

From the desk of:

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October 2024

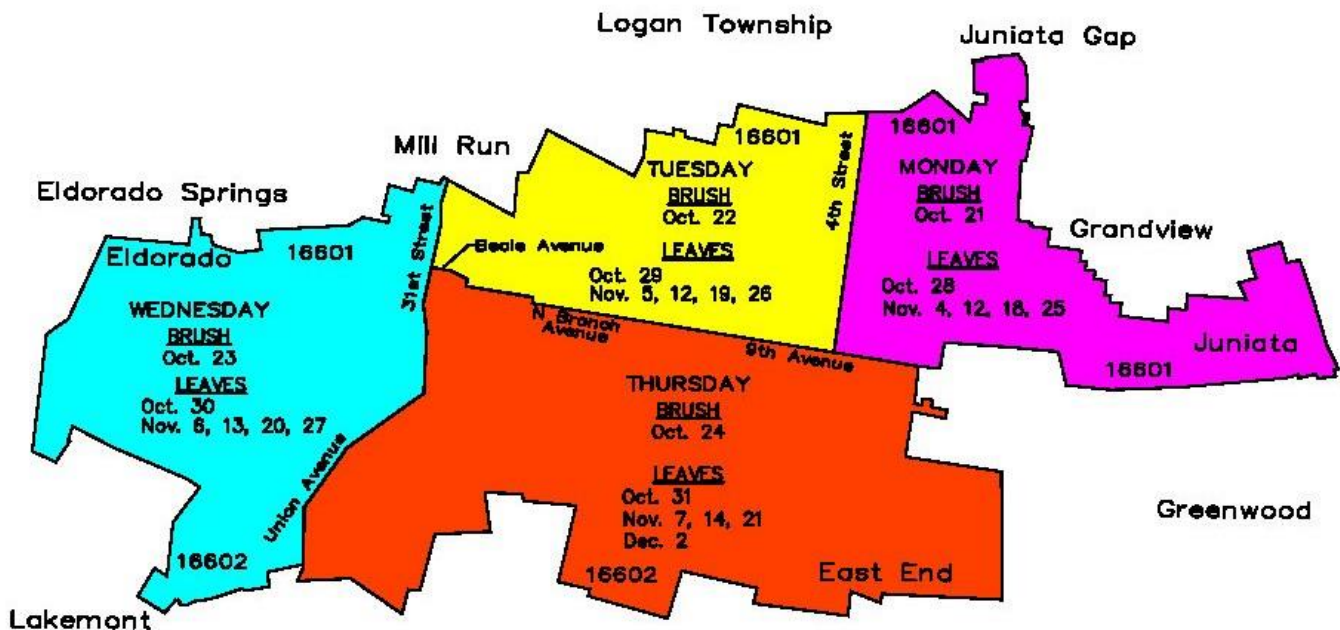
Altoona Proud

A Monthly Insight into all that is Altoona

City of Altoona 2024 Fall Brush & Leaf Collection

Please note that items must be in brown compost bags (no tape) and at the curb by 7:00 AM. If your bags are not picked up on the designated day, please leave them at the curb and they will be picked up as soon as possible. For any questions, please call the Highway Yard at 814-949-2212.

CITY OF ALTOONA 2024 FALL BRUSH & LEAF COLLECTION



Fort Roberdeau 18th Century Dinner

Fort Roberdeau was declared a National Historic Site in 1974, and they are marking this year's 50th anniversary with an 18th Century Dinner on Sunday, October 6th at 2:00 PM in The Casino at Lakemont Park. The public is invited to this unique fundraising event, featuring the traditions of a colonial Philadelphia dinner. History and food lovers alike will enjoy this journey back to the Revolutionary times.

Tickets are limited and priced at \$100 per person. Proceeds support programming at Fort Roberdeau, including preparations for our Country's Semi Quincentennial 250th anniversary in 2026. For information and tickets, call the Fort Roberdeau Office at 814-946-0048 or email edeffenbaugh@blairco.org



PA Blair County Career Link® Job Fair



PA Blair County CareerLink® will present its Annual Job Fair on Wednesday, October 9th from 10 AM to 2 PM, with Veterans welcome for exclusive entry at 9:30 am.

The event will be held at the Jaffa Shrine at 2200 Broad Avenue, with no cost to attend and no pre-registration required. The day will include over 100 hiring employees, with many offering on-the-spot interviews. Job Fair workshops and other helpful job search tools will be available.

The event is sponsored by the Blair County Chamber of Commerce, ABCD Corporation, SAWDB and the Greater Altoona Career & Technology Center. Altoona employers are hiring, so come and find your next job opportunity. For further information call 814-940-6201 or register at www.facebook.com/pacareerlinkblaircounty

National Walk To A Park Day – October 10

The Trust For Public Land is a national nonprofit whose goal is to support cities in their work to improve parks and green spaces and to increase access to these spaces. Their 10-Minute Walk Program® is aimed at making sure city residents can be within a 10-minute walk of a nearby park.

The City of Altoona has been working to create new parks and upgrade and enhance existing parks and trails. Our City can be proud to say that 90% of residents do live within a 10-minute walk of a park. On October 10th, citizens in every city are encouraged to get outside and take a walk to a park, to enjoy the activities and amenities, or just to appreciate the surroundings.



CONTACT Altoona Fall Volunteer Training

CONTACT Altoona has been serving Blair County since 1982, providing free and confidential crisis intervention, information and referral services, or just a listening ear. They also provide social calls, medicine reminder calls, and safety checks. Telephones are staffed 365 days a year by trained volunteers working from home, making about 2,500 calls per month. **CONTACT Altoona Fall 2024 Volunteer Training** will be offered from 5 PM – 8 PM on the following dates:



Monday, October 28th
Tuesday, October 29th
Wednesday, October 30th
Monday, November 4th
Tuesday, November 5th



You can register by calling **814-946-0531**
or via email at:

www.contactaltoona.com/volunteers

All Together Altoona Open House



With the adoption of the City's Comprehensive Plan, All Together Altoona, work now begins to bring the plan's vision of stronger public spaces and healthier neighborhoods to life. The process begins by updating our land development and zoning ordinances, and this is where we want to add your voice to the conversation. These ordinances will work hand in hand with investments in our parks, streets, downtown and other amenities. Altoona is serious about cultivating value and a high quality of life and your input is vital to this effort.

An All Together Altoona Open House will be held on Tuesday, October 29th from 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM at the Margaret Avenue Training Facility, located at 1747 Margaret Avenue. There are no presentations, so you are free to arrive and depart at your convenience, to share your questions, suggestions and perspectives. Please consider attending to make sure your voice is heard.

Altoona Area Public Library Tool Lending Program

The Altoona Area Public Library has launched a Tool Lending Program, designed to provide the community with access to a wide range of tools for home improvement, crafting, gardening, and DIY projects. Library cardholders can borrow tools just as they would books, to empower residents to complete projects without the expense of purchasing equipment.



Funded in part by generous grants from The Rotary Club of Altoona and the GFWC Hollidaysburg Area Women's Club, the program offers a wide selection of tools, from basic handtools like hammers and ladders to more specialized equipment such as power drills, pressure washers and sewing machines. Library cardholders can browse the tool inventory online or in person and check out tools from 2 - 28 days depending on the type of tool. Before borrowing tools, all cardholders must sign a liability waiver kept on file for one year. For more information about the Tool Lending Program and a complete list of available tools, visit www.altoonapubliclibrary.org or call 814-946-0417.

2024 Fire Prevention Week



The National Fire Protection Association data shows that the majority of fire deaths in the United States continue to be the result of having no smoke alarms or non-working smoke alarms. Fire Prevention Week is October 6th – 12th. This year's theme, "Smoke Alarms: Make Them Work for You!" fits in with the Altoona Fire Department's FEMA Fire Prevention and Safety Grant that funds a Smoke Detector Program for the citizens of Altoona. To date in 2024, they have installed over 1,100 smoke alarms in 179 homes.

Smoke alarms should be installed in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area (like a hallway) and on each level of the home, including the basement. Testing of the smoke alarms should occur monthly and alarms should be replaced every ten years or sooner if they do not respond when tested. This link demonstrates how to test smoke alarms: www.youtube.com/watch?v=ODyEqwIuiBk

Altoona has seen more fires in 2024 than last year. Between January and August 2023, there were 103 structure fires; in 2024, there were 130 during the same eight month period. This is a trend that the Altoona Fire Department wants to change. This month, the Altoona Fire Department will visit over 30 schools and daycares, impacting over 4,000 children in the Altoona area, while continuing their daily work of responding to fires, motor vehicle accidents and other emergencies. We salute all of the members of our Altoona Fire Department and are proud of the work that they do!

Halloween Safety

TRICK OR TREAT IN ALTOONA WILL BE THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31st FROM 6 PM – 8 PM

FOR KIDS:

1. Choose face paint and makeup whenever possible instead of masks, which can obstruct a child's vision.
2. Have kids carry glow sticks or flashlights to help them see and be seen by drivers.
3. Decorate costumes / bags with reflective tape or stickers and, if possible, choose light colors.
4. Cross the street at corners, using traffic signals and crosswalks. Look both ways when crossing and keep looking as you cross.
5. Put electronic devices down, keep heads up and walk, don't run, across the street



FOR DRIVERS:

1. Slow down and be especially alert in residential neighborhoods. Children are excited on Halloween and may move in unpredictable ways.
2. Take extra time to look for kids at intersections, on medians and on curbs.
3. Enter and exit driveways and alleys slowly and carefully.
4. Turn headlights on earlier to spot children at greater distances

#Celebrate Every Day ~ October

This newsletter brings the start of a new series where, just for fun, we focus on the month we are in and give you some serious, funny and sometimes just outrageous “national” celebrations. We all know that October is the month of Halloween and Columbus Day. The month is also important for raising awareness of serious topics, including Health Literacy Month; Breast Cancer Awareness Month; National HIV / AIDS Awareness Month; Blindness Awareness Month; Fire Prevention Month

But it is also National Chili Month. Spinach Lovers’ Month, National Pretzel Month and National Squirrel Awareness Month!

Have some fun and brighten this month by celebrating some of these days during the month of October!

- October 1 - International Coffee Day
- October 2 - Name Your Car Day
- October 3 – Virus Appreciation Day – (not sure how to appreciate a virus!)
- October 4 – National Golf Day
- October 7 – National Forgiveness Day
- October 9 – Take Your Teddy Bear To Work Day
- October 12 – National Gumbo Day
- October 14 – National Dessert Day
- October 16 – Bosses Day
- October 17 – Wear Something Gaudy Day
- October 18 – Meatloaf Appreciation Day
- October 21 – Pumpkin Cheesecake Day
- October 23 – National Mole Day
- October 24 – National Bologna Day
- October 25 – World Pasta Day
- October 27 – Mother-In-Law Day
- October 28 – Make A Difference Day
- October 29 – National Frankenstein Day



MAYOR MATTHEW A. PACIFICO

CITY OF ALTOONA

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Proclamation

Whereas, The 10-Minute Walk Program[®] is a national effort by Trust for Public Land that supports cities in their work to make it possible for all people to access quality parks and green spaces within a 10-minute walk of their home; and

Whereas, High-quality and accessible parks are anchors of equitable, thriving, safe, and vibrant American cities and have the power to transform communities; and

Whereas, Nationwide, decades of short-sighted planning and policy has resulted in fewer and smaller parks in areas of low to moderate income, creating an inequitable divide that cities are working to eliminate; and

Whereas, With 90% of Altoona's population living within a 10 minute walk of an area park, the City of Altoona seeks to improve access to parks and to establish new parks and walking trails, increasing opportunities for all residents to create, walk, play and enjoy themselves;

NOW THEREFORE, I, MATTHEW PACIFICO, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA, PENNSYLVANIA DO HEREBY DECLARE OCTOBER 10, 2024 AS

"National Walk To A Park Day"

IN THE CITY OF ALTOONA, ENDORSING THE GOALS OF THE 10-MINUTE WALK PROGRAM[®] AND ENCOURAGING ALL RESIDENTS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR PARKS AND TRAILS BY VISITING ONE ON THIS DAY.



In Witness Whereof, I Hereby Set My Hand and Present the Seal of the City of Altoona to be affixed on this 10th day of October, in the Year of Our Lord, 2024.


Matthew Pacifico, Mayor

