



Comstock Connect

A Community with Opportunity

Township Office 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

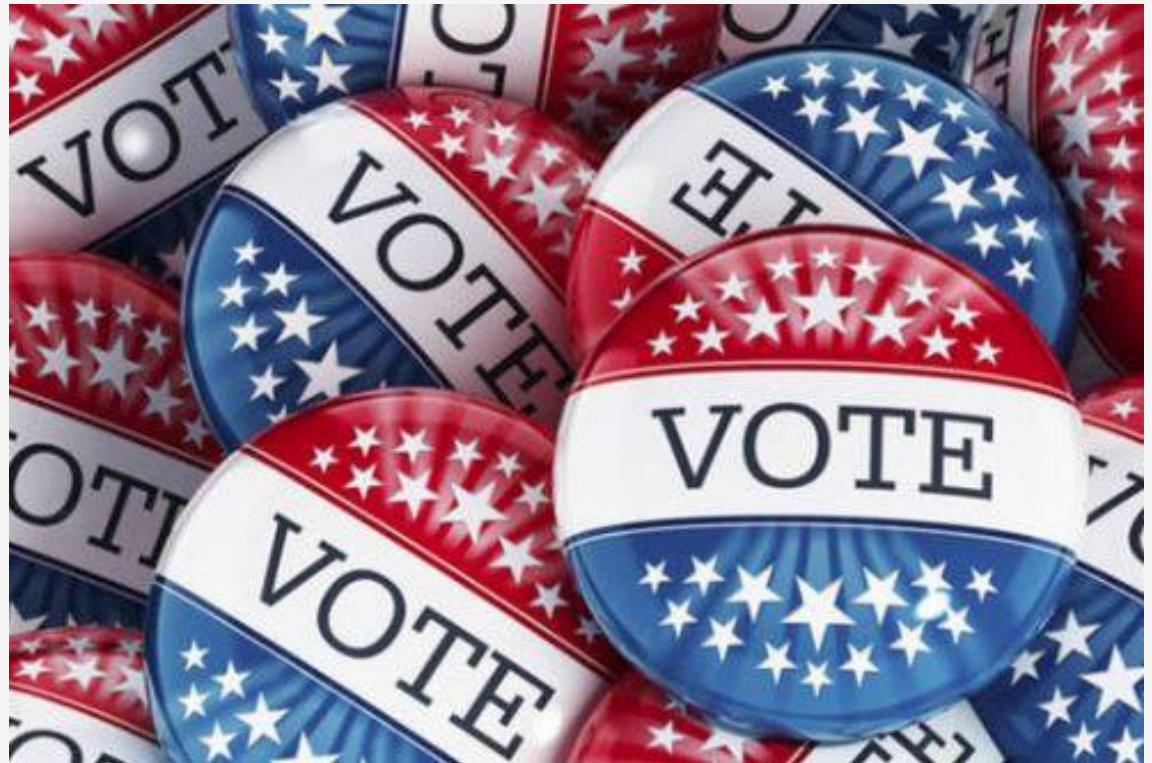
Trustees
Jerry Amos
Terry McIver
Jason Knight
Clyde "Bub" Sherwood

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.



August Primary

The August Primary is taking place Tuesday, Aug. 2nd.

Polls open at 7 a.m. and close at 8 p.m. You can find your polling place and sample ballots online at <https://comstockmi.gov/election/>.

On the ballot are Gubernatorial, Judicial, and County Commissioner Candidates as well as local proposals and precinct delegates.

After August's primary election, we will begin looking for election inspectors for the November Election. To apply to be an election inspector, email clerk@comstockmi.gov.

Registration

The November General election is 3 months away

Even if you didn't vote in the primary, you can still vote in the November election. We will have more information available as we get closer.

To register to vote, go to :

<https://mVIC.sos.state.mi.us/register/voter>

You can register in person at the clerks office up to 8 p.m. on November 8th.



Township Messages

Randy Thompson, Township Supervisor
(269) 381-2360 ext. 126
supervisor@comstockmi.gov



With the school year just around the corner, it's time to think about those in our community who may be struggling to buy the supplies that can help their children to succeed academically this school year.

As always, we will have school supply drive bins outside both the Township Office and Library. If you have the means, please consider donating with us, or other wonderful organizations that are working to help those in need.

Nicole Beauchamp, Township Clerk
(269) 381-2360 ext. 111
clerk@comstockmi.gov



What to do if you receive election mail for a former resident?

Follow the steps below for election mail received for a former resident:

1. If the voter has moved, write "no longer at this address" on the envelope and place it back in the mail. As required by law, the clerk will send a confirmation notice to the voter. If the voter does not respond to the notice and does not vote for two consecutive federal elections, the voter will be cancelled. They will also be put on "verify" status, which requires the voter to complete a form confirming eligibility before voting. A voter can also request to have their registration cancelled immediately with a signed written request.
2. If the voter has died, write "deceased" on the envelope and place it back in the mail. Your clerk will review the record as required by law and will cancel the voter registration upon confirmation of death.

Bret Padgett, Township Treasurer
(269) 381-2360 ext. 120
treasurer@comstockmi.gov



Summer property tax season is in full swing. If you expected to receive a property tax bill and it has not arrived, please contact the Township Treasurer to make sure your correct address is on file. Property tax payments can be made in-person at the Township office, using our drop box located near our front entrance, or online at www.comstockmi.gov. We accept cash, check, money order, electronic check (\$3 fee), and major credit cards (3% fee). To avoid interest charges, payment must be received by 5:00 p.m. on September 14, 2022. Postmarks are accepted if payment is received by September 21, and the Township is not responsible for lost mail or mail delays. As a reminder, MCL 211.44 states the following:

1. Failure to receive a tax bill does not preclude the collection of taxes
2. The Township Treasurer is required to charge interest for payments received after 5:00 p.m. on September 14
3. The Township Treasurer does not have the authority to waive interest
4. Postmarks can only be considered within seven calendar days of actual receipt

Announcements

New Employee at the Fire and Rescue Department



Kim Gorenz,

Administrative Assistant, Comstock Fire and Rescue Department

"I grew up in Comstock and attended Comstock Public Schools. When the opportunity arose for this position, I thought it would be great to go back to the community I grew up in and loved. I am married and have two children and now live in the Otsego area. I love coaching my kids' sports teams, watching football on Sundays (Go Bears!), and spending time with my family. I am very happy to be back in my hometown."

Important Dates

Township Board Meeting

The Township Board is meeting on Monday, August 15th and Monday, August 29th at 6:00 P.M.

Planning Commission Board Meeting

The Planning Commission is meeting on Thursday, August 11th and Thursday, August 25th at 7:00 P.M.

Parks and Recreation Board Meeting

The Parks and Recreation Board is meeting on Monday August 8th at 6:00 P.M.

The Downtown Development Authority Meeting

The Downtown Development Authority is meeting on Wednesday, August 24th at 5:00 P.M.

The Zoning Board of Reviews Meeting

The Zoning Board of Reviews is meeting on Tuesday, August 23rd at 4:00 P.M.

National Night Out

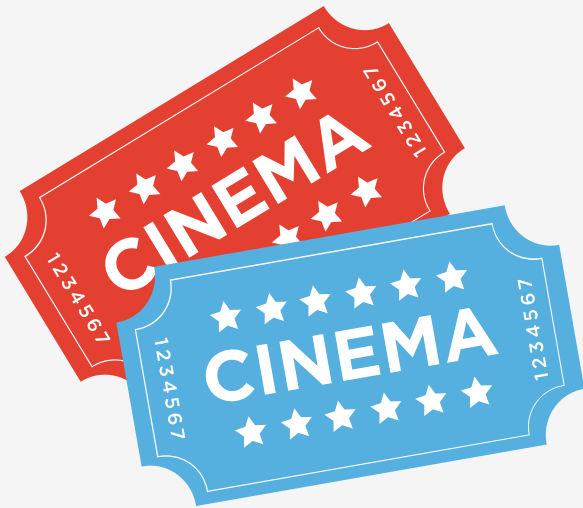
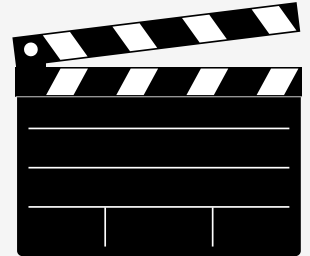
National Night Out is Tuesday, August 2nd, from 5:00 P.M.- 7:00 P.M.

Election Day

Election Day is Tuesday, August 2nd, polls open at 7:00 A.M. and you need to be in line by 8:00 P.M. to vote.

A Walk in the Park

Movie in the Park



We're excited to announce that we're hosting the first ever Movie in the Park on August 20. Come watch "The Lego Movie," with us in Merrill Park.

Concessions will be available for purchase.

It's not too late

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. Passes are available at the gate. Season Passes are also available at the Township Office.



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 County 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](#).



Fire and Rescue

Retirement Announcement:

Congratulations to Deputy Chief David Wuis on his upcoming retirement from Comstock Fire & Rescue. Deputy Chief Wuis will have served over 32 years on the department when he retires on August 2, 2022. Most of his years on the department have been in a formal leadership role as a Lieutenant, Captain, Assistant Chief, Deputy Chief as well as acting Fire Chief. A lot of hard work, sleepless nights, and time away from family was put in. Dave has responded to many emergency scenes making a significant impact on public safety within the community and surrounding area. He was an integral part of countless fires, rescues, and EMS operations. His “can do” attitude and leadership has taken the department forward in many aspects. Dave’s many years of experience will be missed for sure. We wish him well in his retirement and are grateful for all the hard work and dedication to the department and community.



Comstock Library

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

Monthly Book Club

The Monthly book club will be meeting on Wednesday, August 31st at 11 a.m. to discuss 1000 Years of Joy and Sorrows. The memoir by Chinese Artist Weiwei recounts the oppression he and his poet father Ai Qing faced in China. Registration is required.

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.



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

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!

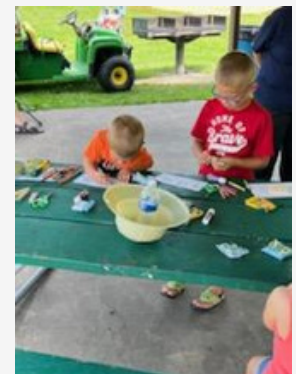


A DINO-rific time

On July 30th, a bunch of little paleontologists got together for Comstock's Dino Dig. The event took place at Robert Morris Park. Our paleontologists dug for dinosaur bones, listened to a dinosaur story from the Comstock Township Library, and did a dinosaur craft.

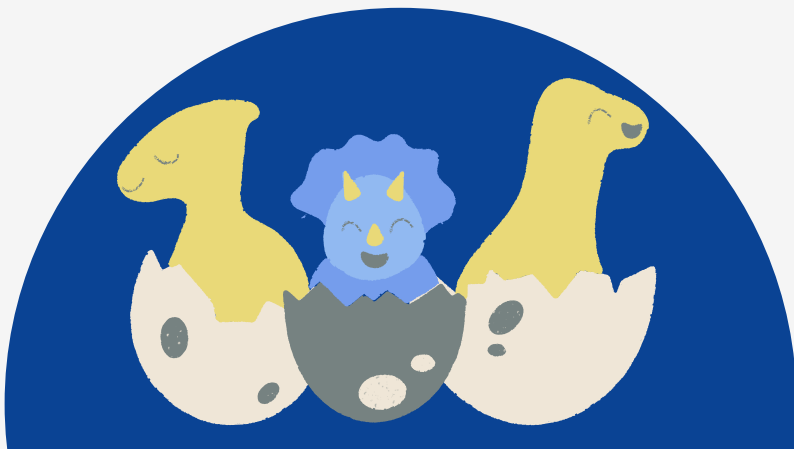
Kids found fossils from various dinosaurs, including T-Rex, Triceratops, pterodactyls and raptors.

Our Little Paleontologists loved spending time outdoors learning about their favorite dinosaurs.



We even had a special appearance from a couple of very nice T-Rex. They helped our paleontologists find fossils and learn about dinosaurs.

We want to thank the Comstock Township Library for helping us put on this event. The event takes place every summer for kids ages 2-6.



The Roads

Continued on Page 9

Construction season is in full swing in west Michigan, but which roads get worked on first?

Sarah Phillips, the Communications Administrator for the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County (RCKC) says that decision comes down to making sure the cost of fixing a road and the payoff of the work done.

"Our goal is to make sure we're doing the right fix at the right time," Sarah said, "we really want to balance what we can afford with what's best for the roads in a community."

They look at the condition of all the roads in the county and work to keep them in good condition, which RCKC calls asset management.

For our road repair, asset management means we prioritize keeping the good roads good and repairing the bad ones when we have extra money.

One valuable tool the RCKC has at its disposal is the PASER rating, which we use to track the condition of Township roads.

"PASER stands for pavement surface evaluation and rating. We use the system to track the condition of our roadways," Sarah said.

The PASER system rates roads from 1-10.

New roads are rated "10," but only for a year before being downgraded to a "9"

From there, roads rated from "8" and above are in good condition

A road rated from 5-7 is considered fair.

A poor road is rated a 4 or below; a road rated 1 is considered failed.

Sarah described a failed road as "expensive to fix, typically we need to commit to a reconstruction project. The money we need to spend on a failed road can limit other needed maintenance projects."

Our goal is to keep roads from failing.

And to do so, Comstock Township Treasurer Bret Padgett says "we try to focus on a mix of fixes, based on what the road commission recommends."



The Roads, cont.

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The township focuses on smaller projects every year and then spends leftover money on the big fixes.

Treasurer Padgett said that, "for example, roads that just need a chip seal are a lot less expensive than roads that need a full reconstruction, so we try to focus a lot of the dollars on keeping the good roads good."

However, townships in Michigan aren't getting money from the state to do those fixes.

Public Act 51 provides money for road repairs to the state Trunkline, county road commissions, cities, and villages.

"The main thing is that townships don't receive money directly for roads, that's a misconception," said Treasurer Padgett.

Instead, we get Participation Funds to help us pay for our road fixes.

Treasurer Padgett said, "Participation funds, or PAR funds, are allocated to townships based on population."

Then we're required to match par funds to receive them.

Comstock Township is spending roughly \$590,000 on our roads this year, using a millage approved in by the Township Board each year.

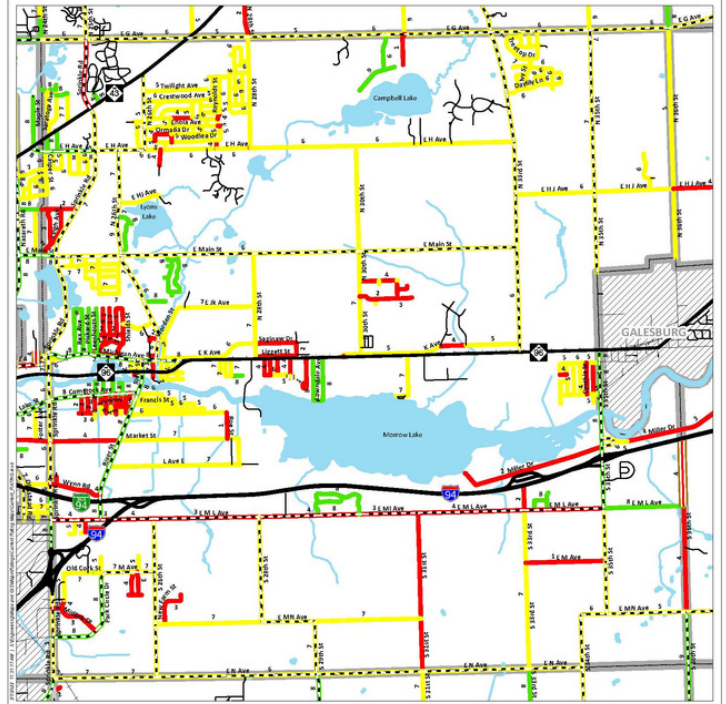
The Road Commission allocated \$250,000 in par funds for the township based on our population, so this year we're spending roughly \$840,000.

The Treasurer said, "we usually contribute a little more than we have to."

Since Comstock approved its road funding millage in 2016, Comstock has been able to greatly improve our roads.

Treasurer Pagett said our goal is to ensure all roads in Comstock Charter Township are in good or fair condition.

2022 Current Asset Management Ratings Map
Comstock Twp



The PASER Ratings for Comstock Township

This map shows Comstock Charter Township's PASER ratings. Green roads are good, yellow roads are fair and red roads are bad.

Roads with ---- in them are primary roads and decided by the county.



Follow us

Find us online!

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/comstocktwp>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/comstockctwp/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ComstockCTwp>

Linkedin: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/comstock-charter-township/>



Thank you very much for reading this addition of the Comstock Connect Newsletter. We look forward to keeping you up-to-date on all the latest happenings in our community.

Have a story to share?

Matt Miller

Communications Development Coordinator

(269) 381-2360 ext. 120

mmiller@comstockmi.gov



National Night Out August 2, 2022

Merrill Park 5845 Comstock Ave. Comstock Township
5-7 pm

Please join the Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Office as we work to establish an even better relationship with our community partners.

Free hot dogs, ice cream and water will be provided.

Live music performed by Alex Mays and friends.

