

Comstock Connect

April 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

Summer Hours
April 1-October 31

Tuesdays & Thursday
11:00 a.m.- 6:00 p.m.

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



Happy April. We're looking forward to seeing some flowers begin to bloom again. It's never a better time to live in the bedding plant capitol of the world!

In this issue of the Comstock Connect, we discuss:

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- How to buy a niche at the Maple Grove Columbarium (Page 2)
- Where to see where your tax money goes (Page 2)
- The 2024 Spring Water System Flushing Schedule (Page 3)
- April meetings and other important dates (Page 3)
- Springtime events at Comstock's Parks (Page 4)
- Comstock Center DDA's Events and Reminders (Page 5)
- Fun family-friendly events from the Library (Page 6)
- Free Smoke and CO Alarms from the Comstock Fire Department (Page 7)
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- 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



Curbside Pickup begins this month, on Monday, April 29. Everything you want removed by crews needs to be on your curb on either Saturday, April 27th or Sunday, April 28th.

We have a comprehensive list of what is and is not allowed during Curbside Pickup at <https://comstockmi.gov/>

As a general rule, nothing that two people cannot safely pick up and put into a truck isn't acceptable during Curbside Pickup. We expect Curbside Pickup to take around 2 weeks, but pickup will go until crews have reached each street once.

Crews will not return to areas for items placed after specified dates listed. If you have questions regarding Curbside Pickup, contact the Comstock Township offices.

Nicole Beauchamp, Township Clerk

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

clerk@comstockmi.gov



Happy Spring Comstock!

Columbarium niches are now for sale at Maple Grove Cemetery. Contact Tami Penny at tpenny@comstockmi.gov if you're interested in learning more. Also, see our Frequently Asked Question on page 9 of this newsletter.

Please see page 10 for reminders about what's allowed and not allowed on gravesites at gravesites.

Treasurer Clyde "Bub" Sherwood

[\(269\) 381-2360 ext. 131](tel:(269)381-2360)

treasurer@comstockmi.gov



The Township's 2023 fiscal year financial statements will be prepared in April and then audited in May. Once the audited financial statements are available, they will be posted on our website on the Treasurer's page.

Water and sewer special assessment bills will be sent out in April and will be due by August 1. Any amounts not paid by November 1 will be added to the winter tax bill.

Curious about how the Township's funds are invested? Head to 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.

Dates and Announcements

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Announcements



Looking to make a difference in your community?

The Comstock Center Downtown Development Authority will be participating in the 2024 Kalamazoo River Cleanup and are looking for volunteers to join us!

The cleanup will take place between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 20th. For more information, contact DDA Director Steve Deisler at sdeisler@comstockmi.gov or go online to <https://www.miwaterwaysstewards.org/kalamazoo-river-cleanup-2024.html>.

Important Dates

The Township Board

is meeting on Monday, April 1st, and Monday, April 15th at 6:00 p.m.

The Parks and Recreation Board

is meeting on Monday, April 8th at 6:00 p.m.

The Planning Commission

is meeting on Thursday, April 11th, and Thursday, April 25th at 7:00 p.m.

The Zoning Board of Appeals

is meeting on Wednesday, April 23rd at 4:00 p.m.

The Downtown Development Authority

is meeting on Wednesday, April 24th at 5:30 p.m.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS & EVENTS

ADULT SOFTBALL

April 11

Sign your team up now!

- Monday- Coed, Wednesday- Men's
- \$585 per team
- Deadline to register & pay April 11
- Season runs April 22- July 17
- Games played at Wenke Softball Complex

ARCHERY CLINICS

April 16

This clinic focuses on weekly skills and games.

- \$30 per archer, ages 8 through adult
- Tuesdays, April 16-May 21, times vary
- Held at Robert Morris Park

COMMUNITY GARDEN

May-Sept.

Looking for a place to garden and don't have the space at home? Grab a plot in our Community Garden located behind the Community Center. Cost is \$10 per plot. Plot sizes are 4ft X 12ft.

ROBERT MORRIS PARK PASSES

Year Round

Annual passes are available for purchase at our office for \$25 (\$10 for seniors 60+) or purchase a day pass for \$5 at the park.

- Amenities include: swimming beach, pavilion rentals, shoreline fishing, 18-hole disc golf course, playgrounds, swings, and sand volleyball.

FARMERS MARKET

June- Sept.

Join us every Monday from June 3- September 30 from 3-7 p.m. at Merrill Park.

- Weekly markets will include local vendors, food trucks, and entertainment.
- We are still looking for vendors. For more information and to apply visit comstockmi.gov/farmers-market.
- Contact Katie Bush with any questions at farmersmarket@comstockmi.gov

Parks Board meetings are held on the second Monday of every month at 6 p.m.

If you see something, say something! If you see someone dumping trash or see other unlawful activities, please contact the Parks & Recreation Department or contact the Sheriffs Department through the non-emergency line 269-488-8911.



E Michigan Ave

Attention All Comstock Center Small Businesses

It's a new year and its time to get your projects underway! If you need assistance with interior or exterior repairs, remodeling or even a new sign, The Comstock Center DDA can help you apply for two new grant programs to renovate your buildings. The State of Michigan's Match on Main Program (MoM) can provide up to \$25,000 for interior renovations. The Comstock Center Façade Improvement Program (FIP) can provide up to \$5,000 for storefront repairs and up to \$1,000 for a new sign. Both are reimbursement programs requiring a 10% business match for MoM and 50% match for FIP. See below for details.

Match on Main - Applications due 4/17

The Match on Main Program funds may be used for expenses related to technical assistance, interior building renovation, permanent or semi-permanent activation of outdoor space, or for general marketing, technology, operational changes, or inventory expenses related to retail.

Façade Improvement Program

The façade improvement grant program was created to encourage private small business investment and improvements to front building façade by providing financial incentives. Appropriate rehabilitation, repair, and dramatic improvement to private commercial façade in the CCDDA will encourage long-term and sustainable economic development in Comstock and help maintain, strengthen, and capitalize on our community's business resources. By improving the appearance of building façade, the FIP Program helps to improve the economic viability of the downtown.

Grants will reimburse 50% of eligible project costs up to a maximum of \$5,000. The maximum grant for new signs is \$1,000.

- Exterior brick, stone or wall surface cleaning using gentlest means possible (no sandblasting).
- Re-pointing of brick mortar joints.
- Patching and painting of façade walls.
- Storefront window and/or door repair or appropriate replacement.
- Cornice repair or appropriate replacement.
- Removal of angled projecting roofs from the façade and repair of surface.
- Other exterior improvements include restoration, removal, and replacement of appropriate materials per the Comstock Township Zoning Ordinance - Comstock Center District including:
 - Business signs meeting the Comstock zoning ordinance
 - New and replacement awnings.
 - Outdoor seating decks or platforms adjacent to public sidewalks.

Comstock Center / Merrill Park Upcoming Events 2024

- Comstock Cleanup April 20th
- Memorial Day Parade - May 27th
- Farmers Market - June 3rd thru September 30th
- National Night Out - August 6th
- Fall Fest 2024 - September 28th
- Holiday Lights in the Park - November - December

Contact Steve Deisler, Comstock Center DDA Executive Director for details on the grants and events mentioned above. Get involved with everything happening downtown!

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

REIMBURSEMENT GRANT PROGRAM
Match on Main is a reimbursement grant program that serves to support new or expanding place-based businesses by providing up to \$25,000 in funding to support eligible activities.

COMMUNITIES ARE ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS
Eligible Applicants include municipalities, downtown development authorities, or other downtown management, business support, or community development organizations in essentials or certified Redevelopment Ready Communities® or master or select Michigan Main Street Communities that represent a traditional downtown district, historic neighborhood commercial corridor, or an area planned and zoned for concentrated commercial development.

APPLICANTS SELECT BUSINESSES
Applicant selects business. Applicants are responsible for dispersing funds to businesses.

GRANT FUNDS LIMITED TO \$25K PER BUSINESS
Maximum award to any individual applicant is \$25,000 (enough to support only 1 eligible business). Applicants may submit no more than 2 applications per funding round. 10% match is required by the business.

MICHIGAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION | **PURE MICHIGAN**



Valentina's Mexican Grill took advantage of the Façade Improvement Program for a new sign for their business located at 351 River Street



269-381-2360



sdeisler@comstockmi.gov



comstockmi.gov/downtown-development-authority/

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

Pajama Storytime

Thursday, April 11 @ 6pm

Put on your pajamas, grab a bedtime buddy, and join us for stories, songs and fun! This storytime is geared towards preschoolers, although families with kids of all ages are invited to join us.

Solar Eclipse Viewer Take-Home Craft

Tuesday, April 1 @ 2:30pm

Solar Eclipse Viewer Take-Home Craft

Call to reserve a craft or stop by the library to pick one up and make this easy DIY viewer. You can view the eclipse safely at your back! One kit per person, no group pickups allowed.

The History of Henna

Thursday, April 18 @ 5:00pm

The Library welcomes Allison Loraine of Sunshine Henna Body Art! Allison will give a 30-minute presentation on the history and culture of henna, then do henna art on the hands of participants. Registration is required and begins on April 4th. Please note, this program is only for adults and children will not be admitted.

Tween Craft: Collage

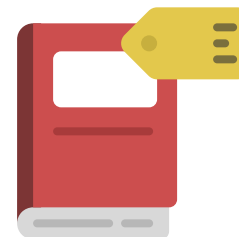
Wednesday, April 24 from 6:00-7:00pm

Tweens are welcome to attend this craft program, where magazines and cardstock boards will be provided for them to create their own collage. They can make a collage based on their favorite book, a personality map, their hobbies and interests, or anything they'd like. This program is for those in 4th-7th grade.

Buck a Bag Book Sale

Monday, April 29 - May 11

Our Buck-a-Bag-Book Sale is back! Come fill a bag of books for the best deal in town! You can bring your own bag or use one of ours. Bags will cost \$1. Oversized bags, such as the blue Ikea bags, will cost \$5. This sale includes adult, teen, and kids' books as well as audiobooks. DVDs, video games, and CDs will be their regular price of \$1.00 each. The book sale will take place during the library's regular open hours. Find sale items on carts on the main floor and in the lower level booksale room.



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

911

FREE Smoke and CO Alarms for Comstock Residents

We are excited to announce that Comstock Fire & Rescue was awarded the Fire Prevention & Safety (FPS) Grant 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. We also have Smoke Alarms with safety lights for those with hearing impairments.

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

If you need Smoke Alarms or Carbon Monoxide (CO) detectors, please get in touch with Fire Marshal Mike Kessler at 269-345-9244 or email at mkessler@comstockmi.gov. You can also scan the QR code below or click on the link "[Smoke Alarm Request Form](#)" to complete the "Request Install of Smoke Alarms or Carbon Monoxide Detectors" form.

Smoke Alarm Request Form



[Smoke Alarm Request Form](#)



PART-TIME FIREFIGHTER RECRUITMENT

Comstock Fire & Rescue is now accepting applications for Part-time Firefighters. No prior experience required if you live within the Township. We will provide sponsorship for the EMS Certification class and the 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 2,200 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 kbeauchamp@comstockmi.gov.

A JOB LIKE NO OTHER

CHALLENGING

FAST PACED

REWARDING

**COMMUNITY
INVOLVEMENT**

**TRAINING
PROVIDED**

**COMPETITIVE
WAGES**



Maple Grove Columbarium FAQ's

What if I have ground burial cemetery lots, haven't purchased a headstone, and want to buy a columbarium niche?

If you have not set a headstone on your lots, you can sell them back to the Township for the price you paid when you purchased them.

You may also designate family members to use them or transfer ownership to someone else. This must be done and recorded at the Township to ensure ownership or designated user(s) is accurately recorded for future burials in those spaces.

Do I get to choose my niche?

Yes. There are 64 niches in the columbarium, 32 on each side. You can choose from any unsold niches.

How many urns can I put in a niche?

There is space for up to two standard-sized urns. Each niche measures 11" x 11" x 11".

How do I order a plaque for my niche?

The purchase price of a niche includes a plaque: individual for one inurnment or companion for two inurnments. We will design your plaque with you and place the order at the Township.

What information is included on the plaque?

Since it is a small space, we include the last name(s), first name(s) with middle initial, year of birth and year of death.

Can I put a design on the plaque?

Yes. Each plaque includes one emblem of your choosing from the company design book.

Will I see the plaque before it's produced?

Yes. The design is done online at the Township office and is printed for your signed approval. Once the design is approved, immediate production is ordered.

Can I order the plaque before death occurs?

Yes. We will install the plaque with only the birth year and will order a death year scroll at the time of need.

Can I still have a graveside service?

Yes. The same rules regarding floral pieces as ground burials apply.

Can I decorate a niche for the seasons or holidays?

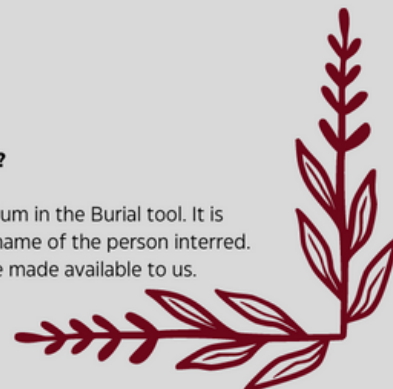
There is no space on the niche itself to hold decorations.

What if my niche looks dirty? Can I clean it?

No. Please contact the Township and we will take care of that for you.

Will the burial search tool on your website work for finding people in the columbarium?

Yes. We are working on including every person interred in both cemeteries and the columbarium in the Burial tool. It is here you can find additional information such as the full date of birth and death and the full name of the person interred. You may also be able to view the obituary and other documents and photographs as they are made available to us.



Cemetery Regulations

See Ordinance 524 & 538

1.

No materials should be placed to define a cemetery lot.

2.

No flowers, shrubs, trees or vegetation of any type shall be planted within the cemetery.

3.

Any decorations including dried-up flowers, wreaths, balloons & statues must be removed within 10 days after burial.

4.

Holiday/seasonal décor is permitted two weeks before and after holidays*.

5.

One container for items is permitted on the side of monument placed on a patio stone. One shepherd's hook is also allowed, flush to the side of the monument.

6.

Artificial flowers, in cones or placed directly in the ground, are not allowed.

***Holidays include New Year's Day, Easter, Mother's Day, Memorial Day, Father's Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Halloween, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas/Kwanzaa/Hanukkah**



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