

From the desk of:

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October
2022



Altoona Proud

A Monthly Insight into all that is Altoona

City of Altoona Leaf & Brush Collection

Fall in our region brings many beautiful colors, admired throughout many parts of the U.S. It also brings an abundance of leaves. The City Highway Yard is geared up for its fall brush and leaf collection. Listed below is the schedule for your information. It can also be found on our website, along with the map. Please help keep our City clean!

CITY OF ALTOONA FALL BRUSH & LEAF COLLECTION

BRUSH - MONDAY - OCTOBER 17

LEAVES - MONDAY - OCTOBER 24, 31, NOVEMBER 7, 14

Juniata Section, Wehnwood, Ivyside, Logantown
& a portion of Fairview to 4th Street & Norfolk Southern Mainline

BRUSH - TUESDAY - OCTOBER 18

LEAVES - OCTOBER 25, NOVEMBER 1, 8, 15

Center City from Norfolk Southern Mainline including Fairview (south of 4th street), Keith Area, Gospel Hill, 5th & 9th Wards & a portion of 12th Ward including Broad & Beale Avenues to 31st Street

BRUSH - WEDNESDAY - OCTOBER 19

LEAVES - OCTOBER 26, NOVEMBER 2, 9, 16

31st Street & Union Avenue including South Altoona, Mansion & Columbia Parks, Garden Heights, Lyswen, Highland Park & Eldorado

BRUSH - THURSDAY - OCTOBER 20

LEAVES - OCTOBER 27, NOVEMBER 3, 10, 17

Center City East of 9th Ave & North of Union Ave to Pleasant Valley including Tuckahoe Pk, Hileman Heights, Dutch Hill, Prospect, Pleasant Valley & East End

LEAF COLLECTION INFO

CURBSIDE BY 7:00 AM

ITEMS MUST BE IN BROWN COMPOST BAGS (No tape)

QUESTIONS? CONTACT THE CITY HIGHWAY YARD @ 814-949-2212

Fire Prevention Week-100th Anniversary

October is a busy month for Fire Departments all over the country. **Fire Prevention Week is October 9th – 15th**, and firefighters will be out and about in the City to inform everyone about fire safety and prevention. People of all ages still remember the excitement of the red fire truck coming to school, and giving out fire hats, stickers, and a badge. Leaving class for a bit to learn *Stop, Drop, and Roll*, it was then time to go home to *Plan Your Escape* with your family.

The City of Altoona Fire Department will visit about 20 public and private schools and daycares this month, interacting with over 3,700 children.

Everyone should make a home escape plan that includes two ways out of each room, to include windows and doors that are accessible and easy to open, and a group meeting place. Review and practice your escape plan at least twice a year. Once a smoke alarm alerts you of smoke or fire, you have about 2 minutes to escape.

October is an excellent time to check your smoke detectors to ensure they are working properly. If you need new smoke detectors, look for a 10-year battery life and a UL-certified symbol when purchasing. Have a smoke detector in each bedroom and on each floor. If you need help installing the detectors, call the Altoona Fire Department Administration Office at 814-944-2230 to request an installation. They are happy to help!



This is also an opportunity for area businesses to schedule a Fire Safety Drill for their employees. Do your employees know what to do in a major or minor incident? Do they know what doors to exit or not to exit? Do they know how to use a fire extinguisher? We offer resources for businesses, including:

- **Emergency Action Plans**
- **Annual Fire Drills**
- **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 teach prevention to avoid losses associated with fires.



Trick-or-Treat

TIPS FOR A SAFE HALLOWEEN



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.

Empowering Arts for Women in Recovery

EMPOWERING ARTS FOR WOMEN IN RECOVERY FROM ADDICTION

A FREE 6-week program, meeting 6-8pm Mondays from October 10th- November 14th.



A variety of artistic mediums will be featured to help participants find their preferred medium for creative expression. Please email sdilling@artsaltoona.org to register!

Sponsored in part by



In The Blank Canvas



ArtsAltoona is pleased to be offering a FREE program called Empowering Arts for Women in Recovery from Addiction. This program, featuring a variety of artistic mediums, is designed to help participants find their preferred arts medium for creative expression. The sessions will be held on Monday evenings from 6-8 pm in the Blank Canvas at the ArtsAltoona Center. The program will run for 6 weeks, from October 10th through November 14th.

This program is sponsored in part by WISE Women of Blair County. Light refreshments and participation incentives will be offered. To register, please send an email to: sdilling@artsaltoona.org

CONTACT Altoona Turns 40!

CONTACT Altoona is a telephone helpline program that has been serving Blair County since 1982. They provide free and confidential crisis intervention, information and referral services, and sometimes just a listening ear. In addition, their Reassurance Program provides social calls, reminders about taking meds, or safety checks. Telephones are staffed 365 days a year by trained volunteers, who take an average of 2,500 calls per month. **CONTACT is looking for volunteers!** Volunteer training will be offered on the following dates:

Monday, October 17th 12pm-3pm
Tuesday, October 18th 12pm-3pm
Monday, October 24th 12pm-3pm
Tuesday, October 25th 12pm-3pm
Tuesday, November 1st 12pm-3pm
You can sign up by calling **814-946-0531**
or on the web at
www.contactaltoona.com/volunteers

NEEDS YOU!

2022 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 Begin October 17th

For more information call 814-946-0531

www.contactaltoona.com/volunteer

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

History Highlight

Altoona has a rich history, about which many residents may be unaware. Each month we will focus on a small piece of that history. This subject of this month's history highlight is:

BAKER MANSION

The **Baker Mansion** is a historic home located in Altoona. It was built between 1844 and 1848, at a cost of \$15,000 (\$562,000 in 2022). Its owner, Elias Baker, lived in the residence for fifteen years before his death in 1864. His widow, Hetty Baker, resided there until her death in 1900.

The last resident of the house was daughter Anna Baker, who died in 1914. After that, the house was closed until 1922, when the Blair County Historical Society leased the building and opened it as a museum, thus making the museum 100 years old in 2022.

It was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1975 and, today, offers tours, both virtual and in-person, as well as special events such as Evening Candlelight Tours during October and Mansion Tours at Christmas. This beautiful historic site is worth a visit.



For more information on hours, special events, and virtual tours, please visit:

<https://www.blairhistory.org/baker-mansion.html>



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