

MERIDIAN MONITOR

June 2013
Vol. 16 Issue 1



Summer Events

Celebrate Downtown Okemos & 5K	June 1
We Can Do It Women's 5K Run/Walk/Roll	June 2
Meridian Tackles Fishing Derby	June 8
Invasive Plants: Identification and Control	June 8
Music in the Park, Opening Day	June 12
Arts & Crafts Marketplace, Opening Day	June 23
Farmers Market, Summer Hours Begin	July 3
Meridian Fireworks Celebration	July 4
Lake Lansing North Restoration Walk	July 10
Fight Hunger 5K Run/Walk	July 14
Bus Trip to Detroit Tiger Game	July 27
National Night Out Celebration	August 6
Meridian Township Blood Drive	August 22
Heritage Festival	September 21

For more information about these events and more, check out the Township website: www.meridian.mi.us

New Meridian Township Manager

By: Josh Sidorowicz

Frank Walsh put the finishing touches on his remaining time as City Manager in St. Joseph, Michigan as he prepared to take on his new role in Meridian Township on May 8th. "It's kind of like closing a business here and opening up a new business (in Meridian Township)," said Walsh. "There's a lot of challenges and preparation." But Walsh maintained he couldn't wait to get started.

"I am overly excited and very passionate about the opportunity to be part of the Meridian team," said Walsh.

Walsh was chosen by the Township Board to become the Township's next manager following the retirement of Jerry Richards on May 3rd. The board chose Walsh following an intense round of public interviews in March with the final four candidates for the position.



Continue on page 2...

MERIDIAN FIREWORKS

THURSDAY,
JULY 4TH
10 P.M.

CENTRAL PARK
5151 MARSH RD.
OKEMOS

PARKING AT
MERIDIAN MALL

FOR MORE INFORMATION
517.853.4600



Meet the Police
Department's
Newest Addition

Pg 7



PERSONAL FIREWORKS ARE PROHIBITED ON PUBLIC PROPERTY

Walsh's emphasis on 'customer service' and his already vast knowledge of township issues made him a stand out candidate for the job, according to Township Trustee Ron Styka. "He did a lot of homework, he knew a lot about the township and he really showed the passion to want to be here," Styka said following the interviews after the board made their decision. "He spent the time to find out about us and know what we need."

Walsh has served as the City Manager in St. Joseph since 1996. His political career began at the age of 19 when he was first elected to the Henrietta Township Board in Jackson County. He has over 25 years' experience in municipal management. Mr. Walsh holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the University of Toledo. Frank received the State of Michigan's City Manager Award in 2007, the highest award given in state municipal management. ■



DID YOU KNOW?

Eateries

When spring arrives, outdoor eateries become premium space. In Meridian Township, there are over 30 outdoor patios to pass the time with good food, drinks, and friends. Newly opened outdoor seating this month is Red Haven.

Read the full listing:
www.meridian.mi.us



Red Cedar River Pedestrian Bridge Process

By: Miranda Roberts

Preparations are underway for a new pedestrian bridge on Okemos Road over the Red Cedar River. The sidewalk on the current bridge is not safe for pedestrians, especially with snow and ice. Raymond Severy, Meridian Township's Director of Public Works and Engineering, said the township closes the sidewalk during the winter.

The new pedestrian bridge will be 8 feet wide, twice as wide as the current sidewalk, and nearly 200 feet long. It will share the same foundation as the road bridge, saving the township money. "There are concrete wing walls on the bridge that we will use as the foundation for the pedestrian bridge so we don't have to put in a new foundation," said Severy said.

The project is expected to cost the township between \$350,000 and \$400,000. It will be constructed off-site, and then shipped to its location in sections for installation. Trees have already been removed where it will stand.

The next step is design, followed by accepting bids from contractors interested in taking on the project. "We would hope that nobody would be walking on that sidewalk on the road anymore, there would be no reason for them to," Severy said.

The pedestrian bridge is to be completed by October. ■



MDOT Construction Begins

By: Josh Sidorowicz

Construction season is underway in the Lansing area. The Michigan Department of Transportation's (MDOT) Capital Investment Project is already underway with parts of the M-43 Grand River Ave. corridor lined with orange barrels and equipment. The project along M-43 which spans between Coolidge and Park Lake Road will include pavement resurfacing and upgrades to traffic signals and crosswalks.

MDOT spokesperson Kari Arend said because this project will not only impact part of Meridian Township but also East Lansing and the MSU campus, timing is critical. "We are very watchful of our schedule with this project, trying to have the least impact as possible while still getting the work done," said Arend.

Arend said MDOT also made sure to keep contractors on strict deadlines to ensure the bulk of the work is done during the summer when a large chunk of the student population in the area is gone. The Capital Investment Project also includes work and road upgrades on US-127 highway, bridgework repairs on I-496 highway. Scan for full scope of the project or to follow progress for all projects go to mdotnetpublic.state.mi.us/drive or www.facebook.com/MeridianTownship. ■



On Consignment

By: Andrea Mantakounis

Five consignment shops reside in Meridian Township and business is thriving; Plato's Closet, Kellie's Consignment, K-2 Boutique, Tiny Town Trading Co., and Second Time Around make up the resale business. Unlike thrift shops, consignment shops are founded on the relationship between consignor and consignee instead of buyer and seller. The owner of the item, consignor, makes an agreement with the seller, consignee, that upon sale, the seller receives a portion of the proceeds in return for marketing the item.

According to NARTS: The Association of Resale Professionals, "While many businesses close their doors every day, resale remains healthy and continues to be one of the fastest growing segments of retail." As consumer interest in resale increases, more and more people are opting to open their own resale shops, resulting in an industry growth of approximately 7% a year according to NARTS. This percentage accounts for the estimated number of new stores opening each year, minus the businesses that close.

"I would say the biggest misconception I notice is that people misjudge the quality of the merchandise, the places we have in the Township are actually relatively upscale. The consignment shops we have here are great and seem to be well respected. It seems the community has embraced these places," says Peter Menser, Associate Planner in Meridian Township.

Besides the savings, people turn to consignment shops as an eco-friendly option when it comes to purchasing goods. "In our industry what we like to call it "up-cycling," where you are taking stuff that is in your home and closets and turning it into cash for you. I call it recycling at its' best," comments Kellie Johnson, owner of Kellie's Consignments.

According to America's Research Group, a consumer research firm, about 12- 15% of Americans will shop at a consignment store during a given year. To keep these figures in perspective, consider that 11.4% of Americans shop in factory outlet malls, 19.6% in apparel stores and 21.3% in major department stores. ■

For all things recycling go to: recycle.meridian.mi.us

 [facebook.com/GreenMeridian](https://www.facebook.com/GreenMeridian)  twitter.com/MeridianRecycle



DID YOU KNOW?

April's Meridian Township Recycling Event produced the following Reduce, Reuse, Recycle results:

- 2 large semi trucks (52,685 lbs.) of electronics
- 10,340 lbs. of metal
- ~1500 lbs. of books donated to charities
- 1000 books sold to support recycling
- 2180 lbs. of phonebooks
- 900 pairs of shoes
- Habitat's ReStore filled a large truck with furniture and building materials
- 1/2 a large van of packing peanuts
- 6 large bins of athletic equipment
- 50 bikes
- 107 volunteers



More than 700 visitors participated!

Mark your calendar for the next big recycling event on **October 5, 2013.**

Take Me Out to the Ball Game Sunday, July 28th

Let staff from Meridian Township Parks & Recreation Department take you and your family to a Detroit Tigers game on Sunday, July 28th. The Tigers will be playing the Philadelphia Phillies. Price includes ticket, transportation, goodies on the bus and a fun afternoon of America's favorite past time. GO TIGERS!!!!

Time: Bus leaves at 10:00 am

Location: Nancy Moore Park, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith

Price: \$65.00/person

**Call the Parks and Recreation Department to register
517-853-4600**



Get Connected

News, events, information, and involvement in civic ideas are at the palm of your hands as Meridian Township has implemented ways for residents to "Get Connected."



Mobile Meridian

Navigating the Meridian Township website is easier with Mobile Meridian. Residents can navigate through various department tabs and sections right from their phone. Have township events at your fingertips no matter where you're at. Watch township meetings, candidate debates, and local news stories with mobile videos at www.HOMTV.net ■



myMeridian

A civic ideas website called myMeridian is dedicated to collecting ideas from community members to help prioritize enhancements and improvements in the township and expand township offerings. You can also join public forum conversations. To get involved, post comments, and join discussions, sign up at www.mymeridian.net. ■



Become a Friend of Meridian

There are many residents who have formed "friends of meridian" Facebook groups where residents who have common interests can share similar ideas and conversations. Links to these groups are available through the Townships website under the "Become a Friend" tab. ■



Okemos Library Renovation

By: Angelica Moore-Obioha

Upon approval for its renovation from the Township Board, the Hope Borbas Okemos Library began a fundraising campaign titled "Renew the Okemos Library, its Overdue." The 12,000 square-foot library which has been at its Okemos location for 11 years is cramped, outdated, and in dire need of rehabilitation, according to its Friends group.

"Fixing up the library has been long overdue, we are practically bursting at the seams," said President of the Friends of the Okemos Library, Cecilia Kramer.

The Friends of the Okemos Library campaign goal was to raise \$100,000 between December 2012 and March 2013 for a 2:1 match with the Township's donation of \$200,000 from its General Fund.

The fundraising committee made up of representatives from the Friends, Capital Area District Library, and the general public was guided by former Meridian Township Manager, Jerry Richards.

Fundraising efforts went underway and numerous Lansing area businesses, organizations and individuals rose to the occasion, assisting the library with its renovation plan. In its third month, the campaign had reportedly already hit the \$60,000 mark from community donations, support and private fundraising efforts.

By the end of its March 31st donation, Kramer said the library had not only reached its \$100,000 goal but in fact exceeded it raising \$150,000. Thus, additional upgrades to the library are now also on the agenda.

"We are simply thrilled with the response and success of the campaign and grateful to the various members of the community and local businesses that answered to our call for help," said Kramer.

The project will include a new west-side entrance, re-purposed space within the library to better utilize and increase the patron area, improve the parking and traffic flow, upgrade the wiring and technology, create an enclosed quiet reading room, and upgrade the restrooms.

Construction is set to begin in August, commencing at the end of the library's summer reading program. For updates on the construction go to the friends page. ■



www.facebook.com/FriendsOfTheOkemosLibrary

DID YOU KNOW?

Electric Charging Station at Studio C!

The electric charging station located at Studio C Cinemas in Meridian Township is the first one in the area installed for public use. With dual chargers, the ChargePoint unit can charge two EVs at the same time.



Automatic Tax Payments

To enroll in Meridian Township's automatic bill payment plan, simply fill out the Automatic Bill Payment Enrollment Form located on the Meridian Township website www.meridian.mi.us by September 1st. When enrolled, Meridian Township will initiate an ACH withdrawal from the taxpayer's account. Taxes can be paid by cash, check or by automatic withdrawal. Taxes may also be paid online or by phone by credit or debit card (fees will be applied).

Payments may be made in person at the Treasurer's Office in the Meridian Township Municipal Building daily between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., dropped off in the white drop box in front of the Meridian Township Municipal Building 24 hours a day, or mailed (5151 Marsh Rd. Okemos, MI 48864). Payments must be received in the office by the due date or a 1% late fee will be charged. Post-marks are not accepted.

Meridian Township Summer Tax Bills will be mailed out by the Treasurer's Office on July 1st. Summer Tax Bills are due Monday, September 16, 2013 by 5:00 p.m. For more information about taxes or other Township services, please visit the Meridian Township website at www.meridian.mi.us. ■

To Our Residents,

A sincere "Thank You" goes out to all the elected officials who entrusted me to carry out the duties of Township Manager over the last 18 years. To township residents and businesses, it's been a pleasure to serve as your manager. Any success achieved during my tenure was due in large part to the Township's dedicated and hard-working directors and staffs, who consistently provide high quality services. My wife Judy and I will continue to reside in the community, and we are confident the Township will prosper for the foreseeable future. *Best wishes,*
Jerry Richards



Keeping Neighborly

By: Staff

Dog Waste: Pick it up

Removal of feces. Any person having control of a dog on or adjacent to a **public sidewalk or pathway, within a public street right-of-way, land preservation property, or park property** shall immediately remove all feces deposited by such dog on or adjacent to any public sidewalk or pathway, and shall dispose of same in a sanitary manner.

Keep Dogs on a Leash

Control. Any dog on or adjacent to a **public sidewalk or pathway, within a public street right-of-way, or park property** shall be upon a leash of six feet or less, unless posted otherwise, and shall be under the immediate control of a competent person at all times.

Unless posted otherwise, any dog on **land preservation property** shall be on a leash of six feet or less and at all times shall be under the immediate control of a competent person. ■



DID YOU KNOW?

Wedding Rentals

An unknown gem of a wedding spot is in the middle of Meridian Township at the Historical Village. You can rent the Village gazebo and the Village chapel for your wedding. A proud member of the Lansing Bridal Association, these buildings are easy to book and they fit just about any budget. For availability, contact the Historical Village office at 517-347-7300.



For more information, go to the Ordinances link on the Township website: www.meridian.mi.us



Watch the video version of the Monitor by scanning the QR Code or go to www.meridian.mi.us by clicking "Township Publications" under the "Media Room" tab.

Arts and Crafts Marketplace

The Arts and Crafts Marketplace is held on the fourth Sunday of each month in the Farmers' Market Pavillion in Central Park in June, July, August and September. (The August marketplace will be moved to the second Sunday, August 18th.) All crafters and artisans are welcome to participate.

We look forward to another great year of showcasing local talent while also promoting our local economy. If you have any questions, contact the Market Manager, Robin Faust at 517-853-4608 or faust@meridian.mi.us. ■



The New Central Fire Station Is On Its Way

By: Staff

The ground breaking ceremony for the new Central Fire Station at the southeast corner of Okemos Road and Central Park Drive is slated for September 30th of this year. The existing Central Fire Station at 2150 Clinton Street was built in 1957. Last year, a professional contractor determined it was not feasible to be renovated. The new station, approved by 58 percent of voters in November 2012, is in the process of being designed by the architectural firm DLZ. They were selected after reviewing six architectural proposals received in January. Meridian Township Public Works and Engineering Director Ray Severy and Fire Chief Fred Cowper have been meeting with the architects to develop a strategic process for implementing the essentials for the new station.

Director Severy explained, "We began by touring some of the stations DLZ designed in the past. Based on our observations and feedback from fire personnel at those locations, we were able to enhance the features of the new station to best meet our needs."

Of the total \$3.5 million budget, \$200,000 is allocated for the architectural firm to design the building, bid a contractor, and oversee the project from start to finish.

"We continue to look at various floor plans and make modifications that will provide for efficiencies in the station. As we develop the interior floor plan, we are now looking at the various building facade illustrations," said Severy.

Director Severy and Chief Cowper will be meeting with the architects until the final design has been decided. Construction is expected to be completed one year from the start date. ■

MERIDIAN



FARMER'S MARKET

CENTRAL PARK PAVILLION



"Get it FRESH..."

Saturdays
8am - 2pm

Open Wednesdays
July - October



Citizen Online Crime Reporting

By: Jack Rodzik

The Meridian Township Police Department has recently implemented an online crime reporting system that offers the community another way to report specific, non-emergency crimes that do not require an immediate police response. The purpose of this system is to allow citizens the ability to conveniently file police reports from home, work, or anywhere with internet access.

"It's another option for the public to report crimes. It is a way for the Department to be more accessible to the public," stated Lieutenant Greg Frenger. This free service is designed for calls-for-service such as theft or lost property where there is no suspect. Crimes in progress or involving a suspect must be reported in person, so police may address the call immediately.

Using the web to report an incident is a citizen option. If a citizen wishes to see a police officer, one will respond in person. While the Department values personal contact, the web-based approach is for those citizens who are short on time, have no need to meet with a police officer or simply appreciate the convenience of online reporting.

To access the Citizen Online Crime Reporting program, visit the Police Department's webpage at www.meridian.mi.us ■



Check out the Police Dept. Blogspot meridiantwppolice.blogspot.com/



DID YOU KNOW?

Arrests through Social Media

Twenty-six arrest warrants were cleared through social media in 2012, and 9 crimes were solved that would most likely have remained unsolved without the teamwork of the Police Department and community members made possible through social media.



Welcome Meridian's Newest Officer

By: Staff

The Meridian Township Police Department has added a new 'officer' to its police unit. Meet Uby, a canine in training with his handler, Officer Erin Linn. Uby is a hard working German Shepard with keen intelligence and work ethic. He was raised, trained, and titled in Hungary before joining the Meridian Township Police K-9 Unit. Meridian Township takes great pride in introducing Uby who is working in partnership with his handler on a daily basis, "I'm thrilled to work with my new four legged partner," said Officer Linn.

Dogs are pre-trained in Europe and come with their tracking, apprehension and article - search training completed. Once they report to their assigned country they are trained in scent work with either narcotics or explosives. Uby will mainly be used for tracking suspects, narcotics, and missing people. "These dogs are incredible tools for our community," Linn said. "Nothing can match a K-9's scent work and that's what they're here for." The handler works with the dog on a continuous basis to build trust with the animal. Dogs are like humans in that they learn acts and behaviors by repetition. The more they work together, the better they perform in the field.

Training the handler is as important as training the dog. The goal is to have the handler retain as much information as possible, work with the dog continually and build a strong bond. Linn says that Uby is friendly and hard-working and takes his training very seriously. Uby proudly wears his badge while on duty conducting drug searches and people tracks. He is outfitted with the basic equipment as required based on the dog's specialty including a leather leash, nylon harness and tracking lead. ■



Receive community public safety alerts instantly by text message and email. Registration is quick, easy, and secure.

<https://local.nixle.com/meridian-township-police/>



facebook.com/MeridianTwpPD

twitter.com/MeridianTwpPD





Meridian Township
 5151 Marsh Road
 Okemos, MI 48864
 (517) 853-4600

ECRWSS
 CAR-SORT POSTAL CUSTOMER

PRESORT STANDARD
 U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
 LANSING, MI
 PERMIT NO. 689

MUSIC IN THE PARK CONCERT SERIES

WEDNESDAYS

STARTING AT 7PM

MERIDIAN HISTORICAL VILLAGE



June 12: Meridian Community Band

June 19: Sally Potter
 Scarlett Runner String Band

June 26: Blue Water Ramblers

July 10: The Lost Hitchhikers
 Under Construction Bluegrass

July 17: Hall and Morgan
 The Imani Hanna

July 24: The Fabulous Heftones
 Hot Club of Lansing

Celebrate Downtown Okemos

Saturday, June 1st
 3pm - 9pm
 Hamilton & Okemos Roads




Local Sensation *Taylor Taylor*, Global Village & Dueling Pianos



- Meridian Twp. Police Union Pig Roast, Masons BBQ Chicken & more
- Haslett / Okemos Rotary Club Beverage Tent
- Celebrate Downtown Okemos 5K Race - 4pm
- Inflatable Obstacle Course & FREE Ice Cream Social
- Okemos Athletic Boosters Sport Challenge Games
- Sport Equipment Rummage Sale/Silent Auction
- Bike Valet Parking

For more information call 517.853.4600
www.facebook.com/DowntownOkemos

