

# Comstock Connect

## August 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.



Happy August! We're wrapping up summer with exciting outdoor events and important announcements. You won't want to miss this *Comstock Connects* articles about:

- 2023 Curbside Pickup information (Page 2)
- Information on the August 8th election (Page 2)
- Information on Summer Tax Bills (Page 2)
- An important announcement regarding the final Scrap Tire Collection (Page 2)
- August meetings and other important dates (Page 3)
- National Night Out (Page 4)
- Our next Movie in the Park (Page 4)
- An update from Comstock Center (Page 5)
- Fun family-friendly events from the Library (Page 6)
- Reflective Address Signs from the Comstock Township Fire Department (Page 7)
- Two big upgrades to our Cemeteries (Page 8)
- Flyer for the August 8th election (Page 9)

# Messages from the Township

## Page 2

**Randy Thompson, Township Supervisor**

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

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



Please be aware that we will be raising the prices for some of our services at the Transfer Station at the start of 2024. Dropping off compactor rubbish will cost \$30 dollars per cubic yard. Tires will cost \$4. We accept most items for the rubbish compactor, however we do have a list of things that are not accepted.

As a reminder, Fall Curbside Pickup begins on Monday, September 11, 2022. We hope everyone is able to take advantage of this opportunity!

**Nicole Beauchamp, Township Clerk**

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

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



A reminder that Precinct 4 ONLY has an election on August 8th. The Gull Lake Community School District has an item on the ballot. For this election ONLY, the voting precinct has changed to Comstock Middle School, 3100 N 26th St.

Not sure which precinct you vote in? You can check here: [Michigan.gov/vote](https://Michigan.gov/vote).

There will be an election for all of Kalamazoo County on November 7th.

We are excited to announce two projects to expand and improve the Township's cemeteries. We will be expanding Comstock Cemetery and adding a columbarium in Maple Grove Cemetery. These projects will ensure that our cemeteries can continue to be used as a peaceful resting place for generation to come. Find out more on page 10.

**Bret Padgett, Township Treasurer**

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

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



Summer property tax season is in full swing. If you expect to receive a property tax bill and it has not arrived, please contact the Township Treasurer to make sure your correct address is on file. Property tax payments can be made by mail; 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).

Along with major credit and electronic check, we can now accept PayPal, Venmo, Apple Pay and Google Pay 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](http://www.comstockmi.gov) to learn more.

Curious about how the Township's funds are invested? Head to [www.comstockmi.gov](http://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



### Got Scrap Tires?

The Kalamazoo Conservation District's final Scrap Tire Collection on August 8th is at capacity and they can no longer accept new appointments.

The Kalamazoo Conservation District is looking for volunteers for their scrap 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 to the Kalamazoo Conservation District at [269-775-3368](tel:269-775-3368) or [kalamazooconservation@gmail.com](mailto:kalamazooconservation@gmail.com).

Follow the Kalamazoo conservation District on [Facebook](#) for more great events from them!

Comstock Charter Township Residents are always able to bring tires to the Township's Transfer Station.

## Important Dates

### Planning Commission Board Meeting

The Planning Commission is meeting on Thursday, August 10th, and August 24th at 7:00 pm.

### Parks and Recreation Board Meeting

The Parks and Recreation Board is meeting on Monday, August 14th at 6:00 pm.

### Township Board Meeting

The Township Board is meeting on Monday, August 21st at 6:00 pm.

### The Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting

The Zoning Board of Appeals is meeting on Tuesday, August 22nd at 4:00 pm.

### The Downtown Development Authority Meeting

The Downtown Development Authority is meeting on Wednesday, August 23rd at 5:30 pm.

# Robert Morris Park

## National Night Out

Tuesday, August 1st

We're so excited to host National Night Out with the Kalamazoo County Sherriff's Office. Come out to Merrill Park from 5-7 pm for free food, fun, and a chance to meet the hardworking men and women serving our community!

### 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.

### Movie in the Park

Merrill Park  
August 5th

Come down to Merrill Park and catch Minions: Rise of Gru! Food will be available for purchase at 6:30 pm. You can meet the minions at 7 pm. The movie begins at 9:10 pm.

### Fall Fest

Merrill Park  
Sept. 23rd

Don't miss out on the Flowers and Floats at Merrill Park from noon-3 pm! We'll have live music, food trucks, kids activities, sales from River Street Flowerland and Wanke Greenhouses, and presentation from the Kalamazoo Nature Center !

**NATIONAL NIGHT OUT 2023**  
**AUGUST 1, 2023**

Merrill Park 5845 Comstock Ave. Comstock Township, 5-7pm.  
Please join the Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Office as we work to establish an even better relationship with our community partners.

Refreshments - Games - Community Partners - Fun

Comstock Center  
Economic Development Authority

**Free Community Event!**

PROUDLY CELEBRATING  
**NND 40**  
NATIONAL NIGHT OUT  
2023  
POLICE - COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

HARTLEB AGENCY

COMSTOCK PARKS & REC

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. 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

## Fall Fest is coming back and will be bigger than ever!

The Comstock Center DDA and Comstock Parks and Recreation are teaming up to expand the festival at Merrill Park. It will be family-focused with food, music, and activities for everyone. The event theme is "Flowers and Floats" and will include Wenke Greenhouses and River Street Flowerland flower sales. There will be free ice cream floats and games. Food is offered for sale by downtown restaurants and food trucks. So, grab the family and drive, bike, walk, scooter or float the river to Merrill Park for Fall Fest - Flowers and Floats on Saturday, September 23, 2023, from 12 pm to 3 pm!



Merrill Park Gateway Sign

## Have You Noticed?

There is a new Comstock Center gateway sign at River Street and Comstock Avenue. to welcome visitors from the south and west to downtown. The Comstock Center DDA added the new sign to continue the overall effort to beautify and brand the district. New landscaping will also be added to brighten up the entryway.



Our new Comstock Center gateway sign at River Street and Comstock Avenue

## You Tell Us!

As a part of the Comstock Riverfront Redevelopment Project currently in the planning stages, we need your feedback on what type of retail stores, specialty shops, and personal service uses you would like to have in the Comstock Center district. Please give us your ideas, whether it's a new coffee shop, ice cream shop, small hardware store, salon, or restaurant. If we don't provide the unique stores you want, you'll never come. You can contact the Comstock Center DDA Director Steve Deisler at 269-381-2360 or [sdeisler@comstockmi.gov](mailto:sdeisler@comstockmi.gov) with your opinions.

## Teaming Up!

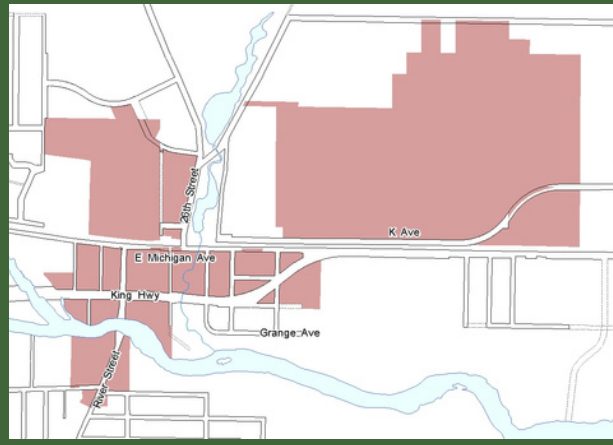
The Kalamazoo Gospel Mission has partnered with Comstock Township to offer an outreach ministry where KGM places a shower/laundry trailer out into the community to help those who don't regularly stay at the mission. There are small hygiene items for them to use and take. The shower trailer will be behind the Hartleb Insurance Agency on King Highway every Tuesday this summer. Please share to get the word out! We desire to help those who need a cool shower and clean clothes! YOU can help those in need by getting the word out!

## 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
- Anne Summerfield

Steve Deiser, Comstock Center DDA Director

## Map of the DDA Area



The Kalamazoo Gospel Missions shower and laundry truck behind Hartleb Insurance Agency.



# Comstock Township Library

## Page 6

### 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)

# Summer Park Party at Merrill Park

Saturday, August 5 @ 1pm

Join the Comstock Township Library and Comstock Parks and Recreation at Merrill Park for the biggest party of the summer! This year we will host a foam party with music, games, and food also available. The foam is hypo-allergenic and safe for children. No registration is required for this program.

## Summer Reading Program

The Summer Reading Program runs through August 31! Be sure to visit the Library before then to collect all your prizes!

### Adult Book Club

Thursday, August 31 @ 6pm

Please join us for a discussion of *Our Best Intentions* by Vibhuti Jain. High schooler Angie stumbles upon a crime scene one day during summer vacation and it throws the entire community into chaos in this contemporary thriller. Library copies or free copies of the book will be provided. Snacks and drinks will be served. Registration and book pick-up begin Monday, July 31st.

### Book Tasting

Wednesday, August 30 @ 6pm

Having trouble deciding what to read lately? Ready to dive into something new? Come to our book tasting and treat yourself to a sampling of many books all at once! After giving yourself three minutes with each book offered, you may go home with a brand spanking new To Read List (because let's face it, nobody likes just tasting a little sample). Light refreshments will be served. Space is limited, so please register.

### Adult Craft: Flameless Scorched Wood Magnets

Wednesday, August 16 @ 6pm

How can you achieve a burned wood look without a flame? Join us at the Library to discover the key to this craft! Registration is required for this free event.



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



# Reflective Address Signs

Comstock Fire has reflective green address signs available for Township residents. The signs play a crucial role in enhancing emergency response and public safety. These signs, often placed prominently on homes and properties, are designed to be highly visible, even during low-light conditions or adverse weather. During emergencies such as medical crises, fires, or natural disasters, every second counts, and first responders need to locate the correct address

swiftly. Reflective address signs enable emergency personnel to identify addresses accurately, reducing response time and minimizing potential delays in critical situations. It is recommended they be installed on your mailbox or an existing pole that is visible from the roadway. If you would like to have a reflective sign installed at your home, please contact Fire Marshal Mike Kessler at 269-345-9244 or visit <https://comstockfire.com/community/> and complete a "Request a Reflective Address Sign" form.



# Cemetery Update

## Page 8



Have you ever wandered through our cemeteries and wondered why people chose to engrave what they did on their stones?

I have seen recipes inscribed on the back of grave markers; perhaps secret recipes that were finally revealed upon one's death. Bible verses are often engraved to reflect one's favorite verse or a nod to a life lived for Christ. Loving remembrances of babies and children gone too soon or goofy quotes that the deceased was famous for saying are scattered here and there amongst the stones.

Many families will work with their funeral director to order a grave marker for their loved one either on a preneed or an at-need basis; however, this is not always the case and a temporary marker is put in place at the time of burial until a permanent monument is placed. If you are looking for information on purchasing a grave marker, we can supply you with a list of resources to assist you in doing so.

One of the things to remember when both purchasing a grave marker and maintaining a grave space is what our township ordinance allows as a decoration. One (1) patio block with a pot containing flowers, either real or artificial, is allowed beside the monument or one (1) shepherd's hook with a pot containing flowers, either real or artificial, is allowed to be erected with the base flush to the monument. A saddle is allowed to be used on top of the monument. These types of decorations tend to withstand wind, weather, and cemetery maintenance. Flowers on the ground, glass vases with cut flowers, statues, and cones containing artificial flowers are not allowed in the cemetery and will be removed (Charter Township of Comstock Ordinance No. 524, 140.008 Ground maintenance Sec. VIII.)

<https://comstockmi.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Ordinance-524.pdf>

As we continue to update our burial search tool, please share any information with us that you might have such as obituaries, death certificates, pictures, and stories of our residents. Please drop it off to the office or email to [tpenny@comstockmi.gov](mailto:tpenny@comstockmi.gov). Thank you!

[https://burialsearch.com/ecims#/s/875/Comstock\\_Township\\_Cemeteries](https://burialsearch.com/ecims#/s/875/Comstock_Township_Cemeteries)

### ✓ Allowed



### ✗ Not Allowed





# Comstock Cemetery Improvements

## Page 9



## Comstock Cemetery Expansion

An expansion of Comstock Cemetery will be completed by the end of August, offering over 1200 more plots, around 375 of those being smaller cremation-only plots. The expansion will extend into the old ball diamonds on Neal St. The new entrance will be off Neal St and the current entrance will be closed. With very few plots left in the current cemetery, the expansion will be able to accommodate burials well into the future. We'll start selling plots in the fall.



Above: Preliminary drawing of the proposed expansion plans

## Maple Grove Cemetery Columbarium

A 64-niche columbarium (cremation wall) is scheduled to be installed at Maple Grove Cemetery by the end of November 2023. The columbarium will offer families a cost-effective way to inter their loved one's cremains. Below is a sample of a wall similar to the one that will be erected. Rates to purchase are: Residents: \$900, non-resident: \$1100. Includes niche which can hold two standard-sized urns and an etched memorialization plaque. A \$100 opening/closing fee will be assessed at time of need.



Contact us  
Page 10



## Find us on Social Media

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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/>

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## 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.

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Have a story to tell? Get in touch with our Communications Development Coordinator and he can help!

Matt Miller

Communications Development Coordinator

(269) 381-2360 ext. 120

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



# VOTE

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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.

