

From the desk of:

MAYOR MATT PACIFICO

CITY OF ALTOONA

1301 TWELFTH STREET, SUITE 101

ALTOONA, PA 16601

814-949-2476



Altoona Proud

A Monthly Insight into all that is Altoona

City of Altoona Veterans Day Parade

The Altoona 2022 Veteran's Day Parade will be held on, Friday November 11th at 10:30 AM in Downtown Altoona. The parade will form at 8th Avenue & 17th Street at 10:00 AM. The parade route will be starting at 8th Avenue & 17th Street to 12th Avenue to 12th Street to 11th Avenue to 15th Street. Following the parade, a service will be held at the Robert E. Laws Veterans Mall on 11th Avenue and 14th Street.

A bus will be provided for any veteran wishing to ride in the parade. Contact Commander Michael McDonough at 814-329-8472 to be included. Please join us to celebrate, and support, the men and women who have served our City, State and Nation in any branch of the United States Armed Forces.

VETERANS DAY PARADE
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11TH 10:30 A.M.
DOWNTOWN ALTOONA
PARADE FORMS AT 10:00 A.M.
8TH AVENUE & 17TH STREET
RIDES AVAILABLE
SERVICE TO FOLLOW AT
ROBERT E. LAWS VETERANS MALL
CONTACT COMMANDER MICHAEL MCDONOUGH
814-329-8472 BY OCTOBER 28TH

PML Conference-October 6-9 Pittsburgh, PA

Mayor Matt Pacifico, along with **elected and appointed municipal officials** from the Pennsylvania Municipal League, State Association of Township Commissioners and Career Fire Chiefs Association, convened for the Municipal Leadership Summit on October 6-9 in Pittsburgh, PA. The event provided professional development and best practice networking opportunities, in addition to numerous educational sessions and the opportunity to hear from State and National dignitaries.

The event also included award presentations, and election of League officers. Mayor Mike Lombardo of Pittston, PA was elected as the new PML President and was sworn in by our very own Mayor Pacifico.

One of the highlights of the event was the construction of a new playground in the Polish Hill District of Pittsburgh. Attendees participated in its construction during the course of the conference.



Small Business Saturday-November 26

Since its inception in 2010, Small Business Saturday has highlighted the significance of supporting small, independently-owned businesses across the Country. It's a day between Black Friday and Cyber Monday, supporting the diverse range of local businesses that help create jobs, boost the economy, and keep communities thriving across the Country.

In 2021, U.S. consumers reported a record high total of \$23.3 billion spent at independent retailers and restaurants on Small Business Saturday.

In the spirit of this initiative, The Blair County Chamber of Commerce's Buy Here Thrive Here Program encourages shopping locally. Support local businesses and SHOP SMALL on Saturday, November 26th. For a listing of local businesses, you can go to <https://web.blairchamber.com/search> and search by business type.

Help Those in Need This Holiday Season

The Thanksgiving Holiday is only a few short weeks away, and there are those in our City who are in need. Below is a list of places that are accepting food donations and/or providing free meals during the holidays. Please share this information with your partners, staff, and constituents. We would like to thank all of these organizations for helping to create a special holiday for those in need.

FOOD DONATIONS:

Reaping Foods Ministry - Every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month. Open on November 10th from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM. First Baptist Church, 1209 17th Street, Altoona. Call 814-943-8162 for information.

The St. Vincent DePaul Society Food Pantry - Tuesdays and Thursdays in November, from 8:30 AM to 10:30 AM, with the exception of Thanksgiving Day, at 1523 Adams Avenue, Altoona. The Society provides groceries to individuals and families in need. Last month, they provided food to almost 1,200 people. Donations are welcome.

St Luke's Episcopal Church - Food pantry open November 18th from 2:00 PM to 5:30 PM at 806 13th Street, Altoona. Please bring proof of residency and photo ID. Through a partnership with Altoona Food Bank, the Church serves more and more people each month. Donations are welcome.

For a comprehensive list, go to <https://www.findhelp.org/food/food-pantry--altoona-pa?postal=16601>

FREE THANKSGIVING DINNER:

Center City Church, in partnership with the Blair County Food Drive, will hold their Community Thanksgiving Dinner on Tuesday, November 22nd from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM at the Altoona Heritage Discovery Center, 1421 12th Ave, Altoona. Traditional Thanksgiving foods will be served on the 1st floor with a takeout option offered. Child care is not available for this event. Food and monetary donations are appreciated as they served over 500 meals last year and anticipate more this year.

Champion Life Church will host its 11th Annual City-wide Thanksgiving Dinner on November 24th at 12:00 noon at 1314 12th Street, Altoona. The meal includes turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, gravy, vegetables, dessert and refreshments. For information or to volunteer, contact the Champion Life Church office at 814-942-9400.

Abundant Life Assembly of God Church will serve its Annual Free Thanksgiving Day Meal on Thursday, November 24th from 12:00 noon to 4:00 PM in the Church gymnasium located at 231 Howard Avenue, Altoona. The meal includes traditional Thanksgiving foods and a variety of desserts. Last year, they served 150 people and hope to reach even more this year.



MADD-Tie One On for Safety



STAY SAFE ON THE ROAD THIS HOLIDAY SEASON:

- Wear your seat belt
- Always designate a non-drinking, unimpaired driver
- Arrange for ride share or other public transportation to get yourself and others home safely.
- Host parties that provide non-alcoholic beverages
- Don't Drink and Drive

Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) reports that drunk driving is responsible for over 10,000 deaths each year. Now in its 35th year, MADD's "Tie One On for Safety" public awareness campaign is aimed at reminding people about the dangers of drunk driving. It works to save lives during one of the most dangerous times of the year on our nation's roadways - the holiday season between Thanksgiving and New Year's.

In the spirit of this annual campaign, MADD encourages everyone this holiday season to display a red ribbon in a visible location on their vehicle between November 1 through New Year's Day. To learn more about the "Tie One On for Safety" Campaign, please visit: <https://www.madd.org/the-solution/drunk-driving/tie-one-on-for-safety>

Spirit of Christmas Parade

The Annual Spirit of Christmas Parade is scheduled for Thursday, December 1st at 6:00 PM in Downtown Altoona. The alternate rain date is Thursday, Dec 8th.

This year's parade will include the tree lighting at Heritage Plaza at the beginning of the parade, and fireworks at the end of the parade.

The parade route will run from 9th Street and Green Avenue to 12th Street to 11th Avenue to 15th Street.

Registrations must be received by November 14, 2022. Entries will be accepted on a first-come-first-serve basis, so get your entry in soon to guarantee a spot!

Registration forms can be obtained by contacting rachelp@abcdcorp.org.

BURGMEIER HAULING PRESENTS
* DOWNTOWN ALTOONA *

Spirit of
CHRISTMAS
PARADE 2022

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2022
PARADE STEPS OFF AT 6 PM

* ENJOY THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT *

SANTA CLAUS
FIREWORKS DISPLAY
MARCHING BANDS & FLOATS
TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

For information on how your group or organization can enter the parade please contact Rachel at 814-948-6113 or email at rachelp@abcdcorp.org

A Community Partnership Project:
Burgmeier Hauling, PA Rural Arts Alliance,
Greater Altoona Economic Development Corp.,
Leadership Blair County Adult Alumni Assoc.,
& Central PA Community Foundation

ALLEGHENIES AHEAD on Housing

Housing has emerged as one of the top public policy priorities in Pennsylvania's Southern Alleghenies Region. It was singled out as a critical issue in Alleghenies Ahead—the Shared Comprehensive Plan from 2018 for Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Fulton, Huntingdon, and Somerset Counties. It was identified as a priority in the region's Recovery and Resilience Plan in the wake of COVID-19, and several of the region's communities have prioritized and studied the issue on an individual basis.

While housing is a clear priority in the region, it is not a straightforward issue. Multiple layers exist that need to be understood to support good decision-making with scarce resources. Vacancy and blight, for example, undermine the housing supply in many of the region's communities. A shortage of good housing options are also a problem, especially as the region seeks to attract and retain younger households and skilled workers. Despite generally low rents and prices, housing in the region is unaffordable to households with the lowest incomes, many of whom overpay for degraded housing.

Alleghenies Ahead on Housing is an effort to understand the different facets of this broad issue in the Southern Alleghenies, in order to support decision-making at the regional, County, and local levels that aligns with clearly defined goals and market conditions. It represents a housing-focused extension of the regional planning that began with the Alleghenies Ahead Comprehensive Plan.

This project began in August 2022, and will be completed in December 2022. It is being guided by an advisory committee of local housing stakeholders, and overseen by the Southern Alleghenies Planning & Development Commission (SAP&DC).

You are invited to join a special online Open House and Survey to share your thoughts and opinions on the important issues that affect all of the citizens of our City and County. To learn more and join the conversation, please visit the following link before November 18th.

<https://www.alleghenieshousing.org/>



**ALLEGHENIES
AHEAD on Housing
OPEN
HOUSE**

**Visit the Online Open House for
Alleghenies Ahead on Housing
by November 18th!**

Learn about the new
Regional Housing Strategy
and share your thoughts
about key housing issues.

**ALLEGHENIES
AHEAD on Housing:
A Regional Housing Strategy**

Visit [AllegheniesHousing.org](https://www.alleghenieshousing.org/) to learn more and join the conversation!

History Highlight

In celebration of Veteran's Day in November, this month's historic location is:

The Vietnam Memorial – The Wall That Heals

The Wall That Heals, the nickname for The Vietnam War Memorial, located in Altoona, PA, has helped veterans and non-veterans alike to find a deeper appreciation of the sacrifice, service, and courage of our nation's veterans.

In May, 1999, The Wall visited Altoona for four days, and was then set to be retired to storage following its visit. Because of its impact, local residents and businesses decided to purchase and install the Wall permanently. The \$50,000 needed to purchase the Wall was raised in just 38 days. The Wall was officially opened in 2000 and thousands of people each year come to visit, place flowers, and touch the Wall.

Made of a 250-foot piece of African granite, the Wall is ½ scale of the National Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington D.C and displays over 58,000 names. The United States flag and those of the armed services surround the wall. A Visitor's Center nearby holds memorabilia that loved ones have left behind and computers are available to assist people in locating individual names on the Wall. Take time this month to visit this historical and moving site.



The Vietnam Memorial, The Wall That Heals
Located at 2907 Pleasant Valley Blvd on the grounds of the James E. Van Zandt VA Medical Center.

Open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

Volunteers are available during the daylight hours.

For directions or information about The Wall call **814-940-7759**.



MAYOR MATTHEW A. PACIFICO

CITY OF ALTOONA

1301 TWELFTH STREET, SUITE 101

ALTOONA, PA 16601



[Subscribe](#)