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NEWSLETTER
Summer 2020—Volume 12, Issue 1

Village of Altamont



From the Mayor's Desk

Friends and Families,

It has been a tough spring for all of us as we cope with NYS and the country on “pause” due to COVID-19. I thank the residents of Altamont for their part in helping to flatten the curve by following guidelines to help prevent the spread of this virus. You are all doing an amazing job; working from home, helping to educate your children, and helping those around you who need a hand is quite the balancing act, so I applaud everyone for their efforts! I will ask you to continue supporting our local businesses while we move through different phases of the NYS re-opening plan; we want to help businesses get back to the success they had prior to the shutdown.



I want to send out a huge *Thank You* to two groups who have volunteered for the Village over the past 10 weeks: 518 Foodies is a local group who raised funds and worked through local businesses to bring essential workers meals. Our Village was chosen as one of their recipients, and they provided lunch for our Department of Public Works and Police Department. Another *Thank You* goes out to the Quick Response Company. They have been providing free sanitization services for First Responder groups and the Village was included in their outreach. Quick Response sanitized both the Fire and Police Departments as well as our first responder vehicles. The departments are very appreciative for their services.

I want to send another reminder out to all residents to sign up for NIXLE. This is the system we use to contact residents in case of emergency and to send out information from Village departments. It will be particularly important for getting updated information to residents as restrictions loosen up coming into the next few months. Go online at www.altamontvillage.org and register so that you will be kept in the loop for all important events and emergencies.

Best, Mayor Dineen



Census 2020—It's not too late!

Did you receive your census notification yet? If you did, have you completed and returned it? As of today, 29.2% of Altamont's **households** have not responded, which means 211 households have not completed the census form. If you are one of these households, please respond!

It is very important that our Village residents provide an accurate count. For every person not counted **in these households**, we estimate that the Village will lose \$10,000 in revenue from the county, state, and federal governments. Receiving these funds helps keep taxes low, so it is critically important that everyone be counted.

There are several ways to complete the census. Some people choose to do it online through the census website; others wait until they are sent a paper form they fill out and mail in; still others give their answers to a census representative over the phone. Each of those ways is perfectly fine. We just need to do it!

- If you received a census notification with a specific ID code in the mail, go to the link: my2020census.gov, enter your ID code where noted, and complete the form.
- If you have received a census questionnaire by mail, complete it, and mail it back in the provided envelope, postage free.
- If you did not receive a mailing, go to the link above, click on the button that says, “If you do not have a Census ID click here,” and you will be led through a series of questions after you enter your home address.
- If you do not or cannot complete the form online, you can contact the census by phone to complete the form. Call toll-free: 1-844-330-2020.

However you complete the form, it's easy and takes less than 10 minutes! Once you've responded, encourage your family and friends to complete the census too. Share and like posts at your Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram accounts with friends and family. If you have questions, contact Altamont Free Library Director Joe Burke at 518-861-7239 or e-mail director@altamontfreelibrary.org.

Department of Public Works

Water Restrictions: The Village restricts the use of water from May 15th to September 15th of each year. Hand held watering is permitted from 7 am to 9 am and from 7 pm to 9 pm daily. The use of lawn sprinklers and sprinkler systems are allowed during the hours of 7 am to 9 am and 7 pm to 9 pm using the odd/even house number system.

Village Continues Protecting Stormwater: The Village storm water staff would like to thank all our residents who utilize our pet waste stations located in our community parks. By utilizing these stations, we are eliminating pet waste from our parks and helping to ensure a healthy and safe environment for all to enjoy, as well as keeping pollutants out of our storm water and ultimately out of our streams and creeks. Here are a few other healthy household habits for clean water:

- Use a commercial car wash or wash your car on a lawn or other unpaved surface to minimize dirty, soapy water flowing into the storm water system.
- Check your car, equipment or other machinery for leaks and spills. Make repairs as soon as possible; clean up spilled fluids with absorbent material and dispose of properly to avoid fluids from entering our storm drains.
- Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly; use the recommended amount and avoid applying these chemicals if rain is in the forecast.
- The Village storm water staff would like to thank all our residents for helping keep our creeks and streams free of pollutants and debris.



Fall Leaf Vacuum: Will begin the week of October 12th and continue as needed or until snow arrives.

Fall Water Flushing: Water main flushing will begin on Monday, October 5th. Flushing will occur between the hours of 8:30 am and 3 pm Monday through Friday. During the flushing, residents may experience discoloration in their water. Residents should check their water prior to doing laundry.

Village Taxes

Village tax bills were mailed on June 1st. Please be advised that due to the COVID-19 health crisis, the Village Office is closed until further notice. Tax bills can be paid in the following manner:

Mail-in Payments: Mail your payment along with your tax bill stub to the following address: Village of Altamont, PO Box 643, Altamont, NY 12009. **Credit Card Payments:** Visit the Village of Altamont website at

www.altamontvillage.org and click on "Online Payments". **Village's Drop Box:** Located on the right hand side of the main door to the Village office. Please put your payment and tax bill stub in an envelope. Your cancelled check will serve as your receipt. If you would like your tax bill stamped "paid", please put your entire Village tax bill in an envelope with your payment. Thank you for your understanding during this difficult time.

Village Code Reminders for Residents and Business Owners

Home Improvement Projects: Many common home projects require a building permit. This includes the construction of **decks, roofs, sheds, fences, and the installation of a swimming pool**. Before beginning any project, please check with our Building and Code Inspector Lance Moore by calling 518-861-8554 Ext. 17, or cell 518-859-4492 or e-mail: altamontbuilding@nycap.rr.com.



Unregistered Vehicles, Campers, RVs & Trailers: Unregistered vehicles may only be stored in an enclosed garage, not in the side or back yard. Camping, RV or work-related trailers must be kept in the rear of the owner's property.

Dog Strolling: When enjoying a stroll with your dog, please abide by the Village's pooper scooper law, and discard those baggies at home. There are pet waste disposal stations in Orsini, Schilling, and Bozenkill Parks for emergencies.

Pedestrian Right of Way and Village Parks: NYS Law requires vehicles to yield the right of way to pedestrians using crosswalks. Please use crosswalks when crossing our busy streets to stay safe and avoid injury. Village Parks have a carry in-

carryout policy for trash and a smoke-free policy. Please help create a clean and healthy environment for all.

Signs and Deliveries: Each business and organization is allowed to display one sandwich board style sign during their regular operating hours. The sign may be placed on the sidewalk where it does not impede pedestrian flow, sight line or create other hazards. Please remind delivery drivers to stop and unload only in designated parking areas.

Altamont Free Library—Curbside Pick-up Begins June 15!

We are excited to announce that Monday, June 15, Altamont Free Library will begin curbside pick-up & return of library books and materials. We have missed serving our community & are excited to be able to begin working for you in this way.

- Hours of operation for pick-up and drop-off will be **noon to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday**.
- Reserve books & DVD's at <http://www.catalog.uhls.org> anytime or call us at (518) 861-7239 starting June 15.
- All library materials will be held for three days in the UHLS warehouse in order to ensure that they are disinfected before they come to you. Because of this, it will take longer than in the past for materials to get to you. We appreciate your patience and understanding.
- When your items are ready, a library staff member will call or email you with a time you can pick them up. Please make an appointment before you come so that we can be sure to have everything ready for you when you get here.
- Your order will be waiting on a table in the library's vestibule in a paper bag with your name on it. Please follow the directions you will see posted about "traffic flow" and social distancing.
- At this time, the library building and its restroom will remain closed to the public. Printing, computer, faxing and photocopying services are not yet available.
- Borrowed materials can be dropped off in the marked boxes in the library's vestibule during business hours. Due dates for previously checked out materials have been extended into July —overdue fines are not being applied to previously borrowed materials.
- Returned items will be quarantined at the library for at least 72 hours before they are able to be recirculated.
- Library users must maintain social distance & wear masks while picking up and dropping off library materials.

Missing Storytime? Head over to YouTube.com and search for "Altamont Free Library". There you'll find video story-times we've been putting together, with new ones appearing every Tuesday and Friday. You can also like us on Facebook and find them there. Each new edition is chock full of stories, songs, crafts, movement activities, and bubbles presented by staff members Meg Seinberg-Hughes, Erika Peterson, Jo Ann Mulligan, Ann Gainer and me! Enjoy!

For tons of other online resources you have access to with your library card, go to <https://www.altamontfreelibrary.org/online-services> to find a full and constantly updated list. If you'd like to use Ancestry, Hoopla, Overdrive or other digital services, but can't find your library card, send me an email at Director@AltamontFreeLibrary.org or call the library at (518) 861-7239 and leave a message with your name and phone number. We'll get you your card number within the hour.

Unfortunately, due to ongoing restrictions on public gatherings, we will not be able to hold our annual summer concert series in Orsini Park. Things will be different, and we're still figuring some things out, so please bear with us as we make the necessary changes that allow us to offer the services you need, while protecting the health and safety of our community. We're so excited to be getting back into the library and continuing our work with and for you all! - Joe Burke, Director

Archives and Museum

House Histories of Village Homes: Keith Lee, local historian and Archives and Museum volunteer, has worked tirelessly compiling house histories for a number of homes in the Village. In the future these will be accessible to anyone who has research questions about certain homes in the area. If people have information about any houses in the Village that they feel is interesting, please feel free to contact us.



Digitization of Village Newspapers: In the coming months we plan to start the project of digitizing some of the older newspapers that we have at the Village Archives and Museum. There has been some interest over the last year in many of our old and crumbling village newspapers. Digitizing them will allow people to see what life was like around the time that the Village was incorporated.

Recent Acquisition: The Village Archives and Museum recently acquired a silk waistcoat that was owned by Dr. Frederick Crounse in the 1860s. The item had previously been part of the collection at the Fenimore Art Museum & The Farmers' Museum. We plan to have this item on display in the future.

Fire Department



Hands on training for our firefighters will resume again so we can be best prepared to protect the community. Stay tuned to our Facebook page and fire department sign for announcements of AFD events. Thank you for your patience and understanding during these uncertain times.

Village of Altamont
PO Box 643
Altamont, NY 12009

Forwarding Service Requested

FIRST CLASS

U.S. POSTAGE

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ALTAMONT, NY

PERMIT # 1890

Calendar	Website and Contacts
<u>JUNE</u>	Our Village Website at www.altamontvillage.org is a wealth of information!
Village Board Meeting 6/2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minutes and Agendas for all Board Meetings: Village, Planning and Zoning• Videos of Village Board Meetings• Online Payment Option – for water & sewer rents and Village taxes• Forms and Documents, Village Contacts, Village Code and FAQs• Calendar of all Village Events, NEWS and Announcements• Justice Court• Business & Community Directory and Village Newsletters• Request to Notify Me – of updates to the website & NIXLE Emergency Alerts
<u>JULY</u>	This is the only official site associated with the Village of Altamont municipality; no other social media sites are used for official Village news.
Village Offices closed 7/3	
Independence Day Observed	
Village Board Meeting 7/21	
<u>AUGUST</u>	<u>Contacts:</u>
Village Board Meeting 8/4	Archives and Museum (518) 861-8554, ext. 14
(If Needed)	Building Inspection & Code Enforcement (518) 861-8554, ext. 17 or (518) 859-4492 (c)
Altamont Fair (if allowed) 8/18-8/23	Fire Department (518) 861-8171
<u>SEPTEMBER</u>	Justice Court (518) 861-8554, ext. 12
Village Board Meeting 9/1	Parks (518) 861-8554, ext. 13
Village Offices Closed 9/7	Police Department (518) 861-5480
Labor Day Observed	Public Works (518) 861-8554, ext. 16
<u>OCTOBER</u>	Senior Citizens (St. Lucy's Parish Center) (518) 861-6030
Village Board Meeting 10/6	Stormwater Management (518) 861-6913 or (518) 410-3349\
Villages Offices Closed 10/12	Treasurer (518) 861-8554, ext. 11
Columbus Day Observed	Village Clerk (518) 861-8554, ext. 10
	Office Fax (518) 861-5379
	<u>Address:</u> Village of Altamont, 115 Main Street, PO Box 643, Altamont, NY 12009