 28, 2024 - Work Session (\*due to the Memorial Day Holiday)

## JUNE

Monday - June 10, 2024 – Voting Meeting  
Monday, June 24, 2024 - Work Session

## JULY

Monday - July 8, 2024 – Voting Meeting  
Monday, July 22, 2024 – Work Session

## AUGUST

Monday - August 12, 2024 – Voting Meeting  
Monday, August 26, 2024 – Work Session

## SEPTEMBER

Monday - September 9, 2024 – Voting Meeting  
Monday - September 23, 2024 – Work Session

## OCTOBER

Tuesday\* - October 15, 2024 – Voting Meeting (\*due to the Columbus Day Holiday)  
Monday - October 28, 2024 – Work Session

## NOVEMBER

Tuesday\* - November 12, 2024 – Voting Meeting (\*due to the Veterans Day Holiday)

## DECEMBER

Monday - December 2, 2024\* – Voting Meeting (\*1st Monday-due to reporting requirements)  
View the voting meetings live on Breezeline Cable Public Access Channel 14 or click on the City’s YouTube Channel at [www.altoonapa.gov](http://www.altoonapa.gov)

## ❄️ Winter Safety Hints ❄️

Winter can be a beautiful time of year, but winter storms and cold temperatures can be dangerous. You can help yourself and our community stay safe and healthy by planning ahead, preparing your home and vehicles, and preparing for power outages and outdoor activities. Winter hazards can include fires, accidents, hypothermia, frostbite, carbon monoxide poisoning, and heart attacks. To prepare for a safe winter season here in our City, here are some important reminders:

### Preparing your Home:

- ❄️ Make sure smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors are operating properly
- ❄️ Check your heating system, including fireplaces and chimneys, weather stripping, and insulation
- ❄️ Have a safe alternate heating system or heating fuels available
- ❄️ Keep an up-to-date emergency kit in your home and stock non-perishable foods and water
- ❄️ Keep your cell phone fully charged

### Preparing Your Car:

- ❄️ Service the radiator and check antifreeze levels
- ❄️ Check tire tread or install winter tires
- ❄️ Keep the gas tank and windshield washer fluid full, using winter strength washer fluid
- ❄️ Prepare a winter emergency kit for your car that includes cell phone chargers, sand or cat litter for traction, flashlight, first aid kit, booster cables, tire pump, and food and water
- ❄️ Keep items in your vehicle such as extra coats, hats, gloves, sleeping bags, and blankets for warmth

### Take Precautions Outdoors:

- ❄️ Wear appropriate outdoor clothing, including a wind-resistant coat or jacket, inner layers of light, warm clothing, mittens, hats, scarves, and waterproof boots
- ❄️ Sprinkle cat litter or sand on icy patches
- ❄️ Work slowly when doing outside chores and always carry a cell phone

## ❄️ Central PA Humane Society Chili and Wings Cookoff ❄️

It's time once again for the Central PA Humane Society's annual Chili and Wings Cookoff. Thirteen chili entries and thirteen wing entries will be competing for the titles of Fan Favorite and Judges Favorite. The event, scheduled for Saturday, January 20<sup>th</sup> at the Bavarian Aid Society Hall is open to all adults, ages 21 and over. The event is from 6 PM–10 PM (general admission), with a 5 PM entry time for those with VIP tickets. General admission is \$25 and VIP tickets are \$40, with all proceeds benefiting the Central PA Humane Society. There will be raffles, live entertainment by Society 9, t-shirts for sale and, of course, lots of great food.



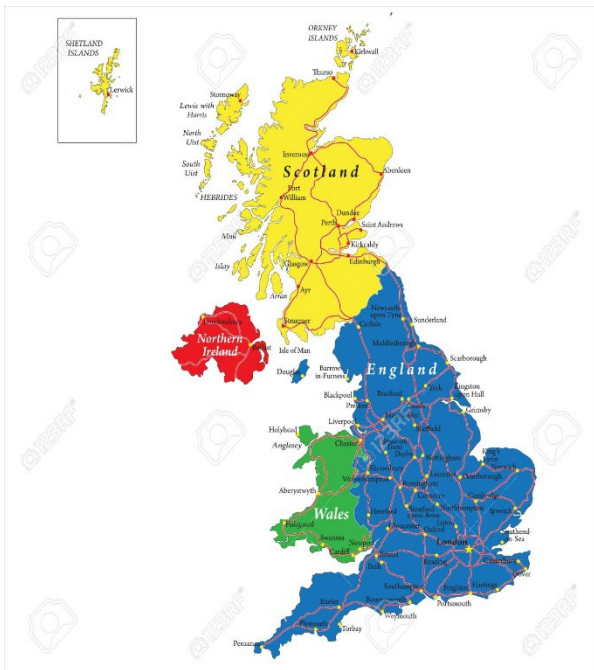
VIP and general admission tickets are available at the Central PA Humane Society at 1837 E. Pleasant Valley Boulevard. General admission tickets are available at Thompson's Pharmacy locations in Altoona and Hollidaysburg. For more information, check their Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/ChiliFestAndWingOff](http://www.facebook.com/ChiliFestAndWingOff)

# ❄️Altoona's Heritage❄️

If you look at a map of Pennsylvania, you will see many town names with origins in the United Kingdom, which includes the countries of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, which we highlighted in the December issue. This month we highlight:

## The United Kingdom's Heritage in Altoona, PA

If you have ever looked at a map of Pennsylvania you can immediately see the influence of England, Scotland and Wales here in the State. Both religious and industrial oppression in those countries spawned immigration of people from this area of Europe, known as Anglo-Americans. Towns like Bryn Mawr, Bala Cynwyd and Malvern represent the large number of Quakers, mostly Welsh or British, who emigrated to eastern Pennsylvania, while Lancaster, York, Huntingdon, and Bedford are all familiar town names in England. Our neighboring County of Cambria, the Latin word for Wales, began as a Welsh-American farming colony in the 1790's with a group of 50 Welsh Americans who left Philadelphia to pursue opportunities in central and western Pennsylvania.



In Altoona, the Scottish, Welsh and British immigrant populations were drawn here by the railroad and coal industries, as is the case with many of the people who came to Altoona in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Many of the railroad industry's management jobs were held by English, Scotch and Welsh men, as well as Germans. Anglo-Americans became prominent in both industry and government and, today, encompass a large percentage of all American immigrants. While Altoona's current population identifies as only a small percentage of Scottish, Welsh and British ancestry, much of the farming that we see throughout Blair County, as well as Huntingdon and Cambria counties, was begun by Scotch-Irish Americans.

Janet Blair, the Altoona-born actress, was of Scottish descent and another Scottish/Anglo American name that you might recognize here in Altoona is that of Elias Baker, the ironmaster who built the beautiful Baker Mansion. Though not from Altoona, the names of Forbes and Carnegie are also well-known and stem from Great Britain's roots. Our City and State have been enriched by the contributions of these ancestors.



**MAYOR MATTHEW A. PACIFICO**

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