



Meridian Monitor

Summer 2005

Meridian's July 4th Fireworks Celebration



Everyone's welcome to join in the festivities of the "Meridian Fireworks Celebration" on Monday, July 4, commemorating America's independence.

Sponsored by Meijer of Okemos and the Meridian Area Business Association (MABA), the fun begins at 7 p.m. at the Meridian Municipal Complex, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos. Activities will include:

- Classic Car Show on Central Park Drive at 6:30 p.m.
- A "Patriot Parade" for children—who may bring decorated bikes, trikes, and scooters. The parade begins behind Chili's Restaurant (near Meridian Mall) and travels north on Marsh Road to the Municipal Complex entrance, concluding at the Farmers' Market pavilion. That event will also include music by the Haslett and Okemos High School bands, clowns, and mascots at 8 p.m.
- Musical entertainment by the East Lansing Kiwanis Community Band and the group, "No Outlet," at 7 p.m.
- Tours of Meridian Historical Village and Nokomis Learning Center
- Meridian Fire and Police Department demonstration area
- A children's game area
- Food (for a small fee)
- Fireworks, accompanied by music provided by 94.1 WVIC-FM, starting at about 10:20 p.m.

Visitors are encouraged to park in the Meridian Mall lot and surrounding areas. Handicapped parking is available at the Meridian Municipal Complex, Marsh Road entrance.

Central Park Drive, between Marsh Road and the Okemos Post Office, will close at 5 p.m. for the July 4th activities and fireworks display. For more information, contact the Meridian Parks and Recreation Department at 853-4608.

Township's First Mixed-Use Development in Progress

Last fall, the Meridian Township Board authorized a new zoning option in an effort to promote design-centered, pedestrian-oriented land use within the community.

The Mixed Use Planned Unit Development (MUPUD) ordinance may be applied by property owners to land zoned commercial (C-2 and C-3), community service (CS), commercial recreation (CR), and professional and office (PO).

The new zoning option allows mixed commercial and residential uses on

the same site and in the same building—a practice that had not been permitted here since zoning was adopted in 1948.

Under the new ordinance, design elements and required amenities such as public open space, landscaped planters, public art, environmentally sensitive design, bicycle racks, and buildings with porches, awnings or balconies, are expected to help contribute to a distinctive look, with buildings placed close to the road and parking available to the side or rear.

The township's first MUPUD ordinance application was submitted by John Russell Builders last January. The builder's project, approved in May, calls for 5,000 square feet of commercial space, eight apartments, and four town homes on a three-quarter acre site in Okemos. The commercial space and apartments will be contained in a three-story building facing Okemos Road, south of the intersection of Okemos and Hamilton roads. Four town homes will be constructed in a two-story building at the southeast corner of Clinton and Moore streets.

Parking for the site will be located south of the mixed-use building and north of the townhouse building, with access from Moore Street. Special design features include brick exteriors, decorative window guards, accessories integrated with the building design, public outdoor seating, public art, decorative sidewalks, an outdoor gathering space, gray-water recycling, a green roof, and landscaping.

Dates Set for Police Citizens' Academy



2004 participants of the Citizens Academy. Front row (Left to Right): Chica Snell, Donna Williams, Julie Hanson, Leah Mourey, Edna Harney, Christopher Stauffer, Ann Alchin, Deborah Duncan, Teresa Kenaga and Eugene Wade. Back row (Left to Right) Police Chief David Hall, Lieutenant Ken Plaga, David Elias, Dwight Sinila, Brad Chambers, Donna Osbo, Becky Bauer and T.A. Lindsey.

The eighth Citizens' Academy hosted by the Meridian Township Police Department is scheduled for Sept. 8 through Nov. 3, 2005. Residents interested in expanding their knowledge of the Police Department may apply to attend free classes each Thursday from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. during that time period.

Citizens' Academy classes, which cover a wide range of police responsibilities, skills and services, are taught by instructors from the police department. If you're interested in attending, contact Lieutenant Ken Plaga at 853-4800 for an application. Applications may also be downloaded through the internet at http://www.twp.meridian.mi.us/POLICE/p_academy.htm.

Historic Group Honored

In May, the Friends of Historic Meridian became the first recipient of the Ingham County Historical Commission's Heritage Award. The group was honored for its "outstanding effort to increase public awareness and preservation of Ingham County's rich heritage."

According to Jane Rose, executive director of Friends of Historic Meridian, the group has "worked tirelessly over the past 30 years to keep the history of Ingham County alive through its preservation and educational efforts."

Founded in 1974, Friends of Historic Meridian brings together people who are interested in preserving the township's history. So far, it has rescued seven historic buildings and a windmill by arranging their relocation to the Meridian Historical Village, where they were restored. Most recently, the organization moved a corn crib to the farm area of the village, and is raising funds to relocate an 1860s log cabin there.

Friends of Historic Meridian has also acquired and organized photos, letters,

and other materials related to the history of Meridian Township, Vevay Township, East Lansing, and Michigan State University. Notebooks listing all items have been made available to the local libraries for use by individual researchers. Each year, too, the group hosts six public lectures on local history topics.

"The success of the Friends of Historic Meridian's preservation efforts is the result of many dedicated people in the community working together," says Rose. "We owe a great debt to those original members who had the foresight to recognize the importance of preserving our past for the enjoyment of generations to come."

Friends of Historic Meridian operate the Meridian Historical Village located off Central Park Drive in Okemos. Village buildings are open by appointment and on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. from May through October. Tours can be arranged at the site's general store. For more information, call 347-7300.

Voters Use New Election Equipment

Residents who voted in the May 3 election helped inaugurate the new voting equipment received by Meridian Township this spring as part of the federal Help America Vote Act.

The new system—called OPTECH—is known as a precinct-based tabulation system. That means, after voters cast their ballots, they place them directly in a computerized ballot box and their votes are then immediately recorded. In order to cast their ballots with the new system, voters simply use a pencil to connect front and back halves of an arrow pointing to a candidate or issue of choice.

The new equipment is programmed to ensure that all votes made are counted. If a mistake or error is detected, the machines return the ballot to the voter immediately, before it's counted, and the voter is given a second ballot to mark properly. Errors include voting for more candidates in a particular race than allowed, or, during primary elections, voting for candidates of more than one political party.

According to Meridian Township Clerk Mary Helmbrecht, more than 100 election workers helped the township with balloting in May. "These workers mastered the new equipment, ballot format, and changes in election law prior to May 3," she says. "We're grateful to all those who were ready, willing, and able to learn the new system and assist township voters."

"National Night Out" Set for August 2

The Meridian Township Police Department invites all residents to participate in "National Night Out" on Tuesday, Aug. 2. The event provides an opportunity for communities to

join together to promote police-community partnerships and neighborhood unity to help prevent crime. To signal their participation, residents are asked to leave their

porch lights on for "National Night Out." In the past, some neighborhoods have sponsored picnics, ice cream socials, and other social gatherings to get acquainted

with their neighbors and community policing officer. To find out how you can become involved, call 853-4800.

Meridian Land Preservation Program Growing



Mark Frantz pushes a wheelbarrow full of car tires and scrap materials



Michael Hausinger and Craig Brown pull a buried tire from the ground.

Photos courtesy of John Diehl/David Caszatt

Acquisitions for the permanent protection of environmentally sensitive land and open space by Meridian Township's Land Preservation Program continue at a steady pace.

Since it began in 2001, nine properties totaling 187 acres have either been purchased or donated to the Land Preservation Program. Two recent purchases add another 67 acres for a total of 255 acres.

"It's touching to realize that, in most cases, the property owners are not just looking for dollars," says Meridian Township Clerk Mary Helmbrecht. "They wholeheartedly share the community's desire to ensure that, even when fully developed, Meridian Township continues to be a unique area containing islands and corridors of very beautiful open spaces.

"For some, it's a matter of both pride and sentimentality—preserving the property safeguards a part of their past and ensures its future enjoyment by others."

Last winter, the Land Preservation Advisory Board (LPAB) purchased a 19-acre parcel from Bryan and Theresa VanAcker. The undeveloped site is located in the township's northwest corner, and had become an unauthorized dumping ground for household refuse. The Towar Community Concerns Committee, sponsored a cleanup of the site in April with the help of Meridian Township, which provided two dump trucks to assist in the effort.

According to Helmbrecht, the LPAB plans to coordinate with other neighborhood groups near land acquisition sites for presentations, walks, and discussion of the property's special features.

"We also hope these neighborhood-by-neighborhood efforts help identify people who are interested in land preservation, and serve as a source of additional oversight and care for protected land," says Helmbrecht.

The LPAB continues to search for property owners who may wish to add their land to the preservation program, which was created through a 10-year tax millage passed by Meridian Township voters in 2000. The millage is projected to raise a total of about \$9 million to permanently protect green spaces in the township, and enhance the natural features of some sites.

Residents who are aware of property that may be appropriate for the program—or who are interested in making a land donation or providing a conservation easement—may contact the Meridian Township Clerk's Office at 853-4300. Donations of property are tax deductible, subject to certain limits and conditions.

2005 Summer Tax Payment Notice

All residential and business owners should receive a summer tax bill by July 11. If you do not receive your bill by that date, please call 853-4148 for a duplicate bill. Your mortgage/escrow company (if one is listed on your bill) will receive a copy of your bill.

Please remember that payment must be in the Meridian Township Treasurer's office by 5 p.m. on Sept. 14, 2005, in order to avoid a 1 percent interest charge. Taxpayers who plan to mail a payment must allow plenty of time for delivery, as postmarks are not accepted. A white, curbside drop box is also available outside the Meridian Township Hall. Tax payments may be placed in the box, which is available 24 hours a day for the convenience of township residents.

It's important to note that summer tax bills will be higher than in previous years because of the partial collection of Ingham County's operating millage. In past years, Ingham County taxes were collected entirely with the winter tax bill. However, under a new state law, one-third of the county's operating millage will be collected in July 2005, rather than in Dec. 2005.

In 2006, two-thirds of the county's millage will be collected in July, rather than in December. The entire amount of Ingham County's millage will be collected in July each year after 2006.

Sanitary Sewer Project Underway

A rehabilitation project to reduce the amount of groundwater in the sanitary sewer system was launched in April by the Meridian's Public Works & Engineering Department in conjunction with Performance Pipelining, Inc., of Illinois.

The project was begun in the township's Ottawa Hills subdivision and continues along the Red Cedar River from the west end of Hamilton Road to Dobie Road. It also extends along the Herron Creek Drain from Nakoma Drive to south of Mt. Hope Road, and along the Smith drain from the Red Cedar River to Okemos Road.

The \$1.4 million project, which is expected to be completed this fall, involves inspecting, cleaning, and repairing some 7.5 miles of sewer lines,

and either installing a liner or sealing pipe joints to renew lines that range from eight to 30 inches in diameter. The project is being financed by the township's sewer fund.

According to Ray Severy, Meridian Township Director of Public Works/Engineering, the project is "necessary because of the aging sewer line system and repair of cracked or collapsed pipes will help prevent groundwater seepage into the system. It will also entail the removal of any tree roots that have grown into the pipes."

Once completed, he adds, the repairs will reduce the potential for residential sewer backups during heavy rain storms.

HOM-TV Original Programs Schedule

Parks & Recreation Calendar of Events

Meridian Magazine
Daily at 11 a.m., 5:30 p.m. & 11:30 p.m.

Meridian Woman (June Only)
Mother/Daughter & Father/Son
Local Businesses
Daily at 9:30 a.m., 4:30 p.m. & 10 p.m.

Community Connection
Daily at 11:30 a.m., 6 p.m. & 11 p.m.

Business Review (June & July)
Current Businesses: Cancun Grill,
Aladdin's Delight, Artful Expressions,
and Haslett TV 25 Telethon
Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Sunday at
8:30 a.m. & 3:30 p.m.

Beyond the Badge
Daily at 10:30 a.m. & 5 p.m.

On the Agenda
Daily at 10 a.m., 6:30 p.m., & 10:30 p.m.

Special Feature! (June & July)

Insect Safari @ the Harris Nature Center

Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday at 8:30 a.m. & 3:30 p.m.



- June 19 - Insect Safari with Dad
- June 21 - My Cub & I Summer Camp
- June 21 - Curiosity Club Summer Camp
- June 21 - Discovery Day Camp
- June 21 - Nature's Artists Day Camp
- June 22 - "On Assignment" Advanced Photography Class
- June 22 - Music in the Park: Historical Village
- June 23 - Parents & Kids Golf Program-Level #1
- June 25 - Meridian Skates Day #1
- June 25 - Short Game School
- June 26 - National Log Cabin Day
- June 27 - Sister Moon and Brother Wind Day Camp
- June 28 - Bug Buddies for Preschoolers Camp
- June 28 - Amazing Animals Day Camp
- June 29 - Music in the Park: Historical Village
- June 30 - Fairways and Greens
- July 2 - Summer Farmers' Market / Wed. & Sat.
- July 4 - Meridian 4th of July Celebration
- July 5 - My Cub & I Summer Camp
- July 5 - Curiosity Club Summer Camp
- July 5 - Kindergarten Critter Camps
- July 5 - Wet and Wild Day Camp
- July 6 - Fit Yoga with Amy Larsen
- July 6 - Little Linkers #2
- July 6 - Parents & Kids Golf Program-Level #1
- July 7-10 - Summer Play in the Park/"Macbeth"
- July 9 - Family Campfire Series/Fiery Fireflies
- July 9 - Little Linkers #1
- July 9 - Parents & Kids Golf Program-Level #1
- July 11 - 4 on 4 Sand Volleyball Leagues
- July 11 - Nature Buds Day Camp
- July 11 - Teen Leaders Camp
- July 11 - Adult Couples Recreational Golf League
- July 11 - Ladies Learning Golf League
- July 11 - Ladies Learn to Play Golf Level #2
- July 11 - Little Linkers #1
- July 12 - Bug Buddies for Preschoolers Camp
- July 12 - Earth Fun Day Camp
- July 12 - Ladies Learn to Play Golf
- July 13 - Music in the Park: Historical Village
- July 14 - Little Linkers #1
- July 14 - Parents & Kids Golf Program-Level #2
- July 15 - OAKS Fall Soccer K-8th deadline
- July 16 - Family Campfire Series/Star Studded Evening
- July 16 - Fairways and Greens
- July 16-17 - Meridian Township Men's Amateur Golf Championship

- July 17 - Meridian Township Ladies Amateur Golf Championship
- July 18 - Gathering Traditions Summer Day Camp
- July 19 - Nature Friends Barbecue
- July 19 - My Cub & I Summer Camp
- July 19 - Curiosity Club Summer Camp
- July 19 - Discovery Day Camp
- July 19 - Amazing Animals Day Camp
- July 20 - Teen Trip - Michigan's Adventure Water Park
- July 20 - Music in the Park: Historical Village
- July 22 - Meridian Township Junior Amateur Golf Championship
- July 23 - Family Campfire Series/Campfire Sing-Along
- July 23 - Short Game School
- July 24 - Meridian Skates Day #2
- July 25 - Gathering Traditions Summer Day Camp
- July 25 - Eco-Explorers Day Camp
- July 25 - 3 on 3 Basketball Adult Leagues
- July 26 - Bug Buddies for Preschoolers Camp
- July 26 - Nature's Artists Day Camp
- July 27 - Music in the Park: Historical Village
- July 30 - Family Campfire Series/Sensing in the Night
- July 30 - 8th Annual Meridian Charity Golf Fest
- Aug. 2 - My Cub & I Summer Camp
- Aug. 2 - Turning Back the Pages Day Camp
- Aug. 2 - Curiosity Club Summer Camp
- Aug. 2 - Kindergarten Critter Camp
- Aug. 2 - Earth Fun Day Camp
- Aug. 2 - First Class Dog Training
- Aug. 2 - National Night Out Celebration
- Aug. 3 - Parents & Kids Golf Program-Level #2
- Aug. 7 - Down the Unbeaten Path/North Meridian Road Park
- Aug. 8 - All Creatures Big and Small Day Camp
- Aug. 8 - "Older but Still Kicking" Co-Ed Kick Ball League
- Aug. 9 - Teen Trip - White Water Rafting
- Aug. 9 - Bug Buddies for Preschoolers Camp
- Aug. 9 - Wet and Wild Day Camp
- Aug. 9 - Turning Back the Pages Day Camp
- Aug. 17 - The Actor's Boot Camp
- Aug. 17 - Fit Yoga with Amy Larsen
- Aug. 19 - HYRA Fall Soccer K-3rd deadline
- Aug. 19 - HYRA Flag Football K-5th deadline
- Aug. 20 - Technical Tree Climbing
- Aug. 26 - OAKS Flag Football 3rd-6th deadline
- Aug. 30 - First Class Dog Training

* Meridian Township Meetings Schedule

Planning Commission
(LIVE 2nd and 4th Monday of the month)
Sun. 5:30 a.m. & 7 p.m.
Mon. 12 a.m. & 7 p.m. LIVE or REPLAY
Tues. 12 a.m., 5:30 a.m. & noon
Fri. 5:30 a.m. & 7 p.m.
Sat. 12 a.m. & noon

Zoning Board of Appeals
(LIVE 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month)
Mon. 5:30 a.m. & noon
Wed. 7 p.m. LIVE or REPLAY
Thurs. 12 a.m. & noon

Township Board
(LIVE 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month)
Sun. 12 a.m. & noon
Tues. 6 p.m. LIVE, or 7 p.m. REPLAY
Wed. 12 a.m., 5:30 a.m. & noon
Thurs. 5:30 a.m. & 7 p.m.
Fri. 12 a.m.
Sat. 5:30 a.m. & 7 p.m.

Park Commission
(LIVE 2nd Tuesday of the month)
Tues. 7 p.m. LIVE or REPLAY
Wed. 12 a.m. & noon
Fri. Noon

Environmental Commission
(LIVE 3rd Wednesday of the month)
Wed. 7 p.m. LIVE or REPLAY
Thurs. 12 a.m. & noon
Fri. 1:30 p.m.

*Program dates and times are subject to change. www.twp.meridian.mi.us/homtv

For more information about Meridian Parks and Recreation activities, call 853-4600 or via the Internet at www.twp.meridian.mi.us.

POSTAL CUSTOMER
*****EJCRWSS

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www.twp.meridian.mi.us

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5151 Marsh Rd.

Charter Township of Meridian



Meridian Monitor

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