

# Altoona Life

JULY  
2019



*Providing a healthy dose of Altoona Attitude!*

## HAVING FUN WITH ART IN THE COMMUNITY

### WHAT'S NEW?

- P1... Art/Grant Awards
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### 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. 2**



The Altoona Public Library has a traveling art exhibit from the Des Moines Art Center. Two works are on site at the Library, one on the east side of the building and one on the south. Both have educational signs with them and are a cooperative effort between the Altoona Arts Committee and the Des Moines Art Center. They spend a year in different metro cities. We look forward to sharing some famous artwork with the community. Library Director Kim Kietzman shared, "We definitely won't be buying a Mary Cassatt for the library, so this is a great opportunity for us to be a home for museum pieces without the museum piece price!"

The Altoona Public Library is participating in a program with 8 other area libraries in the creating **Sensory Spaces in the Metro**. The idea is set up the library as a sensory-neutral space for patrons with sensory processing disorders or individuals on the Autism spectrum. Libraries open for an hour before or after their business hours to offer specialized browsing time and sensory programs for individuals, children, and families.



Pictured above: Kim Kietzman and Amy Turgasen

In preparation for this program, we proposed a project to make sensory kits for use in the library and at schools in Southeast Polk. The kits include noise-canceling headphones, latex-free gloves, fidget toys, and tablets with Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) apps and learning games. These would be used in programming, like our sensory spaces, and for community programs in the Southeast Polk school district. Prairie Meadows awarded us \$3,762 to use towards creating these kits.

### City of Altoona Awarded MidAmerican Energy Trees Please! Grant

Katie Gieszler from MidAmerican Energy Company presented a grant check in the amount of \$1,000.00 to the city of Altoona on May 20, 2019. The grant is part of the Mid-American Energy's *Trees Please!* energy efficiency program. The program will allow the City of Altoona to fund tree planting projects in common areas such as publicly owned properties, schools and community spaces.



Pictured above: (left to right) Katie Gieszler, Scott Atzen, and Dean O'Connor

Trees have a wealth of benefits. When incorporated into an energy-efficient landscape design, trees can improve energy efficiency by serving as natural windbreaks in the winter and providing shade to homes and businesses in the summer. Planting trees also improves air quality and helps to protect and nourish the soil.

For more information about *Trees Please!*, call 800-434-4017 or visit MidAmerican Energy's Plant Trees, Save Energy web page.

# 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:

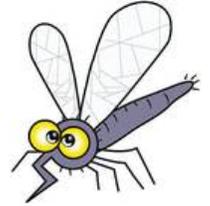
Morning (1/2 day) 7:00am – 3:00pm

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 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.**

## 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 3 / Saturday, September 7 / Saturday, October 5*



## 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 28th @ 7:00pm

Sunday, August 25th @ 7:00pm

Sunday, September 29th @ 3:00pm

## 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.



### CHANGES IN THE POOL FILL SEWER CREDITS

As we are a growing city, change is inevitable! We have changed our policy on pool fill sewer credits. We will no longer be giving sewer credits for pool fills. The customer's options are to install an irrigation meter or pay the sewer charges. There is an irrigation meter handout on the City website or at the Building Department. A plumbing permit will be required, as well as inspection and scheduling the meter install.

Customers can call Kassie at City Hall for more information (515-967-5136 ext. 226).

### POOL AND BARRIER REQUIREMENT CHANGES

There are updates to the City Ordinance regarding pools and barrier requirements since last year. Please check out the City Swimming Pool Handout at <http://www.altoona-iowa.com/download/City%20Departments/Building/Handouts/Swimming-Pool-Handout.pdf>. Or you can contact the Building Department at 515-967-5138 with questions.



### 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.

### 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.

### Altoona Rain Barrel Grant Program

To promote stormwater Best Management Practices throughout the city, funding has been allocated to provide a grant program for purchase and installation of rain barrels for residential homes. The Rain Barrel Grant Program allows for reimbursement for costs of the rain barrel up to a maximum of \$75 with a limit of one per residential property.



Rain barrels collect and store rain-water from rooftops for watering lawns and gardens. The water captured reduces the amount of stormwater running off the property during rainfall events. Because this water is not treated, it should not be used for drinking water.

For more information on how to apply to the Rain Barrel Grant Program please check out: <http://www.altoona-iowa.com/2019/03/29/rain-barrel-grant-program/>

### INCREASE IN RECYCLING RATES

Metro Waste Authority has raised the cost of recycling to the city starting in July. The City will increase the recycling rate from \$2.85 to \$3.43. This will be effective with the August utility bills.

### EVERYDAY IS SATURDAY!



Steve pictured above with his family.

Steve Cole celebrated his retirement in May. Steve started working for the City of Altoona in May 1988. The population of the City was approximately 7,100 compared to today which is approximately 18,500.

Steve began with the Waste Water Treatment Department and now the city does not even have that department. Steve continued his career with us in the Streets department as a laborer. Eventually, the city added more than one traffic light and Steve "volunteered" to take on the new job responsibilities. Steve finished his tenure with the Streets department handling the traffic light maintenance.

Steve is fun to be around and always has a smile. We will miss him. ***Congratulations, Steve!***



## ACTIVE THREAT GEAR PURCHASED

Altoona Fire Department recently purchased 10 sets of body armor, helmets, eye protection and Rescue Task Force supplies. A Rescue Task Force (RTF) is a trained group of firefighter and EMS paramedics partnered with law enforcement to effectively respond to the scene of an active threat. They enter a scene together to provide immediate medical care, triage patients, and evacuate casualties. The concept of a Rescue Task Force has grown increasingly more important over the years as the number of mass casualty incidents continues to rise.

Assistant Chief Lee Richardson explained, "We want to take a proactive approach to active threats. This is the world we live in today, and we need to be prepared." The ballistic vests are equipped with multiple chest seals, combat gauze, tourniquets, airway devices and other basic and advanced trauma supplies.

Funding for the ballistic gear and associated supplies was made available through the fiscal year 2018-2019 budget and approved by the City Council.



Altoona Fire Department celebrated **EMS Week— Beyond the Call** on May 21st at the City Council meeting. Pictured above (left to right): Kris Rhode, Tony Rauterberg, Grant Dishinger, Tim Thalacker, Sara Merrill, Jay Pratt, Lee Richardson and Dean O'Connor.



Here are a few helpful tips to work on with your children this summer:

### FAMILY SAFETY

- ◆ Teach your children to remember home addresses and phone numbers.
- ◆ As a family, learn where your local police and fire departments are located.
- ◆ Show your children all the possible safe locations for help or assistance (Churches, schools, government buildings, friends' homes, grocery stores, etc).



**Tuesday, August 6th 6-8pm**  
**Altoona Christian Church**

Check out the Altoona Police Department's Facebook page for more information:

<http://www.altoona-iowa.com/2019/06/11/national-night-out-tuesday-august-6-2019/>

## 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)

## 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.



### Altoona Public Library Hours

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

**Join the fun!!!!!!!**

### Library Summer Reading

We're ready for launch with *A Universe of Stories!* With reading logs, family activities, and a star-inspired scavenger hunt, our summer programs have something for everyone – of all ages.

Stop the library, follow us on Facebook, or check out our brand new website at [www.altoonalibrary.com](http://www.altoonalibrary.com) for more information.

### Pokémon Lock-In

Friday, July 26 from 5-7:30pm

Want to be a Pokémon Trainer? Now's your chance! There will be games, crafts and a Pokémon tournament. Registration is required. For ages 8-12.

### What's It Worth? Free Antique Appraisals

Saturday, July 20 from 2-5pm

Professional appraiser Mark Moran will be back to appraise your prized possessions. The library is covering the cost of the appraisal and space is very limited. Sign up for a preferred time slot when registering, be prepared to stay for entire program.

### Senior Set: Speaker Series on Identity Theft

Tuesday, July 30 at 1pm

Kalyn Cody, our guest speaker from ISU Extension, will present on the warning signs of identity theft, what to do if you are a victim, and how to reduce the chances it will happen. Registration required.

### Library Closings

September 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup>



**THE WAY BACK  
MACHINE?**

*Decontamination  
chamber?*

*tardis?*

The Library is thinking outside the box to address some of our space needs...with a box. This is a HUSH Work station and it's perfect for someone looking for a quiet space to work alone! The desk raises and lowers and it has a USB port built in. It'll be available as part of the study room reservation system.



### 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.

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

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

To learn more timely information  
about the city checkout:

<http://www.altoona-iowa.com/>