

Mayor Matthew A. Pacifico

Monthly Update - April 2018



It is that time of year - the Annual Spring Yard Waste Collection! Below, please find the dates and zones where the collections will take place. **(Due to the inclement weather of the past few weeks, the collection has been extended to include the Week of April 9th - 13th.)**

Monday, March 26 & April 2 - Juniata and Center City

From North 20th Street (Juniata) to 29th Street from Norfolk Southern Mainline, Margaret Avenue, Union Avenue, and Beale Avenue West to the City Line.

Tuesday, March 27 & April 3 - Eldorado

From 29th Street to 59th Street and East to Union Avenue and Frankstown Road

Wednesday, March 28 & April 4 - Pleasant Valley and East End

From Norfolk Southern Mainline Including East End and Pleasant Valley

Yard Waste Collection Times

7:00 A.M. - Curbside on Collection Days (No Alley or Yard Pick-Up)

Yard Waste Collection Requirements

All items must be bagged in brown compost bags. Loose items will not be collected. Items include trimmings, bedding plants, twigs and branches.

Questions should be directed to the City Highway Yard at 949-2212, Monday through Friday between 7:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

[Collection Map](#)



City Council Meeting - April

City Council will hold its regular meeting on Wednesday, April 11th at 7:00 P.M. at City Council Chambers, 1320 Washington Ave.

To view the full calendar of City Council meetings for 2018, please visit the City's website:

[2018 City Council Meetings](#)

Task Force Unveils Comprehensive Blight Strategy

In its continuing effort to fight blight and promote community investment, the City of Altoona assembled a Blight Task Force to develop a comprehensive plan for implementing effective strategies to address blight in Altoona.

The Blight Task Force included representatives from the City government, residents, businesses, institutions, and non-profit organizations.

Over the course of several months, the Blight Task Force examined data on the nature and extent of blight in Altoona, reviewed a range of blight tools and strategies, and reached consensus on blight strategies to prioritize for implementation.

To view the completed Comprehensive Blight Strategy Plan, which sets forth the work of the Blight Task Force and their recommendations for implementations, please click here:

[Comprehensive Blight Strategy Plan](#)

NLC Congressional City Conference

Mayor Matt Pacifico recently attended the National League of Cities (NLC) Congressional City Conference in Washington, D.C. The conference hosted more than 2,000 city leaders in our Nation's Capital to represent and advocate for the interests of cities.

During the conference, Mayor Pacifico participated in:

- A "Federal Agency Round Robin," where he had the opportunity to speak with staff from 25 various federal agencies including the U.S. Department of Transportation, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Department of Justice. The purpose of the round robin was to enable local leaders to discuss a variety of topics important to their cities with agency officials, as well as learn more about available federal resources, tools, grants, and programs of interest to local governments.
 - Attended various workshops about city issues, including "Strategies For Meeting Transportation and Water Needs," which focused on strategies for meeting infrastructure challenges faced by many small communities and how federal legislation can help address these challenges; and "Smart Technology Coming to Your City," which provided the latest updates on how Congress and the Administration plan to regulate technology in cities, and how to work with federal legislators to impact policy pertaining to smart technology.
 - Met with PA Senators Toomey and Casey to discuss the proposed plan to rebuild the Nation's infrastructure, and encouraged them to work with cities nationwide to partner with them and invest in their vision to rebuild and re-imagine America.
 - Attended NLC's Community and Economic Development (CED) Committee as a Board Member. The CED is responsible for developing policy positions on issues involving housing, community and economic development, land use, recreation and parks, historic preservation, and international competitiveness.
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Code Enforcement Tips for Spring

Spring is here! If you are planning on some Spring cleaning, Code Enforcement wants you to keep a few tips in mind before you roll up your sleeves, get out your brooms, dust pans and gardening tools. Together, we can help keep our City of Altoona neighborhoods vibrant, safe and beautiful by taking some simple steps this Spring and throughout the year!

Proper Waste Disposal

- Set out garbage no earlier than 6:00 p.m. evening before pickup.
- Garbage must be kept in approved, sealed containers.
- Know your collection day!

Exercise Property Maintenance Practices

- Keep your yard maintained.

- Grass and weeds must not exceed 8 inches in height.
- PREVENT INFESTATION! - Unkempt lawns and weeds are not only unsightly, but may attract rodents, pests, and vermin.
- Keep your sidewalks clean and free of debris.

Swimming Pool Care

- Improper maintenance of swimming pools can be a breeding ground for mosquitoes and other insects.
- CLEAN and MAINTAIN your swimming pool regularly.

Home Improvement Projects

- Thinking of starting a home improvement project and unsure if you need a permit? Contact the Codes Office for help!

For more information on the City's property maintenance and/or inspection requirements, please contact the City of Altoona Codes and Inspections Department, 814-949-2456 or email inspections@altoonapa.gov.

Watch for information on the City's Spring Clean-Up Day! COMING SOON

Flooding & You: Learn How to Keep You & Your Property Safe

After a heavy rain, the City usually gets calls from residents regarding street and residential flooding. As such, the newsletter will now feature a section devoted to the City's participation in a national flood insurance program, and will provide background information, facts and figures, safety tips, and how the City is working to help protect residents and their property against flooding.

WHAT IS THE NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM (NFIP)

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) is a Federal program, managed by the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA), and has three components: to provide flood insurance, to improve floodplain management and to develop maps of flood hazard zones.

The City of Altoona joined the NFIP in 1973. Through the city ordinance, the city is obligated to follow the FEMA regulations for development in the floodplain. In the City of Altoona, there are approximately 700 properties in the floodplain. The City of Altoona also has two Certified Floodplain Managers.

Reading to Local Students



Recently, Mayor Pacifico visited the Pre-K Counts and Head Start classrooms at the Child Advocates of Blair County's (CABC) Washington Jefferson building in Altoona to read to the children.

CABC is a private, nonprofit, community based organization that provides high quality programming focused around the total needs of the family, including providing education programs such as Pre-K Counts and Head Start to stress the importance of early education.

Altoona in Bloom Street Fair



The Downtown Altoona Business Community will once again be hosting the 2nd Annual Downtown Altoona Street Fair in Downtown Altoona Friday, May 4th from 5-9 PM and Saturday, May 5th from 12-9 PM.

The event will have food vendors, retail shopping, crafts, children's activities, music and more. Rides will be set up at the Railroaders Museum, Vendors will be stationed at the 13th Street Crossover, and Heritage Plaza will be center-stage for live music and food vendors.

More information will become available as the event nears. For questions or more information, please contact the DABC via PM on their Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/DowntownABC/>.

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