

# Village of Altamont Newsletter

## Mayor's Message

Mayor  
James M. Gaughan

Trustees  
William Aylward  
Kerry Dineen  
Christine Marshall  
Dean Whalen

This issue is the first newsletter of the new year and marks the first anniversary of the launch of the communication effort. I encourage you to give feedback on the articles and suggestions for the future newsletters to the Village Office.

This issue contains an insert summarizing the possible projects that may be undertaken in the near future and will be discussed with the Trustees as part of the development of the 2009-10 budget. We are hopeful that we can continue and expand the sidewalk replacement initiative started re-

cently. The newsletter also contains information about new employees and other personnel transactions approved by the Board, updates the recent water extension project to the Wildwood Camp on Leesome Lane, and presents calendar information on the water and sewer bills and summer employment opportunities.



The Village recently submitted a grant to improve access of

our historical records and the stabilization of the current archives. Keep on the look out for future reports on this initiative. In the meantime, be sure to read the newsletter article on the history of the Village and set your calendar to attend the 95th annual Altamont Fireman's Ball!

All the newsletters are available on the Village Web site. The Village has submitted a shared services grant application with the Town of Guilderland to modernize both web sites. More information on the topic will be in future issues.

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Thank you to everyone who helped make the "I Love my Library" Dinner and auction such a success raising nearly \$ 18,000. Special thanks to guest Senator Neil Breslin. The dinner sold out again this year, 90 auction items were donated by local businesses and over 200 donors from the past year were recog-

nized. It is wonderful to see such a depth of community support.

Now that the train station has a brand new roof, keep an eye out in the Library for some of the old slate to take on a new life with an engraving of the station. The next construction phase will be an interior reno-

vation. Want to stay in the Library loop? Send an email to [winesj@uhls.lib.ny.us](mailto:winesj@uhls.lib.ny.us).

Upcoming events: Crock Pot Potluck - Adults - February 24th at 6:00 p.m.

Murder Mystery Dinner Theater - for Tweens and Teens - February 27th at 5 p.m.

## Altamont Free Library News

## Altamont Welcome New Employees

At the February 3rd, meeting, the Board of Trustees appointed two new employees.

Stacy Loucks was appointed as Court Clerk based on the recommendation of Justices Rebecca Morse Hout and Neil Taber.

Stacy has a degree in Informational Science from SUNY and has had several years of office management experience in both the corporate field as well as at a non-profit agency. Recruitment for

the part time position resulted in 15 applicants.

The position was previously held by Heather DeSarbo who resigned in January to accept full time employment.

The Board also appointed Jason R. Helwig to the position of part time police officer at the February meeting. The Board accepted the resignation of part time Police Officer Matthew Hanzalik who had 5 years of service to the Village Police Department.



Stacy Loucks  
Village Court Clerk

## Summer Employment Opportunities

The Village of Altamont is accepting applications for summer employment at Bozenkill Park. The positions available include Lifeguards, Booth Attendants, and Camp Counselors. Call the Village Offices at 861-8554.

## 2010 Census Hiring

The U.S. Census Bureau is recruiting a number of temporary part time census takers from the Altamont area for the 2010 Census. The job pays well, the hours are flexible, and you work within your own community. To be considered for hiring, you must fill out an application and take a 30 minute qualifying exam. For further information and testing sites in the Guilderland/Altamont area, please call Local Census Bureau Recruiting Agent, Greg Goutos, at 495-0148.

## A Brief History of Altamont

In the early 1600's, the Dutch West India Company granted a patroonship to Killiaen Van Rensselaer which included hundreds of acres on both sides of the Hudson River.

The land grant was called Rensselaerwyck. Around 1745, for approximately \$100, Stephen Van Rensselaer granted Jurrian Severson 325 acres, which included much of the present Village of Altamont.

The original homestead was at the juncture of Brandle Rd. & Main St., and Jurrian's home, the oldest in the Village, still exists on Brandle Rd. Gradually, Dutch & German farmers moved into the area and started

crops, built homes, and established churches. Two settlements – Hellerburg, where Rte 156 & Stewarts are currently located, and Knowersville, along Rte 146, between Gun Club Rd. and Gardener Rd. grew up. When the railroad came through in the 1860's, the center of activity shifted to the center of the current village.

The Village has had many names – Colony of Rensselaers, West Manor of Rensselaerwyck, Helleberg, Helderberg, West Guilderland, Knowersville, Knower, and Altamont. In 1880, Altamont was the first and currently is the only village incorporated within the Town of Guilderland. It is approximately one square mile in area, with a

current population of around 1,800. Altamont has many firsts. Altamont was the first community in the United States to establish a free volunteer ambulance service. Altamont's Volunteer Fire Department is the first in the county and one of the oldest in New York State.

The current post office building, in fact, is the first distinctive post office built as a separate structure in the history of the Guilderland area, according to Arthur B. Gregg, the former Guilderland Town Historian in his "Story of Altamont," published in 1965.

## Annual Firemen's Ball

The 95th Annual Firemen's Ball will be held on Saturday, April 25th in the Community Room.

"On February 12, 1914 the first annual Firemen's Ball was held at the "Hotel Altamont" (present site of Sunoco



2008 Annual Ball

Station). Each member was asked to supply ten sandwiches and appear in uniform. The cost of the ticket was one dollar with "extra lady free!" The profit was \$26.25 as reported by former Village Historian Roger Keenholts and long term fireman Owen Murray. The only year the annual ball was not held was 1918 due to economic factors relating to the war.

Over the years, the venue has changed, sandwiches became dinner and big bands gave way to DJ's. The only thing that has not changed is the support of the community who continue to keep this event a tradition.

The firemen invite you to join them this year for a fun filled evening. Although no dinner will be served, hot and cold hors d'oeuvres and snacks will be available throughout the evening. Our local merchants assist each year generously donating the door prizes. This year's theme is Country Western. Casual attire allowed. Doors open at 7:00 pm. Tickets are \$ 50.00 a couple and \$ 25.00 for individuals. For more information contact Kyle Haines at 861-8171.

**April 25, 2009  
Annual Altamont  
Community Traditions  
Green and Clean  
Day**

### Village Applies for SED Archives Grant

The Village recently applied for a grant of \$22,575 for improving access to historical records from the Local Government Records Management Improvement Fund, administered by the New York State Education Department. There is no cost to the Village if the grant is awarded. The project will add to the stabilization of the archives as well as contribute to its growth as public awareness and usage increases.

The grant is submitted for the stabilization and restoration of 8-10 targeted collections which were identified in an earlier 2008 report submitted by an archivist from the NYS Archives. The grant was written and submitted by a volunteer, no grant writer was employed or funded.

This is a new beginning to make the Archives more accessible regionally as well as nationally. There is much more to be done and we will be calling on the skills of volunteers willing and able to offer their professional expertise, to see our archives and museum into the 21st century and beyond. We need this grant as well as other private contributions to safeguard the cultural heritage and story of Altamont.

### Wildwood Water Extension

Work has begun on the Wildwood water extension. Wildwood Programs of Schenectady have run a summer camp on Leesome Lane in Guilderland since the 1980's. A public water source is needed for the facility to remain open because the current water system and earlier dug wells cannot provide the water quality and quantity needed for the site. In September 2008, the Altamont Village Board approved a water connection to the Village system that will run from the Brandle Road pump station across Rte. 156 and up to Camp Wildwood. Work will be completed for the upcoming 2009 camp season.



**NEW LIGHTING IN  
ORSINI PARK**

### Water and Sewer Rents

The water and sewer rents will be mailed out on April 1. Water payment is due by April 30. Sewer payment is due by May 30. A 10% penalty must accompany any late payment. Please contact the Village Office with any owner/address change to ensure proper delivery.

The old cobra style light poles which were part of the Orsini Park landscape for many years were recently replaced with an ornamental style street lamp as seen in this photo. This project was another effort to further beautify the village green spaces. National Grid completed this project at no additional cost to the Village.

Are you interested in local history?

You can now view nearly 100 years of the Altamont Enterprise online through the Guilderland Public Library at [www.guilpl.org](http://www.guilpl.org)

WWW. ALTAMONTVILLAGE.ORG

## Village of Altamont

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## S P R I N G   C A L E N D A R

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| 3/3 - Village Board Meeting                              | 4/25 - Annual Fireman's Ball                              | 5/25 - Memorial Day<br>Village Offices Closed            |
| 3/7 - Voter Registration<br>Noon to 5 pm                 | 4/25 - ACT Annual Green and<br>Clean Day                  | 6/1 - Village Property Taxes<br>Mailed                   |
| 3/7 - EMS Annual Installation<br>District                | TBA - APD Safety Awareness Day                            | 6/1 - Registration for Bozenkill<br>Park Programs begins |
| 3/8 - Daylight Savings Time                              | 5/1 - Water Restriction go into<br>effect                 | 6/2 - Village Board Meeting                              |
| 3/18 - Village Election<br>Noon - 9 pm                   | 5/1 - Annual Water Report<br>released                     | 6/19 - Altamont Library Annual<br>Chicken Bar-B-Que      |
| 4/1 - Water and Sewer Rents<br>Mailed                    | 5/1 - Winter Parking Restrictions<br>End                  |  |
| 4/6 - Water Main Flushing                                | 5/2 - AES PTA Community<br>Garage Sale<br>8:30 am to 4 pm |  |
| 4/7 - Spring Brush Pick-up                               | 5/2 - VFW — Loyalty Day                                   |  |
| 4/7 - Village Board Meeting                              | 5/5 - Village Board Meeting                               |  |
| 4/7 - Village Organizational<br>Meeting & Budget Hearing | 5/17 - Memorial Day Parade                                |  |

