From the desk of:

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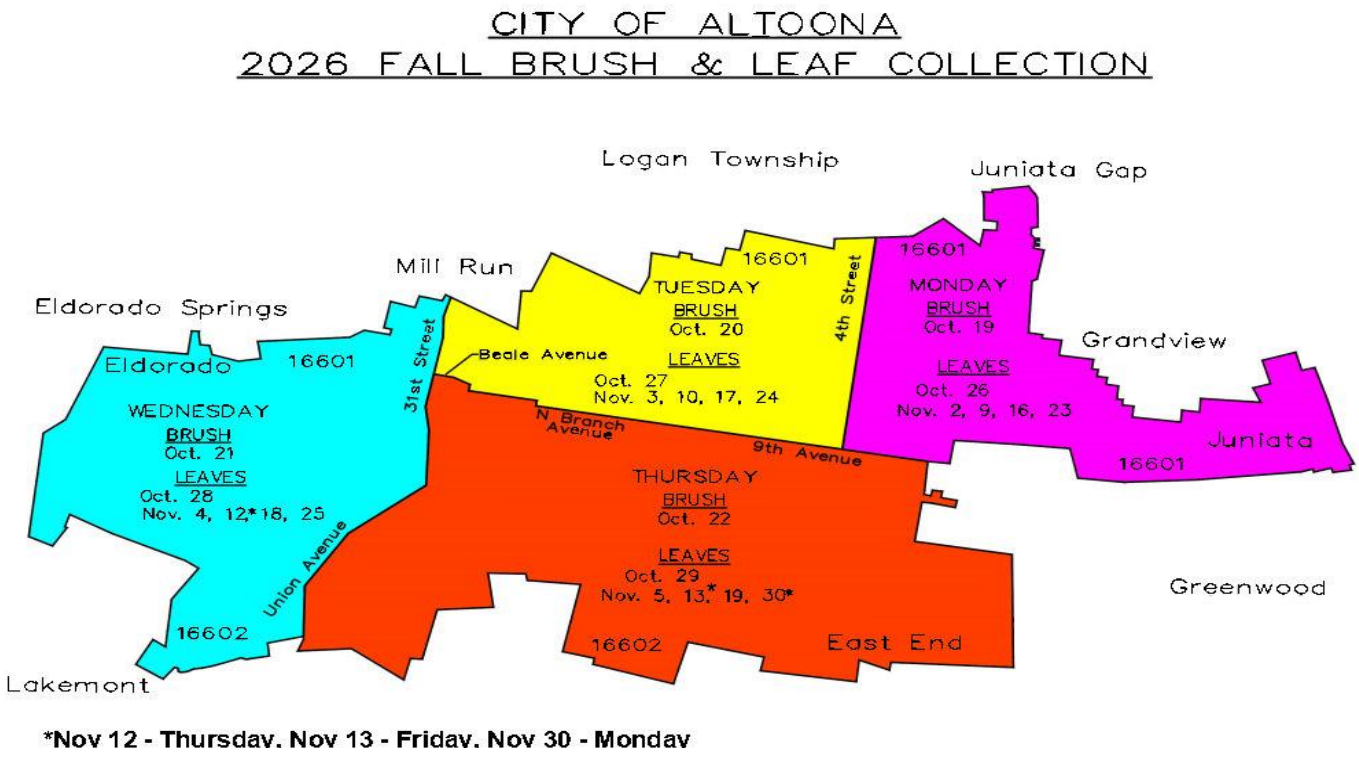
Altoona Proud

A Monthly Insight into all that is Altoona

City of Altoona 2026 Fall Brush & Leaf Collection

City Brush and Leaf collection runs from October 19th through November 30th. 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 .



*Nov 12 - Thursday, Nov 13 - Friday, Nov 30 - Monday

Altoona Area Public Library Storytellers On Stage

Storytellers On Stage is back for a second year. On October 20th, 2026 at 7:00 PM, New York Times best-selling author Jeff Shaara will step onto the Benzel Stage at the Mishler Theatre for an evening to benefit the Altoona Area Public Library.

Mr. Shaara is renowned for bringing pivotal moments in American history to life through vivid storytelling based on meticulous research. His acclaimed novels span the American Revolution, the Civil War, World War II and beyond.

Come help support the library and enjoy an evening of historical and lively storytelling. Tickets are available now at the Mishler Box office for $30 each or at www.mishlertheatre.org.

Be sure to visit the Altoona Area Public Library website at www.altoonalibrary.org for the full calendar of club meetings and other events throughout the month of October.

Altoona Farmers Market

The Altoona Farmers Market will be closing out its season on Thursday, October 15th. This will be your last chance this year to visit Heritage Plaza downtown to take advantage of the produce, crafts, flowers, dips and other local artisans' wares.

Throughout the remainder of the year, you can still take advantage of these local vendors' products by ordering online through Blair Markets. Orders need to be placed before end of day Monday, and picked up on Wednesdays between the hours of 1:00 PM – 6:00 PM at one of several locations around the area or, within a certain radius, delivery is offered. Individuals, grocery stores, restaurants or caterers can register as a customer, sign up for the email list and look at the Product List page by going to www.blairmarkets.localfoodmarketplace.com. Help support our local farms and businesses by shopping local.

Oktoberfest in Downtown Altoona

Get ready for Oktoberfest in Downtown Altoona! On Saturday, October 17th, from 2:00 PM – 8:00 PM, Heritage Plaza will transform into a biergarten, bringing together all four of Altoona's local breweries. Behe Brothers Brewing Company, JJ Hadley & Co. Brewers, Levity Brewing Co., and Railroad City Brewing Company will be serving up a variety of brews, including German-style beers alongside some of their other favorite beers, ciders, and seltzers.

Come hungry and enjoy pretzels, bratwurst and other Oktoberfest favorites, including Texas Hot Dogs, served with an Altoona twist. Entertainment will include German oompah music, local rock bands and everything in between, along with a performance by the Amrausch Schuhplattlers performing traditional German dance at 6:30 PM.

There will be fun for the little ones too, in the Kid Zone, so bring the family and celebrate October!

National Fire Prevention Week 2026

Fire Prevention Week is October 4th – 10th, 2026. This year's theme is "Charge into Fire Safety – Safe Charging is a Superpower". The campaign focuses on the everyday charging habits that can help reduce the risk of lithium-ion battery fires and keep homes and communities safer. Below are some tips for safe charging.

Plug in. Power Up. Stay Safe.

- Use the cord and charger that comes with your device, or one approved by the manufacturer. Avoid cheap chargers that can be hazardous.
- Always charge on a hard surface like a table, desk, or bare floor. Do not charge on a soft surface, such as a pillow, mattress or cushion.
- If your device is fully charged, unplug it from the charger so the device does not overheat.
- Charge large items like e-bikes, scooters and power tools outside whenever possible. Do not block exits when charging.
- Stop using your device if it feels very hot, starts to swell, smells strange, leaks, smokes or makes popping or hissing sounds.
- When travelling on a plane, keep devices where you can see them while charging. Do not charge e-cigarettes or vapes on a plane and tell a flight attendant if there is a problem with your device.

Halloween Safety 2026

TRICK OR TREAT IN ALTOONA WILL BE THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29th 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. Treat residential areas like school zones. 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-Expect the unexpected.
4. Turn headlights on before dusk to make sure your vehicle is visible, and to spot children at greater distances.
5. Drive sober. If you are planning to celebrate Halloween, do so responsibly.

St. Poelten Student Visit Update

From November 22nd through December 1st, 19 students representing Altoona Area High School, Bishop Guilfoyle Academy and Hollidaysburg Area High School, will visit our Sister City of St Poelten, Austria. They will stay with Austrian families and experience their foods and culture, including a trip to the beautiful Vienna Christmas Market, pictured here!

The City of St. Poelten is paying for all excursions and food during the visit, and a bus from Freedom Excursions will transport the group to and from Dulles International Airport, so the group can enjoy a nonstop flight to Vienna. We want to publicly acknowledge the GENEROUS community members and organizations who have donated to cover the cost of this bus transportation, and officially thank them for helping to make this international experience a reality for our students:

Lee and Jane Hite **Neil & Mickey Port**
Kiwanis Club of Altoona **Reliance Bank** **Rotary Club of Altoona**

You can help the program to continue to provide future activities by visiting www.centralpagives.org and using the Donate link, specifying Sister City Funds as the recipient. Or you can send your donation to CPCF, 1616 E. Pleasant Valley Blvd, Altoona, PA 16602. Every donation will help defray any other costs that the trip may incur. Thank you in advance!

Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign

The Salvation Army is looking for Bell Ringers for their 2026 Red Kettle Program. Your time will make a difference. There are full-time positions, at $10 an hour, from November 27th through December 24th. Help make Christmas brighter for those in need in our community. You can apply by calling 814-942-8104, or stopping in to the office at 1813 6th Avenue in Altoona. Volunteers and groups are also welcome to assist. Help the Salvation Army to help our community!

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