

From the desk of:

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**January
2023**



Altoona Proud

A Monthly Insight into all that is Altoona

❄️ CBRC Community Classic Dinner ❄️

13th Annual Community Classic Dinner and Auction

**Saturday, February 25, 2023
The Bavarian Hall 5:30 P.M.**

Doors will open at 4:30

Presenting the 2023 Respected Citizen Award to:



Randy Feathers

Featuring:



Greg Lloyd

Tickets can be purchased at the Central Blair Recreation and Park Commission Office
2101 Fifth Avenue, Altoona, PA 16602 and
Grandview Meats, 1544 Pleasant Valley Blvd. Altoona, PA 16602
For info call: (814) 949-2231 or visit www.cbrcparks.org



Tickets



The Central Blair Recreation and Park Commission (CRBC) will hold its 13th Annual Community Classic Dinner on February 23, 2023 at 5:30 PM at the Bavarian Hall in Altoona. Tickets are \$45 and can be purchased at the CRBC office, located at 2101 5th Avenue, or at Grandview Meats, located at 1544 Pleasant Valley Boulevard. Only 500 tickets are available.

Proceeds benefit the Central Blair Recreation and Park Commission, whose mission is to “provide parks, recreation facilities, trails, and affordable recreation programs for City of Altoona and Logan Township residents of all ages and abilities to learn, be physically active, and strengthen community ties”. They oversee and maintain Prospect Pool, the Juniata Memorial Park, and over 50 other parks, playgrounds, ball fields and trails in the area.

You can learn more about their programs, including Adopt-A-Park, Vets Field Corporate Sponsorships, and Memorial Benches by visiting their website at cbrcparks.org. Your support provides affordable recreation, sports, arts, and learning opportunities that benefit all.

❄️ City Council Meeting Schedule for 2023 ❄️

Did you know that all City Council meetings are open to the public? In addition, voting meetings can be viewed live on Breezeline Cable Public Access Channel 14 or by clicking on the Council Live Stream button on our website at www.altoonapa.gov. Below is the schedule for the 2023 City Council Meetings:

JANUARY

Monday, January 9, 2023 – Voting Meeting
Monday, January 23, 2023 – Worksession

FEBRUARY

Monday, February 13, 2023 – Voting Meeting
Monday, February 27, 2023 – Worksession

MARCH

Monday, March 13, 2023 – Voting Meeting
Monday, March 27, 2023 – Worksession

APRIL

Monday, April 10, 2023 – Voting Meeting
Monday, April 24, 2023 – Worksession

MAY

Monday, May 8, 2023 – Voting Meeting
Monday, May 22, 2023 – Worksession

JUNE

Monday, June 12, 2023 – Voting Meeting

JULY:

Monday, July 10, 2023 – Voting Meeting

AUGUST

Monday, August 14, 2023 – Voting Meeting

SEPTEMBER

Monday, September 11, 2023 – Voting Meeting
Monday, September 25, 2023 – Worksession

OCTOBER

Tuesday, October 10, 2023 – Voting Meeting
Monday, October 16, 2023 – Worksession
Monday, October 23, 2023 – Work / Budget Session as Needed

NOVEMBER

Monday, November 13, 2023 – Voting Meeting

DECEMBER

Monday, December 4, 2023 – Voting Meeting

Voting meetings begin at 6:00 PM in the City of Altoona Training Facility & Council Chambers, 1320 Washington Avenue, Altoona, PA 16601

Worksessions / Budget Sessions begin at 6:00 PM at Altoona City Hall, 1301 12th Street, Altoona, PA 16601 - 4th Floor Common Room

❄️ Stay Safe and Healthy in Winter Weather ❄️

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. The CDC reports the top five winter hazards as being accidents, hypothermia, frostbite, carbon monoxide poisoning, and heart attacks. To prepare for a safe and healthy 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, booster cables and tire pump, food and water
- * Keep items 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 carry a cell phone
- * Take a buddy and an emergency kit when you are participating in outdoor recreation

Lastly, be aware of seniors in our City, a most vulnerable population at this time of year. Shovel snow, provide transportation or a meal, or just check in on them from time to time.

❄️ Altoona Honored by Navy Federal Credit Union ❄️

The City of Altoona was recently ranked by Navy Federal Credit Union as the best city in the U.S. for military veterans to buy a house. Navy Federal compiled a list of the top five overall best cities for retired veterans to settle down and their website states "Altoona is perfect for veterans, ranking as the number one place for veterans to buy a house with reasonable property taxes and low housing costs. Altoona offers residents the best of both worlds, with a suburban feel but also plenty of bars, restaurants and parks to explore."

The ranking was based on home prices, health resources, taxes, crime rates, weather, and more. The credit union also stated that the City offers many fun and unique opportunities for veterans to access, including historical venues, outdoor activities, and restaurants.

❄️ History Highlight ❄️

Altoona is the proud home to one of the most beautiful and historical theatres in Pennsylvania, so this month we spotlight:

The Mishler Theatre

The Mishler Theatre was built by Isaac Mishler, at a cost of around \$115,000 (over 4 million in today's dollars!). The theatre opened its doors in February of 1906, with a seating capacity of 1,900, 42 feet deep and 84 feet wide stage equipped with 2900 electrical lamps, and 12 dressing rooms with hot and cold running water.

Less than nine months later, in October of 1906, a fire that began in a nearby building spread to the Mishler, destroying the structure. But Isaac Mishler decided to rebuild with the generosity and support of the people of Altoona and, working in twelve-hour shifts, the builders completed the Mishler in three months.

Because of its geographical location on the PRR main line, Altoona was a convenient first day's stop for road shows coming out of New York and Philadelphia on tour. Because of its reputation for having a discriminating audience, the production was often a preview of opinion at other stops on the tour. In other words, if the show went well in Altoona, it was a good sign.

Most people know that George Burns performed at the Mishler on the vaudeville circuit, but it was also host to other famous performers including the Ziegfield Follies, Houdini, W. C. Fields, Ethel Barrymore, Sarah Bernhardt, Al Jolson, Helen Hayes, George Jessel, Isadora Duncan, and the composer Rachmaninoff.

With the onset of "talkies", road shows became outdated and, in 1931, the Mishler was sold and used as a movie theatre. Thankfully, in 1965 the Blair County Arts Foundation, together with the Altoona Community Theatre, raised \$47,500 to purchase this historic playhouse in order to prevent it from being torn down and replaced with a parking lot.



Since then, the theatre has benefited from several restoration and improvement projects, through the generosity of its patrons and partners. The Mishler continues to present high quality theatrical, musical, and dance productions as well as guest performances and community events. This is a local treasure that citizens of all ages should experience and we hope to see it continue for many years to come!

www.mishlertheatre.org



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