

Altamont Free Library
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The Altamont Free Library celebrated its 87th year serving the public in 2004. The Library 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 1,603. Thirty-five percent of Altamont Free Library cardholders are from Guilderland, Knox and Berne. The remaining 65% of library cardholders live within the village proper.

In 2003, 16,039 people visited the Library or attended programs. The library circulated 22,265 items, a decrease of 20% from 2002. Major road reconstruction is cited for the decreases experienced in 2003. The staff answered 1,132 reference questions. Computer use sessions totaled 1,728, a decrease of 29%. Adult and children's programs totaled 115 with attendance of 2,157 children and adults.

The Library currently houses 12,731 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: Two weekly Preschool Story Hours from October through May; *Read Across America Celebration* on March 2; *Construction Zone Story Hour* in May. Holiday programs included *Valentine's Day Crafts*. Local authors Tom and Carroll Martin gave readings from their book *Slightly Off Center* at the Altamont Village Community Room in April and for the Altamont Seniors June. Summer programs included: *School House Rock*, *Exploring the World of Insects*, *Games in the Park*, *Undercover Elves* and storyteller John Porcino.

With funding from a Community Arts Grant, the Library and the Berne-Knox-Westerlo PTA cosponsored *An American Sampler* featuring the Eribeth Chamber Players at the Berne-Knox-Westerlo High School in March and *The Vets of Albany Choir* at the Altamont Elementary School.

The Library continues to provide themed book talks and works on programming for the Altamont Senior Citizens. Library books are delivered to homebound patrons.

Visits to the Altamont Elementary School to promote the Summer Reading Programs provided the opportunity to work more closely with the school.