

*From the desk of:*

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**April, 2026**



# *Altoona Proud*

A Monthly Insight into all that is Altoona

## April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month

Each year, National Child Abuse Prevention Month is acknowledged during the month of April, recognizing the importance of families and communities working together to prevent child abuse and neglect. Observed since 1983, the month aims to raise awareness, promote healthy child development, and emphasize the growing need for proactive education and more targeted intervention, to ensure safe nurturing environments for children, our most valuable and vulnerable resource.

The National Statistics on Child Abuse reports that over 500,000 children in the United States experience abuse or neglect each year, resulting in an estimated 2,000 fatalities. Almost half of these fatalities are children under the age of one. Almost 80% of these fatalities involve at least one parent. In addition, the rise in online, AI-driven exploitation is a major, evolving digital threat in 2025. In the first half of 2025, reports of online enticement to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children's (NCMEC) CyberTipline jumped to **518,720**, up from 292,951 in the same period of 2024. This is alarming!

Preventing child abuse and neglect before it occurs by strengthening family protective factors is key. By supporting agencies that do this work, and by being diligent in our own surroundings, we can help change these statistics.



**NATIONAL  
CHILD ABUSE  
PREVENTION MONTH**

April 1<sup>st</sup> is "Turn Pennsylvania Blue Day". Display blue ribbons, or blue pinwheels, the symbol for child abuse prevention, at your business or home. This month, the lights outside of City Hall will be blue as part of the [Light Up Blue Initiative](#) of Family Services, Inc. For information on child abuse, go to [www.childwelfare.gov/preventionmonth](http://www.childwelfare.gov/preventionmonth). For more information on the work of Family Services, Inc. visit [www.familyservicesinc.net](http://www.familyservicesinc.net).

# Toss Out Child Abuse Cornhole Tournament

Blair County's Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) is a program of Family Services, Inc. that addresses child abuse issues through programs like the Center for Child Justice.

The CAC will host its Third Annual "Toss Out Child Abuse" Cornhole Tournament on Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup> at the Bavarian Aid Society in Altoona, from 1:00 PM – 8:00 PM. The event includes a basket raffle, 50/50, rip tickets, and food and beverages on-site.



Intermediate and competitive brackets are available, with cash prizes up to \$500 for competitive brackets and \$200 for intermediate brackets. There is also a cash raffle with a prize of \$1,000. Registration is \$50 per two-person team, and spectator admission is \$5. To learn more, or to register, download the **Scoreholio app** or visit the Family Services Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/FSICAC/](http://www.facebook.com/FSICAC/). Registration and admission are cash only at the door on event day. All proceeds benefit the Center for Child Justice.

**“Children are the living messages we send to a time we will not see.” – John F. Kennedy**

## Altoona Curve 2026 Season



Opening Day for the 2026 Altoona Curve season is scheduled for Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 PM, at People's Natural Gas Field in Altoona. The game, sponsored by Stuckey Automotive, is against the Harrisburg Senators.

This season, our Double-A affiliate of the Pittsburgh Pirates, will play six games as the Pennsylvania Continentals, including the season opener.

The Pennsylvania Continentals' logo includes an image of Independence Hall, and an outline of Pennsylvania with 13 stars, celebrating the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of America's Independence.

The games on June 25, August 15, and September 12 will feature postgame fireworks and the uniforms will be auctioned off following the September 12 game, with proceeds benefitting the Blair County Suicide Prevention Task Force and the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. Come out and show your support for our Altoona Curve baseball team! For schedules, tickets or more information, visit [www.milb.com/altoona](http://www.milb.com/altoona) and GO CURVE!

## SAVE THE DATE



P & J Productions will present Let Freedom Ring, a musical tribute in celebration of America's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The event will be June 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> at the Misciagna Family Center for the Performing Arts on the Penn State Altoona Campus. Tickets are \$15 plus a handling fee, and can be purchased online at [www.tinyurl.com/psualtoona](http://www.tinyurl.com/psualtoona) or by calling 814-949-5452.

## Altoona Area Public Library Used Book Sale

The Altoona Area Public Library offers not only books, but Chess and Team Gaming Clubs, monthly programs like Super Saturday, and a Lego Club for children ages 5–12. The library has a Tool Lending Program, One-on-One Tech Help and PA Career Link services, and more. This month is National Library Month and this year's theme is "Find Your Joy".



The Friends of the Altoona Area Public Library will hold their annual Spring Used Book Sale on the ground floor of the library, at 1600 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Altoona. The book sale offers affordable books of all kinds from adult fiction, children's books, bestsellers, classics, and non-fiction, as well as puzzles, DVDs, CDs, audiobooks, patterns, games and more. All proceeds benefit the library. The hours are:

Thursday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>; Friends of the Library Members Preview Sale 5:30 PM – 8:00 PM

Friday, April 24; 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM

Saturday, April 25; 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Monday, April 27; 8:30 AM – 6:00 PM Monday is \$5.00 a bag day. For more information, visit

<https://altoonalibrary.org/>

## Homebuyer Seminar



The City of Altoona, Penn State Altoona and First Commonwealth Mortgage are partnering to present a Homebuyer Seminar on Thursday, April 23 at 6:00 PM at the Devorris Downtown Theatre, located at 1431 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue in downtown Altoona. This informative evening of learning, networking and fun is designed to help make your home-buying goals a reality. You will learn tips and tricks to make your home-buying process easy and affordable.

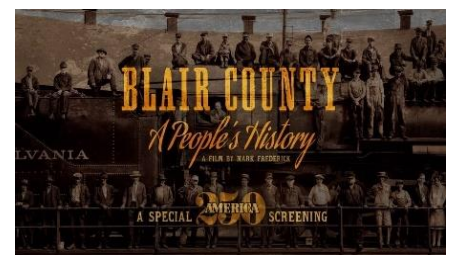
Childcare and fun activities will be available for children for the length of the seminar, graciously provided by Tender Love for Children Child Care and the School Program of first Lutheran Church of Altoona. Spaces for the Seminar are limited, and provided on a first come first serve basis.



To register for the Homebuyer Seminar, use the QR code above or go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FT5RD6T>

## Blair County: A Peoples History

The documentary *Blair County: A People's History*, is once again being presented by the Blair County Historical Society on Wednesday, April 15 as part of their local America 250 celebration. The screening will take place at the Mishler Theatre, and tickets are available now online at [boxoffice@mishlertheatre.org](mailto:boxoffice@mishlertheatre.org) or by calling 814-944-5434.



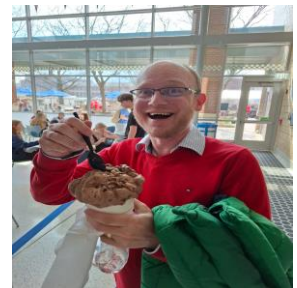
# Sister City 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Visit

From March 24<sup>th</sup> through April 1<sup>st</sup>, the City of Altoona welcomed 25 students and five adult delegates from our Sister City of St. Pölten, Austria to celebrate 25 years of partnership! The kids had a blast and made new life-long friends! We acknowledge the generosity of the schools, host families, businesses and individuals who made this visit possible:

Penn State Altoona  
Jane & Lee Hite  
Altoona Area School District  
Hollidaysburg Area School District  
Summit Fitness  
Jimmy Johns Altoona

Benzel's Bretzel Bakery, Inc.  
UPMC Foundation  
Bishop Guilfoyle Academy  
Blair County Arts Foundation /  
AMC Theaters  
Front Street Deli

ArtsAltoona  
Neil Port  
Blair Historical Society  
Mishler Theatre  
Urban Air  
Slinky Action Zone



We hope to send a group of students to St. Polten, Austria for a visit in 2027 or 2028, but we need your help make this cultural exchange happen! You can donate through the Central Pennsylvania Community Foundation, online at <https://centralpagives.org/give-now/> (choose Sister Cities Fund) or by mail to CPCF, 1616 E. Pleasant Valley Blvd., Altoona, PA 16602 (reference Sister City in your mail. THANK YOU for helping to continue this valuable program!



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