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NEWSLETTER

Village of Altamont

Census 2020—Altamont's Goal: Count Everyone!

Exceeding our current 1,727 residents is the Village's goal as we get ready to get a full count of everyone during the 2020 U.S. Census. The Census is a national event, but in order for it to be successful, it has to be conducted locally. Former Mayor Jim Gaughan will help coordinate efforts in the community to motivate people to respond to the 2020 Census. Trustee Nick Fahrenkopf will serve as Board liaison to this effort.

As most readers are aware, the Census has been conducted every ten years since the founding of our nation, as required by Article 1, Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution. It asks a small number of basic questions about how many people live in a household, and should take most people no more than 20 minutes to complete. Having that information about who lives where in the United States allows federal, state, and local governments to determine what area will receive the most representation and financial assistance. The more people we have, the more represented and better compensated we are. It's that simple.

In 2010, the Village count was 17 people fewer than in the 2000 Census. This population decline resulted in a \$300,000 loss over the ensuing decade. These are "lost" funds which the Village would have otherwise received from Albany County tax fund distributions which are apportioned based on population. Federal funding for municipalities is also driven by the Census. Receiving those funds helps keep taxes low, so it is critically important that everyone be counted.

Work on the 2020 census began locally last year. The Village provided the federal government with information available to them in order to identify all addresses where people could live in our community. In turn, the Census Bureau conducted "address canvassing," so they can reach out to as many people as possible in 2020. Beginning in January of this year, the U.S. Census Bureau started opening 248 local Census offices across the country. These offices support and manage the Census takers who conduct the census. Bob Scardamalia, a representative of the New York Regional Census Center, will visit Altamont and provide an update to the community at the November 19 Village Board meeting. We encourage everyone to attend to get the latest updates and to have an opportunity to ask questions.

The 2020 Census will be done differently than in the past, creating new challenges for communities like Altamont. People will be asked first to complete the Census form online or by telephone, rather than depend solely on paper questionnaires and in-person interviews. There will be traditional paper forms which can be submitted as well, but the easiest and fastest way to participate is by internet or telephone. For those who don't complete the Census by one of those three ways, a Census worker will knock on their door to get answers for the form. When you respond by any of these methods, be sure to use your current address as of April 1, 2020.

It's estimated that 95% of households will receive their census invitation in the mail. Altamont residents who receive their mail at a P.O. Box may not get an invitation to participate in the Census because invitations will only be mailed to physical addresses. Altamont's post office has committed to placing Census invitations in the proper P.O. Box if they recognize the name – rather than returning them.

The Director of the Altamont Free Library, members of Altamont Community Tradition (ACT), and the Postmaster have agreed to work to inspire participation in the census. The Altamont Public Library plans to provide personal assistance as well as extra computer stations for the public to use to complete the census questionnaire and will be providing periodic updates to its customers throughout the coming months.

On January 1, 2020, the Census Bureau begins counting the population in remote Alaska. On April 1, 2020, Census Day is observed nationwide. By this date, every home will receive an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census. The initial mailings to households will be sent March 12-20, 2020. For households that do not complete the Census form after the first mailing, Census workers will make multiple attempts to contact you by mail, phone, and finally visiting your home. In May, 2020, the Census Bureau will begin visiting addresses that haven't responded.

We know that everyone reading this loves our Village, and wants it to thrive. Responding to the Census promptly and completely is an easy way to show your love for our community, and to help improve it. Please help us show the world that Altamont Counts!

If you have questions, please feel free to e-mail the Village Clerk at altamontclerk@nycap.rr.com or call 518-861-8554 (X10). You may also contact Altamont Library Director Joe Burke at (518) 861-7239 or e-mail director@altamontfreelibrary.org. Information can also be found on the Village website, www.AltamontVillage.org.

Victorian Holidays Celebration and Winter Market

ALTAMONT COMMUNITY TRADITION PRESENTS VICTORIAN HOLIDAYS CELEBRATION AND WINTER MARKET: December 14 & 15, 2019

SAVE THE DATES!

Altamont Community Tradition (A.C.T.) is happy to announce the eighteenth annual Victorian Holidays Celebration. This festive family tradition attracts visitors from across the Capital Region to our Village.

Events kick off on Saturday at 7:00 p.m. with a wine and cheese party at the Masonic Hall for Village residents, compliments of A.C.T. and the Altamont Wine School. Guests will be able to vote on their favorite holiday tree and bid on fabulous decorated wreaths.

Sunday's events run from noon to 5:00 p.m. and include the Festival of Trees and Wreath Auction, the Living Nativity and lots of indoor and outdoor activities throughout the Village, including wine tastings, food, crafts for kids, bonfires, games, a treasure hunt, music, and storytelling. The popular Winter Market features artisan crafts, local brews, and festive food in a number of Village locations. Many Village businesses will open regular hours with some hosting special events.



At 5:00 p.m. Santa arrives on the train at the beautifully restored Victorian train station on Main Street with gifts and photo opportunities for kids.

For more information visit www.altamontcommunitytradition.org or our Facebook page: facebook.com/AltamontCommunityTradition.



Website Update



Be sure to check out our updated website at altamontvillage.org. News items, employment opportunities, agendas, minutes, and sign up for notifications are all available on our site. The ability to watch our monthly board meetings will be coming soon! This is the only official site associated with the Village of Altamont municipality; no other social media sites are utilized for official village news.

Seasonal Projects

With each spring and summer season comes projects for our Village Department of Public Works. In addition to the general maintenance and care of our Village properties and infrastructure, the following large projects were completed:

- New pavement on Sunset Drive
- Sidewalk extension on Altamont Blvd.
- Sidewalk replacement at Helderberg Ave. and Severson Ave.
- Parking lot expansion at Village Hall, allowing increased parking for community events and the AFD.

We want to thank and acknowledge our Village DPW for their outstanding work this past season. Their efforts keeping our community safe and beautiful are greatly appreciated!

Founders Day Event

Special thanks to our Archivist Dan Barker and Museum volunteers for a successful First Annual Founders Day Celebration! Attendance was great! Participants had a chance to take part in the Village's Museum in the Streets walking tour. They then visited the Village Archives and Museum for refreshments while taking a look at our new Village Visionaries exhibit. We look forward to expanding this event next year.



Pictured: Laura Shore, Connie Rue, Judi Di-neen, Lois Ginsburg, Ron Ginsburg and Dan Barker. Absent: Keith Lee

Altamont Free Library Holiday Programs and 13th Annual Gala

As we settle into the Fall, Altamont's best season, we here at Altamont Free Library have much to look forward to, says Joe Burke, Library Director. In the holiday season, we look forward to our annual trio of beloved programs: the annual *Library Lights* memorial event featuring the ceremonial lighting of the Orsini Park gazebo; the building of gingerbread houses at the Altamont Masonic Lodge; and ACT's Victorian Holiday Celebration on Sunday, December 15 featuring the always eagerly anticipated Santa Train at the library. For more details about these and other programs, please read our weekly column in the *Altamont Enterprise*, like us on Facebook, check our website at www.AltamontFreeLibrary.org, or sign up for our free monthly email newsletter!

Looking ahead to 2020: Every year, Altamont residents and library lovers look forward to the annual Altamont Free Library *I Love My Library!* Dinner & Auction and this year is no exception. The Library will be holding its 13th annual gala on Saturday, February 8, 2020. Each year, proceeds from the gala help support the continued growth and programming that the library offers to Altamont, Knox, Guilderland, and the surrounding communities. Tickets will be available in early 2020. For more information, if you would like to be involved in the planning for the gala, or if you would like to donate an item for our live and silent auctions, please call (518) 861-7239 or email director@altamontfreelibrary.org.



Further on down the road, we look forward to our annual book sale on Saturday, May 2, 2020. Held in conjunction with the Altamont Elementary School PTA's annual Village-wide garage sale, this is the perfect opportunity to comb through thousands of donated items to find your next favorite book, DVD or CD. If you would like to donate to the sale, please hold onto your donations until we begin accepting them on Wednesday, April 29, 2020. If you would like to help run the sale, organize books, or lug boxes, please get in touch. It takes a Village, as they say, to run this event and in return for your generous assistance, you get first dibs at the donations! We look forward to continuing to serve our wonderful community.

Thank you all for your continued support!

Winter Safety Reminders

As we approach the winter months, the Department of Public Works would like to remind residents that 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. DPW requests that residents also keep sidewalks clear of debris such as newspapers, trash containers and other foreign objects that can be hazardous to both equipment and workmen.



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

The Altamont Police Department would like to remind residents that parking is prohibited in most Village parking areas owned and maintained by the Village and on all highways within the Village between the hours of Midnight and 7 a.m. beginning November 1st through May 1st of each year. Overnight parking is allowed in municipal parking lots located behind the Enterprise Printing and Photo business on Maple Avenue.

Memorial Day Parade is Back!



On Sunday May 17, 2020, the traditional Memorial Day Parade will be reinstated! It will begin at 2:00 and follow the original route; weaving throughout many of our Village streets before coming together to honor our Veterans in a Memorial Ceremony in Orsini Park. The parade committee will be working hard to finalize all the exciting details - keep a lookout on the Village website and local paper for updates as we get closer to the event!

Village of Altamont
PO Box 643
Altamont, NY 12009

Forwarding Service Requested

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Calendar

NOVEMBER

Village Offices Closed
Veterans Day 11/11
Village Board Meeting 11/19
Village Offices Closed 11/28-
Thanksgiving 11/29

DECEMBER

Library Lights 12/06
ACT Wine & Cheese
Reception 12/14
ACT Victorian Holidays 12/15
Village Board Meeting 12/3
AFD Santa Stroll TBD
Village Offices Closed:
Closed at noon Christmas Eve 12/24
Closed Christmas Day 12/25
Closed at noon New Year's Eve 12/31

2020

JANUARY

Village Offices Closed
New Years Day 01/01
Village Board Meeting 01/07
Village Offices Closed
Martin Luther King Day 01/20

FEBURARY

Village Board Meeting 02/04
I Love My Library Gala 02/08
Village Offices Closed
Presidents Day 02/17
Budget Workshop 02/26

MARCH

Village Board Meeting 03/03
Daylight Saving Time Begins 03/08
Village Budget Workshop 3/11

APRIL

Water & Sewer Bills Mailed 04/01
Water Main Flushing Begins 04/01

Village Organizational Meeting
& Budget Hearing 04/07
Village Board Meeting 04/07
ACT Green & Clean TBD

MAY

Water Restrictions Begin 05/01
Annual Water Report
Released 05/01
Winter Parking Regulations
End 05/01
AES PTA Village Wide
Garage Sale 05/02
Village Board Meeting 05/05
Memorial Day Parade 05/17
Village Offices Closed
Memorial Day 05/25

JUNE

Village Board Meeting 06/02
Bozenkill Park Pool Opens 06/20