
ALTA COMMUNITY LIBRARY: WHERE WE ARE & WHERE WE'RE HEADED





**LIBRARY DIRECTOR
& LIBRARY BOARD MEMBERS**

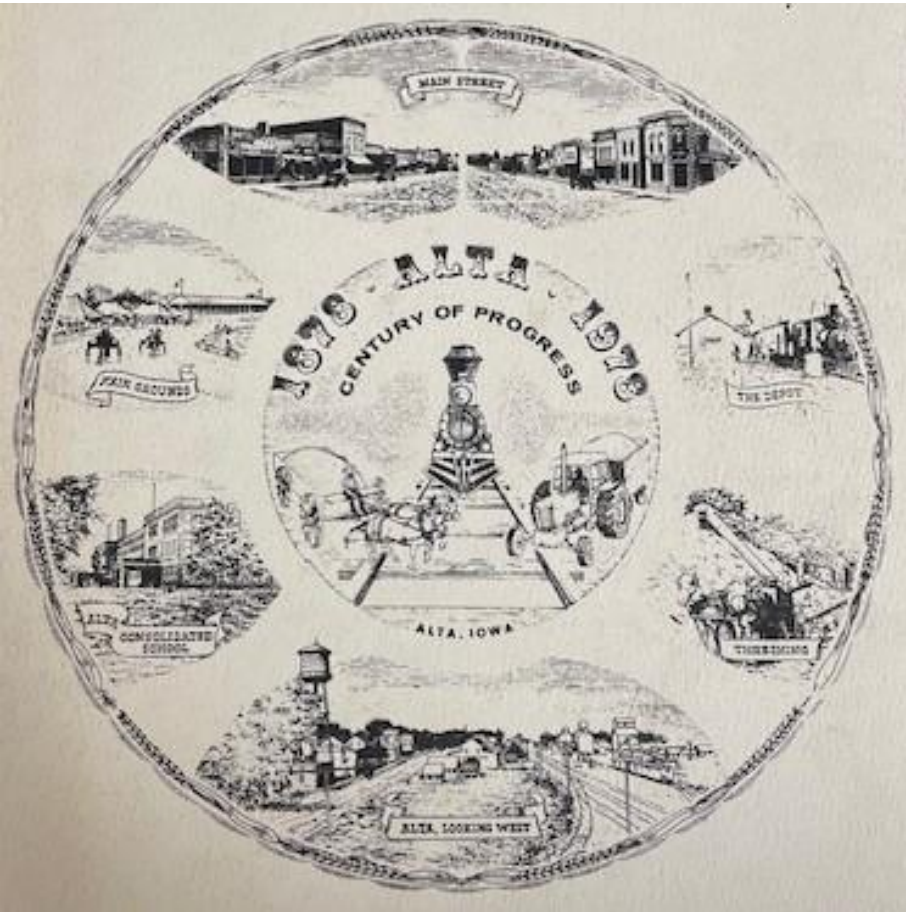
We thank you for coming!

Please ask questions as we go!!

Iowa Libraries ... Public? Yes Free? No

- 8A.222 Local financial support.
- Commencing July 1, 1977, each city within its corporate boundaries and each county within the unincorporated area of the county shall levy a tax of at least six and three-fourths cents per thousand dollars of assessed value on the taxable property or at least the monetary equivalent thereof when all or a portion of the funds are obtained from a source other than taxation, for the purpose of providing financial support to the public library which provides library services within the respective jurisdictions.
- Retrieved January 8, 2025: Tue Nov 19 20:28:47 2024 Iowa Code 2025, Chapter 8A (156, 5)

ALTA COMMUNITY LIBRARY ORIGINS: THE ALTA CITY COUNCIL VOTE OF 1913



...to raise money enough to keep the library going. Finally in 1913, the sponsors presented a petition to the council asking that body to call an election to submit the question of a tax to support the library. The movement was not organized sufficiently and it was defeated by a vote of 116 for, to 123 against. The close vote spurred the women on to a new endeavor and a little later the question was again submitted. This time it was carried by a vote of 165 to 62. The tax levied in the spring but it was not collected until the following year and in the meantime the women raised money to carry on.

From: *1876 Alta 1976: Century of Progress*, p. 17

HISTORY



- The first Alta Library location was established in the southwest corner of the old opera house in town, now known as the Roxy Theater. Its next location was upstairs in the Lichtenberg Building. After five years, it moved to the new American Legion monument and building. Then in 1991 the library moved to the Community Center.
- In 2003 the public library moved again, this time merging with the school library to create the Alta Community Library. Since then, a 28E Agreement has been established so both the school and the library have equal legal responsibilities.
- Alta Community Library cannot remain at the school location after the 28E Agreement expires with the Alta-Aurelia School District in summer 2025. We are looking for a new home!
- Photos: Flowers honor 15 years of service from Denise King and 20 years of service from Laura Turnquist, with Library Director Gigi Nelson and Library Board Chair Bruce Hinkeldey.

Library Hours:
 Monday & Wednesday
 10am—5pm
 Tuesday & Thursday
 1pm—7pm
 Friday—10am—4pm
 Saturday—9am—12pm

Alta Community Library

www.alta.lib.ia.us
 Phone: 712-200-1250

The Scavenger Hunt is available all month long in the library. Stop in anytime!

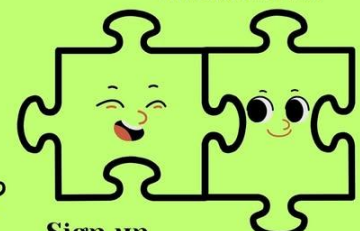
January 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 <i>CLOSED NEW YEARS DAY</i>	2 3:30 p.m. <i>Kids Movie</i>	3 10:30 a.m. Story Time	4 10-10:45 a.m. <i>Gentle Yoga</i>
6	7	8 4-5 p.m. <i>Knit Night</i>	12 3:30 p.m. <i>Kids Movie</i> 5:15 p.m. <i>Library Board</i>	10 10:30 a.m. Story Time <i>BV Co. Public Health</i>	11 10-11 a.m. <i>Kids S.T.F.A.M. Play group (All Ages) & Lego take & make kits</i>	
13	14	15 4-5 p.m. <i>Puzzle Competition</i>	16 3:30 p.m. <i>Kids Movie</i>	17 10:30 a.m. Story Time	18 10-11 a.m. <i>Bingo for Books</i>	
20	21	22 3:30 p.m. <i>BV Co. Public Health</i>	23 3:30 p.m. <i>Kids Movie</i> 5:30 p.m. <i>Knit Night</i>	24 10:30 a.m. Story Time	25 10-11 a.m. <i>Author Book Talk Deb Mortensen</i>	
27 3:30 p.m. <i>Scavenger Hunt</i>	28	29	30 3:30 p.m. <i>Kids Movie</i> 5:30 p.m. <i>Crochet Class—Knit Night</i>	31 10:30 a.m. Story Time		

ONLINE BOOK CLUB ALL WEEK

J
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20
25


Team Puzzle Competition
 Wednesday, January 15th
 @ 4:00 sharp



Sign up groups of 2 by calling or stopping in the library

Puzzles provided

Prizes!




ALTA COMMUNITY LIBRARY
 www.alta.lib.ia.us

weekly

KIDS MOVIE

Thursdays @ 3:30 pm

Kids pick for movie choice



Don't Miss It

SOME NUMBERS!

• Number of patrons with Library cards	1,324
• Alta population at 2020 Census	2,087
• Percent of residents with Library cards	63%
• Total number of books	12,039
• Total number of materials	14,247
• Library foot traffic in 2024FY	5,300

LIBRARY PROGRAMS SUPPORT EARLY LITERACY

Toddle Time is now Story Time

Join us for Story Time every Friday morning at 10:30 am! Ages elementary and under are welcome. We'll read stories, sing, play, and have fun with friends! Daycares and homeschoolers welcome.

1,000 Books Before Kindergarten

1,000 Books Before Kindergarten is a self-paced literacy initiative designed to help get your child ready to read!



**THE LIBRARY BOARD
DISCUSSED MANY
LOCATIONS BEFORE
MAKING
RECOMMENDATIONS,
INCLUDING**

THREE (3) BUILDINGS ON MAIN STREET
A CHURCH IN TOWN
EMPTY LOT ON MAIN STREET
OLD HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING
OLD GENERATOR BUILDING
THE PARK
OLD HOSPITAL BUILDING





LIBRARY SURVEY COMPLETED

JANUARY 2024

Reporting by Kate Kealey in the Storm Lake Times pilot (posted Wednesday, February 7, 2024, 12:00 am)

The survey asked respondents what their ideal location would look like

The library board conducted the survey to determine

(a) how residents use the library and

(b) if they would support a move to a different facility

The survey was offered in English and Spanish.

Of 140 people responding, 54.3% said they would come to the community library more frequently at a new location

**142 SURVEY
RESPONDENTS
ASKED FOR
MANY
DIFFERENT
THINGS,
INCLUDING**

Meeting rooms

A more inviting children's area

Closer parking

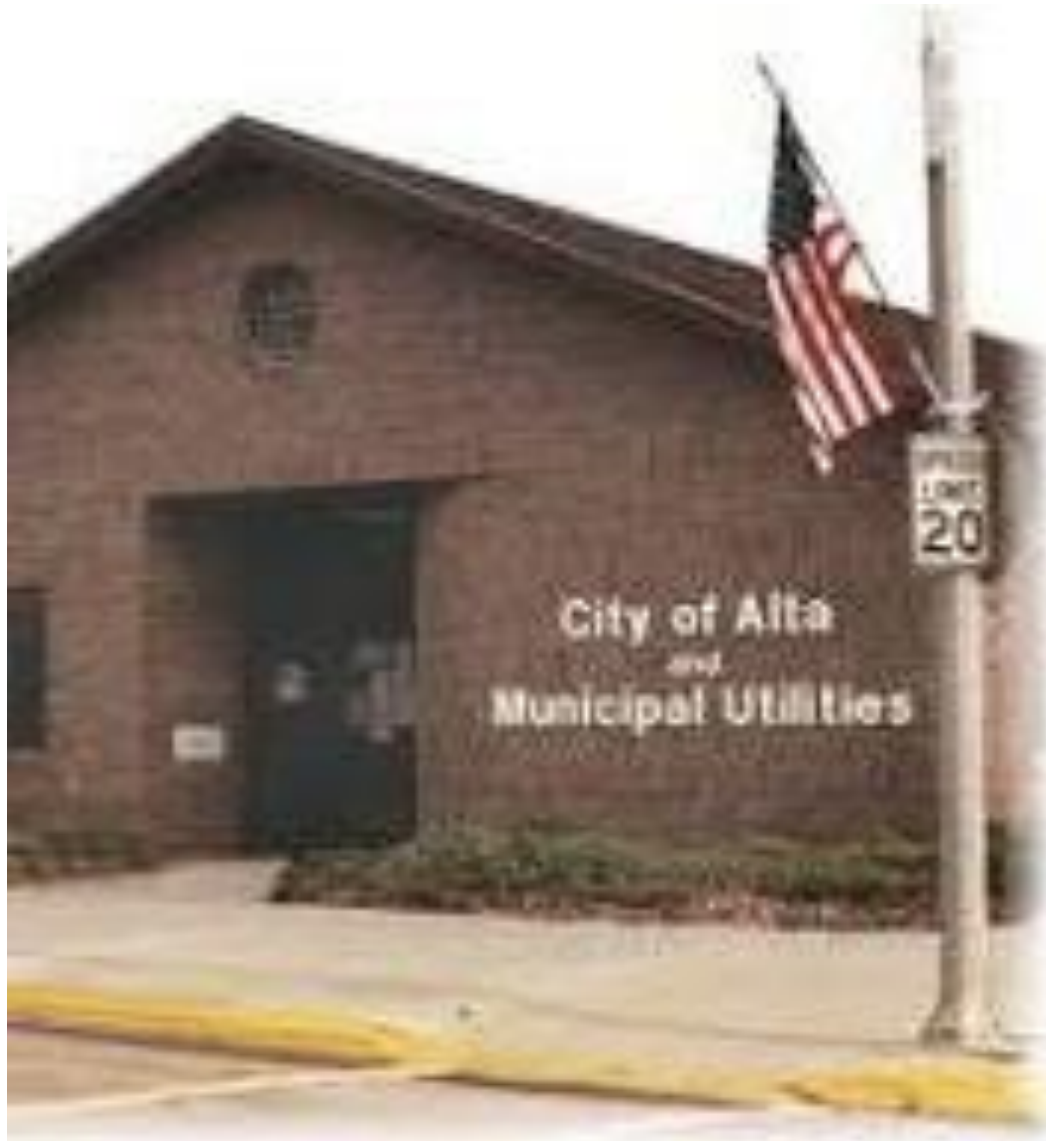
Within walking distance to school

A place to sit outside & read

Lots of craft programming

Guest speakers

Family & community related events



FIRST RECOMMENDATIONS!

1. The old Alta hospital building
2. A location in the Park
3. The empty lot on Main Street

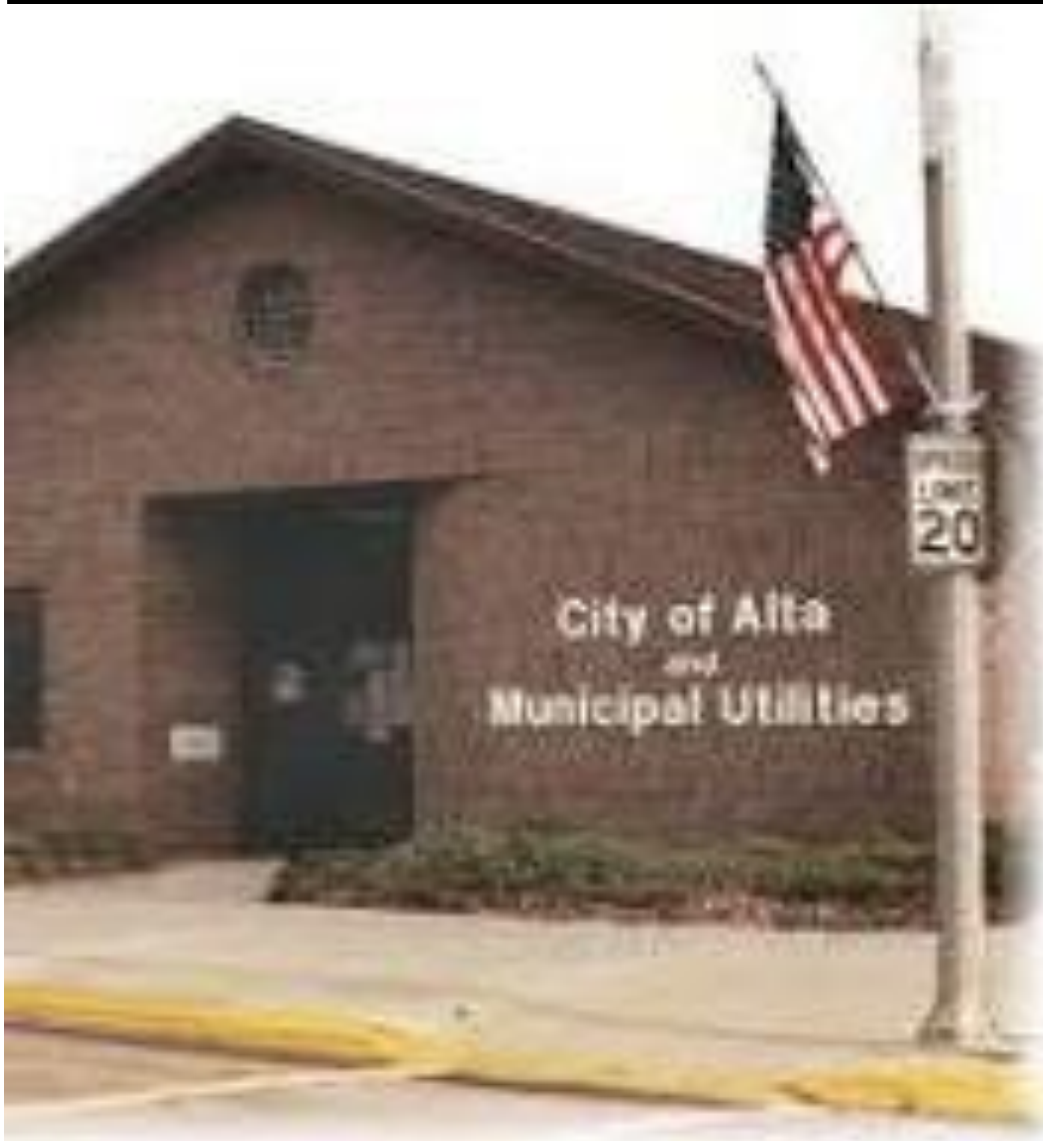
What happened:

- The City Council visited the old hospital building & had Beck Engineering assess it
- Renovations were considered too costly, even if the space was shared with a child-care center and community lunch program
- The empty lot was sold & no longer available



MORE LOCATIONS CONSIDERED

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- Two (2) more locations on Main Street that might become available
 - The parking/green area next to the City Hall building
 - The old grocery store, Gully's Storage
 - The park (again)



NEXT RECOMMENDATIONS!

1. The old grocery store
2. A location in the Park
3. Parking/green area next to the City Hall building

What happened: The City Council

- discussed offering to buy the old grocery store with owner & had Beck Engineering assess it
 - seemed open to talking about the Park
 - eventually voted down the old grocery store
-

THE LIBRARY NOW CLEARLY NEEDED A TEMPORARY HOME



- **VFW & the Park Board come to the rescue!**
- At about $\frac{1}{4}$ the current space, the VFW part of the community center will allow the library to move in May/June & continue operating & offer services
- In the summertime, the Park Shelter House will allow summer reading & other programming to continue
- The Library still needs a new location!

ALTA COMMUNITY LIBRARY BENEFITS INCLUDE

- BOOKS!
- Free WiFi & computer access
- Connectivity with inter-library loan across Iowa
- Newspapers, magazines, DVDs, puzzles, activity kits
- Children & Youth programming
- Adult & Family programming



TOWN MEETING TIME!

- A new library location is needed
- The Alta Community Library Board wants to know what you think about relocating the library.
- Break into workgroups of 3 to 5 people! Assign one person to take notes!!!
 - What are your thoughts & suggestions as we move forward?
 - If you have a question, raise your hand & we will address the question as you work!
- Regroup briefly to share summaries – and Q&A!

SHARING IDEAS!

- We appreciate your time and input!