

Altoona Life

APRIL
2020



Providing a healthy dose of Altoona Attitude!

2019 EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

WHAT'S NEW?

P1—2... 2020 Employee of the Year & 2020 Quarters

P3—4... City Reminders

P5... Sidewalk/Tree Program

P6... Water/Library News

TRASH DELAY

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



Erin Wiggins has a heart for serving, and always goes the extra mile to help citizens and others that come into her path. She can often be seen out on the sidewalks and jobsites in a pair of pink mud boots that readily identifies her from the other inspectors. She takes ownership of the programs she administers, and has utilized her professional touches to create more functional and accurate databases and record keeping. Her attitude and personality are a joy to work with every day, and she has become a very valuable asset to the City of Altoona.

She has been involved in housing construction in the Des Moines area for the past 20 years, and serves as the City's Housing Inspector/Code Compliance Officer. She has achieved certification as an ICC Property Maintenance and Housing Inspector, and currently maintains her Energy related certifications that include, RESNET, LEED, and Energy Star designations. Along with these, she also has a Certificate in Divinity, and is continuing her seminary classes to achieve her goal of obtaining a Masters of Divinity Degree. Erin lives her husband, Mathew, and their two children in SEP school district. They enjoy camping, playing games together, and hanging out with friends when they have free time.

EVERY DAY IS THE WEEKEND—HAPPY RETIREMENT!



Lynda Heldt retired in January after working 23 years for the City of Altoona. Lynda worked in the Altoona Police Department for the entirety of her career with Altoona. She has worked through the explosion of population growth and the growth of the Altoona Police Department. Lynda has worked with three different chiefs and only three of the original police officers remain that she started with.

She is excited to spend her time with her husband, children and grandchildren. Lynda looks forward to relaxing in the morning and not having to commute in terrible winter weather. We will miss her.

Dick Chipp retired last October. Dick began working with Altoona in the Streets Department in 1997. As the city grew so did the jobs needed. Dick finished his career as the Maintenance Supervisor. Dick's many skills and talents which he was able to share with all the departments has always been an asset to Altoona.



Dick's retirement is our loss but well deserved break from the daily call of the time clock. Retirement will offer him so many opportunities to enjoy himself.

Please check out www.altoona-iowa.com for updates on city services during the public health disaster emergency.

2019 EMPLOYEES OF THE QUARTERS

1st Quarter—Amos Purcell



Amos started his career with us in 1997 and is a senior officer assigned shift II, day shift.

Officer Amos Purcell is being recognized for his natural and needed leadership. Amos takes on these leadership responsibilities by being the natural leader that he is. Amos provides direction, without hesitation or prompting, instinctively making decisive well above his pay grade decisions. Throughout Amos's tour of duty, he goes above and beyond the call. He looks for long-term solutions, provides excellent customer service and carries out the mission of community policing. Amos is well known and knows well his assigned area of operations.

Amos also has had his share of large scale incidents throughout 2019 and by his actions, Amos has ensured our mission success. Amos continues to lead and continues to be a leader.

Well Deserved Amos!

2nd Quarter—Tad Watson



Tad, pictured with his wife, Brittney and his sons, has only been with the City of Altoona a couple of years but his contributions are having big impacts.

Tad has taken the lead on organizing and inventorying the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) at AFD. Tad has spent many hours organizing, cleaning and entering PPE into a computer tracking system. Tad has taken this project on himself with pride and enthusiasm, and provides a great example of going the extra mile for the organization.

Congrats Tad!

3rd Quarter—Craig Steenhoek



Craig Steenhoek is an operator for the parks department. He has been with the city since 2007.

Craig does an excellent job with his daily duties in the Parks Department and willingly helps out wherever he is asked in the City. Craig has been a member of the Safety Committee for several years and is always very engaged in the topic of safety. He does a great job performing safety audits and contributes in all of the committee meetings.

Recently, Craig played an integral part in our moving to the new City Hall. He was more than willing to help staff out with moving and hauling boxes whenever asked. Craig gets along with everyone and also helps supervise the summer kids.

4th Quarter—Danny Knispel



Danny began his career with the City of Altoona in November 2013. He is now a Civil Engineer II. 2019 saw many changes within the engineering department and Danny stepped up. This award is for Danny's overall asset to not only the Engineering department, but the City as a whole.

Danny's efforts in orientating the new City Engineer to the City have been extremely helpful especially during budget season. He has been instrumental in helping him understand the history of our various projects and how they have fit into the previous budget plans. Danny has also been great in introducing the City Engineer to our local Contractors in the field. His relationship with our Contractors and our developers have made reaching resolutions on potential problems simple.

POLICE DEPARTMENT PROMTIONS

Congratulations to both on the promotions!



Brent "Tony" Chambers (pictured left) and Todd Trobaugh (pictured right) were promoted at the beginning for January from Police Lieutenant to Police Captains.



CONSTRUCTION SEASON

To stay up to date on street closures, detours or delays, please check the city's website or sign up for the city's twitter feed. The information is listed under the "News to Know" on the main page. For some specific project updates you can check out the Engineering Department at <http://www.altoona-iowa.com/departments/engineering-2/>



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 Park Shelter

Haines Park Rose Garden Shelter

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

RENTALS HAVE CEASED DUE TO COVID-19.

Please check the city's website for updated information: www.altoona-iowa.com

2020 SPRING CLEAN UP



is postponed until further notice due to the COVID-19 emergency. Please check the city's website for updated information: www.altoona-iowa.com

ANNUAL TREE SALE

If you ordered a tree or are still interested in one of the trees offered in our annual tree sale, please contact Jody Phelps at 515-967-5136.



CITY 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:

Saturday, May 2

Saturday, July 11

Saturday, September 12

Saturday, June 6

Saturday, August 1

Saturday, October 3

BAG & STICKER PROGRAM

Compost it! Bags

\$8.00 for a bundle of five (5) bags. Sold at city halls, grocery stores and hardware stores.

City Hall is currently closed to the Public. Please contact Jody at 515-967-5136 to purchase stickers.



Compost it! Stickers

\$1.25 per sticker. Sold at many city halls, grocery stores and hardware stores. These must be attached to generic or store-brand compost bags. Attach a Compost It! Sticker to each brush bundle and place it next to carts or bags. Bundles cannot exceed 18 inches in diameter or four feet in length.

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.

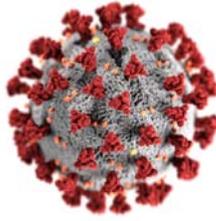
REPORT A STREET LIGHT OUT!



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")

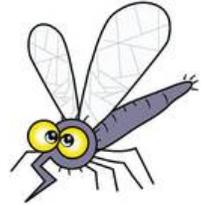
Covid-19 INFORMATION

You can follow all the updates in regards to the City of Altoona at <https://www.altoona-iowa.com/covid19/>
You will also be able to find updates on different department's Facebook pages and our Twitter feed.



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, which 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.

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 lasts 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.

Sustainable Lawn Care

Help prevent algal blooms and growth of unwanted aquatic vegetation in your streams and lakes.

- 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.



RAIN BARREL GRANT PROGRAM



The City of Altoona is offering a rain barrel grant program to promote stormwater best management practices throughout the city. Rain barrels collect and store rainwater from rooftops for watering lawns and gardens. The water captured reduces the amount of stormwater running off the property during rainfall events.

You can find the application on our website at <http://www.altoona-iowa.com/2019/03/29/rain-barrel-grant-program/>

NOTE: Because this water is not treated, it should not be used for drinking water.

GRASS CLIPPINGS

Please do not blow grass clippings into the street. Not only does the City have an ordinance against such action, grass clogs the storm sewer system and creeks, causing flooding and back up problems during heavy rains. Try mulching your grass on your yard. This will cut down on your need for fertilizers.

Sidewalk and Tree/Shrub Inspection Program

Spring is here! It is that time of year that the City of Altoona will begin its annual sidewalk and tree/shrub inspections in the very near future. So, how does this work, you may ask. The city has identified four (4) zones for this program; these zones are on a rotating schedule and each year one (1) zone is walked by the City to identify any defects and encroachments that are defined by Chapter 136 (Sidewalks) and Chapter 151 (Trees) of the Altoona Code of Ordinances. In 2020 we will be focusing on Zone 1 (please see map for details of this area). We will only be inspecting sidewalks and encroaching trees/shrubs located within this zone. If a complaint is received regarding issues of a sidewalk condition or an encroachment of trees/shrubs located outside this particular zone we will conduct an inspection and if it is deemed there is a compliance issue than the appropriate action to bring the property within compliance will be mandated.

What to Expect: As the City walks the sidewalks any defects requiring repair/replacement will be identified with pink paint. If the sidewalk abutting your property is marked don't panic! We will be in touch with you shortly regarding your specific options.

Sidewalk Notification: Once inspections of the designated area are completed, the property owner will be notified via certified letter of the deficiency that exists on the property and the acceptable "fixes" for the identified defects. This notification shall provide a reasonable degree of time in which the sidewalk can be repaired/replaced by the owner of the property.

Tree/Shrub Notification: Once inspections of the designated area are completed, the property owner will be notified via a letter of the deficiency that exists on the property. This notification shall provide a reasonable degree of time in which the trees/shrubs must be trimmed by the owner of the property.

The following sidewalk defects will be marked with pink paint:

- A. Vertical separations equal to one-half (1/2) inch or more.
- B. Horizontal separations equal to one (1) inch or more.
- C. Holes or depressions equal to three-fourths (3/4) inch or more and at least four (4) inches in diameter.
- D. Spalling over fifty percent (50%) of a single square of the sidewalk with one or more depressions equal to one-half (1/2) inch or more.
- E. Spalling over less than fifty percent (50%) of a single square of the sidewalk with one or more depressions equal to three-fourths (3/4) inch or more.
- F. A single square of sidewalk cracked into six (6) or more pieces.
- G. A sidewalk with any part thereof missing to the full depth.
- H. A change from the design or construction grade equal to or greater than three-fourths (3/4) inch per foot.

The following tree/shrub encroachments will be identified:

1. The tree(s) on, or overhanging the sidewalk, has branches that are lower than 8 feet from the surface of the sidewalk; and/or
2. The tree(s) on, or overhanging the street, has branches that are lower than 14 feet from the surface of the street; and/or
3. Shrubs are overhanging/encroaching onto the sidewalk.

Tree branches are measured vertically from the surface of the street/sidewalk to the lowest projecting limb.



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

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.

Does a swimming pool require a permit?

It depends on the pool. If it's a temporary above ground children's pool of 24 inches or less, you do not need a permit or an inspection. If it's anything above 24 inches, you do need a permit. You also need a 4 foot, non-climbable barrier, and the pool has to be located in the rear yard, out of any easements. There are a few other requirements as well.

Please feel free to call the Building Department at 515-967-5138 with any additional questions you may have.

Irrigation Meters

An irrigation meter is a separate meter that measures the amount of water used for items such as lawns, washing exterior surfaces, washing vehicles, filling pools, etc. By having the irrigation meter installed the sanitary sewer fee is not assessed for water registered by the irrigation meter, which would include outside faucets. A separate meter is the only way to accurately measure the water used exclusively from outside faucets.

The cost of the meter is \$130.00 plus plumbing permit fee and is installed by a City employee after the plumbing has been completed. The homeowner may do the plumbing if a plumbing permit is issued. You can find information on irrigation meters at www.altoona-iowa.com under the water department tab.

EFFICIENT WATERING METHODS

Trickle irrigation and drip irrigation systems help reduce water use and meet the needs of plants. With these methods, very small amounts of water are supplied to the base of the plants. Since the water is applied directly to the soil, rather than onto the plant, evaporation from leaf surfaces is reduced. The water is also placed where it will do the most good, rather than sprayed over the entire garden.

Summer Irrigation Odd-Even Watering Schedule Odd-Even Watering Schedule

Landscape irrigation makes up a large portion of water consumption. The City of Altoona supports residents and business owners to use water wisely. The city recommends an outdoor irrigation schedule that follows:

- Watering is NOT recommended on Monday.
- Even-numbered addresses are encouraged to water on Sundays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, before 10am or after 5pm.
- Odd-numbered addresses are encouraged to water on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, before 10am or after 5pm.
- Watering is not recommended during the hottest part of the days hours of 10am and 5pm.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
EVEN		ODD	EVEN	ODD	EVEN	ODD

Swimming pool needs filling?

Contact Kassie at City Hall for options
515-967-5136.



Altoona Public Library Hours



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

Be Creative

Feeling crafty? Try out *Creativebug*, the new, free database we're offering for Altoona and rural Polk county residents.

Choose from thousands of classes with new content being added every week. There are projects for all skill levels along with customer support for users. Download patterns, templates and recipes that are certain to unleash the artist within you.



There are adult online classes and techniques offered in art and design, paper craft, sewing, quilting, knitting and even jewelry. Classes for kids range from slime-making to origami and mask-making to manga drawing.

Users can save favorite classes and receive personalized recommendations. Visit <https://www.creativebug.com/lib/altoonalibrary> to get started. You will need your library barcode and PIN to create your account.

Summer Reading at the Library



Beanstack

Our summer reading program has gone virtual – with a new reading app called Beanstack! You can track reading by time or number of books, and can even use your phone to scan ISBNs to create book lists. The app is free to download and easy to use. The children's reading program for ages 12 and under starts on Monday, June 1st. Additional challenges will be available for adults and teens. Check the library website for more details as they become available.

New Sensory Room

We've just installed a new sensory play area in the children's room, including a projector, light tunnels, a balance beam and an interactive LED panel. The interactive display will help children work on large and small motor skills, coordination, balance, sensory input, and many other benefits. The equipment was purchased with generous funds from a Facebook Community Action Grant.

