

Altoona Life

APRIL
2019



Providing a healthy dose of Altoona Attitude!

2018 EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

WHAT'S NEW?

P1... 2018 Employee of the Year

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TRASH DELAY

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

CITY WIDE CLEANUP

Monday Trash Pick-up day:
April 20th

Tuesday Trash Pick-up day:
April 27th

**ROAD
CLOSED**

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/>



Tony Rauterberg was born and raised in the Milwaukee, Wisconsin region. He graduated from St. Francis High School where he was in the fire cadet program. He always dreamed of becoming a firefighter and his career includes time at Saint Francis Fire Department, Windsor Heights Fire Department, Clive Fire Department, Pleasant Hill Fire Department and now Altoona Fire Department since 2008.

He is a certified as a Fire Fighter 1 and 2, Fire Instructor 1, Fire Officer 1 and 2, Fire Inspector 1 and Hazardous Material Operations level. He is also a nationally accredited Fire Officer, this distinct certification was obtained in December of 2017. He was promoted to Lieutenant on April 16th 2016, a position he currently holds. He is in charge of overseeing the red shift at AFD, which include the day to day operations of the shift.

In his spare time Tony is attending college and is one semester away from graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Fire Administration. He is constantly striving for improvement throughout the organization with training and peer review. Lt Rauterberg is the scheduler and coordinator for all of AFD's monthly training. He handles all of the statistical data that is presented to administration and council on a monthly bases. He recently took the lead on the 2018 annual report for AFD.

Lieutenant Rauterberg and his wife Jacqueline are expecting their first child in August 2019. He enjoys driving his mustang, target shooting and cheering for the Brewers. Congratulations to Lieutenant Tony Rauterberg for being the 2018 City of Altoona Employee of the Year!!!



Jeff Bierl started with the City of Altoona as our new IT Specialist, in March. The IT Specialist is a brand new position for the City and Jeff was able to hit the ground running. Jeff has previous IT experience working with the City of Clive for 2 years and prior to that in the private industry for 7 years.

Jeff and his wife, Brianna, welcomed a new baby in February. Jeff remarked the transition has been smooth. Everyone from co-workers to council have been helpful and communicative. People seem to enjoy their jobs and enjoy each other.

Welcome to Officer Tony Ong who started with the Altoona Police Department on April 1st. Tony started his



law enforcement career with Jasper County Sheriff's Department where he worked for 7 years. Tony shared, "Altoona has been amazing so far. Whether it's at the PD, city hall, or people you see in the community, everyone has a smile and waves. I've always felt welcomed in Altoona when I run my errands here, but now that I work in Altoona it's starting to feel more like home." (pictured above (left to right: Lt. Chambers, Chief Stallman, Lt. Trobaugh, Lt. Chambers, Lt. Handy. In front: Officer Ong and Mayor O'Connor.)

2018 EMPLOYEES OF THE QUARTERS



Pictured above (left to right): Chris Dixon, Vicki Herold, Dan Waskel

1st Quarter—The Altoona Police Department's Christopher Dixon is well deserving of the Employee of Quarter. Chris came to the City of Altoona in June of 2012.

Chris dove into improving efficiencies within the Altoona Police Department and continues to be a forward thinker, consistently looking for more efficient ways to operate. Some of Chris's highlights are:

- Accomplishing the duties of fingerprinting.
- Implementing a records request log,
- Converting all paper forms to electronic forms that are easily accessible online
- Organizing and overseeing the hiring process for new employees within the Altoona Police Department; and,
- Improving the area of the Altoona Police Department budget.

All of these improvements allowed Officers to better serve our community.

On behalf of the City of Altoona, The Altoona Police Department and Chief Greg Stallman, we recognize Christopher Dixon with the Employee of the Quarter.



3rd quarter—Firefighter/Paramedic Specialist Jay Pratt has worked for the city of Altoona Fire Department since October 2016, he became full-time in July of 2017.

Jay has taken the lead on organizing the new ladder truck that Altoona Fire Department received in January and has spent many hours organizing items throughout the apparatus. Jay was a member of

the purchasing committee for the ladder and offered many good suggestions throughout the process. Jay has taken this project on himself with pride and enthusiasm, and provides a great example of going the extra mile for the organization.

2nd Quarter—Dan Waskel began his career in the Parks Department as a part-timer in 2001, and became a full-time Parks Operator in 2004. His major duties include chemical applications, equipment operation and maintenance.

Dan is instrumental in keeping the Parks Dept running. His knowledge is impressive, as is his overall knowledge of our park system.

This award is for Dan's patience and willingness to work with and train seasonal employees on the different equipment operation and techniques used in the grounds maintenance program. Dan is always willing to teach someone how to tackle a project. Dan also exhibits great communication within his department, as well as with other co-workers.

Overall, Dan is an asset to not only the Parks Dept, but the City as a whole. Thank you Dan for your continued dedication to the City.

4th Quarter—Vicki Herold has been employed by the City for 18 months as an EMS Billing/Utility Billing Clerk. Vicki's position is quite challenging because she must know two completely different systems. Besides knowing two completely different systems, she must know two different sets of guidelines and rules. Vicki has done an amazing job of transitioning into both positions. Her transition was made even more challenging when the Utility Billing Clerk left to a new position last October. Vicki stepped up to the challenge by not only completely taking over running Utility billing, but she also helped train the Utility Billing Clerk replacement.

She is a very detailed worker who strives to do her best. She is always willing to lend a helping hand and gives our citizens her best efforts every day. Vicki is very family oriented. She spends her free time with her husband of 28 years, her boys and new daughter in law.

POLICE DEPARTMENT PROMOTIONS

On February 4, 2019, Bret Handy was promoted from Sergeant to Lieutenant in the Altoona Police Department (pictured left). Lt. Handy has worked on the Altoona Police force since 1995.



Steve Harris started with the City of Altoona in May 2018. Harris was promoted to Sergeant on March 4, 2019. Prior to working with the City of Altoona, Sgt. Harris worked with Ottumwa Police Department since 2007 and spent the last 8 and half years as an investigator with them. (Sgt. Harris pictured center with Mayor O'Connor, Lieutenants and Chief Stallman)



Congratulations to both on the promotions!

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

MUSIC IN THE PARK

Bring a chair, blanket or grab a bench to enjoy the music in the park Haines Park Outdoor Stage. Dates for Summer 2019:

June 30 at 6:00pm

July 28 at 6:00pm

August 25 at 6:00pm

September 29 at 3:00pm



ANNUAL TREE SALE

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



The tree choices this year are: ~~River-birch~~, ~~Sweetgum~~, ~~Japanese Tree Lilac~~, ~~Yellowwood~~

SOLD OUT

The trees will be 3/4" caliper in a 5 gallon pot. The cost is \$30 per tree. Pre-sale of the trees at Altoona City Hall, 407 8th St. SE. Trees will be available for pick up during the Arbor Day Celebration on Saturday, April 27, 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. at the Enabling Garden which is located just south of Hy-Vee on 1st Avenue S. **No Guarantee.**

SPONSORED BY THE CITY OF ALTOONA, IOWA NATIVE TREES & SHRUBS, & GERDES NURSERY

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 4

Saturday, June 1

Saturday, July 13

Saturday, August 3

Saturday, September 7

Saturday, October 5

BAG & STICKER PROGRAM

Compost it! Bags

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



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.



SATURDAY, APRIL 27th

8AM – 12PM

The City of Altoona will have a tire drop off at the Street Department, on Saturday, April 28th. Residents of Altoona can drop off their used tires at 406 5th Avenue SW (across from Altoona Elementary playground) between 8:00am and 12:00pm.

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

Rules

Each household can drop off a maximum of five tires with the rims removed. In special situations where a household may have more than five tires, please contact Metro Waste Authority to be considered for an exemption.

*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

2018 SPRING CLEAN UP



Altoona's City Wide Cleanup will take place over two (2) separate days.

If **Monday** is your scheduled trash day, then **Saturday, April 20th** is the day for your clean-up items. If **Tuesday** is your scheduled trash day, then **Saturday, April 27th** is the day for your clean up items.

- Appliances – *Schedule with hauler, will need 7—\$5 large item sticker*
- Tires – *Bring to 406 5th Ave. SW from 8:00 am to Noon on April 28th. Limit five tires per household.*
- Hazardous Waste – *Bring to Metro Hazardous Waste Drop-Off, Located at: 1105 Prairie Drive SE, Bondurant.*

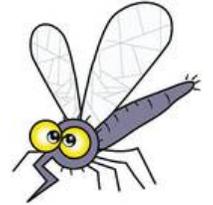
Only residents on city services are eligible to participate in Spring Clean-Up. If you have questions about your neighborhood, call City Hall at 515.967.5136.

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.

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.

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.



Sidewalk Inspection Program

Just a reminder the City of Altoona will begin its annual sidewalk and tree measuring inspection soon. The City has updated the Sidewalk Inspection Program. The city is divided into three (3) sidewalk zones with one (1) zone being inspected each year. Sidewalks outside the annual zone will be inspected if a complaint is received on the condition of the sidewalk. Sidewalks that have any of the following will be identified:

Vertical separations greater than one-half (1/2) inch.

Horizontal separations equal to one (1) inch or more.

Holes or depressions equal to three-fourths (3/4) inch or more and at least four (4) inches in diameter.

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.

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.

A single square of sidewalk cracked into six (6) or more pieces

A sidewalk with any part thereof missing to the full depth.

A change from the design or construction grade equal to or greater than three-fourths (3/4) inch per foot.

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. This notification shall provide a reasonable degree of time in which the sidewalk can be repaired/replaced by the owner of the property. Said time shall not exceed 45 days from the date of notice.

Repair/Replacement: If the property owner has failed to correct the deficient sidewalk, then the City of Altoona shall make the necessary repairs. All costs, including administrative fees, associated with such repairs may at the discretion of the council be assessed to the property as allowed pursuant to Section 136.05 of the Ordinance and Section 364.12[2d& e] of the Code of Iowa.

Permits Required: Under this Sidewalk Inspection Program all fees required pursuant to Ordinance Section 136.07 are exempted and waived. Permits shall be required for inspection of panel replacement only. Repairs not requiring removal and replacement of panels will not be required to obtain a permit.

According to our City Code Ordinance Section 136.01, 136.02, 136.04 and 136.05 the homeowner is responsible for the care and maintenance of the sidewalk area that abuts their property. Copies of the code are available at City Hall, the Building Department and on the website (<http://www.altoona-iowa.com/download/City%20Code/Altoona-Code.pdf>). The Sidewalk and Approach handout provided by the Building Department is also available on-line at <http://www.altoona-iowa.com/download/City%20Departments/Building/Handouts/Sidewalk-Repair-Guide.pdf>.

BEFORE DIGGING



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

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.

SIGNS SIGNS SIGNS

As the garage sale season approaches, 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.

-SEWER RATE INCREASE -

The sewer rate per 1,000 gallons increased from \$7.62 to \$7.92 effective January 1, 2019. This increase was planned to cover debt service costs related to the Water Reclamation Authority and the City's capital projects planned.

WATER METER REPLACEMENT

In 2017, the City of Altoona began the transition to a new method of reading our water meters. The new system reads water meters every hour and transmits the reading to our software several times per day. The hourly readings allow leaks to be detected much sooner than before, when the meter was read only once per month via radio read.

The City has begun swapping some of our oldest water meters with new meters and readers that communicate with the new reading system. The transition was a very smooth one.

As summer approaches, please be aware that you may be contacted by the city with a door hanger or a letter asking for access to your property to swap out the water meter. This meter swap will take approximately 30 minutes.

If you have any questions regarding the new meter reading software, feel free to contact the Utility Billing department at (515) 967-5136.

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.

Swimming pool needs filling?

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



PAY YOUR WATER BILL ONLINE

We partner 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.

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.

Does a swimming pool require a permit?

It depends on the pool. If it's a temporary above ground children's pool of 30 inches or less, you do not need a permit or an inspection. If it's anything above 30 inches, you do need a permit. You also need a 6 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.

ALTOONA POLICE ASSOCIATION

INVITES YOU TO ENJOY A SPAGHETTI DINNER

WHEN: Friday, April 26th
5—7pm

WHERE: Altoona Regular Baptist Church
803 3rd Ave. SW, Altoona, IA

PRICE: 1 -TICKET—\$8,
COUPLE—\$15 COUPLE,
GROUP OF 5—\$25



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 last 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.

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 rain-fall 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.

Altoona Public Library Hours



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

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND HOURS

Closed—Sat. May 25—Mon. May 27
*Drive up drop-off CLOSED outside building opened

May Day Baskets

Wednesday, May 1 from 3:30-5:30pm

Happy May Day! We will have everything you need to make, decorate, and fill little baskets that can be left on a neighbor's doorstep, given to a friend, or eaten and enjoyed by YOU!

This is an all-ages program. Feel free to bring the whole family! No registration is required.

Senior Set Programming

Seniors, join us every Tuesday from 1-3pm for games, crafts and fun.

1st & 3rd Tuesdays: Games

Stop by this open house style program and play some of your favorite board games.

2nd Tuesday: Crafting

Try out a new craft each month. Please pre-register on-line or by calling the library. We provide all the supplies needed.

4th Tuesday: Coloring and Puzzles

We provide the coloring sheets & colored pencils to get you started on the latest craze of coloring for adults. If jigsaw puzzles are more up your alley, we'll provide several to choose from and store them month-to-month.

5th Tuesday: Speaker Series (April 30th)

Master Gardener Deidre Zihlman will talk about the different varieties of succulents and ways to care for them. Participants will receive a plant to take home. Please pre-register on-line or by calling the library.

Closed Sunday, April 21!!!!

The library will be closed on April 21 and exterior drops will be locked. There are drops located near the south doors, or use your account online 24/7.

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.