



Official Newsletter of Alpine Township, Michigan

Harvester

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

Supervisor: Alex Arends
Clerk: Jean Wahlfeld
Treasurer: Jim Townsend
Trustees: Ron Cordes
Jim May
Bill Schweitzer
Mike Wahlfeld

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday, June 16 ~ Planning Commission Meeting
Monday, June 20 ~ Township Board Meeting
Monday, July 4 ~ Independence Day, Office Closed
Monday, July 18 ~ Township Board Meeting
Thursday, July 21 ~ Planning Commission Meeting
Monday, August 15, Township Board Meeting
Thursday, August 18, Planning Commission Meeting
Monday, September 5 ~ Labor Day, Office Closed
Thursday, September 15 ~ Planning Commission Meeting
Sunday September 18 ~ Historical Committee Program
Glen Blackwood
Fly Fishing in West Michigan
Monday, September 19 ~ Township Board Meeting

In This Issue

Clerk & Treasurers Report P 2
Meet Our Candidates P3-P5
Alpine Township Library P6
Historical Committee P7
North Kent Sewer P7
Lock it or Lose it P8

Supervisor's Report ...

Alex Arends

On August 2, voters will go to the polls for Primary Elections. Voters get the opportunity to select national, state and local officials they wish to see on the November ballot. There are currently three candidates running for Township Supervisor, six candidates for four positions as Trustee, and uncontested races for Clerk and Treasurer.

One of the things about Township Elections that should be reviewed by the legislature or by constitutional amendment is having candidates for Township Office declaring a party affiliation. This reduces a voter's ability to choose candidates for local office. In Alpine Township, all candidates declared themselves Republican. Candidates for city office don't have to declare party affiliation. That gives more voters the opportunity to select local candidates of their choice regardless of party preference. Being able to elect local officers of your choice is as important to some as voting for national candidates. Please contact your state representative if you feel one way or the other.

Thank you for having allowed me to be Township Supervisor over the past eight years. I believe we are leaving a community stronger and better than when I took office. Today there is less concern about crime. The Township has been fiscally responsible and transparent. We have seen significant growth, including some businesses that have become West Michigan attractions such as Perrin Brewing, Amore Trattoria and others. We have wonderful farms and farm markets, food distributors, commercial and industrial businesses that provide jobs and share civic pride. But what makes our community great are our people. You, our residents, our business owners, our school administrators and staff, and of course our great Township staff. All are committed to our community as illustrated by the many volunteers for various community needs. Alpine Township is the greatest!



Community Policing Officer Ryan Guernsey, President Dana Quick and guest speaker Jack Stewart, Kent County Emergency Manager at a recent meeting of the Alpine Township Business Association. The Association meets at the Township Hall at 9:00 A.M every second Thursday of the month.

Coming soon: A new improved user friendlier website. You can also find us at
<https://www.facebook.com/AlpineTownshipMichigan>
<https://www.facebook.com/alpine.historical>

Alpine Township
Website
www.alpinetwp.org

Clerk's Comments

Jean Wahlfield

ELECTION YEAR INFORMATION

PRIMARY ELECTION - TUESDAY, AUGUST 2, 2016
GENERAL ELECTION - TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2016

Although it is hard to predict, you can expect to wait in line at your voting precinct in August and November. This is mainly due to the length of the ballot and that more voters are expected to turnout during this interesting election cycle.

The November ballot has been changed by the legislators in Lansing. The straight party voting option usually located at the top of the ballot has been removed. Voters will need to vote the two sided ballot and mark each office or proposal separately. Please bring you photo ID and your patience to the precinct in August and November. Thank you.

ADDITIONAL ELECTION INFORMATION –

Voters may wish to use **an absentee ballot** in August and November. If you are of a certain age or are not certain you will be able to make it to your precinct on election day you can avoid the long lines at the precinct and request an absentee ballot. Please call the Clerk's office at 784-1262 to obtain an absentee ballot application. Absentee ballots can be issued for other reasons listed on the AV application. You may pick up your ballot in person if you have a photo ID. If you submit an application for a spouse or friend the ballot can only be **mailed**.

The US Post Office has informed Clerks that mail, no matter where or when it is deposited, will take 2 to 3 days to reach its destination. Please plan appropriately when requesting absent voter applications and mailing your completed ballots back to the Township. Ballots will only be counted if they arrive at the Township prior to 8:00 pm on Election Day.

The Clerk's office is **open the Saturday** before any election to issue absentee ballots to voters.

ATTENTION STUDENTS HEADED TO COLLEGE! You are encouraged **to register to vote "in person"** at the local Clerk's office. Clerks need to see you in person to establish your identity prior to mailing out your absentee voter application.

MILITARY VOTERS AND OVERSEAS CIVILIAN RESIDENTS. You are MOVE voters and a special process is available to vote. MOVE voters obtain a ballot by email, fax or regular mail. Contact local Clerks or go to michigan.gov/vote and click the tab on the left side of the page.

MOVING OR CHANGING YOUR ADDRESS? Please contact your local Clerk. There are certain restrictions on where you will be voting depending on the timing of your move or address change.

ANY Michigan resident can go on-line to locate their voting precinct, ballot or find out if they are registered to vote. Go to Michigan.gov/vote.

Enjoy the great State of Michigan this summer!

Treasurer's Corner

Jim Townsend

Summer Tax Bills are mailed July 1, and payment is due September 14. Please remember that the Township does not recognize the mailing date as payment. We must **receive** payment by 5 PM on the due date. For those using EZ Pay auto-deduct, payments will be pulled from your account on August 31.

Sewer Bills: The Township sends out quarterly sewer bills on the first day of January, April, July and October. They are printed on postcard stock, in green and white. Payment is due the last business day of the following month. The bills to be sent out July 1 are due on August 31. E-Z Pay auto-deduct payments will be pulled August 15.

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 produces a paper check that is sent to us through the mail and it may take up to a week to arrive at the Township offices.

Fund Balances: The Township holdings as of March 31 are as follows:

General Fund:	\$2,009,726.50
Water Fund:	\$318,576.81
Sewer Fund:	\$2,749,383.37
Rusche/Comstock Park Drive Fund:	\$474,648.34
Trust & Agency Fund:	\$193,917.70
Capital Improvement and Restricted Funds:	\$1,585,009.83

For more information about the Township holdings and how they are invested, please call Jim Townsend at 784-1262. Have a great summer.

Alpine Township Historical Committee presents:

West Michigan Fly Fishing with Glen Blackwood

Glen is often featured on PBS and he will discuss fly fishing in our local streams.

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 18, 2:00 P.M.

**ALPINE TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY BUILDING
2015 7 Mile Road N.W. Comstock Park**



The historical committee also offers visits to their files and Alpine Township museum at 2408 7 Mile Road per request through phoning the township office at 784-1262.

With family gatherings and reunions coming up during the summer season, you are encouraged to take generation pictures, and talk with grandparents and older relatives about family trees and family stories.

They welcome inquiries that help piece the "family puzzles" together.

ALPINE LIBRARY EVENTS FOR ADULTS

Wednesday, July 6, 6 p.m. Recycle Your Reads!

Turn well-loved books into hand-crafted treasures! Decorate your home with book birdhouses and folded book hearts. Or create a star wreath and decorate a mini paper lanterns. You could also choose your own book-inspired craft project. Bring your own expired titles or use ours.

Wednesday, August 17, 6 p.m. Creating Local Herbal Remedies

Join local plant enthusiast Rachel Potter for a discussion and demonstration of how to gather and use medicinal plants to make salves, teas, tinctures and other natural remedies that nourish and heal the body and keep it healthy year round. This workshop will teach you to nurture yourself with what is growing all around us.

A resident wrote: "Recently my husband died unexpectedly at home and I called 911. In less than five minutes the first responders arrived. Although I can not remember their names, everyone was professional, sensitive and compassionate in dealing with me. The Alpine Township community is fortunate to have such wonderful people available to help when needed."

Dispose of medications the proper way

Unused medications that are put in the trash or flushed down the drain will enter the environment through wastewater. For a disposal site near you, go to www.wmtakebackmeds.org or call 616-632-7939. A message from the Kent County Department of Public Works.

COMSTOCK PARK ROTARY SERVING YOUR COMMUNITY AND THE WORLD

**BBQ CHICKEN, RIBS and SAUSAGE
DWIGHT LYDELL PARK**

**Thursday July 14 2016 11:30 - 6:30 (or sold out)
Thursday September 1 2016 11:30 - 6:30 (or sold out)**

**Chicken Dinner \$ 9.00
Chicken Only \$ 7.00
Half Rib Dinner \$11.00
Full Rib Dinner \$16.00
Sausage Dinner \$ 8.00**



NORTH KENT SEWER AUTHORITY

The NKSA was founded in December 1997, incorporated by the City of Rockford, Plainfield Charter Township, and the Townships of Alpine, Cannon, and Courtland, each located in Northern Kent County, Michigan.

The primary purpose of the NKSA was to acquire, own, improve and repair the area's existing sanitary sewer collection and transportation system. Over time, the purpose expanded to include the construction and operation of a new state-of-the-art wastewater treatment facility, now known as the PARCC Side Clean Water Plant. Located at 4775 Coit Avenue N.E. in Plainfield Charter Township, construction was completed in 2008. The move in 2008 has resulted in significant savings. Alpine Township's sewer rate of \$75 per quarter is believed to be the second lowest in the county. Following is a rate study done for those utilizing the Grand Rapids Sewer System, of which we were a part prior to 2008:

2016 APPROXIMATE QUARTELY SEWER BILL

Grand Rapids	\$105.75
Walker	\$137.58
Kentwood	\$ 66.27
Cascade Twp.	\$143.01
Grand Rapids Twp.	\$123.87
Talmadge Twp. Ottawa Cty)	\$295.17
Wright Twp. (Ottawa Cty)	\$146.10
Alpine Township	\$ 75.00

While Alpine Township is currently in the process of evaluating the over all costs of maintaining our current system, we don't anticipate a significant rate increase in the near future,

We are appreciative of our previous administrations for their insight.

CANDIDATES FOR ALPINE TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

WILLIAM HOMRICH ~ REPUBLICAN

I have been a resident of Alpine Township for over 40 years. My parents, Walt and Dolores, moved to Alpine Avenue in the early sixties and started the roadside market known as “Under the Pines.” I married Laura, a Sparta girl, and the two of us have two daughters, a son, and I am a proud grandpa of four grandkids. I am an involved member of Holy Trinity Church and the Knights of Columbus

Having three younger brothers, I left the farm and obtained a bachelor’s degree in Civil Engineering from Michigan Technological University. From there I embarked on a 33 plus year career with the Michigan Department of Transportation as a transportation engineer administering multi-million dollar contracts to improve the state’s roads, bridges and railroads. As a public servant I supervised employees, conducted meetings, safeguarded public right-of-ways and worked with public officials and citizens.

After retiring from state service, I became the chief financial officer in a small company that develops software used to precisely control machines, agricultural and construction, using only satellites (GPS). I am an alternate member on the Zoning Board of Appeals. Recreational activities and interests include piloting my Piper Colt, bicycling on local roads and lineal state parks, building houses, traveling with a grandma and being a grandpa.

I believe my education and life experiences would benefit Alpine Township as its supervisor. My background as a transportation engineer will be helpful in working with the County Road Commission, MDOT and utility companies. Being a licensed builder, I understand zoning and ordinances. I see improvement opportunities in record storage, management and retention by moving to digital records. For being an engineer, I have good people skills, even a sense of humor.



GREG MADURA ~ REPUBLICAN

Hello, Alpine Township! My name is Greg Madura, and my wife Kris and I raised our three kids in the Westgate neighborhood. All three graduated from Comstock Park. Some of you may know me from my involvement with Northwestern Little League or Holy Trinity Church. I am a retired school teacher with a Master's Degree from Aquinas College.

I was a member of the Alpine Township Planning Commission from 2004-2014. I was eventually elected chairman, and I helped in the shaping of the 2007 and 2014 township Master Plans. I have also been a member of the Alpine Township Capital Improvement Committee, which allocates money to various projects the township requires, and I am currently a member of the Alpine Township Zoning Board of Appeals.

I have also attended every important Township Board meeting as a member of the public for the past year. I believe I have a "bird's eye view" of the issues that are facing our township, and what we should focus on in the next four years. Those would include:

- 1.) Improvement of our township roads.
- 2.) Improved budgeting policies and procedures to insure we always have an adequate amount of money in our General Fund, and maintain our Standard & Poor's rating which will allow us to take advantage of lower interest rates on bonds and save taxpayer money.
- 3.) Improve our parks and recreation areas, with increased emphasis on senior citizens' needs.
- 4.) No township tax increases.



JOE SCHWEITZER ~ REPUBLICAN

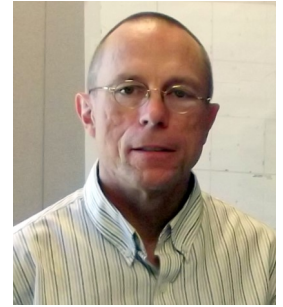
Joe graduated from Sparta High School in 2004 and is a 5th Generation Farm owner/operator that grows corn, soybeans, wheat, and barley. He is also a school bus driver for Sparta Area Schools and has been for 4 years. He has been employed at Holy Trinity Catholic Church since 2010, his jobs include, Assistant organist, Sacristan, and Director of Liturgical Art and Environment. He also was a firefighter on the Alpine Township Fire Department from 2004 until 2013. Some of Joe’s goals as township supervisor will be to encourage growth in the allocated areas of the township set in the master plan while also supporting the growth of small business’s. “Our Agricultural industry is a very vital necessity of our township and must continue to be preserved. Another key necessity of our township is public safety. Our County Police officers and our township Firefighters deserve and require only the best equipment to do the best job in keeping everyone and themselves safe in our community. Our township has been very fiscally responsible in the last several years and I would keep that practice going while the township continues to grow. Another goal is to keep our taxes as low as possible and to keep hard earned money in the residents pockets to support the local economy.”



JAMES TOWNSEND, CANDIDATE FOR TREASURER ~ REPUBLICAN (INCUMBENT)

I have lived in Alpine Township since 1989, with my wife Maureen. We raised our four daughters here during that time. I received my Bachelor’s Degree with honors at the University of Michigan in 1979, and my law degree and Master’s Degree in Public Administration from the University of Illinois in 1982. I practiced law locally from 1982 until I was elected Treasurer in 2008.

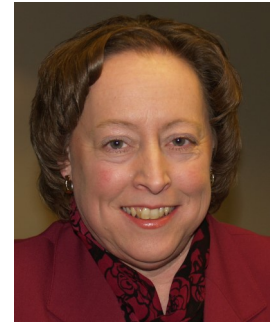
My goals for the township are to continue our sound fiscal policies, to keep our taxes and sewer bills as low as possible, and enhance the standard of living for Alpine Township residents. I also believe strongly in governmental transparency, and I plan to continue reporting to township residents the dollar balance in all the township funds on a regular basis, as I have done for the last eight years in the Harvester newsletter and the township web site. Alpine Township is a great place to live and raise a family, and I want to keep it that way.



JEAN WAHLFIELD, CANDIDATE FOR CLERK ~ REPUBLICAN (INCUMBENT)

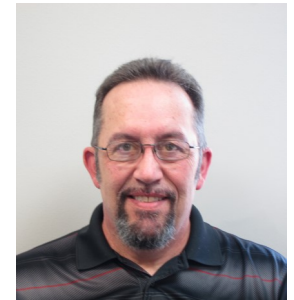
Jean Wahlfield was first elected as the Alpine Township Clerk in 2000 and previously worked 9 years for the Township. Over the years she has served on several Township related committees and is currently the Secretary of the North Kent Sewer Authority. Jean has been a Certified Municipal Clerk since 2007 and continues to attend education and training classes to keep up with the changes in election processes and municipal matters. Township Clerks not only handle elections but work in several other capacities of an active Township. Jean’s experience will continue to be an asset to Alpine residents, to the local community, and to the new Township Supervisor.

Jean has been married for 37 years to Mike Wahlfield who is a life-long resident of Alpine Township. They are members of Holy Trinity Catholic Church and have three grown children living in Chicago, Kalamazoo and Los Angeles.



ANTHONY (A. J.) LANGE, CANDIDATE FOR TRUSTEE ~REPUBLICAN

A.J. is originally from Mechanicsburg Ohio. He graduated high school in 1978 and enlisted in United States Air Force 1980. In 1984 he married Ann Sella who was born and raised in Comstock Park. He retired from the United States Air Force in 2002. He is a certified airframe power plant mechanic through the federal aviation administration, and was an on air radio personality from 1987 to 2000 in various radio stations in Florida, Alaska and New Mexico. He has worked at Lowe's for the last 14 years. “I have the following qualifications: I treat people as I want to be treated. I base my decisions on needs versus wants. I've held supervisory positions since I was 20 years old. I love tight knit communities with a small town feel.”



JIM MAY, CANDIDATE FOR TRUSTEE ~ REPUBLICAN - (INCUMBENT)

Jim has served as a Trustee for the past 12 years and during that time also served 4 years as a member of the Planning Commission, 4 years on the Zoning Board of Appeals and 4 years on the Parks & Recreation Committee. Over the past four years he also served as the board’s liaison to the Fire Department. He is a member of the Michigan Horticultural Society and a current President of the Michigan Farm Bureau. In August he once again hopes to serve breakfast on his farm to 2,000 participants in a program geared at educating the public about farmers.. He became interested in serving the Township when he felt past board members were not being responsible in the way township funds were handled. He believes in serving people by doing the right thing and doing what is best in order to keep the Township in good financial shape. Jim is married and has four children and 7 grandchildren. He farms with two of his sons.



WILLIAM J. SCHWEITZER, CANDIDATE FOR TRUSTEE -REPUBLICAN (INCUMBENT)

Bill is a local fruit grower of apples and pears. He has served 7 terms as a Trustee , served on the Zoning Board of Appeals, and this year serves as the board representative on the Alpine Township Historical Committee. He also served on the Library Board when that was in existence.. He is a member of the Farm Bureau, Secretary of the Michigan Apple Packers Co-op, the Midwest Pomester Group, and the Michigan Township Association. He became interested in a Township Board position because he wanted to play an active roll in local government management. His goal as is to help keep Alpine Township a safe community using all resources available including Township, County, State and Federal. Bill is married to Carla and they have two adult children.



RON CORDES, CANDIDATE FOR TRUSTEE ~ REPUBLICAN (INCUMBENT)

Ron is completing his third term as a Trustee. He has also served as the Township’s representative to the Planning Commission for the past few years, and served as a member of the Alpine Township Historical Committee and Zoning Board of Appeals. As a life-long resident and local business owner for thirty years, Ron is experienced in working with the community. Ron’s interest in remaining on the board is to apply his experience to help and serve the residents of Alpine Township. His goal is to create business opportunities to increase the tax base of the Township while preserving the agricultural heritage of our community.



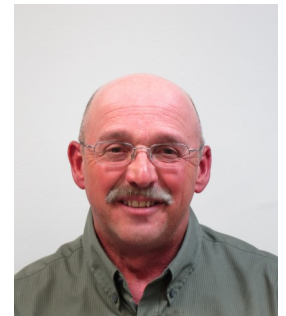
LUKE ARENDS, CANDIDATE FOR TRUSTEE ~ REPUBLICAN

A lifelong resident of Alpine Township, Luke graduated from Sparta Area Schools and James Madison College at Michigan State University, earning a degree in Political Science,. As a young professional, he believes he can give the board a fresh perspective on a range of issues that it will face in the coming years. He will be a voice for all generations and will work to continue the strong relationship that exists between our township representation and its residents. “We should continue to promote economic prosperity and a strong population without sacrificing the great agricultural character. Provide effective, efficient and transparent government: We must limit the scope of our government but ensure that the services we provide are done so efficiently and responsibly. We should also work to constantly improve our communication and use every resource at our hands to ensure a transparent government.” Luke has been employed by the Republican Party for four years working closely with officials from all levels of government. He was recently appointed Interim Executive Director of the Kent County Republican Party.



MIKE WAHLFIELD, CANDIDATE FOR TRUSTEE ~ REPUBLICAN (INCUMBENT)

Mike is the owner of Wahlfield Drilling Company and a lifetime resident of Alpine Township. He brings 34 years of business experience and has served on the Township water/sewer utilities board. He is a member of the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB), the Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce, The National Ground Water Association and is a District Director for the Michigan Ground Water Association. Mike is interested in returning to the board of Trustees because of his desire to serve the community that has been his home for 60 years and assist in making sound financial decisions. As a Township Trustee, his goals would remain to promote small business and protect the property rights of our residents, along with maintaining adequate police and fire protection for our community. Mike is married to Jean Wahlfield and they have three adult children.



ALPINE LIBRARY EVENTS FOR TEENS (cont’d from page 6)

Tuesday, June 21, 3 p.m. Yoga for Beginners

Being a teen is stressful! Join instructor Jen Rapanos as she leads you through successful stress relief—yoga for beginners. If possible please bring a yoga mat. Limited mats available. Don't forget to dress to stretch. Pre-registration is required.

Tuesday, June 28, 3 p.m. DIY sewing felt creatures and busy Books

Create adorable tiny creatures and busy books for youngsters by sewing and gluing felt scraps.

Tuesday, July 12, 3 p.m. DIY Spa for Teens

Make a variety of spa products from simple ingredients that you can take home, such as sugar and oatmeal scrubs, fizzy bath bombs and silky body lotion. Pre-registration required.

Tuesday, July 19, 3 p.m. DIY Tie Dye for Teens

Bring a white or light colored t-shirt to this program and try a new way of tie dye—with permanent markers! All other materials will be provided to help you create a one-of-a-kind shirt to wear.

Tuesday, July 26, 3 p.m. Henna with Harsha Gohil

Experience the intricate art of henna tattooing with Harsha Gohil. Choose your own design for application and learn how to apply the henna yourself! Pre-registration required.

Tuesday, August 9, 3 p.m. Anime Instruction

Learn new drawing techniques in the art of Miyazaki/Studio Ghibli. Take your anime drawings to a whole new level!

Alpine Township Branch—Kent District Library

616-784-2007

5255 Alpine Ave. NW

www.kdl.org



MON 12:00-8:00 **TUE** 9:30-5:00 **WED** 12:00-8:00 **THU** 9:30-5:00 **FRI** 12:00-5:00 **SAT** 9:30-1:30

June 6 – August 13

FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

Wednesday, June 15, 6:30 p.m. Stormy the Magician

Stormy's magic is created by weaving stories, laughter and tricks into a show that the audience will remember for a lifetime!

Saturday, June 25, 10:30 a.m. Parent & Child Yoga

Yoga Instructor, Wellness Coach and Healthy Mama Mentor Amber Kilpatrick will be hosting a special Parent & Child Yoga session, perfect for young children. Come learn about yoga and try a few poses. Please bring your own yoga mat if possible.

Wednesday, June 29, 6 p.m. Going for Gold!

Check in at the athlete registration table and dive in! Participate in Olympic-inspired games, then exercise your brain with themed crafts to become a medalist.

Wednesday, July 13, 6:30 p.m. A Hooping Good Time with Audacious Hoops

Watch a lively, interactive hula hoop show. There will be hula hoops available for everyone to give it a whirl.

Wednesday, August 3, 6 p.m. Art Attack!

Exercise your creativity! Create a variety of art projects to take home with you.

Wednesday, August 10, 6:30 p.m. A Magic Show with Tom Plunkard

Tom Plunkard's entertaining and hilarious show includes animals, audience involvement and tons of amazing magic.

Tuesday, August 16, 10 a.m. Celebrate Curious George's 75th Anniversary with a Day of Discovery!

Make a yellow hat to wear as you learn about space, rainbows, the senses, the sun and the ocean through various crafts and hands-on activities. Note that while we celebrate his character, Curious George will not be in attendance.

FOR CHILDREN – AGES 6 AND YOUNGER

Tuesdays, July 12 – August 23, 10 a.m. Family Storytime

Read and sing together. Enjoy stories, music, movement and rhymes that develop early literacy skills and encourage everyone in the family to share their love of reading. Siblings are welcome to attend as well.

FOR SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN – AGES 6 AND OLDER

Wednesday, June 8, 6 p.m. Weather or not!

Enjoy clever crafts that teach about the weather. Design a cloud identifier, create a tornado in a bottle and build rain gauges and anemometers (to measure wind!)

Wednesday, June 22, 6:30 p.m. Fresh Food Fairy

Meet the Fresh Food Fairy and her amazing smoothie bike! She'll help you whip up a tasty treat and teach you all about healthy eating. The first 75 kids will receive a treat bag.

Wednesday, July 20, 6:30 p.m. John Ball Zoo Visits KDL

John Ball Zoo and their traveling animals come to the library to share fun facts and more.

Wednesday, July 27, 6 p.m. Land of Stories: Beyond the Stories

Whether you're a fan of the Land of Stories books by Chris Colfer or you just like fairy tales in general, join us and create fairy houses, rock trolls and dragons, go on a scavenger hunt and draw your own maps. (Note the author will not be in attendance.)

FOR TEENS

Tuesday, June 7, 3 p.m. Craft it Up

Refashion old t-shirts into headbands, bracelets, gladiator sandals, dog toys, tank tops and more.

Tuesday, June 14, 3 p.m. Cookie Chaos!

Calling all teen chefs to our crazy, chaotic cookie decorating competition. You just might become the Cookie Chaos Champion, although everyone wins when there are cookies to eat! Pre-registration required.



Harvester

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Comstock Park, MI 49321
Phone: 616-784-1262
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E-mail: a.arends@alpinetwp.org
www.alpinetwp.org

Alpine Township Resident

LOCK it or LOSE it

Ryan Guernsey
Kent County Sheriff Department
Alpine Township Community Policing Officer
E: ryan.guernsey@kentcountymi.gov



LOCK Your Vehicles

Most criminals are not breaking windows to steal your property. The vast majority of vehicle larcenies are from unlocked cars and trucks.



REMOVE Valuables from Vehicles

Bring valuables into the house from your vehicle. When away from your home, lock valuables in the trunk of your vehicle. Never leave purses, wallets, cellular phones, jewelry or other valuables in your parked, unattended vehicle.



REPORT Any Suspicious Activity

Police need your help to be the "eyes and ears" in our community. When you observe someone or something suspicious, call 911 immediately.

Follow these Suggestions to Deter Criminals

Take your keys out of your vehicle

- Lock your car- Park in well-lit areas - Park in attended lots
- Leave only ignition/door key with the lot attendant
- Completely close car windows when parking
- Do not leave valuables in plain view (place items in your trunk if they must be left in the car)
- Use your garage - Lock your garage door and the vehicle inside
- Engrave expensive accessories - Use tire/wheel locks
- Install an audible alarm - Take out removable radios and face plates - Avoid parking between large vehicles and big bushes
- Do not approach your vehicle when a stranger is near it;
- Call 911 or security for an escort

Be Aware of Criminal's Methods and Locations

Entry Methods

- Break glass - Use unlocked door - Open windows - Open vent windows - Sliding truck windows - Open sun roofs - Convertibles

Items to Avoid Leaving in Plain View

- Cell phones - GPS navigation system - Charger cords - Antennas - Pagers - Sports equipment (golf and baseball bags) - iPods - Cigarettes - Weapons - CDs/DVDs - Briefcases - Purses - Wallets - Radar detectors - Laptop computers - Removable radios - Clothing - Money (loose change) - Cassette tapes - Address books - Credit cards - Console visors