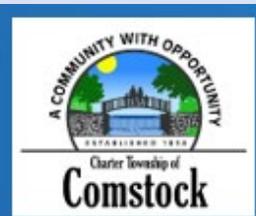




Comstock Connect Township Newsletter



Charter Township of Comstock, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49048

A Community with Opportunity

Spring 2021

Township Hours

Available by Phone
8:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.

In-Person Hours
Monday, Tuesday,
Thursday
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Wednesday
10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Friday
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Holiday Hours

In observance of the
upcoming Holidays our
office
Will be closed:
Memorial Day- May 31st
Independence Day- July 5th
Labor Day- September 6th

Township Board Supervisor

Randy Thompson
Clerk

Nicole Beauchamp
Treasurer

Bret Padgett

Trustees

Jerry Amos

Terry McIver

Jason Knight

Clyde "Bub" Sherwood

Transfer Station Summer Hours

April 1- October 31
Tuesdays & Thursdays
11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Saturdays
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Charter Township of Comstock Board

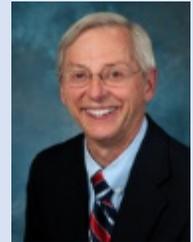
Contact: jerryamosforcomstock@gmail.com

Name & Title: Jerry Amos, Trustee (3rd Term)

Background: Lifelong resident of Comstock. I attended Comstock Public Schools and graduated from the "old" high school. My wife of 47 years, Shirley, and I have two sons who also graduated from Comstock Public Schools. I worked at Interkal, LLC on Cork Street in Comstock for 34 years. I held the position of Facilities and Safety Manager and have many years of management experience in manufacturing. I currently serve as a Precinct Delegate in precinct 2. I attend Northeastern Baptist Church and I volunteer at Michigan Youth Challenge Academy for at-risk youth. I am a graduate of KVCC and a veteran of the United States Navy.

Why I ran: I ran for trustee to affect decisions that will better all the citizens and business owners of Comstock Township.

Goals for next 4 years: My pledge to Comstock is integrity, honesty, trustworthiness, and fiscal responsibility. As a fellow citizen, I am concerned with what concerns you in our community.



Contact: tmciver@comstockmi.gov

Name & Title: Terry McIver, Trustee (2nd Term)

Background: 64-year Comstock resident, 39-year Comstock Small Businessman, Gull Road Automotive Company, 25 + years ASE Master Automotive Technician Western Michigan University Graduate, Bachelor of Science in Automotive Engineering and Minor in Business Past Member, Advisory Board Auto Academy at KVCC Past member of EFE (Education for Employment) through Comstock Schools

Why I ran: I ran for a trustee position to work with an administrative team that was focused on moving the community forward in a positive manner that would benefit all residents going forward.

Goals for the next 4 years: As of now I will work with our community leaders in the areas of eliminating litter and blight, continue promoting Redevelopment Ready Community status that the planning and zoning department has been moving forward on, to make our community more inviting to our residents as well as attracting new business and new residents.

What is an interesting thing you would like to share about yourself? I have always been attracted to aviation. My Dad was a military pilot and now our son is an airline captain with a major airline. Boating was a long-time passion that has kept us on Lake Michigan, Torch Lake, and many other inland lakes in Michigan.

Contact: jknight@comstockmi.gov, 269-217-4908

Name & Title: Jason Knight, Trustee (1st Term)

Background: U.S. Army Desert Storm Veteran, 15 years of supervisory experience. 5 years of working in the community as a Peer Support/Recovery Coach and outreach worker.

Why I ran: To build on the work the previous boards have started. Lift the concerns of the community and work towards solutions to their concerns.

Goals for next 4 years: To make Comstock Township the role model in Kalamazoo County with policy and leadership.

What is an interesting thing you would like to share about yourself? I have been in recovery for seven plus years for mental illness and addiction. This

journey has been very enlightening and rewarding. It has proven to me that individuals can make changes. I have also learned that we need to see the community as individuals as often as possible when considering policy.





Contact: bubsauto@yahoo.com

Name & Title: Clyde (Bub) Sherwood, Trustee and Planning Board Commissioner, liaison between the two. (1st Term)

Background: 1973 Comstock High School graduate and my family has been in Comstock for over 100 years. I worked at Gull Road Automotive for 25 years until I started Bub Sherwood's Auto Repair in 2002. I was on the Parks and Recreation Board for six years and was a chairperson for three years. I helped start Comstock Daze and organized and ran it for two years. I also sat as an alternate on the ZBA Board.

Goals for the next 4 years: To help promote Comstock Township, bring the citizens, schools, and businesses together to make the best community possible.

What is an interesting thing you would like to share about yourself: I love fund raising for organizations. In 12 years of Comstock Daze 2000-2012, we gave 2500 fishing poles to the kids, the last year I was there we gave \$10,000 to the Great Lakes Burn Camp, as we raised money for them every year. I helped raise money for project graduation 2013, Ran a Golf Outing at Hickory Ridge for five years to raise money for Western Michigan University Bass Fishing Team. Was Founding member of The Rod Benders Car Club who now Host the NSRA Nationals North every year in Kalamazoo. I raised money for many charities when I was involved. Most importantly I love my God, my family, and my community, and I am blessed to serve my community.

Treasurer Report

Contact: 269-381-2360, bpadgett@comstockmi.gov

Name & Title: Bret Padgett, Treasurer (3rd term)

Background: I am a lifelong resident of Comstock Township, where I currently reside with my wife and three children. I graduated from Galesburg-Augusta High School in 1995 and from Western Michigan University in 2002. I was first elected Treasurer in 2012 and am currently serving my third term.

Why I ran: I had a strong desire to serve my community and my aunt Joann, who was a longtime community activist, encouraged me to run for public office. My education and background led me to run for the position of Treasurer.

Goals for next 4 years: I want to continue to focus on road repairs and dedicate additional funds to roads, particularly a dedicated road millage. I also want to continue to repair, upgrade, and modernize our parks and green space.

What is an interesting thing you would like to share about yourself? I am third generation public servant. My grandfather and father were firefighters for Comstock Fire & Rescue. My grandfather and grandmother worked for Comstock Public Schools as head custodian and school bus driver, respectively.

Important Property Tax Information for 2021

June 1- Summer PREforms due.

June 30- Summer tax bills mailed to address on file. Taxpayers should verify addresses and update with Treasurer if necessary.

July 1- Summer property taxes are available.

September 14- Summer property taxes must be received by 5:00 p.m. to avoid interest charge. Summer tax deferment forms are also due by 5:00 p.m.

September 15- Interest charge of 1% is added to unpaid tax amounts. Additional 1% added on the first of each month thereafter. until paid. Visit www.comstockmi.gov for more details.



DUE TO CONTRACTOR EQUIPMENT AND LABOR ISSUES, WE WILL NOT BE HAVING A 2021 SPRING CURBSIDE PICKUP. A TRANSFER STATION TICKET WAS INCLUDED IN YOUR ASSESSMENT NOTICES

Contact Information

6138 King Highway
Kalamazoo, MI 49048
P.O. Box 449
Comstock, MI 49041
Ph. (269) 381-2360
Fax. (269) 381-4328
info@comstockmi.gov

Get Connected

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter at Charter Township of Comstock.

Want to stay informed?

Text "Comstock" to 888-777 to receive real-time announcements, weather alerts, Newsletters, and other notifications from our office.

Parks and Recreation Board

Director

Vanessa Street

Program Coordinator

Rachel Roon

Commission Members

Judy Joling

Marc Rizzolo

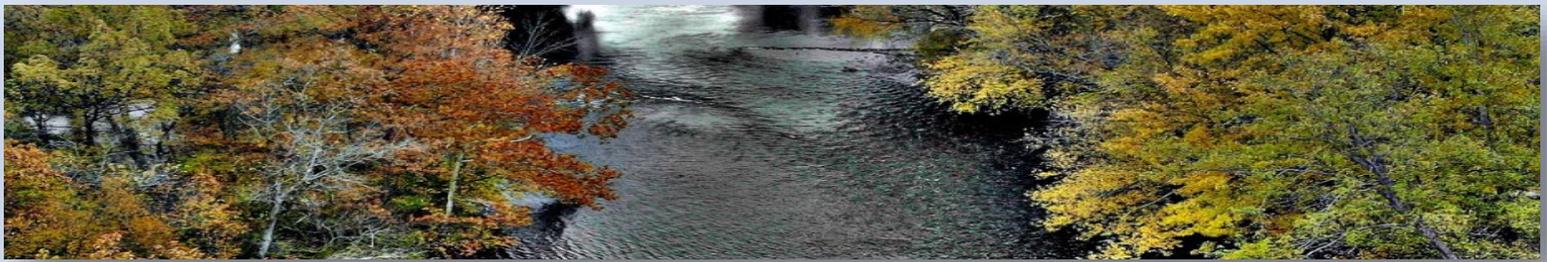
Marla Schwartz

John Weir

Teresa Young

Contact Information:

parks@comstockmi.gov



Supervisor's Desk

Contact: supervisor@comstockmi.gov, 269-381-2360 (office), 269-217-3943 (cell)

Name & Title: Randy Thompson, Supervisor (2nd Term)

Background: Joined the Kalamazoo Township Fire Dept in 1977, where I still serve as Captain. Served as Lieutenant on the Comstock Fire Department for 16 years. Served on the Kalamazoo County Reserve Division in 1979 until 1984, then joined the Kalamazoo Township Police Reserve division until 1994. Served on the fundraising committee for the Great Lakes Burn Camp. Served on Comstock Township Board of Trustees from 2008-2012 currently serving as liaison to KABA.

Why I ran: I am passionate about our community and dedicated to serving the people of Comstock.

Goals for next 4 years: Continue to work as a team to serve the citizens of our community by bringing more business and residential growth to Comstock, improving our blight enforcement, improving the infrastructure of the township, which includes roads, parks, water, and sewer, fostering good working relations with other townships and cities, striving to make Comstock Township a family friendly place to work and live.

What is an interesting thing you would like to share about yourself: I was practically born into public life with my father serving in the United States Navy and continuing his public service as a Sergeant for The Kalamazoo City Police Department. After retiring, my father went on to serve as a Kalamazoo County Commission for 12 years. My bio above shows how I have also dedicated my life to service from a young age.

Frequent Questions from Residents

I wanted to share some of the most frequently asked questions and the answers to them:

Q: What is going on at H Ave and Sprinkle?

A: It is privately owned, and the owner is clearing their lot

Q: What is going on the south side of Gull Road next to Bobick's?

A: It is the staging area for the MDOT's roundabout work at G Ave and Gull Road

Q: What is going in across from Menards's on Gull Road?

A: It is a Drive and Shine car wash

We are continuing to upgrade our roads. The roads that are scheduled to be worked on this year can be found on our website. Visit <https://comstockmi.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Comstock-Township-2021-Road-Projects.pdf> for more details.



Parks & Recreation Programs & Events

For more information, or to register, please call 269-343-8212 or email Parks@comstockmi.gov

May 26th- Ribbon Cutting at Merrill Park at 4:30 p.m.

May 31st – VFW Memorial Day Parade

June 12th – Build a Bat House or Bird House Workshop at Robert Morris Park

July 16th – Roller Rink Night at Merrill Park

July 24th – Dino Dig at Robert Morris Park (2–6-year-olds)

August 3rd – National Night Out with Comstock Fire Department at Merrill Park

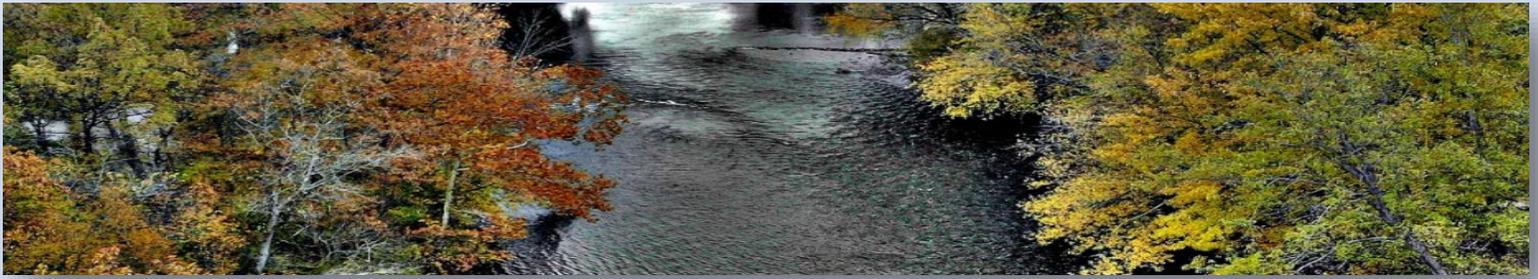
August 21st – Kayak the Kalamazoo River

October 23rd – Halloween Bike Parade at Merrill Park

Adult Softball Registration Now Open – 11-week season with double elimination playoffs

Volunteers Needed - Be a part of an exciting playground build at Robert Morris Park Sept 9th& 10th





Clerk's Corner

Contact: clerk@comstockmi.gov 269-381-2360

Name & Title: Nicole Beauchamp, Clerk (1st term)

Background: I graduated from Comstock High School in 1997 and earned a BA from Western Michigan University in 2003. My work experience has been in administration and business. I have owned and operated businesses in addition to co-founding and directing a non-profit that focused on grassroots development in Africa. I have worked in an administrative capacity most of my working life.

Why I ran: I understood some of the issues that the community and the clerk position specifically was facing, and I knew I had the skills and drive to address the issues. I knew I would not (and do not) have all the answers but am a problem solver and do not stop until a solution is found.

Goals as for next 4 years: To increase communication with the community by sharing accurate and useful information. To make information more visible and accessible to the residents. To create a better organizational system internally so work is done more efficiently. To address the long-standing issues that our cemeteries face.

What is an interesting thing you would like to share about yourself? I love to travel and have been to almost every US state and many world countries. I have traveled to Africa 10+ times and most recently visited southern Africa on a safari tour. The trip was the epitome of adventure. I slept in a tent among elephants, swam on the edge of Victoria Falls, paddled the Zambezi River, stood face to face with rhinos, canoed among hippos and was lucky enough to see the "big five" at Kruger National Park (lion, leopard, rhino, elephant, and African buffalo). What an incredible experience!



Election News

We have a Special Election coming up on May 4th, 2021. If you requested an absent voter application, you should have received a postcard application in the mail the first week or two in March. If you requested a permanent absent voter application in the past, remember this does not mean you will automatically receive a **ballot** each election. It means you will automatically receive an **application** and will need to complete the application every election to receive a ballot. If you have not signed up for an absent voter ballot application or did and have not received the application, please call us at 269-381-2360.

The special election will consist of the renewal of the Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency (KRESA) Special Education Millage Proposal" which all 7 precincts will vote

on. Precinct 1 will also vote on "Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools Bonding Proposal". To view your sample ballot visit [Michigan.gov/vote](https://www.michigan.gov/vote)

Cemetery Updates

Comstock has two cemeteries, Comstock Cemetery, located behind the old adult education building on School Road by the bus garage and Maple Grove Cemetery, located behind the "AZO" business park.

Cemetery management is a duty that falls under the Clerk's Department. As a new clerk, I have quickly realized our cemeteries need a little TLC. Record keeping has changed over the years and from clerk to clerk. We are starting to use a new software system in our office and are in the process of scanning and entering everything into this software, which will make data management much easier and smoother. Right now, we have our cemetery burial search turned off on our website until our records are all updated. If you have purchased a burial plot and your contact information has changed since the purchase, please call us to update your information.

Our ordinance, while in place since 1995, has not been consistently enforced in the past and it appears many graves are not in compliance with the ordinance. Remember, it is the family's responsibility to clean and manage their loved one's graves. A portion of the ordinance is posted on a sign at the entrance of each cemetery. The entire ordinance can be found on our website.



Cemeteries



Welcoming Spring! We will be turning on the water at Maple Grove and Comstock Cemeteries April 15th, 2021.

This sign states that “The Township will remove all winter artificial flowers and wreaths not removed April 15 of each year...”. The date will be extended through April 30th this year to allow more time to not only remove these items but any other items that may be in noncompliance with the ordinance. These items may include flowers, shrubs, trees, or vegetation that may have been planted, any containers, decals, edging such as stones, fences, or railings. All these items must be removed by April 30th. Any items left after this date will be removed by the Township.

Enforcing the ordinance makes the cemeteries easier to maintain and creates a more consistent appearance.



Cemetery Committee

The Township Board approved the formation of a cemetery Committee at our February 1, 2021 board meeting. This is an advisory committee and any recommendations made by the committee will be brought before the Township Board for approval. The committee was formed to address issues the cemeteries are facing, reviewing the ordinance, ordinance enforcement and beautifying the cemeteries. The committee consists of Nicole Beauchamp (Clerk), Kelly Sims (Deputy Clerk), Bub Sherwood (Trustee), Jason Knight (Trustee), Judy Joling (community member) Dorothy Steffey-Wagner (community member), and Bob Pratt (community member). The cemetery committee meetings will be open to the public and meeting times will be posted on our website and on the entrance door to the Township office. The first meeting was held on February 23rd and a preliminary review of the ordinance and discussion regarding the enforcement of the ordinance took place. The next meeting is scheduled for May 11th at 12:00 p.m. and will be held at the Township Hall.





Comstock

Comstock Township

VOLUNTEERS WANTED



CEMETERY CLEAN UP

ON SATURDAY, MAY 22ND

We need your help to beautify and clean up our cemeteries. Contact the Clerk's office at 269-381-2360 or clerk@comstockmi.gov to sign up.



Comstock Township

Department of Fire & Rescue



BBQ/Grill Safety:

Spring is here and the weather is getting warmer, more people are using outdoor grills. Three out of five households own a gas grill, which means a lot of great food and family times. But it also means there is a notable risk of home fires. Home fires involved grills, hibachis, or barbecues, and almost half of all grilling injuries involved thermal burns. Although many (nearly half) of grillers do so year-round, grilling fires peak in July, followed by May, June, and August.

While gas grills cause more home fires than charcoal grills, everyone needs to remember that all types of grills pose a risk for fires and burn injuries. According to a NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) report, over one-quarter (27 percent) of home grill fires started on an exterior balcony or open porch, another 27 percent started in a courtyard, terrace or patio, and eight percent began in the kitchen. As friends and families get ready for the grilling season, make sure the grill is working properly, and review safety tips. The leading causes of home grilling fires are failing to properly clean the grill or having a flammable object too close to the grill. It is also important to check the grill for damage before using it for the first time each year, and then to check it regularly. Regardless of the type of grill you own (gas or charcoal), here are some BBQ safety tips that will keep you and your home safe for barbecuing season:

Safety Tips

- Propane and charcoal BBQ grills should only be used outdoors.
- The grill should be placed away from the home or deck railings, and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- Always make sure your gas grill lid is open before lighting it.
- Children and pets should be at least three feet away from the grill area.
- Keep your grill clean by removing grease and fat buildup from the grates and trays below.
- Never leave your grill unattended.

Comstock Township Firefighter's Memorial update:

Everything is complete at the Firefighter's Memorial on Comstock Ave, next to Merrill Park, except the bronze statue of fallen Chief Ed Switalski, which we are still raising funds for. We are hoping to hold a Grand Opening and Dedication sometime this spring in conjunction with Merrill Park. Please stop by to look at the beautiful memorial.





WHAT'S HAPPENING AT



Comstock Township Library

Where community meets the world.



services

- WE ARE FINE-FREE!
- COMPUTERS
- PRINTING
- MOBILE PRINTING
- COPYING
- FAXING - FREE
- WIFI
- NOTARY
- BOOK SALE ROOM
- WEEKLY STORY TIMES
- HOTSPOT RENTALS
- HOMEBOUND SERVICES
- VHS TO DVD CONVERSION
- MEETING ROOM
- STUDY ROOMS
- LOCAL HISTORY ROOM
- YOUTH DEPT
- +INFANTS/CHILDREN
- +TEEN/YOUNG ADULT
- TAKE-HOME PROGRAMS
- EXAM PROCTORING

6130 KING HIGHWAY
KALAMAZOO, MI 49048
269-345-0136

HOURS

MONDAY: FRIDAY: 10 AM - 6 PM
SATURDAY: 10 AM - 2 PM

SUMMER READING PROGRAM
REGISTRATION BEGINS:



JUNE 1ST

UPDATES

The library is open to the public! While we anticipate staying open, things may change. You can keep up to date with any closings/restrictions through our website and social media pages.

CURBSIDE

We are still offering curbside services for patrons who aren't comfortable entering the building. You may take advantage of this option by calling the library. You still have the option of choosing your own books, or having staff suggest materials.

HOMEBOUND SERVICES

Our Homebound Service provides library materials to Comstock Township residents who are unable to visit the library either temporarily, due to an illness or accident, or permanently due to disability, age, or other mobility issues. The service includes the selection of materials by a librarian and delivery of those materials to a residence.

Certain restrictions apply and an application form must be filled out before starting service.

COVID-19 MEASURES AT A GLANCE



MASKS MUST BE WORN CORRECTLY BY EVERYONE AGE 4 AND OLDER.

HAND SANITIZER IS AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT THE LIBRARY.



BARRIERS ARE IN PLACE AT DESKS. PATRONS MUST USE SOCIAL DISTANCING.

ALL MATERIALS ARE PUT INTO A 48-HOUR QUARANTINE BEFORE BEING CHECKED IN



www.comstocklibrary.org
@comstocktownshiplibrary

