

From the desk of:

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March 2023



Altoona Proud

A Monthly Insight into all that is Altoona

March is National Bleeding Disorders Awareness Month

In 1986, President Ronald Reagan designated March as National Hemophilia Awareness Month, renamed in 2016 to National Bleeding Disorders Awareness Month, as there are many types of disorders, including hemophilia and Von Willebrand Disease. A bleeding disorder is the inability for a body to form a proper blood clot and these disorders affect over three million people in the United States alone. These genetic disorders are passed down by mothers carrying the trait, making genetic counseling and a knowledge of genetic history important to identifying and managing these disorders. Bleeding disorders occur far more frequently in men than in women but, with the right treatment, people with bleeding disorders can live healthy lives.

The Western Pennsylvania Bleeding Disorders Foundation (WPBDF) serves families with bleeding disorders in 26 counties of Western Pennsylvania. In addition to programs and assistance for those with bleeding disorders and their families, WPBDF aims to increase awareness of inheritable blood and bleeding disorders among the public, and bring them to the attention of policymakers, public authorities, industry representatives, scientists and health professionals.

The WPBDF provides:

- Educational Programs
- Advocacy
- Patient Assistance Program
- Grocery Assistance Programs
- Support Groups for Patients & Parents of children with bleeding disorders

To learn more about this organization and how you can help, visit:

<https://www.wpbdf.org/>

**JOIN THE CONVERSATION THIS
#BleedingDisordersAwarenessMonth**

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Grants

The **American Rescue Plan Act of 2021**, also called the **COVID-19 Stimulus Package** or **American Rescue Plan**, is an economic stimulus bill passed in March of 2021 to speed up the country's recovery from the economic and health effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic and the ongoing recession. The program has funded numerous initiatives, such as employment opportunities, housing and business improvements, tax credits, and stimulus checks, to name a few.

ARPA has helped small businesses in cities throughout the United States, including the City of Altoona, to get their start, improve their facilities, and grow their businesses. We see evidence of this growth in our area and want to see this trend continue.

Altoona City Council has approved a second round of ARPA funds for small businesses. Any new or existing business with 50 employees or less that is located within the geographical limits of the City of Altoona is eligible to apply. The application, with detailed guidelines, is available to download on the City's homepage, with deadline for submission of applications on Friday, March 24, 2023 by 4:00 PM. See the link below to access the application and guidelines:



<https://www.altoonapa.gov/ARPA-2023-Small-Business-Grant-Application-and-Guidelines>

State of the City Address

Mayor Matthew Pacifico will be presenting his State of the City Address at the April Council Meeting, on Monday April 10 at 6:00 PM in the City Council Chambers, located at 1320 Washington Avenue, Altoona, PA 16601. This is an opportunity for all citizens and residents to hear about the hard work and achievements made this past year citywide to improve housing, roads, parks, and community events and programs. In addition, the Mayor will discuss some of the plans and visions for the City in 2023. All members of the public are invited and we ask you to share this information with your friends, family, and colleagues, and join us on April 10 for the Mayor's State of the City address.



Holiday Coloring Contest

The City of Altoona sponsored an artwork contest for family and friends of City of Altoona Employees, in celebration of the December Holidays. The theme of this contest was "Happy Holidays" and the children could use any art media or combination of media to create their masterpiece! There were three winners in each of three age groups:

- Under 6
- 7 – 10
- 11 – 13

The contest received 30 great submissions, making the judging process not an easy one for Mayor Pacifico! Pictured here are some of the contest winners-congratulations to all of the young artists!!



CONTACT Altoona is Recruiting

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! 2023 SPRING TRAINING



Call For Your Application TODAY to
Take Our FREE Training Program!

After successful completion of the training, you will be able to:

- * Answer calls on the CONTACT Altoona Helpline
- * Participate in all of CONTACT Altoona's events
 - * Volunteer from home
 - * And much, much more!

Classes Begin April 17th

For more information call 814-946-0531

www.contactaltoona.com/volunteer

<https://www.facebook.com/contactaltoona>

CONTACT
Altoona

CONTACT Altoona is conducting a spring training for anyone interested in becoming a volunteer for their hotline. Since 1984, CONTACT Altoona volunteers have made a positive impact on members of the community.

CONTACT Altoona telephones are staffed seven days a week by volunteers trained to listen carefully, help callers identify problems, and sometimes just provide a moment of company for an individual.

CONTACT Altoona also administers the 211 helpline. 2-1-1 is like 411 or 911, but for health and human services referrals. Volunteers work from home and have flexible hours.

Registration for the training must be submitted before the training date of April 17, 2023. To register online, go to:

<https://www.contactaltoona.com/volunteer>

History Highlight

February marks some significant events in the history of the City of Altoona, and this month we highlight:

Altoona, Pennsylvania

The City of Altoona was first incorporated as a Borough on February 6, 1854, and as a City under legislation approved on February 8, 1868. The City is believed to have been named after the City of Altona in Danish Holstein, which today is a district in the City of Hamburg, Germany and, is itself an important railway and manufacturing center. However, older history states that one of the City's founders, John Wright, named the City from the Cherokee word Allatoona.

Prior to the arrival of European settlers, primarily from Germany, Ireland, and Italy, the area was inhabited by Native Americans of the Iroquois Confederacy. As a Borough in 1854, its population was 2,000 residents. By 1868, when Altoona became a City, the population had risen to 10,000 residents.

Altoona was home to the War Governors' Conference which brought together 13 Governors of Union States. This body gave early approval to the Emancipation Proclamation. Altoona was also the site of the first Interstate Commission meeting to create and design the Gettysburg National Cemetery following the devastating Battle of Gettysburg, making our City a valuable asset to the North during the Civil War.



DID YOU KNOW?

Altoona was the birthplace of actress **Janet Blair** and musician **Paul Winter**. It was also the birthplace of **Betty** James, the woman who named the Slinky toy!

Gossip columnist **Hedda Hopper**, born in Hollidaysburg, PA, is buried in Altoona's Rose Hill Cemetery.

Altoona is the home of the oldest roller coaster in the world, Leap-The-Dips, at Lakemont Park. It has been around since 1902!



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