



Official Newsletter of Alpine Township, Michigan

Harvester

5255 Alpine Ave. N.W. Comstock Park, MI 49321 (616)784-1262

Supervisor Greg Madura
Clerk: Jean Wahlfeld
Treasurer: Jim Townsend
Trustees: Ron Cordes
Jim May
Bill Schweitzer
Mike Wahlfeld

Calendar of Events

Monday January 2
Township Offices Closed
Monday January 16
Township Board Meeting
7:00p.m.
Thursday January 19
Planning Commission Meeting
7:00p.m.
Monday January 23
Historical Commission
1:00p.m.
Monday January 23
Zoning Board of Appeals
7:00p.m.
Tuesday February 14
Parks and Rec Meeting
7:00p.m.
Thursday February 16
Planning Commission
7:00p.m.
Monday February 20
Township Board Meeting
7:00p.m.
Monday February 27
Historical Commission 1:p.m.
Monday February 27
Zoning Board of Appeals
7:00p.m.
Sunday March 12
Daylight-Savings Time Begins
Move Clocks Ahead One Hour
Thursday March 16
Planning Commission
7:00p.m.
Monday March 20
Township Board Meeting
7:00p.m.
Monday March 27
Historical Commission
1:00p.m.
Monday March 27
Zoning Board of Appeals
7:00p.m.

Supervisor's Report ...

Greg Madura

Hello Alpine Township,

We are so lucky to live where we do, the change of seasons brings new adventures, and fun every 3 or 4 months. This year winter took a little longer to get here but temperatures did drop and snow did fly. It is time to be a little more cautious on the roads, drink more hot chocolate and prepare your snow mobiles, sleds and ice fishing gear. Hopefully you can bundle up and go outside with the kids to build the friendliest snowman ever before the snowballs whiz through the air. Let's remember that side streets get narrower and kids could be behind those snow banks, so let's all slow down and make it a safe fabulous winter. On that thought I would like to challenge every member of the community to be good neighbors. If you are able, please help your neighbor clear that snow plow wall of snow at the end of the drives. That goes a long way, and at the same time you have built bonds of community spirit and support.

On the township office side of things, I would like to thank Alex Arends for his eight years of service and dedication to the citizens of Alpine Township. I also thank him for making my transition less stressful, and with his help made all my new challenges easier.

One of the first jobs I have had to work on with staff is the sanitary sewer system. The S.A.W. grant we received enabled us to smoke test and video over 90% of the sanitary sewer system. This work revealed many areas of concern and only a few that will need almost immediate care of the fifty-year-old system we have. This means spending money we have saved for this plus possibly obtaining bonds to repair the troubled areas. This would involve ripping up sections of roads or entire roads to repair sewer mains. We have prioritized the projects for the next seven years. Not doing anything could bring a collapse to parts of the system and would have a negative effect on everyone using the system. The Township Board is considering a slight increase in sewer fees to offset some of the costs to continue to maintain a sound sanitary sewer system. Even with an increase in sewer fees, Alpine Township will still have some of the lowest sewer rates in West Michigan. I believe a smaller increase now for preventive maintenance of the system is better than receiving a huge increase if a failure of the system occurs due to lack of preventive maintenance. You are welcome to come on in and I can show you the prioritized projects and explain the necessary financing to get them accomplished.

Property Assessment Appeals, call (616/784-1262) to make an appointment.

Dates of 2017 March Board of Review

March 13th, 2017-----9a.m. to 12p.m. and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

March 14th, 2017-----1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

March 15th, 2017-----9a.m. to 12 p.m.

Check out our revised website at www.alpinetwp.org.

Clerk's Comments

Jean Wahlfield

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL THE 2016 ALPINE ELECTION WORKER SUPER STARS.

Election workers assisted 12,254 voters by following the proper procedures to get the ballots tabulated, counted, and certified during the **four** elections held in 2016. We could not have done it without you. CONGRATULATIONS!!

May the New Year of 2017 be filled with hope in our hearts, work for our hands, and love in our lives to be shared with family and good friends!



-Samantha Hanna, Deputy Clerk
-Jean Wahlfield, Clerk

Treasurer's Corner

Jim Townsend

Tax Bills: Winter tax bill payments are due February 14. Please remember that the Township does not recognize the mailing date as payment. We must receive payment by 5PM on the due date to avoid additional charges.

Sewer Bills: The Township sends out quarterly sewer bills on the first day of the quarter (January 1, April 1, July 1 and October 1). Payment is due the last business day of the following month. The bills to be sent out October 1 will be due on November 28.

Internet Banking/Online Bill Payment: For residents who use this service through their bank, please remember that the Township does not allow access to its accounts electronically, so your bank or credit union produces a paper check that is sent to us through the mail and it may take up to a week from the date you request it until we receive it.

Fund Balances: The Township holdings as of November 30 are:

General Fund:	\$1,557,852.30
Water Fund:	\$308,017.48
Rusche/Comstock Park Drive Fund:	\$327,798.98
Sewer Fund:	\$2,489,800.80
Trust & Agency Fund:	\$84,929.31
Capital Improvements:	\$1,188,633.00

If you want to know more about the Township holdings and how they are invested, please call Jim Townsend at 784-1262

Historic Committee Events



Planned Open House Events (subject to change). Call 784-1262 for appointments.

Jan., Feb., March – No 3rd week open houses in winter. Files and research are available by appointment.

April 23rd – Annual Maple Syrup Contest at Alpine Elementary School. 2pm

May 21st – Antique Tractor Show (10AM -4PM)and Local Author Book Review. 2-4pm

Buck Matthews, local TV and radio announcer, will talk about his autobiography.

Also, Sparta resident, Adele Bradford Jones, will review her “journaling” book called “Lifetime Journey, Your Family Story”.

Schedule of regular meetings of the Historical commission for 2017. Meetings are the 4th Monday of every month.

January 23rd

February 27th

March 27th

April 24th

May 22nd

June 26th

July 24th

August 28th

September 25th

October 23rd

November 27th **Make History Happen**, join us at 1 p.m.

Comstock Park Branch Kent District Library

Alpine Township Branch Kent District Library

FOR FAMILIES

Heart to Heart Craft Party

Celebrate Valentine's Day with snacks and crafts

Wednesday, February 8, 10:00 AM

FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

Toddler Time every Monday , 10:00 AM

Preschool Storytime every Wednesday 10:00 AM

Rhyme Time Music and Movement every Friday 10 AM

Drive –in Movie: Don't let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!

Decorate your own "car" to sit in while eating popcorn.
Please bring a sturdy box that your child will sit in, craft supplies on hand to rev-up each car.

Saturday, January 21 2:00-3:00 PM

FOR SCHOOL AGED KIDS

Science Rocks!

Explore earth science with hands-on activities.

Saturday, January 7, 2:00—4:00 PM

Straw Building Bonanza

Kids can build 2D and 3D geometric creations, vehicles, forts, or whatever and material will be provided.

Saturday, February 4, 2:00—4:00 PM

Build with K'Nex

Use your own imagination or follow a project guide.

Saturday, February 18, 2:00—4:00 PM

Magna—Tiles Mania

Discover pattern, symmetry, 3D building skills and magnetic principles.

Saturday, March 4 2:00—4:00 PM

FOR ADULTS

Ukulele 101

Learn basic chords, rhythm and strumming.

Preregistration required if you need to use a library ukulele.

The Music of World War II

Enjoy a generous sampling of music of World War II.

Monday, January 16, 6:30—8:00 PM

FOR FAMILIES

BOARD GAME AND BUILDING BRICKS

Unplug from electronics and have fun as a family.

Saturdays, January 14 & February 11, 10:30-12:30 PM

Celebrate Valentine's Day with snacks and crafts.

Tuesday, February 14, 10:00 AM

FOR YOUNG CHILDREN—AGES 6 AND YOUNGER

Family Storytime

Read and sing together. Enjoy stories, music and movement and rhymes that develop early literacy skills.

Tuesdays January—February, 10:00 AM

FOR SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN—AGES 6 AND OLDER

Build with K'Nex

Use your imagination to build with K'Nex or follow a project guide based on STEM concepts.

Wednesday, January 18, drop in between 3—7 PM

Shrinky, Stretchy and Silly Science

Learn about polymers and design your own shrink dink.

Friday, January 27, drop in between 1-3 PM

Minecraft Unplugged

Enjoy Minecraft themed games, crafts and building challenges. Put your Minecraft skills to the test.

Wednesday, February 22, 6:00 PM

FOR ADULTS

Ukulele 101

During this 90 minute program learn basic chords, rhythm and strumming to play a few songs.

Wednesday, January 25, 6:00—7:30 PM

The Music of World War II


Enjoy a generous sampling of the music of World War II.

Wednesday, February 15, 6:00—7:30 PM

Alpine Avenue Book Discussion

January 11 6:30—7:30, *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children* by Ransom Riggs

Feb 8 6:30—7:30, *Circling the Sun* by Paula McLain



HAPPY HOLIDAYS
FROM
ALPINE TOWNSHIP
STAFF

GREG JEAN JIM

BETTY

SAMANTHA JULIE

BETH

BARB SUE

GARY BOB

DAVE DIANA

BEST WISHES

Free digital photos.net