



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

Sunday, November 16
Historical Society Presents
Mary Jane Dockery, 2:00 p.m.

Monday, November 17
Township Board Meeting

Thursday, November 20
Planning Commission

Tuesday, November 25,
Fall Leaf Pick Up-Week 4

Thursday, November 27,
Thanksgiving Office Closed

Friday, November 28,
Office Closed

Saturday, December 20
Alpine Firefighters Association
Pancake Breakfast

Wednesday, December 24,
Christmas Eve~ Office Closed

Thursday, December 25,
Christmas Day ~ Office Closed

Wednesday, December 31, New
Year's Eve ~ Office Closed

Thursday, January 1,
Office Closed

Thursday, January 15, Planning
Commission

Monday, January 19, Township
Board Meeting

Tuesday, February 17 ~ Winter
Taxes due

Supervisor's Report

Alex Arends

Thanksgiving is my favorite time of the year and this year is no exception. It is an opportunity to reflect on all our blessings. How fortunate we are being raised and living in the western world. Regionally, we are blessed to be living in West Michigan.

Personally I am grateful for state representatives who respond to our local needs. Grateful for the spirit of cooperation between municipalities that exists in Kent and neighboring counties. Grateful for our Alpine Township board, committee members, and staff for their dedication and for working so well together. Grateful for the many people who participate in school, church or civic organizations for the betterment of the community.

Have you thought about contributing to the future of Alpine Township? Serving on a committee gives you that opportunity. Our goal is to have a diverse representation from the entire Township on the various committees. Please give it some serious consideration and call me at 616-784-1262 or email at a.arends@alpinetwp.org as soon as possible to discuss this. Happy Holiday Season!

Judy McNally—This Is Your Life!

On Sunday October 19, members of the Alpine Township Historical Committee recognized one of its own. Judy McNally, a long time member of the Committee received a wild surprise when the program took a twisted turn and instead of it being a presentation of her button collection, it turned out to be a presentation about her life in the style of "This Is Your Life". Many of us remember that popular TV show where honorees were surprised with stories and acquaintances from the past. At 96 years old, Judy continues to serve on the Alpine and Plainfield Townships Historical committees and volunteers at the Grand Rapids Veterans facility. Alpine Township officials proclaimed October 19th 2014 as Judy McNally Day. State Representative Rob VerHeulen presented Judy with a special tribute signed by him. Senator Mark Jansen and Governor Snyder honoring her for her contributions to the community.



A scrapbook featuring Judy's life was prepared by Marta Brechting and presented to Judy and the audience by Don Doyle. About 50 friends and acquaintances of Judy were present for the program and enjoyed the presentation on the screen and the special cake.



Clerk's Comments - Jean Wahlfield



THANK YOU to all the Election Workers who worked in 2014.

With the help of all our election workers and the Deputy Clerk, Alpine Township had three successful Elections (May, August, and November) in 7 months. Congratulations!

“To get the full value of JOY you must have someone to divide it with” – Mark Twain

WISHING YOU A JOYOUS HOLIDAY SEASON AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Jean Wahlfield, Clerk



Treasurer's Corner - Jim Townsend

Tax Bills: Winter tax bills will be mailed December 1, and are due February 17. Please remember that the Township does not recognize the mailing date as payment. We must receive payment by 5 PM on the due date.

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 sent out October 1 are due 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 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 August 31 are as follows

General Fund: \$2,236,896.61

Water Fund: \$721,364.40

Sewer Fund: \$2,099,616.18

Rusche/Comstock Park Drive Fund: \$628,652.05

Trust & Agency Fund: \$94,925.97

Capital Improvements and Restricted Funds: \$1,167,417.43

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

BUILDING DEPARTMENT NEWS
The State of Michigan; Bureau of Construction Codes has adopted new codes that are currently in effect for the entire State. These codes are:

- 2012 Michigan Building Code
- 2009 Michigan Residential Code
- 2012 Michigan Rehabilitation Code
- 2011 National Electric Code with Michigan Part 8 rules
- 2012 Michigan Plumbing Code
- 2012 Michigan Mechanical Code
- 2012 International Fuel Gas Code
- 2009 Michigan Uniform Energy Code

For more information, please visit: www.alpinetwp.org Click on the Building and Property Maintenance tab. These webpages explain when and where permits are required and what contractors are required to do when working on your home or property.

Please remember that there is not a “grandfather” clause in the State Construction Codes. If work was performed on your property that required one of the State Construction permits to be obtained, the property will always be required to obtain that permit, regardless of when the work was completed and if the property has a new owner. Please help us provide a safe and prosperous community by ensuring all construction is inspected and approved per the State of Michigan Construction Code requirements. If you have any questions regarding the new codes please contact the Building Official, Gary Campbell at (616)784-9090.



Birthday Celebrations at Westgate Park

Coming in April: A Matter of Balance:

An award winning program designed to reduce the fear of falling and increase the activity levels of older adults who are fearful of falling.

For more information contact Julie Lake, Wellness Coordinator at 616-233-0283

Why is fall prevention a concern?

One out of three adults over sixty years of age will fall each year. Those falls can lead to injury or death, social isolation, depression, and decreased physical abilities. Falls also contribute to a fear of falling. This fear of falling can be just as serious as actual falls. The fear of falling leads to restricted activities, decreased quality of life, social isolation, a lost sense of purpose and a significant change in participating in enjoyable activities.



MANAGING CONCERNS ABOUT FALLS

What will participants learn in the eight week A Matter of Balance class?

- Learn ways to manage the fear of falling
- Safe exercises for increasing your physical activity
- How to get up properly after experiencing a fall
- How to not let the fear of falling take over one's life.



These classes will be held at the COMSTOCK PARK LIBRARY Wednesdays April 1 - May 20th from 1:00 -3:00 PM.



6889 Pine Island Dr., Comstock Park
Join us for ALL YOU CAN EAT pancakes and sausage with the big guy in red. Enjoy crafts and activities for the whole family including a picture with Santa himself.

Tickets can be reserved by calling Laura at (616) 784-1404 Ext 211 or can be purchased at the door. Cost is \$3 a person or \$15 per household.



Enhance Fitness Classes

Older adults continue to meet at Greenridge Elementary School, 3825 Oakridge NW, Comstock Park Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 10:15 A.M. for fun and fitness and they are looking for new friends. This is a safe and fun exercise class designed to improve strength and balance and keep everyone healthy. For more information, contact Julie Lake at (616) 233-0283. Classes are funded in part by Kent County Senior Millage and a \$2.00 donation per session is suggested. Don't forget our new senior lounge located in the Greenridge Elementary school. The space is meant for seniors to relax and socialize before and after programming. Cards, puzzles, and board games are available for use. As we continue to grow our programming we will look towards expanding the use of our senior lounge.

Zion Lutheran Church at 582 Lamoreaux Dr. Comstock Park, MI Will have their annual cookie sale on Saturday December 13, 2014. The sale will be from 9A.M. to 3 P.M. All proceeds go to support the church's missions to serving the community.



ALPINE FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Saturday December 20, 8:00 a.m-12:00 p.m.
Kenowa Hills Middle School
3950 Hendershot NW, Grand Rapids

Santa is planning to make a special visit beginning at 9:00 A.M.



Support our local firefighters

Donations suggested

5255 Alpine Ave N.W.

FOR FAMILIES

Gingerbread Lane

Stroll down Gingerbread Lane and enjoy tasty gingerbread stories. Each child will make a simple gingerbread house. **Pre-registration is required.**

Wednesday, December 10, 6:30 PM

The Reindeer Are Coming!

Traveling all the way from the North Pole (via Rooftop Landing Reindeer Farms), live reindeer will be visiting the library. Dress warmly and don't forget the camera!

Wednesday, December 17, 6:30 PM

Family Building Bricks Party

Design, build and bond. Bring the whole family together and create a towering monument using the library's building bricks. The best part? No big mess at home to clean up! **Guys Read Approved.**

Saturdays, December 27, January 3 and February 21, 10:30 AM

Mush!

Tun-Dra Kennels owners will talk about sled dogs, mushing equipment and the Iditarod. Families can meet the dogs and watch a demonstration outside, weather permitting.

Saturday, January 10, 11:00 AM

Heart to Heart Craft Party

Roses are red, violets are blue, join our Valentine event, just for you! Celebrate Valentine's Day with snacks and crafts.

Tuesday, February 10, 10:00 AM

The Wonderful WaterColorBot

Watch with amazement while an image you create is recreated by our robot using watercolors, paper and a paintbrush. Wednesday, February 18, 6:00 PM

FOR YOUNG CHILDREN – AGES 6 AND YOUNGER

Family Storytime

Share books, stories, rhymes, music and movement as a family; develop early literacy skills and encourage a love of reading.

Tuesdays, January 6 – February 24, 10:00 AM

Winter Snow Party

Celebrate winter wonderland indoors with crafts, games and activities!

Tuesday, January 13, 10:00 AM

New Hours at the Alpine Township Branch:

Monday: 12:00-8:00 PM

Tuesday: 9:30 AM-5:00 PM

Wednesday: 12:00-8:00 PM

Thursday: 9:30 AM-5:00 PM

Friday: 12:00-5:00 PM

Saturday: 9:30 AM-1:30 PM

FOR ADULTS

3D Paper Snowflakes

Make a six-pointed star for any occasion, whether it's the holidays, a baby shower, graduation or just something pretty for your home. **Pre-registration is required.**

Wednesday, December 3, 6:30 PM

Sit-N-Stitch

Share ideas and skills while making new friends. Bring your own quilting, appliqué, knitting or crochet projects and supplies. This is not an instructor-led activity.

Thursdays, December 11, January 8 and February 12, 3:00 PM

Speak to a Geek

Vexed by your NOOK? Troubled by tables in Word? Get walk-in help from friendly KDL staff members who are available to help with eBook devices, email, digital photos and all things computer. Use your laptop or ours. Registration not required.

Thursdays, January 8 and February 5, 9:30 AM

"The Ridge" Reading Club

Get more out of reading! Join us for a friendly, informal discussion and good company with great books. Snacks provided.

Wednesday, January 14, 6:30 PM

The Light Between Oceans by M.L. Stedman

Wednesday, February 11, 6:30 PM

Under the Wide and Starry Sky by Nancy Horan

ALPINE TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

The Alpine Township Historical Committee welcomes Dr. Mary Jane Dockery of the Blandford Nature Center. Mary Jane's life long interest of all things in nature will surely provide an interesting presentation. Mary Jane will answer any questions from audience members and sign her new book "Rock On... Lady!"

When: Sunday, November 16, 2014 at 2:00 p.m.

Where: Alpine Community Room 2018 7 Mile Road NW

A new private school is open in Alpine Township

Earlier this year, the Township Planning Commission unanimously approved Family of Christ Lutheran Church's request to add a parochial school within its existing facility. The school serves grades 2-12. The church, located at 1100 Henze Drive, plans to add kindergarten and first grade as demand grows, as well as an outdoor playground. The pastor's wife, Barb Bowditch, is a certified teacher. Private schools and churches are both zoned for special land use in Alpine Township, so no rezoning was necessary. However, developers are required to gain approval from the township before opening any private school. (From WZZM My Town)



The [United State Fire Administration](#) (USFA) and NFPA remind you that home fires are more prevalent in winter than in any other season. People are at greater risk in the winter season when they may use unsafe heat sources or if they don't follow fire safety rules in the kitchen or while using candles.

Carbon monoxide

Carbon monoxide incidents are more common during the winter months, and in residential properties. Carbon monoxide calls to fire departments are more common during the early evening hours. Carbon monoxide (CO) is a gas. It has no odor. CO gas is poisonous. It can make a person feel sick and can be deadly. In the home, heating and cooking devices that burn fuel can be sources of carbon monoxide. CO alarms should be installed outside each sleeping area on every level of the home.

Electrical safety

Electricity is one of our basic needs. The best way to keep your home safe from electrical hazards is to take good care of appliances and to use all electrical equipment properly.

Be careful with holiday decorations. Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.

Keep lit candles away from decorations and other things that can burn.

Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.

Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Connect no more than three strands of mini light sets and a maximum of 50 bulbs for screw-in bulbs. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of LED strands to connect.

Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged.

Keep decorations away from windows and doors.

Heating

Heating equipment is one of the leading causes of home fires during the winter months. In fact, half of all home heating fires occur in December, January, and February.

Cooking

Cooking is the leading cause of home fires and related injuries.

Candles

The top three days for home candle fires are Christmas Eve, Christmas and New Year's Day.

Smoke Alarms

Smoke alarms that are properly installed and maintained play a vital role in reducing fire deaths and injuries.

Smoke alarms save lives. If there is a fire in your home, smoke spreads fast and you need smoke alarms to give you time to get out. Having a working smoke alarm cuts the chances of dying in a reported fire in half. Almost two-thirds of home fire deaths resulted from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.

Here's what you need to know!

Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level of your home.

Test your smoke alarms every month.

When a smoke alarm sounds, get outside and stay outside.

Replace all smoke alarms in your home every 10 years.



Looking for Holiday assistance or know someone that is?



Area service agencies can help!

Referral Service Hotline United Way's 2-1-1 is a free referral service hot line available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to Kent County residents. It provides information about local services and programs to those in need (utility help, gifts, counseling services, etc.). **Call 2-1-1 or Holiday Assistance Hotline 459-2625 or 1-800-877-1107.**

Gifts (*Sign-up through your local food pantry*) *Santa Claus Girls - Call 616-957-7335 to register. Registration ends December 12th

*Toys for Tots – Call 2-1-1 or 616-459-2255 or 1-800-887-1107

*Salvation Army Angel Tree – Call 2-1-1 or 616-459-2255 or 1-800-887-1107

*Other Way Ministries – 454-4011 – Commitment Deadline – November 15th

Food (*Holiday food baskets available – sign-up through your local food pantry*)

*Zion Lutheran Church – Call 784-7151

*Access of West Michigan / Food Pantries – Call 2-1-1 or 459-2255 – Website - <http://accessofwestmichigan.org/initiatives/hunger-initiative/pantry-network/find-the-pantry-nearest-you/>

*NW Food Pantry - 451-4036

*Food Stamp Hotline 1-855-275-6424

*Salvation Army Food Pantry – 1215 E. Fulton - Please call ahead 2-1-1 to check the days and hours of operation as well as what identification is needed at the time of service.

Clothes / Household Goods *Goodwill Industries – Call 532-4200, or visit goodwillgr.org.

*Value Land – Call 784-3633

*In the Image – Call 456-6150

*North Kent Service Center – Call 866-3478

*Salvation Army Thrift Store – Call 784-1404 or visit 3900 Alpine Ave.

Facing Foreclosure / Need Home Repair Home Repair Services, 1100 S. Division Ave., gets between the homeowner and mortgage company. Counselors help with setting up new payment arrangements between homeowners and lending institutions. Call 241-2601, or go online to homerepairservices.org.

Dental/Medical *Cherry Street Health Services provides preventative, restorative and emergency dental care to low-income, uninsured or underinsured families. Medical, behavioral, vision, health insurance and prescription assistance also is provided. Call 616-965-8200 ext. 7235, or visit cherryhealth.org.

*Oasis of Hope Center, 522 Leonard St. NW, provides low-cost/free medical care to economically disadvantaged and uninsured West Side Grand Rapids residents. Services include urgent care, wellness exams, ongoing disease monitoring and treatment, and cancer screening. Hours are 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday, 1-6 p.m. Wednesday and 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday. Call 451-8868, e-mail, info@oasis-of-hope-center.org, or visit ohcgr.org

*Clinica Santa Maria, 730 Grandville Avenue SW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503. Phone 616-685-8400. provides low-cost/free medical care to economically disadvantaged and uninsured Grand Rapids residents. There are no language barriers, all staff are bi-lingual.

Personal Transportation *Mel Trotter Ministries Auto Sales, 555 28th St. SE - Call 301-1415, or visit meltrotter.org.

*The RAPID – 456-7514

*Veterans Yellow Cab – 459-4646

Resources

Grand Rapids Press - www.mlive.com United Way 2-1-1 Comstock Park Community Outreach

Community Wide Holiday Activities

November 20

-6th Annual Comstock Park Educational Fund Holiday Fundraising Festival, CP Auditorium 6PM-8PM

November 22

-Art Van Santa Parade – Downtown GR 9AM

-Santa's Workshop 11:00AM-1:00PM – Grand Rapids Public Library – Following the Art Van Parade – stories, crafts, cookie decorating, Santa and Mrs Claus visit, etc. – Free

-Comstock Park Craft Show – High School, 9AM-3PM

December 3

-Pine Island Christmas Musical – HS Auditorium, 6PM

-KDL – Alpine Branch – 3D Paper Snowflakes – Adults Only, reg. required – 6:30PM

December 5

-Coopersville Santa Parade 7PM

December 6

-Comstock Park PTO Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser – Pine Island Elementary, 8AM-11AM

-Rockford Santa Parade 11AM

-John Ball Zoo – Christmas for the Animals 10AM-3PM Free entry with donation for the animals – see website

December 8

-Comstock Park Mill Creek Holiday Choir Concert – HS Auditorium, 7PM

December 10

- 5th Grade Holiday Musical - CPHS Auditorium

-KDL – Alpine Branch – Gingerbread Lane, Make a simple Gingerbread house, reg. required – 6:30PM

December 11

- CPPS 7th -12th Grade Band Concert – CPHS Auditorium 7:30PM

-Kenowa Hills Middle School Band Concert

December 13

-KDL – Comstock Park Branch – Building Blocks and Winter Craft Party – 2PM

-Breakfast with Santa at Little Pine Island Camp 9:00AM-11:00AM Call for Tickets and Details – 784-1404 ext. 211

December 17

-KDL – Alpine Branch – The Reindeer are coming – 6:30PM

December 18

-KDL – Comstock Park Branch – Make a Gingerbread House and enjoy the Reindeer – 4PM

-Kenowa Hills High—Fine Arts Holiday Concert

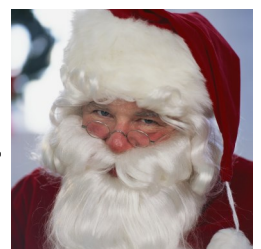
December 27

KDL – Alpine Branch – Family Building Bricks Party – 10:30AM

Nite Lites Christmas Light Display - Fifth Third Ball Park transformed into a lighted mile-long winter wonderland November 27, 2014-January 4th, 2015. Open daily 6-9PM, price per vehicle is \$15. \$2 off coupon online

Ice skating at Rosa Parks Circle begins on December 5, 2014 (weather permitting). Call 456-3699 for hours and details, Admission is \$1.00

Regretfully, Santa has announced that he will be NOT be able to stop at Dwight Lydell Park via the Marquette Rail as so many of us are accustomed to each year.



THIS LIST IS NOT COMPREHENSIVE AND PLEASE CHECK WITH EACH ENTITY FOR DATES AND TIME



Harvester

5255 Alpine Ave
Comstock Park, MI 49321
Phone: 616-784-1262
Fax: 616-784-1234
E-mail: a.arends@alpinetwp.org
www.alpinetwp.org

Alpine Township Resident



HALLOWEEN 2014



The week of Halloween, preschoolers visiting the Alpine Township Library took the time to stop by the Township Office for treats, accompanied by parents and Library Manager Shaunna Martz.



A SPECIAL THANKSGIVING

The Craig VanHaften family has special reasons to celebrate Thanksgiving this year. While getting an oil change at the Alpine Township Pennzoil with his son Chad, Craig's heart stopped. Employees were able to push the car out of the bay and sheriff's personnel responded within minutes, as did Alpine Township Fire Fighters and Life EMS personnel. Last month the VanHaftens stopped by Alpine Fire Station #1 to thank those responders who they credit for saving Craig's life.



Left to right Tim Schweitzer, Mark Nawara, Chad VanHaften, Donna VanHaften, Craig VanHaften, Nate Potter, Hanna Messer, Dale DeKorte, Ryan Coil