

*From the desk of:*

*MAYOR MATT PACIFICO  
CITY OF ALTOONA  
1301 TWELFTH STREET, SUITE 101  
ALTOONA, PA 16601  
814-949-2476*

**July, 2023**



# *Altoona Proud*

A Monthly Insight into all that is Altoona

## July is National Parks and Recreation Month

Since 1985, the United States has recognized Park and Recreation Month in July to promote building strong communities through parks and recreation, and to recognize the more than 160,000 full-time park and recreation professionals, along with hundreds of thousands of part-time and seasonal workers and volunteers that maintain our country's local, state and community parks.

The City of Altoona boasts over 25 parks, including a spray park and the newly re-opened Prospect Pool. Most recently, the City dedicated **Grove Memorial Park**, located at 609 23<sup>rd</sup> Street. The Park, named in honor of the late Reverend Joffrey Grove, was built on land donated by his wife Donna, and features a pavilion, a playground and a Bankshot basketball court, a basketball game for all abilities and ages. The photo below is just one of the activities at the park.

If you are not already taking advantage of the many park and recreation facilities here in the City of Altoona, now is the season to begin! The City is continually looking for ways to improve existing parks and new opportunities for recreational venues for our citizens to enjoy. Year-round programming is provided by Central Blair Recreation and Parks Commission, and you can get information on park locations and activities by visiting <http://www.cbrcparks.org/>



Here are just some of the amenities at our local parks:

- Basketball and Tennis Courts
- Pickleball and Volleyball Courts
- Horseshoe Pit and Disc Golf
- Walking Trails
- Exercise Equipment
- Pavilions
- Amphitheatre
- Playground Equipment

# Fireworks and Firework Safety

July 4<sup>th</sup> always brings picnics, barbecues and fireworks. While we hope it is a fun day for all, it is important that the day also be safe. The National Safety Council suggests the following to ensure a safe Fourth of July:

Never allow young children to handle fireworks; only allow older children to use with adult supervision. Never use fireworks while 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 after lighting. 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 and upsetting. Obey the consumer fireworks ordinances of the City:

**It shall be unlawful for any person to ignite or discharge consumer fireworks on the streets of the City of Altoona, the sidewalks of the City of Altoona or any property owned by the City of Altoona, including, without limitation, all of the City's parks and public buildings.**

**It shall be unlawful for any person to ignite or discharge consumer fireworks at any location within the City of Altoona in violation of the Act, in any manner which causes any combustible materials to be deposited on the land of another or during the hours of 11:00 PM and 8:00 AM.**

**Any person age 18 or older may purchase, possess and use consumer fireworks and sparkling devices but may not intentionally discharge or ignite them:**

- **On public or private property without express permission of the owner**
- **Within, or being thrown from, a motor vehicle or building**
- **Thrown into or at a motor vehicle or building or at another person**
- **While the person is under the influence of alcohol, a controlled substance or another drug.**
- **Within 150 feet of an occupied structure.**

**SPECIAL REMINDER:** Sparklers can be dangerous. They account for more than 25% of emergency room visits for firework injuries and half of all firework injuries for children under 5. Consider safer alternatives such as glow sticks, confetti poppers or colored streamers.



**Please help everyone to have a safe and fun Fourth of July!**

# Altoona Together Comprehensive Plan Open House



Attend the first open house events for **All Together Altoona** and be part of the effort to shape the city's new comprehensive plan. Learn about the project, speak up about issues that matter most to you, and help identify the values that shape decision-making in the community.

**Monday, July 10th**  
3:00pm to 4:30pm  
Juniata Civic Association  
206 W. 12th Ave.

**Tuesday, July 11th**

Noon to 1:30pm Altoona Area High School <i>(Use "B" building main entrance, follow signs to Drama Commons)</i> 1415 6th Ave.	5:30pm to 7:00pm Trolleyworks Business Park 3316 5th Ave.
---	--

No presentations; arrive and depart at your convenience



The City of Altoona's Mayor, City Manager, and Community Development Department are putting together a Comprehensive Plan for the continued growth and development of Altoona over the next ten years and we want to hear from you, the residents.

Many of you have expressed ideas, suggestions, and concerns, so these forums will give you the opportunity to provide valuable input, as we continue Altoona's advancement in the coming decade.

Please note the dates and times on the attached graphic and we hope you will join us at one of these events!

## Fourth of July Events in Altoona

Here are just a few of the many events happening for the Fourth of July:

**Main Line Mania** – July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 5 PM – 10 PM, Railroaders Memorial Museum; fireworks, food vendors, Slingers Axe Throwing and other competitive yard games. For more info, go to <https://www.railroadcity.org/events.html>.

**Fort Roberdeau Star Spangled Fourth** – July 4<sup>th</sup>, 10 AM - 4 PM; free parking and admission, open house and activities for all ages. For more info, visit [www.fortroberdeau.org](http://www.fortroberdeau.org).

**Lakemont Park Fourth of July Celebration** – 3 PM - 10 PM; rides, food trucks, live music, and more Rides will close at 9:45 PM for fireworks at 10 PM. For more info, visit <https://allevents.in/altoona/fourth-of-july>

**Angie Gioiosa Memorial July 4<sup>th</sup> Race** – 7:30 AM at Heritage Plaza; the race offers a 15K Run, 5K Run, 2 Mile Walk, and a Lollipop Fun Run Race for children ages 6 and under. For more info, visit [www.blairregionallymca.org/race-series/july-4th-angie-gioiosa-memorial-race/](http://www.blairregionallymca.org/race-series/july-4th-angie-gioiosa-memorial-race/).

**Altoona Curve vs. Erie Seawolves** – July 4<sup>th</sup>, 12 noon; Jersey Auction Fundraiser, game-worn, autographed jerseys, with proceeds benefiting the Horseshoe Curve and Railroaders Memorial Museum. For more info, go to <https://allevents.in/altoona/altoona-curve>

# Learn to Swim at Prospect Pool

**Together** with the **Altoona Rotary Club** we present **LEARN TO SWIM**

**SAFETY | EDUCATION | INSTRUCTION**

**FREE SWIM LESSONS PROVIDED BY THE ALTOONA ROTARY CLUB**

**6 SESSIONS (Mon-Thurs)**  
@ Prospect Pool | Altoona, PA

Session 1: June 26th – 29th  
Session 2: July 10th – 13th  
Session 3: July 17th – 20th  
Session 4: July 24th – 27th  
Session 5: July 31st – August 3rd  
Session 6: August 7th – 10th

Kindergarten–3rd Grade: 10am – 11am  
4th–6th Grade: 11am – 12pm

**Water Safety & Swim Lesson Guidelines**

- Pool Etiquette
- Safety around the pool
- How to be a safe swimmer
- Floating, Treading Water
- Blowing Bubbles from nose & mouth
- Kicking, arm movement
- Elementary Backstroke
- Ring Retrieval (3-5ft Depth)

**LIMITED TO ALTOONA RESIDENTS**  
Those with free or discounted Prospect Pool Passes will receive Priority Registration

**FOR MORE INFO:**  
**EMMA RUBRITZ**  
**AQUATICS EDUCATION COORDINATOR**  
814.695.4467 EXT. 213 | ERUBRITZ@BLAIRREGIONALYMCA.ORG

1111 HEWITT ST. HOLLIDAYSBURG PA 814.695.4467 BlairRegionalYMCA.org

Prospect Pool opened with a splash, welcoming over 600 people on its opening day. The Pool will host a variety of activities throughout the summer, including swimming and water safety instruction, provided by the City of Altoona and the Blair Regional YMCA. Thanks to a grant from the Altoona Rotary, the program will provide swimming lessons to school children from grades Kindergarten through 6th grade who reside in Altoona.

The lessons are free of charge and, at the time of this writing, the first two weeks have already been filled. If you or someone you know are interested in the lessons, it is suggested that you register as soon as possible. Many thanks to the City, the Blair Regional YMCA, and especially to the Altoona Rotary for sponsoring this important safety program for children.

## City Hall Welcomes A Community Engagement Specialist

The Community Development Department works to increase collaboration in all areas within the City of Altoona. To help in this effort, a Community Engagement Specialist, Emily Evey, has been hired to help connect local businesses and organizations, partner with community leaders to create new events and promote already existing events in the City of Altoona, and to foster entrepreneurship in the City.

The Community Engagement Specialist is already working ambitiously to increase community interaction and engagement. She is currently collecting contact information from local businesses and organizations that will help establish an in-house database for volunteers, coordinate event planning and announcements, promote email marketing campaigns and connect social media information.

To share your business or organization's contact information, please email Ms. Evey at [eevey@altoonapa.gov](mailto:eevey@altoonapa.gov). Your business or organization can also access the contact information form electronically by going to the following link: <https://forms.gle/3jXdAfwZmEMiPxcb9>.

# History Highlight

Since July is Parks and Recreation Month, we highlight Altoona's oldest park,

## Lakemont Park

Originally opened as a trolley park in 1894, Lakemont Park is the 8<sup>th</sup> oldest amusement park in the United States. Trolley parks, a precursor to amusement parks, were recreational and picnic areas at the end of trolley lines. The park was created by the Altoona and Logan Valley Electric Railway Company, and is one of only thirteen remaining trolley parks in operation.

The Park's first roller coaster was the Gravity Railroad, destroyed by fire in 1901. However, in 1902, Lakemont became home to the Leap-The-Dips, not only the oldest roller coaster in the world, but the last remaining side friction figure-eight roller coaster in the world. In 1998, the roller coaster was restored to its original character, using special wood that could be bent to the same configuration as that of the wood used in 1902. Since 1991, it has been listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

At its height, Lakemont Park bustled with amusement rides, skating rink, dance hall, two theaters, several restaurants, picnic facilities, and boating on its 13-acre lake. In 1892, the Park opened one of the country's first summer stock theaters, the Lakemont Park Playhouse, billed as "The Theatre in the Woods". The Park was donated to the County in 1937 and privatized in 1986.



Today, Lakemont Park is host to the annual Fourth of July fireworks display, and Holiday Lights on the Lake, a 50-acre drive through the park, with a breath-taking display of over one million lights, sponsored by local businesses and agencies. This display has been a part of Altoona's Christmas holiday season for over 25 years.

For information on Lakemont Park's hours, admission, attractions and special events, visit <https://lakemontparkfun.com>



**MAYOR MATTHEW A. PACIFICO**

**CITY OF ALTOONA**

**1301 TWELFTH STREET, SUITE 101**

**ALTOONA, PA 16601**



[Subscribe](#)