

# Comstock Connect

## January 2024 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 New Year's! We hope the start of 2024 has been fantastic for you. Here is some important information from your Township Government about:

- A reminder to register to vote ahead of the 2024 elections (Page 2)
- Information about early voting (Page 2)
- Important Winter Property Tax information (Page 2)
- Our 2024 schedule for holidays and public meetings (Page 3)
- January meetings and other important dates (Page 3)
- Our Winter Archery Clinic (Page 4)
- An open position on the Comstock Center DDA Board (Page 5)
- Fun family-friendly events from the Library (Page 6)
- Comstock Township Fire Department's latest promotion (Page 7)
- How to vote early in the February 27, 2024 Presidential Primary (Page 8)
- How to connect with your Township Government (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)



Happy New Years! Want to know what we're up to? We've updated the calendar on our Township Website with all the currently scheduled elections, public meetings, and office holidays.

Please make sure to follow us [online](#) and on [Facebook](#) for updates on meetings. Throughout the year we will announce changes, cancellations, or schedule special meetings.

Unless stated otherwise, all meetings are held in the Township Hall at 5858 King Highway.

**Nicole Beauchamp, Township Clerk**

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

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



The expected elections in 2024 are the February 27th Presidential Primary Election, the August 6th Primary Election, and the November 5th General Election. There is also a possibility of a May 7th Special Election if a local proposal is submitted

Proposal 2022-2 passed by Michigan voters in November of 2022. Some of what this proposal does is give all Michigan voters a right to vote in-person at an early voting site. Early voting starts the 2nd Saturday before the election and ends the Sunday before. This means early voting starts on February 17th for the Presidential Primary. Early voting hours are 9:00 am - 5:00pm. You can find a list of locations online and on page 4.

You also have the option to absentee vote or vote in-person on election day at your local polling place.

Make sure you're registered to vote by going online at <https://mVIC.sos.state.mi.us/Voter/Index>.

**Bret Padgett, Township Financial Director**

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

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



Winter 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 our drop box located at the east end of the parking lot; or online at [www.comstockmi.gov](http://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). To avoid penalty, payment must be received by 5:00 p.m. on February 14, 2024. Postmarks will be accepted if payment is received by February 21. The Township is not responsible for lost mail or mail delays.

Need a Kalamazoo County Dog License? We will be selling them through February 28 at the Comstock Township office. Starting March 1, licenses must be purchased at Kalamazoo County Animal Services.



## Announcements



Comstock Township joined an agreement with most other jurisdictions in Kalamazoo County to collectively offer early voting to our voters. Early voting runs the 2nd Saturday before the election to the Sunday before the election. You can vote at ANY of the locations nine days prior to each state and federal election from 9 am - 5 pm:

- Kalamazoo County Expo Center  
2900 Lake Street, Kalamazoo
- Portage Parks & Recreation Department  
320 Library Lane, Portage
- Fetzer Center at WMU  
2251 Business Court, Kalamazoo
- Douglass Community Association  
1000 W Paterson St, Kalamazoo

**Election Dates:**

Presidential Primary on February 27, 2024, Primary Election on August 6, 2024, General Election November 5, 2024

## Important Dates

### The Township Board

is meeting on Monday, January 8th, and Monday, January 22nd at 6:00 PM.

### The Parks and Recreation Board

is meeting on Monday, January 9th at 6:00 PM. (Fire Station on River Street)

### The Planning Commission

is meeting on Thursday, January 11th, and January 25th at 7:00 PM.

### The Zoning Board of Appeals

is meeting on Tuesday, January 23rd at 4:00 PM.

### The Downtown Development Authority

is meeting on Wednesday, January 3rd, and Wednesday, January 24th at 5:30 PM

### The Township Office will be closed

The office will be closed Monday, January 15th in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

# Archery Clinic

TUESDAYS  
JANUARY 30 - MARCH 12, 2024



Session # 1  
4:30PM - 5:30 PM



Session # 2  
6:00PM - 7:00 PM

This 6 week program meets every Tuesday for 1 hour and is instructed by a Certified USA Archery Level 2 Coach. The clinic will be held at the STEM School. Every week we will work on a new skill and play games. All equipment is provided. Open to all ages 10 through Adult. Beginner and Intermediate Archers can sign up for either session.

Registration is required. Registration fee is \$30. Add a family member for \$20. Returning archer fee is \$20.

For more information and to register:

[comstockmi.gov/parks-recreation/program-offerings/](https://comstockmi.gov/parks-recreation/program-offerings/)  
[parks@comstockmi.gov](mailto:parks@comstockmi.gov)  
269-343-8212 ext. 2



**2024 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.

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

The park features:

1. Swimming Beach
2. Pavilion Rentals
3. Shore Line Fishing
4. 18-Hole Disc Golf
5. Playgrounds and Swings

## Deck Your House Winners

Congratulations to our 2023 Deck Your House holiday lights winners!

- Best Decorated: 1052 N. 30th St.  
Most Lights: 985 N 26th St.  
Most Creative: 141 New St.  
Honorable Mention: 930 N. 26th St.

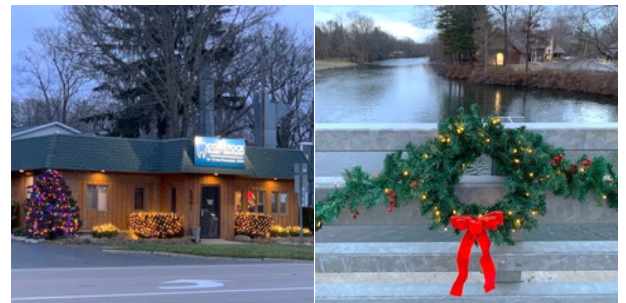
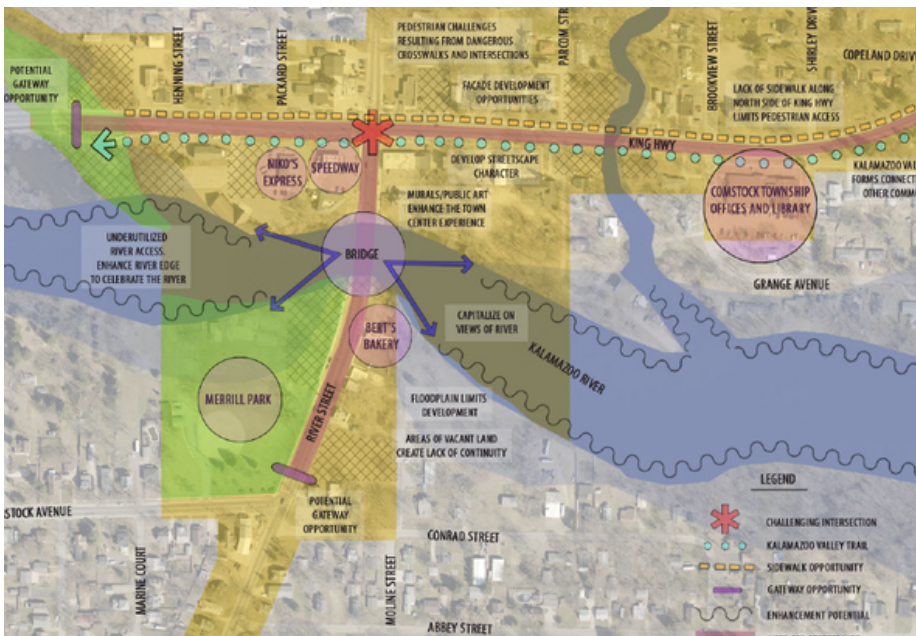
If you see something, say something. If you see someone dumping trash or you see other unlawful activities, please contact 269-343-8212 or email us at [parks@comstockmi.gov](mailto:parks@comstockmi.gov). You can also contact the Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Department through the non-emergency line (269) 488-8911. If safe, try to record a plate number. We also have a complaint form online: <https://comstockmi.gov/parks>.



E Michigan Ave

## Volunteer! Get Involved! Share Your Ideas!

- The Comstock Center Downtown Development Authority (DDA) is seeking a resident who lives in the downtown DDA district to volunteer on the DDA Board. The new board member would serve a four-year term beginning in January 2024.
- Here is your chance to provide direct input in downtown beautification projects, planning events, business assistance/development and to help lead the Comstock Center Riverfront Redevelopment Plan. Come work with a passionate DDA team of local business owners in creating a vibrant destination for the Comstock community.
- The Comstock Center DDA regularly meets every 4th Wednesday of the month at 5:30 pm at the new Township Hall. An overview of DDA goals and priorities can be found at: [www.comstockmi.gov/downtown-development-authority](http://www.comstockmi.gov/downtown-development-authority).
- Please contact Steve Deisler, Comstock Center DDA Director for further details at: Comstock Township, 5858 King Hwy., Kalamazoo, MI 49048  
[269-381-2360](tel:269-381-2360)  
[sdeisler@comstockmi.gov](mailto:sdeisler@comstockmi.gov)
- To apply online fill out the DDA Board Member application at: [Boards-and-Commissions-DDA-Board-Application-FILLABLE.pdf](#) (comstockmi.gov)



# 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](tel:269-345-0136)

[Info@comstocklibrary.org](mailto:Info@comstocklibrary.org)

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

## Teen Nailed It

Thursday, January 4 @ 2pm

Teens will be supplied with cupcakes and decorating materials to try to decorate their cupcakes in the likeness of popular Pinterest and cooking show cupcake styles. After decorating, they get to enjoy their cupcakes or take them home! This program is designed for grades 8th-12th. Registration is required for this free program.

## Adult Book Club

Wednesday, January 31 @ 5:30pm

Please join us for a discussion of *The Four Winds* by Kristin Hannah. This highly praised historical fiction follows its protagonist's struggle to survive during the Dust Bowl in the 1930s. Copies of the book will be provided at the library reference desk. Snacks and drinks will be served. Please register to attend.

### State Representative Matt Hall Listening Hour

Wednesday, January 17 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.

### Pizza & Pages

Thursday, January 18 @ 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. January theme: Read a Nonfiction book. Audio books, graphic novels and juvenile fiction are all acceptable. Registration is required.

### Kids Craft

Saturday, January 20 @ 11am or 1pm

Kids can choose from a variety of ceramic items to paint, such as a Shark Bank, Unicorn Planter, Ceramic Owl, or traditional pots and more. This activity is free; please register to attend one of the two sessions.



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)



## Promotions

Congratulations to Curtis Crabtree, Jesse Ogden, and Michael Meulman on their well-deserved promotions to Lieutenant. The Comstock Township Board officially approved these promotions on December 18, 2023.

Curtis Crabtree, a dedicated member of Comstock Fire & Rescue since 2015, now serves as Lieutenant at Station 9-2. Having become a full-time firefighter in 2020, Lt. Crabtree's contributions are crucial. As the Infectious Control Officer and a certified Fire Inspector, he helps ensure the department's safety standards are met. Curtis also serves as an alternate representative on the KCMCA (Kalamazoo County Medical Control Authority) Advisory Board, contributing to EMS Protocols, equipment management (AED & chest compression devices), and addressing EMS-related complaints. His role extends to technical rescue and hazmat team duties, along with coordinating monthly Community CPR classes.

Jesse Ogden, an integral member of Comstock Fire & Rescue since 2020, now serves as Lieutenant at Station 9-3. Transitioning to a full-time firefighter in 2021, Lt. Ogden plays a vital role in the department's operations. His responsibilities include EMS training and overseeing EMS Quality Assurance/Control in the records management system. Jesse's involvement as an alternate representative on the KCMCA (Kalamazoo County Medical Control Authority) Advisory Board further displays his commitment. As a Hazmat Team member and certified SCBA (Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus) technician, he contributes significantly to emergency response. Jesse is also actively engaged in Ambulance Contract monitoring and addressing EMS protocol-related complaints.

Michael Meulman, a valued member of Comstock Fire & Rescue since 2020, now serves as Lieutenant at Station 9-3. Having become a full-time firefighter in 2021, Lt. Meulman occupies a pivotal role within the department contributing significantly to various key responsibilities. As a Technical Rescue Team member, Lt. Meulman brings specialized expertise to emergencies. In addition to his role in technical rescue, he plays a crucial part in supporting the Deputy Chief with vehicle maintenance for department vehicles, demonstrating his commitment to ensuring operational readiness. Lt. Meulman is actively involved in training initiatives, particularly focused on best practices in vehicle extrication responses. He has actively contributed to the Ladder Truck committee, assisting in formulating specifications for the department's recently procured aerial truck.



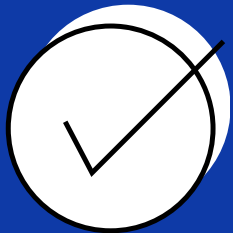
Lieutenant Curtis Crabtree



Lieutenant Jesse Ogden



Lieutenant Michael Meulman



Voters must select a party-specific ballot. Absentee voters will be mailed a selection form, in-person voters select the party on their applications to vote. Republican and Democratic parties participate in the Presidential Primary.



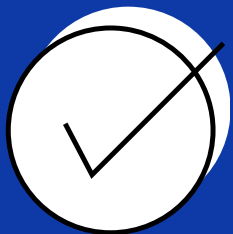
Proposal 2022-2 requires nine-days of early, in-person voting prior to State and Federal elections. The Presidential Primary will be the first election where early voting will take place in Kalamazoo County. Early voting begins February 17th.



Early voting will allow voters to insert their ballots into the tabulator but results will not be tabulated until election day.



If you vote early, you cannot retrieve your ballot once it's in the tabulator if your candidate drops out. If you vote absentee, you may spoil your ballot and request a new ballot.



If you're an absentee voter, you will need to select to be on the permanent ballot list on your party-selection form. The absent voter application will no longer be automatically sent after this election.



Michigan voters do not have to register with political parties but voters do have to request a party-specific ballot for the Presidential Primary. This does not bind you to a party for future elections.





# 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)