



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*
Rob Scheidel
Bill Schweitzer
Mike Wahlfield

Community Events

Monday September
16, Township Board
Meeting, 7p.m.

Thursday September
19, Planning Commis-
sion Meeting 7p.m.

Monday September
23, Historical Commis-
sion 1p.m.

Monday September
23, Zoning Board of
Appeals 7 p.m.

Thursday October 17,
Planning Commission
Meeting 7p.m.

Monday October 21,
Township Board Meet-
ing 7 p.m.

Monday October 28,
Historical Commis-
sion 1p.m.

Monday October 28,
Zoning Board of Ap-
peals 7p.m.

Monday November 18,
Township Board Meet-
ing 7 p.m.

Thursday November
21, Planning Commis-
sion 7 p.m.

Monday November 25,
Historical Commis-
sion 1p.m.

Monday November 25,
Zoning Board of ap-
peals 7p.m.

November 28th and
29th, Thanksgiving
Holliday, Township
Office Closed

Supervisor's Report ...

Greg Madura

Way to go, Alpine Township! I am excited. Not because we are slowly getting more days with temperatures in the 70's than in the 80's, or more days with sunshine than rain. Then again school has started, and there is always a heat wave to make students and staff swelter a bit when those new math formulas are being taught. When I drive or walk around, I see more yard projects, house remodels and flowers than I have seen in years. I would call it a community rejuvenation of sorts. You can see all the hard work that is happening. I saw one person standing near the street looking back at their landscaping. I agree it was beautiful. Going around the Township, I can tell people take great pride in where they live.

There are times I wish I could do more. When roads are bad people are not happy. When they are being fixed people are inconvenienced and not happy. Look at the big picture. In a couple of months though, the roads being worked on will be new. You will no longer have to take alternate routes. Life will be normal until we start all over again next spring. Speaking of roads, a few updates. Lamoreaux is ahead of schedule, and is now completed. The last area to be completed will be the railroad tracks. We do not know when the railroad will begin their work, but expect a complete shutdown of the road at the tracks during that time. That work made it difficult for area residents who had to dodge excavators, pick up mail down the road, and just avoid that area. At the same time we were able to repair sewer lines, replace water and gas lines, as well as fix the road. Let's hope for a long period of no work in that area. For cost reasons 6 Mile Road from Walker to Fruit Ridge will be completed early next spring. 7 Mile Road will be done shortly, all the curbing is done. It should be safer and a little wider as it will have paved shoulders about four feet wide.

I would like to give a shout out to some local heroes. First, Boy Scout Troop #223 for putting flags at the Veteran gravesites at the Township Cemeteries. Second, the American Legion Post #258 and its Honor Guard. Both were instrumental in the Memorial Day remembrance. One group at the beginning of their service to our country and the other for continuing to serve over these many years. Also, there is a group of individuals who ask for very little and give a great deal; our very own Alpine Fire Department. A few years back they rescued me, and I will always be grateful. We have a paid-on-call department. They work full time jobs doing many different things, plus coach and volunteer, yet when the alarm sounds they leave family, friends and sleep time to answer the call. If they have not yet, they will most likely help you, or someone you know. They sacrifice to serve us. That means their families also share in the sacrifice. These past three years, 27 heroes averaged 1300 calls per year. That is a lot of helping a neighbor in need.

Lastly, thank you all for helping your neighbors. Whether it is donating helping clean up after a wind storm, or just fixing something, or solving a problem at your neighbor's house. You're a big part of making Alpine Township the most friendly, welcoming community to call home. Have a great fall.

Clerk's Comments

Jean Wahlfield

SPARTA SCHOOL DISTRICT VOTERS – PRECINCT #5 – 610 9 MILE ROAD NW

A SPECIAL ELECTION WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2019!



ELECTION NEWS.....implementing changes in 2020

State of Michigan voters approved Proposal 18-3 at the Election held November 6, 2018. Here is a brief synopsis of the changes:

Same Day Voter Registration – Michigan residents may register to vote up to and including Election Day by first going to the local Clerk's office. The voter will need to provide proof of residency in Alpine Township. Once registered the voter will either go to their precinct to vote or be issued an absentee ballot to vote in the Clerk's office on Election Day.

Straight Party Voting – This option had been previously been taken off the ballot during the last election cycle and will now be an option on all future ballots. Straight Party Voters fill in an oval at the top of the ballot to vote for their party candidates without going down the entire ballot to select partisan candidates individually.

Automatic Voter Registration – Transactions that take place at any Secretary of State Office will include automatic voter registration for anyone not previously registered to vote. Voters may decline the automatic registration by informing SOS personnel.

No Reason Absentee Voting – Voters are required to request their absentee ballot by completing the absentee voter **application or in writing**. Voters no longer need to state a reason why they want the AV ballot. After completing the application the ballot will be mailed to you.....no standing in lines on Election Day! Mark your ballot at home and return before Election Day.

Permanent Absent Voter List – To have your name added to the permanent AV list to please call the Clerk at (616) 784-1262. Remember that you fill out the application first to request the ballot and then the ballot is mailed to you.

ALPINE TOWNSHIP NEEDS ELECTION WORKERS - Alpine Township has 6 voting precincts and needs between 50-65 workers to make it all happen. If you are interesting in become an election inspector/worker PLEASE call the Clerk's office (616) 784-1262 to obtain a sign up brochure or find out more additional information about this important job. Training is provided!

REMINDER – 2020 is a big election year. It includes the election of your local Alpine Township officials which are Supervisor, Clerk, Treasurer and 4 Trustees. Filing for these offices will take place in early 2020!!

Sincerely, Jean Wahlfield, Clerk.



News from the Assessing Department

After serving as the Alpine Township Assessor for the past 12 years, Betty Keeling has retired as of October 1st 2018. We sincerely hope that she is enjoying retirement after a fruitful career in the assessing field for over the past 30 years. Julie Bulerski was promoted to Assessor after working 22 years in the Assessing department. Taking Julie's position is Amanda Toomey who was hired in June 2018. Amanda has her Level 2 Certification (MCAO) and has been working in the assessing field for the past 5 years. She also serves as the Assessor for Nelson Township. Amanda will be performing the residential re-appraisals along with the building permit follow ups for residential and agricultural properties.

A big part of the assessment process is to annually perform property inspections. Our Department will be sending out letters to notify property owners that their property is due for their 5 year inspection, as is required by State law. Along with the letters, we have an online questionnaire requesting interior information, which we respectfully request owners to complete. The information gathered is used to update property records, which results in more accurate assessed values. The questionnaire is provided to the public and can be found at: www.alpinetwp.org → Documents → Assessing Forms → Re-Appraisal Form. (Please hover over "Assessing Forms" on the left side of the page).

As a reminder to all property owners, please contact our office if there are any physical changes to your property so we can update our records accordingly. Whether it's tearing down an old deck or shed, or filling in an in-ground swimming pool. These changes could constitute loss in property value, which in turn, could lower future tax bills. If you have any further questions, please contact Julie or Amanda at (616) 784-1262, Monday – Friday from 8am – 5pm.

ALPINE TOWNSHIP LIBRARY

FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

RHYME TIME MUSIC & MOVEMENT

Tuesdays 10:00 AM

Enjoy music, movement and rhymes.

FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

FALL FEST

Wednesday, October 23 6:30 PM

Celebrate with autumn crafts and games

FOR ADULTS

KOMBUCHA LADIES NIGHT

Wednesday, October 16 6:30 PM

Eat, drink and socialize! Sip on Kombucha, nibble cheese and create your own gift bags.

MIXED MEDIA PHOTO TRANSFERS

Wednesday, November 13 6:30 PM

Learn to turn photos into unique art pieces. The transfer process creates a transparent or translucent image imbedded within an acrylic medium.

Pre-registration required

ALPINE AVENUE BOOK CLUB

Wednesdays, 6:30 PM

Join us for informal discussion and good company.

The Women in the Castle by Jessica Shattuck, October 2

Dark Places by Gillian Flynn, November 6

HOURS

Mondays and Wednesdays 12–8

Tuesday 9:30–5

Thursday 9:30–5

Friday 12–5

Saturday 9:30–1:30

COMSTOCK PARK LIBRARY

FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

TODDLER TIME

Mondays 10:00 AM

Nurture your toddler's love of books through music, movement, and stories.

BABY PLAYGROUP

Mondays 1:00 PM

For babies from birth to 18 months with caregiver. Each playgroup includes 15 minutes of stories, rhymes and songs.

FAMILY STORY TIME

Wednesdays 10:00 AM

Enjoy stories, rhymes, music and movement while developing a love of reading.

FOR ADULTS

ONE-ON-ONE TECHNOLOGY TUTORING

KDL offers 45-minute personal technology help sessions by appointment.

THE LIT-WITS

Thursdays, 7:00 PM

Join us for a friendly, informal discussion with snacks provided.

A Place for Us by Fatima Mirza, September 26

The Bluest Eye by Toni Morrison, October 24

The Sun Does Shine by Anthony Hinton, Nov 21

HOURS

Monday 9:30–8

Tuesdays and Thursdays 12–8

Wednesdays and Fridays 9:30–5

Saturday 1–5



Alpine Township Fire Department News Volume 2

In the last issue of the Harvester, I detailed the Alpine Township Fire Department's (ATFD) Mission Statement and our responding district as it pertains to the residents, businesses, and infrastructure.

In this volume, I am going to write about the history of the ATFD from the early days up to the present. So let's take a ride and step back in time.

Around the time of 1941, Alpine Township was in a state of growth. This led some folks to start thinking about organizing a fire fighting group. So it became true, a gentleman named Adolph "Stub" Schindler organized a group of men that became the volunteer firemen of Alpine Township. Stub became the first Alpine Township Fire Chief. During this time, the firefighting equipment was owned by Kent County and housed at the Kent County Road Commission.

As time went on, records show that in 1953, Alpine actually paid Plainfield Township maintenance costs for fire equipment. Two years later, Alpine and Plainfield shared their resources by training together and jointly owning a Fire Engine. The equipment was housed in Comstock Park at the building now known as the Comstock Park Library. In 1957, a water Tanker (Tender) was added.

In the spring of 1961, the first Fire Station was built at Alpine and Alpine Church Rd. In 1963, the Township office was added to this structure. In 1970, Fire Station-2 was constructed and built on 7 Mile between Peach Ridge and Fruit Ridge. This structure also included the Peach Ridge Branch of the Kent County Library. The West Garage at 9 Mile and Old Alpine was acquired by the Township and became Fire Station-3. An additional room was added to the structure and was used as a voting precinct. Fire apparatus and equipment had slowly been added and by 1976 the fleet included Four Fire Engines, Two Water Tankers (Tenders), a Rescue Van, and a Brush Truck.

In 1975, Fire Chief Schindler announced his retirement after proudly serving 34 years. It was now time for Fred "Fritz" Schweitzer to take over the helm as the next Fire Chief. Fred found himself very busy in his new role as the Chief. He had a great vision for the department to assist them with moving into the future. He became involved in designing and drawing emergency pre-plans along with being part of the Kent County Local Emergency Planning Committee. Fred Resigned as Chief in 1995, however he stayed with department and served many years until he retired in 2014. Fred spent 60 years with the department and is the current longevity record holder.

Ron Christians became the next Fire Chief. During this time the department grew, as did the Township. In 2001, a new Fire Station-3 was built at 610 9 Mile. The department became full of many hardworking people that wanted to serve the community. The Township was growing at a fast rate which added many more emergency assignments that the Fire Department had to respond to. It takes a great deal of commitment and dedication to perform the duties that are required of being a Fire Fighter. Ron Christens retired in 2012 and left a great team of fire department members to proceed into the future.

In 2012, I took over as your Fire Chief. To this day, we have a great team of individuals, some seasoned and some new. I can proudly say as a team, we have accomplished many goals from 2012 to the present. In the last 7 years, we claimed 3 large Grant Awards. Starting with a FEMA grant for a new Water Tender-3 (\$235,000.00). Then, we received a Firehouse Subs grant for 2 ATV's and a Trailer (\$13,750.00). Next, was another FEMA grant for a Physical Fitness Room including equipment (\$50,000.00) located at Fire Station-3. The Alpine Fire Department also received many smaller grants from Walmart and Sam's Club to assist with Computers and Training needs. I would also like to add, that because of the great support that we receive from our Township Board we were able to obtain a new Fire Engine-1 for Station-1 along with a new Brush/Medic Truck to be housed at Fire Station-3. Please keep in mind that these two vehicles were scheduled to be replaced.

The demands of this job become greater and greater, both from an equipment and personnel standpoint. I want you to know that we will always strive to make the right decisions as it comes to budgetary needs. I hope you have enjoyed reading about the History of your local Fire Department. Please look to future issues of the Harvester, as the ATFD will be educating you as to the future needs of the Department.

*Dave Klomparens, Fire Chief
Alpine Township Fire Department*



***THANK YOU ALL, PAST AND PRESENT
ALPINE TOWNSHIP FIREFIGHTERS!!***

ALPINE TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL COMMISSION

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20TH 2:00 PM

PATHS THROUGH THE CITY, BUILDING OF THE GRAND RAPIDS FREEWAYS

ALPINE TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY ROOM, LOCATED AT 2015 7 MILE RD NW

Presented by Gina Bivens, president of Grand Rapids Historical Society. As a researcher and educator with the Grand Rapids Public Library, Gina has witnessed the changes over the decades of the city as freeways took over old neighborhoods and lives were affected in many ways. We all use the roadways; see how they changed over time.



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17TH 2:00 PM

CONERSTONE STRENGTH IN THE FACE OF BURDEN

ALPINE TOWNSHIP HENZE CENTER, LOCATED AT 1100 HENZE DRIVE
OFF OF ALPINE, BEHIND SAM'S CLUB

Presented by Jim "The Shark" Dreyer, ultra-endurance athlete. Locally known for his numerous Great Lakes endurance swim records, Jim will share his accomplishments, his goals and thoughts on living to the edge. Jim's most recent "long" swim was the Straits of Mackinac Open.



Fall Leaf Pickup 2019

For those residents who live south of 6 Mile Rd. and east of Alpine Ave., the Township has once again arranged for homeowners to have their leaves picked up with the following conditions: 1) leaves are put in paper leaf bags. 2) If the paper leaf bag was purchased anywhere besides the Township offices, they must have a Township sticker on them. 3) Leaf bags should be placed at the curbside by 6 a.m. on the morning of the pick up date.

**Pickup Dates: Wednesday November 6th
Wednesday November 13th
Wednesday November 27th**

**Cost: Paper Leaf Bags: \$10.00 for 11 bags.
Alpine Stickers for bags: \$10.00 for
11 stickers.**

If you have any questions please call the Township at 784-1262.



HUNTER SAFETY CLASSES

Hunter safety classes will be offered through the Kent County Sheriff's Department.

Class Dates: Thursday October 24th, 6 to 9 p.m.

Friday October 25th, 6 to 9 p.m.

Saturday October 26th, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m..

Call the Township Offices at 784-1262 with questions or to enroll.

Kent County Department of Public Works

Disposing of Latex Paint

If you are unable to use up or give away your leftover latex paint, dry it out and put it in your trash. The 2 easy ways to drying latex paint are as follows:

1. Remove and put lid in trash. Add an absorbent material to the paint, like kitty litter, oil dry or sawdust. Stir absorbent into the paint. Add enough so the mixture becomes thick, like the texture of oatmeal.
2. Once hardened, the latex paint can safely be placed in your trash. Be sure the paint is dried and the lid is removed. Do not dump paint on the ground or down the drain.

Department of Public Works does not accept latex paint, medical waste or pharmaceuticals, ammunition, fireworks and refillable propane tanks.



Check on the Public Works website for a list of items accepted to recycle at www.recycleKent.org



**Fun for Seniors, join friends in Golden Panthers
FALL FRIDAYS**

At Greenridge School, 3825 Oakridge Ave. NW

Programs begin at 11:00 AM

Sept 27— **Police Dogs and the Work They Do; by Kent County Sheriff's Department**

Oct 4— **Alpine Then and Now; with Pat Cederholm**

Oct 18— **The GR Home for Veterans: Past, Present & Future; with Tiffany Carr**

Oct 25—**Potluck: bring a dish to pass with Music by "Just Us"; by Comstock Park Outreach**

For more information call 616-254-5243, or e-mail

cpgoldenpanthers@cpschools.com

Alpine Township has 3 facilities that are available for the residents of Alpine Township to rent. All three have a capacity to seat about 45 people. Rental cost is \$100.00 for the day. They are located at : 610 9 Mile Road. On the east side of Fire Station #3.

841 Alpine Church Street. On the lower level of Fire Station #1.

2015 7 Mile Road. In the Community Building.

Call Beth Alt at 784-1262 for more information.