

THE **Altoona** CITIZEN

VOLUME 5 - NOVEMBER 2017

Community Update - Summer 2017

It was a busy summer in Altoona. We are excited to report that Altoona is one of the five fastest growing cities in the State of Wisconsin, a distinction that we have garnered for the past five years. Altoona's growth in the last several years is a strong indicator of growing economic strength in the Chippewa Valley. Summer 2017 ushered in several fun events in addition to continued growth and development throughout the City.

In this edition of the Altoona Citizen, we will provide you with updates from city departments, introduce you to new employees, and pass along important upcoming events, happenings and information. We have highlighted our wonderful City Parks. We hope you will find the parks centerfold to be resourceful and we encourage you to consider visiting one of these amazing spaces in the near future. Enjoy and be on the lookout for the next issue in the Spring of 2018.

River Prairie Continues to Take Shape

Since the April release of the Altoona Citizen newsletter, River Prairie welcomed the opening of several businesses. In June, Cowboy Jack's opened to much fanfare. Around the same time, Edward Jones, Little Minds Matter, Massage Envy, and Prairie Place Apartments opened for business with great anticipation building for the opening of the Draganowski family-owned restaurant, Za 51. Progress in River Prairie Park has been steady. We can report the park area is coming together nicely with the River Prairie Center opening its doors for operation, the installation of rail tree structures and pavers in the Front Porch Plaza, the manmade stream feature being turned on, and the amphitheater construction completed. Construction within River Prairie will remain ongoing, with River Prairie Park expected to be completed in the Spring of 2018.



River Prairie Center Opens

On Tuesday, August 22nd, members of the community joined as the River Prairie Center held its ribbon cutting ceremony. This exciting event marked the opening of this beautiful multi-purpose facility. Since its opening, the River Prairie Center has hosted several events such as graduation parties, fundraisers, company meetings and its first wedding on Saturday, October 7th. The River Prairie Center and River Prairie Park are exclusively managed by King Pin Management. If you are interested in holding your next event at the River Prairie Center, please call (715) 598-8910 or email events@riverprairiecenter.com for more information regarding booking.



Altoona Police Department Hosts German Exchange Officers

The Altoona Police Department, in partnership with other local police departments, hosted five German Police officers for a three-week immersive program sponsored by the International Police Association. This program allowed the five visiting officers to learn about alternative policing techniques and to train daily with the host departments. The visiting officers stayed with host families in the Chippewa Valley and were introduced to the Wisconsin way of life with copious amounts of cheese curds and even a day trip to Lambeau Field. Staff from the Altoona Police Department enjoyed this opportunity to learn from their international counterparts and look forward to potentially participating in future international exchange program opportunities.



Altoona City Park Welcomes the Born Learning Trail

Make plans to visit the Born Learning Trail at Altoona City (10th Street) Park. This interactive and activity based path fosters opportunities for children to talk, listen, read, think, imagine and create through play and fun. This trail was brought forward by an early childhood development project initiated by the United Way of the Greater Chippewa Valley. The path was installed on Thursday, September 28th by representatives from various local businesses and organizations, including the United Way, City of Altoona, WIPFLI, Little Star Daycare and Bethlehem Lutheran Church.



Altoona Hosts Participants From Fireball Run Adventurally

On Friday, September 22nd, the River Prairie Center hosted a reception for participants of the Amazon Prime television show *Fireball Run Adventurally*. The Chippewa Valley served as the starting location for Season Eleven of the adventure-based television program that is described as a cross between the television shows *Dirty Jobs*, *How It's Made*, and *The Amazing Race*. The show's forty teams participated in challenges in various locations throughout the Midwest. The mission of Fireball Run is to actively aid in the recovery efforts of missing children. Over the course of the show's first ten seasons, they have helped recover forty-nine missing children. Show participants enjoyed their visit to Altoona and vowed to return to visit after the season concludes.

Party on the Prairie Introduces Community to River Prairie Park

On Saturday, September 30th, the City of Altoona held an opening celebration for River Prairie Park. During the course of the day, an estimated one thousand residents enjoyed a car show, craft show, games on the plaza, and a scavenger hunt that was held throughout the park. Families enjoyed walking along Prairie Creek, the manmade stream feature, and kids enjoyed playing at the newly opened playground area. Visitors also enjoyed food from a visiting food truck and a strawberry ice cream social. If you haven't already, we encourage you to come visit River Prairie Park and enjoy all that it has to offer.

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Message from Police Chief Jesse James:

This month I will start my fifth year as your police chief for this great and growing city of ours. How the time has gone by so quickly! We have done some amazing things here at the police department and the future holds so much more. Going from the 49th safest city in Wisconsin to live in, to the 11th safest city is quite an accomplishment. This comes from the hard work, dedication, and service your police department thrives on. We accomplish this by being a team!

I am proud of the team we have at Altoona Emergency Services. The addition of our newest team member, Fire Chief Mark Renderman is truly a blessing. This allows more focus into team building and growth within police, fire and EMS, updating of policies to move us forward, and initiatives looking into officer safety, health, physical, spiritual and mental well-being. We must take care of our officers so we can continue "Putting Our Community First!"

This summer we mailed out 1,000 surveys to our citizens. Thank you to those who responded. We had over a 30 percent response, which is very impressive. I am pleased to see over 98 percent of citizens are satisfied with the services that the Altoona Police Department provides and over 98 percent believe our officers are competent while performing their duties. I was also happy to see 97 percent of you feel safe in your homes, but only 91 percent felt police presence was adequate in your neighborhood. Another key statistic was only 91 percent felt that traffic enforcement was adequate.

We are dedicated to improve services within our community. We cannot do this alone, we need our community, and we need partnerships from our citizens!

In 2018, we will initiate community based programs, but we will need your help. We are working on a police department webpage right now. This is scheduled to launch January 2018. It will include on-line citizen reporting, information regarding sex offenders, Wanted Wednesday subjects, photographs of found bikes-property, etc. Just a reminder, we have a Facebook page under Altoona Police Department (remember to "Like" us) and follow us on Twitter @altoonapolice.

We have interest in starting neighborhood watch programs, an idea on how to look at traffic and speed enforcement, and utilization of our police bikes more. A team needs to be created to move these initiatives forward. If anyone is interested in being on this team please email me at jjames@ci.altoona.wi.us or call me direct at 715.839.6090 ext. 4021.

We in law enforcement are exposed to many more dangers today than when we first started our careers. We have seen an increase in drug overdoses and prescription pill abuse as well as the exposure of fentanyl and carfentanyl, and an increased call volume regarding mental health and suicide attempts. We continue to address the growing opioid epidemic with our fellow agencies, district attorney's office, and health professionals. If you need our help please call our police department. Emergency: 9-1-1; non-emergency: 715-839-4972.

These issues are more common in our work environment today, more than most of you know. On top of this we battle the fear of always being on the lookout, so we are not the next officer shot on duty. Please don't ever think it can't happen here, because it can!

With all that has been going on in America today, I want to thank our community for taking time out to show gratitude and give thanks for all our men and women in law enforcement. A simple thank you, a smile, a hug, or handshake goes a long way, and it is nice to hear. Plus the treats are great to eat, pictures from our little kids, and the parents who support the blue are great to see!



Thank you!
Chief Jesse James

Altoona Public Library: A Busy 2017!

You'll notice some faces in the library have changed, but our commitment to serving you remains the same! Library Director Alyson Jones started in May; she comes to Altoona after six years as the director at the library in Fall Creek. Library Page Kay Anderson and Circulation Clerk Pam Peterson were regular library patrons who switched to the other side of the Circulation Desk in September. Kay worked as a page at L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library; Pam was an assistant librarian in Cable, WI. Feel free to introduce yourself next time you are in!

The 2017 Summer Reading Program was a great success. We served 593 children and teens ages 17 and under. Our six-week program for children ages 11 and under offered 30 programs that had a total attendance of 1,483 participants! Additional drop-in programs ranging from a Wisconsin bird identification hide and seek challenge to various S.T.E.A.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) activities, kept youth engaged during their regular summer library visits. Thanks to parent feedback and interest, the library's summer reading program for children ages 11 and under will permanently be extended an extra week starting June, 2018.

The seven-week 2017 teen summer reading program offered 14 programs that 105 teens participated in. From Minecraft Club and Book Club, to various workshops and social gatherings, the library always offers a safe, friendly, and welcoming environment for our area teens.

There is something for all ages this fall at the library. Five story time sessions for toddlers thru preschool age are offered on a weekly basis through November 16th. The first week in December the library will offer eight morning and afternoon gross motor play sessions for toddlers and preschoolers as well. After school programs for children ages 4 - 12 include LEGO Club and reading with local therapy dog, Mocha Joe. The Ice Cream Reading Club will start up again this fall on November 13th and wrap up with a special ice cream story time and sundae bar the first Saturday in January, 2018.

During the school year, teens (grades 6-12) are welcome to attend the monthly TAB (Teen Advisory Board) meetings where they have an opportunity to meet other teens who are interested in planning social events for their peers at the library. For more information about programs for children and/or teens, please visit the library's website, social media sites, or call 715-839-5029.

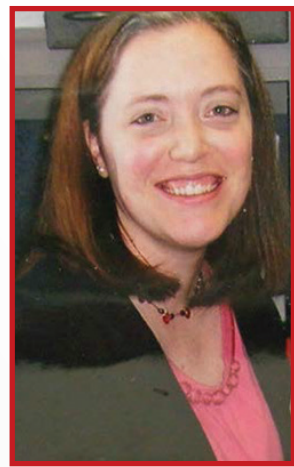
For adults, we have four groups that each meet monthly: three book clubs (Food for Thought, Book Bites, and Book 'Em Mysteries) and an informal Saturday Knit and Crochet Club. We have grown-up Movie Nights; speakers on topics ranging from Bob Dylan, to baseball, to logging in Wisconsin; and programs where participants who are short on skill but long on enthusiasm make and take a No-Sew Farmer's Market Tote or a Book Lover's Gift in a Jar, both allmaterials- provided crafts completed in about an hour with step-by-step guidance. Please see our activities Calendar at <http://altoonapubliclibrary.org/event> for details!

A Note About County Library Funding

You may be aware that there is a system of payments between municipalities in Eau Claire County for library use. If you are an Altoona city resident and check out materials at the Eau Claire library, for example, at the end of the year Altoona pays the Eau Claire library a certain cost per each item checked out. Conversely, Altoona receives funds for each item checked out by an Eau Claire city resident at our library. The amount per item changes yearly based on library circulation and expenses, but is often between \$3 and \$4. What does this mean for you? We want you to use library resources from any library in the way that works best for you. However, we'd like you to be aware that when you check out your items in Altoona, the city is not charged at the end of the year, even if those items came from another library in our MORE system. If you live in Altoona and pick up your items at a different library, some of your tax dollars will go to reimburse that library for your usage. If you have questions, please feel free to contact our library director, Alyson Jones.

New City of Altoona Employees

Justin Johnson joined the Public Works Department in July 2017. Justin is a 2012 graduate of Altoona High School. Justin has been married for one year to his wife Larissa. They have two children, Colton (two years old) and Gracen (4 months old). Justin has two dogs, a golden retriever named Harper and chocolate lab named Hattie. Justin enjoys taking part in outdoor and recreational activities such as hunting, fishing, softball, hockey and football.



Alyson Jones joined the library in May, 2017 as its new Director. She comes to Altoona via Fall Creek, where she was Director for the last six years. Before that, she spent three years as Head of the University of Wisconsin- River Falls Area Research Center and University Archives, and five years as an archivist at Harvard University. Alyson's focus is on supporting Altoona Public Library's mission of promoting literacy, providing a community gathering space, and enriching the lives of Altoona residents. A western New York native, Alyson lives with her husband Ryan and two daughters, Winnie (age 8) and Susannah (age 5). Her favorite authors include Doris Kearns Goodwin, David McCullough, and Nicholas Basbanes. She enjoys genealogical research, traveling to see nieces and nephews, and debating the merits of paint samples with her husband as they work on their house. Alyson is the

opposite of a "shushing" librarian and loves to chat. She welcomes the opportunity to hear directly from community members about what they need from the library- please say hello next time you are in!

Mark Renderman joined the City of Altoona in late April as our new Fire Chief. Mark brings 20 years of fire and EMS service experience to the community. Before accepting the position of Fire Chief in Altoona, he held the position of Fire Chief and Emergency Medical Services Coordinator for the Owen-Withee-Curtiss Fire and EMS District in central Wisconsin. Mark is a member in several emergency services organization throughout Wisconsin. He has seven years' experience in county government and has experience working in cooperation with multiple local governments to create joint commissions. In Mark's spare time, he enjoys fishing, golfing, bowling, and spending time with his family.



Matt Flatland is Altoona's Building Inspector. Many of you may recognize him from the Public Works department, where he worked for 6 years. Matt is married to Stacey, his high school sweetheart and they have 3 children. In his free time, Matt enjoys coaching his kids' sports, hunting, fishing, riding ATV, snowmobiling, and rooting for the Packers, Brewers, and the Badgers.

GENERAL NEWS

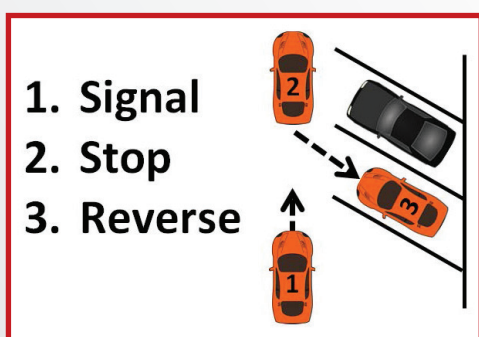
NEW to Altoona: Back-in Angle Parking in River Prairie

Utilizing back-in angle parking in River Prairie was a way to create more parking spaces than using traditional parallel parking. Back-in angle parking uses 10 to 12 feet of lateral curb space per vehicle versus 22 feet of curb space for traditional parallel parking. In addition, back-in angle parking has proven to be safer in many cities across the United States. In Tucson, Arizona before back-in parking, Tucson had an average of three to four crashes per month with front-in angle parking compared to zero reported accidents for the first four years after the implementation of back-in angle parking. [Source: www.pedbikeinfo.org]

What are some of the benefits of angle back-in parking?

- Backing into a parking space is safer than backing into moving traffic.
- Clear sight lines when entering moving traffic.
- Safer when loading and un-loading: positions the trunk or back of the vehicle to the sidewalk, instead of into moving traffic making it a safer and easier way to load/unload items from your vehicle.
- Positions the driver and passengers, including children, to enter/exit the vehicle towards the sidewalk instead of into moving traffic.
- It is easier than parallel parking.
- There are more parking spaces than parallel parking.

Back-in Angle Parking in 3 Easy Steps



City of Altoona's Snow & Ice Control Procedures

The street department utilizes 5 trucks and 1 wheel loader for snow removal on Altoona's 44 miles of roads and streets. During emergency conditions (i.e. freezing rain, sleet or ice) crews are called out immediately. Salt is used when temperatures are above 10° to 15° F. For lower temperatures, a salt and sand mix is used. Priorities are hills and main roads with side streets to follow. Snow plowing begins when 3" of snow are on the street. A normal snow event of 8" or less will take crews approximately 6 or 7 hours to clear all roads and streets. A major snow event of 8" or more means that crews will work until all roads are plowed.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

1. Minimize travel during inclement weather.
2. Park your vehicle off-street in your driveway or garage.
3. City workers suggest that residents wait to shovel until snow plowing is finished on your street. Crews usually make 2 to 3 passes on each side of the street to clear it.
4. Sidewalks must be cleared of snow and ice within 24 hours following a snowfall or icy weather. Snow covered sidewalks can be reported to City Hall at cityhall@ci.altoona.wi.us or 715-839-6092.
5. If you have a fire hydrant in front of your home or business, please clear the snow around it.
6. Businesses and multi-dwelling residences are asked to be aware of the location of snow pile placement so as not to create a traffic hazard.
7. Please make safety a priority, be patient and allow yourself extra travel time. Drive with caution and appropriate to the weather conditions.

River Prairie Park | River Prairie Development

Size: 22 acres | A high amenity destination with multi-use trails, three pavilions, picnic tables, canoe and kayak launch, natural playground, splash pad, man-made river, natural gas fire features, bicycle maintenance station, community garden, grass playing field, stage and amphitheater with a design capacity for 5,000 attendees, pond, and The Plaza (dedicated space with "rail tree" art, lighting, moveable outdoor furniture, power access for food trucks and events).



Tower Park | Corner of OakLeaf Way and River Prairie Dr

Size: 9 acres | Undisturbed and undeveloped parkland.



Lake Front Park | West of Eau Claire County Park at the end of Kewin Street

Size: 4 acres | Lake Front Park has special opportunities for persons with disabilities including a handicap accessible fishing dock, picnic tables, and a portable restroom. A bench swing provides a serene view over Lake Altoona.



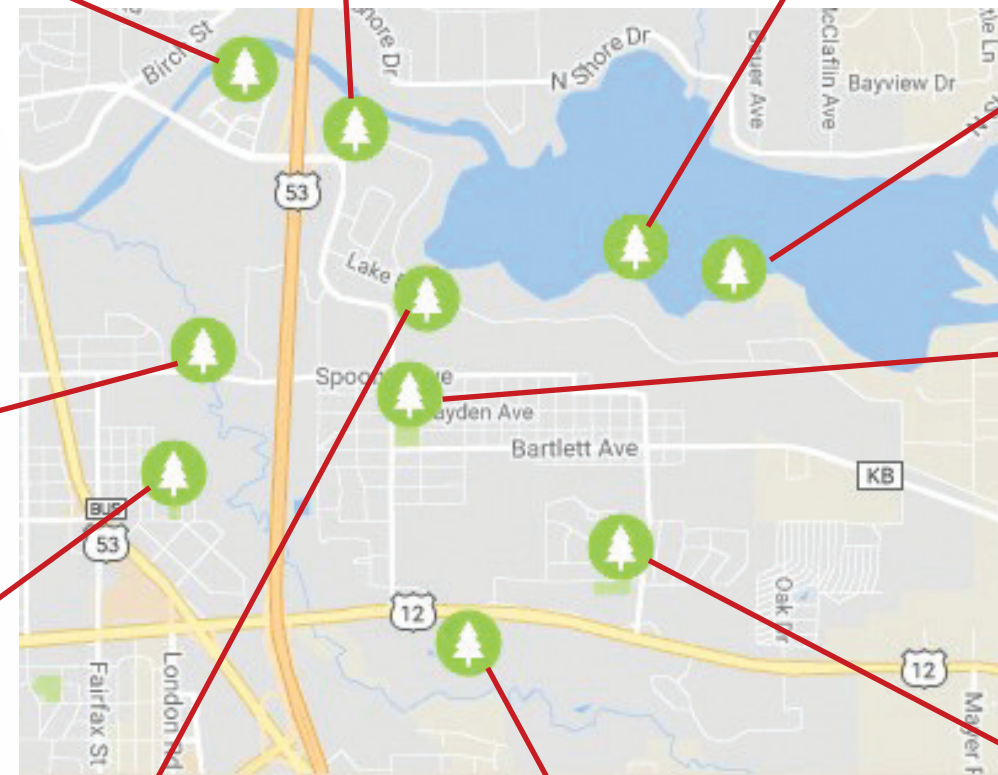
Lake Altoona County Park | Beach Rd

Size: 13 acres | Reserveable picnic shelter, large reserveable clubhouse with kitchen, clothes changing building, flush toilets and drinking water, nature trail, canoeing, boating, water skiing, swimming beach, playgrounds, volleyball courts, horseshoes, and boat landing. To check on availability of the picnic shelter or clubhouse and/or to book, go to www.eccountyparks.com.



Centennial Park | South-side of Spooner Ave (just west of Otter Creek in the "Spooner Dip")

Size: 38 acres | Centennial Park has a 15-foot hill for climbing, playground area, open green space, and off-road biking, hiking and walking trails, which run adjacent to Otter Creek.



Altoona City Park | Corner of Bartlett Avenue and 10th Street West

Size: 5 1/2 acres | Altoona City Park offers a youth grass infield baseball diamond, six tennis courts (two lighted), a basketball half court, gazebo, walking path, open pavilion and recreation facility and two playground areas



Highland Park | Corner of Hamilton Ave and Vernon St

Size: 3 1/2 acres | Highland Park offers a tennis court, basketball court, a pavilion which can be rented and picnic area.



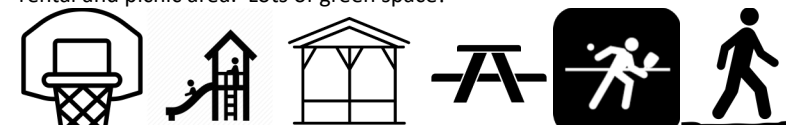
Cinder City Park | Spooner Avenue and 10th Street West

Size: 25 acres | Cinder City Park offers four lighted ball fields and a pavilion, all of which can be rented.



Fairway Park | Hillcrest Greens sub-division

Size: 65 acres | Fairway Park offers basketball and pickle ball courts, a pavilion available for rental and picnic area. Lots of green space!



Devney Park | Devney Drive

Size: 4 acres | Devney Park offers one lighted youth baseball field, tennis courts, and basketball courts. A small pavilion is also located at this park which can be rented.



CITY PLANNING UPDATE

Strong Growth Continues

The pace of economic development in the Chippewa Valley continues to be robust, and Altoona is among the leading Cities in growth. One such indicator of growth is equalized property value per capita. Equalized property value is the property assessor's determination of the estimated market value of a property plus improvements, such as buildings. This value is "equalized" through a process conducted by the Wisconsin Department of Revenue to attempt to remove local variations and create a relatively consistent state-wide standard. It is upon this equalized value that property tax rates are applied.

Change in a particular property's value is due to a variety of factors, such as market demand, productive value, desirability of particular types or property or locations, overall regional wage and employment and employment conditions, and improvements such as renovations and new construction. Thus, at the City scale, changes in equalized value is one complex indicator of economic performance, as measured through actual property sales, owners improving their properties, new construction, as well as new property added to the City.

Cities grow or contract at various rates and for a variety of reasons. In order to account for change in estimated population, equalized value per capita is one metric used to compare relative growth between Cities. The following chart illustrates changes in population and equalized value for Cities in the Chippewa Valley. Equalized value is reflected in millions of dollars. Figures are not adjusted for inflation.

| City | Altoona | Eau Claire | Chippewa Falls | Menomonie | Augusta |
|----------------------|----------|------------|----------------|-----------|----------|
| 2013 Population Est. | 6,900 | 66,480 | 13,635 | 16,111 | 1,536 |
| 2017 Population Est. | 7,420 | 67,926 | 14,002 | 16,395 | 1,516 |
| Numeric Change | 520 | 1,446 | 367 | 284 | -20 |
| % Change | 7.5% | 2.2% | 2.7% | 1.8% | -1.3% |
| 2013 Equalized Value | \$423.6 | \$4,325.7 | \$799.1 | \$880.2 | \$83.2 |
| 2017 Equalized Value | \$655.4 | \$5,119.7 | \$900.2 | \$1,070.8 | \$90.1 |
| % Change | 54.7% | 18.4% | 12.7% | 21.7% | 8.3% |
| E.V. per Capita 2013 | \$61,401 | \$65,067 | \$58,607 | \$54,636 | \$54,163 |
| E.V. per Capita 2017 | \$88,328 | \$75,372 | \$64,292 | \$65,315 | \$59,438 |
| % Change | 43.9% | 15.8% | 9.7% | 19.5% | 9.7% |

According to the Wisconsin Department of Administration, Altoona's estimated population in 2017 is 7,420. This represents an increase of 7.5 % since 2013, the fourth-highest rate of growth for a City in Wisconsin during that period. Equalized value in the City reached \$655.4 million by January 2017, up from \$423.6 million in 2013, an increase of 54.7 %. This corresponds to an increase in equalized value per capita of 43.9 %.

Questions inevitably arise as to the results of this growth. So what? Equalized value represents the local property tax base, and as such, rising values per capita means that local governments such as the City and School District may have greater resources to deliver services.

Approximately 33 percent of equalized value in Altoona is within one of three tax increment districts (TID), including River Prairie. In brief, tax revenue in these districts is captured to pay for public investments in infrastructure and amenities to stimulate private sector investment. It is not available for general fund budget allocations toward programs or investments elsewhere in the City. The City utilized TID out growth to hire two full-time employees in order to maintain a high level of service.

TIDs are the principal tool available to local government to finance economic development activities. Each tax increment district will close once their purpose is fulfilled and debt has been paid, allowing the revenue to be allocated normally to the City and other taxing jurisdictions. However, current Wisconsin state law requires that a half of the new growth in property value created by the district must be allocated for property tax relief. The next tax increment district is expected to close in 2023.

The overall City budget will continue to change over time in response to growth, staff and program costs, changes in revenue from State programs, capital costs for roads and infrastructure, and other changes. It is not possible to project with a high degree of certainty what overall cost and revenue conditions will exist in 2023, as well as other important factors such as growth rates or unexpected changes. Thus, it is disingenuous to project what anticipated property tax rates will be in 2023. However, it is fair to say that significant increases in equalized value per capita, especially as compared to regional trends, is likely to place Altoona in a more favorable position with regard to municipal budget conditions than if the City grew below the regional baseline.

Communities in the Chippewa Valley are growing and investing in quality of life for citizens and visitors. Altoona has experienced strong growth in the past several years, growth which is expected to support the long-term vitality of the City.

Ordinance Enforcement

The Winter 2017 City of Altoona Newsletter provided a general update on the enforcement of City Ordinances, particularly those that address "nuisances". The City enforces building and zoning codes to ensure that the condition of property and the activities taking place conform to adopted standards. These standards are adopted to further public health, safety and welfare.

This issue will highlight a handful of frequently enforced ordinances as well as a few small but important things that help the City operate. The Altoona Municipal Code is available online www.ci.altoona.wi.us/government.phtml.

To ensure our streets and sidewalks remain safely passible, City ordinance 8.24 (D, F) require that trees and other plants are trimmed to enable free passage. By ordinance, this means that limbs should be at least 14 feet above the street or sidewalk. The City occasionally engages in proactive trimming of trees in the public boulevard, however if you notice branches hanging into the roadway or sidewalk, please contact the City for resolution.

The City does not trim trees on private property. If you notice or experience trees, bushes or long vegetation obstructing the street or sidewalk, please contact the City and we'll work with the property owner to clear the obstruction. Trees contribute many wonderful positive things to our City and environment, let's work together to make sure that they are both well cared for and manicured to avoid conflict.

Parking vehicles on unpaved surfaces is a frequent concern in Altoona. This is a concern because parking and driving on unpaved areas can deteriorate vegetation, and unstable or bare dirt is easily eroded and carried into the roadway and storm sewer system by vehicle tires as well as rain events. The City must regularly clear the storm sewer of sand and other debris that clog the system. Eroded material negatively impacts water quality of area lakes and streams, among other problems.

City code 10.21 requires that vehicles be parked on paved surface. Reasonably, driving or parking on a lawn for very short periods of time is likely to cause little harm to the grass. However, if repeatedly observed, the City will issue a warning. If erosion or conditions likely to cause erosion is documented, corrective action will need to be taken.

Among the common nuisance complaints are trash and other household items being kept outdoors. All refuse must be placed in durable containers with lids that resist pests, such as metal or hard plastic bins. Storing plush furniture such as chairs or mattresses outdoors is also prohibited, as they quickly deteriorate and become favorable habitat for undesirable insects and rodents. Please be sure to keep your refuse in containers and contact your garbage hauler to schedule pick-up of large items or loads.

Leaves are mostly down, and City staff frequently receives questions about what to do with leaf piles. The City of Altoona does not operate a yard waste site. Dumping of yard waste on public property, including the street, is prohibited. Eau Claire County maintains a directory of haulers and landscape sites that pick up or accept yard waste. Burning permits are strictly required unless contained within a pit or ring made of brick or metal and not more than 3 feet in diameter. Burning of refuse is prohibited, and all burning may be prohibited if conditions readily allow for a fire to spread.

Winter is coming! Hold your Game of Thrones references. Clearing snow from the sidewalks around your property is expected of all residents and businesses. This serves to ensure that people can move around safely. Be sure to pile snow on the boulevard or on your property, as clearing snow into the street is not permitted.

If you do receive a warning notice from the City, please respond as soon as you are able and contact City Hall if you have any questions or clarifications. Most of the time these are reminders and the resolution is relatively simple. The goal is compliance, and deadlines are intended to provide for a reasonable time frame for resolution. Municipal citations are issued only when cooperation is not provided.

If you see a property condition or non-emergency activity that raises your concern, please contact City Hall at 715-839-6092 or cityhall@ci.altoona.wi.us. For emergencies or immediate health and safety threats, contact the Police Department by calling 911. To assist staff in investigating the concern, please include the address, description, and pictures if possible. Most complaint investigations begin within two business days.

With your help, the City of Altoona continues to be a safe, clean, and vibrant place to live, work, and play.

FIRE DEPARTMENT UPDATE

FIRE HYDRANTS AND SNOW

I know it is hard to think about winter being on the approach, but it will be here in a few weeks. As the snow starts to fly and it stacks up and up and up, please keep an eye on those fire hydrants in your neighborhood. When a call comes in for a fire, fire hydrant connection is a priority for our fire crews to fight fires. We are asking everyone to help keep an eye on those hydrants to make sure that the snow is shoveled around them so we when we are called for a fire call in your neighborhood, the hydrants are easier to locate. If you have a hydrant in your yard and there are trees and brush obstructing it, please remove it to allow easier access.

If you have questions about snow removal around fire hydrants, please contact the Altoona Fire Department at 715-839-2970 or cityhall@ci.altoona.wi.us.

Sign Up for Direct Utility Bill Payment

Altoona utility customers may authorize regularly scheduled utility payments to be made from your checking or savings account. Your payments will be made automatically on the specified Due Date on your quarterly bill. The authority you give to charge your account will remain in effect until you notify us in writing to terminate the authorization.

To sign up for direct pay, please fill out the application below, attach a voided check or savings deposit slip, and return it to City Hall at 1303 Lynn Avenue, Altoona, WI 54720. It's that easy.

No Fee – Direct Payment Authorization

I authorize the City of Altoona to initiate electronic debit entries to my account. I acknowledge that the origination of ACH transactions to my account must comply with the provision of U.S. law. This authority will remain in effect until I have cancelled it in writing.

Date: _____

Name (please print): _____

Service Address: _____

Utility Account #: _____

Financial Institution's Name: _____

Financial Institution's City and State: _____

9-Digit Routing Number: _____

Account Type: Checking or Savings

Checking/Savings Account Number: _____

Account Holder's Signature: _____

Additional Signature (optional for Joint Bank Account): _____

***** ATTACH A VOIDED CHECK OR SAVINGS DEPOSIT SLIP *****

Mail to: Altoona Water Utility, 1303 Lynn Avenue, Altoona, WI 54720

2018 Dog License

- State law mandates that your dog(s) be licensed (see WI Statute 174).
- **The City of Altoona limits the number of pets at a household business to 2 dogs and 3 cats (see Altoona Municipal Code, Chapter 6.08).**
- **Owners of unlicensed dogs are subject to a \$169 fine plus court costs.**
- At the time of this publication, City Council is working on the 2018 budget and dog license fees have not been established for 2018. It is anticipated that the dog license fees will be determined by December 1, 2017 and the dog license application will be available on-line at that time. Please visit <http://bit.ly/2hftCaP> for a 2018 Dog License Application form. Please complete the application, include current rabies certificate and payment, and mail to: Altoona City Hall, Attn: Dog License, 1303 Lynn Avenue, Altoona, WI 54720. Your pet's rabies certificate and dog license will be mailed to you. Thank you!

TOP 3 REASONS TO LICENSE YOUR DOG

- ① Easy identification is a lost dog's ticket home.
- ② Prevents the spread of rabies.
- ③ IT'S STATE LAW!



To apply for a license, go to: <http://www.ci.altoona.wi.us/residents.phtml> and click on [Dog License Application](#)

HELP EMERGENCY RESPONDERS HELP YOU

By Mark Renderman, Altoona Fire Chief

As emergency responders, it is critical to locate our community residents in their time of need. When the 911 call comes into the communications center, they collect information to dispatch our teams by providing emergency responders with a street and an address number. As we are responding to the location we are dispatched to, we utilize house or building numbers which are normally visible on the street side of the home or building. If these numbers are not present, or are not marked clearly on your home or building, this situation creates confusion for responders, which ultimately could result in a delay in providing the requested emergency interventions.

Please help us by taking a look at your home or building to confirm that your address number is completely visible from the roadway. Over time the trees, shrubs, and other plants tend to flourish and block these numbers. At times, we also conduct normal home and/or building maintenance such as painting and new siding, which requires us to remove the numbers. Please make sure those numbers are placed back onto the house or building in the correct street side location.

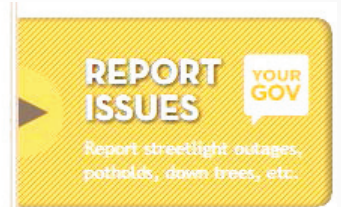
Altoona Municipal Code 8.26, Address Identification sets out the rules for affixing your address to your residence and other buildings. Please the graphic below to see if your address meets this code.

| Building Type | Single-family Home | All Other Buildings |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| Minimum Height of Numbers | 3 inches | 6 inches |
| Location of Numbers | Clearly visible from the street | |
| Street Delivery Mailbox | Posted on both sides of the box | |

You never know when you may have need of emergency services. To avoid delay, please take time to check your house numbers and those of your neighbors and loved ones. Thank you!

Cartegraph Citizen Reporting Application

Do you know of a streetlight that is out? Are you aware of a pothole that has appeared in a street? The City of Altoona has added the citizen reporting tool Cartegraph in order to increase responsiveness to citizen concerns.



This solution is available via desktop and mobile application. You can access Cartegraph through the HOME page of the City website or through the CONNECT page. Users can also download the application on their Apple or Android device via the CONNECT page of the City's website. Go to www.ci.altoona.wi.us.

Granicus Meeting Streaming

The City of Altoona has added online meeting streaming for meetings held in the City of Altoona Council Chambers. If you are looking for past meeting recordings, you can access recorded meetings circa February 9, 2017, through the Granicus video archive on the City website. This solution is easy to navigate as the user can click between agenda items and search for relative content in a search bar. To access video streaming, click on the "Government" section of the City website.

Sign up for Community News & Alerts

Top Reasons to Sign up for Community News & Alerts

1. Emergency Alerts
2. Community Events & Activities
3. Parks & Recreation Programs
4. Brings City Hall to your In-box
5. City Council and other Committee Meeting Notices
6. Public Service Announcements
7. Project Updates and Road Closures
8. City Employment Opportunities

You can subscribe by visiting the HOME page of the City's website and clicking on SIGN UP FOR COMMUNITY NEWS. Sign up at www.ci.altoona.wi.us.

City of Altoona Frequently Asked Questions

| Question | Answer |
|--|---|
| What can I recycle curbside? Where & how do I dispose... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grass clippings, leaves, brush, etc.? Automotive waste? Paint & paint cans? Construction materials? Electronics? Appliances? | The City of Altoona does not offer a recycling service center because a portion of your real estate taxes already pay for this service at the county level of government. For all your recycling questions and needs, please go to www.co.eau-claire.wi.us > How Do I... > Recycling Program or please call the Recycling Coordinator at 715-839-2756. |
| Am I allowed to deposit snow, leaves, lawn clippings onto the street? | No. Debris in the street creates a traffic hazard and can clog the storm water collection system. Please utilize recycling programs to dispose of lawn materials. |
| Do I need a permit to burn brush, leaves, grass clippings or other garden materials? | Yes, a burning permit is required. You can obtain a permit from the Altoona Fire Department located in the Emergency Services Building at 1904 Spooner Avenue. Suggestion: Call the Altoona Fire Department at 715-839-2970 to see if weather conditions are favorable for burning. |
| Do I need to shovel my sidewalk? | Yes, sidewalks must be cleared of snow and ice within 24 hours following a snowfall or icy weather. Snow/ice covered sidewalks can be reported by sending an e-mail to: cityhall@ci.altoona.wi.us or by calling 715-839-6092. |
| Where can I find applications and forms for... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building inspections? Elections? Licenses? Permits & Rentals? Engineering and Construction? Water Utilities? | You can find applications at www.ci.altoona.wi.us > Residents or by visiting City Hall at 1303 Lynn Avenue. |
| Where can I find the Altoona Municipal Code book? | You can find the Altoona Municipal Code Book at www.ci.altoona.wi.us > Government or visit Altoona City Hall or the Altoona Public Library, both at 1303 Lynn Avenue. |

CITY CLERK UPDATE

Notice Of Spring Election Municipal Offices, City Of Altoona, WI

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that an election to be held in the City of Altoona on the first Tuesday of April, 2018, being the 3rd day of said month, the following officers are to be elected:

MAYOR FOR THE CITY OF ALTOONA:

Mayor for the City of Altoona, for the term of two years to succeed Brendan Pratt whose term will expire on the third Tuesday of April, 2018.

In ALDERMANIC DISTRICT 1:

A Councilperson, for the term of two years to succeed Dale Stuber, whose term will expire on the third Tuesday of April, 2018.

In ALDERMANIC DISTRICT 2:

A Councilperson, for the term of two years to succeed Red Hanks, whose term will expire on the third Tuesday of April, 2018.

In ALDERMANIC DISTRICT 3:

A Councilperson, for the term of two years to succeed Andrew Schlafer, whose term will expire on the third Tuesday of April, 2018.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN, that the 1st day to circulate nomination papers is Friday, December 1, 2017, and the final day for filing nominations papers in the Office of the Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer is 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 2, 2018.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN, that if a primary is necessary, the primary election will be held on the third Tuesday of February, 2018, being the 20th day of said month.

Vote

Go to the city's website for Altoona election information. You can also go to myvote.wi.gov to verify your registration status, view your voting history, find what ward you are located in, and look up your representatives and their contact information.

All future elections will take place at the Altoona Emergency Services Building at 1904 Spooner Avenue from 7 AM until 8 PM.

Please note that in-person early voting will take place at Altoona City Hall at 1303 Lynn Avenue. For more information, please contact City Clerk Cindy Bauer at 715-839-6092 or via email at cindyb@ci.altoona.wi.us.

Upcoming Elections Scheduled for 2018

2018 Spring Primary : February 20, 2018

2018 Spring Election: April 3, 2018

2018 Partisan Primary: August 14, 2018

2018 Fall General Election: November 6, 2018

Board of Review

If you are sent a notice that your property assessment has changed, you have the opportunity to review your assessment during open book with the City tax assessor. If you feel your assessed value is not correct, then you have the opportunity to meet before the Board of Review to appeal your assessment. If you wish to appeal, then you can appear before the Board of Review. The Board of Review, comprised of the Mayor, Council, and City Clerk, meets annually at any time during the 30-day period beginning on the 2nd Monday of May. The specific date of the meeting will be posted on the City's website. Any questions regarding your property assessed valuations should be directed to Bowmar Appraisals at 715-834-5801.

Mark Your Calendar!

November

Calendar parking starts on the 15th

December

Calendar parking in effect
 Purchase 2018 Dog License
 Real Estate & Personal Property tax bills mailed

January 2018

Calendar parking in effect
 Water Utility bills mailed (check bill for due date)
 Purchase 2018 Dog License
 Personal property taxes due on the 31st
 Real estate taxes (1st half) due on the 31st
 Winter Fest and Games

February 2018

Winter Fest is on Lake Altoona on the 2nd - 3rd
 Spring Primary Election on the 20th*

March 2018

Last day to purchase dog license before late applies is on the 31st.

April 2018

Water Utility bills mailed (check bill for due date)
 Spring Election on the 3rd
 Calendar parking ends on the 15th
 City Parks Clean Up on the 21st - 10AM

**Go to www.ci.altoona.wi.us for more information.*

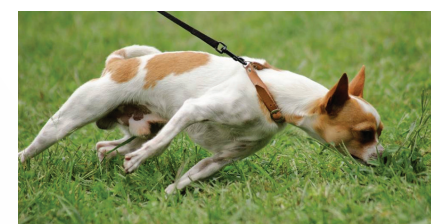


No Parking on even calendar days 12:00 a.m. to 7:00 a.m.

No Parking on odd calendar days 12:00 a.m. to 7:00 a.m.

Following the Calendar Parking rules makes for safer streets.

Remember To Clean Up After Your Pets!



If you plan to take your pet for a walk in an Altoona City Park, please remember to clean up after them. By cleaning up pet waste you play an important and responsible role in keeping our parks and public spaces clean. Also, please remember that the City Council extended privileges to pet owners to allow pets in parks. If excess pet waste becomes an issue within our park areas, these privileges may be reconsidered.