



# Comstock Connect

## A Community in Bloom

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.

The Township Hall  
will be closed on November 11th  
in honor of Veterans Day and  
November 24th and 25 in  
Honor of Thanksgiving



## Be ready to vote this November

Midterm Elections are November 8th. Please take time to ensure you're ready to.

To check your registration status go to:  
<https://mivic.sos.state.mi.us/Voter/Index>.

If you moved recently, you can change your address here:  
<https://mivic.sos.state.mi.us/Home/RegisterToVote/#moved>

If you need to register, you can do so online:  
<https://mivic.sos.state.mi.us/RegisterVoter/Index>

## Election Inspectors

We are always looking for Election Inspectors to help us run elections smoothly.

Election Inspectors are required to be registered voter in Michigan.

They're also required to declare a party and at least 18 years of age.

To apply to be an election inspector, click here:

[https://www.michigan.gov/-/media/Project/Websites/sos/01vanderroest/Elec\\_InspectionApp.pdf?rev=2721cebde7534b7fb2d66c9671d543c7](https://www.michigan.gov/-/media/Project/Websites/sos/01vanderroest/Elec_InspectionApp.pdf?rev=2721cebde7534b7fb2d66c9671d543c7)

# Township Messages

Randy Thompson, Township Supervisor

[\(269\) 381-2360 ext. 126](tel:(269)381-2360)

[supervisor@comstockmi.gov](mailto:supervisor@comstockmi.gov)



Signed into law on March 11, 2021, [The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021](#) ("ARPA") provides \$350 billion in additional funding for state and local governments. Comstock Township has approximately \$819,000 to spend. The funds must be committed by 2024 and spent by 2026. It cannot be used to pay off debt, it can't lower taxes, and can't pay for pension funds. The Township Board is considering ways to use these funds and we are welcoming input from residents. If you have ideas, please attend one of our board meetings or email me at [supervisor@comstockmi.gov](mailto:supervisor@comstockmi.gov).

Nicole Beauchamp, Township Clerk

[\(269\) 381-2360 ext. 111](tel:(269)381-2360)

[clerk@comstockmi.gov](mailto:clerk@comstockmi.gov)



The November 8th election is right around the corner. Absent voter ballots will be mailed out to everyone who has submitted an application on Monday, October 3rd. If you haven't filled one out but would like to vote absentee, you can find an absent voter application online at: <https://mVIC.sos.state.mi.us/Home/VoteAtHome/#> online or call or stop into our office to request one.

In this issue, you'll find a break down of how an election works from start to finish in the section called "Anatomy of an Election". You'll also find information on how to check to see if you're registered to vote. Happy Autumn and Happy Voting!

Bret Padgett, Township Treasurer

[\(269\) 381-2360 ext. 112](tel:(269)381-2360)

[treasurer@comstockmi.gov](mailto:treasurer@comstockmi.gov)



September 14 was the last day to pay summer property taxes without interest. As a reminder, interest is now accruing at 1% per month on any unpaid balance. An additional 3% penalty will be added to any amount not received by February 14, 2023. 2022 summer property taxes can be paid at Comstock Township through February 28. Payments can be made in-person at the Township office, by using the drop box located near our front entrance, or online at [www.comstockmi.gov](http://www.comstockmi.gov). We accept cash, check, money order, electronic check (\$3 fee), and major credit cards (3% fee).

Curious about where your tax dollars go? Head to [www.comstockmi.gov](http://www.comstockmi.gov) and navigate to the Treasurer's page. There you will find summer and winter property tax information sheets that detail when each millage was created, when it expires, and what it's used for.

# Announcements

## Announcement



As of October 3rd, it is too late to put out items to be removed by curbside pickup. If you have something you need disposed of, you can check with the [Transfer Station](#), [Kalamazoo County Hazardous Household Waste Center](#) or [Consumers Concrete](#).

Kalamazoo County Hazardous Household Waste Center and Consumers Concrete accept items we do not.

## Important Dates

### Township Board Meeting

The Township Board is meeting on Monday, October 3rd and Monday, October 17th at 6:00 PM.

### Parks and Recreation Board Meeting

The Parks and Recreation Board is meeting on Monday, October 10th at 6:00 PM.

### Planning Commission Board Meeting

The Planning Commission is meeting on Thursday, October 13th and Thursday, October 27th at 7:00 PM.

### The Zoning Board of Reviews Meeting

The Zoning Board of Reviews is meeting on Tuesday, October 25th at 4:00 PM.

### The Downtown Development Authority Meeting

The Downtown Development Authority is meeting on Wednesday, October 26th at 5:30 PM.

# Anatomy of an Election

## Step 1: Updating the Qualified Voter File

- We are constantly updating the Qualified Voter File.
- As voters pass away or move, we remove them from the voter rolls.
- We add new voters to the roll as they register.
- Michigan is 1 of 8 states that conduct elections at the local level.



## Step 2: Sending out Absentee Voter Applications

- Absent Voter Applications are sent to everyone on our permanent Absentee Voter list.
- Absent Voter Ballots are not sent to voters unless an application is filled out and returned.
- When applications are returned, the signature is checked against the signature in the Qualified Voter File.
- If the signature on the Absent Voter Application doesn't match the signature on the Qualified Voter File, the voter is required to come into the office and verify their signature.
- Each Absent voter Ballot is assigned a voter I.D. in the Poll Book to ensure Absentee Voters aren't voting twice.
- If a voter issued an Absent Ballot comes into the polls to vote, they must surrender their absentee ballot or sign an affidavit that lost or will destroy their Absentee Ballot.

## Step 3: Preparing the Ballots

- The County Clerk builds the ballots once all candidates and proposals are approved, and then sends these to local clerks for review.
- Once reviewed, County Clerks send final ballots to state-approved printers.
- As soon as the ballots arrive and are tested, they are sent out to voters who have submitted verified AV applications.
- Returned AV ballots are locked and secure until they are tabulated on Election Day.

## Step 4: Precinct Inspectors appointed by Election Commission

- Election Inspectors run the precinct, including the Absentee Voter Counting Board (AVCB)
- They check voters IDs, issue ballots, answer questions and ensure election day is run smoothly.
- Members of the public [apply](#) to be election inspectors and are paid for their service.
- Michigan residents 18 and older are eligible to be an election inspector.
- We need election inspectors from both major parties to run a precinct and inspectors MUST declare a party.

# Anatomy of an Election

## Step 5: Preparing for Election Day

- Once the ballots are ready, the Clerk downloads the election information to the tabulator.
- The tabulator is then sealed with a number that is tracked to ensure it was not tampered with.
- The seal numbers are verified at the Public Accuracy test and on election day.

## Step 6: Ballot Testing and Public Accuracy Testing

- Before the elections, the Clerk and the Election Commission perform a Public Accuracy Test.
- Predetermined ballots are run through the tabulators to see if they're accurately counting ballots.
- The results are sent to the County so they can also verify the results.
- The Public Accuracy Test is open to the public.

## Step 7: Election Day at the Polls

- Election Inspectors arrive at 6 AM to begin setting up for the election.
- Polls open at 7 AM and close at 8PM.
- Each voter is assigned a Voter I.D. and Ballot Number.
- If a voter who was sent an Absentee Ballot arrives at their polling location, they're required to sign an affidavit or turn in their Absentee Ballot before voting.
  - The Clerk also verifies that the ballot has not been returned and rejects it in QVF so it cannot be counted.
  - Then a voter can be issued a ballot in the precinct.
- Anyone in line to vote by 8 PM is eligible to vote.
- Absentee Ballots are due by 8 PM on election day.

## Step 8: Absent Voter Ballots

- Absent Ballots are due by 8 PM on election day.
- You can register to vote and be issued an AV ballot or vote in the precincts.
  - If you are already registered to vote, you cannot be issued an AV ballot on election day.

# Anatomy of an Election

## Step 9: After the Polls close

- Election Inspectors declare that the polls are closed and shut down the polling station according to state standards.
- Election Inspectors make sure that the actual number of voters equals the number of voters in the Poll Book.
- They then generate 4 copies of the totals tape, verify all write in votes have been tallied in the poll book and take them to their local clerk.
- A Democrat and Republican from each precinct together bring the items to the Township Receiving Board where it will be verified all required items are returned and balanced.

## Step 10: The Board of Canvassers

- Once all the Jurisdictions in the County have been received by the County Receiving Board, the Board of Canvassers reviews each jurisdictions election.
- The Board of Canvassers officially certifies the election and declares the official results.

YOUR VOTE  
MATTERS



# A Walk in the Park

## Fall into Autumn



The Parks and Recreation Board will have a table at the library's Fall Fest on October 29th.

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Just us on November 5th for our Fall Fest at Merrill Park. We'll have a bounce house, face painting, music and kids activities.

## Looking Forward

Robert Morris Park is open year round for seasonal recreation. The disc golf course are available!

Season passes are still available for purchase at the Township Hall



## Help us keep our parks safe and clean

If you see something, say something. If you see someone dumping trash or you see other unlawful activities, please contact 269-343-8212 or email us at [parks@comstockmi.gov](mailto:parks@comstockmi.gov). You can also contact the Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Department through the non-emergency line (269) 488-8911. If safe, try to record a plate number. We also have a complaint form [online](#).

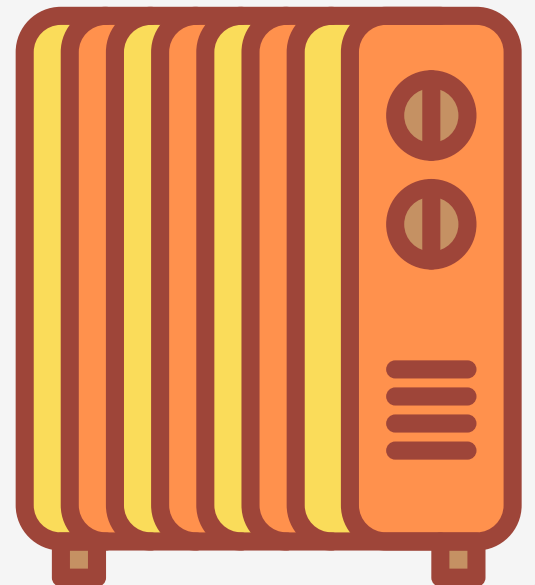


# Home Heating

Nearly half of all home-heating fires occur during the winter months. On average, NFPA research show that heating equipment is involved in roughly 70,000 reported U.S. home structure fires, with associated loss of more than 600 civilian deaths, almost 1,600 civilian injuries and more than \$1 billion in direct property damage.

"As a leading cause of home fires, heating safety is a concern for every community every winter. This year, with the projected increase in use of alternative heating equipment, families need to be especially vigilant to use all heating appliances properly. Comstock Fire Department is encouraging residents using pellet stoves, wood stoves, space heaters or any other home heating equipment this winter to follow this advice:"

- Space heaters need space. Keep all things that can burn, such as paper, bedding or furniture, at least 3 feet away from heating equipment.
- Turn portable heaters off when you go to bed or leave the room.
- Have your chimney inspected each year and cleaned if necessary.
- Use a sturdy fireplace screen.
- Wood stoves should bear the label of a recognized testing laboratory.
- In wood stoves, burn only dry, seasoned wood. In pellet stoves, burn only dry, seasoned wood pellets.
- Allow ashes to cool before disposing. Dispose of ashes in a metal container.
- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home. For the best protection interconnect all smoke alarms throughout the home — when one sounds, they all sound. Test smoke alarms at least once a month.
- When using a fuel-burning portable heater, always use the proper fuel as specified by the manufacturer. When refueling, allow the appliance to cool and refuel outside or in a well-ventilated area.
- Install and maintain a carbon monoxide alarm in a central location outside each sleeping area.
- Never use an oven to heat your home.







# Fire and Rescue

## Promotions

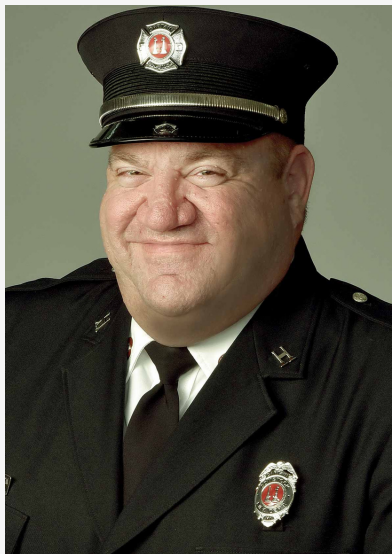
Congratulations to Mike Dyer on his promotion to Deputy Chief. On July 18, 2022, the Comstock Township Board approved the promotion of Deputy Chief Mike Dyer after Deputy Chief David Wuis retired on August 2, 2022. DC Dyer has been with Comstock Fire & Rescue since 1986. He was promoted to Assistant Chief in March 2019. DC Dyer plays an integral part of the department as a full-time employee, which includes overseeing all vehicle maintenance, vehicle purchasing, and the new hire interview process.

Congratulations to Kevin Thompson on his promotion to Assistant Chief. On August 15, 2022, the Comstock Township Board approved the promotion of Assistant Chief Kevin Thompson after Deputy Chief David Wuis retired on August 2, 2022, and Deputy Chief Mike Dyer was promoted from Assistant Chief to Deputy Chief. AC Thompson has been with Comstock Fire & Rescue since January 2007. He was promoted to Captain in 2014. AC Thompson plays an integral part of the department as a full-time employee, which includes overseeing all department training, honor guard, and PPE/uniforms.

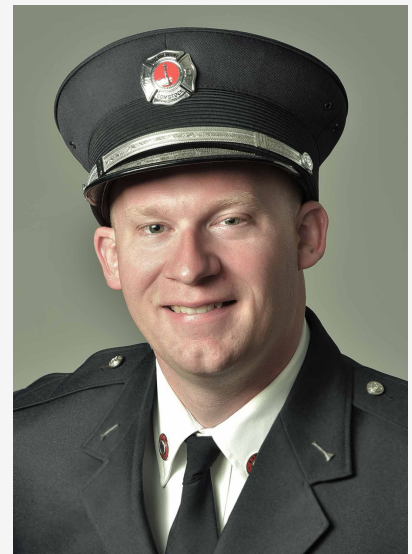
Congratulations to Michael Flick II on his promotion to Captain. On August 15, 2022, the Comstock Township Board approved the promotion of Lietenant Michael Flick II after Assistant Chief Kevin Thompson was promoted. Captain Flick II has been with Comstock Fire & Rescue since January 2014. In July of 2018, he was promoted to Lieutenant. Capt. Flick II plays a vital roll for the department. As a full time employee, which includes small equipment maintenance, ordering of hoses and nozzles, and department and new hire training



Deputy Chief Mike Dyer



Assistant Chief Kevin Thompson



Captain Michael Flick II

# 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.



Comstock  
Township  
Library

Where community meets the world.

## Library Contact

269-345-0136

[Info@comstocklibrary.org](mailto:Info@comstocklibrary.org)

[www.comstocklibrary.org](http://www.comstocklibrary.org)

## Adult Murder Mystery Game

**Friday, October 21 from 6:15-8:00**

Join us for a costumed evening of crime solving! Registration is required because everyone will be getting their character information ahead of the game. Themed refreshments will be served. Registration begins October 3.

## Musical Mayhem

Thursdays at 10:30 P.M. and 12:30 P.M.

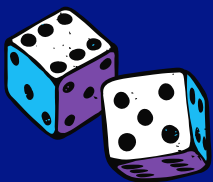
Kids can get ready to wiggle and rock with our music and movement program!

Have fun with action songs, musical instruments, parachute time and a short story. Please call to register the morning of the program.

**Monday, October 10 – Saturday, October 22**

### Buck-a-Bag Book Sale

Fill a bag of books for \$1.00! Bring your own bag or use one of ours. We currently have adult fiction and nonfiction, children's fiction and nonfiction, audiobooks, and more.



**Monday, October 24 at 6:00 P.M.**

### Family Game Cafe

This event is open to all families and individuals wanting to learn new RPG and board games in a fun environment. Pizza and drinks will be provided. No registration required.

# 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.

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Have a story to share?

Matt Miller

Communications Development Coordinator

(269) 381-2360 ext. 120

[mmiller@comstockmi.gov](mailto:mmiller@comstockmi.gov)



# Important Election Dates

## Voter Registration

- October 24th- Last day to register online or anywhere other than in person at your Clerk's office to vote in this election.
- October 25th through 8:00 PM November 8th- In person registration at your Clerk's office with proof of residency.
- November 8th from 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM- In person registration and voting available on Election Day with proof of residency.
- *Proof of residency- Michigan driver's license or state ID with current address, Michigan driver's license without current address and an additional proof of residency such as a utility bill or lease.*

## Absent Voter Ballots

- November 4th by 5:00 PM- Deadline for Clerks to mail an absentee ballot. After this date, residents will need to request a ballot in person.
- November 7th by 4:00 PM- Deadline to obtain an Absent Voter Ballot in person or obtain a new Absent Voter Ballot in person or obtain a new Absent Voter Ballot if your ballot was lost in the mail or you never received it.
- November 7 by 10 PM- Deadline to request in writing to spoil your Absent Voter Ballot.

## Special Hours

- Saturday November 5th 8:00 AM- 4:00 PM- The Clerk's office will be open to assist residents with obtaining Absent Voter Ballot and registering to vote.
- Election Day- November 8 by 4:00 PM- Emergency Absentee voting is available.
- <http://www.michigan.gov/vote> is a very useful link for voters.



