



MOST EXPENSIVE CITY IN THE U.S.

By Barbara J. Aleksandrowicz

The most expensive city in the United States is Alpine, New Jersey. Median home price is over \$4 million dollars (\$4,550,000) and most expensive home in the city costs...\$53 million dollars.

Alpine is an affluent borough in Bergen County, New Jersey, United States. It is a suburb of New York City, located 15 miles northwest of Midtown Manhattan.

According to the United States Census Bureau, the borough has a total area of 9.17 square miles, of which, 6.36 square miles of it is land and 2.82 square miles of it (30.75%) is water.

Alpine was formed by an Act of the New Jersey Legislature on April 8, 1903 from portions of Harrington Township. The borough gained a portion of Cresskill in 1904.

As of the 2010 Census, Alpine had a population of 1,849. The median age was 48.2. The racial and ethnic composition of the population was: 68.1% White, 2.4% Black or African American, 0.1% Native American, 26.1% Asian, 4.8% Hispanic or Latino and other races.

Alpine is governed under the borough form of New Jersey municipal government. The government consists of a mayor and a borough council comprising six council members, with all positions elected at large. A mayor is elected directly by the voters to a four-year term of office. The borough council consists of six members elected to serve three-year terms on a staggered basis, with two seats coming up for election each year.

As of 2011, the mayor of Alpine is Democrat, Paul H. Tomasko. Members of the Alpine Borough Council are Council President Vicki Frankel, Michael Cacouris, Paul Garjian, Gayle Gerstein, Sidney Merians and Steven Ornstein.



Alpine Mayor, Paul H. Tomasko (right)

As of recent years, on the national level, Alpine leans toward the Republican Party. In the 2008 presidential election, Republican John McCain received 55.5% of the vote here, over Democrat Barack Obama, who received 43.6% of the vote, with 70.0% of registered voters participating. In the 2004 election, Republican George W. Bush received 56% of the vote here, over Democrat John Kerry, who received 43%. In the 2009 Gubernatorial Election, Republican Chris Christie received 55% of the votes, defeating Democrat Jon Corzine, who received around 38%.

The Alpine Public School is a community school district serving a total of 140 students in kindergarten through eighth grade as of the 2009-10 school year. Public school students attend Tenafly High School in Tenafly for grades 9 - 12, as part of a sending/receiving relationship with the Tenafly Public Schools.

Alpine is home to the tower and laboratory built by Edwin Howard Armstrong after RCA evicted him from the Empire State Building. Armstrong's experimental FM station, W2XMN, used various frequencies to broadcast from the tower.

The laboratory building and the tower still stand; tower is home to many two-way radio users, one modern FM station (Fairleigh Dickinson University's WFDU), and backup transmitters for several of New York's television stations.

The tower served as a primary tower for the stations after September 11, 2001 when the World Trade Center was destroyed. There was some local opposition to this scheme, but the move was temporary, as the stations affected moved their primary broadcast facilities to the Empire State Building.

The original lab building is home to a static display of historic communications equipment and offices; the USA Network cable channel operated from this building in the late 1970s.



Amstrong Tower



A Stone Clock Tower

Rio Vista is an upscale neighborhood in the southern section of Alpine. Rio Vista is home to Devil's Tower, a stone clock tower that is claimed to be haunted. The tower was originally built by sugar baron Manuel Rionda (1854–1943) in order to allow his wife to see New York from the New Jersey side of the Hudson River. The legend says that when his wife saw him with another woman, she committed suicide by jumping off the tower. After becoming upset over his wife's death, Rionda stopped all work on the tower. In reality Harriet Rionda died of natural causes in 1922 and was interred nearby for approximately 20 years; her coffin was moved to Brookside Cemetery, Englewood. The estate was later sub-divided into 197 housing sites consisting of miles of roadway, infrastructure, and related facilities in the mid 1980s.

The New Jersey Section of the Palisades Interstate Park runs the length of Alpine along the top of the New Jersey Palisades and along the Hudson River.



Alpine Boat Basin

The Alpine Boat Basin serves as both a public picnic area and small marina for private boats. The area is a scenic riverfront picnic area and boat basin, plus beach for car-top boat launches (canoe and kayak), with fishing, access to hiking trails and Henry Hudson Drive, restrooms, water, vending machines, and public phones. The area also has Alpine Pavilion, an open-air stone picnic pavilion built in 1934 by the Civil Works Administration (available for rental), as well as the historic Blackledge-Kearney House.



Boat Basin Cafe





Chris Rock's mansion



Sean Combs



The Jonas Brothers



Sachin H. Jain, physician and Obama administration official



Britney Spears



Steve Wonder

Notable current and former residents of Alpine include:

Gioia Marconi Braga, daughter of Guglielmo Marconi and chairwoman of the Marconi Foundation; Sean Combs, rap artist; Johnny Damon, outfielder for the Tampa Bay Rays; Damon, hip-hop entrepreneur; Joseph Dello Russo, LASIK pioneer; Eddie Einhorn, part owner of the Chicago White Sox; Patrick Ewing, former center for the New York Knicks; Fabolous, rap artist; Henry Clay Frick II (1919–2007), physician and head of the Frick Collection; Sachin H. Jain, physician and Obama Administration official; The Jonas Brothers, American Pop Rock Boy Band; Eric Maskin, co-winner of the 2007 Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences; Eddie Murphy, comedian, actor; Joe Piscopo, actor, best known as a cast member of Saturday Night Live; Chris Rock, comedian, actor; Paul Rosenberg, an American music manager known for his association with hip hop artists Eminem, Three

6 Mafia, The Knux and pop punk band Blink-182. Also the co-founder of the hip hop record label Shady Records; CC Sabathia, pitcher for the New York Yankees; Wesley Snipes, actor; Britney Spears, singer; Stevie Wonder, musician, and many more.

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