

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN



5151 Marsh Road, Okemos

515.853.4000

www.meridian.mi.us

March 12, 2026



TOWNSHIP BOARD MEMBERS

Scott Hendrickson, Supervisor

Angela Demas, Clerk

Linda Burghardt, Treasurer

Nickolas Lentz, Trustee

Kathy Ann Sundland, Trustee

Peter Trezise, Trustee

Marna Wilson, Trustee



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2025 TOWNSHIP BOARD GOALS

Provide Superior, Citizen-Driven Services

Provide exemplary service to the community while actively soliciting contributions from citizens, volunteer boards, commissions, authorities, and regional partners to strengthen the connection between the staff, Board, community, and region.

Environmental Sustainability

Implement environmentally friendly and sustainable policies for both public and private projects while investing in replacement of aging infrastructure throughout the Township.

Enhance Redevelopment in Key Areas

Enhance our standing as a prime location to develop, own, and operate a business, with a focus on the redevelopment of our primary commercial areas: downtown Okemos, downtown Haslett, Carriage Hills, and the Meridian Mall.

Senior/Community Center

Following the Senior/Community Center Task Force's recommendation in Spring 2025, continue to move towards construction of a new facility, starting in late 2025 or early 2026.

Improve Citizen Outreach and Communication

Tell our story better by enhancing communications through social media, homeowners' associations, communitywide and major events, and any other mechanism to better engage our diverse, multicultural community.



Message from the Township Manager

I am pleased to present the Township's 2025 Annual Report. The accomplishments throughout this document are due to the hard work of the Township's 170 regular full-time and part-time employees, as well as 55 temporary and seasonal employees. The Township delivers a consistently high level of services due to their commitment and dedication, making Meridian Township a truly Prime Community.

This annual report is required by the Charter Township Act, but we hope the new format provides a more enjoyable reading experience for our residents, businesses, and other community stakeholders.



2025 Township Board Listening Sessions

Since 2022, the Meridian Township Board has established a goal to enhance communication and outreach to the Township's 45,000 residents.

To reach this goal, the Board held three listening sessions in 2025:

- **Tuesday, June 10**
 - Attended by over 80 individuals
- **Tuesday, September 30**
 - Attended by over 50 individuals
- **Thursday, November 13**
 - Attended by over 40 individuals

The Board has scheduled three listening sessions in 2026, on May 12, July 28, and October 27 – all from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm at various locations in the Township. For more information, visit meridian.mi.us/calendar.

Senior Center Update

On August 5, 2025, Meridian Township residents voted on two ballot proposals for a new Community and Senior Center. The proposals included a construction bond and an operating millage. Both measures were rejected.

Since the election last August, the Township has focused efforts on identifying a location for a Senior Center-only facility. Staff have been exploring numerous vacant commercial properties around the Township.

We are continuing to work on finding the right solution. In the meantime, the Meridian Senior Center will continue to operate in its existing facility at Chippewa Middle School. The program can operate there through May 2028.

Employee Anniversaries

We wanted to recognize some of our dedicated employees who celebrated notable anniversaries with Meridian Township in 2025!

Denise Green, Public Works - 45 years

Brian Canen, Police - 25 years

Tavis Millerov, Fire - 25 Years

Brian Pennell, Fire - 25 years

Mike Devlin, Parks & Recreation - 25 years

Jeffrey Rommeck, Fire - 25 Years

ACCOUNTING & BUDGETING

Online Payment Enhancements

In collaboration with the Treasurer's Office, the Township expanded and enhanced online payment options for Utility Billing, special assessments, and Building Department invoices.

Utility Billing online payments continued to grow significantly:

- 2024: 37,059 online payments totaling \$8,154,477
- 2025: 41,771 online payments totaling \$11,321,254

This represents an approximate 12% increase in online Utility Billing payments, reflecting increased resident adoption of digital services.

In 2025, residents also paid 1,144 Building Department invoices online, totaling \$256,178, marking the first year that Building Department invoices were available for online payment.

Additionally, 104 special assessment payments were made online in 2025, totaling \$76,205. These enhancements improve convenience, efficiency, and accessibility for residents and businesses.

2026 Budget Overview

The [2026 Budget](#) was presented to the Township Board on September 2, 2025, and approved on October 7, 2025.

The Township is projected to maintain a strong fund balance of \$14.9 million, including the Capital Projects Fund and Pension Stabilization Fund.

This combined fund balance represents approximately 50% of the total annual budgeted expenditures of \$29,934,280, positioning the Township to responsibly manage operations, capital needs, and long-term obligations.

2024 Township Audit

The Township's 2024 annual audit was completed by Yeo & Yeo, CPAs & Business Consultants, and received an unmodified (clean) opinion, reflecting strong financial management practices and compliance with applicable accounting standards.

General Fund Financial Position

The General Fund closed the 2024 fiscal year with a fund balance of \$15.02 million, an increase from \$14.5 million in 2023, further strengthening the Township's financial stability and reserves.

Pension Liability Reduction

In 2025, the Township made an additional \$1.5 million payment to MERS to reduce pension liabilities. This proactive investment supports long-term financial sustainability and fulfills the Township's commitment to voters and retirees under the Police and Fire millage. The Township went from 58% funded in 2017 to 76% funded in 2024.



ASSESSING

The Assessing Department is responsible for establishing assessments of taxable property for the equitable distribution of the property tax burden in accordance with Michigan's General Property Tax Act and other applicable statutes.

The Assessing Department's responsibilities include:

- Creating the annual assessment roll
- Maintaining ownership records and property descriptions for taxing purposes
- Processing Personal Property Statements and personal property exemption requests
- Inspecting existing property and new construction for property tax purposes

Taxable values established by the Assessing Department annually are used by the Township Treasurer to produce property tax bills for property within the Township.

2025 Value Summary

Property Class	Parcel Count	SEV	TV
Commercial	668	\$617,731,500	\$515,375,307
Industrial	42	\$5,529,900	\$4,449,720
Residential	13,337	\$2,276,226,600	\$1,807,372,018
Personal	1,590	\$76,563,000	\$76,563,000
Exempt	358	\$0	\$0
TOTALS:	15,995	\$2,976,051,000	\$2,403,760,045

Top Ten Taxpayers (By Taxable Value)

1. Consumers Energy Company
2. C150 2929 Hannah Lofts, LLC
3. East Lansing, LLC
4. Meridian Mall, LP
5. TEG Central, LLC
6. GC Club Meridian Apartments, LLC
7. East Lansing Athletic Club, INC.
8. Brandywine Creek II, LLC
9. ACC OP, LLC
10. Okemos Pointe I, LLC

To view the full 2025 Top Ten Taxpayers chart, visit the Township website at www.meridian.mi.us/Assessing

2025 Department Goals

Defend Tax Appeals with Vigor

At the end of 2025, there were eleven parcels under appeal in the Entire Tribunal Division of the Michigan Tax Tribunal. Eight appeals were resolved during 2025. The taxable value in contention for pending 2025 appeals is just 0.65 of a percent of the Township's tax base. Efforts are being made to determine which of the pending cases can be resolved without a trial and which, if any, may need to be defended at trial.

Conduct Annual Assessment/ Re-Inspection of Taxable Properties

The annual re-inspection program continued in 2025, and two summer interns joined the staff part-time to assist with the re-inspection program. Assessing staff reviewed and inspected 3,812 parcels in 2025. During this process, record cards were reviewed for accuracy, and photos were updated.

CLERK'S OFFICE

The Clerk's Office responsibilities are largely set by state statute and include, but are not limited to: election administration, Freedom of Information Act coordination, record retention, free notary services to Township residents, fiduciary responsibilities, oaths of office and ethics statements, Township notices, updates to the Code of Ordinances, and maintaining official Township and election records.

Outreach

The Clerk's Office actively engaged the community through a variety of outreach initiatives aimed at expanding voter registration and education. Staff and volunteers assisted with voter registration drives held at local high schools, Meridian Township Farmers' Markets, the Celebrate Meridian event, and in conjunction with National Voter Registration Day.

In addition, Clerk Angela Demas offered free, monthly Democracy Classes to provide residents with an overview of the election process, voting options, and voter rights, helping to ensure informed and confident participation in local, state, and federal elections.



Election Administration

The Clerk's Office is responsible for the preparation, publication, and posting of public notices pertaining to elections, performing public accuracy testing on tabulators, logistics for polling locations, processing ballots, and transmitting election data to the County Clerk.

Meridian Township had one election in 2025:

- August 5, 2025, Special Election
- Meridian Township offered 3 days of early voting for the August Special Election
- Over **13,000** voters are on the Permanent Mail Ballot list in Meridian Township

Qualified Voter File 2025 Records

As of 12/31/25

of Registered Voters: 33,114
of New Registered Voters: 2,738
Total QVF Data Changes: 15,532
Manual Data Changes: 9,045

FOIA Requests

The Clerk's Office oversees a portion of the FOIA requests the Township receives.*

In 2025, over **130** FOIA requests were processed in the Clerk's Office.

**The Police Department handles their own FOIA requests.*

Total Voter Turnout

August 5, 2025 Special Election

Election Day - 1,050 voters
Absent Voter Ballots - 7,681 voters
Early Voting - 222 voters
Total: **8,953/33,012** – **27.12%** of registered voters



COMMUNICATIONS

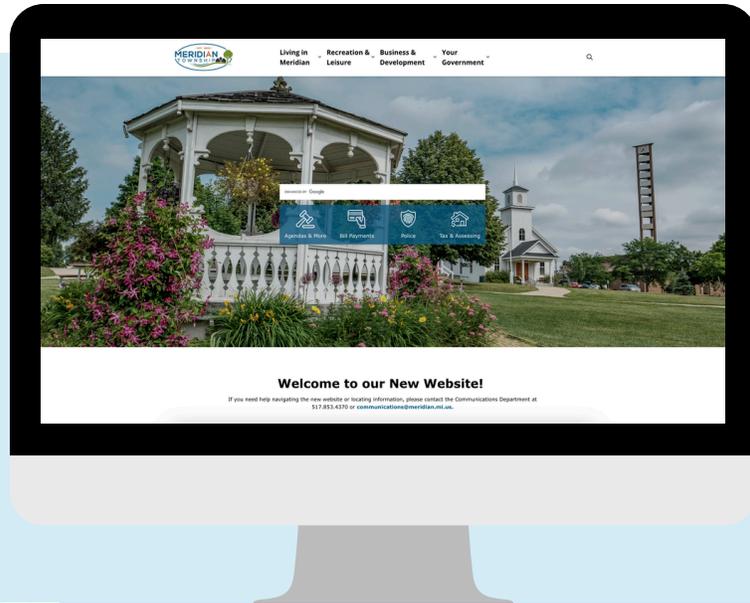
The Communications Department's top priority is to provide residents with transparent, timely information about Township events, goals, and plans through web, digital, and print platforms. The department also manages media outreach, oversees HOMETV and CAMTV, and runs a multimedia internship program.

Website Analytics

Total website views in 2025: 1,070,886

- Top five webpages:
 - Farmers' Market
 - Bill Payments
 - Departments
 - Summer Concert Series
 - Tax & Assessing

A redesign of the current website began in 2025 and launched on March 3, 2026.



HOMETV Awards

Two former HOMETV interns each won an award from the Philo Festival of Media Arts, put on by the Central States Alliance for Community Media:

- Mikia Lawrence (Spring 2024) won Best Student Magazine Program for her episode "Keeping Up with Ki - Harris Nature Center."
- Jenna Arnold (Summer 2024) won Best Student Documentary for "Call to Service - From Dispatch to Action."



Newsletter Analytics

- Total E-newsletters sent in 2025: 24
- Total newsletter subscribers: 9,279
- Open rate: 58%
(industry average is 42.7%)

Social Media Analytics

3,977 followers gained in 2025 across all pages and platforms.

- Shopping Cart Lady sign installation Facebook video received 193,000 views
- Grand River bridge reopening post received 87,000 views
- Facebook engagement increased 42% from 2024

HOMETV Analytics

- 102 total hours of televised board & commission meetings
- 73 total televised board & commission meetings
- 4.2K total hours watched on YouTube
- 103 total videos posted on YouTube

COMMUNITY PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

The Community Planning and Development Department issued 4,124 permits in 2025, including:

- 1,179 Building Permits
- 971 Electrical Permits
- 1,391 Mechanical Permits
- 583 Plumbing Permits

For these permits, staff and our partners at the City of East Lansing performed 2,660 inspections over the course of a year.

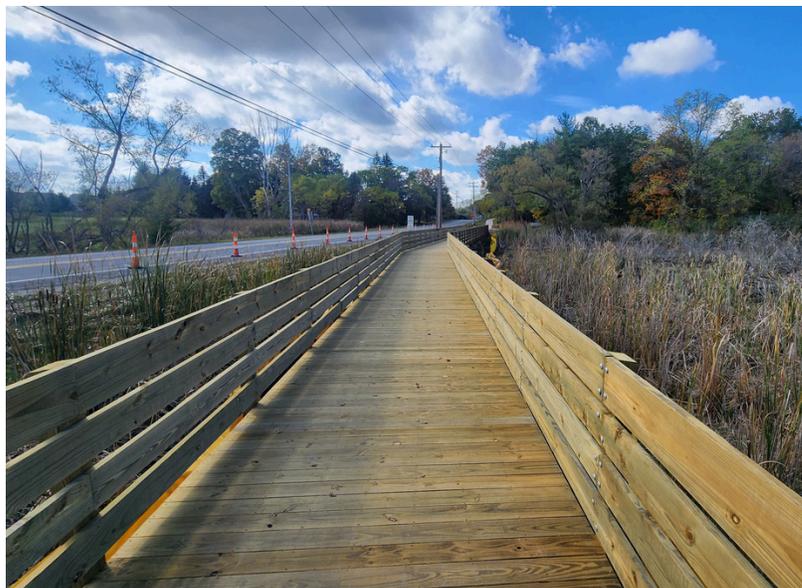
Inspections

Under our contract with the City of Mason, we performed 335.5 hours worth of building inspections.

Under our contract with Alaieton Township, we performed 108 inspections, to go with 29.5 hours of commercial plan review.

Responding to the Community

We responded to 899 complaints filed throughout the year, ranging from snow on sidewalks to dangerous rental conditions and a variety of other issues in between.



Project Highlight

The Community Planning and Development department worked with the owners of Playmakers to restore the iconic 'Shopping Cart Lady' sign and, through Zoning Board of Appeals action, ensured that it will be present for years to come.

Planning Division

The Planning Division reviewed 27 projects for construction, including:

- An expansion to St. Martha's School
- The long-awaited redevelopment of the former Outback Steakhouse site
- A wetland permit for the pathway connection in front of the Schultz Vet Clinic on Bennett Road (pictured to the left)
- The first phase of the major redevelopment of the Haslett Village Square project

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

In 2025, the priorities of the Economic Development department aligned with the Township's redevelopment goals in the Potential Intensity Change Areas (PICAs) of Meridian Township. Specifically, the Haslett Village Square area and the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) district.

In the DDA, about 5,000 square feet of commercial space became available after the purchase of the 4690 Okemos Road property and the adjoining parcels. In Haslett, the priority for redevelopment, at the Southwest corner of Haslett and Marsh Roads, rested on the Township's participation in the Housing TIF with the developer. The project will construct 199 new housing units, rehabilitate the existing commercial building, and construct 14K square feet of new commercial space. Residents will be able to rent apartment units, townhomes, or purchase condo dwellings. Thirty of the new rental units will maintain their affordable rent rate for 30 years. Development in Haslett is underway, with the first residential building under plan review.



Facade Improvement Program

Meridian Township Development Boards received and approved three facade improvement applications.

The Facade Improvement Program provides a new or existing business within a specific area, up to 50% of exterior site improvements up to \$20,000.

The Township received two applications with the Corridor Improvement Authority (Playmakers and Mid-Michigan Academy of Martial Arts) and one with the Economic Development Corporation (Ideal Mortgage Services).

Meridian Area Business Association

2025 Business Awards:

- New Business of the Year: Graze Craze Okemos
- Established Business of the Year: Doc's Automotive

MABA President: Anthony Alvarado of Doc's Automotive

Membership: 125+ business members

Juneteenth Celebration

Conducted a lively community Juneteenth celebration with 100+ visitors, featuring a night of Jazz at the Marketplace on the Green Pavilion.



Ribbon Cuttings

The Economic Development Department welcomed **16** new businesses and **2** relocating businesses in the Township with ribbon cuttings.

Meridian Township welcomed Ace Hardware, the expansion of Schuler's Bookstore, Chateau Coffee, and more!



FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Meridian Township Fire Department is a professional organization dedicated to serving our community and visitors with pride, excellence and professionalism. The department strives to provide an exemplary level of service to our 44,000 residents who call Meridian Township home, as well as the many visitors who come to the township daily. We are a full-service fire department with 40 personnel providing services out of three fire stations.



In 2025, the Fire Department responded to:

- 6,805 calls for service (up 7% from 2024)

Emergency medical services (EMS) accounted for 85% of service requests in 2025.

Fire Prevention

The Fire Marshal is dedicated to reducing the number and impact of fire-related incidents in Meridian Township. This is accomplished through a comprehensive fire inspection program, plan review, testing of new construction, including fire protection systems, and investigation of all fires that occur within the Township.

2025 Fire Inspections

- Total Inspections Conducted: **163**
- Building Inspections: **58**
- Plan Reviews: **71**
- Fire Alarm Inspections: **44**
- Fire Suppression Inspections: **38**
- Residential Smoke Alarm Inspections/Installations: **12**
- Food Trucks: **6**
- Miscellaneous/Specialty Fire Inspections: **5**
- Fire Investigations: **12**
- 3rd Party Fire Safety Systems/Components Inspections: **582**

Notable Items from 2025

- Introduced Inspection Reports Online (IROL) as a compliance tool for commercial properties in the Township. Third-party fire protection vendors are required to submit reports electronically to the fire department for review.
- Total fire loss for 2025 = \$2,000,350 (\$1,309,350 Property + \$691,000 Contents), resulting from 9 structure fires.



Training

In 2025, the Training Chief worked extremely hard to increase our ability to operate at higher aptitudes by ensuring our annual training plan encompassed both required and new training. Additionally, the department's adjunct instructors utilized their expertise to advance our knowledge base.

All Meridian Township firefighters are state-certified Firefighter I and II and state-licensed paramedics (or currently attending paramedic school).



Our fire officers carry Fire Officer I, II, and III certifications based on rank. These courses allow the officer to learn fire-ground and day-to-day management/leadership skills.

Department training in 2025 included 3,900 training hours on the following topics:

- EMS
- Extrication
- Confined Space
- NFA Management and Leadership
- Fire Officer I, II, and III
- Forcible Entry
- Medical Legal
- Instructor Coordinator Certification
- Fire Instructor I
- ACLS and PALS
- Acting Battalion Chief Onboarding

Fire Operations

Fire Operations comprises shift operations staffed by individual firefighter/paramedics who perform the day-to-day public safety activities for Meridian Township.

2025 demonstrated once again that the Meridian Township Fire Department did more than respond to emergency medical calls and residential structure fires. We are an all-hazards fire department that also responds to significant motor vehicle accidents and a variety of rescues and fires that present unusual hazards for the community.

Safety Equipment

In 2025, we replaced the following equipment that failed to function, broke, or reached the end of its useful life:

- Structural Fire Gear
- Fire Boots
- AVI Plate Carriers, Plates, and Helmets
- Gloves
- Extrication Cutter & Spreader

Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP)

We continued to educate departments on the COOP and restructured the forms for greater practical use. Our target date to complete the COOP planning is the end of 2026.

Health & Wellness

In late 2025, we were awarded a \$38,000 Assistance to Firefighters federal grant for high-level physicals for each employee.



HUMAN RESOURCES & HUMAN SERVICES

The Human Resources Department provides steadfast support to all of our departments and staff for day-to-day operations across 14 departments, 160 permanent staff, and anywhere from 10 to 300 temporary staff.

In 2025, negotiations commenced for the Supervisory Professionals Union, whose contract expired on December 31, 2025. The Employee Benefits Coalition and the Board approved covering 100% of employee health benefits premiums for 2026.

2025 Numbers

Employee traffic report for January through December brought us **53** hires, including:

- Seasonal and temporary workers
- **11** promotions
- **7** rehires
- **5** retirements
- **1** department-to-department transfer

MERIDIAN Cares Making a Difference

Meridian Cares provides Meridian Township residents facing emergency financial need with assistance from a human services specialist.

The Emergency Needs Fund is also available to support residents at risk of losing their shelter or facing a utility shutoff.

2025 Numbers

111 Families Supported

\$47,255 Donation-Based Funds Distributed

Holiday Food Assistance

Meridian Cares fed:

- **344** households representing **586** people for Thanksgiving
- **346** households representing **593** people in December

35 community members donated money.

40 community members directly donated food.

A total of **\$13,146** was raised for Holiday Food Assistance.



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The Information Technology Department's foundation revolves around keeping existing technology assets, services, and resources operating at optimum performance and availability. Significant resources are also invested in end-user support, various training initiatives, and technology maintenance and upgrades. Network engineering services are provided on an as-needed basis for any new technology requests and/or installations.

This year, the IT Department:

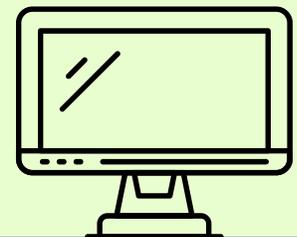
- Expanded the use of mobile devices in Building, Code Enforcement, Fire, Police, and Public Works
- Replaced 35 end-user workstations
- Added a new Presentation PC for the existing setup in the Nelson Room
- Replaced one network database server
- Replaced the network GIS server
- Had three software upgrades to Mitel telephone servers and appliances
- Filled a vacant Network Technician position

Employee Services & Resource Statistics

- 210 end-user employees supported
- 80 account status changes were processed throughout the year
- 900 Teams & Zoom meetings hosted or attended
- 300,000 files stored or updated in tenant-based cloud services
- 1,500 Microsoft Office application installations performed by tenant users
- 1.2 million email messages were processed
- Well over 70% of email messages sent to the system were filtered as spam and/or malware prior to delivery, and more than 30% of the delivered messages were tagged as 'unfocused' messages
- IT staff converted eight separate hosted services to use Single Sign-on technology
- Supported over 70 different hosted applications & services across the organization

System Monitoring

- Consolidation of millions of system log messages
- Review of 12,000+ security incidents
- Response to 90+ security events
- Repair of 8+ hardware failures
- Restoration of 25+ network failures or outages



Helpdesk Services

- Completed the first full year with the new Helpdesk application
- Over 500 standalone end-user issues were resolved during the normal business day
- Almost 100 standalone end-user issues were responded to outside of the standard workday

PARKS & RECREATION

Meridian Township has over 30 parks and 26 land preserves totaling more than 900 acres. We have more than 90 miles of pedestrian/bicycle pathways, and 20 miles of natural hiking trails.

Notable Accomplishments from 2025:

- Secured \$360,000 from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources - Natural Resource Trust Fund Grant for the Meridian Regional Pathway Trailhead entrance to Nancy Moore Park
- Installed a non-speaking communication board at Marketplace on the Green, which was donated by the Xavier DeGroat Autism Foundation
- Installed three new play structures in Towner Road and Ottawa Hills Parks



Farmers' Market

- 103,834 visitors to the market (up 23% from 2024)
- 204 unique vendors in 2025 (record number of vendors)
- 10,608 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables donated as part of the Gleaning Program
- \$37,464 sales made with Food Assistance
- Estimated \$2.5 million in sales

Senior Center

- 349 members, including 36 new members
- 1,937 people attended programs, events, and fitness activities
- 415 volunteer hours

Red Cedar Water Trail

- Removed downed trees and woody debris from 14 miles of river.
- Installed a canoe/kayak launch kiosk at Harris Nature Center

Pavilion Rentals

- Seven pavilions hosted 251 pavilion rentals.
 - 50+ Fitness Groups
 - Garden Club
 - Graduations
 - & More!

Land Preservation & Stewardship

- 622 hours of stewardship completed
- 415 Meridian Conservation Corps members with 67 new members in 2025
 - 28 workdays and events devoted to invasive species removal and training
- 46 stewardship days
- 36 species of invasive plants managed
- 2 successful prescribed burns
- 51 species of native plants ethically collected



Harris Nature Center

- Summer Camps: 450 participants
- School Groups: 64 classes/1,421 students
- 1,330 nature and outreach program participants



Park Maintenance

Notable projects completed in 2025 include:

- Constructed a new bird enclosure at the Harris Nature Center
- Installed split rail fence for wetland buffers in various preserves
- Installed wetland interpretive signs in parks and preserves
- Replaced the railing on the overlook deck at HNC
- Completed all remaining assessment repairs on Historical Village buildings

Deer Management

- 64 trained and certified hunters
- 70 municipal and private designated hunting properties
- 119 deer harvested during regular hunting season
- 124 deer harvested during the police cull
- 1,251 pounds of venison donated to local food banks (more to come)



Recreation & Activities

We offer youth sports leagues in soccer, softball, t-ball, baseball, basketball, flag football, and Sporties for Shorties. Adult leagues include co-ed sand volleyball, men's softball, kickball, and whiffle ball.

- 2,147 children participated in youth sports programs
- Nearly 300 adults participated in sports programs



Special Events

In 2025, the Parks Department hosted numerous events, including:

- Celebrate Meridian
- Summer Concert Series
- Meridian Pride
- Fishing Derby
- Puzzle Nights
- Holiday & Cultural Events

26,148 total attendees at all of our events.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Meridian Township Police Department 2025 summary represents a year defined by measurable progress, strategic growth, and a renewed focus on reinforcing trust between the Department and the community it serves.

Throughout the year, efforts were concentrated on strengthening internal operations, modernizing equipment and procedures, and enhancing the relationships that form the foundation of effective community policing. The Department intentionally aligned its goals with the evolving needs of Meridian Township and Williamstown Township, reflecting a commitment to professionalism, accountability, and service.



Operational Statistics

Total Calls for Service: 19,845

Top Ten Most Frequent Calls for Service:

1. Traffic Stop – 5,708
2. Medical Assist – 4,912
3. Suspicious Situation – 1,479
4. Welfare Check – 1,136
5. Property Damage Accident – 880
6. Fire Assist – 719
7. Alarm – 552
8. Reckless Driving – 491
9. Larceny – 446
10. Trouble With Subject – 444

Traffic Crash Breakdown:

- Injury Crashes: 170
- Property Damage Crashes: 773
- Car-Deer Crashes: 168

Staffing Increases

The Department successfully increased its ranks to **40** sworn officers, with an additional recruit advancing through the police academy. The Department also implemented structured succession planning to ensure that future leadership transitions occur smoothly.

Traffic Safety

Traffic safety emerged as one of the most pressing concerns voiced by Township residents. In response, the Department expanded its data-driven approach by deploying new passive traffic data collection devices that capture real-time vehicle speed and volume information. This technology allowed officers to pinpoint problem areas more accurately and determine the most effective times for enforcement.

Additionally, the creation of a full-time traffic enforcement position allowed the Department to dedicate ongoing attention to school zones, high-risk intersections, and roadways with frequent speeding violations.

Overall, traffic enforcement increased by 12% in 2025, contributing to safer roadways for all.

Employee Wellness

In 2025, significant efforts were made to modernize equipment and improve employee wellness. New Rogue fitness equipment was installed to replace outdated machinery, ensuring officers maintain peak physical readiness. Confidential mental-health counseling sessions were also provided to all staff, reinforcing the Department's commitment to emotional resilience.

Investigations Unit

The Investigations Unit handled **310** assigned cases, clearing **122** and recovering more than **\$210,000** in stolen property—much of it tied to construction-site thefts.

Notable cases also included:

- Several criminal-sexual-conduct investigations
- A shooting incident at the Meridian Mall
- The identification and arrest of an individual sending inappropriate communications to minors

Investigators maintained strong working relationships with the Ingham County Prosecutor's Office, ensuring thorough case reviews and effective prosecution of offenders.

Visit the link below to view the Police Department's full 2025 Report:

<https://bit.ly/2025MTPD>

Community Policing

Community policing remained the heart of departmental operations. Officers strengthened relationships with residents through neighborhood-based assignments, school partnerships, quarterly town hall meetings, and participation in dozens of community events.

National Night Out remained one of the most impactful outreach efforts, drawing large crowds and helping foster trust between residents and first responders.

School Resource Officers contributed greatly by supporting student safety, leading youth engagement programs, and participating in charitable initiatives such as Shop with a Cop and No Senior Without Christmas. These activities demonstrated the Department's ongoing commitment to building positive connections with all members of the community.

Specialized Units

Specialized units also contributed significantly to departmental effectiveness. The K9 Unit completed **73** deployments in 2025, with responsibilities ranging from narcotics detection to tracking and article searches. Both K9 teams maintained their national certifications and frequently provided mutual aid to surrounding agencies.

The Professional Standards Division ensured compliance with accreditation standards and coordinated more than **5,000** hours of training for Department personnel.

This training covered critical areas including use of force, legal updates, crisis intervention, active violence response, investigative skills, and scenario-based exercises.



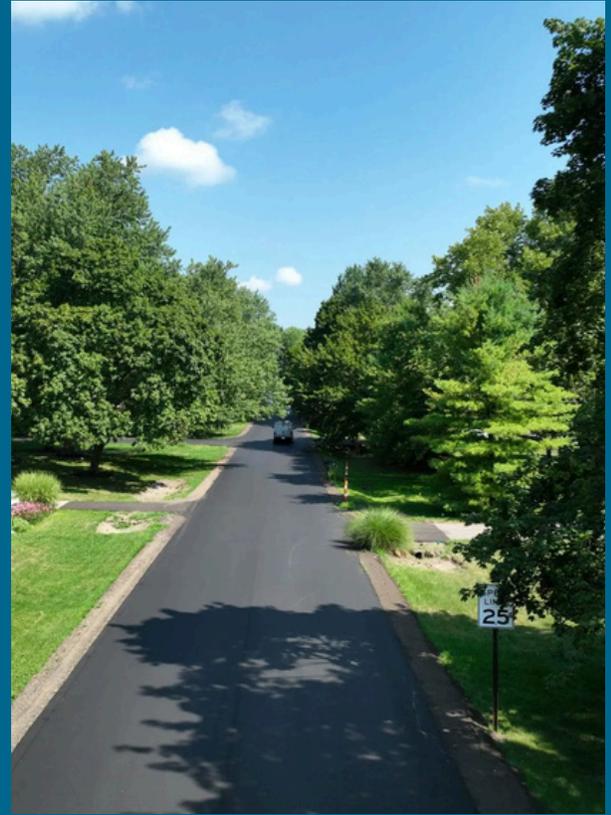
PUBLIC WORKS & ENGINEERING

Local Roads Program

Increased the average pavement rating of the Township's 153-mile local road network by 38% from 2019 to 2025.

In 2025, the Township completed:

- 5.7 miles of local roads reconstructed, including Lac Du Mont Drive, Tihart Road, Newman Road, and all remaining roads in poor condition in Everett Farms/Woods/Hills and Tacoma Hills.
- Gravel portion of Tihart Road from Twinging Drive to Cornell Road was improved with an asphalt stabilization and double-chip seal treatment.
- 2.2 miles of overlay paving and a double-chip seal treatment on Cornell Road from Grand River Avenue to Haslett Road, and a chip seal treatment on the northern paved portion of Powell Road.
- 14.59 miles of asphalt rejuvenator treatments on local roads that were recently resurfaced to extend the life of the new roads and protect the taxpayer's investment.



Marshall Park Bio Swale & Park Beautification Project

The Township is finalizing plans to construct a series of bio swales in Marshall Park in 2026 or 2027 to address severe, recurring flooding in this area. The bio swales will serve to naturally filter storm water using soil and native vegetation to improve the water quality of Lake Lansing while alleviating flooding conditions within the park and surrounding private property and single-family homes.

Concept 1: Perennial Wetlands
This concept utilizes all perennials. The perennials would be established using seed and/or plugs. Including plugs provides a greater variety of species and quicker establishment than seed alone but is more expensive.
This would create a naturalized wetland of native species. It would provide openness and plenty of habitat. The aesthetic would be colorful at certain times of year. The dormant vegetation would provide lots of textural interest in the winter.
This approach is popular and, at a glance, appears simple but establishment from seed takes at least 3 years. During the first three years the area will look very weedy. Maintenance is very important as unwanted plants will colonize over time and regular burning, mowing or spot treating will be necessary.



Lake Lansing Lake Level Control Structure Special Assessment District (SAD)

Township staff developed and proposed a special assessment roll for the 2026 Lake Lansing Lake Level Control Structure Special Assessment District, which the Ingham County Board of Commissioners chose to adopt.

2025 Lansing Board of Water & Light (LBWL) Franchise Agreement

Successfully negotiated and adopted a new 30-year franchise agreement with the LBWL.

Pathway Projects

2.33 miles of new pathway constructed:

- Tihart Road from Powell Road to Twinging Drive and a new mid-block crossing at Tihart Road and Thames Drive intersection
- 335-foot-long boardwalk on Bennett Road next to Bennett Woods Elementary School and extending the concrete pathway system on the north side of Bennett Road all the way to the western boundary of the Township
- Newton Road Park property with a new mid-block crossing at Lake Lansing Road and Newton Road
- Off-road pathway connecting the Sanctuary neighborhood to the Okemos Preserve neighborhood, and created a connection for both neighborhoods to the existing Ronald J. Styka Memorial/Hartrick Trail
- Obtained a federal Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant to construct the pathway gap on the south side of Haslett Road from Okemos Road to Park Lake Road in 2026 or 2027
- Acquired land for a future pathway connecting the Herron Creek, Champion Woods, Sundance Estates, and Silverleaf neighborhoods to the existing pathway system on Hagadorn Road
- Began construction on the American House Pathway. This new off-road trail will connect the existing Inter-Urban/MSU to the Lake Lansing Trail to the pathway on the south side of Haslett Road at the Benson Drive intersection. In the future, this off-road trail will be extended north through Hillbrook Park to connect to Lake Lansing Road.

Reimagining Okemos Road BUILD Grant Application

Began preparing to apply for a BUILD grant in early 2026 to reconstruct:

- Okemos Road from the bridge over the Red Cedar River to Grand River Avenue
- Hamilton Road from Moore Street to just west of Liverance Street

The project will also include widening Okemos Road to add left-turn lanes at the Hamilton Road intersection, adding double left-turn lanes on westbound Hamilton Road to southbound Okemos Road, installing a new traffic signal, and other civil infrastructure improvements to help spur redevelopment in Downtown Okemos.

Water & Sanitary Sewer Projects

- Completed the County North Lift Station replacement ahead of schedule to allow for the Lake Lansing boat launch to open on schedule in the spring.
- Installed new gate valves on Grand River Ave and Dobie Road to reduce the number of customers impacted in the event of water main breaks.
- Designed and bid a contract for the Forest Hills Lift Station replacement in 2026.
- Designed and bid a contract to replace the water main that has reached the end of its useful life on Timberlane Street and Roseland Avenue in 2026, in preparation for future road resurfacing projects.

Haslett Road Corridor Study

The Township is funding a Haslett Road Corridor Study to determine whether the Ingham County Road Department (ICRD) can implement a road diet on Haslett Road from Park Lake Road to Marsh Road. Part of this study includes preparing a grant application to fund implementation of a road diet and pedestrian safety improvements through the Haslett Road Corridor from Park Lake Road to Bird Farm Lane/Copper Creek Drive.

TREASURER'S OFFICE

The Treasurer's Office is required by law to receive and take charge of all funds belonging to the Township and distribute other funds collected to the appropriate taxing authorities. These collections are primarily real estate and personal taxes, but also include fines, license and permit fees, deposits, bonds, and other fees.

The Treasurer's office and counter are open nine hours a day, five days a week, at the Township Municipal Building.

In 2025, the Treasurer's Office:

- Mailed out **30,000** summer and winter tax bills and almost **930** special assessment bills.
- Provided the Township with over **\$2.5 million** in interest earnings from long-term and short-term liquid investments.
- Finished conversion of accounts from Horizon Bank to Fifth Third Bank.
- Completed efforts to enable Township residents to pay special assessment bills online through InvoiceCloud.

Total Tax Revenue

During the 2025 calendar year, total property tax revenues collected and distributed were **\$144,258,546**, an increase of 16% from 2024.

The Township received **\$89,246,510** in checks, over **\$407,019** in credit card payments, and **\$819,504** in cash and currency by mail or at the counter, for a total of **\$90,473,033**.

Online payments for taxes increased by 20% over the previous two years.

The Treasurer's office is required to pay out collected funds to local school districts within ten days of receipt. In Meridian Township, these include the Okemos, Haslett, East Lansing, and Williamston School Districts, as well as Ingham Intermediate Schools.

Other governmental units for which the Township collects and distributes taxes are: Lansing Community College (LCC), Capital Area Transit Authority (CATA), Capital Area District Library (CADL), and the Capital Region Airport Authority (CRAA).

Investments

At the end of 2025, the Treasurer's office managed **\$46,238,546** in fixed and non-fixed investments. In 2025, interest earnings on liquid (cash) investment matched the 2024 earnings.

This was largely due to prudent, safe investments in Certificates of Deposit and U.S. Treasury bills, which offered higher interest rates. The interest earned was for the general fund and nine other Township funds maintained by the Treasurer's Office.

Online Tax Payments

Again in 2025, the Meridian Township Treasurer's office provided Township residents with in-person and online access to tax payments. The forms of payments received by the Treasurer's office continue to trend towards electronic payments.

