

Comstock Connect

April 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

Summer Hours
April 1-October 31

Tuesday and Thursday
11:00 a.m.- 6:00 pm

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



Happy April! Your Elected Officials and Township Staff are optimistic about better weather. Here's what you need to know for the first full month of Spring:

- More information on Curbside Pickup (Page 2)
- The May 2, 2023 Election (Page 2)
- 2022 Fiscal Financial Information (Page 2)
- April meeting dates (Page 3)
- Adult softball registration deadline (Page 4)
- The VFW Auxiliary Post 6252's Easter Egg Hunt (Page 4)
- Fun family-friendly events from the Library (Page 5)
- Information on Open Burn Permits (Page 6)
- The 2022 Annual report from the Comstock Fire and Rescue Dept. (Page 7)
- What items are accepted for curbside pickup and what aren't (Page 9)
- A reminder of our cemetery ordinance (Page 10)

Messages from the Township

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Randy Thompson, Township Supervisor

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

supervisor@comstockmi.gov



Many folks have been reaching out and asking about curbside pickup. Pickup begins Monday, May 8. Please bring your trash to the curb on either Saturday, May 6, or Sunday, May 7.

Our crews cannot accept everything. Household doors and windows, furniture, carpeting, toys, miscellaneous rubbish/junk, and packaging are all accepted. Glass is accepted but **MUST** be a cardboard box or another sturdy container and taped shut. Mattresses are allowed, but **MUST** be wrapped in plastic. We have a flyer on page 10 that lists what is accepted and isn't accepted by crews at curbside pickup. As a general rule- anything 2 people cannot SAFELY pick up and put into a truck is not accepted.

Please understand that not following these rules will result in your trash not being removed from you curb, we must prioritize the safety of our crews first and foremost.

Nicole Beauchamp, Township Clerk

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

clerk@comstockmi.gov



On the ballot for the May 2 election is a countywide KRESA millage renewal. Precinct 4, which is located in Gull Lake Community Schools district, also has a millage on the ballot.

If you're on the permanent Absent Voter (AV) list, you should have received your application and possibly your ballot by now. You may have noticed an option to select "I want to vote absentee in all future elections. Automatically send me an absent voter ballot for every election". This is a result of the voter-approved Proposal 2 that was on the November 2022 ballot. This means that you will no longer need to submit an application to receive an absentee ballot, you will automatically be sent a ballot for all future elections. If you do not select this, for now at least, you will still need to submit an application to receive a ballot. Another piece of Proposal 2 you'll see this election is return postage on both the application and ballot envelopes. You can mail your ballot in or use our dropbox outside of Township Hall.

Please note also that this is the first election where we will not modem results to the County as we close down our tabulators at the end of election night. The results will be hand delivered which means there will be a delay in results being posted on the County's website. We will post the results tapes from our precincts on the door to Township Hall on election night as we receive them.

Bret Padgett, Township Treasurer

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

bpadgett@comstockmi.gov



The Township's 2022 fiscal year financial statements will be prepared in April and then audited in May. Once the audited financial statements are available, they will be posted on our website on the Treasurer's page.

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 how the Township's funds are invested? Head to www.comstockmi.gov and navigate to the [Treasurer's](#) page. There you will find our investment policy, investment procedures, and the most recent quarterly investment report.



Announcements



The Comstock Charter Township Transfer Station is switching to summer hours on Saturday, April 1st! The Transfer Station will be open on the following days and times:

- Tuesdays from 11:00 am to 6:00 pm.
- Thursdays from 11:00 am to 6:00 pm.
- Saturdays from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Please see our [website](#) for more details.

Important Dates

Township Board Meeting

The Township Board is meeting on Monday, April 3rd, and Monday, April 24th at 6:00 pm.

Parks and Recreation Board Meeting

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

Planning Commission Board Meeting

The Planning Commission is meeting on Thursday, April 13th, and April 27th at 7 pm.

The Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting

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

The Downtown Development Authority Meeting

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

Adult Softball

The deadline to register and pay for adult softball is Tuesday, April 11th at 4:30 pm.

- 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 will run for 11 weeks with a double-elimination playoff weekend.



We're Hiring!

We're hiring Seasonal Park Staff for the 2023 Park Season. Looking for a great summer gig? Know a college student looking for an outdoor job? Come work for us. You can find more information and apply on [indeed](#).

Community Garden

Starts late May at the Community Center. Registration is available online [here](#).

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

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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

www.comstocklibrary.org

Adult Book Club

Wednesday, April 26 @ 6:00 PM

Join us for a discussion of *Parable of the Sower* by award-winning author Octavia Butler. Written in 1993, this science fiction book takes place in 2025 and begins the Earthseed series. Light refreshments will be served. Registration and book pick-up begin Monday, March 27th.

Pages and Paws

Tuesday, April 4 & 18 @ 5:00 PM

Read stories with Chloe the Therapy Dog! Does your child need to practice their reading? Chloe LOVES hearing stories and is a patient listener. Each child will have an individual session with Chloe. This program is first come, first serve, please check in at the youth desk when you arrive.



Kai Harris - Michigan Notable Book Author Visit

Thursday, April 20 @ 10:00 AM

Michigan Notable Author and Western Michigan University graduate, Kai Harris, will be speaking at the Comstock Township Library! Join us to hear her talk about her book, *What the Fireflies Knew*. The Michigan Notable Books program is sponsored in part by the Library of Michigan Foundation, Michigan Center for the Book, Michigan Humanities, and other valued sponsors.



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



Comstock Fire and Rescue

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Open Burn Permits

Open Burning Permits are required for any type of outdoor burning that is not contained in an approved container or barrel.

An Open Burn Permit is NOT required for the following:

- Burning in an approved burn barrel or waste burner
- Recreational fire (as defined under Recreational Fires)

Applying for Open Burn Permits: Permits may be obtained by utilizing the Comstock Township Burn Permit Application System (BurnPAS™) by visiting our website at www.comstockfire.com (click on the Burn Permits tab at the top), or alternatively you may call or stop into any of our fire stations. Permits are only valid for the day the permit is issued. A new permit must be requested for each day that you wish to burn.

Permits are based on several requirements including favorable weather conditions and lot size. You will need to acknowledge the burning ordinance before a permit is issued. If your property address does not meet the lot size requirements according to the ordinance your permit will be denied. As a reminder you can only burn from sunrise to sunset and burning is restricted to leaves, brush, tree limbs, stumps, and lumber. Burning garbage, paper products, building material other than lumber, plastic, rubber products, and grass clippings are specifically prohibited. The Transfer Station is free to take leaves for township residents.

Recreational Fires: Recreational fires do not require a burn permit as long as the fire is contained in a fire or barbecue pit,

- Not to exceed three feet in diameter and not to exceed two feet in height.
- All recreational fires must be at least 25 feet from any building, property line, or other combustible material.
- Waste matter which causes a dense smoke or odor to go onto adjacent property may not be burned, under permit or otherwise.

Burning Barrels and Waste Burners: No burn permit is required for burning in a burn barrel or waste burner if it complies with the following rules:

- Burning barrels and waste burners are to be constructed of a non-combustible metal or masonry container, not to exceed a capacity of 55 gallons.
- Containers must be in good condition with holes or openings on the sides not to exceed ½ square inch. All containers must have a cover or spark arrester on top with holes no larger than ½ square inch.
- Burning barrels and waste burners must be kept as least 15 feet from any building, public roadway, property line or other combustible materials.
- Only paper products, leaves, brush, tree limbs, stumps or lumber may be burned in these containers.
- Burning of grass clippings, garbage, building materials other than lumber, plastic and rubber products are specifically prohibited.

In addition, the Fire Chief and/or his/her authorized representative may require the fire to be discontinued if he/she determines that the smoke from the fire is reasonably offensive to persons on surrounding property or that the fire constitutes a hazardous condition.



Comstock Fire and Rescue

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We are excited to share the release of our [2022 annual report](#). In the report you will find:

- A letter from Chief Beauchamp.
- A snapshot of Comstock Fire & Rescue's 2022 Operations.
- Fire Station Information.
- Highlights of Significant Accomplishments and Incident/Activities.
- Training Division Highlights.
- A snapshot of Community Outreach programs.

"We strive to serve the residents of Comstock Township and our neighbors in Kalamazoo County with a combination of full-time and part-time personnel that staff our three fire stations, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, year-round. We have two personnel on duty at each station around the clock and this is accomplished by a combination of full-time and part-time personnel. The department has a top-notch staff that works hard to provide the highest level of training, community risk reduction, fire prevention/public education and vehicle/equipment maintenance to ensure we can manage calls for service. We are truly a service-oriented department that is exploring ways to be a true community partner."

"I want to thank the residents, business owners and the Comstock Township Board for their continued support of the fire department. The members of the Comstock Fire Department are part of this community, and we serve our neighbors with the highest level of training and care. "

-Excerpts from Chief Matt Beauchamp's letter to the public in the Annual Report.



Ordinance Reminder

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Friendly reminder to all residents about grass mowing season quickly approaching.

All properties located in the Charter Township of Comstock will be subject to enforcement of the "Comstock Township Noxious Weed and Uncontrolled Plant Growth Ordinance" (Ordinance No. 486 Adopted 2-20-2017) starting on May 1st 2023.

The purpose of this Ordinance is to maintain the character with the development of and landscaping in the neighborhood by removing noxious weeds and any other uncontrolled plant growth, weeds or grass exceeding eight (8) inches in height. It is the responsibility of all owners to prevent and/or eliminate noxious weeds before they reach a seed-bearing stage of growth, and/or to cut weeds and tall grass in yards on a routine basis.

Failure to comply with this notice will result in the Township taking action by contracting for the services necessary to remedy the violating condition. All expenses incurred to bring this property into compliance shall be paid by the owner(s). A lien shall be placed against the property, and if not paid, the amount shall be assessed as a special tax against such land on the next assessment roll and will be collected in the next tax cycle.

Please contact us at the Township office [\(269\) 381-2360](tel:2693812360) if you have any questions or concerns.

Curbside Pickup Information

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Curbside Pickup - What is Accepted

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
|  | Household doors |  | Toys |
|  | Windows and Furniture |  | Miscellaneous rubbish/junk |
|  | Carpeting |  | Packaging |
|  | Mattress
(Must be wrapped in plastic) |  | Glass
(Must be in cardboard or other sturdy box and taped shut) |

Curbside Pickup - What isn't Accepted

- | | | | |
|---|----------------------------------|---|---|
|  | Hot Tubs |  | Batteries |
|  | Boats that have been cut up |  | Florescent light bulbs |
|  | Concrete Blocks |  | Chemicals, paints, solvents, pesticides, herbicides |
|  | Bricks |  | Other household hazardous waste |
|  | Freon Appliances (i.e. ac units) |  | Iron or steel or cast-iron bathtubs |
|  | Electronics |  | Stumps, yard debris, brush |
|  | Televisions |  | Medical waste |
|  | Auto parts or Engines |  | Oil, Gasolines or antifreeze |
|  | Tires | | |

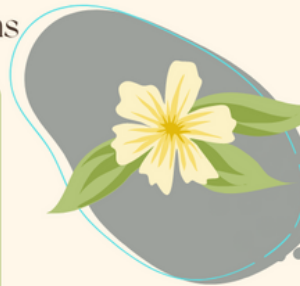
Cemetery Rules and Regulations

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Cemetery Rules & Regulations

No materials of any sort shall be established or maintained to define a cemetery lot.



No flowers, shrubs, trees or vegetation of any type shall be planted within the cemetery.

All refuse of any kind including dried-up flowers, wreaths, balloons or statues must be removed from the cemetery within 10 days after burial.



Holiday and seasonal decor are permitted two weeks prior to and two weeks following the holidays.

Holidays include New Year's Day, Easter, Mother's Day, Memorial Day, Father's Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Halloween, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas/Kwanzaa or Hanukkah.

One container to hold cut flowers, artificial flowers or any other season specific item is permitted. The items shall be placed on the side of the monument on a patio stone. In addition, one shepherd's hook for a hanging basket is allowed, placed flush to the side of the monument.

Artificial flowers, in cones or placed directly in the ground, are not allowed.

Contact us
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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