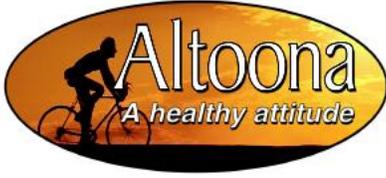


Altoona Life

JULY
2020



Providing a healthy dose of Altoona Attitude!

TRAIL HUB INFORMATION KIOSK

WHAT'S NEW?

- P1... Trail Hub
- P2... City Reminders
- P3... City Updates
- P4... National Night Out

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. 7



The City of Altoona completed and a trail hub information kiosk located along the Gay Lea Wilson/Vern Willey II Trail. The goal of the kiosk is to provide information to trails users of routes, amenities, services and local tourism spots that can be discovered along the trail. The kiosk will be key to those new to our community and area to understand not only the trail system in Altoona but the larger five-county trail network.

We would like to thank Prairie Meadows and the Altoona Roadriders for their financial support of the project and Polk County for allowing the kiosk to be located on their portion of trail.



Water in Daily Life

In the US, we are lucky to have easy access to some of the safest treated water in the world—just by turning on the tap. We wake up in the morning, take a shower, brush our teeth, grab a cup of coffee, and head out for the day. Water is an important part of our daily lives and we use it for a wide variety of purposes, but do we really understand how much we use?

- The average American family uses more than 300 gallons of water per day at home. Roughly 70 percent of this use occurs indoors.
- Nationally, outdoor water use accounts for 30 percent of household use yet can be much higher in drier parts of the country and in more water-intensive landscapes. For example, the arid West has some of the highest per capita residential water use because of landscape irrigation.

How Much Water Do We Use?



Source: Water Research Foundation, Residential End Uses of Water, Version 2, 2016



The City of Altoona continues to monitor and adjust city services as required and needed throughout this current pandemic. Please stay up to date with city services information at www.altoona-iowa.com.

The information provided here can be found on the U.S. EPA's website at <https://www.epa.gov/watersense/how-we-use-water>. The website also provides various tools and suggestions to help you discover trends in your water usage and how to save water in your homes.

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

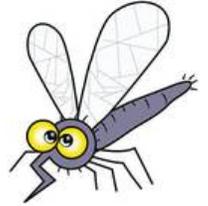
Afternoon (1/2 day) 4:00pm – 10:00pm

Full Day 7:00am – 10:00pm

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 VectoPrime 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 Parks Department at 967-5203 or email parks-dpt@altoona-iowa.com 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

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 1 / Saturday, September 12 / Saturday, October 3



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.

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")

MUSIC IN THE PARK



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

Sunday, July 26th @ 6:00pm

Sunday, August 30th @ 6:00pm

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.

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.

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/>

Requirements regarding grass and weed height is as follows:

1. **Residential Properties:** Grass and weeds are not to exceed a height of six (6) inches.
2. **Undeveloped Lots:** Grass and weeds are not to exceed six (6) inches in height along the side and rear property lines for a width of 10 feet, the remaining property can have grass as high as 12 or 15 inches in height depending on what the property is zoned/utilized for. This basically creates a maintained buffer area between undeveloped and developed properties.
3. **The public right of way adjacent to all properties:** Grass and weeds are not allowed to exceed six (6) inches in height. The right of way is described as the area between the back or edge of the street to the actual property line.
4. **Commercial and Industrial:** Grass and weeds are not allowed to exceed 12 inches.
5. **Agricultural:** Grass and weeds are not allowed to exceed 15 inches.

To learn more timely information
about the city checkout:
<http://www.altoona-iowa.com/>

SIGNS, SIGNS EVERYWHERE 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.

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.

**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**



The cities of Altoona, Ankeny, Bondurant, Grimes, Polk City, Urbandale, West Des Moines, and Windsor Heights have entered into a cooperative agreement with the purpose to preserve the existing affordable housing stock in their communities.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

- The property to be assisted must be located with Polk County portions of the participating cities.
- The property must be owner occupied.
- The assessed value of the house to be assisted must be at or below \$200,000 (includes both land and building value per the Polk County Assessor).
- Income limits of the household must fall at or below 80% of the median family income, which is based on HUD Annual Income as Defined in 24 CFR Part 5.

Please check out the link below for more information:

<https://www.altoona-iowa.com/download/Metro-HIP-updated-2020.pdf>

WELCOME



The Altoona Police Department welcomed two new officers on July 6, 2020.

Mayor Dean O'Connor swore in Officers Marcos Gonzales (pictured far left) and Arthur Doakes (pictured middle).



The Altoona Fire Department welcomed Andrew Simoni as a full-time firefighter/paramedic at the end of May.



Tuesday, August 4th 1-7pm
Altoona Christian Church

National Night out is an annual community-building event and its purpose is to build police, fire, and community partnerships. National Night Out 2020 will look different this year due to COVID-19 concerns. We will be stepping up and receiving much needed donations supporting Swerve, Altoona Kids Café and Caring Hands Food Pantry during this challenging time.

We ask the citizens of Altoona to join National Night Out's efforts on Tuesday, August 4th to drop off donations at Altoona Christian Church between the hours of 1:00—7:00pm.

ALTOONA PUBLIC LIBRARY



The Altoona Public Library continues to have alternative open hours and services due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Library Open Hours

- *Monday—Thursday: 10-12 & 3-7 (curbside appointments 7-7:30pm)
- *Friday: Closed (curbside appointments available 9am-12pm)
- *Saturday: 10-12 & 3-5 Saturday (curbside appointments 5-5:30pm)
- *Sunday: Closed

Returning Library Books

- *Outside returns are accepted Tuesday from 12-4pm and Friday at 9am to Saturday at 9am in the building book drop near the south doors (drive up still closed).
- *Inside return available inside when open.

Please keep up to date on the library's services and hours of operation on their Facebook page at:

https://www.facebook.com/AltoonaPublicLibrary/?ref=br_rs



**LOOK
BEFORE
YOU LOCK!**

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

