

Altoona Life

JANUARY
2016



Providing a healthy dose of Altoona Attitude!

RIDING INTO RETIREMENT

WHAT'S NEW?

- P1... Happy Retirement
- P2... City Reminders
- P3... Winter Reminders
- P4... Library/Police/Fire

CITY WIDE CLEANUP

Saturday, April 30th



Vern Willey II retired from the City of Altoona in December after 41 years of service. Vern began his career working for the city in 1974 when Altoona's population was 2,883. Vern started working as a laborer and has worked in every department in the City except as a Police officer. No matter which role Vern was asked to perform, he did with the intent of making Altoona a better place to live. Vern will continue to serve Altoona now as a

council member after being elected this last fall.

Vern is an avid bicyclist and has been integral in making sure Altoona is a safe and fun environment for individuals and families to get outside to enjoy Altoona and the Greater Des Moines Area. We look forward to meeting up with him on the trails.



ALTOONA CITY COUNCIL—2016



The City Council will begin 2016 with one new council member. Recently retired, Vernon Willey II was sworn into office on 1-4-2016. (pictured left)

The City Council members have been assigned new email addresses this year. We hope you will be able to send correspondence more easily to the elected officials. You can contact the Mayor and Council Members as follows:

Mayor J.M. "Skip" Conkling at sconkling@altoona-iowa.com

Council Member Jeremy Boka at jboka@altoona-iowa.com

Council Member Kyle Mertz at kmertz@altoona-iowa.com

Council Member Dean O'Connor at doconnor@altoona-iowa.com

Council Member Michelle Sloan at msloan@altoona-iowa.com

Council Member Vern Willey II at vwilley@altoona-iowa.com

You will be able to find this contact information on the City's website at www.altoona-iowa.com.



WELCOME

The City of Altoona welcomes two new employees. Rachel Rozendaal (pictured left) was hired in November with the Engineering Department as a Engineer Technician I. Brett Jolly (picture right) was hired in December with the Building Department as a Housing Inspector.



ALTOONA REMINDERS



Park Shelter

Reservations

Park shelter reservations for 2016 will resume on January 5, 2016.

PLEASE NOTE: Lions Shelter can be rented all year. Please contact City Hall at 515-967-5136 to reserve Lions Shelter.

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

COMING SOON... ANNUAL TREE SALE

The City of Altoona Parks Department will be selling trees again this Spring in honor of Arbor Day. Check out the city's website at www.altoona-iowa.com in February for information on this year's Residential Tree program.

-SEWER RATE INCREASE -

The sewer rate per 1,000 gallons from \$6.71 to \$6.98 effective January 1, 2016. This increase was planned to cover debt service costs related to the WRA and the City's capital projects planned. This is our first increase since 2011.

CITY WIDE CLEAN-UP

Altoona's City Wide Cleanup is set for Saturday, April 30th, 2016.

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.)

PAY YOUR WATER BILL ONLINE

The City of Altoona is pleased to announce the availability of paying your utility bills online. We have partnered with Municipal Online Payments to bring this option to our residents. You may access the online payments website from our website www.altoona-iowa.com. You may also access the website directly at <https://www.municipalonlinepayments.com/altoonaia>.

Once you have accessed the website, you can make a one-time payment (called Quick Pay), or set up a Member Account with a unique user name and password. For either option, you will need to know your utility account number (with the dashes) that is found on your bill, AND your last payment amount. If you choose to set up a Member Account, you can view past consumption and payment history, and store your credit card information on the secure site for future payments. You only need to put in your utility account number and last payment amount the first time you set up a Member Account, but you will need it each time if you choose the Quick Pay option.

Our online service provider will assess a separate charge of \$1.25 for each online transaction that is made. This fee is retained by the service provider, and is not paid to the City of Altoona.

If you have any questions regarding online payments, please call 515-967-5136.

WINTER REMINDERS

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.**

Christmas Tree Pick Up

Only on December 28—January 8



Christmas trees placed at the curb on your regular trash collections day will be picked up. Trees must be free of all ornaments, have **NO** plastic bags on them, and must have a "Compost It" sticker (\$1.25) attached. If there is snowfall on the day of collection, you must be sure that your tree is accessible for pickup. Thank you.

CITY TRAIL 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.

WINTER TRASH & RECYCLING CART PLACEMENT



INCORRECT

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 tote 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.



CORRECT

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)





ALTOONA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Altoona Public Library Hours

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

Fingerprint Checkout

The Altoona Public Library has implemented biometric identification for check out. Patrons will have the option of registering a fingerprint instead of using a library card at the desk. Using an algorithm, the software will create a string of numbers that is stored on the server in the library, behind the firewall. The string of numbers is then linked to the patron's account, which is stored off-site. Actual fingerprint images will not be saved and the string of numbers cannot be traced back to a person.

Patrons are not required to register a fingerprint, but beginning February 1, 2016, the only forms of identification accepted for check-out at the desk will be a library card or registered fingerprint. If the pilot project is successful and funding can be secured, the pads may be added to the public computers and self-check machine.

There are a few other agencies in Iowa using this type of identification, but Altoona is the first public library in the state to offer this service.



CLOSURES DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER

Altoona Public Library and Altoona Campus may close early or not open if the weather is poor. The library reports changes in operating hours to the Des Moines Register, WHO, KCCI and posts information on their website and Facebook page. Please contact the library at 967-3881 or the Campus at 967-0788 in regards to weather closures.

AMERICAN LEGION PRESENTS...



Altoona Police Department and American Legion Altoona Post #682 are pleased to announce that Officer Mark Harmon has been selected as the 2015 Altoona Police Officer of the Year.

Ofc. Harmon is recognized for his proactive approach to enforcing motor vehicle laws, with the goal of reducing crashes and saving lives. In addition to leading the department in traffic enforcement efforts, he is one of the leaders in the number of calls for service response.

He serves as Altoona's coordinator for the Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau, he developed the Altoona Traffic Enforcement Unit and he currently serves as Vice-Chair of the Central Iowa Traffic Safety Task Force (CITSTIF).

Ofc. Harmon is awarded to a well-rounded officer/employee who has exceeded, above and beyond, the duty requirements expected in his/her position and/or has demonstrated a distinctive pattern of community service coupled with professional achievement.



The Altoona Fire Department and the American Legion Altoona Post #682 are pleased to announce Firefighter / Paramedic Anthony (Tony) Rauterberg has been selected as the 2015 Firefighter of the Year.

Firefighter Rauterberg is recognized for his dedication, leadership and for the work of a firefighter and all the patient's he has come in contact with along with his fellow workers.

He is always trying to improve himself and the Department and goes above and beyond of what is expected of him. He is described as hard-working and a honest individual who has an exemplary work ethic.

Tony is an individual who you can count on and he follows through and completes his assigned tasks. Tony has taken a personal interest in commercial business inspections for the safety of our citizens and visitors and he has worked many occasions with little notice covering someone else's shift. Tony is a natural leader with great aspirations and vision for the Department.