



Comstock Connect Township Newsletter

Charter Township of Comstock, Kalamazoo Michigan

A Community with Opportunity

July 2022

Township Hours Monday,
Tuesday, Thursday 8:00
a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Wednesday
8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

Friday
8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Township Board

Supervisor
Randy Thompson

Clerk
Nicole Beauchamp

Treasurer
Bret Padgett

Trustees
Jerry Amos
Terry McIver
Jason Knight
Clyde "Bub" Sherwood

Superintendent

Scott Hess

Transfer Station

April 1-October 31

Tuesdays & Thursdays
11:00 a.m.- 6:00 p.m

Saturday
9:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.

Summer Safety

With summer around the corner, we're excited for the nicer weather. However, we also want to make sure everyone is prepared for potential severe weather. So, we grabbed some tips from [Ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov/).

Extreme Heat

[Extreme Heat](#) is defined as temperatures above 90 degrees for two or more days. For times like this, you need to remember:

- Know the signs of [heat illness](#), such as Heat Stroke, Heat Cramps, and Heat Exhaustion
 - Heat Cramps and Heat Exhaustion can be treated by cooling the person down and giving sips of a sports drink or water
 - If someone is suffering from heat stroke, call 911 or get them to a hospital ASAP. Cool them down with whatever you can, but DO NOT GIVE THEM ANYTHING TO DRINK
- Don't rely on fans as your primary cooling device. They may make you more comfortable, but they don't reduce your body temperature.
- Identify place, such as libraries, shopping malls or cooling centers, to cool off if you need to
- Cover your windows with drapes, shades, or window reflectors to reflect heat outside

Thunderstorms and Lightning

Lightning is the leading cause of weather-related injury and death. Thunderstorms can also potentially cause winds of over 50 mph, hail, flash flooding, and tornadoes.

- Go indoors or get into a car with a roof immediately.
- Avoid using electrical devices that are plugged into an outlet.
- Do not drive through floodwater
- Watch for fallen trees or power lines and if you see one:
 - Call 911 FIRST
 - Call Consumers at 800-477-5050
 - Call the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County regarding downed trees during business hours.

Have an Emergency Plan in place for your family

Sign up for local Emergency Alerts: <https://local.nixle.com/signup/widget/i/8441>

- Go to the Township Hall or on our website to sign up for Nixle alerts.
- Make an Emergency Plan and consider:
 - What is our [shelter](#) plan?
 - Do I have an [evacuation](#) route?
 - Do we have an [emergency preparedness kit](#)?
 - Are we [tech ready](#)?



Township Reports

Nicole Beauchamp, Township Clerk
(269) 381-2360
clerk@comstockmi.gov



Below are deadlines to keep in mind as we approach the August 2nd Primary Election.

Last day to register to vote in any manner other than in-person with the local Clerk.

Register to vote in-person with proof of residency with the local Clerk only.

Up to 5:00 pm - Voters may obtain an absent voter ballot via First Class mail.

Up to 5:00 pm - Voters may submit a written request to spoil their absent voter ballot to receive a new ballot by mail.

8:00am – 4:00pm – Clerk’s office is open to register voters and issue absent voter ballots.

Up to 10:00am - Voters who have returned their absent voter ballot may submit a written request in person to spoil their absent voter ballot and receive a new ballot in the Clerk’s office.

Up to 4:00pm - Voters may obtain a voter ballot in person at the Clerk’s office.

Up to 4:00pm - Voters who have lost their absent voter ballot or not yet received their ballot in the mail may submit a written request in person to spoil their absent voter ballot and receive a new ballot in the Clerk’s office.

Up to 4:00pm - Emergency absentee voting.

Up to 8:00pm - Election Day registrants may obtain and vote an absent voter ballot in person in the Clerk’s office or vote in person in the proper precinct.

Bret Padgett, Treasurer
(269) 381-2360
bpadgett@comstockmi.gov



Property Tax Bills were mailed out on July 1st. If you do not receive yours, please contact our office as soon as possible. Please take time to look over the bill and call us with any questions.



Federal Funding Awarded for Fire Department Traffic Signal Preemption Devices in Comstock Township

The Road Commission of Kalamazoo County (RCKC) announced that they were approved for federal funding through the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) in the amount of \$333,000. This funding is the first of its kind in Michigan to be awarded for this type of Highway Safety Improvement Program project to an agency. The RCKC was notified of the award on December 2, 2020. The project, approved for fiscal year 2022, is a collaborative effort between the RCKC and Comstock Township.

The devices use Global Positioning System (GPS) tracking to communicate to the traffic signals to adjust traffic patterns, essentially flushing out the area to give the fire department improved response times, improved safety, and reduced liability. This means when a Comstock Township fire truck or emergency response vehicle approaches the upgraded signal the light would be shifted to green for them and cross-traffic would be halted. This would reduce both head-on and side-impact crashes.

“What really drove [me] to pursue this technology in the Township is the limited sight intersections along Sprinkle Road,” shared Matt Beauchamp, Fire Chief for Comstock Township. “We regularly cross Sprinkle Road for emergency responses and many times motorists on Sprinkle Road are caught by surprise when we approach an intersection. Our Township Superintendent, Scott Hess, worked with us to secure funding and our Township board unanimously voted in support of the project. The project calls for all signal-controlled intersections in the Township, including our borders, and all department owned vehicles to be outfitted with the technology.” In addition to reduced collisions and emergency response times, the technology is expected to save wear and tear on department vehicles by minimizing aggressive stops and turns at signal-controlled intersections.

“Introducing this new technology and partnering with the Comstock Township Fire Department for implementation is another innovative and collaborative attempt by RCKC to promote safety on our roadways in Kalamazoo County,” states Jim Hoekstra, RCKC Traffic and Project Engineer. “We hope that showcasing this technology and the benefits to safety and improved responsiveness with Comstock Township may lead to other emergency service implementations in the county.” The scope of work for the grant includes the installation of the signal upgrade at 20 signals in Comstock Township and 15 vehicle kits for emergency response vehicles. Because the funding is awarded for fiscal year 2022 the construction will not begin until that year. Impacts to traffic during construction are expected to be minimal.

To learn more about the Opticom Traffic Signal Preemption System, please use the QR code below:





What are we working on this summer

Due to the high prices of asphalt, Comstock Township and the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County of decided to focus on repairing roads and wait to work on maintenance projects. Take a look at our projects below:

Gleason Street area

We're repaving Homer Street, Jones Street, Level Street, and Hunt Street from M-96 to Gleason Street.

(Photo: Homer Street)



Electra Street area

We're repaving Collette Avenue, Benedict Avenue, Shields Street, and Daniel Street from 1,300 feet north of Electra Street to Electra Street.

(Photo: The intersection of Shields St. and Electra St.)



Bailey Street area

Saginaw Drive and Ligget Street will be paved from 28th Street to Bailey Street.

(Photo: Ligget St.)



Other projects

Roe Street from Market Street to Celery Street.
Landing Way from 1,600 Feet from G Avenue to G Avenue.

(Photo: Roe St.)





July is Parks and Recreation Month!

Make sure you're following our Parks and Rec department on Facebook for fun activities and information throughout the month!

Here are just a few of the great things Comstock Parks has to offer:

Park passes for everyone!

Park Passes are available for Robert Morris Park. A season pass is \$20 per vehicle, \$10 for seniors (60+), and a day pass is \$5. Day Passes and Season Passes are available at the gate. Season Passes are also available at the Township Office.

DINO-sized fun for the little ones!

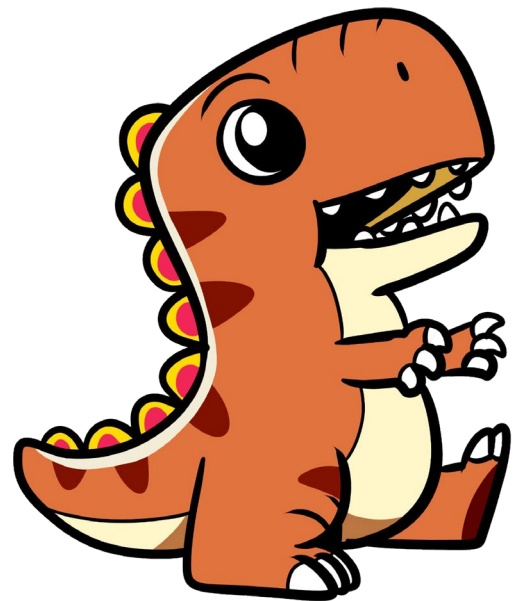
Do you have a 2–6-year-old who loves dinosaurs? Then sign up for our FREE Dino Dig! It's Saturday, July 30th. There are 2 sessions, one from 11 a.m. -12:30 p.m. and another from 12:30 p.m.-2 p.m. Sign up by emailing parks@comstockmi.gov or calling 269-343-8212 option 2.

Healthy fun for the grown-ups.

Fall Adult Softball is open for registration. Two leagues are available. The men's league plays on Wednesday and the coed league plays on Mondays.

Space to Gather.

Looking for an awesome space for your next party, family reunion or other big gathering? We have pavilions to rent in both [Robert Morris Park](#) and [Merrill Park](#).



Help us keep our parks safe and clean!

If you see something, say something. If you see someone dumping trash or other unlawful activities, please contact 269-343-8212 or email us at parks@comstockmi.gov. You can also contact the Kalamazoo Sheriff's Department through the non-emergency line 269-383-8821. If safe, try to record a plate number. We also have a complaint form [online](#).



Comstock
Township
Library

Where community meets the world.

Library Hours

Monday-Thursday 9:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Friday 9:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Saturday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Library Contact

269-345-0136

Info@comstocklibrary.org

www.comstocklibrary.org

Family Concert: Benjamin

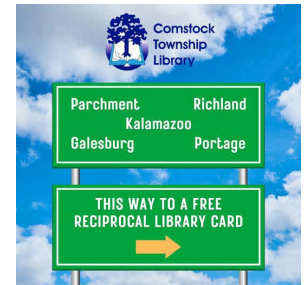
Saturday, June 18, 2022 11:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.

Ready for some great music everyone can dance and play to, and learn from? Come see musician Benjamin! We're hosting a free family concert, great for all ages. No registration required.

Benjamming is a Vicksburg based artist who preforms education music from Kalamazoo, to New Jersey, to New York and San Francisco.

Who can get a card? You can!

Anyone who lives, works, or owns properties in Comstock can get a library card. Residents of neighboring communities may also qualify for a library card. Contact the library for more information.



FREE GIFT!

NOW AVAILABLE



Comstock Township Library will be giving out goodie bags to all new cardholders!

They will receive: a reusable tote (big enough for an armful of books!), a CTL notepad and pen (with stylus), and a coupon for a free book from the Book Sale room!

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
- LOCAL HISTORY ROOM
- YOUTH DEPT
 - +INFANTS/CHILDREN
 - +TEEN/YOUNG ADULT
- TAKE-HOME PROGRAMS
- EXAM PROCTORING



COMSTOCK FIRE & RESCUE



A JOB LIKE NO OTHER

CHALLENGING

FAST PACED

REWARDING

COMMUNITY
INVOLVEMENT

TRAINING
PROVIDED

COMPETITIVE
WAGES

PAID-ON-CALL FIREFIGHTER RECRUITMENT

Comstock Fire & Rescue is now accepting applications for Paid-On-Call Firefighters. No prior experience required if you live within the Township. We will provide sponsorship to the 2023 Kalamazoo County Fire Chief's Association Fire Academy and the Fall 2022 Medical First Responder Class to qualified candidates

The men and women of Comstock Township Department of Fire & Rescue provide 24/7 essential fire suppression and investigation, education, rescue, and emergency medical services to over 15,000 residents and visitors, responding to over 2,100 requests for service each year.

Visit our website @ www.comstockfire.com to download an application. Printed applications can be hand-delivered at Station 9-3 (8700 E. Michigan Ave, Galesburg, MI) or mailed to P.O. Box 8, Comstock, MI 49041. You may also e-mail your application to kdouglas@comstockmi.gov.



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