

Altoona Life

JANUARY
2014



Providing a healthy dose of Altoona Attitude!

CHANGES IN THE COUNCIL FOR 2014

The City Council is ringing in the 2014 new year with one new member. Current Council Members Kyle Mertz and Michelle Sloan were re-elected in November 2013. Council Member Jeremy Boka won the run-off election in December 2013. Mayor Skip Conkling swore all three council members in at the December 16, 2013, council meeting. Please check out the city's website to find out more about our current council members at www.altoona-iowa.com.

WHAT'S NEW?

P1... Meet your Council

P2... City Reminders

P4... City Departments
Highlights

ALTOONA COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Open House &
Presentation

Wed. Feb. 5th @ 6pm

Altoona Public Library

Visit with the project team as they present ideas for how Altoona can prepare for the future of Altoona's housing, commercial and industrial development, transportation, and parks.

CHECK OUT
ALTOONA'S
UPDATED WEBSITE

www.altoona-iowa.com

CITY WIDE CLEAN UP
COMING

Saturday, April 26, 2014



Pictured above: Mayor Conkling & Council Member Michelle Sloan



Pictured above: Mayor Conkling & Council Member Kyle Mertz



Pictured above: Mayor Conkling & Council Member Jeremy Boka

Council Members Mike Harmeyer and Dean O'Connor complete our current council.



Mayor Conkling shared our appreciation to Gerald Nolin who filled the vacant council seat for the past year after Representative Joe Riding was elected to the Iowa House of Representatives.

ALTOONA REMINDERS



Park Bathrooms

The permanent bathrooms located at Haines, Lion's and Village parks will be closed on approximately October 15 for the season. Portable bathrooms located throughout the city parks will be removed for the season on approximately October 15. The City does this to protect the pipes from freezing.

Thank you.

CITY TRAILS IN WINTER



The City of Altoona does clear the snow off of the trails during winter. We do NOT treat the trails with salt or sand. The trails are cleared last following the city facilities' sidewalks and parking lots. Many

communities close all trails during winter months but we want ours to be open for use. Please enjoy the trails but be cautious of the weather conditions.

NOT SUITABLE FOR ICE SKATING

The following neighborhoods ponds are not suitable for ice skating at any time in the winter months. These ponds have aerators that continue to move the water. This makes it difficult to form ice thick enough to skate or walk on.



Falcon Ridge Storm Water Retention Pond (located north of Lakeshore Drive)

Library Windmill Storm Water Retention Pond (located directly south of Library parking lot)

WATER BILL PAYMENTS

Water bill payments are to due to the City Clerk's office by 4:30pm on the third (3rd) of each month. PLEASE NOTE: If the third (3rd) falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or a holiday when City Hall is closed, the bill will be due by 10:30am the next regular business day when City Hall is open.

WATER PAYMENT ARRANGEMENT

The only payment arrangement the City will accept is a signed agreement with the customer made prior to shutting off. The customer will only be able to enter into two (2) signed agreements during any 12-month time period.

BLOOD DRIVE RESULTS

The Altoona Fire Department hosted a Blood Drive on October 11th, 2013. Twenty-two people registered: 15 donated 1 pint each, 2 donated whole blood. Eight individuals were first time blood donors. Thank you.



WINTER PLACEMENT OF GARBAGE & RECYCLING TOTES

Please remember that your garbage and recycling totes must be accessible 18 inches from the curb. Your clean driveway approach may be the best option during heavy snow times. **Please do not place your toter on City streets.** City snowplows can not clear snow properly when totes are placed on city streets. This is especially true in cul-de-sacs which are impossible to plow if totes are placed in the road. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

WHY WAS MY TRASHED MISSED?

Due to poor weather trash pick-up on your assigned day may be delayed. Please remember to put your trash out by 6:00am the assigned day of your pick-up. Leave your trash out until it is picked up by Waste Management. The can be as late as 7 or 8 pm. This recommendation also covers the recycling totes that are picked up every other week.

If your trash and/or recycling has not been picked up by the following morning, please contact Waste Management at 515-244-7336.



Altoona Public Library HOURS



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

Inclement Weather Closings

The library reports changes in hours to the Des Moines Register, WHO, KCCI and posts information on our website and Facebook page.

ONLINE TOWN HALL

SHARE YOUR IDEAS! Go to the online town hall to share your ideas and see what other have to say about: parks & recreation options, types of housing needed or economic development projects. Visit cityofaltoonaia.mindmixer.com



SNOW ORDINANCE

All vehicles MUST be off the streets anytime there is an accumulation of 1 inch of snow or ice anywhere in the City, and remain off the street for 48 hours after the snow event subsides.

HOMEOWNER SNOW REMOVAL RESPONSIBILITIES

All sidewalks adjacent to your property are your responsibility. All complaint calls will be referred to the Building Department for follow-up and code enforcement.

Snow placed on sidewalks by City plows where the sidewalk meets the street is the responsibility of the property owner to remove. City snowplows will not clear private driveways except under emergency conditions and with the approval of the supervisor on duty. The snow placed in your driveway by the city plows is your responsibility to remove. Please do not move snow from your driveway into the street.

Clean around fire hydrants in your yard, so the Fire Department may have easy access to your hydrant in case there is a fire in your neighborhood. Please, also, try and keep your driveway and approach to your house clear in case the police or fire personnel need to respond to your home for an emergency.

Clean around mailboxes and be sure the mailboxes are properly installed behind the curb line to withstand snow clearing efforts by the City. **The City assumes NO responsibility for mailboxes damaged during snow removal.**

Altoona City Code 136.03 amended provisions pertaining to removal of snow, ice and accumulations. The amendment allows abutting property owners to sprinkle fine cinders, sand or deicing chemicals when accumulations have formed upon any sidewalk so that it cannot be reasonably removed. The sprinkling of these materials must be done in a manner as to provide traction and prevent the sidewalk from being dangerous to persons using the sidewalk for the entire length and width.

Winter Weather

Please remember that the arrival of winter weather requires a change in driving and parking habits. Even with all of the hours and effort of clearing snow and applying sand and salt the winter pavement conditions are never equivalent to and cannot be made the same as fair weather conditions.

Be sure to clear snow and ice from all of your windows before you drive, give your engine time to warm up to help the defroster work effectively, and allow extra time to slow down and stop at intersections. Also, you should pay close attention to weather forecasts. If you are going to be out of town for a few days, don't leave a vehicle parked on the street. Vehicles should be off the street whenever snow removal operations are anticipated or underway.

Street parking ban is in effect whenever there is an accumulation of 1 or more inches of snow, and remains in effect for 48 hours after a snow event has ended. The efficient removal of snow is imperative to keep streets clear for normal traffic and to allow for a safe response for emergency vehicles such as ambulances, fire trucks or police cars. Save yourself a headache, the cost of a ticket and the cost of an impound by observing the local snow ordinance.



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DART Tips for Winter Riding

The Des Moines Area Regional Transit Authority advises residents to plan accordingly when using DART services during winter weather conditions.

Check www.ridedart.com. Conditions can change quickly, and DART may be forced at times to detour or cancel service. Check www.ridedart.com for detours before you head out. Sign up for email updates about specific route service at <http://www.ridedart.com/email-updates.cfm>.

Leave early. Heavy traffic and poor road conditions require operators to slow down for safe travel, causing delays in the schedule. If winter weather conditions are present, consider taking an earlier trip ensure on-time arrival at your destination.

Be visible. Make yourself visible to an approaching bus by wearing light color or reflective clothing. It is also helpful to carry a small blinker light or flashlight, especially on dark winter mornings or evenings.

Play it safe. Be visible when waiting for the bus and wait for the driver to make a complete stop before your approach. Melting snow and ice can make the bus floor slippery; for safety, please hold onto handrails and seat backs when walking on the bus. When exiting the bus be sure to move directly away from the door and do not walk along the bus.

Dress warmly. Dress in layers to stay warm while walking to your stop and waiting for the bus. Don't forget to cover your head, neck and feet appropriately to keep in body heat and keep out moisture.

For more information, please visit www.ridedart.com or call DART Customer Service at 515-283-8100.

CONGRATS!



We celebrated the retirement of Deb Curry who has worked in City Hall since 2000. She has worked a variety of positions in the Finance Department over the past 13 years. We will miss her sunny attitude and wish her well in her travel plans.



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*

WELCOME!!!!

The City of Altoona would like to introduce you to:

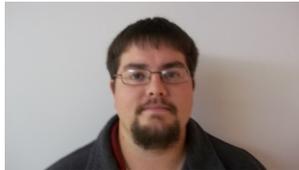
CHAD HULEN

Altoona Police Department is pleased to introduce Chad as our newest patrol officer. Chad is a certified police officer who worked for Pleasant Hill PD prior to coming to Altoona.



DANNY KNISPEL

Danny works in the engineering department as a Project Coordinator. He will help to inspect City projects to make sure the infrastructure meets the regulations specified by the city, state and federal governments. Danny worked for the City of Des Moines and Huxley prior to working with us.



MATTHEW KRAY

Matt is the new Utility Billing Clerk. He works in the Finance office at City Hall.



Matt replaces Cindy Thurman who will be moving to the Accounts Payable Clerk position and Jody Evans will be moving to the Secretary/Front Desk position being recently vacated when Deb Curry retired.

RYAN ABERNATHY

Ryan Abernathy is the newest addition to the Altoona Police Department. Ryan will attend ILEA in January to become a certified peace officer.



The City of Altoona is happy to add all four employees to our rosters!

Live Healthy IOWA
10 WEEK WELLNESS CHALLENGE

JAN 27 - APR 4 2014

Sponsored AND SUPPORTED BY:

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
Extension and Outreach

FOOD & FAMILY PROJECT IOWA

Live Healthy Iowa
@LiveHealthyIowa
888.777.8881 - info@livehealthyiowa.org

Kick-start your healthy lifestyle!
Team up and join the challenge at livehealthyiowa.org

LIVE HEALTHY IOWA IS PROUD TO SUPPORT
healthiest - state - initiative



Altoona Attitude—It's positively contagious!
www.altoona-iowa.com