



Official Newsletter of Alpine Township, Michigan

# Harvester

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

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

## Calendar of Events

**Tuesday April 11**

**Parks and Rec. 7p.m.**

Friday April 14

Township Office Closed

Monday April 17

Township Board Meeting  
7:00p.m.

Thursday April 20

Planning Commission  
Meeting 7:00p.m.

Monday April 24

Historical Commission  
1:00p.m.

Monday April 24

Zoning Board of Appeals  
7:00p.m.

Monday May 15

Township Board Meeting  
7:00p.m.

Thursday May 18

Planning Commission  
7:00p.m.

Monday May 22

Historical Commission  
1:p.m.

Monday May 22

Zoning Board of Appeals  
7:00p.m.

**Monday May 29**

Memorial Day

Township Offices Closed

Monday May 29

28th Annual Memorial Day  
Service/ Pine Grove Cem-  
etery 11a.m.

Thursday June 15

Planning Commission  
Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Monday June 19

Township Board Meeting  
7:00p.m.

Monday June 26

Historical Comm. 1:00p.m.

Monday June 26

Zoning Board of Appeals  
7:00p.m.

## Supervisor's Report ...

*Greg Madura*

Hello Neighbor,

Get ready, it is here! That's right **SPRING**. A soft winter this past year, who knows what we are in store for this spring. Let's think positive and hope for a nice few weeks, we deserve it. Bring on the Tigers, apple blossoms and a walk with the spouse around the neighborhood. Going to the park with the kids, bike rides, and preparing the flower gardens, sharpening the mower blades and bringing the deck chairs back out. Ahh, no better place to be than Alpine Township.

The township has approved projects to stop infiltration of ground and storm water into broken and cracked sewer lines. We will be requesting a bond for the duration of 15 years to pay for these projects (\$810,000). By doing this the Township Sewer Fund should be able to pay cash for the next three years of projects, if all goes as planned and no major breaks occur. This summer's projects should have minor road inconveniences. The work should begin in August and end in early October. Many of the Township's roads will have work done on them. Look for the Planners Corner on page seven for more information. The goal is to fix the roads in a manner that is cost effective, meaning we are getting the best quality road work that will last a long time. As opposed to a lot of small area fixes or patches that have to be done again in a couple years.

One of the great things about our community is the fact that many people donate their time and volunteer. They do things that are a sacrifice for them for the betterment of their Township, Country, and the people that live here. I commend you, and ask others to find a passion or interest and give a little bit of your time. It makes a difference. Also, many of Alpine Township's businesses give back to our community. You know who they are (call the township offices and we can name many of them if you do not know) let's continue to support them. Thank you Alpine Township residents for making this the greatest place to live and raise a family!

**BOATERS SAFETY CLASS:** Boaters Safety Class will be held at the Alpine Township hall on May 9th and 11th. You must be present on both dates to receive your certificate. Class starts at 6p.m. and finishes each evening at 9p.m. There is no charge, the class is **Free**. Call 784-1262 to enroll, and become a safe captain on Michigan's waterways.

**Spring Leaf Pick-Up Dates:** Leaf bags can be purchased at the Township offices for spring yard clean up. Leaf bags will then be picked up on April 26th and May 10th. Please take advantage of this service because it will not be offered again until next fall.

Check out our revised website at [www.alpinetwp.org](http://www.alpinetwp.org).

## Clerk's Comments

Jean Wahlfield

SPECIAL ELECTION – TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2017

The Kent Intermediate School District is requesting a regional enhancement millage. The "proposed millage will be collected by the intermediate school district and distributed wholly and completely to local public school districts based on pupil membership count". The millage proposal is the only item on the May 2, 2017 ballot. A sample ballot may be viewed on the Township website: [alpinetwp.org](http://alpinetwp.org). If you want to receive an absentee ballot please contact the Clerk's Office (784-1262) to request the application.

**ELECTION WORKERS NEEDED.** The Clerk's Department is looking for election workers and for individuals interested in working with the electronic poll book computer. Please call the Clerk's Department at 784-1262 for information and to answer any questions.

**CEMETERY INFORMATION** – Alpine Township maintains three cemeteries in Alpine Township. Pine Grove Cemetery is located at 6200 Vinton Avenue NW, Englishville Cemetery is at 7728 Vinton Avenue NW, and the Alpine Center Cemetery is located at 2382 Seven Mile Road NW. Maps and limited cemetery information has been added to the Grand Valley Metro Council website: [regis-apps-login.gvmc-regis.org/mccemeteryfinder](http://regis-apps-login.gvmc-regis.org/mccemeteryfinder). You may also contact the Clerk at the Township Office.

*Enjoy our great State of Michigan this summer!*

## Treasurer's Corner

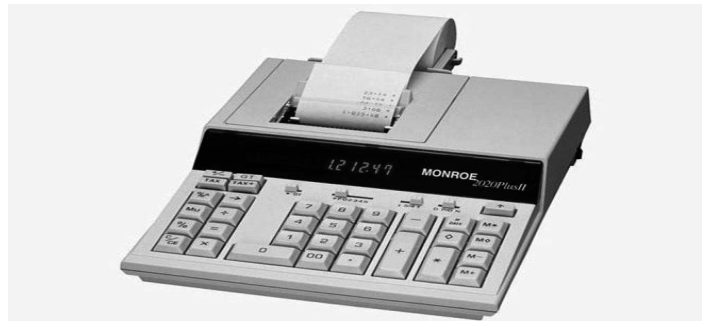
Jim Townsend

The Township holding are currently divided into six major funds. The first is the General Fund, which holds money for most types of Township expenses. Next are the Sewer and Water Funds, which concern the Township's fresh water and wastewater infrastructures. Two more funds are the Rusche/Comstock Park Drive Fund which pays for the cost of connecting those two roads by 6 Mile and Alpine, and the Trust & Agency Fund which holds developers' and other businesses' deposits with the Township. The last fund is the Capital Improvement and Restricted Fund, which holds money earmarked for future projects in the Township, and donations made to the Fire Department and the Historical Commission.

The fund balances are as follows for January 31, 2017.

General Fund:	\$1,934,192.09
Water Fund:	\$275,337.78
Sewer Fund:	\$2,739,025.68
Rusche/Comstock Park Drive Fund:	\$327,878.81
Trust & Agency Fund:	\$79,349.23
Capital Improvement and Restricted:	\$1,692,387.80

All money is held in money market accounts and CD's through selected local banks within FDIC limits of protection, as well as municipal checking and savings accounts. If you wish to know more about how the Township monies are invested, call Jim Townsend at 784-1262.



28th ANNUAL

MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE

PINE GROVE CEMETERY

6200 Vinton Avenue NW

MONDAY, MAY 29, 2017

11:00 AM



## **Alpine Branch Kent District Library**

### **FOR YOUNG CHILDREN**

#### **Family Storytime**

Read and sing together.

**Tuesdays, March 21-May 30, 10:00 AM (Not May 2)**

#### **Parent & Child Yoga**

Come learn yoga, limited number of yoga mats. First come, First serve.

#### **Mixing Magic**

Explore our world by mixing color and playing with light.

**Tuesday, April 11, 10:00 AM**

### **FOR SCHOOL AGED KIDS**

#### **Magna-Tiles Mania**

Discover patterns, symmetry, and magnetic principles.

**Wednesday, May 17, 6:30 PM**

### **FOR TEENS**

#### **Summer Reading Teen Crew Orientation**

Teen volunteers are wanted to help with Summer Reading at KDL. Registration is required via a paper application, applications available after May 1.

**Wednesday, May 24, 6:30 PM**

### **FOR ADULTS**

#### **Alpine Avenue Book Discussion**

Get more out of reading with discussion and good company. Snacks provided.

*The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry* by Rachel Joyce

**Wednesday, April 12, 6:30 PM**

*A Stronger Kinship* by Anna-Lisa Cox

**Wednesday, May 10, 6:30 PM**

#### **Create Your Own Henna Tattoo**

Choose your own design and learn how to apply it. Beautiful tattoos last up to two weeks. Pre-registration is required.

**Wednesday, April 19, 6:30 PM**

## **Comstock Park Branch Kent District Library**

### **FOR YOUNG CHILDREN**

#### **Family Storytime**

Enjoy stories, rhymes, music and movement

**Wednesdays, 10:00 AM**

#### **Rhyme Time Music and Movement**

Hands-on musical activities

**Fridays, 10:00 AM, thru April 28**

### **FOR SCHOOL AGED KIDS**

#### **Get Revved Up**

Create your own rubber band car or design your own style of car or truck.

**Friday, May 12, 12:30-2:30 or Saturday May 13, 2:00-4:00 PM**

#### **Musical Exploration with Otamatones**

Experiment with different sounds to create your own musical masterpiece.

**Saturday, April 20, 2:00-4:00 PM**

### **FOR ADULTS**

#### **Create Your Own Henna Tattoo**

Learn how to apply the henna yourself. Beautiful tattoos last up to two weeks. Pre-registration is required.

**Monday, April 17, 6:30 PM**

#### **The Needle Nuts**

Come share your projects or to learn! Supplies provided for new knitters. All are welcome.

**The 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month at 1:00 PM**

**The 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month at 6:00 PM**

#### **Book Discussion**

*The Fisherman* by Chigozie Obioma

**Thursday, April 27, 7:00 PM**

*Notorious RBG: The Life of Times of Ruth Bader Ginsburg* by Irin Carmo

**Thursday, May 25, 7:00 PM**

*The Last Days of Night* by Graham Moore

**Thursday, June 22, 7:00 PM**



## Madelyn's Life

On April 11, 1915, (102 years ago) Madelyn Schindler was born in Alpine Township and this life-long resident of Alpine is still living here today. She was the 5<sup>th</sup> child in seven born to Fred and Emma (Brechtig) Schindler on the corner of Bristol and 6 mile Road. The home is still there.

As a child, Madelyn walked from home to Holy Trinity School every day; never missing a day! At Comstock Park High School she played basketball, and was in Glee Club. She graduated in 1933. Most days she walked the 3 miles to school, or got a ride with the milkman on his morning route.

After high school she attended Beauty School and operated her own beauty parlor on Leonard St. for a short time.

In 1935, Madelyn married Harold Klenk. He passed away in 1976. Together they had 5 children, 12 grandchildren and, 23 great-grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren!

She worked on the family farm, raised strawberries with her husband and then worked at Kenowa Hills Public Schools for 28 years.

Madelyn has been a lifetime member of Holy Trinity Catholic Church. She was baptized there and still attends weekly Mass. She is the oldest parishioner.

Knitting, quilting, gardening reading and card-playing are Madelyn's favorite pastimes. She enjoys travel and has been in all 50 states as well as Mexico, Canada, England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland.

With the loving care of her children, Madelyn is still able to reside in the home she shared with her husband on the Centennial Family Farm.

If you would like to help Madelyn celebrate her 102<sup>nd</sup> birthday, you can mail her a card at: 5255 Alpine Ave. Comstock Park, Mich. 49321.



Comstock Park Golden Panthers, a group of area seniors, recently “knotted” fleece blankets for the Wellness Blanket Project. Comstock Park school nurse Karyl DeBruyn said the blankets will be put in the health rooms in each of the district's school buildings. When a child is ill and comes to the health room, they will be given a blanket while they wait to be picked up. They can then take the blanket home. “Sometimes they just need a nice warm blanket,” said DeBruyn. She said that sending the blankets home and not reusing them for multiple students will also help prevent the spread of contagious illnesses. DeBruyn received a Community Action Grant for the blanket project.

Also, check out the Comstock Park Golden Panthers on Facebook.

**TIP TOE THROUGH THE TULIPS**  
**Third Annual Senior Prom**  
**For our Senior Citizens sixty years old and older!**

Tuesday May 2, 2017  
3:00pm - 5:00pm  
Comstock Park High  
School Fine Arts Theater  
150 6 Mile Rd. N.E.  
Comstock Park

Come for an afternoon full  
of dancing, socializing,  
fun, food, refreshments,  
entertainment and pictures

## Everything Is Free!

Please R.S.V.P. by April 19 to  
(616) 784-0626 or email [alpinefloral@att.net](mailto:alpinefloral@att.net)

Special thanks to  
Alpine Floral & Gift  
Amore Trattoria Italiana  
Beuschel Funeral Home  
Other Local Businesses  
Comstock Park Rotary



## **From Ryan Guernsey, Kent County Sheriff Deputy Community Policing**

Bike Riders Guide to Bicycle Safety:

### **CYCLE SENSE**

Bike Driving is a lot of fun, great exercise and economical transportation. But remember, you're not alone on the road. Other bike riders, pedestrians and motorists present potential risks for accidents. This bike rider's cycle Safety Guide will help you avoid accidents by keeping you focused on safety and common sense in the street.

### **USE YOUR HEAD**

Use your head to ride safe, not to land on if you fall from your bike. The smart way to use your head is by putting a safety helmet on it. Make sure it fits right. If it's too loose it won't protect you. You can make it nice and snug with adjusting pads, available at your local bike shop.

### **BIKE SAFETY CHECK LIST**

- ⇒ Keep seat adjusted correctly
- ⇒ Make sure seat is solid and locked tight
- ⇒ Be sure tires are properly inflated and spokes are tight and straight
- ⇒ Check brakes for even braking
- ⇒ Sprocket and chain must be oiled and tight
- ⇒ Chain guard protects against catching pant legs or other loose clothing in chain
- ⇒ Pedals must be secure and not wobble
- ⇒ Handle bar should have a horn and a rear view mirror
- ⇒ Headlight should be mounted on front fender or handle bars
- ⇒ Be sure to install reflectors on rear of bike and on spokes



Remember your bike is not a toy, it is a vehicle on the road and is subject to traffic law and rules of safe conduct!

### **PEDESTRIANS**

Pedestrians should always use a sidewalk where sidewalks are provided. If no sidewalks are available pedestrians should walk in the opposite direction that traffic is flowing and as far to the side of the road as possible. For safety when walking please consider wearing clothing that is light in color and even carrying a light when its getting dark. Always be alert for traffic when walking in the roadway.



**Road Construction**

Alpine Township is responsible for 50% of the maintenance costs for 66 miles of paved local public roads. Each year the Township works with the Kent County Road Commission to set construction priorities for the season. This upcoming construction season will include repaving of Netherfield Street (Westgate Dr. to Stony Creek Ave.), York View Drive, Hachmuth Drive, and Woodley Creek Court. The entire length of Hendershot Avenue will also receive maintenance attention; however, its exact maintenance treatment has not yet been determined. Finally, 6 Mile Road (Kenowa Ave. to Fruit Ridge Ave.) and Bristol Ave. (6 Mile Rd. to 7 Mile Rd.) will be sealcoated.

**Capital Improvements Plan**

Planning in advance for the inevitable acquisition, construction and/or replacement of the Township's facilities needed for the functioning of the community is an important element in maintaining and preserving a high quality of life. Annually, Alpine Township adopts a Capital Improvements Plan that lays out a method of setting project priorities and helps to ensure its revenues are being spent wisely, efficiently and in a manner consistent with the Township's long-range objectives set forth in the Master Plan.

Very shortly the Township will be updating its Capital Improvements Plan. The current plan can be found at [www.alpinetwp.org](http://www.alpinetwp.org). Click the *Documents* icon on the left-hand side menu then chose *Financial Reports & Capital Improvement Plan*.

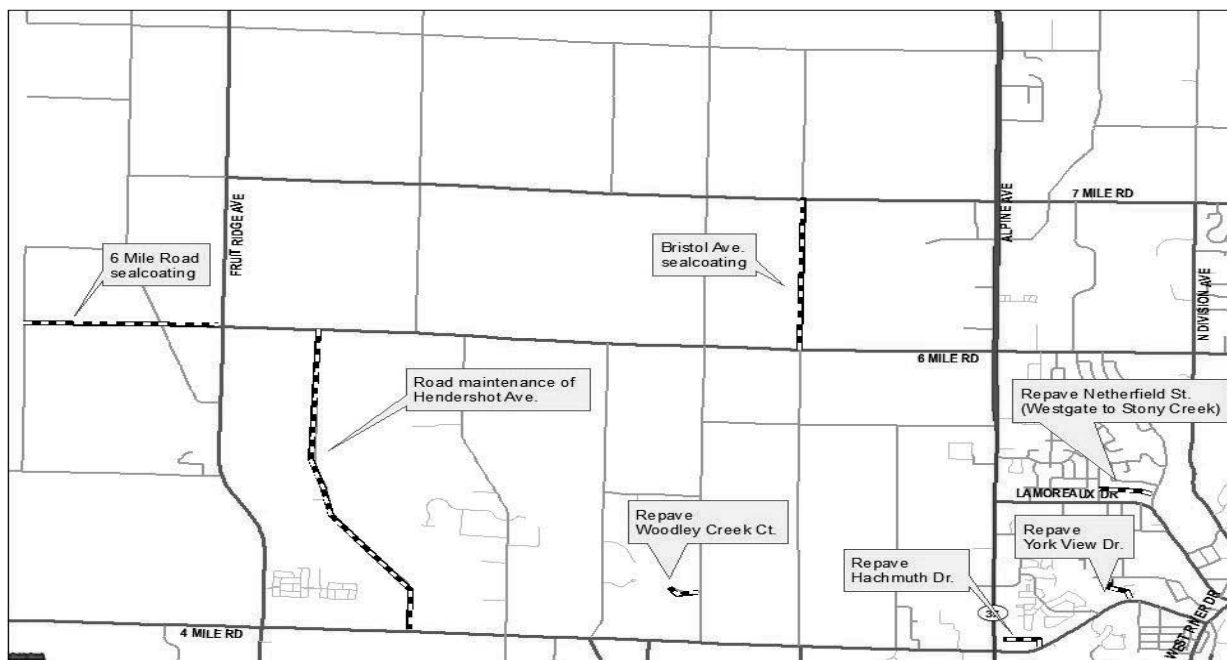
**Community Involvement Opportunities****Zoning Board of Appeals**

Using criteria set forth in state law, the Zoning Board of Appeals hears and decides upon appeals from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance. The Board is seeking an applicant to fill the position of Board Alternate. Meetings are held on an as needed basis at 7 p.m. on the fourth Monday of the month. Typically, the Board meets several times a year.

**Capital Improvements Plan Committee**

Each year the Capital Improvement Plan Committee reviews and prioritizes capital improvement requests and makes funding recommendations to the Township Board. The Committee is currently comprised of three Township Board members and three Planning Commission members. The Committee would welcome one citizen member to join them. The Committee meets during the business day approximately three times in the spring of each year.

If you are interested in any of these opportunities, please contact either Township Supervisor Greg Madura or Planning Director Sue Becker at 784-1262. They can also be reached at [g.madura@alpinetwp.org](mailto:g.madura@alpinetwp.org) or [s.becker@alpinetwp.org](mailto:s.becker@alpinetwp.org)





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E-mail: [g.madura@alpinetwp.org](mailto:g.madura@alpinetwp.org)  
[www.alpinetwp.org](http://www.alpinetwp.org)*

### **Spring Fridays – Fun for Seniors!**

Join your friends and neighbors in our Golden Panthers Senior Space at Greenridge School, 3825 Oakridge Ave NW, Comstock Park, MI. Programs.

#### **Spring Dates**

**April 14** Lost Villages of Plainfield Township with Norm Van Soest

**April 21** Backyard Birding presentation with Judy Bergman

**April 28** Mini-group from the Grand Rapids Accordion Ensemble. Appetizers will be provided

**May 5** Line Dancing with Kathy Bush

**May 12** Arts & Crafts with KDL—decorating picture frames

**May 19** Entertainment by Guitars for Veterans (Light lunch Provided)

The above programs begin at 10:45am.

For more information please visit

[www.goldenpanthers.com](http://www.goldenpanthers.com) or contact Alex Arends at [arendsa@wmis.net](mailto:arendsa@wmis.net) or 616-334-6687

#### **Senior Neighbors – Enhanced Fitness**

**Greenridge Elementary School, 3825 Oakridge Ave. NW, Comstock Park, MI 49321**

Led by instructor Julie Ebenstein, this group is looking for friends and neighbors to join them Mondays, Wednesdays, and/or Fridays from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. They meet at Greenridge Elementary. For more information, contact Julie Lake, Senior Neighbors at 616) 233-2083.