

# Comstock Connect

## September 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 Connect* articles about:

- 2023 Fall Curbside Pickup information (Page 2)
- Voting Precinct Changes (Page 2)
- Information on Summer Tax Bill deadlines (Page 2)
- When we're moving into our New Facility (Page 3)
- September meetings and other important dates (Page 3)
- The 2023 Fall Fest in Merrill Park (Page 4)
- Great improvements to Comstock Center (Page 5)
- Fun family-friendly events from the Library (Page 6)
- Comstock Township Fire Department's new fleet pictures (Page 7)
- Reminder on ordinances for our cemeteries during holidays (Page 8)
- What Proposal 2 means for you (Page 9)
- How to connect with your Township Government. (Page 10)

# 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)



Fall Curbside Pickup begins on Monday, September 11th. Please make sure to bring everything you want thrown out on your curb on Saturday, September 9th and Sunday, September 10th.

As always, we have a list of everything we accept during Curbside Pickup that can be found [online](#).

Don't fret if something you want to get out of your house is not accepted for Curbside Pickup, our [Transfer Station](#) and the [Kalamazoo County Hazardous Waste Center](#) is able to accept things that Curbside Pickup cannot.

Please reach out to the Township Office with any questions regarding Curbside Pickup.

**Nicole Beauchamp, Township Clerk**

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

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



For those who vote in Precinct 2, you should have received a new Voter ID card indicating your new polling place.

Starting with the November 2023 election, you will now vote at the new Township Hall at 5858 King Highway. You will no longer vote at the Comstock Community Center.

If you're not sure which precinct you vote in, visit [Michigan.gov/vote](https://www.michigan.gov/vote) for more information.

**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 wrapping up. As a reminder, payments must be received in our office by 5:00 p.m. on September 14 to avoid any interest charges. 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](https://www.comstockmi.gov). We accept cash, check, money order, electronic check (\$3 fee), and major credit cards (3% fee). When paying online, we also accept PayPal, Venmo, Google Pay, and Apple Pay (3% fee for each). Postmarks are accepted if payment is received by September 21, and the Township is not responsible for lost mail or mail delays.

Curious about the Township's budget or financial position? Head to [www.comstockmi.gov](https://www.comstockmi.gov) and navigate to the Treasurer's page. There you will find a multitude of reports and links to our budget and financial information.



## Announcements



Our new Township Hall is expected to open this month!

Our current Township Hall located at 6138 King Highway originated in 1967 and no longer meets the community's needs. Our 5-10 year plan was to look into a new Township Hall.

We were excited to purchase the former Niko's Landing building, because it is easily accessible to residents with ample parking and is located in downtown Comstock Center.

We will have much more information about moving day coming out soon!

## Important Dates

### Parks and Recreation Board Meeting

is meeting on Monday, September 11th at 6:00 PM.

### Planning Commission Board Meeting

is meeting on Thursday, September 14th, and September 28th at 7:00 PM.

### Township Board Meeting

is meeting on Monday, September 18th at 6:00 PM.

### The Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting

is meeting on Tuesday, September 26th at 4:00 PM.

### The Downtown Development Authority Meeting

is meeting on Wednesday, September 27th at 5:30 PM.

### Township Office Closed

The Township Office will be closed on September 4th in observation of Labor Day.

## Fall Fest

Saturday, September 23rd

Gather with friends and family! Drive, bike, walk, scooter, or float on down to Merrill Park on Saturday, September 23 from Noon to 3pm. It's going to be family-focused with food trucks, music, and activities for everyone. The event theme is "Flowers and Floats" and will include flower sales by Wenke Greenhouses and River St. Flowerland. There will be free ice cream floats and games. Gordon the Magician will perform at 12:30-1:15 and the Kalamazoo Nature Center will have a presentation at 1:30-2:30.

### Robert Morris Park Passes

are available for purchase at Robert Morris Park or the Township Office located at 6138 King Hwy, Kalamazoo (or 5858 King Hwy starting 9/25). Passes cost \$25, or \$10 for seniors (60+). Day passes can be purchased at Robert Morris Park for \$5.

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Thank you very much for an awesome summer! We look forward to serving you again for the 2024 summer season.

Robert Morris Park is open year round for you to enjoy.

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](mailto: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

## Mural Restoration

Have you noticed the vibrant new colors of the recently restored mural on River St? Thanks to volunteer artists Glenn and Michelle Kremer from Memphis TN, the mural is back to life. The mural, first completed in 2003, was showing signs of cracking and fading over the last few years. The community pride painting shows the history of Comstock.



The Restored Mural at River St. and Comstock Ave.



The new River St. and Comstock Ave. Gateway.

## New Gateway

A fifth downtown gateway was installed at River St and Comstock Ave. to welcome visitors to Comstock Center. This completes the gateway project which was implemented last year as one of the key components of Beautify Comstock Center Program.

## New Comstock Center Façade Improvement Program Launched

In an effort to assist small businesses and stimulate economic development in the Comstock Center District, the DDA Board of Directors has funded a new Façade Improvement Program (FIP) to provide grant funds to repair and renovate their storefronts. The reimbursement grant program can provide up to \$5,000 per business based on a 50/50 match basis. Eligible improvements include windows, doors, brickwork, stone and metal repairs, lighting, signage, and awnings. The FIP Program will be launched on September 1, 2023, with an annual budget of \$15,000. We are happy to announce that ITC has awarded the program \$10,000 for the next two years. If you need help with storefront repairs please contact DDA Director Steve Deisler at 269- 281-2360.

## New Trash Containers

Four new trash containers were placed along River St. this past week to encourage people to "Pitch In" and keep the downtown district clean. It appears that they are being used daily. Comstock Center's maintenance contractor will empty them on a weekly basis. If you see one overflowing please let us know by calling 269-381-2360.

## Fall Fest - Flowers & Floats

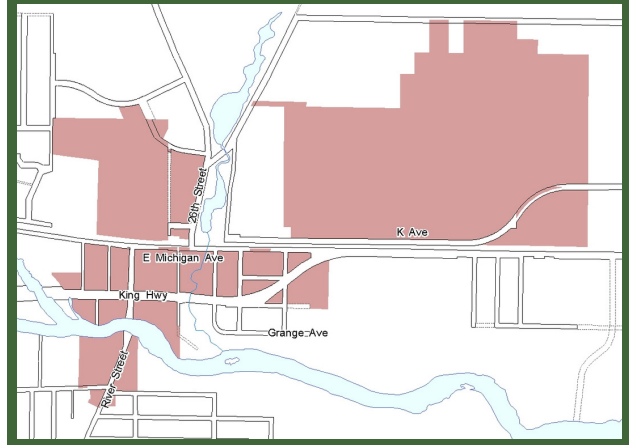
Don't miss out on the 2023 Fall Fest scheduled for Saturday, September 23rd from noon to 3 pm to be held at beautiful Merrill Park in downtown Comstock Center. The family focused event will offer fall flower sales from Wenke Greenhouses and River St. Flowerland, free ice cream floats, food tents, live music and games for the kids! Come one , come all!

## 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



One of the new trash cans on River St.



<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](mailto:Info@comstocklibrary.org)

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

## September is Library Card Sign Up Month

Help us celebrate by visiting the library and writing the title of your favorite book on our community banner. The banner is located in the adult department on the upper level, and people of all ages are invited to participate. We'll share Comstock's favorite books with everyone in October!

### Euchre Night

Wednesday, September 20 at 5:30 pm

What's trump again? Grab your favorite partner and come on in to enjoy a leisurely evening of Euchre! Four tables of four will be set up to see who gets to take all the tricks. Light refreshments will be served and you are welcome to bring in a snack to pass. Registration is required for this free event and begins September 4.

### Writing with Wilma

Tuesdays from 10am-11:30am, starts September 19 and runs for 6 weeks

Join the Reminiscence Writing Class. You can write about your past or present; you can write essays, stories, fiction, or poems. It's just a fun, supportive class for people who love to write. Registration is required and begins on September 5.

### Pizza & Pages

Thursday, September 14 @ 6pm

Join our theme-based book club! Participants in 3rd-6th grade will eat pizza, discuss what they have read, and participate in an auction to end the hour. September theme: Favorite book you've read this summer. Audio books, graphic novels and juvenile fiction are all acceptable. Registration is required, and each child must register individually.

### Adult Book Club

Thursday, September 28 @ 6pm

Join us for a discussion of *Rock Paper Scissors* by Alice Feeney, the "queen of the killer twist!" In this thriller, Mr. and Mrs. Wright win a trip to Scotland and decide it's just what their ailing 10-year marriage needs. They both know this weekend will make or break their marriage, but they didn't randomly win this trip. One of them is lying, and someone doesn't want them to live happily ever after. It'll be an anniversary they'll never forget. Registration and book pick-up begin Monday, August 28th.

The Library will be closed September 2-4, 2023 for Labor 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](http://www.comstocklibrary.org)



# New Fleet Pictures

Recently we took advantage of the beautiful weather to get our fleet together for an updated picture. We used a drone to get some great aerial shots. Our fleet has changed significantly over the past few years. In 2018, we added a Pierce Enforcer Rescue/Pumper to the fleet making this the first replacement to our fleet in eight years. This tanker is known as 913 and is housed at Station 9-3 (8700 E. Michigan Ave). A few years later, we replaced our 1996 Pierce Internationals with two new (2021) Pierce Enforcer Pumper Engines. Engines 911 and 912 were purchased together. One is located at Station 9-1 (1960 River St) and the other at Station 9-2 (5947 E. H Ave). We have also added 3 new rescue vehicles (951,952,953), and several new support vehicles. We repurposed our old Engine (912) to a tow vehicle for our attenuator/sign board and renamed it to 932.

The fire department fleet plays a crucial role in ensuring the safety and well-being of our community. Over the years, the fleet has served valiantly, responding to countless emergencies, and protecting lives and property. However, with the passage of time, some of the apparatus had started to show signs of wear and tear. To maintain our fire department's efficiency and effectiveness strategic plan was made to replace the aging fire engines with state-of-the-art models through our Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). We would like to thank the community and our Township Board for their continued support, allowing us to provide our residents and surrounding neighbors with the best-equipped fleet, ensuring our firefighters have the best tools at their disposal when tackling emergencies. This upgrade to our fleet not only reaffirms our commitment to public safety but also demonstrates our dedication to providing our firefighters with the resources they need to continue their exemplary service to the community.



# Cemeteries Ordinance Reminder

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As summer moves into fall, just a reminder that cemetery cleaning will occur within the next few weeks. Besides leaf removal, we will be removing all dried annuals in pots as well as silk and cut flower arrangements that have tipped or blown away from the respective headstone. Please keep in mind that our ordinance specifically addresses the types of decorations that are permitted for the upcoming holidays. We appreciate your help in keeping our cemeteries a neat and respectful place to honor our loved ones!

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF COMSTOCK  
ORDINANCE NO. 524  
ADOPTED: February 7, 2022

140.009 Ground Maintenance  
Sec. VIII.

D. The Township shall have the right and authority to remove and dispose of any and all growth, emblems, displays, containers or other objects in the cemetery that through decay, deterioration, damage or otherwise become unsightly, a source of litter or a maintenance problem or that are otherwise in violation of this Ordinance.

F. All refuse of any kind or nature including, but not limited to, dried-up flowers, wreaths, balloons or statues, must be removed from the cemetery within ten (10) days after burial. Holiday and seasonal decor are permitted two (2) weeks prior to and two (2) weeks following that holiday. One (1) holiday decoration is permitted per gravesite. The term holiday as used in this Section refers to 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.

G. There shall be no jars or glass used on the premises for the holding of cut flowers; however, the inclusion of permanent receptacles as part of the permanent marker, memorial, monument, or foundation for use of holding of cut flowers is permitted. One (1) decorative item per gravesite is permitted including a container to

hold cut flowers, artificial flowers or any other not season specific items that can fit within the container. The item shall be placed on the side of the monument on a patio stone. One (1) shepherd's hook for hanging flower baskets is allowed per monument, if it is erected so the base is flush to the foundation. Cones for holding artificial flowers are not allowed nor are artificial flowers to be placed directly in the ground. All permitted items must be in-line with the marker, memorial or monument and cannot be placed in front or back or exceed the width of the lot.

I. The Township shall regularly perform ordinance enforcement duties throughout the year. Maintenance and clean-up will be conducted on a regular basis. The Township reserves the right to remove and dispose of items in violation of the ordinance.



Pictures above: Comstock Cemetery in June



## Proposal 2 of 2022

What does it mean?

In November of 2022, Michigan voters passed Proposal 2. This Constitutional Amendment changes Michigan's voting laws. Here's a look at what future elections will look like:

### Early Voting



- All Michigan voters now have the right to vote early in **statewide** and **federal** elections. In these elections, early voting must be offered for at least nine consecutive days, beginning on the second Saturday before the election and ending on the Sunday before election day, at least eight hours a day.
- The 2024 presidential primary is the first election where early voting is required to take place.
- Prop 2 allows jurisdictions to join together to offer joint early voting centers.

### Automatic Ballot

- This gives voters the right to sign up to be on a permanent ballot list, which enables them to automatically receive a ballot each election.
- A one-time signed application must be on file and moves with the voter if they change residence in Michigan.



### Few Other Things

- Expands the types of photo IDs voters can use and allows voters to sign an affidavit if they don't have an ID.
- Allows military and overseas voter's ballots to be accepted six days post-election if they are postmarked by election day.



Contact us  
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## 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)