

THE HUNTINGDON COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

**2022
ANNUAL DINNER MEETING &
COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT
AWARDS**

March 9, 2023

FEATURED SPEAKER NATHAN REIGNER

PA'S FIRST DIRECTOR OF OUTDOOR RECREATION

A native of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, Nathan Reigner graduated from Upper Perkiomen High School and earned a bachelor's degree in Anthropology and Sociology from Gettysburg College, a Master of Science in Forestry from Virginia Tech, and a Doctorate in Natural Resource Management from the University of Vermont.

Nathan has “extensive experience analyzing, planning for, managing, and building collaboration to support outdoor recreation at every level from the local to the international.” He has served as a “policy analyst, consultant, business owner, university professor, conservation commissioner, and trail club leader” and has done all this with a “focus on helping communities, parks, trails, and tourism destinations deliver outstanding experiences while protecting their essential character.” He has “worked in and with more than 100 parks, forests, trails, historic sites, and heritage areas in more than half the states and territories in the union and overseas in Europe, Asia, and the Middle East.”

As DCNR's first Director of Outdoor Recreation, Nathan's “mission is to help Pennsylvania fully realize the benefits of outdoor recreation.” He looks forward to using his experiences to “grow Pennsylvania's outdoor recreation and sustain natural resources.”



Menu

- Roast Beef
- Broccoli
- Grilled Chicken
- Corn
- Roasted Red Potatoes
- Tossed Salad
- Rolls
- Cakes
- Coffee, Tea and Water

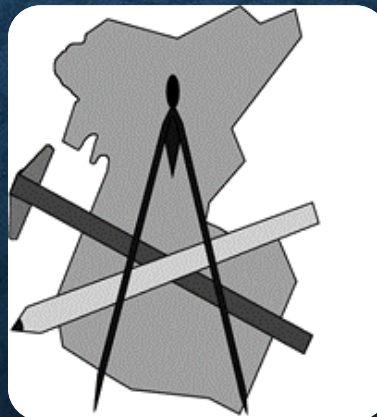
Agenda

- 6:00 - Reception
- 6:30 - Dinner
- 7:30 – Meeting
 - Opening comments/introduction of guests
Ron Rabena, Planning Commission Chairman
 - Presentation of 2022 Annual Report
James P. Lettiere, AICP, Planning Director
- 7:45 – Featured Speaker
 - Nathan Reigner, PhD, PA's Director of Outdoor Recreation*
- 8:00 – Award Ceremony
 - Award Introductions: Huntingdon County Chamber of Commerce
Michael Simone, Event Committee Chair and Immediate Past Board Chair
 - Award Sponsor and Presenters: Kish Bank**
Cheryl Shope, Vice President, Residential Lender

THE COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT AWARDS PROMOTES EXCELLENCE IN DEVELOPMENT

The Huntingdon County Chamber of Commerce and Huntingdon County Planning Commission are proud to announce the winners of the eighteenth 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 2022 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.
- Preservation includes the restoration, 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.

**Planning
Commission**

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Chairman

Larry Mutti
Vice Chairman

Lawrence Biemiller
Secretary

Philip Cahill

Wendy Melius

Patrick Reeder

Bryan Yingling

**Planning &
Development
Department**

James P. Lettiere, AICP,
Planning Director

Jen Bellis
*Community Development
Administrator*

Jayne Reck
*Assistant Community
Development Administrator*

Laurie J. Nearhood
Office Manager/Secretary

**County
Commissioners**

Mark A. Sather
Chairman

Scott Walls
Vice Chairman

Jeff Thomas
Secretary

Heather Fellman
Chief Clerk

COMMUNITY SPIRIT AWARD

HUNTINGDON COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL

313 12TH STREET

On April 1, 2022 the Huntingdon County Arts Council purchased the former 12th Street Methodist Church. The newly created Arts Center consists of the church building and the parking lot in the back at 313 12th St. in Huntingdon. While the physical appearance of both the inside and outside remain unchanged, the usage of the building has become a thriving arts center, benefiting residents from all over Huntingdon County.

With a new building and more space, the Huntingdon County Arts Council's programming has increased dramatically. The new Arts Center offers a regular series of classical, folk and ragtime concerts; a summer arts camp for kids; a year-round Art Shoppe (providing a venue for local artists to sell their artwork and for the public to purchase that artwork); an expanded list of classes and workshops; and a meeting space for formal and informal community groups.

Community response has been outstanding; and awareness of the arts and arts opportunities has reached new levels.



NEW CONSTRUCTION AWARD

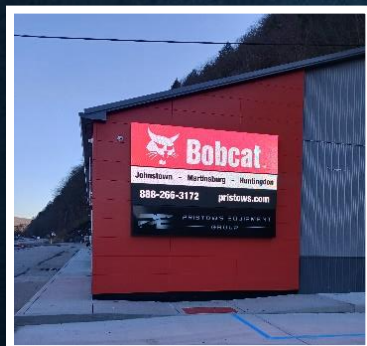
BOBCAT OF HUNTINGDON

Bobcat of Huntingdon is a new full-line construction and outdoor power equipment dealership owned and operated by Pristows Equipment Group. It was designed by Pristows Equipment Group following the brand standards set by Bobcat Company, and built by Timberline Buildings. The 7,900 square foot pole building was created by remodeling an existing 50' x 60' building and adding 70' x 70' of brand new space. The existing space serves as a garage and the new space is a bright, state of the art showroom with 14' ceilings.

The main exterior feature is the eye-catching 13.5' x 18' orange corner wall with a back-lit white Bobcat of Huntingdon logo. The Bobcat Exterior Identity Wall is a strong brand identifier that makes a bold statement and places focus on the signature color, "Bobcat Orange," and the brand logo. The logo was made and installed by Salix Cabinetry.

Two 12' x 6' LED screens on both sides of the building continuously display store-related information. These screens, installed by Scholar Signs, feature an illuminated Pristows Equipment Group logo underneath the scrolling display area.

This project transformed a blighted property with a mixture of new construction and a modern look. Inadequate and non-functioning septic systems were replaced; curbing was installed; and the building is fully ADA accessible.



PRESERVATION AWARD

400 PENN STREET (HUNTINGDON LANDMARKS)

The historic building at 400 Penn Street is part of downtown Huntingdon's National Register Historic District, having been erected in 1796. The three-story building is located on the highly visible corner of 4th and Penn Streets and has a street-level retail and café space as well as four residential apartment units on the upper floors. The total square footage of the building is 1,742.

The building was purchased in late July 2021 using funds provided through a grant to Huntingdon Landmarks from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development.

The first step was replacement of the deteriorating roof, which was causing interior structural damage. Although not visible from the street, this repair was a necessary first step in the preservation process. The next steps included renovation of one apartment followed by similar renovations to other apartments as they are vacated. Signature renovations include repairing masonry work and wooden soffits; repainting the entire building; and sealing the softer brick structure. Softer brick needs to be preserved with an exterior paint to ensure it does not excessively wear. The base color and accent colors were chosen from the historic palette to not only freshen the corner, but to compliment the surrounding buildings.

Interior work to the renovated apartment included replacing carpeting with floating floor; replacing an old radiator heating system with more efficient base heating; repainting the interior; modernizing the bathroom and kitchen with new appliances, countertops, cabinets, a bath/shower and toilet; and repairing leaking pipes.

The soon-to-be occupied retail space will provide tourist information and feature locally available products for sale. It is anticipated that office space will be available for a proposed "Community Leader" tasked with revitalizing the business district. It is also anticipated that the renovated apartments will provide an affordable housing option for the community.



PRESERVATION AWARD

BLUEGILLS BAR & GRILL

Bluegills Bar & Grill is a 1,800 square foot Alexandria landmark. Originally known as Main Street Café, the building was closed for three years and required a complete remodel because of neglect. A new roof and new floors were installed. New kitchen equipment was purchased for the enlarged kitchen; new ADA compliant restrooms were constructed; and modernized décor is used throughout the bar and grill areas.

The renovation of this community staple has also brought 20+ jobs back to the area and has given the local community a place to gather. Local vendors are utilized to enhance economic stimulation and a fresh and innovative cuisine is offered.



SPECIAL MERIT AWARD

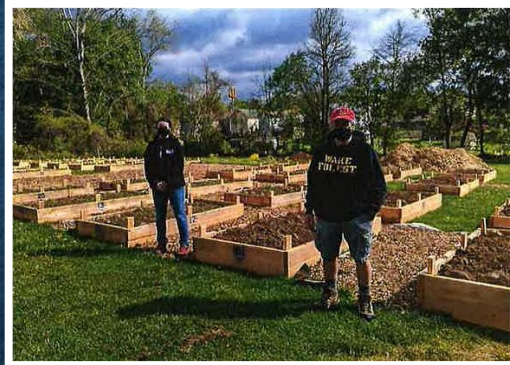
MOUNT UNION AREA COMMUNITY GARDEN

The idea for the Mount Union Area Community Garden first came about at a Juniata River Blueprint Community (JRBC) Meeting. The Mount Union Community Garden project met goals within the JRBC plan by improving both image and identity along with quality of life within the communities. An Act 13 Marcellus Legacy Fund grant from the Huntingdon County Commissioners provided \$10,000.00 toward construction of the garden.

The Mount Union Borough Council offered a 50' x 100' plot of land at Rogers-Newman Park. This site, located near a creek and in an area of open space with lots of sunlight, is perfect for the garden. Borough Council also offered a water source at no cost to gardeners.

Volunteers of the Mount Union Area Community Garden broke ground at Rogers-Newman Park in Mount Union in April of 2021. Forty raised garden beds were constructed, placed, and filled with soil according to the plan. Weed barriers were then placed between the plots and mulched. A fence was installed around the perimeter of the garden. A shed, complete with gardening tools, was installed to allow community gardeners access to tools to aid in successful gardening.

Two of the forty plots were used to temporarily plant blueberry bushes that were donated from the Conservation District. Another two plots were designated to grow food for the local food pantry and the remaining thirty-six plots were quickly assigned to community members that wished to utilize the garden in its first season.



**WE ARE GRATEFUL TO WORK
IN HUNTINGDON COUNTY
WHERE THE COMMUNITY
SPIRIT IS THRIVING AND THE
DEDICATED RESIDENTS MAKE
A DIFFERENCE EVERYDAY.**

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 Winners.