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Altoona Proud

A Monthly Insight into all that is Altoona

June Is National Safety Month



June is National Safety Month, promoting safety in the home, workplace, and community. The observance was created by the National Safety Council (NSC) in 1996 to raise awareness about the importance of safety, especially since preventable injuries, or “accidents” are the 4th leading cause of death in the United States. In June, everyone is encouraged to be aware of, and practice, safety measures in all areas of life - fire safety, water safety, food safety, personal safety and many others.

The National Safety Council recommends the following actions to prioritize safety in all areas of life:

1. Make Safety a Priority

Make sure you are following safe protocols in your home, workplace and community and instruct others how to do the same.

2. Create a Safety Plan

Sit down with family or co-workers to make sure everyone knows what to do in the event of an emergency, and practice safety plans regularly.

3. Educate yourself

It is important to educate yourself on all safety protocols and best practices. These include fire safety, food safety, personal safety and water safety.

4. Check Equipment

This is the month to check smoke detectors, fire extinguishers and fire alarms.

5. Spread the Word

Share safety tips with friends, family and co-workers. Make everyone’s safety a priority.

Altoona Fire Department Smoke Alarms

The Altoona Fire Department (AFD) has received a Fire Prevention and Safety Grant through FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency). The grant funds will purchase smoke alarms for City of Altoona residents. Firefighters will install them and provide fire prevention education to the residents. Residents who wish to have smoke alarms installed by the AFD can call **814-949-2230**.

Working smoke alarms are essential for early fire warnings in homes so people can get out safely. Smoke alarms save lives and minimize property damage when the Fire Department can respond quickly. Residents should follow these important fire safety rules:

- Have a smoke detector in each bedroom and one on every floor, including the basement.
- Remove anything combustible from the outside of your house that could burn if there was a fire nearby. These include dry leaves, dead trees or brush. Removal of these items keeps a defensible space around your home.
- Clear pine needles, leaves, and anything that can burn from your roof, gutters, porches, decks, patios and fence lines.
- Keep a clear space around your home to make it easier and quicker for firefighters to access your property in an emergency.

The National Fire Protection Agency reports that the risk of death in home structure fires is reduced by 55% in homes with working smoke alarms. Smoke alarms and a clear perimeter space will reduce the risk of fires.



City of Altoona Receives Award

The Altoona Blair County Development Corporation (ABCD) held its annual breakfast on May 26, 2023. At the breakfast, the City of Altoona was honored with the Rossman-Kazmaier Award for the major policy changes, improvements and funding initiatives implemented in recent years, bringing revitalization and recovery to the City and its surrounding communities. Mayor Pacifico accepted the award on behalf of the City of Altoona, with members of City Council in attendance.

This award, established in 2016 by the Rossman and Kazmaier families, was created to recognize organizations or individuals who make significant strides towards a common goal of bringing economic growth to the City. The award has been given only once before, to Penn State University in 2017. The City of Altoona is proud to be acknowledged as recipients of this important award.



State of the City Address 2023

Mayor Matt Pacifico presented his State of the City Address on Monday, May 15th at the Railroaders Memorial Museum. The audience of over 45 attendees, including area legislators, businesses, City Council and City staff learned about the improvements, initiatives and challenges in the City of Altoona in 2022.

After the address, visitors had the opportunity to visit the Museum and view the film “Altoona At Work”, a wonderful look back at the history of the railroad in Altoona. You can view the Address on YouTube through the City of Altoona website at www.youtube.com/watch?v=qX1jwVEiel4&t=9s.



Prospect Pool Opening - Update

On Saturday, May 6, a group of over 40 volunteers, including City Hall staff, worked at Prospect Pool cleaning, repairing, and painting in preparation for the Pool's grand opening. A big THANK YOU to all of those who volunteered and to the Bavarian Hall and Bestway Pizza for providing lunch for the volunteers! A new logo and mural have been painted by Altoona Area High School students as well.



Due to weather challenges that caused a delay in the repairs and restoration efforts at Prospect Pool, and in order to ensure that the Pool is in optimum condition, the opening day for Prospect Pool has been moved from Saturday, May 27th as originally announced to **Saturday, June 3 from noon to 7 P.M.** Admission is free on that day and food trucks, music and other events are planned. For information, employment opportunities and special events, please visit the website at www.prospectpoolaltoona.com



CONTACT Altoona Walk



Walk for a Healthy Community
Saturday June 10th, Altoona Curve
Registration Opens at 7:45AM
Opening Ceremonies 8:30AM
5K Walk Begins at 9:00AM
1 Mile Walk Begins at 9:15 AM

CONTACT Altoona thanks everyone for their continued support. This month, you can again help support CONTACT Altoona by participating in the Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community.

Participation is open to all residents of the City and surrounding communities. All routes are accessible to wheelchairs, electric scooters, strollers, etc., and refreshments and entertainment will be provided. Registration and donations are open until, and including, the day of the event. To walk with the team and/or donate to the event, go to: <https://contactaltoona.com>

Anyone making a donation of \$30 will receive a free t-shirt at the event. For questions, contact Executive Director Erin Kay at 814-946-0531 or ekay@contactaltoona.com

Levity Summerfest

Levity Summerfest will be held in Heritage Plaza on 11th Avenue in downtown Altoona on Saturday, June 17th beginning at 11:00 AM. The event will host local businesses, artists, crafters and vendors in Heritage Plaza, along with games, food, great beer and live music by The Pennsylvanians, The Ken Baxters and Vision Manifest. Visit www.levitybrewing.com/summer-fest-altoona for the complete schedule. Bring a lawn chair and enjoy the day!

If you are interested in having a presence at Levity Altoona Summerfest, email Ang at events@levitybrewing.com



Women Veterans Day is June 12

In November, 2022, Governor Tom Wolff signed legislation declaring June 12 as "Women Veterans Day" in Pennsylvania. The date is significant in that, while women have served in the military since the beginning of our country's history, they were not recognized as military members or veterans until President Truman signed the Women's Armed Services Integration Act on June 12, 1948.

2023 not only marks the first official Women's Veterans Day in Pennsylvania, but also the 40th anniversary of the renamed James E. Van Zandt VA Medical Center. The City of Altoona is proud to honor the work of the VA Medical Center and commends all of the City's women veterans on this important day.

History Highlight

This month marks the 75th anniversary of one of the area's cultural and entertainment groups, so this month we highlight:

Altoona Community Theatre

In the late 1920s, a private elocution teacher named Dean Dreifus established a local performing group called the Altoona Theatre Guild. A few years later, the troupe changed its name to The Altoona Little Theatre and received a growth spurt when some of the performers from The Chicago Stock Company, which ran out of funds and folded during a summer engagement at Lakemont Park, remained in the area for a while. In November 1948, those involved with the troupe decided it was time to formalize its existence and incorporated as the Altoona Community Theatre (ACT).

ACT mounted its productions in a variety of venues throughout Altoona, including the Penn Alto Hotel, Penn State Ivyside Campus, Roosevelt Junior High School, Altoona Area High School and St. Luke's Church. In 1965, when the Mishler Theatre was to be razed, ACT joined forces with the Blair County Arts Foundation (BCAF) to buy the historic theatre and begin renovation efforts. ACT's production of Rodgers and Hammerstein's THE SOUND OF MUSIC marked the grand reopening of the Mishler in March 1969 and, today, ACT remains the primary tenant of the theatre, still owned and operated by BCAF.



In 1983, in cooperation with Irving & Joan Seltzer and Sam & Rose Port, ACT purchased the former downtown Elks Club for its operational headquarters, with a rehearsal hall, administrative office, meeting room, set construction shop, wardrobe workroom and costume storage area.

Today, with an audience base of 9,000, ACT presents four productions annually, along with children's theatre and workshops, with all the work still done by a dedicated group of volunteers.

We congratulate ACT on their Diamond Anniversary!



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