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**March 2025**



# *Altoona Proud*

A Monthly Insight into all that is Altoona

## National Women's History Month

National Women's History Month is marked each year by a signed Presidential Proclamation. The month is set aside to honor women's contributions in American history. This year's theme is "Moving Forward Together! Women Educating and Inspiring Generations".

It began as Women's Day in 1909, by a group of Manhattan suffragists to honor the one-year anniversary of the garment strike led by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union. In March 1910, German activist Clara Zetkin suggested that International Women's Day be recognized as an international holiday at the International Conference of Working Women in Copenhagen and all 17 countries in attendance agreed, making March 18, 1911 the first International Women's Day. However, the holiday wasn't celebrated nationally in America until the United Nations recognized it in 1970. In 1980, then President Jimmy Carter officially declared March 8<sup>th</sup> as the start of Women's History Week and, by 1987, Congress designated March as Women's History Month.

Women's History Month is a time to recognize and celebrate how the efforts and bravery of past generations continues to pave the way for females today. This month, attend local events, shop female-founded businesses or simply honor the women who make a difference in your life!



**SIGNIFICANT DATES:**

March 3, 1913 – Women march in Suffrage Parade in Washington D.C.

March, 1917 –National Women's Party created to advocate for women's rights and suffrage

March 1, 1972 – Title IX of the Education Amendments Act signed into law, prohibiting sex-based discrimination in education.

# Altoona Area Public Library Golf Event

Saturday, March 8, 2025 is the First Annual Altoona Area Public Library Bookworms Golf Event. Sponsored by Kooman & Associates, all three floors of the library will be turned into a fun, interactive mini-golf course for families and people of all ages to enjoy! There will be two events:

The Family Mini-Golf will be from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM. Tickets for this event are \$5.00. Tee times are scheduled every half hour, with the last tee time beginning at 1:30 PM. There will be special prizes for children under age 10 at the “19<sup>th</sup> hole”. All children under age 14 must be accompanied by an adult.

The Adult-Only Mini Golf event will be from 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM. This is for anyone ages 18+ and the cost is \$15.00 per person. The ticket includes a night of friendly competition, hors d’oeuvres and some refreshing mocktails.

All proceeds benefit our beautiful Altoona Area Public Library so we hope you will attend! You can purchase your tickets at the library or call 814-946-0417, ext. 125 to reserve your spot. You can follow this event and others by visiting their Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/altoonapubliclibrary](https://www.facebook.com/altoonapubliclibrary)

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
*1st Annual* **AAPL**  
**BOOKWORMS**  
**MINI GOLF EVENT**  
**MARCH 8, 2025**

Sponsored by **KOOMAN & ASSOCIATES, LLC**  
AN INDEPENDENT COMPANY



## CONTACT Altoona Volunteer Spring Training



Registration for Contact Altoona’s Spring Training is now open! The program prepares new volunteers to work from their own home with the telephone helpline, connecting Blair County residents with human services resources.

The training, free to volunteers, includes classroom activities on April 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> from 5 PM – 8 PM., followed by three 4-hour apprenticeships with seasoned volunteers. You must attend all training sessions to begin apprenticeships. Registration ends April 1<sup>st</sup>, so for information or to register, visit [www.contactaltoona.com/volunteer-training-application](https://www.contactaltoona.com/volunteer-training-application) or call 814-946-0531.

## March 21st– National Teenager Day

March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025 is National Teenager Day. National Teenager Day is a day set aside for teenagers, ages 13-19, to know how important and valued they are and to give society a chance to better understand them. Teenagers go through a lot especially in today’s world as they transition from childhood to adulthood and discover who they are and who they want to be. Many teenagers have made an impact on history. Louis Braille invented the Braille System at the age of 15. Blaise Pascal invented the first digital calculator at age 18. In 2010, Laura Dekker became the youngest person to sail around the world alone at age 14, and Malala Yousafzai won a Nobel Peace Prize in 2014 at age 17, for fighting for girls’ right to education. Take time on this day to celebrate, acknowledge and appreciate the amazing teens in your life.



# Alto Model Train Museum Association Show and Swap Event

The Alto Model Train Museum Association (AMTMA) will be hosting its annual Toy Train Show and Swap Meet on Sunday, March 30, 2025 at the Blair County Convention Center. The event begins at 9:00 AM and ends at 2:00 PM. The event will include displays, railroad artifacts and memorabilia and all scales of model trains for sale. Tickets for the event are \$5 and can be purchased at the door.



If you have ever had the opportunity to visit the train display at the Lakemont Park Holiday Lights on the Lake, you have seen the intricate and detailed creations of the Alto Model Train Museum Association. The realism is amazing, and this event will provide a chance to see more of the same and even get in on the fun, if you are a train collector or enthusiast.



The Alto Model Train Museum is located at 1117 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Altoona, and is open on Saturdays from 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM. It's a great place to see some outstanding train displays with hands on experiences for kids. Admission is free, but donations are accepted for the continued upkeep and improvements for the Museum.

## WISE Women Scholarship Opportunities and Tribute Dinner



The WISE Women of Blair County is the successor of the Altoona YWCA. WISE stands for **W**omen **I**nvolvement in **S**cholarship and **E**mpowerment, with a mission is to empower women and encourage acceptance and inclusion through collaboration, service and education. One way they do this is by funding grants throughout Blair County each year for workshops, educational events and training sessions.

WISE Women offers scholarships to women ages 21 and over who have overcome adversity or discrimination and who are pursuing post-secondary education, awarding up to \$20,000 each year. Scholarship applications are now open and must be submitted by March 28, 2025 at 4:00 PM.

Each year, WISE Women holds a Tribute Dinner, recognizing women of Blair County for their community input and involvement in organizations whose projects advance their mission.

This year's Tribute Dinner will be held on April 16, 2025 at The Casino at Lakemont Park. The event begins with hors d'oeuvres at 6:00 PM followed by dinner at 6:30 PM. To learn more about their work, membership opportunities, or about the Tribute Dinner, visit online at [www.wisewomenofblaircounty.org](http://www.wisewomenofblaircounty.org)

## CONTACT Altoona Volunteer Training

Mark Your Calendars! The PA CareerLink® Spring Job Fair will be held April 17<sup>th</sup>, from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM with a special slot between 9:30 AM – 10:00 AM reserved just for Veterans. Check next month's newsletter for more details!

# March Fun Days

March is Irish American Heritage Month, Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month and National Brain Injury Awareness Month, among other important causes. You can also add a little fun to the cold, icy days of March, by celebrating these: ([www.nationaldaycalendar.com](http://www.nationaldaycalendar.com))

March 1 – National Peanut Butter Lovers’ Day

March 3 – National Soup It Forward Day & National Anthem Day

March 4 – National Hug a Soldier Today

March 6 – National Oreo Cookie Day

March 9 – DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

March 9 - National Meatball Day or National Crab Meat Day (or both!)

March 12 – National Working Moms Day (Thank a Working Mom!)

March 14 – National PI ( $\pi$ ) Day...or Pie Day!

March 17 – **St. Patrick’s Day**

March 20 – First Day of Spring!

March 21 – National Strawberry Day

March 22 – National Goof Off Day

March 26 – Epilepsy Awareness Day

March 28 – National Black Forest Cake Day

March 29 – National Vietnam War Veterans Day  
(Thank a Veteran today)



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