



SUMMER 2024

Charter Township of
Comstock



COMSTOCK

NEWSLETTER

TOWNSHIP



In this newsletter you will find:

Election and cemetery updates, tax information, library events, DDA news, new employee welcome, Parks & Rec info, Fire Dept announcements.

UPCOMING ELECTION INFO



The Primary Election is August 6th

There are multiple ways to vote in Michigan and in Comstock.

1. **ABSENTEE.** We are no longer maintaining an absent voter application list. You can still request one with the Clerk's office. You can also be placed on the permanent ballot list which means you automatically receive a ballot before each election.
2. **EARLY.** You can vote early for NINE days before the election, starting the 2nd Saturday before the election and ending the Sunday before. See flyer on page 13 for more details.
3. **ELECTION DAY** at your assigned precinct. Polls are open 7:00am-8:00pm. To see where you vote, go to: michigan.gov/vote



Columbarium at Maple Grove Cemetery CEMETERY

Columbarium niches are for sale! This is a very affordable option to consider if you or your loved one has chosen cremation. We can sell niches on a preneed or at-need basis, just like we do ground burial spaces. We will also buy back previously purchased ground spaces if you decide the columbarium option is better for you! Stop into the Township office or contact our cemetery coordinator, Tami Penny, at tpenny@comstockmi.gov for more information.

TOWNSHIP FINANCIAL REPORTS

We have officially closed the books on 2023 with the completion of our annual audit. The audited financial statements will be presented to the Township Board in June and will be available on our website soon after. To view the financial statements, investment reports, budget reports and more, visit www.comstockmi.gov/treasurer.



TAX UPDATE

Summer is approaching, which means property tax collection is about to begin. We will soon receive requests from various taxing entities in Kalamazoo County to collect taxes on their behalf. These requests must be approved by the legislative body of the taxing entity, signed by the chairperson and secretary of that legislative body, and submitted to Comstock Township annually on form L-4029.

The L-4029 details the source and purpose of each millage to be collected, when and how it was approved, the rate to be charged, and when it expires. The requested millage rates are then applied to the taxable value of parcels in Comstock Township, based on the details provided, to create the tax bills. Summer tax collection officially begins on July 1 and taxes become due and payable on that date. Tax bills will be mailed to the last known address of each taxpayer.

However, addresses can change without our knowledge and mail can get delayed or lost, so please contact the Township office if you do not receive a bill by mid-July. It's important to note that any taxes levied are due and payable, whether or not a tax bill is received.

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Treasurer & FINANCE

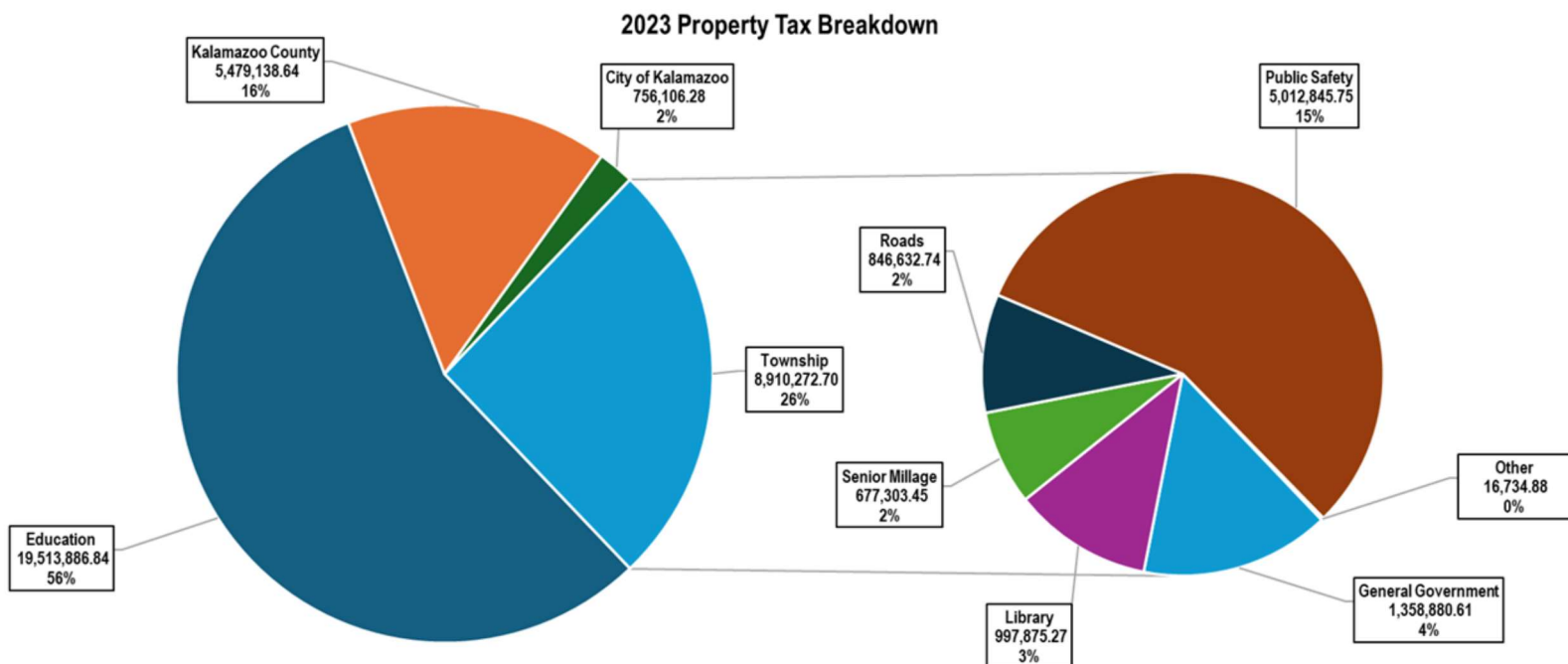
The last day to pay 2024 summer taxes without interest is Monday, September 16. On Tuesday, September 17, and on the first of every month thereafter, interest at the rate of 1% will be added to the unpaid balance. Please note that by statute, the Township Treasurer is required to charge the 1% interest and does not have statutory authority to waive it.

For all taxpayers in Comstock Township, summer property taxes include State Education Tax (SET) and Kalamazoo County's general operating millage.

Those who live in the Comstock Public Schools district also pay local school taxes as well as taxes for the Kalamazoo Regional Educational Services Agency (KRESA).

For details on these and all other millages, please see the Treasurer's page on our website, or click [here](#).

See below for a snapshot of how all 2023 property taxes collected in Comstock Township were distributed.



UPCOMING PROGRAMS

- Farmers Market
 - Mondays 3 -7pm
 - Merrill Park
 - June 3 - September 30
- Dino Dig
 - July 20 or July 27
 - Robert Morris Park
 - Pre- registration required
- National Night Out
 - Merrill Park
 - August 6
- Fall Adult Softball
 - Wenke Softball Complex
 - August 12 - October 9
- Archery Clinic
 - August - October
- Fall Fest
 - Merrill Park
 - September 28



ROBERT MORRIS PARK

8415 E. H AVE.

Our Facility:

- Beach
- Playgrounds
- Concessions
- Pavilion Rentals
- 18 hole disc golf course

Fees

- \$5 day pass per vehicle
- \$25 annual pass per vehicle
- \$10 senior (60+) annual pass per vehicle

COMMISSION MEETINGS

Meetings are held on the second Monday of every month at 6pm.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT OUR WEBSITE:
COMSTOCKMI.GOV/PARKS-RECREATION/**

5858 KING HIGHWAY | 269-343-8212 | PARKS@COMSTOCKMI.GOV

Downtown Development AUTHORITY



Attention Comstock Center Small Businesses

It's a new year and it's 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 (CCDDA) can help you apply for a new grant program to renovate your buildings.

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. The FIP Program is a reimbursement program requiring a 50% match. See below for details.

Facade Improvement Program

The façade improvement grant program was created to encourage private small business investment and improvements to the 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 the building façade, the FIP Program helps to improve the economic viability of the downtown and attract new customers.

Grants will reimburse 50% of eligible project costs up to a maximum of \$5,000. The maximum grant for new signs and murals is \$1,000. Eligible improvements include storefront façades, signs, outdoor seating platforms and murals.

Continued on next page.

Comstock Center & ZONING



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

Coming Up

COMSTOCK CENTER / MERRILL PARK UPCOMING EVENTS 2024

- Comstock Center flower planters (including 6 new planters) to be installed the week of June 10th
- Farmers Market – Begins June 3rd thru September 30th
- National Night Out – Tuesday, August 6th
- Proposed New Summer Festival - August 9th (tentative date)
- Fall Fest 2024 – September 28th (Tentative date)
- Proposed 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!

Welcome!



KHAYCI BRYANT, COMSTOCK'S NEW ASSISTANT ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

Let's welcome Khayci Bryant, our new Assistant Zoning Administrator. She's a recent master's graduate from Michigan State (GO GREEN!) and is so excited to join the Comstock Township family. She was born and raised in Grand Rapids. She enjoys college football, travel, and history. She loves summertime but always looks forward to a gloomy fall day in October. She is a dog lover who has a 10-year-old pup named Bean. She's excited to learn, grow, and meet the Comstock Community!

Contact Khayci for zoning questions regarding sheds, pole barns, fences and chickens.

zoningasst@comstockmi.gov
or 269-381-2360 ext 129

June Library EVENTS



THE SUMMER READING PROGRAM BEGINS JUNE 1ST

Adventure begins at your library! Read and complete library challenges to win prizes. We have programs for all ages. Visit our website homepage or drop by the library to register.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12 @ 6:00PM THE FAYGO BOOK WITH JOE GRIMM

Author Joe Grimm will present on his fantastic and fascinating publication, *The Faygo Book!* A staple in Detroit and Michigan, Faygo pop holds memories for many, young and old. Mr. Grimm will take you through the history of the Faygo Company, and Ben and Perry Feigenson as they created the beloved brand just as the world was coming to a standstill. Samples of Faygo and other Detroit favorite foods will be served. Reserve your spot today by visiting the library's website or giving us a call.

FRIDAY, JUNE 7, 14, 21, & 28 @ 10:00AM CTL WRITERS

Have a bit of writing in your soul, but you need the encouragement to get it out? Join the CTL Writers! We get together to read over another member's work, then share a writing sprint to get the words out on the paper. Bring your laptop, notebook, whatever you need to get your words out. Light refreshments will be served.

TUESDAY, JUNE 25 @ 2:00PM TWEENS: DIY SENSORY SLIME

Join us for this Tween Program, where we will make sensory slime. As always, Tween programs are intended for those in 4th-7th grade. All supplies for this activity will be provided, and this program is free. Registration is required. Participants will also get instructions for how to make this at home too.





Fire and Rescue

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 @ 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](#)



Comstock Fire & Rescue

Open Burn Permits

Open Burning Permits are required for any type of outdoor burning that is not contained in an approved container or barrel.

An Open Burn Permit is NOT required for the following:

- Burning in an approved burn barrel or waste burner
- Recreational fire (as defined under Recreational Fires)

Applying for Open Burn Permits: Permits may be obtained by utilizing the Comstock Township Burn Permit Application System (BurnPAS™) by visiting our website at www.comstockfire.com (click on the Burn Permits tab at the top), or alternatively you may call or stop in to any of our fire stations. Permits are only valid for the day the permit is issued. A new permit must be requested for each day that you wish to burn.

Permits are based on several requirements including favorable weather conditions and lot size. You will need to acknowledge the burning ordinance before a permit is issued. If your property address does not meet the lot size requirements according to the ordinance your permit will be denied. As a reminder you can only burn from sunrise to sunset and burning is restricted to leaves, brush, tree limbs, stumps, and lumber. Burning garbage, paper products, building material other than lumber, plastic, rubber products and grass clippings are specifically prohibited. The Transfer Station is free to take leaves for township residents.

Recreational Fires: Recreational fires do not require a burn permit as long as the fire is contained in a fire or barbecue pit,

- Not to exceed three feet in diameter and not to exceed two feet in height.
- All recreational fires must be at least 25 feet from any building, property line or other combustible material.
- Waste matter which causes a dense smoke or odor to go onto adjacent property may not be burned, under permit or otherwise.

Burning Barrels and Waste Burners: No burn permit is required for burning in a burn barrel or waste burner if it complies with the following rules:

- Burning barrels and waste burners are to be constructed of a non-combustible metal or masonry container, not to exceed a capacity of 55 gallons.
- Containers must be in good condition with holes or openings on the sides not to exceed ½ square inch. All containers must have a cover or spark arrester on top with holes no larger than ½ square inch.
- Burning barrels and waste burners must be kept as least 15 feet from any building, public roadway, property line or other combustible materials.
- Only paper products, leaves, brush, tree limbs, stumps or lumber may be burned in these containers.
- Burning grass clippings, garbage, building materials other than lumber, plastic and rubber products are specifically prohibited.

In addition, the Fire Chief and/or their authorized representative may require the fire to be discontinued if they determine that the smoke from the fire is reasonably offensive to persons on surrounding property or that the fire constitutes a hazardous condition.



PAID-ON-CALL FIREFIGHTER RECRUITMENT

Comstock Fire & Rescue is now accepting applications for Paid-On-Call 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**



Charter Township of
Comstock

ELECTION WORKERS NEEDED

**AUGUST 6TH PRIMARY ELECTION
NOVEMBER 5TH GENERAL ELECTION**

**INQUIRE WITH THE CLERK:
CLERK@COMSTOCKMI.GOV
269-381-2360**

EARLY VOTING



Vote at ANY of the following early voting locations between 9:00 am- 5:00 pm NINE days early, starting TWO Saturdays before the election and ending the Sunday before the election.

Kalamazoo Expo Center
2900 Lake St

Portage Parks & Recreation Dept
320 Library Lane

Fetzer Center @ WMU
2251 Business Court

Douglass Community Association
1000 Paterson St

*** State and Federal elections only**

STAFF DIRECTORY

Assessing

Kevin Harris, Assessor

assessor@comstockmi.gov, ext 118

Lydia Paille, Assessor

lpaille@comstockmi.gov, ext 118

Ordinance

Tim Smith, Ordinance Officer

ordofficer@comstockmi.gov, ext 123

Clerk

Nicole Beauchamp, Clerk

clerk@comstockmi.gov, ext 111

Kelly Sims, Deputy Clerk

ksims@comstockmi.gov, ext 115

Nicole Shook, Election

Specialist/FOIA Coordinator

nshook@comstockmi.gov, ext 124

Tami Penny, Cemetery Coordinator

tpenny@comstockmi.gov, ext 119

Treasurer

Bub Sherwood, Treasurer

treasurer@comstockmi.gov, ext 131

Clara Robinson, Deputy Treasurer

crobinson@comstockmi.gov, ext 110

Finance

Bret Padgett, Finance Director

bpadgett@comstockmi.gov, ext 112

Planning & Zoning

Kyle Mucha, Zoning Administrator

zoning@comstockmi.gov, ext 129

Khayci Bryant

zoningasst@comstockmi.gov, ext 129

Downtown

Development Authority

Steve Deisler, Director

sdeisler@comstockmi.gov, ext 130

Superintendent

Scott Hess, Superintendent

superintendent@comstockmi.gov, ext 121

Parks & Rec

Danielle Myrkle, Parks & Rec

Director

dmyrkle@comstockmi.gov, ext 114

Katie Bush, Parks & Rec Program

Coordinator

kbush@comstockmi.gov, ext 127

Maintenance

Dick McCulloch, Maintenance

Supervisor

rmcculloch@comstockmi.gov

Supervisor

Randy Thompson, Supervisor

supervisor@comstockmi.gov, ext 126

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

Township Board

Randy Thompson, Supervisor
Nicole Beauchamp, Clerk
Bub Sherwood Treasurer
Jerry Amos, Trustee
Jason Knight, Trustee
Terry McIver, Trustee
Bob Pratt, Trustee

*Elected Board

Meets 1st & 3rd Monday of the month @ 6pm
(subject to change)

Planning Commission

Jennifer Jones-Newton, Chair
Ron Sportel, Vice-Chair
Larry Nichols, Secretary
Jeff Ampey, Member
Patrick Hanna, Member
James Criteser, Member
Bub Sherwood, Member/Township Board Liaison

Meets 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month @ 7pm (subject to change)

Parks & Recreation Commission

Teresa Young, Chair
Marc Rizzolo, Vice-Chair
John Weir, Treasurer
Matt Forkin, Secretary
Judith Joling, Member

*Elected Board

Meets 2nd Monday of the month @ 6pm
(subject to change)

Downtown Development Authority

Sandra Katje, Chair
Jonathan Koets, Vice-Chair
Jeffrey Townsend, Secretary/Treasurer
Randy Thompson, Township Supervisor
John Gisler, County Liaison
Evan Kowalski, Member
Andy Schippers, Member
Anne Summerfield, Member

Meets 4th Wednesday of the month @ 5:30p pm
(subject to change)

Zoning Board of Appeals

Steve Gazdag, Chair
Jodi Colby, Vice-Chair
Ronald Kuivenhoven, Member
Patrick McVerry, Member
Larry Nichols, Member, Planning Commission Liaison
Robert Reilman, 1st Alternate
Marla Schwartz, 2nd Alternate

Meets 4th Tuesday of the month @ 4pm
(subject to change)

Board of Review

Jim Jenkins, Member
Larry Nichols, Member
Jonica Camburn, Member

Meeting schedule changes, check website for details