

Comstock Connect

May 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



A College Hunks crew working the 2022 Curbside Pickup

Happy May! In this issue, we have important details about curbside pickup, the VFW's upcoming Memorial Day Parade, our Downtown Development Authority, and much more:

- Details of Curbside Pickup (Page 2)
- Information on absentee voter ballots (Page 2)
- Information on Summer Tax Bills (Page 2)
- May Meetings and other Important Dates (Page 3)
- Comstock's Community Garden and Memorial Day Parade (Page 4)
- The VFW Auxiliary Post 6252's Memorial Day Parade (Page 4)
- The Comstock Center Downtown Development Authority (Page 5)
- Fun family-friendly events from the Library (Page 6)
- Information on Insurance Services Office Scores (Page 7)
- An example ISO classification letter (Pages 8 and 9)
- The Fire and Rescue Department's free Community CPR Classes (Page 10)
- A flier for Curbside Pickup (Page 13)

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 12 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



If you're on the Absent Voter application list, on the application was an option to select "I want a ballot for all future elections". This is part of the voter-approved Proposal 2022-2 that was on the November 2022 ballot. This means that a voter has the right to automatically receive ballots for all future elections without first submitting an application.

If you'd like to sign up for this and didn't mark the box or aren't on the permanent AV application list and didn't receive an application but want to be included on the list, please contact the Clerk's Office for an application.

Bret Padgett, Township Treasurer

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

bpadgett@comstockmi.gov



If you have purchased, sold, or otherwise transferred property this year, please take this time to verify that your Principal Residence Exemption (PRE) percentage is correct. A PRE is an exemption from school operating tax that can be claimed on a homeowner's primary residence.

For full PRE guidelines from the State of Michigan, check out Michigan.gov/taxes or click here: [PRE Guidelines](#).

With less than two months until summer property tax bills are mailed, this is also a great time to verify that we have your correct mailing address on file at the Township. To check it out, hit the "Tax & Assessing Info" button on our website, or click here: [BS&A Online](#).

The audit of Township's fiscal year 2022 financial statements has been completed. The audited financial statements will soon be available to view on the Treasurer's page of the Township website.



Announcements



Got Scrap Tires?

The Kalamazoo Conservation District will be holding 3 free scrap tire collection events this summer:

- June 14, 2023: 1:00 pm - 7:00 pm at the City of Kalamazoo parking lot located at 322 Stockbridge Ave, Kalamazoo, MI 49001
- July 13, 2023: 9:00 am - 2:00 pm at Swan Park located at 50 East VW Ave., Vicksburg, MI 49097
- August 8, 2023: 3:00 pm - 7:00 pm Perkins Tire Services at 8333 Woodin, in Scotts, Michigan.

Registration is required. Click [here](#) for more information and sign up for an tire collection event.

If you are interested in volunteering for one of these events, please give the office a call at 269-775-3368. The Kalamazoo Conservation District says they could use help unloading and loading tires in the semi-trailers.

Important Dates

Township Board Meeting

The Township Board is meeting on Monday, May 15th at 6:00 pm.

Parks and Recreation Board Meeting

The Parks and Recreation Board is meeting on Monday, May 8th at 6:00 pm.

Planning Commission Board Meeting

The Planning Commission is meeting on Thursday, May 11th, and May 25th at 7:00 pm.

The Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting

The Zoning Board of Reviews is meeting on Tuesday, May 23rd at 4:00 pm.

The Downtown Development Authority Meeting

The Downtown Development Authority is meeting on Wednesday, May 24th at 5:30 pm.

Office Closed for Memorial Day

The Township Offices will be closed on Monday, May 29th in observance of Memorial Day.

A large, arched sign for Robert Morris Park. The sign has a dark blue background with white text that reads "Robert Morris Park". The sign is mounted on a black metal frame and is set against a background of trees and a stone pillar.

Robert Morris Park

We'll start staffing Robert Morris Park on Saturday, May 27th, which means our park's season will be heating up!

Our staff will be able to serve concessions, help you with your pavilion rentals, and will be at Robert Morris Park to assist you from morning to sunset. On May 27th, both Merrill Park and Robert Morris Park will have pavilion rentals [available](#).

You can pick up your Robert Morris Park Pass by stopping by the [Township Offices](#).



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](#).

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Memorial Day Parade
Monday, May 29th
The parade starts at 12:00 pm. There is a celebration at Merrill Park following the parade.

Guppy's Fishing Tournament and Pancake Breakfast
Saturday, June 10th
Stop by Merrill Park from some free fishing. Pre registration required.

Build a Bee House
Saturday, June 17th
10am-Noon at Merrill Park
Registration required by June 9th
\$10 includes activity and snack
Recommended for ages 10+.

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 parcs@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.



The Comstock Center Downtown Development Authority

What is the Downtown Development Authority (DDA)?

The DDA is a board dedicated to improving the Comstock Center area. Comstock Center, represented in pink on the map on the bottom right of the page, is a key area for the Township's economy. The DDA board oversees several projects to ensure the Comstock Center area and the township as a whole thrive.

Who is on the DDA Board of Directors?

DDA Board members are appointed by the Township Board. The Township Supervisor is automatically on the DDA Board. The Comstock Township Board appointed Steve Deiser as Comstock Center DDA Director on April 3, 2023.

What does the DDA do?

Broadly speaking, the DDA's goal for the DDA area is to promote economic development, eliminate blight, and promote growth, all while preserving the area's history.

The Comstock DDA Board has been very active in implementing the following:

- The placement and maintenance of 30 planters around Comstock Center and the gateways.
- Seasonally changing banners in Comstock Center.
- Helped with the National Night Out at Merrill Park.
- Helped with Movie Nights at Merrill Park.
- Implementing the Beautify Comstock Center Initiative toward a full downtown revitalization plan.
- Established four welcoming gateways to Comstock Center with signs and plantings.
- Focusing on implementing DDA elements of the [Economic Development, Marketing & Branding Strategy](#).

Securing Public and Private Grants help fund new projects (2021-2023):

- \$21,000 grant from the MEDC for the creation of an economic development marketing & branding strategy with the Township.
- For *Beautify Comstock Center* initiative:
 - \$10,000 from Irving S. Gilmore Foundation
 - \$12,500 from the Consumers Energy Foundation
 - \$5,000 from Harold & Grace Upjohn Foundation

The Comstock Center DDA would like to thank the following businesses for their generous contributions to the Beautify Comstock Center Initiative:

- Flower and soil donation from Stan Ouding Greenhouses. (2021)
- Planter donation from Landscape Forms (2021)
- Soil donation from Michigan Grower Products for the planters placed around Comstock Center (2022)
- Fertilizer donation from Wenke Greenhouses (2023)
- Discounted Flowers for Planters River Street Flowerland (2023)
- Soil donation from Sportel Greenhouses (2023)

Learn more about Comstock Center DDA and join the excitement!

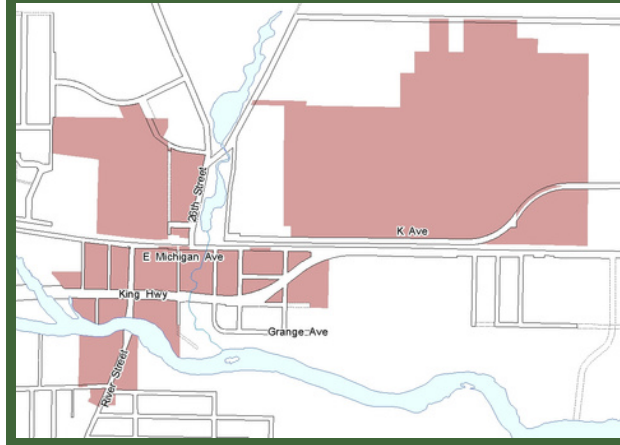
The DDA holds public meetings on the fourth Wednesday of every month at 5:30 PM. Downtown Development Authorities are required to hold two informational meetings annually to inform the public of the goals and direction of the authority, including projects planned for the next year. You can also find information and apply for membership on the DDA Board by connecting [online](#).

Board of Directors

Sandra Katje, Chair
Jon Koets, Vice Chair
Jeffrey Townsend, Secretary/Treasurer
Randy Thompson, Township Supervisor
John Gisler, County Commissioner
Ryan Davis
Evan Kowalski
Matt Norman

Steve Deiser, Comstock Center DDA
Director

Map of the DDA Area



269-381-2360



<https://comstockmi.gov/downtown-development-authority/>

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 Craft: Fused Glass Magnets

Wednesday, May 24 @ 6:00 PM

This will be an evening spent creating a fused glass magnet and then leaving them to be put in a kiln. Participants will need to return to the library to pick-up their finished kiln-fired magnet! Please call or visit our website to register.

Kid's Craft: Fairy Gardens

Saturday, May 20 @ 11:00am & 1pm

Kids will have the chance to make a tiny little garden fit for a fairy! Please call or visit our website to register.



Buck-a Bag Book Sale

Monday, May 1 - Saturday, May 13

Come fill a bag with used books for the best deal in town! Standard size grocery tote bags and smaller will cost \$1. Bags larger than a standard size grocery tote bag will cost \$5. The sale includes adult, teen, and youth books, as well as audiobooks.



We want to hear from you! Please visit the Library's website to take our [community survey](#). We'd love to hear your feedback and ideas for future programs and services. The survey runs through May 14.

The Library will be closed on May 27 and 29 for Memorial Day weekend.

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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We have been getting several calls regarding homeowner's insurance premiums going up that live in Comstock Township but have a Galesburg mailing address. It appears the insurance company is using Galesburg's ISO rating and not Comstock's. If you live in Comstock Township and have a Galesburg mailing address you may want to check to see if your homeowner's insurance premiums have gone up and if so, inquire why. If it is due to a change in the ISO rating, you will need to let them know that Comstock Township's current ISO rating is a 3.

What is an ISO Score and how is it determined?

The ISO (Insurance Services Office) score, also known as the Public Protection Classification (PPC) score, is determined through a comprehensive evaluation of a fire department's operations and capabilities. ISO collects and analyzes data on a variety of factors related to the fire department's ability to respond to and mitigate fires, including:

1. Fire alarms and notifications: This includes factors such as the number of fire alarms received, the methods used to notify the fire department of an alarm, and the speed with which firefighters can respond to an alarm.
2. Fire department staffing: This includes the number of firefighters on duty, their level of training, and the availability of backup personnel.
3. Firefighting equipment: This includes the types of equipment available, the age and condition of the equipment, and the maintenance and testing of the equipment.
4. Water supply: This includes the availability and capacity of water sources in the area, such as hydrants, reservoirs, and water mains.
5. Community risk reduction: This includes the fire prevention and education programs offered by the fire department, as well as the enforcement of fire codes and regulations.

Based on this data, ISO assigns a numerical score ranging from 1 to 10, with 1 being the best possible score and 10 being the worst.

How ISO Fire Rating impacts your community?

A low ISO rating can benefit a fire department in several ways. One of the primary benefits is that it can lead to lower insurance premiums for homeowners and businesses in the fire department's jurisdiction. Insurance companies often use ISO ratings as a factor in determining insurance rates, with lower ISO ratings typically resulting in lower premiums. Therefore, a low ISO rating for the Comstock Fire Department can help reduce the insurance costs for residents and businesses in the area.

Additionally, a low ISO rating can indicate to the community that the fire department is well-equipped, highly trained, and capable of responding effectively to emergencies. This can enhance the department's reputation and help build trust with the community, which can be especially important during times of crisis.

Finally, a low ISO rating can also help attract new businesses and residents to the area. Companies and individuals may be more likely to move to a community that has a well-equipped and highly rated fire department, which can contribute to the overall growth and development of the community.

*** FOLLOWING IS OUR ISO CLASSIFICATION LETTER.**



RECEIVED

NOV 02 2019

CHARTER TOWNSHIP
OF COMSTOCK

1000 Bishops Gate Blvd. Ste 300
Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054-5404

t1.800.444.4554 Opt.2
f1.800.777.3929

October 23, 2019

Mr. Scott Hess, Superintendent
Comstock TS
6138 King Highway
Kalamazoo, Michigan, 49048

RE: Comstock Ts, Kalamazoo County, Michigan
Public Protection Classification: 03/3Y
Effective Date: February 01, 2020

Dear Mr. Scott Hess,

We wish to thank you and Chief Matt Beauchamp for your cooperation during our recent Public Protection Classification (PPC) survey. ISO has completed its analysis of the structural fire suppression delivery system provided in your community. The resulting classification is indicated above.

If you would like to know more about your community's PPC classification, or if you would like to learn about the potential effect of proposed changes to your fire suppression delivery system, please call us at the phone number listed below.

ISO's Public Protection Classification Program (PPC) plays an important role in the underwriting process at insurance companies. In fact, most U.S. insurers – including the largest ones – use PPC information as part of their decision-making when deciding what business to write, coverage's to offer or prices to charge for personal or commercial property insurance.

Each insurance company independently determines the premiums it charges its policyholders. The way an insurer uses ISO's information on public fire protection may depend on several things – the company's fire-loss experience, ratemaking methodology, underwriting guidelines, and its marketing strategy.

Through ongoing research and loss experience analysis, we identified additional differentiation in fire loss experience within our PPC program, which resulted in the revised classifications. We based the differing fire loss experience on the fire suppression capabilities of each community. The new classifications will improve the predictive value for insurers while benefiting both commercial and residential property owners. We've published the new classifications as "X" and "Y" – formerly the "9" and "8B" portion of the split classification, respectively. For example:

- A community currently graded as a split 6/9 classification will now be a split 6/6X classification; with the "6X" denoting what was formerly classified as "9."
- Similarly, a community currently graded as a split 6/8B classification will now be a split 6/6Y classification, the "6Y" denoting what was formerly classified as "8B."

- Communities graded with single "9" or "8B" classifications will remain intact.
- Properties over 5 road miles from a recognized fire station would receive a class 10.

PPC is important to communities and fire departments as well. Communities whose PPC improves may get lower insurance prices. PPC also provides fire departments with a valuable benchmark, and is used by many departments as a valuable tool when planning, budgeting and justifying fire protection improvements.

ISO appreciates the high level of cooperation extended by local officials during the entire PPC survey process. The community protection baseline information gathered by ISO is an essential foundation upon which determination of the relative level of fire protection is made using the Fire Suppression Rating Schedule.

The classification is a direct result of the information gathered, and is dependent on the resource levels devoted to fire protection in existence at the time of survey. Material changes in those resources that occur after the survey is completed may affect the classification. Although ISO maintains a pro-active process to keep baseline information as current as possible, in the event of changes please call us at 1-800-444-4554, option 2 to expedite the update activity.

ISO is the leading supplier of data and analytics for the property/casualty insurance industry. Most insurers use PPC classifications for underwriting and calculating premiums for residential, commercial and industrial properties. The PPC program is not intended to analyze all aspects of a comprehensive structural fire suppression delivery system program. It is not for purposes of determining compliance with any state or local law, nor is it for making loss prevention or life safety recommendations.

If you have any questions about your classification, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Alex Shubert

Alex Shubert

Manager -National Processing Center

cc: Mr. Bill Bresson, Water Superintendent, Galesburg Water Department
Mrs. Jane McDonagh, Water Resources Director, Kalamazoo Water Department
Mr. Jeff Troyer, Director, Kalamazoo County Consolidated Dispatch Authority
Chief Matt Beauchamp, Chief, Comstock TS Fire Department



Community CPR Classes

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In January, Comstock Fire Department began holding monthly community CPR classes. We are excited to continue to provide this community outreach program and encourage all who are interested to consider signing up.

While we evaluate the interest and demand for training, we are limiting the initial class size to 8. Participants will be chosen on a first-come, first-serve basis, with initial preference given to Comstock Township residents, so please do not hesitate to register.

CPR cards will not be issued for this program due to the limited scope of instruction. For this reason, this training is being provided at no cost!

Our overarching goal is to train as many people in our community as possible in how to properly provide chest compressions and use an AED in the event of a cardiac emergency.

Bystander CPR keeps blood moving to the brain and other organs to give victims of sudden cardiac arrest the best chance of survival possible while waiting for emergency services.

Classes will be held once a month at Comstock Fire Station 9-1 (1960 River Street) on Saturdays, 9:00 am – 11:00 am. We will announce upcoming classes on our Facebook page, as well as our website (www.comstockfire.com), so make sure you are following us to stay informed.

To register, click on the link provided on either the shared Facebook post or on the Township Governments website each month.

Please sign up to join us and learn a crucial skill that can help save a life!

Questions can be emailed to FF Crabtree at ccrabtree@comstockmi.gov



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 Fall 2023 Medical First Responder Class and 2024 Kalamazoo County Fire Chief's Association Fire Academy 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.

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

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

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