

Altoona Life

JULY
2015



Providing a healthy dose of Altoona Attitude!

BIKING AROUND TOWN



WHAT'S NEW?

- P1... Bike Safety
- P2... City Reminders
- P3... Upcoming Events
- P4... Safety Reminders

TRASH DELAY

Reminder trash pick up will be delayed by one (1) day the week of Labor Day

Ofc. Mike VanFosson instructed another police bike patrol class in June. Thanks goes to the Altoona Fire Department for allowing us to use their classroom. Six police officers from Altoona, Mitchellville, Boone and Norwalk attended the class. Our citizens will see the officers out riding the recreation trails, streets and neighborhoods occasionally. Feel free to talk with them or ride along for a while. For safety's sake, our bike patrol officers remind you to:

- **Wear a Properly Fitted Bicycle Helmet.**
- **Adjust Your Bicycle to Fit.** Stand over your bicycle. There should be 1 to 2 inches between you and the top tube (bar) if using a road bike and 3 to 4 inches if a mountain bicycle. The seat should be level front to back. The seat height should be adjusted to allow a slight bend at the knee when the leg is fully extended. The handlebar height should be at the same level with the seat.



- **Check Your Equipment.** Before riding, inflate tires properly and check that your brakes work.
- **See and Be Seen.** Whether daytime, dawn, dusk, foul weather, or at night, you need to be seen by others. Wearing white has not been shown to make you more visible. Rather, always wear neon, fluorescent, or other bright colors when riding day or night. Also wear something that reflects light, such as reflective tape or markings, or flashing lights. Remember, just because you can see a driver doesn't mean the driver can see you.

- **Control Your Bicycle.** Always ride with at least one hand on the handlebars. Carry books and other items in a bicycle carrier or backpack.

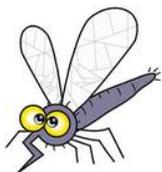
- **Watch for and Avoid Road Hazards.** Be on the lookout for hazards such as potholes, broken glass, gravel, puddles, leaves, and dogs. All these hazards can cause a crash. If you are riding with friends and you are in the lead, yell out and point to the hazard to alert the riders behind you.

- **Avoid Riding at Night.** It is far more dangerous to ride at night than during the day because you are harder for others to see. If you have to ride at night, wear something that makes you more easily seen by others. Make sure you have reflectors on the front and rear of your bicycle (white lights on the front and red rear reflectors are required by law in many States), in addition to reflectors on your tires, so others can see you.



ALTOONA REMINDERS

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.



Who do I Contact About High Weeds & Grasses?

Please contact the Building Department at 967-5138 ext. 150 with questions or concerns.

You can view the entire ordinance (Chapter 52) on the city website at <http://www.altoona-iowa.com/about-altoona/city-code/>

Go P-Free - Phosphorus-Free

Help prevent algal blooms and growth of unwanted aquatic vegetation in your streams and lakes. Fertilize your lawn—Not the River!

- Unless you have newly seeded lawn, most soils in Iowa provide all of the phosphorus needed.
- Understand the fertilizer label: NPK
N=nitrogen, P=phosphorus, K=potassium
- Choose a fertilizer that is P-Free or contains “0” phosphorus.
- Ask your commercial applicator to use only phosphorus-free fertilizer and have them sweep any excess from impervious surfaces such as driveways and sidewalks.
- In fall, aerate your lawn and add a thin layer of compost with grass seed.
- Try select, deep-rooted native grasses for minimal fertilization and watering.



DO NOT MOW OR SPRAY

You will see signs stating, “Native Prairie: Do Not Mow or Spray” on city property. These signs will be found in areas where Altoona has native prairie plants and grasses growing. These areas look beautiful in May, June and July but begin to lose their luster in late August and people can believe the areas are weeds and need to be mowed. In order for the prairie area to look beautiful the next year the plants have to be allowed to self sow. Please be respectful to these native areas not only on city property but private citizens who maintain native prairie areas. Thank you.



NATIVE LANDSCAPES

Native Iowa prairie plants and grasses are beautiful additions to any urban/suburban landscape. Once established, native landscapes are low maintenance areas that add diversity to the landscape and serve as excellent wildlife habitat. Native plantings are also good for the environment. Their root structure increases soil organic matter, builds soil quality and helps retain and infiltrate stormwater.

Planting them does not have to be restricted to wide open fields. There are many ways to include this colorful, diverse plant community in your own landscape. In urban/suburban areas, it is usually best to use short native plants to create an aesthetically pleasing landscape. They can be intermingled in more formal beds and borders or create a natural prairie garden. A turf border should be left to define the area or provide a path through the planting.

We have several brochures and handouts on Native Landscaping from the Iowa Stormwater Partnership and USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service available at City Hall. We hope these will be helpful in creating a landscape in your yard that promotes water conservation and protects our water quality.

NO SMOKING



The City of Altoona does not allow smoking in parks or 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.

Park Shelter Reservations



Please call City Hall at 967-5136 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

UPCOMING EVENTS



Music in the Park

@ Haines Park Stage

Sun., July 19th—6:00pm

Sun., Aug. 30th—6:00pm

Sun., Sept. 27th—6:00pm

CAP THEATER—Comedy of Errors

@ Haines Park Stage

Thurs, Aug. 6, 2015 7:00 pm

Fri, Aug. 7, 2015 7:00 pm

Sat, Aug. 8, 2015 7:00 pm

Sun, Aug. 9, 2015 2:30 pm

In the event of inclement weather the performance will be moved to CAP Theater

Sam Wise
Youth Complex
1000-8th St. SE

ALTOONA
PALOOZA

Altoona, Iowa
August 29,
2015

**FREE
ADMISSION!**

**8 AM TO
11 PM!**

2015 BRUSH DROP OFF DATES

Residents disposing of brush can enter through the north gate of the Altoona Aquatics Park (located at 1200 Venbury Dr.) and south of the Altoona Skateboard Park.

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:

August 1st September 12th
October 3rd November 7th



REPORT A STREET LIGHT OUT!

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



PUBLIC SERVICES INFORMATION



PRESCRIPTION DRUG DROP BOX

Do you have unwanted or unused **Prescription Drugs** in your house?

DO NOT dump them in the garbage, sink or toilet... Bring them to the Altoona Police Department & drop them off in our **Prescription Drug Drop Box**.

Location: Altoona Police Department Lobby
Time: 8am – 4pm Monday thru' Friday;
Not open on Holidays

OUTSIDE WARNING DEVICES



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' from 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.

ALTOONA PUBLIC LIBRARY



Altoona Public Library Hours

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

FREE WORKSHOP! SELF-DEFENSE FOR WOMEN

Altoona Police Department Workshop

August 10th @ 6:00pm

Call 515-967-3881 for register (Must be 18+ years of age)

Remember these driving tips to avoid "A Sudden Change in Plans" and perhaps save a life including your own!

Stay Alert and Minimize Distractions

- Dedicate your full attention to the roadway
- Avoid changing the radio station, using a mobile phone, eating, or other distractions that can remove your concentration from the road

Keep Your Headlights On

Pay Attention to the Road

- "Listen to the signs"
- Watch brake lights on vehicles ahead
- Watch traffic around you and be prepared to react

Merge into the Proper Lane

- Merge well before you reach the lane closure
- Be aware that traffic patterns can change daily

Don't tailgate

- Follow other vehicles at a safe distance

Obey the Posted Speed Limit

- Workers may be present just feet away
- Fines may be doubled for moving traffic violations
- Be prepared to slow down further if conditions indicate the need

Change Lanes Safely

- Change lanes only where pavement markings indicate, and only when traffic conditions permit

Follow Instructions from Flaggers

Expect the Unexpected

- Workers, work vehicles, or equipment may enter your lane without warning
- Other vehicles may slow, stop, or change lanes unexpectedly

Be Patient

Info provided by the Federal Highway Administration. <http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/wz/resources/fhwasa03012/>

**CHECK OUT MORE ABOUT THE
LIBRARY AT**

www.altoona.lib.ia.us/