

**From the desk of:**

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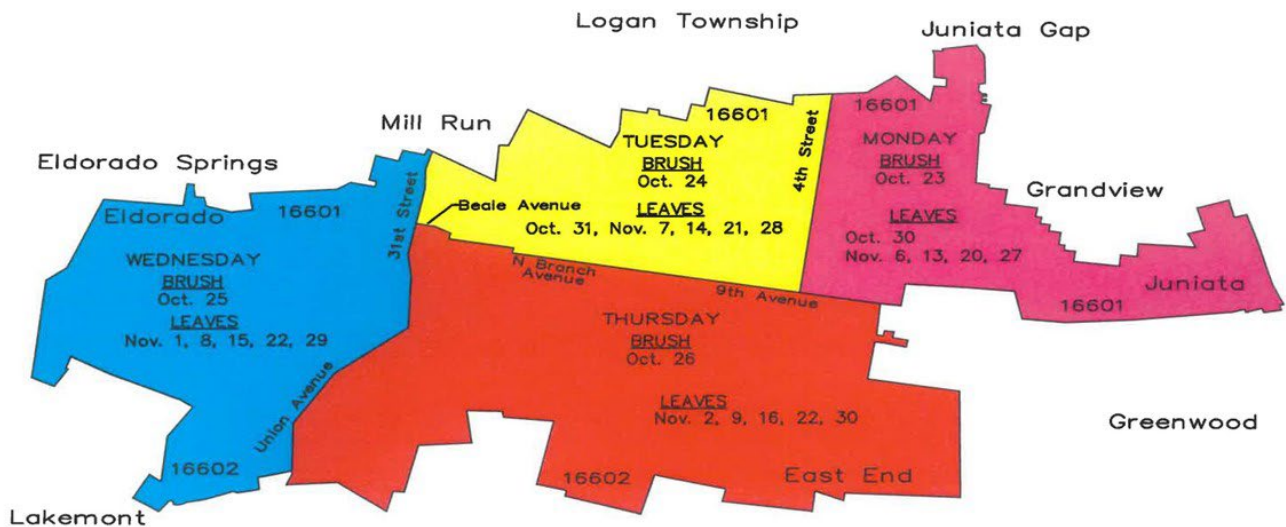
# Altoona Proud

A Monthly Insight into all that is Altoona

## City of Altoona 2023 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 2023 FALL BRUSH & LEAF COLLECTION



# Fire Prevention Week 2023



Fire Prevention Week is October 8<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>. This year's theme is "Cooking Safety Starts With You", sharing important steps people can take to keep themselves, and those around them, safe when cooking. Cooking is the most prevalent type of home fire, and the leading cause of kitchen fires is unattended cooking, mostly involving the kitchen stove. It's important to stay in the kitchen while cooking, or check frequently if you are simmering or roasting. Using a timer to remind you that you are cooking, and keeping anything flammable such as oven mitts, packaging, or towels away from the stove are just some of the ways to prevent kitchen fires.

In addition, City Firefighters will be out and about visiting schools and daycares to discuss fire safety tips, such as a home escape plan and the rule of stop, drop and roll. This is also the time to check smoke detectors to ensure they are working properly, making sure to have one in each bedroom and on each floor. If you need new smoke detectors, look for a 10-year battery life and a UL-certified symbol when purchasing. The Altoona Fire Department can assist with installation.



Area businesses should schedule a Fire Safety Drill for their employees to go over things like:

- **Emergency Action Plans**
- **Fire Safety Training**
- **Fire Extinguisher Use**

Call the Altoona Fire Department Administration Office at 814-949-2230 to schedule your drill and training event. The Fire Department is eager to help prevent losses and avoid potential fires.

# National Walk To a Park Day

Parks are an essential part of a community's health. They provide a place to play, exercise, and reap the benefits of the outdoors. Parks are a community's backyard and they protect communities from the impacts of the climate. Yet, 100 million people, including 28 million kids, do not have access to a quality park within a 10-minute walk from home. That's why, in 2021, October 10<sup>th</sup> was established as "National Walk To A Park Day".

The City of Altoona is fortunate to have 25 local parks in our area with facilities that include pickleball courts, basketball courts, and playgrounds. You can find a list of all of the parks and their facilities by visiting [www.cbrcparks.org/parks](http://www.cbrcparks.org/parks).

In addition, the City is surrounded by several State Parks, including Canoe Creek, Prince Gallitzin, and Blue Knob State Parks. Take advantage of the day on October 10<sup>th</sup> and visit one of the many park facilities in our area!



# Halloween Safety

**TRICK OR TREAT IN ALTOONA WILL BE THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26<sup>TH</sup> 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.

# Yarn Mural in Downtown Altoona

The City of Altoona is working on a unique project in downtown Altoona, a Yarn Mural to be displayed on downtown light posts, with a goal of repurposing the artwork after it is on display. Regular "knit ins", remote opportunities, and workshops have begun for this event. The first "knit-in" was held on September 2<sup>nd</sup>, but it is not too late to get involved!

The Yarn Mural Project still needs community members of all ages and skill levels to help knit and crochet these works of art, which are scheduled for completion in mid-October. For more info and to participate, interested artists should contact Emily Evey, Community Engagement Specialist, by email at [communityengagement@altoonapa.gov](mailto:communityengagement@altoonapa.gov) or phone at 814-949-2449.





# Mountain Lion Backpack Program



The Mountain Lion Backpack Program provides weekend meals, snacks and drinks to nearly 1,000 children in the Altoona Area School District. These are children who might not otherwise eat over the weekends and holiday breaks.

On September 12<sup>th</sup>, Mayor Matt Pacifico presented a proclamation to the staff of the Mountain Lion Backpack Program for National Hunger Action Month. In addition, during the month of September, City Hall employees donated items for this important program. The program operates entirely on donations. The City Hall's staff is proud to contribute to the efforts of this great program to feed our kids.

## CONTACT Altoona Fall Volunteer Training

October 22<sup>nd</sup> is World Make a Difference Day. One way you can make a difference is by volunteering for the Contact Altoona helpline. CONTACT Altoona has been serving Blair County since 1982, providing free and confidential crisis intervention, information and referral services, and sometimes just a listening ear. In addition, they provide social calls, medicine reminder calls, or 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 2023 Volunteer Training** will be offered on the following dates:

Monday, October 9<sup>th</sup>, 5 PM – 8 PM  
Tuesday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, 5 PM – 8 PM  
Wednesday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, 5 PM – 8 PM  
Monday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, 5 PM – 8 PM  
Tuesday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, 5 PM – 8 PM  
You can register by calling **814-946-0531**  
or via email at:

[www.contactaltoona.com/volunteers](http://www.contactaltoona.com/volunteers)

**CONTACT Altoona**

**2023 FALL TRAINING**

Call For Your Application **TODAY** and Register For Our **FREE** Training Program!

After successful completion of the training, you will be able to:

- \* VOLUNTEER FROM HOME
- \* Participate in all of CONTACT Altoona's events
- \* CHOOSE YOUR OWN SHIFTS
- \* And much, much more!

Classes Will Be On October 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>. 5:00pm to 8:00pm. **MUST ATTEND ALL DAYS!**

For more information call 814-946-0531

[www.contactaltoona.com/volunteer](http://www.contactaltoona.com/volunteer)

<https://www.facebook.com/contactaltoona>

# Altoona's Heritage

With October being the month that celebrates the heritage of the many cultures that make up our Country, State and City, we introduce a new feature, Altoona's Heritage. Each month we will highlight a different group of people who have shaped Altoona's diverse landscape. This month we feature

## Altoona's German Heritage

The earliest record of German settlement in our area is in the 1840's, when Germans first immigrated to Hollidaysburg, PA. However, in the 1880's, mechanically inclined German immigrants from Bavaria, coming through Ellis Island, were encouraged to seek employment in the Altoona Railroad Shops, and so began the roots of German heritage in the City. Today, it is estimated that about 30% of the City's population are of German heritage.

The Bavarian Aid Society, a private membership club, was founded in 1887 with ten members, as a social and beneficial organization for the new German residents. The Society received its PA Charter in 1889 and, in 1927, opened the location that is the current home of the Bavarian Aid Society. The Society's support of German heritage aided the German Community in Altoona during times in history when German immigrants faced great adversity and discrimination because of world events.



## GERMANY

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German Americans gave us the first Kindergarten and introduced the holiday traditions of the Christmas tree and St. Nicholas, which evolved into America's Santa Claus. They also brought to us the traditions of Easter eggs and the "Osterhaus", or as we know it, the Easter Bunny. German Americans were responsible for many businesses that exist today, including our own Benzel's Bretzels! This month we celebrate the richness of German influence in Altoona, PA!



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**CITY OF ALTOONA**

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