

Altoona Life

APRIL
2014



Providing a healthy dose of Altoona Attitude!

2013 EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR



Cindy Thurman has been employed with the City of Altoona since July of 2005. She works in the finance department. Her duties have included welcoming customers, hunting down answers to any questions, and fulfilling the duties of Utility Billing Clerk. Currently, her duties include processing accounts payable. Her duties over the years have often included "other duties as assigned." Cindy's ability to adapt to different job requirements and her devotion to getting the job accomplished is commendable. The City of Altoona continues to grow and Cindy meets the challenges of changes in requirements, equipment, and technology.

Cindy has been married for 21 years to her husband, Dennis, and has one son, Dallas. She enjoys dogs, bowling, family time and travel.

Congratulations, Cindy! Thank you for your hard work and devotion!

2013 EMPLOYEES OF THE QUARTERS



Susi Hoots has been employed as the Community Services Administrative Assistant since November 2003. She assists the Building Department working with contractors, plumbers, electricians, builders, and homeowners that require permits and information when building or changing their homes to meet the city code requirements. She has extensive knowledge, experience and communicates well. Susi was our 1st Quarter 2013 Employee of the Quarter.



Jeff Hand has been employed with the Utility Department since August 2008. His major job duties include televising and cleaning sewer and storm sewer lines throughout Altoona. Jeff always puts in his best effort and is willing to help out whenever needed. You can count on him to have a smiling face to greet you daily. Jeff was our 2nd Quarter 2013 Employee of the Quarter.



Chris Rhinehart is the Assistant Parks Supervisor and has been employed by the City of Altoona since July 1997. Currently, he has been devising a plan to respond to the Emerald Ash Borer outbreak and creating an inventory of the Ash trees on City property that will need to be destroyed and replaced. We appreciate his hard work and knowledge of the outbreak and ability to educate the city staff and public. Chris was our 3rd Quarter Employee of the Quarter.



Chris Dixon is one of our Secretary/Record Technicians with the Altoona Police Department and has been employed since June 2012. He has been very responsive to our customers and co-workers. He has a great attitude and hit the ground running when he came on. Chris is also one of our Reserve Police Officers. Chris was our 4th Quarter Employee of the Quarter.

WHAT'S NEW?

P1... Employee Recognition

P2... City Reminders

P4... City Departments
Highlights

P5... Random Info

CHECK OUT

ALTOONA'S

UPDATED WEBSITE

www.altoona-iowa.com

CITY WIDE CLEAN UP

COMING

Saturday, April 26, 2014

BLOOD DRIVE

Tuesday, May 22nd

2—6pm

TRASH/RECYCLING

PICK-UP DELAY

Monday, May 26th

Delayed until

Tuesday, May 27th

Delayed until

Wednesday, May 28th

ALTOONA REMINDERS



Park Bathrooms

The permanent bathrooms located at Haines, Lion's and Village parks will be open on approximately April 15 for the season weather permitting.

Please call City Hall at 967-5136 ext. 236 for shelter reservations.

Enclosed Shelters:

Lions Park Shelter

*1/2 Day Rates

\$75 – residents

\$125 – non – residents

\$100 – deposit for residents & non-residents

*Full Day Rates

\$150 – residents

\$250 – non-residents

\$100 – deposit for residents & non-residents

Open Air Shelters:

Haines Park Shelter

Haines Park Performance Stage

Haines Park Rose Garden Gazebo

Enabling Garden Shelter

Village Park Shelter

*1/2 Day Rates

\$50 – residents

\$60 – non – residents

\$50 deposit for residents

\$60 deposit for non-residents

*Full Day Rates

\$100 – residents

\$120 – non-residents

\$50 – deposit for residents

\$60 – deposit for non-residents

Rental Schedule:

Morning (1/2 day) 7:00am – 3:00pm

Afternoon (1/2 day) 4:00pm – 10:00pm

Full Day 7:00am – 10:00pm

SPRING CLEAN UP

Altoona's City Wide Cleanup is set for **Saturday, April 26th, 2014**. Please have all items out on the curb by 6:00am. Some common items that residents can place on the curb for pick up are: bagged clothing, charcoal grills, televisions, chairs, tables, mattresses, and carpet. Common items **NOT** included for pick up are: tires, concrete chunks, major building parts, large piles of building materials, asphalt shingles or appliances (microwaves, stoves, washer, dryer, dishwasher, water heaters, etc.)

NO SMOKING



The City of Altoona does not allow smoking in parks and at outdoor entertainment venues. This includes the sports fields located at Sam Wise Youth Complex, Spring Creek and Lions Park. This is in compliance with the Iowa Smokefree Air Act of 2008.

BRUSH DROP OFF

Residents wishing to deposit brush can enter through the gate north of the Altoona Aquatics Park and south of the Altoona Skate Park. Altoona Aquatics Park is located at 1200 Venbury Drive.

Please have information identifying you as a City of Altoona resident ready when you drop off brush. The brush pile is open from 8:00am – 12:00pm on the following dates:

April 5th

May 3rd

June 7th

July 12th

August 2nd

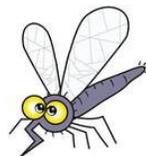
September 6th

October 4th

November 1st



PROTECTING AGAINST MOSQUITOES



Mosquitoes can be dangerous with their threat of transmitting diseases, such as encephalitis to humans and heartworms to pets.

The City of Altoona periodically sprays mosquitoes starting in April until sometime in October, depending on mosquito count and weather conditions. The City uses Kontrol 30-30 Concentrate and ULV Karrier Green. Altoona also uses an ultra-low volume cold aerosol insecticide generator/sprayer that targets mosquitoes. Mosquito control and your safety are important. That is why we use chemicals and techniques that meet EPA standards.

Please contact City Hall at 967-5136 if you do not want the City to spray your area for mosquitoes, or you want to be contacted prior to the city spraying in your area.

TIRE DROP OFF

Saturday, April 26, 2014

8:00am—12:00pm

Street Department

(406 5th Ave. SW)



RESIDENTIAL TREE PROGRAM



In recognition of Arbor Day, the City of Altoona will be selling a limited supply of trees to residents - limit 2 per household. The trees being offered include Black Gum, Redbud, Saucer Magnolia, and White Pine. The trees will be ¾" caliper in a 5 gallon pot. The cost is \$25 per tree. Pre-sale of the trees began February 13th and there are still plenty of trees available. Trees will be available for pick up during the Arbor Day Celebration on April 26, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. at the Enabling Garden which is located just south of Hy-Vee on 1st Avenue S.

The following are instructions for pick up:

- You **MUST** have your receipt with you to claim your tree.
- Trees will not be distributed before 8:00 am.
- Any trees left unclaimed after 1:00 pm will become a donation to the City of Altoona.
- Park in the parking lot just north of the Enabling Garden or directly east of Hy-Vee.
- **Bring your receipt to the staging area.**
- Once you check in, a volunteer will help you select your tree and carry it to your vehicle.
- If you need help planting your tree Altoona Boy Scouts have offered to provide assistance. Contact Chad Quick at 957-5117 to schedule a time.

REMINDERS

- You are responsible for calling Iowa One Call at 1-800-292-8989 before you dig. You must give at least a 2 day advanced notice (so if you want to plant your tree on Saturday, call One Call the previous week before Thursday).
- Avoid planting your tree within four feet of the sidewalk or driveway because as your tree grows the trunk or roots could affect your paving.
- If you live on a corner lot do not plant your tree within the corner sight triangle which is measured by connecting a line from a point twenty-five feet extended on the curb line from the end of return on each street. The end of return is the point where the radius or curved portion of the curb meets the straight portion of the curb.
- Avoid planting your tree within fifteen lateral feet of an overhead utility line, five lateral feet from water, sanitary or storm sewer lines, and ten feet of a fire hydrant.

UPCOMING BLOOD DRIVE

The Altoona Fire Department is hosting another Blood Drive on Thursday, May 22nd from 2pm—6pm. Please contact Jared Osterloh at 515-967-2216 to reserve a time. Walk-ins welcome! Thank you.



COMING SOON...

ALTOONA'S COMMUNITY GARDEN

This spring, the newly formed Healthy Altoona Partnership is planning to open a community garden near the Altoona Aquatics Park on Venbury Drive.

Altoona residents will be able to rent a plot in the garden with a one-year agreement to maintain the plot and abide by the garden policies. Gardeners can purchase a plot to grow produce for personal use and/or donate their produce to the local food pantry.

For more information on the Healthy Altoona Partnership visit www.healthyaltoona.com and be sure to "Like" their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/healthyaltoonapartnership.

FOOTING DRAIN PROGRAM CONTINUES

The next stage in the program is 12th Ave. NW. The improvements include the construction of an 8" water main along the west side of 12th Ave. NW from 4th St. NW north to the north side of Adventureland Dr. NW. Also, construction of an 8" storm sewer along the east side of 12th Ave. NW from 2nd St. SW north to Adventureland Dr. NW.

Homeowners affected by this project have been contacted. If you have questions, please contact Utilities Superintendent Karen Oppelt at 515-967-5136.

**ROAD
CLOSED**

I-80 WESTBOUND RAMP CLOSURE @ HUBBELL (HWY 65) Contractors will be closing the westbound Interstate 80 exit ramp to U.S. 65/U.S. 6/Hubbell Avenue and the U.S. 65/U.S. 6 entrance ramp to westbound I-80 near Altoona to reconstruct the ramps beginning at 11 p.m. Thursday, April 3. See more at www.altoona-iowa.com.



Sidewalk and Tree Inspection

Just a reminder the City of Altoona will begin its annual sidewalk and tree measuring inspection soon. Sidewalks that have settled 3/4" below existing sidewalks, or have more than 3/4" horizontal separation or have cracks more than 1" wide, spalling or excessive sloping will be marked.

Tree limbs that overhang on your sidewalk need to be a least 8' above the sidewalk. Any bushes, shrubs, evergreens, etc., need to be trimmed back so they do not protrude across the sidewalk path.

Please contact the Building Department with questions at 515-967-5138. Thank you.

CHANGES IN THE GRASS & WEED ORDINANCE

There are updates to the Grass & weed Ordinance. You can view the entire ordinance (Chapter 52) on the city website at www.altoona-iowa.com under "About Altoona" button, click "City Code" button. The following highlights the changes:

1. Residential Properties: Grass and weeds are not to exceed a height of six (6) inches.
2. Undeveloped Lots: Grass and weeds are not to exceed six (6) inches in height along the side and rear property lines for a width of 10 feet, the remaining property can have grass as high as 12 or 15 inches in height depending on how the property is zoned/utilized. This basically creates a maintained buffer area between undeveloped and developed properties.
3. The public right of way adjacent to all properties: Grass and weeds are not allowed to exceed six (6) inches in height. The right of way is described as the area between the back or edge of the street to the actual property line.
4. Commercial and Industrial: Grass and weeds are not allowed to exceed 12 inches. (also see #2)
5. Agricultural: Grass and weeds are not allowed to exceed 15 inches. (also see #2)



The outside warning devices (sirens) are activated by the Polk County Dispatch after there is confirmation from the National Weather Service (NWS). When activated, the tone last 3-5 minutes and it is resounded every 10-15 minutes for the duration of the warning period. There is not an 'all clear signal' for the outdoor warning sirens.

The outdoor warning devices are designed to be heard outside so you can take cover for something that is dangerously approaching. While inside your home you should be monitoring the local media or NOAA (weather) radio for updates on the storm. Outside warning devices shall be activated once per warning period determined by the NWS. If a warning period is extended by the NWS, the sirens will be activated again to notify that conditions will continue. Sirens are tested the first Saturday of each month at noon. If a siren in your area is malfunctioning, please call the Fire Department at 967-2216.



PUBLIC SERVICES INFORMATION



Please note: On 11-4-2013, the City Council passed an amendment to Chapter 70.03 – Parking Violations which modified the parking fine fees. The changes are as follows:

- Simple parking fine - \$15.00**
- Snow route & snow removal parking - \$25.00**
- Fire lane parking - \$50.00**
- Persons with disabilities parking - \$200.00**

Prescription Drug Drop Box



Do you have unwanted or unused *Prescription Drugs* in your house? Do Not dump them in the garbage, sink or flush them down the toilet...

Bring them to the Altoona Police Department and drop them off in our Prescription Drug Drop Box Location:

**Altoona Police Department Lobby
(700 1st Ave. S)**

Time: 8am-4pm Monday thru Friday;

Not open on Holidays



OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Officer Chris Lybarger was named the 2014 Police Officer of the Year at the February 17, 2014. Officer Lybarger was a liaison officer to a Des Moines metro task force. He has made a big impact through his participation as a task force officer. We appreciate the extra time and effort he has given over the years to make the Des Moines metro area safer.

OUTSIDE WARNING DEVICE



DRIVEWAY PARKING

Please remember to avoid parking where the sidewalk crosses your driveway. It becomes difficult and dangerous to maneuver around vehicles, especially if you are a small child on a bike or a person who has mobility limitations.

REPORT A STREET LIGHT OUT

If a street light is out in your neighborhood, you may have the light fixed by reporting it to MidAmerican Energy at 1-888-427-5632 or at <http://www.midamericanenergy.com> (click on the button labeled "Submit a Streetlight Repair Request"



WHO DO I CONTACT ABOUT HIGH WEEDS & GRASSES?



Please contact the Building Department at 967-5138 with questions or concerns.

You can view the entire ordinance (Chapter 52) on the city website at www.altoona-iowa.com under [http://www.altoona-iowa.com/download/City%20Code/Altoona%20Code\(2\).pdf](http://www.altoona-iowa.com/download/City%20Code/Altoona%20Code(2).pdf)

BLOCK PARTY

Block Parties which require the closing of a street within the City of Altoona require City approval for the event. In recognition that block parties build relationships with neighbors, provide social interaction among block residents, generally affect only those residents within the immediate area of the street closure and can help strengthen a neighborhood; and that block parties are generally less complex than special events open to the community at large, the City has developed this application particular to block parties and similar events.

You can review the Procedures for a Block Party and complete the application at the City's website www.altoona-iowa.com/i-want-to/plan-a-block-party/

Please contact Altoona Police Department at 515-967-5132 with questions or concerns.



ALTOONA AQUATICS PARK

1200 Venbury Dr.

*scheduled to open Memorial Day weekend weather permitting

SEASON PASSES CAN BE PURCHASED AT THE ALTOONA CAMPUS LOCATED AT 1500 8th St. SW # 967-0788

*For information on swimming lessons, please contact the Campus

2014 Park Fees:

Day Pass Fees

Resident Day Pass \$5.50
Non Resident Day Pass \$6.75

Resident Season Passes

Individual \$80
2 Person \$110
Each Additional Dependent \$20
Nanny Pass \$40

Non Resident Season Passes

Individual \$115
2 Person \$150
Each Additional Dependent \$25
Nanny Pass \$40



For information on the EMERALD ASH BORER:

Please check out the city's website at www.altoona.iowa/departments/community-services/parks

Altoona Public Library



Fizz, Boom, Read at the Library

If you've enjoyed our Silly Science programs in the past, you will love what we have in store for the summer! The theme for the kid's summer reading program is "Fizz, Boom, Read," and it promises to be full of experiments, exploration and excitement.

Children up to fifth grade will receive a reading log to track the amount of time they spend reading or being read to during June and July. But wait, there's more. Children and families will be able to join our Science Club, watch fantastic presenters, get moving at our free exercise classes and so much more.



Grades 6-12 are also encouraged to "Spark a Reaction," during the teen summer reading program. Teens will be mixing science, fiction and fun while gathering punches on their prize pass.

The kickoff for all the fun will be **Saturday, May 31** from 10am to 12pm for children up through 5th grade and 1pm to 3pm for grades 6 through 12. Keep an eye on the calendar or stop by the library for more information.

HOURS
Monday—Thursday
10am—9pm;
Friday & Saturday
10am—5:30pm;
Sunday
2pm—5:30pm