

Comstock Connect

December 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
Clyde "Bub" Sherwood

Trustees
Jerry Amos
Terry McIver
Jason Knight
Bob Pratt

Superintendent
Scott Hess

Transfer Station

Winter Hours
November 1-March 31

Thursday
11:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.

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



Happy December! We hope you have a wonderful wrap up to 2023! In this issue we have important information about:

- The Comstock Charter Township Holiday Plans (Page 2)
- Information about the February 27th election (Page 2)
- Important Winter Property Tax information (Page 2)
- The Open House at the New Township Hall (Page 3)
- December meetings and other important dates (Page 3)
- Deck your Halls Holiday Lights Contest (Page 4)
- Shop Local in Comstock Center (Page 5)
- Fun family-friendly events from the Library (Page 6)
- Comstock Township Fire Department's winter holiday safety tips (Page 7-9)
- Voting Information (Page 10)
- How to connect with your Township Government (Page 11)

Messages from the Township

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Randy Thompson, Township Supervisor

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

supervisor@comstockmi.gov



Happy Holidays from Comstock Charter Township. Township Staff is honored to again be adopting several families for the holiday through the Comstock Community Center. We're deeply grateful for this opportunity to step up and help those in need in our community.

We had the privilege of adopting 3 families this year.

We hope everyone in our community has a wonderful holiday season and a joyful end of their year.

From Comstock Charter Township, Merry Christmas and Happy New Years.

Nicole Beauchamp, Township Clerk

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

clerk@comstockmi.gov



The Presidential Primary election will take place on Tuesday, February 27th. For those on the Permanent Ballot List, you will be sent a party selection form. Though voters do not register with political parties in the State of Michigan, voters must select a party-specific primary ballot. This does not commit you to a particular party forever, just for this election. The Republican and Democratic parties are the two parties who participate in the Primary, so you'll have a choice between the two parties or you can select a non-partisan ballot, which will have only proposals on it (if there are any). Residents who vote in precincts during the nine days of early voting or on election day will also be required to select a party ballot on their application to vote.

We have more information on Proposal 2022-2 on Page 10

Bret Padgett, Township Financial Director

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

bpadgett@comstockmi.gov



Winter property tax bills have been mailed out and tax amounts are now due and payable. To avoid a 3% penalty, tax payments must be received by 5:00 p.m. on February 14, 2024. Payments can be made by mail; in-person at the Township office; by using the drop box located at the east end of the parking lot; or online at 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). Any payments not received by February 29, 2024, will be turned over as delinquent to the Kalamazoo County Treasurer.

Curious about the Township's budget or financial position? Head to 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



There will be an open house for the New Township Facility on December 13, 2023.

Come down to the Comstock Township Hall at 5858 King Highway for a tour of the building, refreshments from Niko's Express, and information on how the new hall better serves everyone in the community.

The open house will run from 4 p.m. - 6 p.m. We hope you are able to make it!

Important Dates

The Township Board

is meeting on Monday, December 4th and Monday, December 18th at 6:00 PM.

The Parks and Recreation Board

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

The Planning Commission

is meeting on Thursday, December 14th at 7:00 PM.

The Downtown Development Authority

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

The Township Office will be closed

The office will be closed Monday, December 25th and Tuesday, December 26th in observance of Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. The office will also be closed on Monday, January 1, 2024 in observance of New Years Day.

Deck Your Halls!

Our Holiday Lights Contest is back

Show your holiday spirit by decking out your house for the holiday season with lights and displays for our community to enjoy. Prizes will be awarded to the "Most Creative," "Most Lights," and "Best Decorated."

Addresses must be in Comstock Township to be eligible

Register Between December 1st-16th

<https://comstockmi.gov/parks-recreation/program-offerings/>

Robert Morris Park Passes

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

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 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.



Come All Ye Shoppers to Comstock Center

Over 25 Local Businesses are open and ready to serve your retail, restaurants, service, and professional needs this Holiday Season.

Business name	Address
Advantage Vending	6018 E Michigan Ave
Austin Sand & Gravel	6375 E K Ave
Auto Tech	6264 King Hwy
B&N Food & Citgo Gas	6300 E Michigan Ave
Barrett's Maintenance & Construction	5960 E Michigan Ave
Berts Bakery & Kates Corner Cupboard	309 River St
Boer's Comstock Service	502 River St
Comerica Bank	5937 King Hwy
Comstock Family Dentistry	5901 King Hwy
Comstock Library	6130 King Hwy
Dollar General	419 River St
Dopp Pump Company	5917 King Hwy
Dyer Auto Body	5917 King Hwy
Greater Joy Church of God in Christ	6016 King Hwy
Hair Plus	5831 King Hwy
Hartleb Insurance Agency	5840 King Hwy
Kalamazoo Industries	6856 King Hwy
Modern Septic & Sewer	6455 E K Ave
Mosier Well Drilling	6014 King Hwy
Nikos' Express	5876 King Hwy
Rabbit Hutch	5922 King Hwy
Sir Roy's Salon	211 River St
Speedway	208 River St
Twisted Automotive	211 River St
U.S. Post Office	6095 King Hwy
Valentina's Mexican Grill	3990 E Michigan Ave
VFW Comstock Post 6252	5990 E Michigan Ave
Vibe Tech	7025 E K Ave

From your Comstock Center DDA Board and downtown businesses, we hope you have a wonderful and joyful holiday season,

- Sandra Katje, Chair
- Jon Koets, Vice Chair
- Jeffrey Townsend, Secretary/Treasurer
- Randy Thompson, Township Supervisor
- John Gisler, County Commissioner
- Evan Kowalski
- Matt Norman
- Anne Summerfield
- Steve Deisler, Comstock Center DDA Director



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

Youth Ornament Craft

Saturday, December 9 @ 11am & 1pm

Come fill and decorate a plastic ornament! We'll have lots of decorations to choose from! Please register each child individually, using the child's name.

Tween Movie Night

Wednesday, December 27 @ 2pm

Tweens will be watching an entertaining film (Raya and the Last Dragon) with friends. Movies will be rated PG-13 or PG. The library will provide snacks and drinks. This program is for grades 4th-7th only.

State Representative Matt Hall Listening Hour

Wednesday, December 20 from 12-2pm

Constituents of the 42nd State House District are invited to meet with staff members from the office of State Representative Matt Hall. All constituents are invited to come discuss any issues of concern or to ask questions.

Teen Awful Movie Afternoon

Thursday, December 28 @ 12pm

Bring your sense of humor, sarcastic comments and your friends for an afternoon of watching awful movies. Movies will be rated PG-13 or PG. The library will provide snacks, and drinks. This program is for grades 8th-12th.

The Library will be closed on the following dates:

Saturday, December 23, 2023

Monday, December 25, 2023

Saturday, December 30, 2023

Monday, January 1, 2024



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

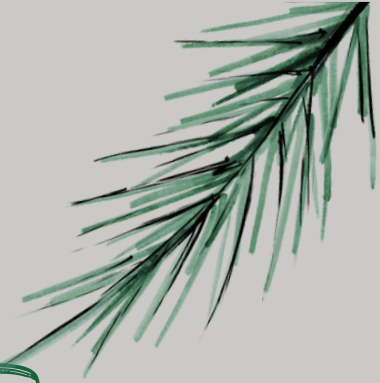


Comstock Fire and Rescue

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911

COMSTOCK



Keep The Wreath Green

What is it?

From **Thanksgiving Day** until midnight **New Years Day** a wreath is placed at each of our Fire Stations

Every time a structure fire in the Township is responded to a **Green bulb** is replaced with a **Red bulb**

A **White Bulb** represents a fallen firefighter

Remember!

As you drive past one of our 3 Fire Stations, remember to be safe this holiday season!



Winter holidays are a time for families and friends to get together. But that also means a greater risk for fire. Following a few simple tips will ensure a happy and fire-safe holiday season.



HOLIDAY DECORATING

- Be careful with holiday decorations. Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.
- Keep lit candles away from decorations and other things that can burn.
- Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged.
- Keep decorations away from windows and doors.



HOLIDAY ENTERTAINING

- Test your smoke alarms and tell guests about your home fire escape plan.
- Keep children and pets away from lit candles.
- Keep matches and lighters up high in a locked cabinet.
- Stay in the kitchen when cooking on the stovetop.
- Ask smokers to smoke outside. Remind smokers to keep their smoking materials with them so young children do not touch them.
- Provide large, deep ashtrays for smokers. Wet cigarette butts with water before discarding.



Before Heading Out or to Bed

Blow out lit candles when you leave the room or go to bed. **Turn off** all light strings and decorations before leaving home or going to bed.

FACTS

- ! More than **one-third** of home decoration fires are started by candles.
- ! More than **two of every five** decoration fires happen because decorations are placed too close to a heat source.



**NATIONAL FIRE
PROTECTION ASSOCIATION**
The leading information and knowledge resource
on fire, electrical and related hazards



Christmas Tree Safety

Comstock Fire & Rescue



As you deck the halls this holiday season, be fire smart. A small fire that spreads to a Christmas tree can grow large very quickly.



PICKING THE TREE

- Choose a tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched.



PLACING THE TREE

- Before placing the tree in the stand, cut 2" from the base of the trunk.
- Make sure the tree is at least three feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents or lights.
- Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit.
- Add water to the tree stand. Be sure to add water daily.



LIGHTING THE TREE

- Use lights that are listed by a qualified testing laboratory. Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- Never use lit candles to decorate the tree.
- Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.



After Christmas

Get rid of the tree after Christmas or when it is dry. Dried-out trees are a fire danger and should not be left in the home or garage, or placed outside against the home.

Check with your local community to find a recycling program.

Bring outdoor electrical lights inside after the holidays to prevent hazards and make them last longer.

FACTS

- ! **Almost one third** of home Christmas tree fires are caused by electrical problems.
- ! Although Christmas tree fires are not common, when they do occur, they are more likely to be serious.
- ! A heat source too close to the tree causes more than **one in every five** of the fires.



Your Source for SAFETY Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

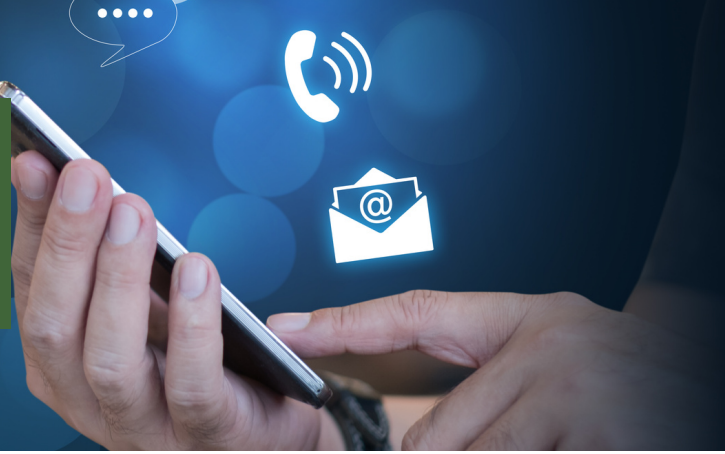




Michigan voters overwhelmingly passed Proposal 2022-2 in November of 2022, including the majority of Comstock voters. Proposal 2022-2 brings a number of changes to voting laws which will be in effect in the 2024 elections. One of the big changes you'll see is nine days of in-person early voting before Statewide and Federal elections. Voters can vote and run their ballots through tabulators, though results will not be tallied until election night. Please keep in mind that once your ballot is in the tabulator, there is no way to change your vote, even if your candidate drops out after you cast a ballot.

Another major aspect of Proposal 2022-2 affects those who are on the Absent Voter Application list and are used to receiving an application for a ballot prior to every election. Moving forward you will need to select to be on the "Permanent Ballot List", which means you'll automatically receive a ballot instead of an application every election. If you do not select this option, you can still vote absentee but will have to initiate a request for an Absent Voter ballot or vote in the polls.

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 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