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CITY OF ALTOONA

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Altoona Proud

A Monthly Insight into all that is Altoona

July is National Park and Recreation Month

National Park and Recreation Month has been celebrated here in the United States since 1985, emphasizing the benefits of local park and recreation centers to the community and encouraging people to explore local parks and trails, and to get outside to take part in outdoor activities.

Parks play an important role in connecting communities. The presence of, and safe access to, parks and other recreational areas can create a host of opportunities and reap an abundance of benefits beyond just physical exercise. Studies have shown that spending time outdoors reduces stress, improves mental health, decreases stress and calms aggression. It has also been documented that children who are physically active do better in school.

The 10-Minute Walk Program, which began in 2017, collaborates with cities to plan and fund recreation spaces, with a goal of ensuring that all citizens have access to a park within a 10-minute walk of home. Mayor Pacifico and the City of Altoona have worked diligently to make this a reality here in our area, with the cooperation of the Central Blair Recreation and Park Commission (learn more about their upcoming events later in this newsletter). Parks continue to be updated, developed and maintained.



The City of Altoona is home to 26 different parks that include playgrounds, basketball and volleyball courts, tennis and pickleball courts, walking trails and an all-abilities park. In addition, the City has three community centers, a public swimming pool and a spray park, along with many summer camps and organized activities throughout the area.

We continue to prioritize outdoor and exercise facilities to ensure that parks are available for families and individuals in all areas of our City.

This month, take advantage of the resources available right here in our area!

Fireworks and Firework Safety

July 4th brings picnics, barbecues and, of course, fireworks. While it is a fun day for all, the day also needs to be safe. The National Safety Council suggests the following to ensure a safe Fourth of July:



- Don't allow young children to handle fireworks; allow older children to use them only with adult supervision.
- Never use fireworks if impaired by drug or alcohol usage, or point them or throw them at others.
- Never light fireworks indoors; only use them away from people, houses and flammable material.
- Never hold lighted fireworks in your hands or try to relight or handle malfunctioning fireworks.
- Light only one device at a time, use protective eyewear and maintain a safe distance.
- Keep a bucket of water nearby to fully extinguish fireworks, and soak both spent and unused fireworks in water for a few hours before discarding.
- Be respectful of neighborhood pets, for which fireworks can be very frightening. Obey the specific fireworks ordinances of the City, which can be found on the City of Altoona website, www.altoonapa.gov

NOTE: Sparklers account for more than 25% of firework injuries and half of all firework injuries for children under 5. Choose alternatives such as glow sticks, confetti poppers or colored streamers.

Fourth of July Events in the Altoona Area

Altoona Curve Baseball— Thursday, July 3rd, home game hosting the Harrisburg Senators at 7:00 PM, with fireworks following the game. The night's theme is AMERICA. For more info and for tickets, visit www.milb.com/altoona

Angie Gioiosa Memorial July 4th Race – Friday, July 4th, starting at The Mishler Theatre; 15K Run begins at 7:30 AM, 5K Run begins at 8:00 AM and 2 Mile Walk begins at 8:05 AM, with a Lollipop Fun Race for kids 6 and under and awards immediately following the race. To register before July 3rd, go to <https://runsignup.com/Race/PA/Altoona/AngieGioiosaMemorial> . Race Day registration is from 6:30 AM – 7:30 AM at the top of the street from the Mishler Theatre (12th Ave, downtown Altoona). For more information, visit www.blairregionalmca.org/race-series/july-4th-angie-gioiosa-memorial-race/

Fort Roberdeau Star Spangled Fourth –Friday, July 4th, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM; free parking and admission, open house and activities for all ages. Living history reenactors will be on site from 10 AM to 3:30 PM. For more info, visit www.fortroberdeau.org/events/

Main Line Mania – Saturday, July 5, 4:00 PM – 10:30 PM, Railroaders Memorial Museum. Food vendors, Slingers Axe Throwing and entertainment by The Silver Linings and Pletchvello, with fireworks at dusk. Q94 and Jack FM broadcasting live. VIP tickets-\$15 per car; General Admission \$10 per car; Walk-Ins \$5 per person/ For tickets or more information, go to www.railroadcity.org/events

Summer Thunder at DelGrosso's Park – Friday, July 4th, with a musical pre-show at 9:00 PM, followed by fireworks at 10:00 PM. For information on July 4th hours for Laguna Splash Water Park, DelGrosso's Park Rides and food stands, visit www.mydelgrossopark.com/events

Central Blair Recreation Commission Annual Golf Tournament



Calling all golfers! Central Blair Recreation Commission (CBRC), in cooperation with Encompass Health, is presenting their 15th Annual CBRC Golf Tournament on July 28, 2025 at the Sinking Valley Country Club.

Registration and continental breakfast begins at 8:00 AM, with the shotgun start at 9:00 AM. The day ends with an awards lunch. Snacks and beverages, will be provided throughout the course. There will be awards for putting, closest to pin, long and straight drive, along with raffle prizes.

The cost is \$400 per foursome or \$100 per individual player. Sponsorships are available at different levels from Tee signs at \$125 through platinum sponsorships of \$1,500. All proceeds benefit children's recreation programs in our area, including our many parks and summer sports programs for kids.

To register, sponsor, or just learn more visit www.cbrcparks.org or call 814-949-2231. You can also visit them on Facebook at www.facebook.com/central.recreation. Come out for a fun day and help support the continued addition and improvement of recreation areas for our City's youth!

Blair County African American Heritage Festival

The 3rd Annual Blair County African American Heritage Festival will be held in Heritage Plaza in downtown Altoona on Saturday and Sunday, July 26 - 27 from 12:00 PM - to 8:00 PM. This is a great time for the community to come out and celebrate the wonderful, foods, music, arts and culture in Blair County.

The festival will feature local music and dance artists and great food from a variety of local vendors. In addition, local artists will be exhibiting arts, crafts, jewelry, candles, woodcrafts and more. There is also a Little Entrepreneurs area for the young vendors of our community! Local agencies will be there to provide information on community resources and opportunities.



This is a great opportunity for friends and family to celebrate and experience our area's African American cultural heritage, while supporting local businesses and artists and, hopefully, enjoying two days of beautiful weather! For information, or details on specific vendors, musicians or attractions, visit their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/AAHFestival

Altoona Farmers Market



This is a quick reminder that the Altoona Farmers Market is up and running, every Thursday from 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM in Heritage Plaza in downtown Altoona. It's strawberry season and they are going fast! Stop down to check out the selection of local produce, breads, meats, flowers, honey, soaps, dips, syrups and more! Enjoy lunch from local food and drink vendors. With over 15 vendors at the market, you are sure to find something you will love. Come out and support our local farms and small businesses!

July is...

Of course, it's the Fourth of July but it is also time to enjoy the outdoors and good food, according to these special days!

July 1 – National Postal Worker Day (Thank your mail carrier!)

July 3 – National Compliment Your Mirror Day

July 5 – National Hop-A-Park Day

July 7 – National Father Daughter Take-A-Walk Day

July 11 – National French Fry Day & National Pet Photo Day

July 14 – National Mac & Cheese Day

July 15 – National Give Something Away Day & National Gummi Worm Day

July 16 – National Hot Dog Day

July 17 – National Tattoo Day

July 19 – National Play Day

July 20 – National Pennsylvania Day (celebrating the 2nd State to join the Union)

July 23 – Gorgeous Grandma Day

July 24 – National Cousins Day

July 26 – National Coffee Milkshake Day

July 27 – National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day

July 28 – National Milk Chocolate Day

July 30 – National Cheesecake Day



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