

Comstock Connect

June 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 p.m.

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



Some geese and their goslings
enjoying Merrill Park.

Happy June! It's summer time! Put on sunscreen and come on out to some fun community events for the whole family. Find details on those events and much more important information, such as:

- Details of first Scrap Tire Collection (Page 2)
- Information on August 8th election (Page 2)
- Information on Summer Tax Bills (Page 2)
- June meetings and other important dates (Page 3)
- Build a Bee House (Page 4)
- An update from Comstock Center (Page 5)
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- The Fire Department's Grant for Smoke Detectors (Page 7)
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Messages from the Township

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Randy Thompson, Township Supervisor

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

supervisor@comstockmi.gov



Summer is coming and we couldn't be more excited! We hope you take time to learn about all the the great opportunities we have available this upcoming season. The Comstock Township Parks and Recreation Department is hosting a number of wonderful events in many of our parks. Robert Morris Park began being staffed at the end of May, so your family can enjoy concessions while they swim, play, relax, and enjoy a round of disc golf.

Merrill Park will host a Bee House building workshop, 3 separate family movie nights, a Harvest Festival, and youth basketball games. Robert Morris Park will be hosting a Dino Dig; Green Meadow Park will have an Archery clinic, and there will be Neighborhood Park Days at Fleetwood Park and Celery Street Park.

Nicole Beauchamp, Township Clerk

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

clerk@comstockmi.gov



There will be an election on August 8th for voters in Precinct 4. Gull Lake Community Schools district will have an item on the ballot. The assigned polling location for Precinct 4 is the Northeastern Baptist Church on G Ave.

For this election only, the polling location has changed to Comstock Middle School, [3100 N 26th Street](#) in the gymnasium. Every voter in this precinct will receive a postcard in the mail prior to election day informing them of this change. If you opted to be on the permanent Absent Voter Ballot list, this will be the first election you will automatically be sent a ballot.

Bret Padgett, Township Treasurer

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

bpadgett@comstockmi.gov



Summer property tax bills will be mailed out on June 30, and we can begin accepting payments on July 1. If you do not receive a property tax bill by July 10, please contact the Township Treasurer; failure to receive a tax bill does not preclude the collection of taxes (MCL 211.44(2)). Payment can be made by mail; in-person at the Township office; by using our drop box located near the front entrance; or online through our website. 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 September 14; by statute, the Township does not have the authority to waive interest (MCL 211.44(3)). Postmarks are accepted if payment is received within seven days of the due date, and we are not responsible for lost mail or mail delays (MCL 211.44b).

NEW FOR 2023: The Township has switched to Invoice Cloud for digital payments. We can now accept PayPal, Venmo, Apple Pay and Google Pay (3% fee for each) when paying through our website. You can also register for a free account and have a copy of your tax bill emailed directly to your inbox. Plus, you can schedule payment reminders, set up auto pay, and more. Head to www.comstockmi.gov to learn more.



Announcements



Got Scrap Tires?

We're coming up on the first of three Passenger Scrap Tire Collection Events hosted by the [Kalamazoo Conservation District](#) on June 14th.

- The event will be held from 1:00 pm - 7:00 pm.
- The event will be held at the City of Kalamazoo Parking Lot at 322 Stockbridge Ave, Kalamazoo, MI, 49001.
- Appointments are required, you can sign up [online](#).

The Kalamazoo Conservation District is looking for volunteers for their scrape tire collection events this summer. They could use help loading and unloading semi-trailers. If you have questions or want to help, please reach out the Kalamazoo Conservation District at [269-775-3368](tel:269-775-3368) or kalamazooconservation@gmail.com.

If you cannot make it to this event, the Kalamazoo Conservation District is hosting 2 more events this summer. One will be held on July 13th in Vicksburg and another will be held on August 8th in Scotts.

Important Dates

Township Board Meeting

The Township Board is meeting on Monday, June 5th, and June 26th at 6:00 pm.

Parks and Recreation Board Meeting

The Parks and Recreation Board is meeting on Monday, June 12th at 6:00 pm.

Planning Commission Board Meeting

The Planning Commission is meeting on Thursday, June 22nd at 7:00 pm.

The Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting

The Zoning Board of Appeals is meeting on Tuesday, June 27th at 4:00 pm.

The Downtown Development Authority Meeting

The Downtown Development Authority is meeting on Wednesday, June 28th at 5:30 pm.

Office Closed for Juneteenth

The Township Offices will be closed on Monday, June 19th in observance of Juneteenth.

Build a Bee House

Saturday, June 17th

Want to have a lot of fun while learning a new skill and helping our pollinating friends? Stop by Merrill Park on June 17th from 10 am until noon to build a Bee House!

Supplies and a snack will be provided. Registration is required and the fee is \$10. Recommended for ages 10+.



Robert Morris Park Passes

are available for purchase at Robert Morris Park or the [Township Office](#) located at 6138 King Hwy, Kalamazoo, MI 49048. Passes cost \$25, or \$10 for seniors (60+). Day passes can be purchased at Robert Morris Park for \$5

Free Park Day

Monday, June 19th

Free entry into Robert Morris Park.

Movie in the Park: Super-Pets

Saturday, July 8th at Merrill Park

Movie begins at Sunset.

Food available for purchase.

Costume Contest with prizes for Kids, Families and Your Dog! See our website for more details.

Neighborhood Park Day:

Fleetwood Park

Saturday, July 15th

Stop by Fleetwood Park from noon-2 pm for food, Inflatable, and Community Engagement!

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.



E Michigan Ave

The Comstock Center Downtown Development Authority

Some Spring Cleanup in Comstock Center!

On a cool Thursday morning, DDA Executive Director Steve Deiser joined community members in Merrill Park. The team grabbed garbage bags, string trimmers, and leaf blowers and got to work. They picked up trash, cleaned up walkways, and trimmed weeds in Comstock Center. We hope you're able to stop by Comstock Center and enjoy their hard work. A big thanks to Jon Koets, Lorence Wenke, John Scholly, Damian and Amanda Cole and their children.



Jon Koets and Steve Deiser claning around the intersection of River St. and Kings Highway



Jon Koets and Lorence Wenke grabbing a cup off coffee while taking a short break

Business Improvements

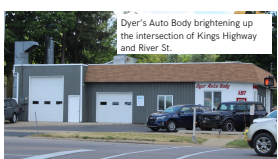
Small improvements in Comstock Center are making a big difference. Niko's Express has reopened, and the restaurant is drawing crowds of residents back to the downtown. Valentina's Restaurant has repaired its façade and expecting to do more enhancements to their building in the coming months. Dyer's Auto Body recently painted the building exterior with a nice color combination to spruce up for spring and to attract customers.



Valentina's Restaurant, on River St., showing off its new façade.



Niko's Express, on Kings Hwy., on a busy Thursday afternoon.



Dyer's Auto Body brightening up the intersection of Kings Highway and River St.

Coming Soon

During the week of June 12th you will see 30 streetscape planters with colorful flowers placed along King Hwy. and River St. DDA landscape contractor, MowCo, will set planters along sidewalks and in front of businesses to brighten up downtown for the summer. Many thanks to Sportel Greenhouses, Wenke Greenhouses and River St. Flowerland for their generous donations and support.

Comstock Center will have a new gateway sign installed on River St. and Comstock Ave. to match the attractive entry signs that were installed last summer. With the heavy vehicle, bike and pedestrian traffic at this intersection the DDA believes it will add a welcoming touch to the south end of the district.

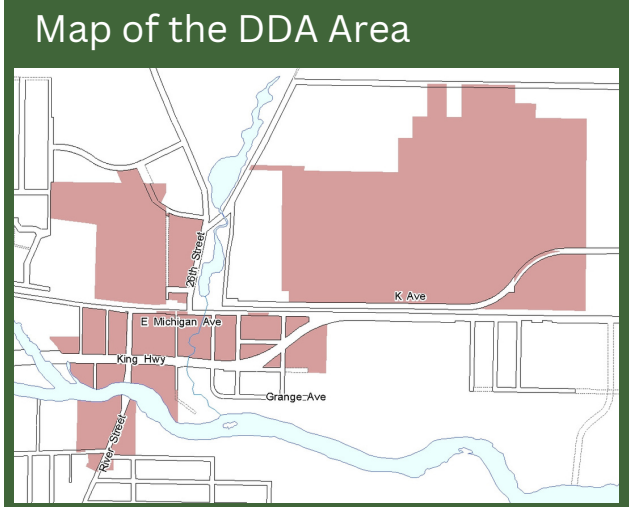


One of our Comstock Center Gateway Signs.

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



One of our planters on Comstock Center on River St. from 2022.

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](#).



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



269-381-2360

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](tel:269-345-0136)

Info@comstocklibrary.org

www.comstocklibrary.org

Teen Program: Henna Party

Wednesday, June 14 @ 2pm

A local henna artist will be painting designs on each participant. Enjoy snacks and activities while you wait for your design. Registration is required for this free event and begins on June 4th. This event is open those going into grades 8th-12th only.

Clay Pot Toadstools

Wednesday, June 14 @ 6pm

Using simple terracotta flower pots, we will be making toadstools to bring joy to your garden! Visit the library's website, call, or stop in to register for this free program.



Unicorn Carnival

Monday, June 19 @ 11am

Join us for an unforgettable Summer Reading kick-off celebration! Kids can take a unicorn ride and meet some of the unicorn's friends like an alpaca, sheep, goats, and rabbits. There will also be unicorn-themed carnival games and you can take home a twisted balloon. Additionally, teens and adults may visit inside the library for a unicorn cupcake decorating workshop.

Family Storytime at Merrill Park

Wednesday, June 14, 21, 28 @ 10:30am

Join us for an all ages, family storytime where we will explore stories, songs, and rhymes at the lovely Merrill Park. Please bring a blanket or chairs as we will be sitting on the grass. No registration necessary. In the case of rain, we will hold storytime inside the library.

The Summer Reading Program starts June 1st! You can read and complete library challenges to win prizes! We offer programs for all ages, from infants to seniors. Visit our website homepage or drop by the library to register. Visit the Events page on the library's website to see all our upcoming summer events.

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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COMSTOCK

911

Grant Awarded

Comstock Fire & Rescue was awarded the Fire Prevention & Safety (FPS) Grant funding for the Fiscal Year 2021 for \$36,609.52 in Federal funding from the Department of Homeland Security with a 5% department match.

This award will allow us to provide and install one thousand (1,000) Smoke Alarms with tamper-proof 10-year lithium batteries and two hundred (200) Carbon Monoxide (CO) alarms each year for two years for Comstock Township residents that are in need.

The Fire Prevention and Safety Grant funding award provides an opportunity for fire departments to continue to develop and implement fire prevention and safety programs. The Fire Prevention and Safety Grant aims to provide tools and resources to help reduce fire-related losses and to support firefighter safety. Ultimately, the goal of this grant is to improve the quality of life in communities affected by fire by making them safer and more secure.

If you are a Township resident and in need of Smoke Alarms or Carbon Monoxide (CO) detectors, please contact Fire Marshal Mike Kessler at 269-345-9244 or visit our website at www.comstockfire.com/contact-us/ and complete the "Request Install of Smoke Alarms or Carbon Monoxide Detectors" form.





Community CPR Classes

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About our Community CPR Classes

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.

Cemetery Update

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These are some pictures of our beautiful Comstock Cemetery taken in late May. It's touching to see all the American flags posted by the graves of veterans to mark Memorial Day, which were placed by families in our community.



Temporary grave markers, typically placed by the funeral home at the time of burial, are allowed for a year following the interment. Our cemeteries contain several of these types of markers, some of them quite old. We are attempting to send letters to the families of those individuals. If you have a loved one buried at our cemeteries who doesn't have a marker and obtaining one is a financial burden, please contact us for a list of affordable options.

We're hard at work to make Comstock's cemeteries more accessible and aesthetically pleasing and we're grateful for all the community has done to ensure we're able to keep our cemeteries the respectful resting places they deserve to be.



Senior Veteran Support Program

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The Kalamazoo County Area Agency on Aging has established the Senior Veteran Support Program in partnership with the Kalamazoo County Veterans Service Office (VSO). This program utilizes Senior Millage funding to provide hearing, dental, and vision services to Veterans over 60 not covered by health or service benefits.

“We’re an aging nation, and we need to ensure that all older adults – including veterans of the armed forces – have the needed support to age in place and to continue being a part of the Kalamazoo community,” said Don Saldia, Area Agency on Aging Division Manager. “Even with benefits, these essential services needed for quality of life are still financially difficult to access – this holds true for our veterans. The Kalamazoo County Senior Millage is proud to honor our veterans in partnership with the Veterans Service Office.”

Through this partnership, the Area Agency on Aging will provide the VSO \$500,000 to connect Kalamazoo’s senior veterans to this program. From April 2022 to March 2023, 64% of clients served by the VSO were over the age of 60. The VSO also saw an increase in assistance requests for existing programs by almost 800% since 2019.

“The Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care services provide essential benefits for those who qualify. However, among senior veterans in our community, we see a high demand for services not covered by VA Health Care and a lack of resources to provide them,” said Lauren King, Veterans Service Office Supervisor. “Access to vision aids, dental services, and more are extremely limited for those who don’t qualify for these benefits through VA Health Care. This partnership will remove barriers to access to services that improve the quality of life and increase independence for our veterans.”

The Kalamazoo County Area Agency on Aging oversees the Senior Millage, which provides funding to keep older adults aging at home with quality of life. The Senior Millage assisted over 7,300 Kalamazoo County Seniors in 2022.

Community members can call (269) 373-5361 to access the Senior Veteran Support Program. For more information about the Senior Millage, please visit www.kalcounty.com/seniormillage.

Who to Call for Help

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We here at Comstock Township are always happy to hear from you and help you address your issues. However, there are some problems that other institutions are better equipped to handle.

The Comstock Fire Department

- Illegal fires after hours
- Burn permit questions

The Road Commission of Kalamazoo County

[\(269\) 381-3171](tel:2693813171)

<https://www.kalamazooountyroads.com/>

- Plowing
- Traffic signs down
- Potholes
- Trees in the road during business hours

Kalamazoo City

[\(269\) 337-8000](tel:2693378000)

<https://www.kalamazoocity.org/>

- Issues with traffic lights

911

- Emergencies
- Crimes such as breaking and entering, squatting and drug activity
- Trees in the road after business hours
(This is considered an emergency)

Drain Commission of Kalamazoo County

[\(269\) 384-8117](tel:2693848117)

<https://www.kalcounty.com/drain/>

Request service form

- Flooding in the road

Kalamazoo County Health Department

[\(269\) 373-5200](tel:2693735200)

<https://www.kalcounty.com/hcs/>

- Well and Septic tank permits, information, and locations

Consumers Energy

[\(800\) 477-5050](tel:8004775050)

<https://www.consumersenergy.com/>

- Streetlight issues

Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Office

Non-emergency line: [\(269\) 488-1977](tel:2694881977)

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



VOTE

AUGUST 8TH

Precinct 4 only

There will be an election on **August 8th** for voters in **Precinct 4.**

Gull Lake Community Schools will have an item on the ballot. The assigned polling location for Precinct 4 is the Northeastern Baptist Church on G Ave.

For this election only, the polling location has changed to

**Comstock Middle School,
3100 N 26th Street**

in the gymnasium.

Every voter in this precinct will receive a postcard in the mail prior to election day informing them of this change. All future elections will be held at Northeastern Baptist Church.



If you opted to be on the permanent Absent Voter Ballot list, this will be the first election you will automatically be mailed a ballot.

