

From the desk of:

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CITY OF ALTOONA

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October 2025



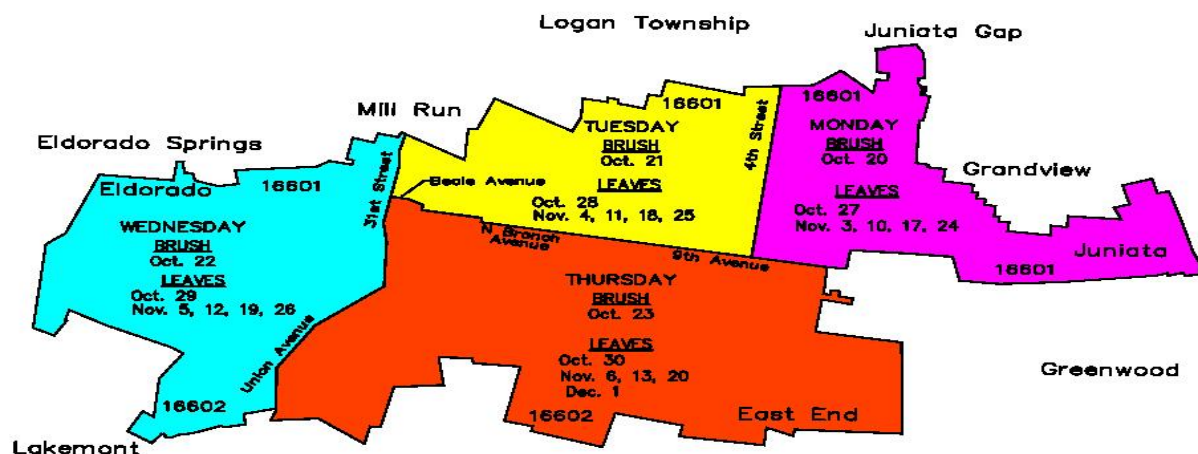
Altoona Proud

A Monthly Insight into all that is Altoona

City of Altoona 2025 Fall Brush & Leaf Collection

City brush and leaf collection runs from October 20th through December 1st. Please note that items must be in brown compost bags (no tape) and at the curb by 7:00 AM. For any questions, please call the Highway Yard at 814-949-2212. The map and a description of each zone can be viewed under Announcements at www.altoonapa.gov

CITY OF ALTOONA 2025 FALL BRUSH & LEAF COLLECTION



Training and Education Fund of PA - CNA Open House

The Training and Education Fund of Pennsylvania is a non-profit organization whose mission is to effect positive change within the healthcare community by creating curriculum that provides comprehensive growth and learning to healthcare workers. Through public and private grants, and contracts with employers, they provide tuition assistance, advanced certifications and resources to improve the quality and education for healthcare workers, with a goal of improving the healthcare staffing system in our state.



The organization has secured a state grant to identify individuals in PA communities who are interested in becoming a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) and supporting them by providing the necessary training and certification. A CNA Training Hub Open House will be held at the Curry Innovation Center at 1425 11th Avenue in Altoona. Hosted by St. Francis University, the open house will be held on Thursday October 9th, from 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM. Please attend to learn more about becoming a CNA and the resources available through the Training and Education Fund of PA. To find out more about the classes and services they offer, visit www.thetrainingfund.org

PA Blair County Career Link® Job Fair



PA Blair County CareerLink® will present its annual job fair on Wednesday, October 15th from 10 AM to 2 PM, with veterans welcome for exclusive entry at 9:30 AM.

The event will be held at the Jaffa Shrine at 2200 Broad Avenue, with no cost to attend and no pre-registration required. The day will include over 80 hiring employers, with many opportunities for on-the-spot interviews. Job Fair workshops and other helpful job search tools will be available.

The event is sponsored by First Frontier-Blair County (formerly Blair County Chamber of Commerce and ABCD Corporation), Southern Alleghenies Workforce Development Group () and the Greater Altoona Career & Technology Center. Altoona employers are hiring, so bring your resume and your best self to potentially find your next job opportunity. For further information call 814-940-6201 or register at www.facebook.com/pacareerlinkblaircounty

National Walk To A Park Day – October 10

The Trust For Public Land, a national non-profit whose goal is to support cities in their work to improve parks and green spaces, created The 10-Minute Walk Program® in 2017. The program helps cities by encouraging mayors to accelerate the creation and renovation of parks. The goal is to ensure that everyone is within a 10-minute walk of a park or green space.

Mayor Matt Pacifico has been instrumental in the creation of new parks and the upgrade and enhancement of existing parks over many years. This has been a priority and today, the City of Altoona can be proud to say that 90% of residents do live within a 10-minute walk of a park. On October 10th, National Walk To A Park Day, help celebrate our parks and green spaces by taking a walk to a local park, green space or other recreation facility.



Fire Prevention Week



Fire Prevention Week is October 5th – 11th, 2025. This year's theme is "Charge into Fire Safety – Lithium Batteries in Your Home". The campaign aims to educate the public on the safe purchase, use, charging and recycling of lithium-ion batteries to prevent fires.

Lithium-ion batteries power many household devices today, including smartphones, laptops, headphones and even toys. Incorrectly handled or damaged batteries can overheat and cause serious fires or explosions. The three key messages of this campaign are:

Buy only tested products – look for a nationally recognized testing lab on the packaging to ensure it meets established safety standards.

Charge devices safely – use the cables that come with the product and charge it on a hard surface, not under a pillow or on a bed or couch, where it could start a fire. And don't overcharge your device. Unplug it when it's fully charged to avoid overheating.

Dispose of / recycle batteries properly – do not throw them in regular recycling bins or in the trash; recycle your device or battery at a safe battery recycling location.

Visit www.firepreventionweek.org to learn more.

Our Altoona Fire Department works hard every day to protect our City and its residents. Their quick response and bravery in facing potentially life-threatening circumstances is to be commended. We are proud and grateful for every member of the Altoona Fire Department!

Halloween Safety 2025

TRICK OR TREAT IN ALTOONA WILL BE THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30th FROM 6 PM – 8 PM

FOR KIDS:

1. Choose face paint and makeup whenever possible instead of masks, which can obstruct a child's vision.
2. Have kids carry glow sticks or flashlights to help them see and be seen by drivers.
3. Decorate costumes / bags with reflective tape or stickers and, if possible, choose light colors.
4. Cross the street at corners, using traffic signals and crosswalks. Look both ways when crossing and keep looking as you cross.
5. Put electronic devices down, keep heads up and walk, don't run, across the street.



FOR DRIVERS:

1. Slow down and be especially alert in residential neighborhoods. Children are excited on Halloween and may move in unpredictable ways.
2. Take extra time to look for kids at intersections, on medians and on curbs.
3. Enter and exit driveways and alleys slowly and carefully.
4. Turn headlights on earlier to spot children at greater distances.

Sister City Student Visit in October



We are excited to welcome a student from our Sister City of St. Polten, Austria in October. Pirmin Rauscher, a senior honor student and winner of St. Polten's Youth Unlimited Competition, has chosen Altoona as the city he would like to visit! He will arrive in the United States on October 18th, spending the weekend sightseeing in Washington, DC before coming to Altoona for his two-week stay.

While in Altoona, he will stay with a host family, attend Altoona Area High School and experience some other aspects of our City, including a day tour with the Blair County Historical Society to area historical sites, a visit to the Cathedral of The Blessed Sacrament and the Mishler Theatre and Penn State, Altoona Campus and University Park. He will also be spending a full day with Mayor Matt Pacifico in Harrisburg.

In March, 2026, the City will welcome a group of 25 students and two chaperones from St. Polten, who will visit for eight days, participating in the activities listed above, and more. This is a chance to celebrate our 25-year partnership with St. Polten as Sister Cities, and a special opportunity for our high school students to interact with students from another culture and create friendships.

The Sister City Committee consists of representatives from area high schools, Penn State Altoona, local businesses and organizations, and private individuals. Student activities are planned and coordinated by the Committee, fully funded through donations of businesses and individuals. If you would like to be a part of this effort to help with the expenses of the group activities and transportation while they are with us, you can donate to the Sister Cities Fund directly by visiting www.paypal.com/ncp/payment/KZHH8VVD7MR4 or you can visit the website at www.centralpagives.org/give-now/ and choosing Sister Cities Fund for your donation. Thank you in advance for helping us to provide an unforgettable experience for both our own Altoona Area High School students and the students from St. Polten, Austria.

Landlord Educational Workshop

Operation Our Town, in collaboration with the Altoona Housing Authority, will conduct a Landlord Educational Workshop on Friday, November 14th at the Altoona Grand Hotel, 1 Sheraton Drive, Altoona, PA. Registration begins at 8:30 AM and the program is from 8:45 AM – 3:00 PM. The event is free with lunch provided, along with vendor tables to visit during lunch.

The topics covered will include renovation programs, energy efficiency and assistance programs, rental assistance programs, eviction processes and leases, common fair housing violations and frequently asked questions. Pre-registration is required by November 7th, in order to prepare for lunch. You can register by calling (814) 296-8730 or emailing oot@operationourtown.org. Take this opportunity as a landlord to learn more about the responsibilities and programs offered.



Learn About Your City

Whether you are new to the City of Altoona, or have been a resident all your life, there is a lot to know about the many departments and boards that help the City to operate and thrive every day. For the next several months, we will focus on one department each month, so you can learn a little about them and what they do. We hope this will help our citizens better understand and appreciate how the departments work together for the betterment of all of us. You may also be surprised at the many things each department is responsible for!

This month, we will start with:

The Office of the City Manager

Since 2015, the City of Altoona has operated under the Council-Manager government system, as defined by a Home Rule Charter and Optional Plans Law, which distinguishes the roles and responsibilities of the Mayor and the City Manager. Many citizens are often unclear about the differences between these positions.

The Mayor is an elected official who handles constituent issues and represents the City's interests in the community, at conferences and in dealings with state and federal governments. As the public face of the City, the Mayor plays a key role in shaping policy alongside City Council and actively promotes the City's economic development, employment, revitalization, and housing improvement. However, the Mayor does not oversee the daily operations of City Departments or staff.

Conversely, the City Manager is an appointed position that reports directly to the City Council. The City Manager provides professional leadership and management, supervising all City departments and staff to ensure efficient municipal operations within our City. The City Manager is also responsible for appointing department heads, managing budgets, implementing policies and programs and coordinates City events and public functions.

Next month, we will feature the work of the Department of Codes and Inspections.



MAYOR MATTHEW A. PACIFICO

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