

Comstock Connect

March 2023 Newsletter

Township Office Hours
Monday, Tuesday, and 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
November 1- March 31

Thursday
11:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.

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



Happy March! In this issue of the Comstock Connect, we have:

- Information on free brush drop off at the Transfer Station (Page 2)
- Information on assessment notices (Page 2)
- Comstock Charter Township Board of Review Meetings dates (Page 3)
- Other March meetings dates (Page 3)
- Information on how to register for our Adult Softball Leagues (Page 4)
- Information about other upcoming events in Comstock parks (Page 4)
- Fun family-friendly events from the Library (Page 5)
- Hoarding and Fire: Reducing the Risk (Page 6)
- An update on elections (Page 7)
- A flyer for Spring Curbside Pickup (Page 9)

Messages from the Township

Page 2

Randy Thompson, Township Supervisor

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

supervisor@comstockmi.gov



Due to the February 22nd ice storm, we are waiving the \$10 per cubic yard brush drop-off fee at the Comstock Charter Township Transfer Station. You can stop by the transfer station at 6604 East Main Street on the following dates and times:

- Thursday, March 2nd from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Saturday, March 4th from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

We are ONLY waiving the brush drop-off fee for Comstock Charter Township Residents and it ONLY applies to brush, not logs, trees, or other debris caused by the winter storm. A valid Compactor Card is required to use the Transfer Station. Please see our website for more information: <https://comstockmi.gov/transfer-station/>.

Nicole Beauchamp, Township Clerk

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

clerk@comstockmi.gov



We're gearing up for the May 2nd election. If you're on the permanent Absent Voter Application list, yours should be arriving in the mail soon. Check your voter id card to learn where your polling location is if you plan to vote in person. There are more details on the May election on page 7.

As a reminder, if you have multiple plots in one of our cemeteries, consider designating each plot or adding a co-owner. If the lot owner dies and plots are unassigned, a will or a probate court order would be required by law to allow heirs to use remaining plots. We plan to begin selling niches in the columbarium this fall. Stay tuned for more information. If you're interested in reserving a spot now, please email clerk@comstockmi.gov and you'll be put on a list to contact when the details are finalized.

Bret Padgett, Township Treasurer

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

bpadgett@comstockmi.gov



The 2022 property tax year has concluded. Any amounts still owing must now be paid to the Kalamazoo County Treasurer.

The assessor has mailed out the 2023 assessment notices and they should be hitting your mailbox soon. If you want to appeal your values, please see the notice for March Board of Review information including dates and times.

Water and sewer special assessment bills will be sent out in April and will be due by August 1. Any amounts not paid by November 1 will be added to the winter tax bill.

Curious about where your tax dollars go? Head to 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

The Board of Review is meeting in March to examine and review the assessment roll, as well as hear appeals on the following dates:

- Monday, March 13, 2023, 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm and 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm.
- Tuesday, March 14, 2023, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.
- Thursday, March 16, 2023, 9:00 am to 11:00 am.

Appeal hearings are on a first-come, first-serve basis. [Appointments](#) are recommended, but not required for a hearing. Written requests are accepted, if you cannot make a meeting time in person, but must be received by March 10, 2023 (postmark not accepted). If you file a written appeal, make sure to include this [petition](#). The petition is provided at in-person appointments.

Important Dates

Township Board Meeting

The Township Board is meeting on Monday, March 6th and March 20th

Parks and Recreation Board Meeting

The Parks and Recreation Board is meeting on Monday, March 13th at 6:00 PM.

Planning Commission Board Meeting

The Planning Commission is meeting on Thursday, March 9th, and March 23rd at 7 P.M.

The Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting

The Zoning Board of Reviews is meeting on Tuesday, March 28th at 4:00 PM.

The Downtown Development Authority Meeting

The Downtown Development Authority is meeting on Wednesday, March 22nd at 5:30 PM.

Adult Softball

Looking for a great way to stay active and get outdoors this summer?

[Registration](#) for the 2023 Adult Softball is now open!

- The Men's League plays on Wednesdays and the Co-ed League plays on Mondays.
- The League Fees are \$580 per team (including the forfeit fee).
- Game Times are at 6:15 pm, 7:30 pm, and 8:45 pm.

The League starts the week of April 24th. The league will run 11 weeks with a double elimination playoff weekend.

Robert Morris Park Passes

Looking for outdoor fun for the whole family year-round. Stop by the Township Hall for a Robert Morris Park Pass. Passes are \$25 per vehicle and \$10 for seniors (60+).

Upcoming Events

Community Garden

Starts late May at the Community Center. Registration is available online at

<https://comstockmi.gov/community-garden/>

Easter Egg Hunt

The VFW Auxiliary Post 6252 will host their annual Easter Egg hunt at Merrill Park on April 8th. Flag Ceremony at 10:45 am and the Hunt begins at 11 am.

Comstock Township Library

Page 5

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

Adult Book Club

Thursday, March 30 @ 5:30 P.M.

For our March book club, we'll be reading the contemporary romance *Get a Life, Chloe Brown* by Talia Hibbert, and playing romance trope bingo while we read! Each participant will get a bingo card to mark as they read and will get a fun prize for each bingo they score! Call or stop by the Library to register and pick-up your copy of the book.

Book Bingo

Tuesday, March 28 @ 6:00 P.M.

Looking for a fun spring break activity? Visit us at the library and play bingo to win free books. Open to all Kindergarten to 5th graders.



Writing with Wilma

Every Tuesday in March @10 A.M.

Join our Reminiscence Writing Class. Wilma provides optional writing ideas or you can write anything you like. It's a fun, supportive class for people who love to write. Group will meet once a week for 6 weeks.

Registration is required.



This spring Comstock Township Library will begin a strategic planning process. As part of this, the library would like to hear from our community members! We are looking to engage with community members through focus groups and one-on-one interviews. The knowledge gathered through these will help inform Comstock Township Library's future priorities as we plan how to serve the public more fully over the next several years.

If you are interested in participating in this process, or would like to know more about it, please call Library Director Emily Kubash at 269-345-0136 or send an email to emilyk@comstocklibrary.org

You don't need any special qualifications to participate, just a willingness to come and share your perspective!

Please register for these free events by calling the library at [269-345-0136](tel:269-345-0136) or by visiting the Events page on the library's website www.comstocklibrary.org

Hoarding and Fire: Reducing the Risk

Do you have a person in your life who may be a hoarder? Hoarding is a condition where a person has persistent difficulty discarding personal possessions. The large amount of possessions fill the home and prevent the normal use of the space. Living space becomes cluttered. It may be unusable. Hoarding brings distress and emotional health concerns.

Why Hoarding Increases Fire Risk

- Cooking is unsafe if flammable items are close to the stove or oven.
- Heating units may be too close to things that can burn. They might also be placed on unstable surfaces. If a heater tips over into a pile, it can cause a fire.
- Electrical wiring may be old or worn from the weight of piles. Pests could chew on wires. Damaged wires can start fires.
- Open flames from smoking materials or candles in a home with excess clutter are very dangerous.
- Blocked pathways and exits may hinder escape from a fire.

How Hoarding Impacts First Responders

- Hoarding puts first responders in harm's way.
- Firefighters cannot move swiftly through a home filled with clutter.
- Responders can be trapped in a home when exits are blocked. They can be injured by objects falling from piles.
- The weight of the stored items, especially if water is added to put out a fire, can lead to building collapse.
- Fighting fires is very risky in a hoarding home. It is hard to enter the home to provide medical care. The clutter impedes the search and rescue of people and pets.

How Can You Help Reduce the Risk of Fire injury

- ✓ When talking to a person who hoards, focus on safety rather than the clutter. Be empathetic. Match the person's language. If they call it hoarding, then you can call it hoarding.
- ✓ Help the residents make a home safety and escape plan. Stress the importance of clear pathways and exits. Practice the plan often. Exit routes may change as new items are brought into the home.
- ✓ Install working smoke alarms in the home. Test them at least once a month.
- ✓ Reach out to community resources. Talk to members of the fire department to alert them of your concerns. They may be able to connect you with members of a hoarding task force for additional help. Reducing the Risk Comstock Fire & Rescue



Your Source for SAFETY Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

Comstock Fire and Rescue



Election Update

There will be a May 2nd election. If you're on the permanent absent voter list, you should receive your application soon.

We're waiting on more details and guidance from the State of Michigan on the implementation of the voter-approved Proposal 2022-2 that was on the ballot in November of 2022. Many of the elements will be put in place in 2024.

The changes you'll see this election will primarily be with absentee voting. The first thing is you'll have the option to choose "Permanent Ballot", which will be on the application. This will allow you to receive a ballot each election without submitting an application first.

The second thing you'll see is prepaid postage on the application as well as on the return ballot envelope. We will also continue to have a dropbox under video surveillance in front of the Township Offices.

Voting processes at in-person polling places will remain the same at this time, nine days of early voting will not go into effect until 2024.

Contact us
Page 8



Find us on Social Media

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/>

Meet the author



Thank you very much for reading this edition 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

Comstock Township

Spring Curbside Pickup 2023



Dates and Policies

- Spring Curbside Pickup begins May 8th.
- Clean-up is for residents that live within Comstock Township's limits only.
- All items must be put out on May 6th or May 7th. Any items not put out by then will not be picked up.
- We hope pickup will be completed within 2 weeks, but pickup will go until crews have reached each street once.
- Crews **WILL NOT** return to areas for items placed after specified dates listed.

The following items are accepted

- Household doors and windows, furniture, carpeting, toys, miscellaneous rubbish/junk, and packaging
- Limit 4 cubic yards
- Glass should be in a cardboard box or other sturdy container and taped shut
- Mattresses/Box Springs **MUST** be wrapped in plastic
- Nothing will be accepted that 2 people cannot safely pick up and place into a truck
- No plastic bags
- Loose items must be in boxes

The following items will NOT be accepted

- | | |
|--|---|
| • Hot Tubs | • Batteries |
| • Boats that have been cut up | • Florescent light bulbs |
| • Concrete, Blocks, Bricks | • Chemicals, paints, solvents, pesticides, herbicides |
| • Freon appliances such as refrigerators | • Other household hazardous waste |
| • Freezers and dehumidifiers | • Iron or steel or cast-iron bathtubs |
| • Electronics including computers, printers, monitors, and accessories | • Stumps, yard debris, brush |
| • Televisions | • Medical waste |
| • Auto parts or engines | • Oil, Gasolines or antifreeze |
| • Tires | |

Consumers Concrete and the Kalamazoo County Hazardous Waste Center can handle disposal of some of these items. Contact them for more of that information.