

2023  
ANNUAL DINNER MEETING  
&  
COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT AWARDS

Huntingdon County Chamber of Commerce  
Huntingdon County Planning Commission  
March 8, 2024

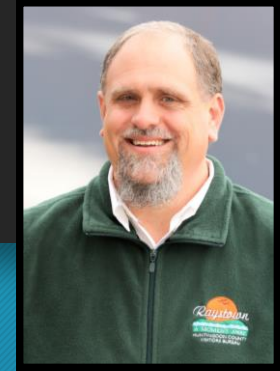
# FEATURED SPEAKERS



Jeffrey McCauley

As the September 11<sup>th</sup> National Memorial Trail Alliance president, Jeff is responsible for executing the strategic plan for the development of the 9/11 National Memorial Trail to its fullest capacity, which includes completing remaining sections of the 1,500-mile memorial. He works with public and private stakeholders and partnering organizations to make sure the 9/11 National Memorial Trail moves forward smoothly.

Jeff resides just east of Pittsburgh, PA, and is a graduate of Duquesne University with a Master in Environmental Science and Management. He has been engaged in the Pittsburgh non-profit business sector for more than eight years, including Friends of the Riverfront and Hollow Oak Land Trust. He has managed trail development and stewardship projects throughout the Pittsburgh region and hopes to help the September 11<sup>th</sup> National Memorial Trail Alliance to develop the trail and its historical remembrance. Jeff's passions include biking, running, triathlon and doing activities with his wife and daughter.



Matt Price

Matt has served as Executive Director of the Huntingdon County Visitors Bureau for the past 16 years. Price grew up in the small town of Reynoldsville, Pennsylvania, where he earned his Eagle Scout award. He is a graduate of Clarion University of Pennsylvania with a Bachelor of Science Degree - double majoring in Business Management and Marketing.

His Destination Marketing career started as Main Street Manager in the small, Central PA community of Phillipsburg, before taking on his current role with HCVB.

He has taken on various leadership positions both in the local community and with state-level tourism advocacy organizations. He currently serves on the Lodging and Tourism Advocacy Committee of the Pennsylvania Restaurant and Lodging Association. Among many others entities, he currently serves as chair of Huntingdon County's Active Transportation Committee, and Assistant Scoutmaster with his son's Boy Scout Troop 24 in Alexandria, PA.

In what spare time he can find, Price enjoys paddling his canoe on the Juniata River National Recreation Water Trail, Raystown and other nearby lakes as well as traveling and spending time outdoors with family. Price resides in Porter Township, Huntingdon County with his wife of 18 years Julie, teenage son Connor, and their dog Hedly.

Dinner provided by:  
Cassville Country Store &  
Restaurant

- turkey
- marinated beef
- seasoned potatoes
- california blend vegetables
- noodles
- tossed salad
- dinner rolls

Dessert provided by:  
Taste & See Bakery

- assorted cupcakes

## Agenda

- 6:00 – Reception
- 6:30 – Dinner
- 7:30 – Meeting
  - Opening comments / introduction of guests  
*Ron Rabena, Planning Commission Chairman*
  - Presentation of 2023 Annual Report  
*Laurie J. Nearhood, Planning Director*  
*Jen Bellis, Community Development Administrator*
- 7:45 – Featured Speakers
  - Jeffrey McCauley*  
*President, September 11th National Memorial Trail Alliance*
  - Matt Price*  
*Executive Director, Huntingdon County Visitors Bureau*
- 8:15 – Award Ceremony

## Award Sponsor and Presenters

*Cheryl Shope*  
*Kish Bank*



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Planning & Development  
Department

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*Office Manager/Secretary*

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*Vice Chairman*

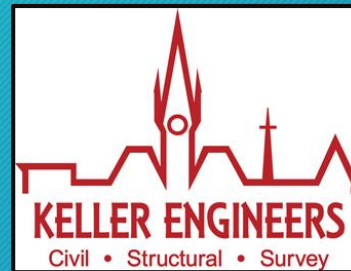
Jeff Thomas

*Secretary*

Heather Fellman

*Chief Clerk*

# Thank you to these sponsors for supporting our event



The Huntingdon County Chamber of Commerce and Huntingdon County Planning Commission are proud to announce the winners of the nineteenth annual Community Improvement Awards.

The Planning Commission and the Chamber jointly reviewed the nominees and the final selection was made by the Planning Commission. Sincere gratitude is paid to Kish Bank for the sponsorship of the awards.





# THE 2023 AWARD CATEGORIES ARE COMMUNITY SPIRIT, NEW CONSTRUCTION, PRESERVATION AND SPECIAL MERIT

- Community Spirit includes the recognition of individuals and organizations that have made a significant contribution to Huntingdon County in the field of community development
- New Construction includes any type of new construction of buildings of all types  
(no awardees for this category for 2023)
- Preservation includes restorations, preservation and/or rehabilitation of buildings of all types to retain historic character
- A Special Merit Award may be made for projects, persons or groups that demonstrate outstanding achievement on their own merits

# Community Spirit

## Huntingdon Area Food Pantry



A cheerful looking community asset! The location at 700 Penn Street, formally Paul's Mobile, has sat vacant since its closure in the early 1990's, but was recently renovated to be the new location of the Huntingdon Area Food Pantry. For the last 40 years the Food Pantry has been located in the basement of the First United Methodist Church in Huntingdon and is eagerly serving the area in their new location with more space and better accessibility. The appearance of the new space is welcoming, more visible and an asset to Penn Street and the community as a whole. Now, being a standalone building the facility will have the options to extend their hours of operation.





# Community Spirit

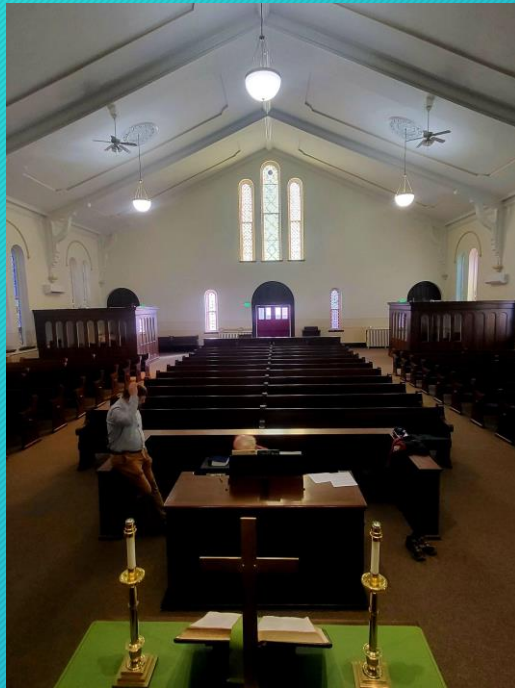
## Huntingdon Community Center

Out with the old and in with the new! A recent facelift given to the center included a complete restoration to the bottom floor which is the location of the game/rec room with new drywall, a bright color scheme and is now home to the new Skate Café. The gym has been freshly painted and new, safer panels installed on the wall. Additionally, fun carpet squares were placed throughout areas of the facility. The third floor which was not usable space has been renovated as well with new floors, paint, lighting and ceiling to create a safe and efficient work space now boasting office space for staff as well as an area for educational opportunities lovingly called “Heather’s Gateway to Learning” which was originally created and funded by the family of Heather Scalia-Khan. The newly updated bright and colorful space is bound to be a fun place for the youth of our area for years to come.



# Preservation

## Huntingdon Presbyterian Church



A Huntingdon Borough landmark that has stood the test of time! Built in 1873, Huntingdon Presbyterian Church is home to a timeless and beautiful sanctuary. The history is visible throughout with the original pews, woodwork and an 1889 organ still in use. Last updated in the 1950's, the sanctuary was in need of some upgrades for modernization while remaining true to the components of the original design. Amish craftsmanship was able to create matching pieces to the existing woodwork creating a new railing around the organ and in the creation of two new rooms in the back of the sanctuary. The new space will accommodate the AV system and offer a space for families of young children. In a post-COVID world, a lot of people continue to worship from their homes or while traveling making the new AV system a necessity for parishioners. New doors have been added to the facility as well as an online door lock system. Finally, to provide additional comfort for worshipers a heating and air conditioning system was installed.





# Preservation

## NAPA Auto Parts - Mount Union



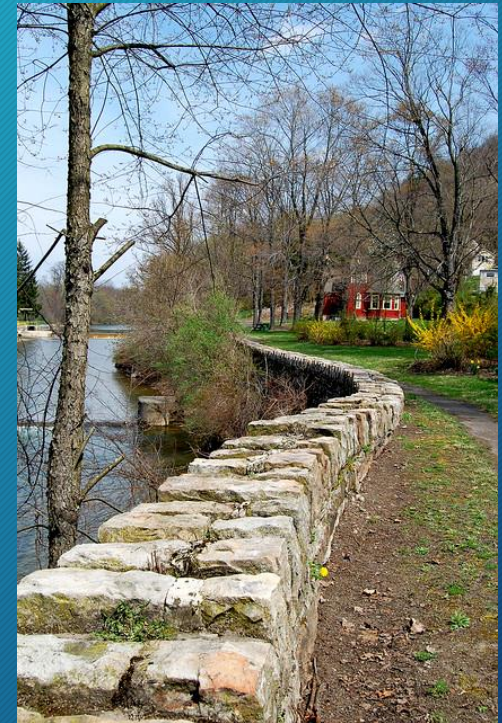
Save a trip and shop local for auto parts with a newly repurposed commercial property in Mount Union Borough. Formally a bank located along Shirley Street in Mount Union, the space was recently repurposed into NAPA Auto Parts. The bright and attractive appearance adds a street enhancement as well as a retail opportunity along one of the main thoroughfares in Mount Union. The store will offer locals, as well as repair shops, the ability to purchase items for repairs of their cars, trucks, tractors, equipment and heavy duty trucks locally all while increasing economic development and ease in purchasing closer to home.



# Special Merit

## Blair Park Revival

Gifted to Huntingdon Borough in 1897 by Kate Fisher Blair alongside her husband could this be the last standing monument to the Blair Family? With the loss the Blair Building and the renaming of the hospital the park could be the final remaining landmark of the Blair family. The Huntingdon Parks and Road Association are working actively to promote the legacy of the JC Blair family in Huntingdon by revitalizing the park and bringing more members of the community to the park in any part of their 18 acres spanning across three townships. Doted as being "Huntingdon's Hidden Gem" the park is not well known throughout the community and through the efforts of HPRA to make the park a known entity, help was sought first by a meeting with Mayor Yoder followed by two articles in The Daily News. The outreach resulted in contact with Huntingdon Rotary who offered a grant application for the purchase of paint for both the gazebo and picnic table and the labor was provided by SCI Huntingdon. Community support came shortly thereafter with offers to fundraise and volunteers for maintenance. The first fundraising efforts were in the hosting of their first annual 5K race during Oktoberfest and the 15<sup>th</sup> Street United Methodist Church designated Blair Park as the recipient of their annual "Music, Music, Music" concert. These funds will aide in future trail maintenance and enhancements. Be sure to check out the park for your next hike, picnic, or just to enjoy the quiet beauty of nature.



We are grateful to work in  
Huntingdon County where the  
community spirit is thriving and the  
dedicated residents make a  
difference every day!

The Planning and Development Department thanks you for your continued support and for joining us tonight to celebrate our achievements as well as applaud our Community Improvement Award Winners