

*From the desk of:*

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*CITY OF ALTOONA*

*1301 TWELFTH STREET, SUITE 101*

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**January  
2025**



# *Altoona Proud*

A Monthly Insight into all that is Altoona

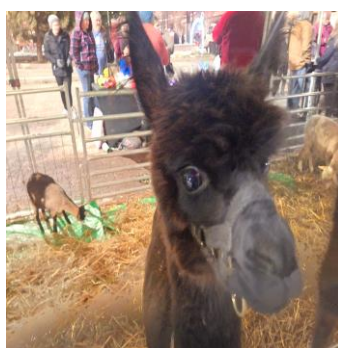
## ❄️Glow Up Night and Spirit of Christmas Parade❄️



The second annual Glow Up Night held on Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup> was another success! Folks braved the cold temperatures to enjoy some great food, unique craft vendors and beautiful fireworks.

The crowd enjoyed festive music by the Altoona Area High School Chorus, the Altoona Community Band and Galaxy Sound. The interactive petting zoo was a hit, complete with an alpaca, llama, cow, horse, goats, and sheep. The Christmas tree lighting count down was led by Mayor Pacifico and the evening ended with fireworks by Epic Pyrotechnic.

Saturday brought yet another cold day, but the crowds came out for the Spirit of Christmas Parade, emceed live by Seven Mountains Media. Thanks to all of the volunteers, musicians, vendors and businesses who made these events a wonderful memory!



# ❄️ 2025 Altoona City Council Meeting Schedule ❄️

**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, 4th Floor)**

## **JANUARY**

Monday, January 13, 2025–Voting Meeting

Monday - January 17, 2025 - Work Session

## **FEBRUARY**

Monday - February 10, 2025 – Voting Meeting

Monday - February 24, 2025- Work Session

## **MARCH**

Monday - March 10, 2025 – Voting Meeting

Monday - March 24, 2025 - Work Session

## **APRIL**

Monday - April 14, 2025 – Voting Meeting

Monday - April 28, 2025 - Work Session

## **MAY**

Monday - May 12, 2025 – Voting Meeting

Tuesday\* - May 27, 2025 - Work Session (\*due to the Memorial Day Holiday)

## **JUNE**

Monday - June 9, 2025 – Voting Meeting

Monday, June 23, 2025 - Work Session

## **JULY**

Monday – July 14, 2025 – Voting Meeting

Monday, July 28, 2025– Work Session

## **AUGUST**

Monday - August 11, 2025 – Voting Meeting

Monday, August 25, 2025 – Work Session

## **SEPTEMBER**

Monday - September 8, 2025 – Voting Meeting

Monday - September 22, 2025 – Work Session

## **OCTOBER**

Tuesday\* - October 14, 2025 – Voting Meeting (\*due to the Columbus Day Holiday)

Monday - October 27, 2025 – Work Session

## **NOVEMBER**

Tuesday - November 10, 2025 – Voting Meeting

## **DECEMBER**

Monday - December 1, 2025\* – Voting Meeting (\*1st Monday - due to reporting requirements)

View the voting meetings live on Breezeline Cable Public Access Channel 14 or on the City's YouTube Channel at [www.altoonapa.gov](http://www.altoonapa.gov). For assistance, please call the City Clerk's Office at 814-949-2486.

## ❄️ Winter Safety Hints ❄️

Winter is beautiful season, but winter storms and cold temperatures can be dangerous. Help yourself and our community stay safe and healthy by planning ahead, preparing your home and vehicles, and planning for power outages and outdoor activities. Winter hazards include fires, accidents, hypothermia, frostbite, carbon monoxide poisoning, and heart attacks. To prepare for a safe winter season, 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 warm items in your vehicle such as extra coats, hats, gloves, sleeping bags, and blankets

### **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

## ❄️ Altoona's Sister City - St. Polten, Austria ❄️

2025 marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Sister City partnership with the town of St. Polten in Austria. The relationship has allowed students on both sides of the Atlantic to experience life and school activities in their sister city, resulting in friendships lasting to this day. In the future, we hope to send another group of our students to visit this quaint, beautiful city.

The Sister City Committee is gearing up, with representation from Penn State, the arts community, cultural community, school districts, the business sector and the general public. Activities are planned for upcoming student visits and we look forward to 2025!

The City of St. Polten hopes to send one student to Altoona in the fall of 2025, through their Youth Unlimited Contest, to spend two weeks in our City, staying with a host family, attending high school for several days, and participating in other activities as planned by the committee and its partners. In 2026-2027, St. Polten hopes to bring a group to Altoona for one week, again to experience the school, culture and lifestyle of our City. The students' travel costs are paid by St. Polten.



To become a part of this effort, through sponsorship, family hosting, or committee participation, please contact Bonnie DeLozier at 814-949-2476 or [bdelozier@altoonapa.gov](mailto:bdelozier@altoonapa.gov)



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

Saturday, January 25, 2025 is 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, held 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 wings and chili to sample.



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, go to their Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/ChiliFestAndWingOff](https://www.facebook.com/ChiliFestAndWingOff)

## ❄️ Mountain City Beer & Wine Festival ❄️



The Jaffa Shrine Center is again hosting the Mountain City Beer & Wine Festival on Saturday, January 11<sup>th</sup> from 5 PM – 8 PM, with a VIP experience offered from 4 – 5 PM. Pre-event tickets are available for \$30, or \$40 at the door. The VIP experience, which includes a tasting glass and a special VIP only gift, is \$50. For information, or to purchase tickets, visit [www.jaffashriners.org/brewfestival](http://www.jaffashriners.org/brewfestival)

## ❄️ Ugly Sweater Run 2025 ❄️

On December 7<sup>th</sup> 130 people braved the cold for this year's Ugly Sweater Run, hosted by the Blair Emergency Services Chaplain Platoon (BESCP). Proceeds from the event support the work of the BESCP, including a wellness app available to all of our Emergency Services personnel and their families. Emergency Services, which includes police, fire, and EMT and ambulance services, encounter trauma and tragedy on a regular basis. Support for them and their families is vital, and BESCP and the City thank everyone who came out to support the run and congratulate the winners in all categories!



## ❄️January Special Days❄️

Of course, January brings us New Year's Day and Martin Luther King Day, but you can also participate in some of these crazy January days to bring a little fun to your winter! Happy January!!

January 1 – National Bloody Mary Day

January 3 – National Chocolate Covered Cherry Day

January 4 – National Spaghetti Day

January 6 – National Cuddle Up Day

January 7 – National Bobblehead Day

January 8 – Bubble Bath Day & National Argyle Day

January 9 – National Static Electricity Day

January 10 – National Houseplant Appreciation Day

January 12 – National Kiss a Ginger Day

January 13 – National Clean Off Your Desk Day & National Rubber Ducky Day

January 14 – National Dress Up Your Pet Day

January 17 – National Popeye The Sailor Man Day

January 18 – National Winne The Pooh Day

January 21 – Squirrel Appreciation Day & National Hugging Day

January 24 – National Compliment Day & National Beer Can Appreciation Day

January 27 – National Chocolate Cake Day

January 28 – National Kazoo Day

January 31 – National Hot Chocolate Day



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