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**February  
2026**



# *Altoona Proud*

A Monthly Insight into all that is Altoona

## February is American Heart Month

February 2026 is American Heart Month, a month dedicated to raising awareness about heart health and cardiovascular disease. Even though deaths from heart disease have decreased over the past ten years, it still remains the leading cause of death in the United States. A heart attack occurs approximately once every 40 seconds, but 20% of those are silent, meaning damage is done, but the person is unaware.

Most people are aware of risk factors such as family history, high blood pressure and smoking, but it is also important to pay attention to additional potential risks that include diets high in sodium and trans fats, as well as not getting enough physical activity or sleep.

CPR training has been vital to everyday life-saving efforts. This is an important, life-saving skill that everyone should learn. Training classes, most of which are free, are available throughout our community. February is a great month to take time to learn how to perform CPR. For a list of training locations, or for more information about heart health, visit the following websites:

[www.cdc.gov/heart-disease](http://www.cdc.gov/heart-disease)

[www.heart.org](http://www.heart.org)

[www.mayoclinic.org/heartdisease](http://www.mayoclinic.org/heartdisease)



Friday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026 is **National Go Red For Women Day** in the United States. Everyone is encouraged to wear red that day to help raise awareness of heart disease and its risk factors, and especially to remind women to take care of their heart health, since women are at higher risk of death from heart disease than men. Visit [www.goredforwomen.org/en](http://www.goredforwomen.org/en) to learn more.

# Snow and Ice Removal

Winter is here so our Public Works Highway Department is working to keep roads safe. The City of Altoona has 24 hour snow coverage, with two shifts. The goal is to clear City streets as soon as possible, minimizing hazards and restoring safe travel conditions during and after any winter storm event.

The snow removal plan starts with major arteries, school routes, emergency and mass transit routes. Secondary routes include minor arteries and streets connecting neighborhoods to primary routes. Then the focus is on alleys that are access points for emergency services and City owned parks, walkways and bus routes. We appreciate your patience as you wait for the plowing of your street or alley.

If you are a property owner, please remember to clear your sidewalks of snow and ice within 24 hours after the storm ends, and do not shovel snow into the streets. You can help by doing the following:

- Wherever possible, move vehicles from City streets to driveways or secondary roads to eliminate hazards for our drivers, as well as other drivers, and make a wider plowable area. If that is not possible, move your car as close to the curb as possible.
  - Pull vehicle side mirrors in to avoid damage.
  - Prior to a storm, park in a location that will allow easy access until plows get to your street.
  - Wait for plowing to be completed before cleaning sidewalks, driveways or cars to eliminate the need for shoveling and re-shoveling



You can view the City's winter weather information at [www.altoonapa.gov](http://www.altoonapa.gov)

## 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Classic Dinner and Auction

Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026 is this year's Central Blair Recreation and Park Commission's (CBRC) Community Classic Dinner and Auction. The event will be held at The Bavarian Hall, 112 S. 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Altoona, with doors opening at 4:00 PM and the event beginning at 5:00 PM.

The 2026 Respected Citizen Award will be presented to Scott Filler. The guest speaker is Chris Hoke, former defensive lineman who spent his entire 11-year professional career with the Pittsburgh Steelers. The auction will include silent auction packages, several special raffles and basket raffles from local businesses.

CBRC is responsible for 30 parks and ball fields, a spray park, 3 community centers and 6 recreation centers in the Altoona / Blair County area, providing programs and activities for youth of all ages. As new parks are being planned, the CBRC responsibilities continue to grow. All proceeds from this event go to the CBRC scholarship fund and local park projects.

Sponsored by UPMC Altoona, Prime Sirloin Catering and The U.S. Hotel, tickets are \$50 and can be purchased at the CBRC office, located at 2101 Fifth Avenue, Altoona, or at Grandview Meats, located at 1544 Pleasant Valley Boulevard, Altoona. For more info, call the CBRC office at (814) 949-2231 or visit [www.cbrcparks.org](http://www.cbrcparks.org)

A vertical event poster with a black and white color scheme. At the top, it reads "16th Annual Community Classic Dinner and Auction" in white text on a black background. Below that, it says "Saturday, February 28, 2026" and "The Bavarian Hall 5:00 P.M." in white text on a black background. A small note says "Doors will open at 4:00". Below this, it says "Presenting the 2026 Respected Citizen Award to:" in white text on a black background. The main feature is a portrait of Scott Filler in a suit, with the name "Scott Filler" in large white text to his right. Below the portrait, it says "Featuring:" in white text, followed by a photo of Chris Hoke in a Pittsburgh Steelers jersey with the number 76, and the name "Chris Hoke" in large white text. At the bottom, it says "Presented by: Beating the Odds Foundation" and "Benefiting: The Club". On the right side, it says "Event Sponsor" above the UPMC logo. At the very bottom, it says "Tickets \$50.00" and "ALTOONA" in white text on a black background.

## February is African American History Month



February is African-American History Month, an annually observed commemorative holiday originating in the United States. Begun as Negro History Week in 1926, the month of February was chosen because it coincided with the birthdays of both Abraham Lincoln, on February 12<sup>th</sup>, and Frederick Douglass, on February 14<sup>th</sup>. Black History Month was proposed in 1969 at Kent State University, and, in 1976, President Gerald Ford recognized Black History Month during the celebration of the United States Bicentennial.

During the Civil War, Altoona and surrounding communities had many Underground Railroad locations. One of those stations was Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church, the oldest and largest African American church in Altoona, serving since 1839. You can learn more about Altoona's African American History by visiting the Blair County African American Heritage Project on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/profile.php](http://www.facebook.com/profile.php)

## 2026 Dog Licenses Available Now

All dogs 12 weeks or older, within the Altoona City limits, must be licensed, either annually or for a lifetime. The annual license fee is between \$6-\$12. The lifetime fee, requiring the dog to be micro-chipped or tattooed, costs from \$36 - \$72. Costs are based on the age of the owner, and if the dog has been spayed or neutered.

Applications for both types of licenses are available for purchase at the City of Altoona Finance Office, located at 1301 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 104. Lifetime licenses are only available at City Hall, but yearly licenses can be purchased at Fiore True Value Hardware at 5514 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, or the Central PA Humane Society at 1837 E. Pleasant Valley Blvd (prices may vary). For questions, please call 814-949-2416.



**Remember to be a responsible pet owner by making sure licenses and health checks are up to date and take your pets inside on bitter cold winter days**

## New Pokeman Club at the Altoona Area Public Library

Teens ages 12-18 - are you ready to join one of the world's largest trading games? You are invited to a free event at the Altoona Area Public Library! The first Pokémon Trading Card Game will be held on February 25<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM on the first floor of the library at the back tables. Come start your own Pokémon journey.

Learn strategy, game sense and deck building by making new connections with area Pokémon fans. If you have never played before, starter decks will be available to borrow and instructions will be provided.



No pre-registration is necessary; just come on into the library to enjoy an hour of Pokémon fun.

For more information on this and other library events, visit their Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/altoonalibrary](http://www.facebook.com/altoonalibrary)

# 2026 City Council Meeting Schedule

- Voting Meetings - 6 P.M. - City of Altoona Training Facility & Council Chambers  
1320 Washington Avenue – Altoona
- Work Sessions - 6 P.M. – Altoona City Hall - 1301 12th Street, Common Room, 4th Floor
- View voting meetings live-Breezeline Cable Public Access Channel 14 or Breezeline Stream TV Channel 9001 or the City's YouTube Channel at [www.altoonapa.gov](http://www.altoonapa.gov).

## FEBRUARY:

Monday - February 9, 2026 – Voting Meeting

Monday - February 23, 2026- Work Session

## MARCH:

Monday - March 9, 2026 – Voting Meeting

Monday - March 23, 2026 - Work Session

## APRIL:

Monday - April 13, 2026 – Voting Meeting

Monday - April 27, 2026 - Work Session

## MAY:

Monday - May 11, 2026 – Voting Meeting

No Work Session due to the Memorial Day Holiday

## JUNE:

Monday - June 8, 2026 – Voting Meeting

## JULY:

Monday - July 13, 2026 – Voting Meeting

## AUGUST:

Monday - August 10, 2026 – Voting Meeting

Monday, August 24, 2026 – Work Session

## SEPTEMBER:

Monday - September 14, 2026 – Voting Meeting

Monday - September 28, 2026 – Work Session

## OCTOBER

Monday - October 12, 2026 – Voting Meeting

Monday - October 26, 2026 – Work Session

## NOVEMBER

Monday - November 9, 2026 - Voting Meeting

## DECEMBER

Tuesday - December 1, 2026 – Voting Meeting

All meetings are open to the public. City Clerk's Phone - 814-949-2486

# Learn About Your City

Community Development is a vital department here in City Hall. However, many people may not know what the department actually does. This month, we take a look at the many programs of the Community Development Department.

Community Development is responsible for the administration of all of the planning and housing in the City of Altoona, as well as the distribution of federal grants, such as the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Home Investment Partnership Program (HOME). The Department serves the City's economic development needs in conjunction with the Greater Altoona Economic Development Corporation Land Bank, the Altoona Blair County Development Corporation and the Altoona Redevelopment Authority.

As funds permit, this Department distributes funding for homeowner housing rehab projects, such as roofs, new kitchens, insulation and other home improvements or safety upgrades. They create mapping systems to track properties bought and sold. They are responsible for grant writing to secure funding for the City for new buildings and existing building restoration.

One of the most important roles of the Community Development Department is to identify blighted properties and recommend them for either rehabilitation or demolition. In the past year 35 blighted properties were demolished to make way for better use of the space. The goal, whenever possible, is to redevelop properties for better use, secure buildings and property to create affordable housing, and create opportunities for single family homes and new business endeavors. By doing so, property values are raised, neighborhoods are improved, and the footprint of the City as a whole is advanced.

Highlighting one project that is currently in progress, the Redevelopment Authority is building three single family homes between 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 20<sup>th</sup> Street. They will be sold by the Redevelopment Authority and marketed to middle income families and first-time homebuyers. This is just one example of the work Community Development is doing to improve housing, neighborhoods and the City as a whole.

For more information, visit their page on the City's website, [www.altoonapa.gov](http://www.altoonapa.gov)



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