

# Altoona Life

JANUARY  
2020



*Providing a healthy dose of Altoona Attitude!*

## CITY OF ALTOONA MOVES INTO NEW FACILITIES

### WHAT'S NEW?

- P1... We Moved!
- P2... Welcome/Promotions
- P4... Winter Reminders
- P6... Tree Program
- P7... Library News

### CITY WIDE CLEANUP

- Saturday, April 18—  
Monday Trash Day
- Saturday, April 25—  
Tuesday Trash Day
- see details on page 4-



### You can help!

The City of Altoona relies on our residents to let staff know of safety concerns created by weather conditions, snow removal operations, water main breaks, potholes, etc. If you have a concern, please contact City Hall at 967-5136 (Monday—Friday; 8am—4:30pm) or 967-2734 (during off hours and weekends).

The City of Altoona's City Hall and Police Department moved into the new facilities located at 900 Venbury Drive. The City Hall includes the departments of Administration, Building, Engineering and Financing and occupies Suite A. The Police Department occupies Suite B. The new facilities also includes new council chambers. The city will hold an open house in the Spring.

Pictured above (left to right): Council Members Kyle Mertz, Elizabeth Burns-Thompson, Vernon Willey II, Mayor Dean O'Connor, Council Members Jeremy Boka and Scott Duer.

## Metro Home Improvement Plan

The City of Altoona, with the collaboration of seven other metro cities, participates in The Metro Home Improvement Program (MHIP) with the purpose to preserve affordable housing stock in these communities. The participating cities are Ankeny, Altoona, Bondurant, Grimes, Polk City, Urbandale, West Des Moines and Windsor Heights. The Program is currently accepting applications from homeowners interested in the program. The Program is able to assist three to four homeowners per funding period per city. Homeowners that are not assisted presently will be placed on a waiting list for the next available funding.

- continued on page 7



Council Member Elizabeth Burns-Thompson took office on Monday, January 6<sup>th</sup>. She currently works at Renewable Energy Group, Inc. as a manager of corporate affairs. She grew up on a farm in Eastern Iowa. Burns-Thompson moved to Altoona approximately 5 years ago and jumped right in with several civic opportunities. This is her first time serving on city council.



Pictureed (left to right): Lochlan McIntosh, Corey Eshelman and Adam McDaniel

Adam McDaniel joined our Utilities Department in July 2019. The Utilities Department services Altoona by providing clean water, moving sewer water to the Water Reclamation Authority and maintaining the storm sewers. Before working for Altoona, Adam worked with United Pipe Renewal and Hydro Klean. Adam grew up in the Des Moines area. He currently lives in Norwoodville with his wife, Samantha and their two sons. In his spare time, he enjoys being with his family and participating in sport activities with his sons.

Corey Eshelman began working with the Utilities Department in September 2019. He grew up in the Altoona area and because he loved it so much he continues to stay. We were lucky to get Corey to join us from his previous job at the City of Colfax's water department. He enjoys fishing and camping with his wife, Mekenna, and two children.

Lochlan McIntosh came to Altoona from The Baker Group in August 2019. He has been an electrician in the Des Moines area for the past 22 years. Lochlan is a facilities specialist in our Maintenance Department. He makes sure the buildings run

efficiently. Lochlan grew up in Bondurant and currently lives north of Mitchellville with his wife of 25 years, Dawn, and four sons. He enjoys watching his boys play baseball and likes to hunt and fish.

Altoona Police Department welcomed Brenna Konrad as a new Administrative Support—Records Technician. She will be replacing Lynda Heldt who is retiring this January. Brenna previously worked for the Des Moines Police Department as a Public Safety Dispatcher. She grew up in Granger and currently lives in Hartford with her husband, Dustin, and two children. When Brenna has some free time she enjoys reading or binge watching MasterChef with her husband.



John Dostart was hired in October 2019 as City Engineer. He graduated from Iowa State University attending after growing up in western Iowa. He received his master's degree in Civil Engineering from University of Texas. He most recently worked for the Iowa Department of Human Services as their Field Engineer and prior worked as a Urban Engineer for the Iowa Department of Transportation. The past 10 years he has lived his wife, Deena, and two children in Altoona.

Dostart enjoys biking on Altoona's trail system and playing in a hand bell choir at his church in his free time.



Front Row (l-r): Chaplain Jeff Hanna, Reserve Officer Bobby DuBois, Reserve Officer Hunter Girling, Sgt. Chris Lybarger, Sgt. Jacob Smith, Mayor Dean O'Connor

Middle Row (l-r): Chief Greg Stallman, Sgt. Mark Harmon, Officer Tyler Moffatt (blocked), Lt. Steve Harris,

Back Row (l-r): Capt. Tony Chambers, Officer Tyler Palmer, Capt. Todd Trobaugh, Lt. Brett Handy, Officer Jason Ferguson

**Mayor Dean O'Connor swore in new Police Chaplain Jeff Hanna and Reserve Police Officers Bobby DuBois and Hunter Girling on August 5, 2019.**



## WELCOME AND CONGRATULATIONS!

Mayor Pro-Tem Jeremy Boka swore in Deputy Fire Chiefs Jeremiah Pratt (left) and Lance Routson (right). Jeremiah Pratt has worked for the City of Altoona since July 2017. Lance Routson was hired in October.



Lance Routson previously worked with the Cities of Johnston, Cedar Falls and Urbandale. He had been serving as a Fire Lieutenant with the Urbandale Fire Department for 12 years. Lance grew up in the Des Moines Metro Area. Lance currently lives in Urbandale with his wife, Kyla and their three children. They stay very busy but in his free time, Lance likes to read, watch sports and is a pilot and aviation enthusiast.



Congratulations **NICE GOING!**  
**GREAT!** Way to Go!  
 Yea! **FELICITATIONS**  
**CHEERS** Take A **BEST**  
**BOW!** **WISHES!**



On January 6, 2020, Mayor Pro-Tem Jeremy Boka pictured right swore in three promoted Altoona Police Officers to the role of Sergeant. Pictured left to right: Sergeants Jacob Smith, Ryan Abernathy and Chris Lybarger. (pictured above.)

On October 8, 2019, Mayor Dean O'Connor pictured right swore in Altoona Police Sergeant Mark Harmon. (pictured right.)



Mayor Dean O'Connor recognized Captain Anthony Chambers for graduating from the Northwestern University Center for Public Safety on August 5, 2019.



The Altoona Fire Department received a Community Betterment grant from Prairie Meadows in July. The grant was written to update the mobile data technology in our department's apparatus (computers in the apparatus). We utilize these computers to obtain valuable information while en-route to an emergency. We also utilize these computers to generate reports and obtain patient information while on scene (paperless reporting). The grant was in the amount of \$30,000.

We also received a grant from Polk County Board of Supervisors in the amount of 5,000 for educational materials. We will utilize these funds to provide materials on FD and fire safety to kids and adults alike. (Pictured right: Fire Chief Jared Ogbourne.)



# SNOW MUCH FUN!

City of Altoona attempts to remove all snow from all streets in a reasonable amount of time following a snow event. The first priority is to get the arterial streets cleared and maintained to provide access for the public, police, fire and rescue units.

Sand, salt, and liquid de-icers are used to maintain the roads during winter weather events. The truck pictured is one of many the City uses to clear the roads and apply sand and salt. Please maintain a safe following distance of at least 50 feet from all snow removal equipment.



Streets may be temporarily closed if they become impassible due to automobile accidents or stranded automobiles. City roads will be cleared only if city equipment can safely push the snow without hitting vehicles parked in the street. Cul-de-sacs will not be cleared if garbage and recycling totes are placed in the city street. The roads will be cleared when the obstructions are removed either by the owners or towed at the owner's expense.

## 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.

## CITY WIDE CLEAN-UP



Altoona's City Wide Cleanup will run a little differently this spring. The city wide clean-up will take place over two (2) separate days.

If **Monday** is your scheduled trash day, then **Saturday, April 18th** is the day for your clean-up items. If **Tuesday** is your scheduled trash day, then **Saturday, April**

**25th** is the day for your clean up items..

Please have all items out on the curb by 6:00am of your designated morning. 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.)



**SATURDAY, APRIL 25th**

**8AM – 12PM**

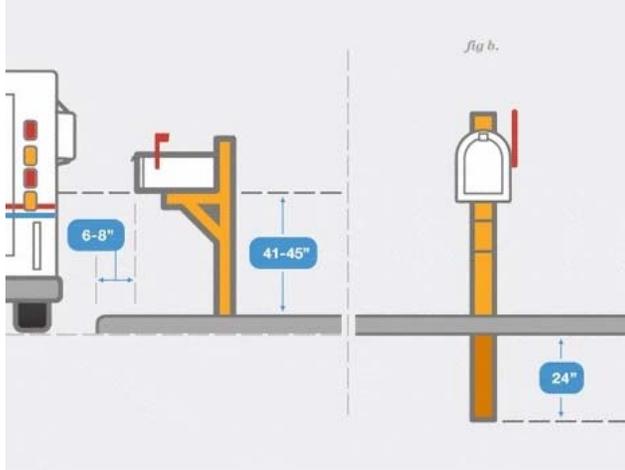
The City of Altoona will have a tire drop off at the Street Department, also, on April 25th. Residents of Altoona can drop off a household maximum of five (5) tires (**rims removed**) at 406 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW (across from Altoona Elementary playground) between 8:00am and 12:00pm.

**Please present your driver's license to verify your residency.**

*This program does **NOT ACCEPT** the following types of tires at the collection site:*

- Tires generated from businesses
- Farm or tractor tires
- Solid tires (lawnmower, forklift or golf cart tires)
- Bicycle tires

# WINTER REMINDERS



Clean around mailboxes and be sure the mailboxes are properly installed behind the curb line to withstand snow clearing efforts by the City. The illustration shows proper placement required by the U.S. Postal Service. To understand the USPS requirement, please check out the following website: <https://www.usps.com/manage/mailboxes.htm>

**The City assumes NO responsibility for mailboxes damaged during snow removal.**

The City Council passed an amendment to Altoona City Code 136.03 on November 19, 2012, amending 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 TRASH & RECYCLING CART PLACEMENT**

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 toters are placed on city streets. This is especially true in cul-de-sacs which are impossible to plow if toters are placed in the road.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.



**EMERGENCY ACCESS**

Maintain your sidewalks and driveway of snow and ice. If you do require an emergency response, a cleared approach to your door will be the safest route for the emergency responders and you. Maintain your outdoor lights to illuminate your numerical house numbers. If you call "911" for an emergency response, turn on your lights on to make it easier and faster for responders to find your home.

**PONDS MAINTAINED BY THE CITY**

*The only recreation allowed on ponds maintained by the City of Altoona in the winter is fishing from the shore.* The following ponds are maintained by the City of Altoona:

<b><u>POND NAME</u></b>	<b><u>GENERAL LOCATION</u></b>
Bass Pro Pond	Bass Pro Shops
Bennett Bay	Bennett Bay Subdivision
Clay Estates Pond	Clay Estates Subdivision
Falcon Ridge Pond	Falcon Ridge Subdivision
Ironwood Pond	East end of Stonegate Ct.
Ironwood South Pond	currently under construction
Loupee Park Ponds	Fieldstone Estates
Oak Hill Pond	Oak Hill Park
Porter Pond	Greenway Park
Prairie Heritage Ponds	From 1 <sup>st</sup> Ave. South to Venbury Dr.
Tuscany Pond	Tuscan Estates Subdivision



**HAINES PARK SKATING RINK**

We are still waiting for the cold winter days to be able to enjoy our new skating rink. A big thanks to Chad and Amy Kruse Family that donated the skating rink. The rink is about 6 inches deep. It is set up on the basketball courts at Haines Park.

# ALTOONA REMINDERS

## Park Shelter Reservations

*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

## City of Altoona Residential Tree Program

In recognition of Arbor Day, the City of Altoona will be selling a limited supply of trees to residents - limit 2 per household.

The trees being offered include Hackberry, Honeylocust, 'Crimson Sunset' Maple, and Concolor Fir. The trees will be 3/4" caliper in a 7 & 10 gallon pot. The cost is \$30 per tree.

**Pre-sale of the trees will begin March 4, 8:00 a.m. at Altoona City Hall, 900 Venbury Dr. SW Suite A.**

Trees will be available for pick up during the Arbor Day Celebration on Saturday April 25, 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. at the Enabling Garden which is located just south of Hy-Vee on 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue S.



Sponsored by the City of Altoona and Iowa Native Trees and Shrubs and Gerdes Nursery INC

NO GUARANTEE

## Senior Citizen Exception for Utility Billing Ending

The City of Altoona removed the Senior Citizen Exception from utility bills as of January 15, 2020. The State of Iowa adopted in their code several years ago a provision making the type of exemption given to senior citizens based on their age illegal due to discriminatory practice. This is an action the City of Altoona needs to make in order to be in compliance.

### **-RATE INCREASES -**

The sewer rate per 1,000 gallons will increase from \$7.92 to \$8.32 will be reflected on the bills mailed on February 15, 2020. This increase was planned to cover debt service costs related to the WRA and the City's capital projects planned.

The water rate per 1,000 gallons from \$6.01 to \$6.16. This increase will be reflected on the bills that are mailed on January 15, 2020. This increase is planned to cover increase in water production costs. The City has not raised water rates since 2011.

## **NEW!!! SAVE TIME – PAY BY PHONE!**

The City of Altoona gives you access to your account 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. It's a convenient way to pay your bills on your own time – with no waiting!

Save postage by paying your bill by phone. Access your updated account instantly. Hear real-time balances, payment amounts, and due dates. Enter your information securely through an automated system

**Call 833-271-0804 today to make your payment over the phone!**

## Metro Home Improvement Program—continued

The assistance is for housing repairs such as 1.) Sump pump installation and connection to storm sewer; 2.) Basic structural repairs such as exterior walls, roof and roof structure, foundation, floor joists, and ceilings; 3.) Building systems such as electrical, plumbing, and heating; 4.) Weatherization such as insulation, windows, and siding; 5.) Handicap accessibility projects such as exterior ramps and bathroom facilities. The awards are in the form of a five-year forgivable loan to eligible households with income less than 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI) for Polk County. Eligible property types are owner-occupied dwellings (both single family & townhouses/condos) and do not include mobile homes, homes being purchased on contract, or rental units. The house assisted must be the primary residence of the applicant and not assessed above \$200,000. Property taxes, mortgage payments, and insurance must be current.

The Metro Home Improvement Program is administered by the City of West Des Moines. The program is funded through the participating cities and the Polk County Housing Trust Fund. For further information or a program application, visit the following link [www.wdm.iowa.gov/mhip](http://www.wdm.iowa.gov/mhip) or contact Christine Gordon or Kay Schoon at (515) 273-0770.



### 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.

## ALTOONA PUBLIC LIBRARY

### Senior Set: Movie Matinee

Tuesday, Feb. 25 from 1-3pm

Come to our winter movie matinee and beat cabin fever! Popcorn and beverages will be provided. No registration required.

### Adult Coloring at Brightside Aleworks

Tuesday, Feb. 27 from 6:30-8:30pm

Join us at Brightside Aleworks (480 Center Pl in Altoona) at 6:30pm for a fun night of coloring! We will bring the art supplies-you bring your friends and money for drinks. No registration required.

### Tech Take-Apart

Thursday, Feb. 13 from 6-7pm

Ever wonder what's inside a computer or a telephone, or a talking toy? We have all kinds of tech just waiting to be taken apart to satisfy your curiosity! Grades 7-12; registration required.



### Maker Space Monday

Monday, Feb. 10 from 4-5pm

Are you a maker? Stop by our open Maker Space where kids and families can work together to create something wonderful! Stations will be set up with a sewing machine, recycled materials, and carpentry tools. Registration is required. Families with children grades K-12 may attend. Ages 7 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

### Slime Science

Wednesday, Feb. 19 from 3-4:30pm

Learn how to make your own slime. It may get messy, so dress accordingly. This is a drop in event for grades K-6. Limit of two batches of slime per child.



Check out the Altoona Public Library's webpage for a variety of activities for people of all ages:

<https://www.altoona.lib.ia.us/>



### Altoona Public Library Hours

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

Phone #: 515-967-3881

**LIBRARY IS CLOSED**  
**MARCH 25th**  
for staff in service

### How to Make Candy

Thursday, Feb. 27 from 6-7pm  
Learn how to make chocolate and other sweet treats. Eat your creations or give them to a friend. Ages 10-18. Registration is required.