

Altoona Life

JULY
2016



Providing a healthy dose of Altoona Attitude!

WHAT'S NEW?

P1... Be Alert!

P2... City Reminders

P4... Pay on-line

P6... Fun at the Library

TRASH DELAY

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

CITY OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED FOR LABOR DAY

Monday, Sept. 5

A LITTLE TIME TO GROW

City of Altoona would like to thank Hy-Vee for their donation of 200 trees to the City. The trees will be allowed to grow up in the nursery and when the trees are larger will be added to the city parks and bike trails. The City also received a generous donation of 200 saplings through the DNR's Trees for Kids Programs. This is a great benefit to the community and the city as it saves the parks department from having to purchase larger trees for future projects.



BRACE YOURSELF!!!



Over the past several weeks we have heard of too many cases where people have left, or forgot, their child in a hot car. The Altoona Police Department has purchased some "Child in Car" bracelets that act as a simple reminder when you have that precious cargo on board.

The bracelet is easy to use. All you do is pull the bracelet from the car seat when you put your child in the car. Then you place the bracelet on your wrist or attach it to the steering wheel,... so you can see it, before you start your travels. Once you reach your destination you pull the bracelet off your wrist or steering wheel and put it back on the car seat when you remove the child from the vehicle.

The Altoona Police Department wants to be part of the solution to help prevent these kinds of incidents from ever happening again. If you would like a "Child in Car" bracelet you may stop by the Altoona Police Department between the hours of 7:30am and 4:30pm. Monday thru Friday.

Supplies are limited.

DON'T BE A VICTIM!
LOCK YOUR CAR
TAKE YOUR KEYS
REMOVE YOUR BELONGINGS

One of the more frequent crimes reported to the police department is burglary to a vehicle. Sometimes offenders enter a vehicle through an unlocked door or by breaking a window looking for valuables that are left in plain view. Some of the most popular items stolen are briefcases, cameras, cell phones, global positioning systems (GPS), I-Passes, I-Pods, purses, radar detectors, and wallets.

Vehicle Burglary Prevention Tips:

Here are some simple rules that can help deter and protect you from being a victim of this crime.

- When you park your vehicle at home or away, close your windows and lock doors, even if you're going to be gone for a short time.
- Remove and secure all valuables, including garage door openers & electronic accessories (GPS window brackets & power cords).
- Always park in a well-lighted area.
- If you have a garage, use it! Keep the garage door closed, especially at night.
- If you have to park your vehicle in your driveway overnight, leave on exterior house lights. Good lighting is one of the most efficient & least expensive means of security.
- Notify the police department of any suspicious people or activities in your neighborhood.



ALTOONA REMINDERS



Park Shelter Reservations

Please contact City Hall at 515-967-5136 to make a reservation.

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

BEFORE DIGGING

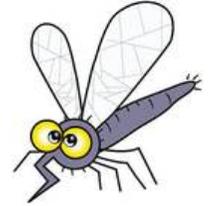
Please take the time to call Iowa One Call at 1-800-292-8989. Iowa One Call will mark your utility lines on your property. This service is provided for free and provides a very important safety measure. Avoid digging and planting where the utilities are marked.



Please contact the Building Department with any questions or concerns at 515-967-5138.

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.

There are breeding sites that are created by standing water, which may be found in street catch-basins, subdivision drains, roadside ditches, flood channels, ravines and other public right-of-ways. The City routinely performs larviciding, will keep these areas mosquito free.

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.

CITY BRUSH DROP OFF

The entrance to the City of Altoona brush pile has moved. 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:

Saturday, August 6 / Saturday, September 10 / Saturday, October 1

MUSIC IN THE PARK



Bring a chair, blanket or grab a bench to enjoy *MUSIC IN THE PARK* at Haines Park.

Sunday, July 25th @ 7:00pm

Sunday, August 28th @ 7:00pm

Sunday, September 25th @ 2:00pm

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.

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.

Clean Streams Start with Healthy Soil

Soil Compaction and lack of soil organic matter is not only a sure death sentence to all plant life, but it has the potential to pollute our streams and rivers and harm the aquatic life too. The trouble starts when not enough nutrients or moisture is in the ground when your lawn needs it to green and grow.

Both challenges can be overcome with a little time and effort. There are five simple steps you can take to start mending your yard, beginning with the soil.

- Re-open compacted ground through aeration, which mechanically creates voids in your yard by removing small plugs or soil cores.
- Re-fill newly created soil voids with quality compost.
- Re-seed with quality grass seed.
- Rake for a good "seed to soil contact."
- Water as needed and watch it thrive.

Information was provided through the Iowa Storm Water Education Program.



SIGNS SIGNS SIGNS SIGNS

Please be aware of where signs can be placed. As a general rule, signs cannot be placed on the street side of the sidewalk. They also cannot be attached to utility poles or road signs. Signs can only be placed on the property being sold or where the garage sale is taking place. Signs placed on City right-of-way are illegal and subject to removal. This includes real estate, garage sale and any other non-public sign. Please help keep Altoona's streets free of these signs. Thank you.



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

Time: 8am-4pm Monday thru Friday;

Not open on Holidays



GOING ON VACATION

The police are often asked: "Can the police check my home from time to time while I am gone?"

Yes! Stop by the police department and fill-out a **Vacation House Check form**. We'll put you on our special watch list. Or you can call us and we'll complete the form over the phone. (515) 967-5132 (press 3)



Altoona Public Library Hours

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

Join the fun!!!!!!!

Mermaid Party

Live mermaids! Saturday, August 20th at 1:00 p.m. we'll be home to a couple of mermaids. We'll be learning more about the ocean with help from some real mermaids. Join us for stories, crafts, and a chance to get your picture taken! Please register online.



Teen Design Studio

Join us for a quick tutorial on how to make your own designer creation, and then make your own to take home on Thursday, July 28 from 6:00—7:00pm. For ages 12-18.

Teen Lock-in: Glow Party

When the lights go out, the fun begins! Join us for our end of summer reading party in the dark. Participants must arrive between 9:30-9:45pm on Saturday, July 30, to enter and no late attendees will be admitted. There will be bowling in the stacks, glow stick games, mini-golf, music and snacks. For ages 12-18. **Registration is required.**

Giant Games and more for Seniors

Seniors - stop by the library for a match of cribbage, cards, backgammon, giant checkers, giant dominoes, and more! We'll supply some snacks, coffee, and tea - you bring your friends! It'll be non-directed, open house style, so come and go as you please. Our game time is 1-3pm on Tuesday, August 2 in the Community Room. If you miss that date there's always August 16th at 1pm.



Splat Studio

If you have \$5 and a desire to dabble in acrylics, we've got an adult art studio for you! Come to the Altoona Public Library on Friday, August 12 from 6-8:00pm. The library supplies a prepared canvas for dry painting, acrylic paints, brushes, easels, aprons, and space for you to spread out. Feel free to bring snacks and non-alcoholic beverages. Participants must arrive between 5:45 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. for entry. Space is limited, fee to be paid by cash or check at the time of the event. **Registration is required.**

REPORT A STREET LIGHT OUT!



If a street lights 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")

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.



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. (Illustration by Doug Adamson)

"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.

<http://www.altoona-iowa.com/about-altoona/city-code/>

CITY OF ALTOONA—

SELLING SURPLUS INVENTORY

The City of Altoona is selling surplus inventory on the internet.

For great bargains visit: www.publicsurplus.com
FREE access for the public. Only public institutions sell their items on this site.