

Mayor Matthew A. Pacifico

Monthly Update - February 2018



The New Year is in full swing and most resolutions have gone by the wayside. Many make resolutions to get healthier and for good reason, according to the American Heart Association, cardiovascular disease, including heart disease and stroke, remains the leading global cause of death each year.

As such, February is known as American Heart Month. The American Heart Association encourages everyone to focus on their hearts and get their families, friends and communities involved in making healthy choices.

To learn more about American Heart Month and ways to increase and maintain your health, please visit: <http://www.heart.org/HEARTORG/>.



NOW HIRING: APD Seeking Officers

The Altoona Police Department (APD) is seeking qualified men and women to join their police force.

Requirements:

- Must pass a physical agility test scheduled for Saturday, March 17, 2018 at 8:00 A.M. in Altoona.
- Must pass a written Civil Service Test to be administered on Saturday, March 24, 2018 at 8:30 A.M. in Altoona.
- Must have successfully completed a Pennsylvania Act 120 basic training program.
- Must be 21 years of age on or before the date of employment.
- Must be a United State citizen.
- Must have graduated from an accredited high school or have a

Graduate Equivalency Diploma (G.E.D.) acceptable to the Commission.

- Must be licensed to operate a motor vehicle in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
- Must be of high moral character and free of felony or misdemeanor convictions.
- Must be physically and mentally fit for the full duties of a Police Officer.
- Must submit to a Computerized Voice Stress Analysis (CVSA).
- Must agree to psychological and physical examinations if offered employment.
- Starting salary: \$43,073.43

Interested individuals can obtain an application from the Human Resources Department at City Hall, 1301 12th Street, Suite 301, Altoona, PA, weekdays from 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

Applicants or their designee must file **completed, NOTARIZED applications with accompanying documentation NO LATER THAN 12:00 P.M. on Wednesday, March 7, 2018.**

Applications can be returned in person or by mail to:

Human Resources Department, Altoona City Hall, 1301 12th Street, Suite 301, Altoona, PA 16601-3491.

A \$25 processing fee (check or money order) must be paid at the time the application is filed. Applications that are incomplete for any reason will not be accepted, and will be returned to the applicant. Falsification, concealment, or misrepresentation of material fact on the application form may result in disqualification. All previous applicants will be required to reapply and repeat the entire application process in order to be considered for employment.

* Applicants who do not reside in the Blair Co. area may receive an application via e-mail by contacting Anne Rito in Human Resources at ARito@altoonapa.gov

To view the official announcement, please click here:

APD Hiring Announcement

Snow and Ice Removal Reminder

While some days are feeling a little more like "Spring," the official start to

Spring is still several weeks away. This means that we can likely expect a few more snowflakes and icicles in our forecast.

The City of Altoona would like to remind property owners that it is their responsibility to remove snow and/or ice from their sidewalks within 24 hours after the end of snowfall, sleet, and/or freezing rain. This includes sidewalks on private property, both occupied and vacant, and along the public street front, to include handicap curb cuts at corners. Snow and ice removal from sidewalks is necessary to ensure the safety of people using the sidewalks during winter.

City ordinance requires an 18 inch wide pathway for all sidewalks. If ice cannot be removed, sand or an abrasive material must be used in order to make the surface safe. No snow is to be thrown onto the roadways at any time.

Failure to comply may result in a codes violation which could lead to fines.

To report an unshoveled sidewalk, please contact Codes & Inspections at 949-2456 or [click here and use the form.](#)

REAL ID Information

Pennsylvanians: It may be time to start planning for a new license under the REAL ID Act.

The REAL ID Act is an act passed by Congress in 2005, which requires changes to state standards, procedures, and requirements for the issuance of driver's licenses and state IDs. These changes are necessary if they are to be accepted as identification documents by the federal government, and to be used to gain entry to certain things, such as airline flights and federal government facilities.

Pennsylvania is under a REAL ID enforcement extension until October 10, 2018; however, compliant identification documents will not be available to the public until 2019. Until they become available, PennDOT will continue to be requesting extensions from the federal government.

It is never too early to start being prepared and ensure you can locate the necessary documents needed to obtain a REAL ID compliant license or state ID card. Interested residents will need the following:

- Birth certificate with a raised seal
- Social Security card
- Proof of all legal name changes

- Two proofs of current address

Please note: Individuals are not required to get a REAL ID. If you choose not to get a REAL ID compliant driver's license or identification card, you will still be able to pass TSA checkpoints, enter a federal facility, or military base, **IF** you provide a second form of ID - valid U.S. Passport or U.S. Passport Card, military ID, or another federally approved identification.

Additionally, you do **NOT** need a REAL ID driver's license or identification card to do any of the following:

- Drive
- Vote
- Apply for or receive federal benefits that you are entitled to (Veterans' Affairs, Social Security Administration, etc.)
- Enter a federal facility that does not require identification (i.e. - post office)
- Access a hospital or receive life-saving services
- Participate in criminal justice proceedings or investigations (serve on a federal jury, testify in federal court, etc.)

Visit the PennDOT website for more information on the REAL ID process and the latest updates:

[REAL ID Updates](#)

City Council Meeting - February

City Council will hold its regular meeting on Wednesday, February 14th 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](#)

Public Blight Task Force Meeting

Altoona's Blight Task Force will hold a public meeting to discuss the comprehensive blight strategy compiled by the task force over the past several months.

The public meeting will be held on **Wednesday, March 7th at 5:00 P.M. at the Devorris Downtown Center, 1431 12th Avenue, Altoona, PA.**

PML Capitol Conference



On January 23rd, Mayor Pacifico attended the Pennsylvania Municipal League's Capitol Conference in Harrisburg.

During the Conference, he was one of the panel speakers during a session about combating blight. He shared what the City of Altoona was doing to combat blight, including the blight task force and the various tools the city has been utilizing, in the hopes of providing ideas to the various elected officials to bring back to their communities.

Earned Income Tax Credit

The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is a credit provided by the federal government to individuals who are in the low to moderate income tax brackets. In order to qualify, you must meet certain requirements and file a tax return, even if you do not owe any tax or are not required to file. The EITC reduces the amount of tax that you owe and may provide a refund.

If you qualify and claim the credit, it could be as much as \$6,318 from the

IRS for some workers.

Don't be the one in five that misses this credit. If you or someone you know earned less than \$53,930 from wages, running a business or farm or from Form 1099 MISC, check it out.

It's easy to find out if you qualify. Use the [EITC Assistant](#), available now, and answer questions about yourself and other family members to see if you qualify and estimate the amount of your credit.

EITC eligibility depends on several factors, including income and family size. If you don't have a qualifying child and earned under \$20,600, find out if you qualify for a smaller credit, worth as much as \$510. Don't guess about EITC eligibility use the [EITC Assistant](#) to find out if you do qualify for EITC, And, see what other [tax credits](#) are available.

It's easy to find free tax help to prepare and file your taxes. Use the VITA locator tool on [IRS.GOV](#) to find a volunteer site near you. Or, you can prepare and e-file your own taxes with brand-name software using IRS's [Free File](#).

For more information on the EITC, please click here:

[Earned Income Tax Credit](#)

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TWEET

FORWARD

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