

2003

**Altamont Free Library**  
**105 Park Street**  
**PO Box 662**  
**Altamont, N.Y. 12009**  
**Phone: 518-861-7239**

The Altamont Free Library celebrated its 86<sup>th</sup> year serving the public in 2003. It was chartered with New York State on July 19, 1917 and continues to provide informational, educational, cultural and recreational services to the Village of Altamont and surrounding areas.

Registered borrowers totaled 1,451. Thirty percent of Altamont Free Library cardholders are from Guilderland, Knox and Berne. The remaining 70% of library cardholders live within the village proper.

In 2002, 18,627 people visited the Library or attended programs. The library circulated 26,665 items, an increase of 5% over 2001. The staff answered 1,597 reference questions. Computer use sessions totaled 2,236, an increase of 119%. Adult and children's programs totaled 124 with attendance of 2,081 children and adults.

The Library currently houses 12,268 books, books on tape, videos, DVDs, CDs. This includes adult and children's reference materials. In conjunction with the Upper Hudson Library System, the Library provides access to sixteen databases which feature newspaper and magazine articles, dictionaries and encyclopedias for children and adults.

Programs included *Memories of the 1940's*, *Read Across America* with guest readers Albany County Executive Michael Breslin, Albany County Legislator Bill Aylward, Altamont Elementary School Principal Susan Tangorre, WTEN Anchor Elisa Streeter, Yolanda Vega of the New York State Lottery and Monika Annis from Key Bank, *A Citizen's Forum on Iraq*, *Unbounding and Fragile Nature*, *The History and Creation of the Altamont Map*. In addition, the Library provided weekly *Pre School Story Hours* and numerous events for the annual *Summer Reading Program*. The Library again partnered with the Village of Altamont to bring *Das Puppenspiel* to the area to perform *The Puppet Tree*. With funding from a Community Arts Grant, the Library and the Berne-Knox-Westerlo PTA cosponsored *Mega Moves and Maxi Motion* at the Berne-Knox-Westerlo High School in March.

The Library Services and Technology Act funded *Imagination River Storytelling Camp* continued with a three-day intensive storytelling camp for ten seventh grade students at Farnsworth Middle School during the February break. The students performed at the *Riverway Storytelling Festival* at the Albany Public Library in April and continue to perform upon request.

The Library continues to provide themed book talks and works on programming for the Altamont Senior Citizens. It also continues its outreach and book delivery services with the Community Caregivers.

Visits to the Altamont Elementary School for a "Read Across New York" program and to promote the Summer Reading Programs provided the opportunity to work more closely with the school.

The Library upgraded computers for the new library database. The staff has undergone training to fully utilize this new technology.

Funding through Albany County provided the Library with a new laser printer and a new color printer. The public appreciates improved printing capabilities.

In conclusion, the Altamont Free Library continues to work with the greater Altamont community to provide services to an ever growing and changing community.