



NEWSLETTER
Fall/Winter 2023-24—Volume 15, Issue 2

Village of Altamont

From the Mayor's Desk

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Greetings Residents, Friends, and Families,

As we say goodbye to summer and enter the beautiful backdrop of fall, it's hard to believe 2023 is almost over. The Village had a very active spring & summer, and I want to take this opportunity to highlight some of the accomplishments and events.

Welcome new and returning staff: We welcome Bradley Donaldson and Tim McIntyre to DPW. Brad is a new addition to the team, while Tim is returning to Altamont, where he led the team for many years. We are also excited to have Chief Pucci back with us leading the APD, filling the position vacated by Chief Johnson. Chief Pucci retired from the Village two years ago, and was happy to come back as part-time Chief to fill the role he knows so well!

Fairview Avenue Sidewalks: With assistance from Legislator Pat Fahy and a NYS grant, we were able to complete the Fairview Avenue Sidewalk project, creating another pathway and safe route to school for our kids.

New Firetruck: With assistance from Senator Michelle Hinchey, the Village received a \$250,000 grant towards the purchase of our new firetruck. It recently arrived and is ready to go!

Bozenkill Park: A huge Thank You to Jami Rubin and the Summer Camp team for a great season, and to our own Department of Public Works for all their work refreshing the Bozenkill Playground by installing two new playground pieces.

Summer Concerts/Events: The Library Summer Concert Series and Food Truck nights in Orsini Park were again a huge success! Thank you all for coming out to support these community nights! A special Thank You to Archivist Dan Barker and Altamont Community Tradition (ACT) for an outstanding 2nd Fall Festival- Family fun at its best!!

Infrastructure Work in Progress: Much of the work we do each summer is part of a greater plan working to strengthen the Village infrastructure for many years to come. Sidewalks, paving, water lines, wells, and wastewater treatment plant work are all part of this work each year by our DPW. One of the most important projects taking place through 2024 is the lead and copper service line inventory for each residence in the Village. This inventory is a state mandate for all municipalities in NYS with the ultimate goal of keeping our drinking water clean. Our DPW will notify you when they will be coming to check your lines; we appreciate your cooperation in advance. Once completed, the inventory and information gained will help positively position the Village for grants to replace lead water lines. The Village Board welcomes your input and we ask you to reach out with any concerns, questions, or ideas you would like to share with us. Our Board meetings are the first Tuesday each month and our website is always up to date with the latest events and announcements for the community. I look forward to a positive and productive 2024! Best, Kerry Dineen, Altamont Mayor

ACT Hosts Altamont WinterFest

Sunday, December 10, 2023 — **SAVE THE DATE!**

This year, Altamont Community Tradition (ACT) will again be hosting a Village-focused WINTER FEST from Noon to 4:00 p.m. The event will kick off in Orsini Park at Noon with the popular **Pet "Pawrade"** with prizes for best costumes and pet treats for all four-footed participants. We will once again be hosting free **carriage rides** and various activities hosted by the Boy Scouts. **Gingerbread houses** will be on view at the Library and attendees are encouraged to add their hand-made ornaments on the **Community Tree** under the gazebo and then visit the Masonic Hall until 4:00 p.m. for the always popular



Holiday Tree display, wreath silent auction, and Letters to Santa.

Our **Made in Altamont raffle** will feature something for everyone, with crafts and treats courtesy of village creatives and businesses. Next door in **St. John's Community Room** the Lutheran Church will host crafts for kids, food, and music. The beautiful Altamont Reformed Church's **Living Nativity** will take place at 3:00 p.m.

For more information, please visit www.altamontcommunitytradition.org or our Facebook page: facebook.com/AltamontCommunityTradition. You will be able to find more specific information regarding the festival activities as the event nears. Altamont businesses that would like to participate are encouraged to email ACT at altamontcommunitytradition@yahoo.com and someone will be in touch to discuss your ideas.

Altamont Police Department

We here at the Altamont Police Department want to make sure you and yours enjoy this fun holiday season as safely as possible. So with Halloween quickly approaching, we'd like to start by offering you this list of trick-or-treating tips:

Watch out for your kids:

- Keep children off the streets after dark.
- Never let your kids go out with realistic replicas of firearms.
- Do not let them go trick-or-treating alone, or without an accompanying adult.
- If they do go out after dark, make sure they wear reflective clothing and carry a flashlight.
- Give your children a curfew and have them tell you what route they will be taking.
- Closely inspect any treats before anyone eats them. Cut up and wash fruit to make sure it is safe to consume.
- All costumes should be made of light-colored, fireproof material.
- Make sure masks and wigs are fireproof and do not impair vision.

Remind your kids:

- Never enter a stranger's home.
- Never accept rides from strangers.
- Stay on the sidewalks, not the streets, and avoid backyards, shortcuts and alleys.
- Stick with your friends.

Take extra care on Halloween night:

- Don't leave your home unattended.
- Keep pets inside your home or another safe place.
- Motorists should drive slowly, yield to young pedestrians and watch out for trick-or-treaters darting into the street



Next, with the winter months almost upon us, I'd like to take this opportunity to remind our residents and visitors of the Village of Altamont winter parking regulations, which prohibit parking on the streets between the hours of 12:00 midnight and 7:00 a.m., beginning November 1st and ending May 1st. During this period, the Police Department will often issue warning tickets to vehicles in violation as a reminder of the Village Code.

Unfortunately, if there is a pending snowstorm or a declared winter emergency, vehicles in violation will be issued parking citations and will be towed to allow for proper plowing. So please be considerate, and thank you for your compliance, which will allow for better snow removal and safer streets for all of us.

Lastly, with holidays like Christmas and New Year's just around the corner, we understand that people will be socializing & celebrating, which in itself is not a bad thing. We just ask that people drink responsibly and plan ahead. Driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol is never worth the risk. Thank you, and have a wonderful Holiday Season!!

Archives and Museum

Open Saturdays: The Archives and Museum is now open one Saturday a month from 9:00AM - 1:00PM. There is no need to make an appointment. Feel free to drop in and visit us! **Upcoming Saturdays are as follows:** November 4, December 2, January 6, February 3, March 2, April 6.

Appointments Available: The Archives are currently open by appointment. If you would like to use our collection for research purposes, please contact us through the Village of Altamont website.

Photographs Wanted: The Archives and Museum is always interested in any old photographs of the Village of Altamont, particularly of buildings, businesses, homes or public events. If you have any photographs that you think would be of interest, please let us know.

Altamont Free Library

Happy Fall, Altamont!

Summer concerts and summer reading are great, but Autumn is our favorite season here at Altamont Free Library. As always, we have lots going on here at the library and you're invited to join in all of our programs and events.

For our youngest friends, we have weekly Storytimes at 11 a.m. every Tuesday. Storytime is a super fun morning of books, songs, activities and crafts that will get your young folks (ages up to 5) dancing, singing and ready to read! For caregivers, Storytime is a great chance to swap tips, laugh at child-rearing mishaps, and make new friends. We also have once a month evening Storytimes that we call Stories & Stuffies where we'll read calm and relaxing stories that will get your young friends ready to sleep. They can even wear their pajamas and bring their favorite stuffed animal! Or if you prefer something more active, we also have a once a month outdoor Storytime for kids all year round hosted by nature educators from the Thacher Park Nature Center, where we learn about a different nature-themed topic each month. You'll have a ton of fun, and you'll learn a thing or two while you're at it.

But youngsters aren't the only ones who get to have fun! If you love reading and talking about the things you've read, I'd like to suggest joining one of our book clubs! Our flagship *First Monday Book Club* meets, naturally, at noon on the first Monday of every month. We usually meet via Zoom, but sometimes in person. In the Fall, we'll also be starting a new kind of book club: A *silent* book club. In a silent book club people bring whatever they happen to be reading and read quietly together in the same place for an hour. After that, if participants like, they can hang out and talk about what they're reading and meet other book lovers. Keep an eye on our Facebook page, Instagram account, website or *Altamont Enterprise* column for more details!

If a silent book club sounds a little *too* silent to you, maybe you could join our monthly ukulele meetup for folks who like to play music and sing together. We meet on the first Tuesday of every month at 6 p.m. and we encourage people of all ages and experience levels to join us. Bring a song or two to share with the group if you'd like, and we'll all learn it and play it together.

Looking a bit further forward into the year, we'll be holding our annual *Library Lights* event again this December. *Library Lights* is an opportunity to gather together with members of the community at the beginning of the holiday season to remember friends and loved ones that we've lost. Community members are invited to make a donation to the library to have a light on the Orsini Park gazebo dedicated in their honor. Then at the gazebo lighting ceremony, we read the names of all of our honorees. It's a lovely and moving ceremony, and I hope that you will join us for it.

In addition to our regular library services, we continue to offer plenty of ways of accessing books, movies and much more from home! Between our Libby and Hoopla apps for ebooks and digital audiobooks, our Kanopy service for streaming movies and TV shows, our digital subscriptions to Ancestry.com and the New York Times, and much else besides, you have everything you need to stay informed and entertained through the cold months ahead. If you'd like help in accessing any of these, please stop in or give us a call at (518) 861-7239.



Altamont Fire Department

Save the Date! On Saturday, November 4, the AFD will host Comedy Night with Comedians Joe Devito and John Ziegler in the Community Room at 115 Main Street. Showtime is 8:00 p.m. and doors open at 6:30 p.m. Admission is \$35 and includes the show, beer, wine, soda and finger foods. Tickets are available at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/>.

Veterans are welcome free of charge—call Mark at 518-861-5758.

The AFD requests residents near fire hydrants assist in clearing snow away from fire hydrants after major snowstorms. Please report missing hydrant markers to the Village.



Building/Zoning, Public Works & Stormwater Departments

Home Improvement Projects: Many common home projects require a building permit. Any new construction or renovation/repair inside or outside the home now requires a permit under the new 2020 International Code Council (ICC). This includes the installation of new windows, exterior doors, and swimming pools; additions of any type, decks, garages, fences of any type or height, new roofs, sheds, footers, foundations, woodstoves, gas-fired fireplaces, and supplemental heating of any type. Any types of fuel-fired generators are not allowed in garages or on porches. Before beginning any project, please check with our Building and Code Inspector Gary Goss by calling 518-861-8554 Ext. 17, or by e-mail: villagebuilding@altamontvillage.org

Vehicles (Registered and Unregistered), Campers, RVs & Trailers: Automotive vehicles or trailers of any kind or type without current license plates shall not be parked or stored on any property other than in completely enclosed buildings. No trailer may be parked within the front or side yards at any time. However, one boat, utility or one travel trailer may be stored in the rear yard, only if it has a current license.

Department of Public Works asks that residents keep sidewalks clear of debris such as newspapers, trash containers and other foreign objects that can be hazardous to both equipment and workers. Although they work diligently to clear sidewalks of snow, it is still the responsibility of homeowners to keep sidewalks free of snow and ice under NYS and Village law.

The **Stormwater Department** would like to remind Village residents that our community catch basins are a big part of keeping our stormwater system clean and efficient. Keeping the catch basins free of leaves & debris will ensure that our stormwater system works properly, helping to reduce flooding of our streets and yards, and keeping our streams and creeks free of pollutants. Please keep all bags, garbage cans, brush and leaf piles away from catch basins. The department would also like to thank all the residents that are utilizing our pet stations in our parks, and encourage pet owners to use them year round. The utilization of these stations has helped reduce the amount of waste in our parks and helped in keeping these parks a safe and clean place for our community to enjoy.



When shoveling/plowing snow this season, pay attention to where you place it. DO:

- Pile snow in locations with the most opportunity to infiltrate into the ground, and where water does not pond.
- Clear away any snow that may have been covering the storm drains.
- Clear your downspouts to allow melting roof snow to flow and not collect at your foundation.

Do NOT:

- Do not pile snow on top of storm drains or near water bodies and wetlands.
- Do not overuse de-icing chemicals and salts, and avoid spreading around sensitive areas like waterways. More salt does not equal more melting snow. Follow product instructions when spreading de-icing material and give it time to work. Sweep up any material remaining after the snow/ice melts to help reduce pollution.

Calendar

<u>OCTOBER 2023</u>		<u>JANUARY 2024</u>		at noon Good Friday	3/29
Water Rent Bills Due	10/31	New Year's	1/1	<u>APRIL 2024</u>	
<u>NOVEMBER 2023</u>		Village Board Meeting	1/2	Water & Sewer Bills Mailed	4/1
Daylight Savings Time Ends	11/5	Village Offices Closed:		Water Main Flushing Begins	4/1
Election Day	11/7	Martin Luther King Day	1/15	Village Organizational Mtg,	
Village Board Meeting	11/8	<u>FEBRUARY 2024</u>		Budget Hearing & Board Mtg	4/9
Village Offices Closed:		Village Board Meeting	2/6	<u>MAY 2024</u>	
Veterans Day	11/10	Village Offices Closed:		Water Restrictions Begin &	5/1
Thanksgiving	11/23 & 11/24	President's Day	2/19	Annual Water Report Released/	
Sewer Rent Bills Due	11/30	Budget Workshop	2/29	Winter Parking Regulations End	
<u>DECEMBER 2023</u>		<u>MARCH 2024</u>		AES PTA Village Wide	
Village Board Meeting	12/5	Village Board Meeting	3/5	Garage Sale	5/4
Library Lights Memorial Event	12/8	Village Budget Workshop	3/14	Village Memorial Day Parade	5/19
ACT WinterFest	12/10	Daylight Saving Time Begins	3/10	Village Offices Closed:	
Village Offices Closed:		Budget Workshop (if needed)	3/21	Memorial Day	5/27
Christmas	12/25	Village Offices Closed:			
