



AGENDA
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
October 2, 2019 6:00 PM

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. PUBLIC REMARKS
4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 - A. August 7, 2019 Regular Meeting DRAFT Minutes
6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER & COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR REPORT
7. COMMISSION MEMBERS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
 - A. Chair's Report
 - B. Township Board Liaison's Report
8. ACTION ITEMS
9. DISCUSSION ITEMS
 - A. Recommended Changes to HOMTV Operating Policies & Procedures
 - B. Recommended Changes to Cable Television Section of Meridian Township Code of Ordinances
 - C. Review of CAMTV PEG Access Channel
10. COMMUNICATIONS
 - A. Compliments/Complaints
11. REPORTS
 - A. VIDEO SERVICE PROVIDER (S) – Comcast Updates
 - B. PROGRAMMING
 1. Online Programming Analytics
 - C. WEBSITE ANALYTICS – YTD
 1. Website Visits
 2. Visitor Source
 3. Click-through to Website
 - D. PROMOTIONS/PUBLICATIONS
 - E. FINANCE
 - F. HOMTV INTERNSHIP/ALUMNI
13. PUBLIC REMARKS
14. ADJOURNMENT

All comments limited to 3 minutes, unless prior approval for additional time for good cause is obtained from the Commission Chair.

Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Meridian Township Communications Department; Communications Director, Deborah Guthrie, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864 or 517.853.4830 - Ten Day Notice is Required.
Meeting Location: 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864 Administrative Conference Room



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING **DRAFT** MINUTES
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864
Administrative Conference Room
Wednesday, August 7, 2019 6:00 pm

PRESENT: Chair, Walter Benenson; Commissioner, Leslie Charles; Commissioner, Brian Seipel; Commissioner, Mike Nevells;
ABSENT: Vice-Chair, Tunga Kiyak; Alternate Commissioner, Kevin Thatcher; Alternate Commissioner, Reti Adhi
STAFF: Frank Walsh, Township Manager; Derek Perry, Deputy Township Manager; Deborah Guthrie, Communications Director; Brandie Yates, Executive Producer
TOWNSHIP: Kathy Sundland, Meridian Township Board Trustee
COUNSEL: Mike Watza, Kitch Law Firm
COMCAST: John Gardner, Director of External Affairs – Heartland Region

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Benenson called the meeting to order at **6:00 pm**.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Charles moved **TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS SUBMITTED**. Seconded by Chair Benenson

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Charles moved **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5, 2019 REGULAR MEETING**. Seconded by Chair Benenson.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

6. *TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Discussion about the proposed plan to restructure and reorganize the Communications Department based on the 2020 Township Budget and the loss in revenue from Franchise and PEG Fees.

*Parts of this discussion are unavailable due to technical difficulties.

7. *TOWNSHIP BOARD LIAISON'S REPORT

*This discussion is unavailable due to technical difficulties.

9A. *HOMTV OPERATING POLICIES

Recommended changes added to the agenda for the Communications Commission October 2, 2019 meeting.

*Parts of this discussion are unavailable due to technical difficulties.

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9B. COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Chair Benenson moved **TO APPROVE REMOVING THIS TOPIC FROM THIS AGENDA AND FUTURE AGENDAS**. Seconded by Commissioner Charles.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

Chair Benenson moved **TO APPROVE ADDING PRINCIPAL, MIKE WATZA FROM KITCH LAW FIRM TO THIS AGENDA**. Seconded by Commissioner Charles.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

*Discussion about how the Franchise and PEG fees are at risk. Recommended to preserve your channels, do not give them up; you will have to fight hard to get them back. The channels must continue to be utilized. Commission asked the question about future revenues and the comment is that future revenues are still uncertain at this time.

*Parts of this discussion are unavailable due to technical difficulties.

10A. COMPLIMENTS/COMPLAINTS

Commissioner Seipel complimented Comcast about an outage in his neighborhood. A large tree took out the power and Comcast service. Comcast and Consumers worked together to get everything back up and running.

11A. VIDEO SERVICE PROVIDER

Internet Essentials is expanding to every low-income family. Can qualify through additional services. Recommended that John Gardner make a presentation about Internet Essentials to the Township Board and the Community Resource Commission. Computers now come with full Microsoft Office suite.

11B. HOMTV PROGRAMMING

Update provided about program restructuring based on staffing availability and policy requirements. HOMTV received national recognition and an award, HOME TOWN Award.

Commission asked about availability of grants for programming.

Announcement that Communications Director will be attending the National NATOA conference in September and serving on a panel about Diversity in the News.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Seipel moved **TO ADJOURN THE MEETING**. Seconded by Commissioner Charles.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously

Chair Benenson adjourned the meeting at 7:30 pm.



Communications
Commission

Discussion Items



To: Communications Commission
From: Deborah Guthrie, Communications Director
Date: September 27, 2019
Re: Recommended Changes to HOMTV Operating Policies & Procedures

At the August 7, 2019 meeting, the current HOMTV Operating Policies & Procedures were presented to the Communications Commission for review. Staff requested the Commission prepare their recommended changes to the HOMTV Operating Policies & Procedures to discuss at the next meeting.

With the reorganization of the Communications Department, changes to the HOMTV Operating Policies & Procedures is imperative for future operations of the channel. The HOMTV Operating Policies & Procedures were last revised and approved by the Commission on February 1, 2012.

Staff is asking the Communications Commission to review and discuss the recommended changes in **Attachment A**, as well as suggest any additional changes to the HOMTV Operating Policies & Procedures. The purpose of this memo is only for discussion at this time.



OPERATING POLICIES

~~CHARTER~~ ~~TOWNSHIP~~ ~~OF~~ ~~MERIDIAN~~ MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP

GOVERNMENTAL ACCESS

CABLE ~~TELEVISION~~ CHANNEL

Originally approved by the Cable Communications Commission on March 4, 1992
Approved by the Township Board on October 8, 1992
Revised & approved by the Cable Communications Commission on February 19, 1993
Amendments recommended by the Activity Coordination Committee on April 14, 1993
Amendments recommended by the Personnel Committee on April 26, 1993
Approved by the Township Board on May 4, 1993
Revised & approved by the Cable Communications Commission on September 2, 1998
Approved by Township Board on September 15, 1998
Revised & approved by the Cable Communications Commission on April 28, 2000
Approved by Township Board on July 5, 2000
Revised and approved by the Cable Communications Commission on January 7, 2009
Approved by the Township Board on April 7, 2009

Revised and approved by the Cable Communications Commission on February 1, 2012

PREAMBLE

The Cable Communications Commission was established in 1977 to oversee the administration and implementation of the Cable Franchise Agreement, including:

- 1) to advise the Township Board regarding the implementation of the Franchise Agreement;
- 2) to encourage the use of the access channels which include public, educational, and governmental channels;
- 3) to formulate policy relating to the access channels. All such policies are subject to approval by the Township Board.

(For a complete list of functions, refer to the Township Ordinances, Title XV, Chapter 115.)

The Government Access Cable Television ~~station-channel~~ serving ~~the Charter Township of Meridian~~ Meridian Township is known as HOMTV. The operating policies of HOMTV are based upon the Goals and Objectives of the ~~Cable~~ Communications Commission, as approved by the Meridian Township Board. It is the intent of these policies and procedures to consolidate and regulate the implementation of the Goals and Objectives. The ~~Cable~~ Communications Commission shall monitor the implementation of these policies and procedures as administered by the Township Cable TV Coordinator.

Employees within ~~the Cable Television~~ HOMTV's ~~Operation~~ operation are governed by the Township Personnel Policy. On matters related to programming, the ~~Cable~~ Communications Commission shall govern. ~~The Township Manager shall seek the advice of the Cable Commission in carrying out functions related to the Township Personnel Policy relative to Township employees working within the cable operations.~~

SECTION ONE: GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR PROGRAMMING AND PRODUCTION

- I. ~~The Township Cable Coordinator is the Communications Director.~~ The ~~Communications Director~~Executive Producer is responsible for generating program ideas, and for implementing and overseeing their production, either directly, or by delegation through his or her subordinates. All programming decisions are to be made by the ~~Communications Director~~HOMTV Executive Producer according to established policies and guidelines as approved by the ~~Cable~~Communications Commission.
- II. Programming shall be developed in accordance with the "Goal Statements" adopted and periodically revised by ~~the Township Cable Commission and~~ the Township Board.
- III. Programming of a non-local origin is to be avoided in all but the most exceptional situations. Such exceptions shall only be approved by the ~~Communications Director~~HOMTV Executive Producer. In the case where programming of non-local origin is used, it must be presented with locally originated opening and closing statements.
- IV. All production decisions are to be made by the ~~Communications Director~~HOMTV Executive Producer, either directly, or by delegation through his or her subordinates.
- V. The HOMTV production equipment and facilities ~~of the Communications Department~~are to be used only by staff members of ~~the Communications Department, or staff members of~~Meridian Township who have been trained and approved for equipment use under the direction of the ~~Communications Director~~HOMTV Executive Producer.
- VI. Special production requests must be submitted to the ~~Communications Director~~HOMTV Executive Producer at least one week prior to the requested taping date.

SECTION TWO: TOWNSHIP MEETING COVERAGE

- I. HOMTV is responsible for providing ~~television~~live coverage of the regular meetings of the Township Board, the Planning Commission, the Park Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, and the Environmental Commission, up to a total of ten meetings per month. The Township ~~Cable-Communications~~ Commission may recommend to the Township Board expansion or limitation of meeting coverage responsibilities based upon staff and facility capabilities.
- II. Live coverage of regularly scheduled Township meetings shall be the number one

programming priority of HOMTV. Program schedule adjustments must be made to accommodate irregular starting times of televised meetings.

- III. To cancel regular meeting coverage, the staff liaison to the Board or Commission in question must present the cancellation notice to the HOMTV Executive Producer in writing as early as possible before the scheduled meeting.

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SECTION TWO: TOWNSHIP MEETING COVERAGE (cont'd.)

- ~~III.~~ To cancel regular meeting coverage, the staff liaison to the Board or Commission in question must present the cancellation notice to the Communications Director in writing as early as possible before the scheduled meeting.
- IV. To schedule special meeting coverage, the staff liaison to the Board or Commission in question must present the television coverage request to the ~~Director~~**Communications Director/HOMTV Executive Producer** in writing at least two weeks in advance of the meeting. Special efforts will be made to provide "skeleton crew" coverage of Township Board meetings, which are scheduled with less than two weeks notice.
- ~~V.~~ Coverage of Township meetings shall include presentation of a "Post-Meeting Report" following the meeting, unless staff levels are too low to successfully execute this production. Such reports will include at least one live interview with a Board or Commission member, a Township Staff member, or a local resident. Opportunities to be interviewed will be offered evenly among Board and Commission members.
- VI. When a Board or Commission goes into "closed session" during the live cablecast of a meeting, the HOMTV Meeting Producer is authorized to display a message describing the current status of the meeting, ~~or to play a taped program during the break.~~ When a Board or Commission goes into "recess" during the live cablecast of a meeting, the HOMTV Meeting Producer is authorized to ~~follow either of the previously listed procedures,~~ display a message describing the current status of the meeting or to continue live coverage of the meeting room during the break.
- VII. Video recordings of the live coverage of Township meetings are not to be edited for replay as a whole.
- VIII. ~~Videotapes~~ Video recordings of Township meetings shall not be considered the official record of the meetings and shall not be treated as such. These ~~tapes~~ recordings will be ~~retained for a time period of one year from the date of the meeting.~~ DVD copies of video recorded meetings will periodically be offered through the Township staff liaison to each Board or Commission. ~~If the tapes are not retained by the staff liaison, they may be discarded by the Communications Department.~~ available online and retained on the HOMTV Archiving System.

SECTION THREE: TOWNSHIP ELECTION COVERAGE

- I. HOMTV shall present ~~television~~ programming pertaining to ~~all Meridian Township elections held in Meridian Township~~. The scope and format of such coverage shall be determined by the ~~Communications Director~~HOMTV Executive Producer. The minimum acceptable coverage shall be graphic material summarizing election results, initially presented sometime on election night, and carried on HOMTV at least until the normal program schedule begins the next day. The ~~Communications Director~~HOMTV Executive Producer shall work with the Township Clerk and Election Commission to provide graphic material and/or other material announcing pre-election administration information.

- II. Special efforts shall be made to produce programming in "even year" Township elections, with a maximum emphasis on elections held to fill positions on the Township Board of Trustees and/or the Park Commission. All registered candidates shall be afforded an equal opportunity to be included in this coverage. The scope and format of such election year programming shall be determined by the ~~Communications Director~~HOMTV Executive Producer, but it ~~should~~may include the following components:
 - A. An interview program for candidates, including standardized questions and follow-up questions.
 - B. An opportunity for candidates to make ~~up to a two minuteshort~~ statements on their candidacy.
 - C. A debate-style program for candidates, organized by party affiliation and/or desired office.
 - D. A call-in show to allow residents to ask questions of the candidates.

- III. The ~~Communications Director~~HOMTV Executive Producer shall ensure that all programming featuring registered candidates be fairly balanced with programming featuring their opponents. In cases where balance is not possible due to the lack of participation of one or more candidates, the participating candidates will receive balanced coverage in comparison to the entire field of participating candidates.

- IV. Candidates for elected office shall not be included in HOMTV programming ~~during the time period~~ninety days before an election, with the exception of Township meeting coverage, special election coverage and coverage of incumbents performing official duties ~~which warrant cablecasting~~. The ~~Communications Director~~HOMTV Executive Producer shall decide if equal time for opposing candidates is necessary to balance the coverage of incumbent candidate's performance of official duties.

SECTION FOUR: PROGRAMS AND PROGRAM-SERIES

- ~~I. There shall be one program series in the HOMTV Program Schedule available for use by members of the Township Board and the Park Commission. The Communications Director will reserve taping slots based on staff and facility capabilities, and interest for this series. Members of the Board of Trustees and Park Commission interested in using these time slots must confirm their interest to the Communications Director on a monthly basis. The available taping slots will be distributed evenly among those elected officials who express interest in participating. Members who cannot be available to make a scheduled program, must provide the Communications Director a minimum forty eight (48) hour advance notice.~~
 - ~~A. Topics for this series will be selected by the elected officials or the Communications Director and should focus on events and issues of interest and importance to Meridian Township Government. The format for these programs may be either talk show style with one or two guests, or single-speaker format featuring the elected official.~~
 - ~~B. Taping options for this series afforded to elected officials may not be transferred to any other individual or group. Elected officials must appear in each program in this series.~~
 - ~~C. Remote tapings to supplement programs in this series shall take no more than two (2) hours of staff time per quarter per elected official. This time cannot be "built up" and "carried over" for use later as a larger block.~~
 - ~~D. It shall be the responsibility of the Communications Director to provide a producer for the series.~~
 - ~~E. The Cable Commission shall hear and decide any appeal of the Communications Director's cancellation. Such decisions shall normally be decided the day the appeal is heard.~~

- II. There shall be one series in the HOMTV Program Schedule based on a "public forum" format. This program may include panels of guest experts or residents, opportunity for call-in participation by viewers, and/or the opportunity for involvement by a live studio audience. Topics in this series should be of local interest, but may include statewide or national issues discussed from a local perspective.

SECTION FOUR: PROGRAMS AND PROGRAM-SERIES (cont'd.)

- III. ~~Township residents shall have the opportunity to produce short editorial commentaries on any subject they choose, on a first come, first served basis. Such commentaries must be written and submitted in advance, and the script must be adhered to. Commentaries may not include foul language or slanderous statements. Residents must sign a waiver assuming full responsibility for any statements made in a commentary. Playtimes for commentaries will be determined by the Communications Director.~~
- IV. A magazine-format series will be produced by HOMTV on a regular basis as a news and information program.
- V. Other program-series will be produced by HOMTV under the direction of the ~~Communications Director~~HOMTV Executive Producer. It is the goal of HOMTV to produce programs of a similar nature on a regular basis to form a series. The ~~Communications Director~~HOMTV Executive Producer shall decide which programs to produce as a series, and shall supervise their production and regulate their format and frequency.
- VI. Other programs may be produced by HOMTV which do not fit into any existing program series. These will be considered "specials" and may be of any format.
- VII. There shall be a Computer Graphics Message Display Sequence on HOMTV during times when there is no live or taped programming. ~~Messages can be submitted for use in this sequence by Township Staff in any written form. Township residents and local organizations may submit messages at least two weeks ahead of the requested usage period.~~ Messages of an emergency nature will be ~~included in the display sequence~~displayed as soon as possible by HOMTV staff. ~~The Communications Director shall be responsible for all decisions regarding usage of messages in this sequence.~~
- VIII. The HOMTV Program Schedule will be determined by ~~the Communications Director~~HOMTV Staff. Primary concepts for Program Schedule formulation include variety and high frequency of program replays.

SECTION FIVE: LOCAL PROGRAMMING DEVELOPMENT

- I. Requests or suggestions for program development may be made by officials and employees of Meridian Township Government and from the general public. Requests must be made in writing. Each request for programming received by ~~the Communications Director~~HOMTV Staff may be reported to the ~~Cable Communicatons~~ Commission. The ~~Communications Director~~HOMTV Executive Producer will respond to requests for programming ~~from Township Staff~~ within a

reasonable time, based on staff and facility limitations.

SECTION FIVE: LOCAL PROGRAMMING DEVELOPMENT (cont'd.)

- II. The ~~Communications Director~~HOMTV Executive Producer shall use any of the following criteria to make judgments regarding the initiation of new programming:
 - A. The programming is about Meridian Township, its residents, its employees, its elected officials; and/or it's appointed officials.
 - B. The programming is in demand by Meridian Township residents or employees.
 - C. The programming is a public service to Meridian Township residents.
 - D. The programming serves to promote Meridian Township as a community.
 - E. The programming serves as communication from Meridian Township employees to Meridian Township residents.
 - F. The programming serves as communication from Meridian Township residents to Meridian Township residents.

- III. The ~~Communications Director~~HOMTV Executive Producer shall use any of the following criteria to make judgments regarding the denial of new programming:
 - A. The programming shall include no pornographic material.
 - B. The programming shall include no religious material.
 - C. The programming shall include no paid advertising.
 - D. The programming shall include no direct appeals to purchase commercial goods or services.
 - E. The programming shall be of sufficient technical quality to match the current minimum quality level of programming on the channel.
 - F. The programming does not meet one or more of the criteria set forth in paragraph II of this Section.

SECTION FIVE: LOCAL PROGRAMMING DEVELOPMENT (cont'd.)

- IV. The ~~Communications Director~~HOMTV Executive Producer shall use any of the following criteria to make judgments regarding the termination of existing programming:
- A. The programming has served its original purpose.
 - B. The programming can be more appropriately produced by another local access channel.
 - C. Producers of the programming are not cooperating with the management or staff of HOMTV in a consistent or professional manner.
 - D. Staff or facility limitations cause the need to reduce programming levels in general.
 - E. The criteria used for denying new programs can also be used to terminate existing programs. (See paragraph III above).
- V. The ~~Cable-Communications~~ Commission shall hear and decide appeals from those who have been denied programming requests under this Section. Such decisions shall normally be rendered within thirty (30) days of the ~~Cable-Communications~~ Commission's first consideration of the appeal.

SECTION SIX: GENERAL POLICIES

- I. HOMTV shall not be used to produce video programming for private or commercial organizations. HOMTV may collaborate and charge a fee for services to other public agencies and similar organizations to develop programming, which further serves the public interest, as determined by the ~~HOMTV-Township~~ Manager.
- II. It is the objective of HOMTV to ~~cablecast live or taped programs for~~ program at least eight (8) hours per day, seven (7) days per week. The ~~Communications Director~~HOMTV Executive Producer may cancel or reduce programming for up to ten (10) weeks per calendar year for the purpose of equipment maintenance, or due to staff limitations ~~caused by Michigan State University break periods.~~

SECTION SIX: GENERAL POLICIES (cont'd.)

- III. HOMTV will make ~~videotape duplicate~~ copies of programs produced by HOMTV for a nominal fee according to the attached fee schedule.
 - A. Fees may be waived by the ~~Communications Director~~HOMTV Executive Producer for people closely involved with the production of the program being copied.
 - B. HOMTV will only make copies of programs that have aired on the channel.
- IV. ~~HOMTV non-salaried staff members who have rendered exemplary service may be presented a gift upon departure from the Township. Such gifts shall not exceed \$50.00 in cost per person. Decisions regarding selection of the gift will be made by the Communications Director.~~
- V. Expenditures ~~from the Communications Department budget~~ to finance the operations of HOMTV may be authorized by the ~~Communications Director~~Township Manager, subject to all requirements of the Township Purchasing Policies, and within maximum amounts appropriated in the Township Budget. Purchases proposed by ~~the Communications Director~~HOMTV Staff that are projected to exceed the total ~~Communication Department~~budget appropriations shall require a budget amendment recommended by the ~~Cable Communications Commission~~Township Manager and approved by the Township Board, in conformance with Township purchasing and budget policies. Transfers among line items within the total amount appropriated in the ~~Communications Department~~operating budget may be made by the ~~Communications Director, upon approval of the Superintendent and the Cable Communications Commission. All purchases are to be reported to the Cable Commission on a monthly basis. No payment shall be made for any purchase until the bill is approved by the Township Board.~~Finance Director upon approval of the Township Manager
- VI. All HOMTV video recordings ~~used for production of television programs by the staff of HOMTV~~shall remain the property of HOMTV ~~and Meridian Township~~.

FEE SCHEDULE

Video Copies

1. ~~\$10~~15.00 flat rate per order
2. ~~\$5~~10.00 per hour of running time on order, or any increment thereof.
3. ~~\$3~~6.00 for videotape supplied by HOMTV for the copy.
4. \$6.00 Shipping & Handling

Audio Copies

1. ~~\$5~~10.00 flat rate per order
2. ~~\$5~~10.00 per hour of running time on order, or any increment thereof.
3. ~~\$2~~4.00 for audiotape supplied by HOMTV for the copy.



To: Communications Commission
From: Deborah Guthrie, Communications Director
Date: September 27, 2019
Re: Recommended Changes to Cable Television Section of Meridian Township Code of Ordinances

In 2003, the Meridian Township Board adopted an Ordinance regarding Cable Television. The purpose of the Ordinance “is to provide fair regulation of cable service in the Township in the interest of the public; to promote and encourage adequate, economical and efficient cable service to the residents of the Township; to promote and to encourage harmony between cable television companies and their subscribers; and to provide for the furnishing of cable television system service to the residents of the Township without unjust discrimination, undue preferences or advantages.”

At the September 13, 2019 Township Board meeting, the Board unanimously approved the Township Manager’s recommendation to amend Section 70-28 (c7) of the 2003 Cable Television Ordinance eliminating the requirement that 80% of Franchise Fees be allocated to the Cable TV Fund. The change is part of the reorganization of the Communications Department.

The newly adopted language for Section 70-28 (c7) is reflected in **Attachment B**.

Staff is also asking the Communications Commission to review and discuss the additional recommended changes to the Cable Television Section of Meridian Township Code of Ordinances as highlighted in **Attachment B**. The purpose of this memo is only for discussion at this time.

ORDINANCE NO. 2003-12

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ARTICLE II OF CHAPTER 70
OF THE **Charter Township of Meridian**
CODE OF ORDINANCES REGARDING CABLE TELEVISION**

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN ORDAINS:

Sec. 1. Article II of Chapter 70 of the **Charter Township of Meridian** Code of Ordinances is amended to read as follows:

ARTICLE II CABLE COMMUNICATIONS

DIVISION 1. GENERALLY

Sec. 70-26. Definitions.

For purposes of this article, terms, phrases, words and abbreviations shall have the meanings ascribed to them in the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984, as amended from time to time, 47 U.S.C. 521 *et seq.*, unless otherwise defined in this article.

Sec. 70-27. Declaration of Purpose.

The purpose of this article is to provide fair regulation of cable service in the Township in the interest of the public; to promote and encourage adequate, economical and efficient cable service to the residents of the Township; to promote and to encourage harmony between cable television companies and their subscribers; and to provide for the furnishing of cable television system service to the residents of the Township without unjust discrimination, undue preferences or advantages.

Sec. 70-28 **Communications Commission**.

(a) The Township shall establish a commission to be known as the Meridian Township **Communications Commission**. The Township Board shall solicit from the public and from the franchise names of persons interested in serving on the Commission, but is not limited to names submitted.

(b) The Commission consists of five residents of the Township appointed by the Township Board. Each member shall serve a term of three years. Any vacancy in the office shall be filled by the Township Board for the remainder of the term. No employee or person with an ownership interest in a cable television franchise granted pursuant to this article shall be eligible for membership on the commission. Members of the commission may

be compensated at a rate to be determined by the Township. Such rate of compensation, if any, be established and may be revised, from time to time, by resolution of the Township Board.

(c) Subject to federal law, the commission, in addition to the functions and responsibilities that the Township Board may delegate to it from time to time by resolution, shall have the following functions:

- (1) Discuss this article and franchises with prospective franchise applications.
- (2) Advise the Township Board on applications for franchises.
- (3) Advise the Township Board on matters that might constitute grounds for revocation of a franchise under this article.
- (4) Recommend to the Township Board, after hearing, resolutions of disputes between franchisees, between franchisee(s) and subscribers, between franchisee(s) and access users, and between access users.
- (5) Advise the Township Board on the regulation of rates under this article and make recommendations on requested changes in rates, services or classifications.
- (6) Recommend to the Township Board general policy relating to access channels with a view to maximizing the diversity of programs and services to subscribers.
- (7) 100% of the Franchise Fees will be deposited in the Township's General Fund.
- (8) Encourage and supervise interconnection of systems.
- (9) Review and report to the Township Board concerning records and reports that the franchisee is required to submit under this article.
- (10) The Commission shall annually prepare a proposed budget and submit that proposed budget to the Township Board for its consideration and adoption. Prior to adopting a budget for the commission, the Township Board shall conduct a public hearing. The commission shall also prepare and submit to the Township Board an annual report including an accounting of budgeted

fees received and distributed by the commission and a report of the type and amount of use of access channels.

- (11) Conduct evaluations of the system at least every three years and make recommendations to the Township Board regarding amendments to this article or to the franchise agreement.

Sec. 70-29. Non-Recourse for Losses.

Any person granted a franchise pursuant to this article shall have no recourse whatsoever against the Township, its officers, boards, commissions, agents or employees for any loss, cost, expense or damage arising out of any provision or requirement of this article or its enforcement except as allowed by 47 USC 555a, as amended.

Section 70-30. Priority of Use.

Any right or privilege granted to any person under this article to use or occupy any street, alley, public right-of-way or public place shall be subordinate to any prior lawful occupancy of such property. Nothing in this article shall be construed as limiting in any way the Township in the lawful exercise of the police power.

Sec. 70-31 Condition for Grant of Special Use Permit.

In order to achieve a uniform, comprehensive, township-wide standard of service, the grant of any special use permit pursuant to this code shall be conditioned upon satisfactory completion of all necessary easements, licenses and arrangements to permit a connection in each dwelling unit to a cable system, open video system or other multichannel video provider using or occupying the public right of way duly franchised by the Township Board.

Section 70-32. Hearing and Determination of Complaints; Procedure; Local Office.

(a) Subject to federal law, the Township Board, or any person or department designated by it, shall, upon its own motion or upon complaint of any person or subscriber of a Grantee, have authority to hear and determine all complaints concerning the rates, charges, rules, regulations, practices, quality of service rendered or refused to be rendered, equipment furnished or refused to be furnished, or any other matter relating to the service or operation of the cable system or any person franchised under the terms of this article.

(b) Upon the filing of any complaint against any Grantee pursuant to the preceding subsection, the Township Board shall give such person at least 20 days notice of the time and place of a hearing to be given such person upon the matters alleged in the complaint. Subject to federal law, the Township Board shall have the power to order such changes in the rates, charges, rules, regulations, services, equipment or other matters

relating to the service or operation of the Grantee as in its judgment, based upon the record of the hearing and findings of fact made thereon, appear to be just, reasonable and lawful based upon the record of the hearing and the board's findings of fact.

(c) Every Grantee a franchise pursuant to this article shall have a business office conveniently located for residents of the Township, suitably staffed for the purpose among others of receiving and investigating complaints, dealing with its subscribers, receiving payment for service and otherwise conducting business, unless otherwise provided in the franchise agreement.

Secs. 70-33 – 70-55. Reserved.

DIVISION 2. FRANCHISE

Sec. 70-56. Franchise Required.

(a) No person may construct, install, maintain or operate a cable system, open video system or other multichannel video provider using or occupying the public right of way in the Township nor may any person provide a cable service or acquire ownership or control of a Grantee of a franchise under this article in the Township without such person having first obtained a franchise from the Township in the form of a franchise agreement between the Township and the franchisee, which franchise agreement includes, at a minimum, compliance with the specifications of this article. However, franchise is required from the Township in order to use, occupy or traverse under the surface of the ground of a single public street for the purposes of installing, constructing, maintaining or operating a single cable, or other similar conductor, which connects one or more multiple family dwellings with one or more multiple family dwellings, all under the same ownership, where the resulting cable system does not serve more than 500 occupancy units. Any such person shall be required to first obtain the necessary street-crossing permit.

(b) Except as specifically provided in this code, no person may use, occupy or traverse the Township streets, alleys, lanes, avenues, boulevards, sidewalks, bridges, viaducts, rights-of-way or any other public place or public way in the Township or any extensions or additions, whether on, above, or under the surface of the ground, for the purposes of installing, construction, maintaining or operating a cable system, open video system or other multichannel video provider using or occupying the public right of way or facilities therefor or for the purpose of furnishing a cable service without such person having first obtained a franchise therefor from the Township in the form of a franchise agreement between the Township and the franchisee, which franchise agreement includes, at a minimum, compliance with all the specifications of this article.

(c) The specifications required by this article are minimum requirements of a franchise agreement. Additional requirements including, but not limited to, rates, charges, deposits, specifications regarding required interconnections, studios or other signal origination facilities, number of channels to be equipped and available for immediate use upon initial construction of the system, use of channels by the Township,

schools, and other educational institutions, quality of community access, availability of equipment to users, required establishment and expansion of service area, other use of channels and other specifications or requirements of a cable television franchisee or system may be established in the franchise agreement.

Sec. 70-57. Franchise; Application; Contents; Fees; Issuance; Transfer.

(a) The initial and transfer applications for a franchise to install, construct, maintain or operate a cable system, open video system or other multichannel video provider using or occupying the public right-of-way in the Township or to furnish a cable service must:

(1) Be made in writing to the Township Board in such form as may be prescribed.

(2) Include a description and map of the territory within the Township in which the cable system, open video system or other multichannel video provider system using or occupying the public right-of-way is to be installed, constructed, maintained or operated or to furnish cable service is to be provided.

(3) Be accompanied by a showing of the applicant's legal, financial, technical and other qualifications to be a franchisee which must contain:

a. In establishing legal qualifications, if other than a single individual, a certified copy of the partnership agreement, articles of association, or articles of incorporation, as the case may be, and also, if a foreign corporation, a certified copy of its authorization to do business in the State of Michigan.

b. In establishing financial qualifications, a copy of applicant's current balance sheet as of a date not more than 60 days prior to the date of the application shall be furnished. If a loan or other credit arrangement is to be consummated to finance the establishment and operation of the proposed facilities, full particulars shall be disclosed, including the identity of the creditor.

c. In establishing technical qualifications, a statement of the arrangements to ensure the rendition of good service, including the type and kind of facilities to be employed, the technical standards to be followed, the maintenance and repair facilities to be used, the number and description of technical personnel, including copies of any contracts, agreements or arrangements relating to any of the above.

d. A statement as to the location of the antenna site or sites and the location of any places of business in the Township.

e. A statement as to any affiliated corporations or business organizations engaged in providing service, or Interlocking directorships or

ownerships held by any owners, officers or directors of applicant with any other business engaged in providing cable service.

f. A detailed statement as to the arrangements and timetable by which applicant proposes to construct its cable facilities and system including detailed descriptions of portions of the Township to be served by the system within one year, 18 months, two years, 30 months, and three years of the making of the franchise agreement.

(4) The applicant shall furnish information as to the programming services and public services which it shall provide including:

a. The number of channels offered and the potential for diversified services to local government, educational institutions, community groups, householders and local commercial interests.

b. Projected development of customer and community services, indicating priorities in development, and estimated time schedules.

c. Cost estimates of development, installation, and maintenance of system, which items shall be deemed to include, but not be limited to, the proposed cost of acquisition of the system where approval of a transfer of the franchise has been requested.

d. Revenue forecasts for the next five years of service.

e. A proposed schedule of rates for installation charges, monthly service fees and relocation charges.

f. Such other information as the Township may request.

(b)The application for an initial franchise must be accompanied by a fee of \$5,000.

(c)Upon the filing of such an application and the payment of the fee as prescribed, the Township Board will consider the application and may request such additional information as it may deem necessary to establish the legal, financial, technical and other qualifications of the applicant to provide a cable service in the Township.

(d)If the Township Board determines that the applicant possesses the necessary qualifications, legal, financial, technical and otherwise, to reasonably assure applicant's ability to satisfactorily install, construct, maintain or operate a cable television system, open video system or other multichannel video provider using or occupying the public right-of-way or to furnish a cable service to the public in the Township, the Township Board may issue applicant a nonexclusive franchise. No franchise shall be issued:

(1) Until the franchise application has been on file and available for public inspection in the Office of the Township Clerk for at least 30 days and

(2) Until the Township Board holds a public hearing on such application after due notice of the time and place of such hearing has been given the public.

(d) In determining whether such a franchise will be issued, the Township Board will take into consideration, among other things, the legal, technical and financial qualifications of the applicant; including the prior experience, if any, of the applicant in providing cable systems or furnishing cable service; the proposed rate schedule; the nature and scope of the applicant's proposed system; and the timetables for development of applicant's proposed system.

(e) No franchise may be sold, transferred or assigned unless such transaction is first approved by the Township Board after receipt of a written application containing the same information regarding transferee as would be required of an original application and any application fee prescribed by the Grantee's franchise agreement. Prior approval of the Township Board shall be required where ownership or control of more than 25 percent of the right of control of a Grantee is acquired by a person or group of persons acting in concert, none of whom already own or control 25% or more of such right of control, singularly or collectively.

(f) The Township may acquire the cable system, open video system or other multichannel video provider using or occupying the public right of way if a renewal is denied or revoked for cause subject to 47 USC 547, as amended.

Sec 70-58. Surrender of Other Franchises.

By the application for and acceptance of a franchise pursuant to this article, a Grantee agrees that upon subsequent additions of areas to the Township, either by annexation, consolidation or otherwise, any and all franchises and/or licenses held by it to provide a cable service or to install, construct, maintain or operate a cable system in such areas shall be surrendered and any rights or privileges in streets, alleys, public right-of-way or public places to install, construct, maintain or operate a cable system or to furnish a cable service in such areas as may subsequently be added to the Township by annexation, consolidation or otherwise is subject to and authorized by this article.

Section 70-59. Rights of Township.

Any franchise granted under this article is made subject to all applicable provisions of law relating to the Township and ordinances and specifically subject to the rights and powers of the Township and limitations upon a Grantee holding such franchise as are set forth in the statutes of the State of Michigan pertaining to charter townships, which are incorporated by reference, and such Grantee must abide by and be bound by said rights, powers and limitations

Sec. 70-60. Franchise; Nonexclusive; Term; Form.

(a) Any franchise issued pursuant to this article must be a nonexclusive franchise for a term of years, not to exceed 15 years, as the Township Board may approve and will be issued in such form as shall be determined by the Township Board.

Sec. 70-61. Fees, Reporting, Records.

(a) During the term of any franchise granted pursuant to this article, the person granted such franchise shall pay to the Township, for the use of its streets, public places, and other facilities, as well as their maintenance, improvements, and supervision and for the regulation activities required by virtue of the franchise, an annual franchise fee in an amount equal to 5% of all revenues derived from the operation of the cable system, open video system or other multichannel video provider using or occupying the public right-of-way to provide cable service in the Township. The Township shall be furnished a statement with each payment, certified as correct by the franchisee, and an annual statement for the entire year, prepared by a certified public accountant. All statements shall reflect the total amount of local gross subscriber revenues and the above charges, deductions and computations for the period covered by the statement.

(b) Such franchise fee shall be paid quarterly within 45 days of the close of each quarter during the existence of the franchise at the Office of the Township Treasurer during regular business hours. If the Township Treasurer's Office is closed on said 45th day, then payment may be made during regular business hours on the next following day on which the Township Treasurer's Office is open for business.

(c) Subject to 47 USC 551, as amended, the Township shall have the right to inspect at all reasonable times the customer records of any person granted a franchise from which its franchise fee payments are computed and shall have the right of audit and recomputation of any and all franchise fees paid. No acceptance of any payment shall be construed as a release or as an accord and satisfaction of any claim the Township may have for further or additional sums payable as a franchise fee under this article or for the performance of any other obligation under this article.

Sec. 70-62. Construction of Facilities; Right to Use Streets; Restrictions; Disposal; Duties.

(a) *Right to Use Streets.* A franchise granted pursuant to this article confers upon the Grantee the nonexclusive right to erect, install, construct, reconstruct, replace, remove, repair, maintain and operate in or upon, under, above and across the streets, avenues, highways, sidewalks, bridges and other public ways, easements, and rights-of-way existing as of the date of the grant of said franchise and all subsequent extensions in and belonging to the Township, all necessary towers, poles, wires, cables, coaxial cables, transformers, amplifiers, underground conduits, manholes, and other television and/or radio conductors, equipment and fixtures for the installation, construction,

maintenance and operation of a cable system (including audio, video and radio signals) or the furnishing of a cable service.

(b) *Submission of description; approval by the Deputy Township Manager/Director of Public Works.* Prior to the erection or installation of any towers, poles, guys, anchors, underground conduits, manholes or fixtures for use in connection with the installation, construction, maintenance or operation of a cable system under a franchise granted pursuant to this article, the Grantee desiring to erect or install such facilities for use in connection with its cable system must first submit to the Deputy Township Manager/Director of Public Works or designee for review and approval a concise description of the facilities proposed to be erected or installed, including engineering drawings, if requested or required, together with a map indicating the proposed location of such facilities. No erection or installation of any tower, pole, guy, anchor, underground conduit, manhole or fixture for use in a cable system, open video system or other multichannel video provider using or occupying the public right of way may be commenced by any person until approval has been received from the Deputy Township Manager/Director of Public Works or designee. Such approval may not be unreasonably withheld.

(c) *Grant of attachment spaces.* Any person accepting a franchise pursuant to this article and erecting or installing towers or poles must, upon written request by the Township, grant the Township reasonable attachment space or spaces upon such towers or poles without a rental charge for the attachment of wire or cable owned and used by the Township. The Township shall pay any costs incurred by such person in providing attachment space or spaces to said township, including all necessary costs of rearrangement of such person's wires, cables or equipment and tower or pole replacement cost for a larger tower or pole, if required.

(d) *Right of Township to purchase system; removal by Grantee.* Upon the expiration, termination or revocation of any franchise granted pursuant to this article, or should any person wish otherwise to dispose of any tower or pole erected or installed for use in connection with a cable system, open video system or other multichannel video provider using or occupying the public right-of-way or any portion of said system, the Township retains the first right and option to purchase such towers or poles as it may require or such portion of the system at their fair market value. The Township shall be under no obligation to purchase all or any part of the system upon expiration, termination or revocation for cause of any franchise granted pursuant to this article. Further, upon the expiration, termination or revocation for cause of any franchise granted pursuant to this article, should the Township determine that it does not desire to purchase the system or any part of the system, the franchisee shall have a period of six months from the date of expiration, termination or revocation to remove its towers, poles, wires, cables, fixtures or all other facilities from the streets, alleys, public rights-of-way or public places. Grantee shall not disturb any underground conduit, manholes or other facilities constructed underground. At the expiration of such six-month period, any property not removed by franchisee may, at the Township's election, become the property of the Township to do with as it may choose. Any cost to the Township in removing said property from the streets, alleys, public rights-of-way or public places may be claimed

against franchisee under the letter of credit or other surety arrangement as required under this article.

(e) *Commencement of construction.* Any person granted a franchise pursuant to this article shall commence construction or installation of its cable system, open video system or other multichannel video provider using or occupying the public right-of-way within 120 days after issuance of a certificate of compliance by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

(f) *Completion of construction.* Any person granted a franchise pursuant to this article shall, within such period as designated in the franchise agreement complete construction in the area designated in the franchise agreement. Any person granted a franchise pursuant to this article who is unable to commence or complete construction according to the provisions of this section, for good cause, must notify the Township Board in writing within 30 days of the occurrence of any delay or interruption of construction of more than 15 working days, which interruption or delay would affect its ability to construct according to schedule.

(g) *Underground.* In areas or portions of the Township where transmission or distribution facilities of public utilities providing telephone service and electric service are underground, or may be placed underground when installed, any person granted a franchise pursuant to this article must likewise install, construct, maintain and operate its transmission and distribution facilities in like manner underground to the maximum extent feasible and permitted by existing technology and conditions, subject to the approval of the Deputy Township Manager/Director of Public Works or designee. Such approval may not be unreasonably withheld.

(h) *Compliance with law.* All construction, installation, maintenance and operation of any facilities must be in compliance with the provisions of the National Electrical Safety Code as prepared by the National Bureau of Standards, the National Electrical Code of the National Board of Fire Underwriters, the Bell Telephone System's Code of Pole Line Construction, any standards issued by the FCC or other federal or state regulatory agencies and applicable regulations of public utilities operating in the Township. Every cable system, open video system or other multichannel video provider using or occupying the public right-of-way installing, constructing, maintaining or operating in the Township must be so designed, constructed, installed, maintained and operated as not to endanger or interfere with the safety of persons or property in the Township.

(i) *Openings.* Any opening, obstruction in, disturbance of or damage to the streets, alleys, public rights-of-way or public places by any person in the exercise of any right granted pursuant to this article must be properly guarded by adequate barriers, lights, signals and warnings, as to prevent danger to any person or vehicle using such streets, alleys, public rights-of-way or public places. Such opening, obstruction in, disturbance of or damage shall be properly and promptly repaired, all in a manner specified and approved by the Deputy Township Manager/Director of Public Works or designee, at such person's expense.

(j) *Cooperation with public projects.* Any person owning or maintaining a cable system or facility in or on the streets, alleys, public rights-of-way or public places in the Township must, at its expense and without reimbursement from the Township, upon request of the Township, protect, support, temporarily disconnect, relocate or remove from the street, alley, public right-of-way or public place, any property of such person when required by reason of traffic conditions, public safety, street vacation, freeway or street construction, change or establishment of street grade, installation of sewers, drains, water pipes, power lines, signal lines, tracks, the construction or change of the transmission or distribution facilities of any telephone or electric public utility or other public improvements. Any such person must also, at the request of any private party holding an appropriate permit issued by the Township, temporarily raise or lower its cable transmission or distribution wires or cables to permit the moving of any building or other structure, provided that the actual expense of such temporary raising or lowering shall be paid in full by the party requesting the same other than the Township.

(k) *Township may complete repairs, charge Grantee.* If any person fails to commence, pursue or complete any work required by law or by the provisions of this article to be done in any street, alley, public right of way or public place as designated by the Deputy Township Manager/Director of Public Works/ or designee, who may cause such work to be done and such person shall pay to the Township the cost within 30 days of the receipt of an itemized statement of such cost.

Sec. 70-63. Indemnity; Letter of Credit or Other Surety Arrangement; Proof of Insurance; Effective Date of Franchise.

(a) Every Grantee shall, within 30 days of the grant of a franchise to it pursuant to this article, file with the Township Clerk, and at all times maintain in full force and effect for the term of the franchise, at its expense, a letter of credit or such other surety arrangement as the Township Ó[æå may approve in a franchise agreement, in the minimum amount of \$25,000. The surety arrangement or letter of credit shall guarantee the faithful performance by such Grantee of its obligations under its franchise and upon the further condition that if such Grantee shall fail to comply with any one or more provisions of this article, there shall be recoverable any damages or loss suffered by the Township, including the full amount of any compensation, indemnification, or cost of removal of any property of such Grantee as provided in this article plus attorney's fees and costs, up to the full amount of the letter of credit, or other surety arrangement. The surety arrangement or letter of credit shall be a continuing obligation for the duration of any franchise granted under this article and any renewal term until such Grantee has liquidated all of its obligations with the Township which may have arisen under the franchise or from the exercise of any privilege or right granted. Nothing in this article shall be construed to excuse faithful performance by any Grantee or in any way to limit its liability for damages or otherwise. The letter of credit or other surety arrangement may be reduced to \$10,000 at such time as franchisee is actively providing cable service to 1,000 or more subscribers within the Township.

(b) Any Grantee within 30 days of the grant of a franchise pursuant to this article shall file with the Township Clerk:

(1) An indemnity agreement to indemnify, defend and save the Township harmless from and against any or all claims, suits, actions or liability for damages which may arise in any way from the grant of a franchise to such Grantee, or its operation in the Township, including all expenses incurred by the Township in defending itself against any claim, action or suit.

(2) Proof of a commercial general liability insurance policy, including completed operations liability, independent contractors liability, contractual liability, railroad protective, XCU coverage, an automobile liability insurance policy all issued by companies licensed to do business in Michigan, protecting the Township, its officers, boards, commissions, agents and employees against liability for loss or damage for personal injury, death and property damage, occasioned by the installation, construction, maintenance or operation of a cable television system in the Township with liability limits of up to \$5 million for personal injury or death and up to \$3 million for the damages to property resulting from any one occurrence and proof of adequate insurance as required by the Michigan Workers Disability Law applicable to it.

(c) All policies shall contain a provision that a written notice of cancellation, material change or reduction in coverage shall be provided to the Township Clerk at least 30 days in advance of the effective date.

(d) All insurance required by this section shall be with insurance companies licensed and admitted to do business in the State of Michigan, who are acceptable to the Township and who have a minimum A.M. Best Company rating of A or A- (Excellent). The Grantee shall submit evidence to the Township of the insurance company's status to do business in the State of Michigan and A.M. Best Company rating.

(e) No franchise is effective until the provisions of this section above have been fully complied with and failure to file with the Township Clerk within 30 days after grant of a franchise, the letter of credit or other surety arrangement, indemnity agreement, proof insurance as required by this section shall render the franchise null and void without notice or further proceedings.

Sec. 70-64 Termination; Revocation or Surrender of Franchise

(a) *Term.* Any franchise granted pursuant to this article shall expire without further proceedings in the event the person granted such franchise has not commenced construction of a cable system, open video system or other multichannel video provider using or occupying the public right-of-way within one year after its effective date.

(b) *Revocation for failure to provide service.* If any person granted a franchise pursuant to this article fails to provide cable service within and throughout the franchise areas as

required under the terms of its franchise agreement, said franchise shall, on the anniversary of the effective date of such franchise next following the 12 month period during which cable service has not been extended as required under the terms of the franchise agreement, be deemed revoked without the necessity of Township Board action, unless prior to said date, such person shall have applied to the Township Board and the Township Board shall have, for good cause shown, granted an extension of the construction or service periods set forth in the franchise agreement.

(c) *Termination upon appointment of receiver.* Any franchise granted pursuant to this article shall be terminated without further proceedings 120 days after the appointment of a receiver or trustee to take over and conduct the business of a Grantee, whether in receivership, reorganization, bankruptcy or other action or proceedings unless such receivership or trusteeship shall have been vacated prior to the expiration of such period. Such receiver or trustee may apply for a transfer or assignment of such franchise, as before provided in this article within 60 days of the appointment of such receiver or trustee, if duly approved by the court having jurisdiction in the premises. In case of a foreclosure or other judicial sale of the plant, property or facilities, with or without the appointment of a receiver or trustee, a franchise shall be terminated without further proceeding upon 30 days written notice of termination served upon the Grantee and the purchaser unless within such thirty 30 day period, the purchaser applies to the Township for a transfer or assignment to it of the same as provided in this article. Such approval may not be unreasonably withheld.

(d) *Revocation.* Any franchise granted pursuant to this article is revocable for cause by the Township Board prior to its expiration where the Grantee has failed substantially to comply with any material provision or requirement of this article or the provisions of its franchise agreement or other authorization. The Township Board may give a written notice containing full particulars as to the material provision or requirement with which compliance is claimed deficient and allow such Grantee 60 days to comply. At the expiration of such 60 days, such franchise or authorization shall be deemed terminated and revoked without further board action, unless such Grantee shall request a hearing before the Township Board upon its alleged failure to substantially comply with any material provision or requirement of this article or of its franchise or authorization. Such hearing shall be public with the Grantee being permitted to fully participate including the right to introduce testimony and exhibits and to examine and cross examine witnesses. The hearing shall be recorded and at the conclusion the Township Board, if it finds that a Grantee has not substantially complied with any material provision or requirement of this article or its franchise agreement or authorization, may terminate and revoke the franchise or authorization. Such decision is subject to any and all lawful remedies and rights of appeal.

(e) *Surrender.* Any person granted a franchise pursuant to this article may surrender it by written notice of intent to surrender its franchise filed with the Township Clerk not less than 60 days prior to the surrender date. On the surrender date specified in such notice, all rights, privileges, and authority under such franchise shall terminate. Such person shall have a period of six months thereafter to remove its towers, poles, wires, cables,

fixtures, or other facilities from the streets, alleys, public rights-of-way, or public places, subject to the rights of the Township as set forth in subsection this article. At the expiration of such six-month period, any property not removed by such person shall become the property of the Township to do with as it may choose. Any cost to the Township in removing such property from against such person under the surety arrangement or letter of credit required under this article.

DIVISION 3. OPERATING REQUIREMENTS AND STANDARDS

Sec. 70-91 Standard of Service

(a) *Installation according to industry standards.* Grantees of a franchise pursuant to this article shall install, construct, maintain and operate its cable television system, open video system or other multichannel video provider using or occupying the public right-of-way in accordance with the accepted standards of the industry, in conformity with the state of the art and any standards of operation or maintenance for a cable system which may be established or issued by the FCC. Further, it is the intention of the Township Board that any person granted a franchise to furnish a cable service to the public within the Township shall possess the financial and technical qualifications necessary to provide a cable system, open video system or other multichannel video provider using or occupying the public right-of-way which will assure its subscribers high quality technical and public service.

(b) *Availability of public access channels.* Every cable system, open video system or other multichannel video provider using or occupying the public right-of-way franchised under this article, at a minimum, shall maintain and make available without charge such public access channels, education access channels and local government access channels as may from time to time be designated, established, required or regulated by the rules and regulations of the FCC as may from time to time be in force and effect.

(c) *Interconnection.* Every cable system, open video system or other multichannel video provider using or occupying the public right-of-way franchised under this article shall maintain such capacity, capability and technical standards as will enable it to interconnect with any other cable system, open video system or other multichannel video provider using or occupying the public right-of-way located in any adjacent community. It is the intention of the Township Board to require that all access channels in the Lansing metropolitan area be interconnected to the cable television system, open video system or other multichannel video provider using or occupying the public right-of-way.

Sec. 70-92. Service; Provision to Township Government, Schools; Public Emergencies.

(a) Every person holding a franchise under this article shall, without charge for installation or service, provide one installation of its cable service to each department of

the Township and each fire and police station in the Township, each primary school, secondary school and public library within the Grantee's service area.

(b) Every person holding a franchise under this article shall make its cable system, open video system or other multichannel video provider using or occupying the public right-of-way, available, without charge, to the Township, the County of Ingham, the State of Michigan, the United States of America and/or emergency operations agencies for the prompt and simultaneous communication to subscribers and the public within the Township of any information resulting from or required by war, threat of war, natural catastrophe, riot or insurrection, that is necessary to save or protect life or property.

Sec. 70-93 Reports

Every Grantee must file reports and maps to the extent required under the franchise agreement.

Secs. 70-94 – 70-115. Reserved

DIVISION 4. BASIC RATE REGULATION

Section 70-116. Basic Cable Rate Regulation.

The Township adopts by reference basic service rate regulations promulgated by the FCC, as amended from time to time, as if fully set forth here. The Township may pursue any and all legal and equitable remedies, including, without limitation, all remedies provided under a franchise with the Township, for failure to comply with the Act, the FCC rules, any orders or determinations of the Township pursuant to this division, any requirements of this division, or any rules or regulations promulgated under this division. Subject to applicable law, failure to comply with the Act, the FCC rules, any orders or determinations of the Township pursuant to this division, any requirements of this division, or any rules and regulations promulgated under this division shall also be sufficient grounds for revocation or denial of renewal of a cable operator's franchise.

DIVISION 5. CUSTOMER SERVICE STANDARDS

Sec. 70-117. Customer Service Standards.

(a) When used in this section:

(1) "Normal business hours" mean 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday and some hours on Saturday, excluding holidays.

(2) "Normal operating conditions" means those service conditions which are within the control of the Grantee. Those conditions which are not within the control of the Grantee include, but are not limited to, natural disasters, civil

disturbances, power outages, telephone network outages and severe or unusual weather conditions. Those conditions which are ordinarily within the control of the Grantee include, but are not limited to, special promotions, pay-per-view events, rate increases, regular peak or seasonal demand periods and maintenance or upgrade of the cable system, open video system or other multichannel video provider using or occupying the public right of way.

(3) "Service interruption" means the loss of picture or sound on one or more cable channels.

(b) Nothing in this section is intended to prevent or prohibit:

(1) The Township and a Grantee from agreeing to customer service requirements that exceed the standards set forth in this article.

(2) The Township from enforcing through the end of the franchise term pre-existing customer service requirements that exceed the standards set forth in this article that are contained in current franchise agreements.

(3) The Township from enacting or enforcing any consumer protection law.

(4) The establishment or enforcement of any ordinance or regulation concerning customer service that imposes customer service requirements that exceed or address matters not addressed by the standards set forth in this article.

(c) A person holding a franchise awarded under this article is subject to the following customer service standards certified quarterly:

(1) The Grantee will maintain a local, toll-free or collect call telephone access line which will be available to subscribers 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

(2) Trained representatives shall be available to respond to customer telephone inquiries 9:00 am to midnight seven days a week. From midnight to 9 am, the access line may be answered by a service or an automated response system, including an answering machine. Inquiries received from midnight to 9:00 am, shall be responded to by a trained representative on the next business day.

(3) Under normal operating conditions, telephone answer time by a representative, including wait time, excluding calls routed to automated response units, shall not exceed 30 seconds when the connection is made. If the call needs to be transferred, transfer time shall not exceed 30 seconds. These standards shall be met no less than 90 percent of the time under normal operating conditions measured on a quarterly basis.

(4) Under normal operating conditions, the customers may receive a busy signal less than three percent of the time measured on a quarterly basis.

(5) Reasonably convenient customer service center/bill payment locations will be open at least during normal business hours.

(6) Under normal operating conditions, each of the following five standards must be met no less than 95% of the time measured on a quarterly basis:

a. Standard installations will be performed seven business days after an order has been placed. Standard installations are those that are located not more than 150 feet from the existing distribution system.

b. Excluding conditions beyond the control of the operator, a Grantee shall begin working on service interruptions promptly and in no event later than 24 hours after the interruption becomes known. The Grantee must begin actions to correct other service problems the next business day after notification of the service problem.

c. The appointment window for installations, service calls, and other installation activities will be either a specific time or, at maximum, a 4 hour block during normal business hours. The operator may schedule service calls and other installation activities outside of normal business hours for the express convenience of the customer.

d. A Grantee may not cancel an appointment with a customer after the close of business on the business day prior to the scheduled appointment.

e. If a representative is running late for an appointment and will not be able to keep the appointment as scheduled, the customer will be contacted, the appointment rescheduled, as necessary, at a time which is convenient for the customer.

(d) A Grantee shall provide written information on each of the following areas at the time of installation of service, at least annually to all subscribers, and at any time upon request:

(1) Products and services offered.

(2) Prices and options for programming services and conditions of subscription to programming and other services.

(3) Installation and service maintenance policies.

(4) Instructions on how to use the cable service.

(5) Channel positions of programming carried on the system.

(6) Billing and complaint procedures, including the business address and telephone number of the Grantee.

(e) Customers and the Township will be notified of any changes in rates, programming services or channel positions as soon as possible by any reasonable means. Notice must be given to subscribers and the Township a minimum of 30 days in advance of such changes if the change is within the control of the Grantee. In addition, the Grantee shall notify subscribers 30 days in advance of any significant changes in the other information required by the preceding paragraph.

(f) Bills shall be clear, concise and understandable. Except as otherwise required by a franchise agreement, bills must be fully itemized with itemizations including, but not limited to, basic and premium service charges and equipment charges. Bills shall clearly delineate all activity during the billing period, including operational charges, rebates and credits. In case of a billing dispute, a Grantee must respond to a written complaint from a subscriber within 30 days.

(g) Refund checks shall be issued promptly, but not later than:

(1) The customer's next billing cycle following resolution of the request or 30 days, whichever is earlier, or upon the return of the equipment supplied if service is terminated by the Grantee.

(h) Credits will be issued no later than the customer's next billing cycle following the determination that a credit is warranted.

Section 70-121 – 70-150. Reserved.

Section 2. Validity and Severability. The provisions of this Ordinance are severable and the invalidity of any phrase, clause or part of this Ordinance shall not affect the validity or effectiveness of the remainder of the Ordinance.

Section 3. Repealer Clause. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this Ordinance are repealed only to the extent necessary to give this Ordinance full force and effect.

Section 4. Savings Clause. This Ordinance does not affect rights and duties matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were begun, before its effective date.

Section 5. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall be effective upon its publication.

Ronald J. Styka, Township Supervisor

Brett Dreyfus, Township Clerk



To: Communications Commission
From: Deborah Guthrie, Communications Director
Date: September 23, 2019
Re: Review of CAMTV PEG Access Channel

In 2008, eight communities agreeing that there was a need for community media on a regional channel signed a mutual agreement. As a result, Comcast interconnected the East Lansing and Meridian Township system to make it possible for the channel to be seen throughout Haslett, Okemos and East Lansing on the Comcast system. However, interconnecting it with the Lansing system never came through to fruition.

The 2010 signed resolution of support by the Meridian Township Board included anticipation of the City of Lansing, Lansing Township and the City of East Lansing contributing a portion of their 2% PEG Funds to the community media channel. None of those funds were contributed by other communities for the CAMTV Channel. A State of Michigan grant provided the money to purchase the equipment to launch and playback the channel. Meridian Township committed PEG Fees to support the operation of the CAMTV Channel.

The August 2019 FCC Third Report and Order states that PEG Fees only be used for Capital purposes beginning September 26, 2019. On September 17, 2019, the Township Board approved PEG Fees for 2020 to only be used for capital purposes and any additional funds received after the effective date of the order also only be used for capital purposes.

The 2010 resolution stated there would be an evaluation by the Township Board after two years to determine the continuation of financial support based on need and regional municipal involvement. To date, there has been zero regional municipal involvement, except by Meridian Township programming the channel. The channel is utilized in the following ways:

- 14 Content Producers since 2010
 - 6 Content Producers are from Meridian Township
 - 6 Content Producers are from Lansing Area
 - 2 National Shows
- \$50 Annual Producer Fee
- 5 Content Producers submitting yearly from 2010 – 2017
- 3 Renewals for 2019
- 30 Minutes per show to program the channel before airing

Meridian Township is the Local Franchising Authority who has the authority to designate the use of the nine PEG channels in Meridian Township:

- Channel 21 HOMTV; Meridian Township Government Access
- Channel 22 Haslett School

- Channel 23 Okemos School
- Channel 24 East Lansing School
- Channel 26 WKAR; MSU
- Channel 27 WKAR; MSU
- Channel 28 WKAR; MSU
- Channel 29 LCC
- Channel 30 CAMTV; Public Access Channel

According to the uniform video services local franchise agreement;

“If a Franchising Entity seeks to utilize capacity pursuant to **Section 4(1) of the Act** or an agreement under **Section 13 of the Act** to provide access to video programming over one or more PEG channels, the Franchising Entity shall give the Provider a written request specifying the number of channels in actual use on the incumbent video provider's system or specified in the agreement entered into under **Section 13 of the Act**. The video service Provider shall have 90 days to begin providing access as requested by the Franchising Entity. The number and designation of PEG access channels shall be set forth in an addendum to this agreement effective 90 days after the request is submitted by the Franchising Entity. **G.** A PEG channel shall only be used for noncommercial purposes.”

Staff is asking that the Communications Commission discuss the current use of the CAMTV Channel. The purpose of this memo is only for discussion at this time.



Communications
Commission

Communications/ Announcements



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 23, 2019

Media Contact: Brandie Yates
Executive Producer
yates@meridian.mi.us
517.853.4208

HOMTV Recognized at Regional and National Levels
Meridian Township Government Access Channel Honored in Excellence

OKEMOS, MI – HOMTV continues success in competitions, receiving honors by the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (NATOA), Alliance for Community Media (ACM) as well as the Central States Region Chapter of ACM.

Alliance for Community Media – 2019 Hometown Media National Awards Competition:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Award</u>
Overall Excellence in Governmental Access – \$650,000-\$1,000,00	“HOMTV Overall Excellence”	1st Place

The Hometown Media Awards honors and promotes community media and local cable programs that are distributed on Public, Educational and Governmental (PEG) access cable television channels. Awards are presented to the most creative programs that address community needs, develop diverse community involvement, challenge conventional commercial television formats and move viewers to experience television in a different way.

ACM Central States Region – 2019 Philo Festival of Media Arts Competition Awards:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Award</u>
Health	“Open Line – Opioid Crisis”	Finalist
Overall Excellence Access TV	“HOMTV Overall Excellence”	Finalist

The ACM Central States Region includes Michigan, Indiana, Ohio and Kentucky. The PHILO Competition honors the memory of Philo T. Farnsworth, the father of modern television, by recognizing the efforts of modern day pioneers who work to further develop the use of this technology and promote the use of media in our communities.

NATOA – 2019 Government Programming Awards:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Award</u>
Election Coverage	“2018 General Election Night Coverage”	Award of Honor

The Government Programming Awards (GPAs) recognize excellence in broadcast, cable, multimedia and electronic programming produced by local government agencies. Government programmers across the nation to join in having their programming judged as amongst the best productions across the country.

“It’s truly an honor to see the hard work of our talented staff and student interns be recognized for their efforts to provide quality programming to the residents of Meridian Township,” said HOMTV Executive Producer, Brandie Yates. “I am especially proud of our Overall Excellence awards at both the national and regional levels. Those awards exemplify the standard of excellence for which HOMTV has become known.”

###

HOMTV is Meridian Township’s award-winning Government Access Channel televising exclusive gavel-to-gavel coverage of Township meetings, community news and original programming.



From: Chris Buck <buck@meridian.mi.us>
Sent: Monday, September 23, 2019 7:02 PM
To: Brandie Yates <yates@meridian.mi.us>; Deborah Guthrie <Guthrie@meridian.mi.us>
Subject: Re: HOMTV Recognized at Regional and National Levels

Congratulations!

Chris Buck
Economic Development Director
buck@meridian.mi.us
W 517.853.4568 | C 517.528.4770
5151 Marsh Road | Okemos, MI 48864
meridian.mi.us

From: Brandie Yates <yates@meridian.mi.us>
Sent: Monday, September 23, 2019 4:56 PM
To: All Employees <AllEmployees@meridian.mi.us>
Subject: HOMTV Recognized at Regional and National Levels



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 23, 2019

Media Contact:
Brandie Yates
Executive Producer
yates@meridian.mi.us
517.853.4208

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Meridian Township Government Access Channel Honored in Excellence

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###



Communications
Commission

Compliments/ Complaints



**For the best experience, open this PDF portfolio in
Acrobat X or Adobe Reader X, or later.**

[Get Adobe Reader Now!](#)

internet»
essentials
FROM COMCAST

440,000
are ready for
anything

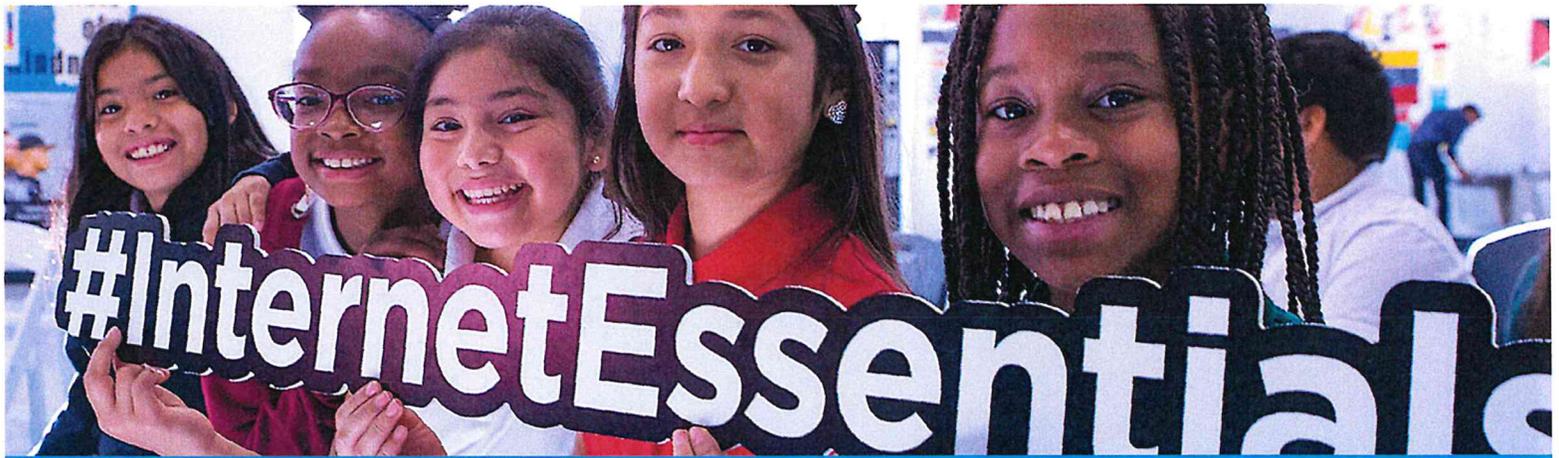
IN MICHIGAN*

*Nationally, more than 8 million low-income people have connected to the power of the Internet at home through Internet Essentials from Comcast.

**According to Comcast's analysis of U.S. Census 2017 American Community Survey.

InternetEssentials.com or es.InternetEssentials.com

 COMCAST



CLOSING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE IN MICHIGAN

Data through June 2019
unless otherwise noted



440,000

low-income Michigan residents connected to the power of the Internet*



\$650 MILLION

cash and in-kind support nationally for digital literacy training and awareness, reaching **9.5M people** since 2011



3.7M

program materials distributed



310,000

people reached at more than **790 events**

There's more work to do...

In Michigan, people in low-income neighborhoods are **15 times more likely not to have broadband** at home than people in Michigan's wealthiest neighborhoods**. **This is the digital divide.**



only **6%**

DO NOT have home Internet in the wealthiest neighborhoods

VS.



up to **90%**

DO NOT have home Internet in lower-income neighborhoods

TOP 5 COUNTIES

BY # OF RESIDENTS CONNECTED SINCE 2011

Name	Residents Connected
WAYNE	184,000
KENT	44,000
MACOMB	32,800
OAKLAND	28,800
GENESEE	25,600

TOP 5 CITIES

BY # OF RESIDENTS CONNECTED SINCE 2011

Name	Residents Connected
DETROIT	116,000
GRAND RAPIDS	33,200
LANSING	20,000
FLINT	19,600
DEARBORN	16,400

Internet Essentials from Comcast

Internet Essentials is the nation's largest, most comprehensive, and most successful high-speed Internet adoption program for low-income households. Since launching in 2011, we've made dozens of improvements to the program, including 12 eligibility expansions—bringing Internet Essentials to new audiences such as public housing residents, low-income veterans, seniors, community college students, and new this year, to all qualified low-income households living in Comcast's service area. We estimate this expansion, the largest we've ever made, doubles the number of Internet Essentials eligible households and **benefits millions of newly-eligible people, including those with disabilities** and new parents, along with even more seniors and adults without children at home.

12 expansions to program eligibility criteria (now available to all eligible low-income households)

7 improvements to the value of the service (including speed, in- and out-of-home WiFi, computer options)

15 innovations to the application process (including improving our streamlined application process)

8 innovations in digital literacy (including \$650 million in investments)

OUR APPROACH

Internet Essentials is uniquely designed to address the three major barriers to broadband adoption—digital literacy and relevance, computer equipment, and cost—and relies on a network of tens of thousands of partners to help communities cross the digital divide.

o o o
✕

Low-Cost Service
Comcast provides affordable, high-speed Internet to low-income households across Comcast's service area for less than \$10 per month.

Awareness & Training
Comcast works with a network of partners to offer free in-person, online, and printed digital literacy training materials and classes.

Equipment
Internet Essentials customers can purchase a subsidized and discounted computer for less than \$150 (includes Norton Security Suite, Microsoft Windows 10 Professional, and Microsoft Office Home & Business 2010).





OUR INVESTMENT



8 million+
low-income
people connected

Since 2011, the program has connected substantially more low-income people to the power of the Internet than all other similar programs combined.

\$650 million in digital literacy

Comcast has invested cash and in-kind support to fund digital literacy initiatives, equipping 9.5 million people with the skills they need to compete in the 21st century economy.

100,000 computers

Internet Essentials customers have purchased low-cost computers, allowing them to connect to a world of opportunity at their fingertips.

Interested customers can call Internet Essentials dedicated in-language (English and Spanish) call centers and can request language services in more than 240 languages. Households can also apply online in English, Spanish, Arabic, Cantonese, Mandarin, Russian, and Somali at InternetEssentials.com. **Materials for Internet Essentials are available in 16 languages.**

OUR IMPACT

Our Internet Essentials customers are getting the most out of their service.



90%

are highly satisfied with the program



92%

would recommend the program and

84%

already have



98%

use the service for schoolwork



93%

have seen a positive impact on their child's grades



62%

feel their service helped someone in the household find or obtain employment



CUSTOMER SUCCESS STORY

Tommy C. and his family were one of the first households to sign up for Internet Essentials through our public housing expansion in 2016. Tommy is the first in his family to attend a four-year college. He just completed his first year at Florida State University on a full scholarship. His academic achievements earned him a spot on the President's List (awarded to students with a 4.0 GPA.)

PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

Now available to low-income households eligible for public assistance programs such as Medicaid, the National School Lunch Program, SNAP, HUD Housing Assistance, and others. Additionally, households must live in Comcast's service area, not be a current Comcast Internet customer, and not have outstanding debt to Comcast that is less than one year old.



August 16, 2019

Ms. Deborah Guthrie, Communications Director
Meridian Township
5151 Marsh Road
Okemos, MI 48864

Re: Turner Classic Movies Moving to Sports Entertainment Package

Dear Ms. Guthrie:

We are committed to keeping you and our customers informed about changes to Xfinity TV services. Accordingly, please note that effective October 10, 2019, Turner Classic Movies (TCM) will move to the Sports Entertainment Package and will no longer be included in its current service package(s). We are notifying impacted customers of these changes through a bill message.

Please feel free to contact me at 517-334-5686 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

John P. Gardner
Director, External Affairs
Comcast, Heartland Region
1401 E. Miller Rd.
Lansing, MI 48911

Enclosure



Communications
Commission

Programming



11. B

To: Communications Commission

From: Ben Makulski, Video Programmer

Date: September 26, 2019

Re: HOMTV On-demand Programming

HOMTV online programming, on-demand, provided by Swagit received 24,215 page views with 2,129 new users. (Please see Attachment A, Chart 1). The 42.55% of new visitors come from Chrome, 29.38% coming from iOS and 6.70% from Android (Please see Attachment A, Chart 2).



HOMTV & CAMTV Program Logs

Chart 1:

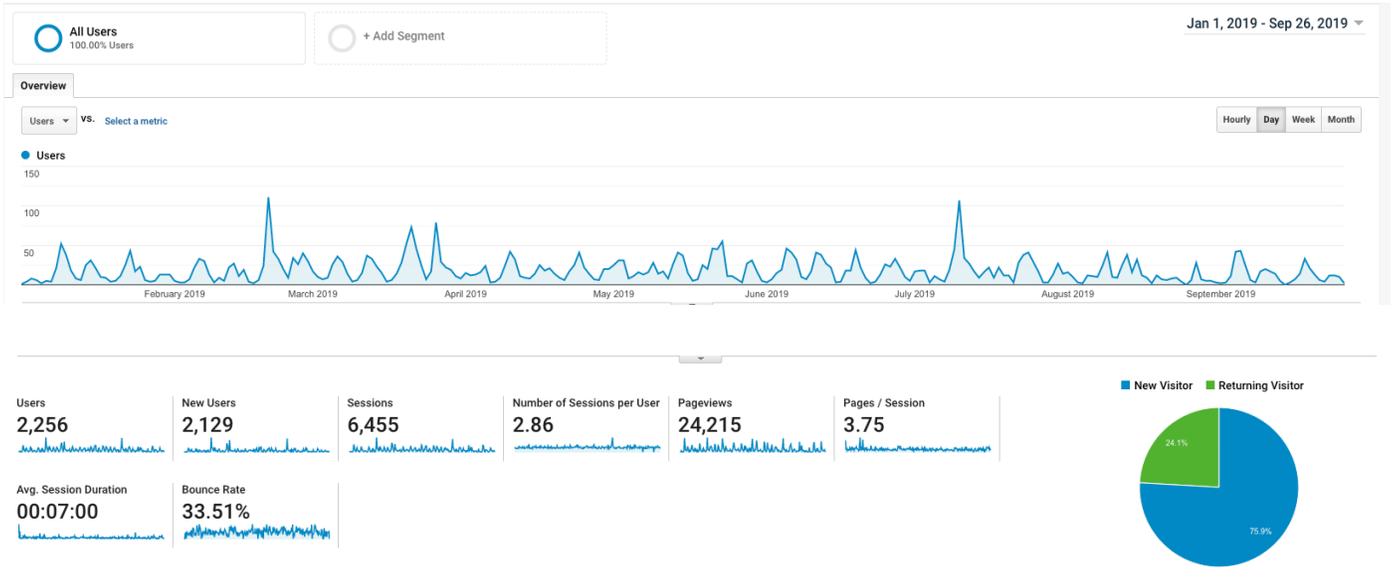


Chart 2:

Browser	Acquisition			Behavior				Conversions		
	Users	New Users	Sessions	Bounce Rate	Pages / Session	Avg. Session Duration	Goal Conversion Rate	Goal Completions	Goal Value	
	2,256 % of Total: 100.00% (2,256)	2,134 % of Total: 100.23% (2,129)	6,455 % of Total: 100.00% (6,455)	33.51% Avg for View: 33.51% (0.00%)	3.75 Avg for View: 3.75 (0.00%)	00:07:00 Avg for View: 00:07:00 (0.00%)	0.00% Avg for View: 0.00% (0.00%)	0 % of Total: 0.00% (0)	\$0.00 % of Total: 0.00% (\$0.00)	
1. Chrome	991 (43.93%)	908 (42.55%)	3,835 (59.41%)	31.63%	4.09	00:07:16	0.00%	0 (0.00%)	\$0.00 (0.00%)	
2. Safari	644 (28.55%)	627 (29.38%)	1,494 (23.14%)	31.19%	3.47	00:06:29	0.00%	0 (0.00%)	\$0.00 (0.00%)	
3. Android Webview	143 (6.34%)	143 (6.70%)	156 (2.42%)	78.21%	1.49	00:00:41	0.00%	0 (0.00%)	\$0.00 (0.00%)	
4. Safari (in-app)	137 (6.07%)	134 (6.28%)	171 (2.65%)	46.78%	2.44	00:03:20	0.00%	0 (0.00%)	\$0.00 (0.00%)	
5. Internet Explorer	126 (5.59%)	113 (5.30%)	342 (5.30%)	32.75%	3.30	00:09:25	0.00%	0 (0.00%)	\$0.00 (0.00%)	
6. Firefox	124 (5.50%)	120 (5.62%)	296 (4.59%)	34.46%	3.89	00:10:02	0.00%	0 (0.00%)	\$0.00 (0.00%)	
7. Edge	66 (2.93%)	65 (3.05%)	121 (1.87%)	39.67%	2.72	00:05:01	0.00%	0 (0.00%)	\$0.00 (0.00%)	
8. Samsung Internet	16 (0.71%)	15 (0.70%)	29 (0.45%)	44.83%	2.10	00:02:35	0.00%	0 (0.00%)	\$0.00 (0.00%)	
9. Amazon Silk	5 (0.22%)	5 (0.23%)	7 (0.11%)	57.14%	2.86	00:08:11	0.00%	0 (0.00%)	\$0.00 (0.00%)	
10. (not set)	1 (0.04%)	1 (0.05%)	1 (0.02%)	100.00%	1.00	00:00:00	0.00%	0 (0.00%)	\$0.00 (0.00%)	



Communications
Commission

Website Analytics



To: Communications Commission
From: Ben Makulski, Video Programmer
Date: September 26, 2019
Re: Meridian Township & HOMTV Website Analytics

The Meridian Township website, meridian.mi.us, received 562,709 page-views year-to-date from 145,789 users. The percentage of new visitors is 55.69% and 44.3% are from returning visitors (Please refer to Attachment B, Chart 1). The highest percentage of visitors to the Township website is from Chrome at 55.73% and from iOS devices with 27.17% (Please refer to Attachment B, Chart 2).

The HOMTV website, www.homtv.net, received 62,270 page-views year-to-date from 20,593 visitors to the site. The percentage of new visitors is 63.3% (Please see Attachment C, Chart 1). Visits to the HOMTV website are mainly the result of a search containing the name of a news story that was written, key word searches containing - Okemos, Haslett, etc. or local news topics leading the search to www.homtv.net. The next highest visit is from a social media click-through directing to the HOMTV website. The least amount of traffic to the HOMTV website is coming from a referral site, like clicking-through from another website such as Meridian Township's website.

Traffic to the HOMTV website is primarily from PC's using Chrome with 35.23% of the traffic, followed by an iOS with 31.15% of the traffic (Please see Attachment C, Chart 2).



Meridian Township Website Analytics

Chart 1:

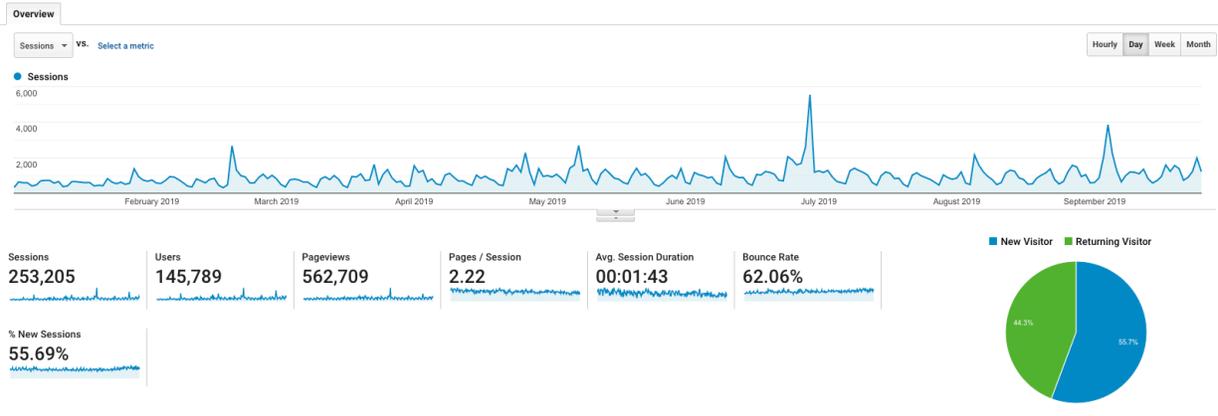


Chart 2:

Browser	Acquisition			Behavior			Conversions		
	Sessions	% New Sessions	New Users	Bounce Rate	Pages / Session	Avg. Session Duration	Goal Conversion Rate	Goal Completions	Goal Value
	253,205 % of Total: 100.00% (253,205)	55.71% Avg for View: 55.69% (0.03%)	141,054 % of Total: 100.00% (141,010)	62.06% Avg for View: 62.06% (0.00%)	2.22 Avg for View: 2.22 (0.00%)	00:01:43 Avg for View: 00:01:43 (0.00%)	0.00% Avg for View: 0.00% (0.00%)	0 % of Total: 0.00% (0)	\$0.00 % of Total: 0.00% (\$0.00)
1. Chrome	111,706 (44.12%)	55.73%	62,253 (44.13%)	57.16%	2.51	00:02:05	0.00%	0 (0.00%)	\$0.00 (0.00%)
2. Safari	70,827 (27.97%)	54.11%	38,325 (27.17%)	59.59%	2.11	00:01:33	0.00%	0 (0.00%)	\$0.00 (0.00%)
3. Safari (in-app)	22,224 (8.78%)	53.70%	11,934 (8.46%)	88.29%	1.20	00:00:19	0.00%	0 (0.00%)	\$0.00 (0.00%)
4. Internet Explorer	16,391 (6.47%)	58.72%	9,624 (6.82%)	60.31%	2.44	00:02:33	0.00%	0 (0.00%)	\$0.00 (0.00%)
5. Android Webview	12,689 (5.01%)	64.89%	8,234 (5.84%)	87.93%	1.31	00:00:23	0.00%	0 (0.00%)	\$0.00 (0.00%)
6. Firefox	8,163 (3.22%)	55.42%	4,524 (3.21%)	49.88%	2.68	00:02:09	0.00%	0 (0.00%)	\$0.00 (0.00%)
7. Edge	6,449 (2.55%)	48.22%	3,110 (2.20%)	46.57%	2.80	00:02:09	0.00%	0 (0.00%)	\$0.00 (0.00%)
8. Samsung Internet	2,771 (1.09%)	54.17%	1,501 (1.06%)	64.81%	2.10	00:01:26	0.00%	0 (0.00%)	\$0.00 (0.00%)
9. Mozilla Compatible Agent	875 (0.35%)	99.89%	874 (0.62%)	99.77%	1.00	<00:00:01	0.00%	0 (0.00%)	\$0.00 (0.00%)
10. Amazon Silk	611 (0.24%)	46.64%	285 (0.20%)	50.90%	2.55	00:02:05	0.00%	0 (0.00%)	\$0.00 (0.00%)



HOMTV Website Analytics

Chart 1:

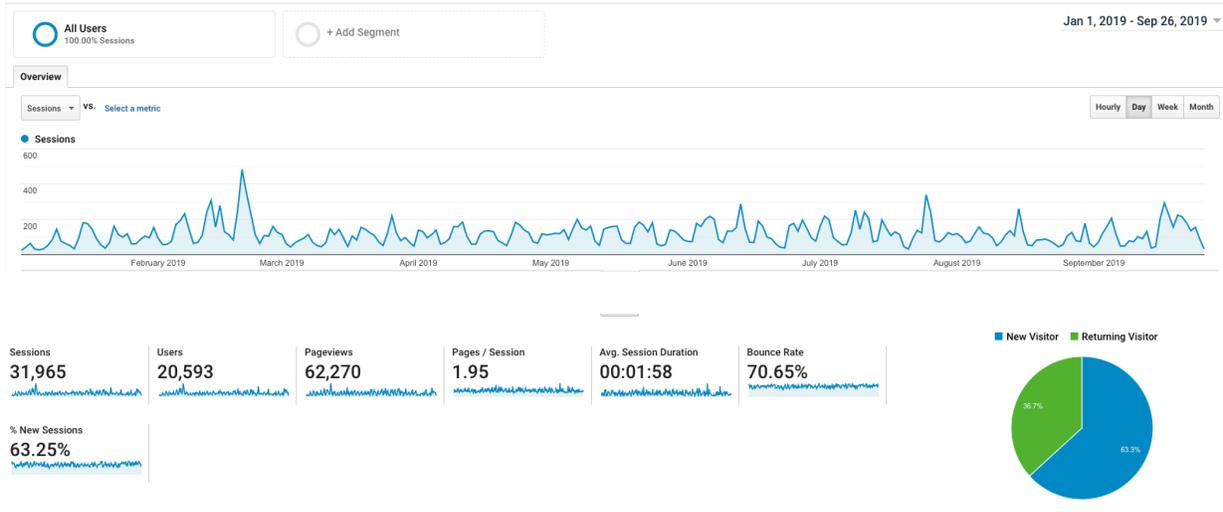


Chart 2:

Browser	Acquisition			Behavior			Conversions		
	Sessions	% New Sessions	New Users	Bounce Rate	Pages / Session	Avg. Session Duration	Goal Conversion Rate	Goal Completions	Goal Value
	31,965 <small>% of Total: 100.00% (31,965)</small>	63.27% <small>Avg for View: 63.25% (0.03%)</small>	20,223 <small>% of Total: 100.03% (20,217)</small>	70.65% <small>Avg for View: 70.65% (0.00%)</small>	1.95 <small>Avg for View: 1.95 (0.00%)</small>	00:01:58 <small>Avg for View: 00:01:58 (0.00%)</small>	0.00% <small>Avg for View: 0.00% (0.00%)</small>	0 <small>% of Total: 0.00% (0)</small>	\$0.00 <small>% of Total: 0.00% (\$0.00)</small>
1. Chrome	13,040 (40.79%)	54.64%	7,125 (35.23%)	59.78%	2.56	00:03:11	0.00%	0 (0.00%)	\$0.00 (0.00%)
2. Safari	9,088 (28.43%)	69.32%	6,300 (31.15%)	73.76%	1.71	00:01:36	0.00%	0 (0.00%)	\$0.00 (0.00%)
3. Safari (in-app)	4,647 (14.54%)	68.37%	3,177 (15.71%)	89.22%	1.17	00:00:26	0.00%	0 (0.00%)	\$0.00 (0.00%)
4. Android Webview	1,837 (5.75%)	78.61%	1,444 (7.14%)	88.19%	1.21	00:00:20	0.00%	0 (0.00%)	\$0.00 (0.00%)
5. Firefox	999 (3.13%)	64.96%	649 (3.21%)	64.96%	1.72	00:01:27	0.00%	0 (0.00%)	\$0.00 (0.00%)
6. Internet Explorer	991 (3.10%)	63.67%	631 (3.12%)	65.29%	1.74	00:01:00	0.00%	0 (0.00%)	\$0.00 (0.00%)
7. Edge	770 (2.41%)	49.22%	379 (1.87%)	69.35%	1.78	00:01:19	0.00%	0 (0.00%)	\$0.00 (0.00%)
8. Samsung Internet	236 (0.74%)	85.17%	201 (0.99%)	77.12%	1.59	00:00:45	0.00%	0 (0.00%)	\$0.00 (0.00%)
9. (not set)	107 (0.33%)	96.26%	103 (0.51%)	98.13%	1.04	00:00:11	0.00%	0 (0.00%)	\$0.00 (0.00%)
10. Mozilla	59 (0.18%)	100.00%	59 (0.29%)	100.00%	1.00	00:00:00	0.00%	0 (0.00%)	\$0.00 (0.00%)



Communications
Commission

Publications/ Promotions

PRIME MERIDIAN

magazine

SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2019

FALL IS HERE

Find out what's new in
Meridian Township

SMALL DOG PARK

Now, Open!



REGISTER FOR
ACTIVITIES & SPORTS
bit.ly/mtpronline



Dear Neighbors,

Once every decade, the federal government conducts a census of the entire population to count everyone in the United States and record basic information about them. Our nation's founders believed this data to be so important that they mandated the decennial census in the Constitution.

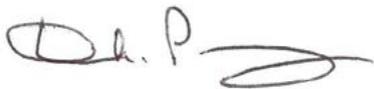
In 2020, for the first time ever, the U.S. Census Bureau will accept responses online and by phone, but you can still respond by mail if you prefer. Strict federal law protects census responses. It is against the law for any Census Bureau employee to disclose or publish any census information that identifies an individual or business. Census Bureau employees take a lifelong pledge of confidentiality to handle data responsibly and keep respondents' information private.

Federal funds, grants and support to states, counties and communities are based on population totals and breakdowns by sex, age, race and other factors. Our community benefits the most when the census counts everyone. When you respond to the census, Meridian Township gets its fair share of the more than \$675 billion per year in federal funds spent on schools, hospitals, roads, public works and other vital programs.

Businesses use census data to decide where to locate and this creates jobs. Developers use the census to build new homes and revitalize old neighborhoods. Local governments use the census for public safety and emergency preparedness. Residents use the census to support community initiatives involving legislation, quality-of-life and consumer advocacy.

The census.gov website provides Quick Facts statistics for communities you want to check out: www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/US/PST045218

What to expect from the 2020 Census and timeline is on the next page. We thank you in advance for understanding the important role you play in participating in the Census.



Derek N. Perry, Deputy Township Manager



United States[®]
Census
2020

COMPLETE COUNT COMMITTEE

The U.S. Census Bureau works with a broad spectrum of government and community leaders to form Complete Count Committees (CCC) that educate and motivate residents to participate in the 2020 Census.

The Committee is key to creating awareness.

- CCCs utilize local knowledge, influence, and resources to educate communities and promote the census through locally based, targeted outreach efforts.
- CCCs provide a vehicle for coordinating and nurturing cooperative efforts between tribal, state, and local governments; communities; and the Census Bureau.
- CCCs help the Census Bureau get a complete count in 2020 through partnerships with local governments and community organizations.

Contact Deputy Township Manager Derek Perry to participate:

perry@meridian.mi.us

GO EXPERIENCE, GO SHARE, GO SOCIAL

Visit Meridian Township to experience our outdoor eateries, local businesses, 29 parks, 20 miles of trails and 76 miles of pedestrian/bicycle pathways and share your story.

Sign up for email notifications and know when the next event happens, restaurant opens, construction project occurs, meeting is scheduled, job opens and more.

#APRIMECOMMUNITY

MERIDIAN.MI.US



How the 2020 Census will invite everyone to respond



What to Expect in the Mail

When it's time to respond, most households will receive an invitation in the mail.

Every household will have the option of responding online, by mail, or by phone.

Depending on how likely your area is to respond online, you'll receive either an invitation encouraging you to respond online or an invitation along with a paper questionnaire.

Letter Invitation

- Most areas of the country are likely to respond online, so most households will receive a letter asking you to go online to complete the census questionnaire.
- We plan on working with the U.S. Postal Service to stagger the delivery of these invitations over several days. This way we can spread out the number of users responding online, and we'll be able to serve you better if you need help over the phone.

Letter Invitation and Paper Questionnaire

- Areas that are less likely to respond online will receive a paper questionnaire along with their invitation. The invitation will also include information about how to respond online or by phone.

WHAT WE WILL SEND IN THE MAIL	
On or between	You'll receive:
March 12-20	An invitation to respond online to the 2020 Census. (Some households will also receive paper questionnaires.)
March 16-24	A reminder letter.
	If you haven't responded yet:
March 26-April 3	A reminder postcard.
April 8-16	A reminder letter and paper questionnaire.
April 20-27	A final reminder postcard before we follow up in person.

We understand you might miss our initial letter in the mail.

- Every household that hasn't already responded will receive reminders and will eventually receive a paper questionnaire.
- It doesn't matter which initial invitation you get or how you get it—we will follow up in person with all households that don't respond.

MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP ELECTED OFFICIALS

Park Commission Members

Chair Michael McDonald	517.243.2505
Vice Chair Amanda A. Lick	517.648.4681
Commissioner Annika B. Schaetzl	517.897.0993
Commissioner Mark Stephens	517.339.0159
Commissioner Ami Van Antwerp	517.927.5059

Township Board Members

Supervisor Ronald J Styka	517.349.4508	styka@meridian.mi.us
Clerk Brett Dreyfus	517.853.4324	dreyfus@meridian.mi.us
Treasurer Phil Deschaine	517.410.0061	deschaine@meridian.mi.us
Trustee Patricia Herring Jackson	517.337.7347	pjackson@meridian.mi.us
Trustee Dan Opsommer	517.281.6034	opsommer@meridian.mi.us
Trustee Kathy Ann Sundland	517.896.4999	sundland@meridian.mi.us
Trustee Courtney Wisinski	517.410.1527	wisinski@meridian.mi.us



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WWW.MERIDIAN.MI.US

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THANK YOU FOR MAKING US A PRIME COMMUNITY IN 2019



CELEBRATE MERIDIAN FESTIVAL

THANK YOU TO OUR 2019 SPONSORS

SAVE THE DATE
06.27.20

The Eyde Company,
George F. Eyde Family
Culvers of Okemos
Horizon Bank
Schupan Recycling
Meijer
The Harkness Law Firm PLLC
Heat 'N Sweep
Consumers Energy
CBL Associates Management/Meridian Mall
Douglas J
Klug Law Firm
Embassy Transportation LLC
Delta Dental of Michigan

Fahey, Schultz, Burzych, Rhodes, PLC
KEBS, Inc.
Independent Bank
Graff Chevrolet
PMW-Professional Metal Works
MSUFCU
Russell Builders, Inc.
Eastside Tax and Accounting
Okemos Auto Collection
Greg Darrow & Sons @Water Hauling
Courtesy Ford
Dean Transportation
Vision Collision Center LLC
Okemos Animal Hospital
McKearney Asphalt

ISKCON
HOMTV
Granger Container
Launch Trampoline Park
Mosquito Squad
Tom's Food Center
Dominos of Okemos
College Fields Golf Club
Capital Area District Libraries



MERIDIAN.MI.US



CHOOSE YOUR PRIME EVENTS



Senior Tribute Luncheon

THE WILLOWS AT OKEMOS

In honor of our Meridian Township Seniors, the annual Senior Tribute Luncheon provides an opportunity for the community to recognize our seniors and their many contributions to the Township. This event is free to Meridian Township senior residents, age 55 and older. Contact Andrea Smiley at smiley@meridian.mi.us or 517.853.4384 to reserve your seat. Space is limited.

TUESDAY
SEPTEMBER 24
1:30 PM - 3 PM



Fall Regional Recycling Event

CHIPPEWA MIDDLE SCHOOL

Take part in the annual Fall Regional Recycling Event where you have the opportunity to properly recycle paint, metal, plastics, electronics, medicines and more. Proper disposal of these items protects the environment, reduces the amount of waste in landfills and reduces global warming. This event is open to residents and non-residents alike. Visit meridian.mi.us/recycle for a detailed list of items you can recycle.

SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 28
9 AM - 2 PM



Blue and Grey Event

MERIDIAN HISTORICAL VILLAGE

11 AM COMPANY DRILL AND "COURT MARTIAL", 3 PM BATTLE REENACTMENT

Join the 2nd Annual Blue and Grey Event highlighting historical 19th century activities including a Civil War encampment, battle reenactment, live company drill and court martial with 7th Michigan Volunteer Infantry, Co. B and 102nd Regiment U.S. Colored Troops. Visit the docents and tour the historic buildings. Admission is free.

SATURDAY
OCTOBER 05
11 AM - 4 PM



Fire Prevention Open House

CENTRAL FIRE STATION

Find out what it is like to be a firefighter! Sit in a fire truck, spray the fire hose, learn about fire safety and more. See Jaws of Life extrication demonstrations, EMS simulations and smoke detector and evacuation exercises in the smoke trailer. Families will enjoy treats, prizes and tour the Central Fire Station.

SATURDAY
OCTOBER 12
10 AM - 1 PM



Halloween Adventures

2 DAYS OF FUN

HARRIS NATURE CENTER, POLICE DEPARTMENT, MERIDIAN HISTORICAL VILLAGE AND MERIDIAN FARMERS' MARKET

Find out more about this boo-tastic Adventure on Page 7.

SATURDAY 19 &
OCTOBER 26
TIMES VARY



Christmas in the Village

MERIDIAN HISTORICAL VILLAGE

Join Santa and Friends for an old-fashioned Christmas! Volunteers in period dress share their Christmas traditions from days past. Carolers can be heard as you tour the historical buildings decorated for the holidays. Have your picture taken with Santa, enjoy delicious cookies, cider and hot chocolate. The Okemos Community Church Choir will provide a performance in the Village Chapel. Join the annual tree lighting ceremony at 4:00 pm. Admission is free.

SATURDAY
DECEMBER 08
2 PM - 4 PM



PRIME FUN FOR THE FAMILY

TUESDAY 17 SEPT	NEW VOLUNTEER TRAINING MERIDIAN HISTORICAL VILLAGE 1 PM
SAURDAY 21 SEPT	STEWARDSHIP MORNINGS HARRIS NATURE CENTER 9 AM - 11 AM
SAURDAY 21 SEPT	MERIDIAN HISTORICAL VILLAGE BUILDINGS OPEN MERIDIAN HISTORICAL VILLAGE 10 AM - 2 PM
SAURDAY 21 SEPT	TALES AROUND THE CAMPFIRE HARRIS NATURE CENTER 7 PM - 8:30 PM
TUESDAY 24 SEPT	SENIOR TRIBUTE LUNCHEON THE WILLOWS AT OKEMOS 1:30 PM - 3 PM
THURSDAY 26 SEPT	VIRTUAL 5K FUNDRAISER FINALE NANCY MOORE PARK 6 PM - 8 PM
SAURDAY 28 SEPT	FALL RECYCLING EVENT CHIPPEWA MIDDLE SCHOOL 9 AM - 2 PM
SAURDAY 28 SEPT	MERIDIAN HISTORICAL VILLAGE BUILDINGS OPEN MERIDIAN HISTORICAL VILLAGE 10 AM - 2 PM
SUNDAY 29 SEPT	TAILS OF MICHIGAN WILDLIFE HARRIS NATURE CENTER 2 PM - 3:30 PM
MONDAY 30 SEPT	SENIOR TRIP: MOVIE AT STUDIO C! STUDIO C! TBA
SAURDAY 05 OCT	BLUE AND GREY EVENT MERIDIAN HISTORICAL VILLAGE 11 AM - 4 PM
SAURDAY 05 OCT	SOLAR HOME TOURS OPEN HOUSE VARIOUS LOCATIONS ALL DAY
SAURDAY 05 OCT	MERIDIAN HISTORICAL VILLAGE BUILDINGS OPEN MERIDIAN HISTORICAL VILLAGE 10 AM - 2 PM
MONDAY 07 OCT	SENIOR HOME SAFETY MERIDIAN SENIOR CENTER 10 AM - 2 PM
TUESDAY 08 OCT	SENIOR ONLINE SAFETY MERIDIAN SENIOR CENTER 10 AM - 2 PM
FRIDAY 11 OCT	HOWL AT THE MOON HARRIS NATURE CENTER 7 PM - 8 PM
SAURDAY 12 OCT	STEWARDSHIP MORNINGS HARRIS NATURE CENTER 9 AM - 11 AM
SAURDAY 12 OCT	FIRE PREVENTION OPEN HOUSE CENTRAL FIRE STATION 10 AM - 1 PM
SAURDAY 12 OCT	MERIDIAN HISTORICAL VILLAGE BUILDINGS OPEN MERIDIAN HISTORICAL VILLAGE 10 AM - 2 PM
SUNDAY 13 OCT	AUTUMN COLOR WALK HARRIS NATURE CENTER 2 PM - 3 PM
WEDNESDAY 16 OCT	MEDICARE OPEN ENROLLMENT MERIDIAN SENIOR CENTER 11 AM - 1 PM

SAURDAY 19 OCT	HALLOWEEN ADVENTURES HARRIS NATURE CENTER 10 AM - 5 PM
SAURDAY 19 OCT	MERIDIAN HISTORICAL VILLAGE BUILDINGS OPEN MERIDIAN HISTORICAL VILLAGE 10 AM - 2 PM
TUESDAY 22 OCT	SENIOR TRIP: COUNTRY MILL ORCHARD CHARLOTTE MI 12:15 PM
SAURDAY 26 OCT	HALLOWEEN ADVENTURES POLICE DEPARTMENT 10 AM - 1 PM FARMERS' MARKET 8 AM - 2 PM MERIDIAN HISTORICAL VILLAGE 10 AM - 2 PM
SAURDAY 26 OCT	MERIDIAN HISTORICAL VILLAGE BUILDINGS OPEN MERIDIAN HISTORICAL VILLAGE 10 AM - 2 PM
TUESDAY 22 OCT	SENIOR HALLOWEEN MASQUERADE LUNCHEON MERIDIAN SENIOR CENTER 12 PM
SAURDAY 02 NOV	NIGHTTIME SCAVENGER HUNT HARRIS NATURE CENTER 7 PM - 8:30 PM
WEDNESDAY 06 NOV	SENIOR THANKSGIVING SCAVENGER HUNT MERIDIAN SENIOR CENTER REGISTER BETWEEN OCTOBER 28 - NOVEMBER 1
FRIDAY 08 NOV	VETERANS' APPRECIATION PANCAKE BREAKFAST MERIDIAN SENIOR CENTER 8:30 AM
FRIDAY 08 NOV	HOWL AT THE MOON HARRIS NATURE CENTER 7 PM - 8 PM
TUESDAY 19 NOV	IDENTITY THEFT MERIDIAN SENIOR CENTER 10 AM - 11 AM
FRIDAY 22 NOV	SENIOR TRIP: CORNWELL'S TURKEYVILLE LEAVING FROM MERIDIAN SENIOR CENTER 12:15 PM
MONDAY 25 NOV	SENIOR THANKSGIVING LUNCHEON MERIDIAN SENIOR CENTER 12 PM
WEDNESDAY 27 NOV	PRE-THANKSGIVING FARMERS' MARKET CENTRAL PARK PAVILION 8 AM - 2 PM
SUNDAY 08 DEC	CHRISTMAS IN THE VILLAGE MERIDIAN HISTORICAL VILLAGE 2 PM - 4 PM
FRIDAY 13 DEC	SENIOR HOT COCOA BUFFET MERIDIAN SENIOR CENTER 3 PM
FRIDAY 13 DEC	HOWL AT THE MOON HARRIS NATURE CENTER 7 PM - 8 PM
MONDAY 16 DEC	SENIOR WINTER HOLIDAYS DINNER MERIDIAN SENIOR CENTER 5:30 PM
WEDNESDAY 15 JAN	SENIOR TRIP: MI HISTORICAL MUSEUM LEAVING FROM MERIDIAN SENIOR CENTER TBA
FRIDAY 31 JAN	SENIOR TITANIC PARTY MERIDIAN SENIOR CENTER 1 PM

Sign up for eNotify to receive event information at meridian.mi.us/enotify



HALLOWEEN ADVENTURES

SATURDAY
OCTOBER 19

10 AM - 5 PM \$8/CHILD

HARRIS NATURE CENTER



If you like spooky fun or just plain fun, you'll have a blast at the HNC Halloween Adventures. Children will squeal with delight as they enter the Halloween Fun House, a Halloween thrill without blood or gore.

Inside the nature building there will be crafts, pumpkin decorating and treats.

Outside, find a large games area, follow the path through the Friendly Forest playing games along the way, meet a very large spider, bumblebee and opossum, enjoy a hayride through the autumn woods, select your pumpkin from the pumpkin patch, roast marshmallows over a campfire and capture memories at various themed photo booths!

POLICE DEPARTMENT

PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING
10 AM - 1 PM

Tour the Public Safety Building, visit with McGruff the Crime Dog, sit in a patrol car, register for prizes and gobble up Halloween treats. Cider and donuts will be available to all visitors.

SATURDAY
OCTOBER 26
FREE EVENTS



MERIDIAN FARMERS' MARKET

CENTRAL PARK PAVILION
8 AM - 2 PM

The Market will be offering many wonderful and delicious goodies for your trick or treaters, no matter the age, especially for those last minute pumpkin purchases.



HALLOWEEN IN THE VILLAGE

MERIDIAN HISTORICAL VILLAGE
10 AM - 2 PM

The Historical Village buildings will be open for walk through tours (donations appreciated). Stop by the buildings for little goodies for your gobblers.



HARRIS NATURE CENTER

📍 3998 Van Atta, Okemos, MI 48864
 ☎ 517.349.3866
 📘 facebook.com/harrisnaturecenter



PRESCHOOL SCIENCE EXPLORATION

AGES: 4 AND 5 YEAR OLDS
THURSDAYS 1 - 2 PM
OCTOBER 3 **ANIMALS IN AUTUMN**
PRICE: \$3/CHILD/CLASS

Curious preschool children explore nature through hands-on science activities and discovery walks with a naturalist guide.

HOWL AT THE MOON

FRIDAY EVENINGS
OCTOBER 11 7 PM
NOVEMBER 8 7 PM
DECEMBER 13 7 PM
JANUARY 10 2020 7 PM
PRICE: \$3/PERSON/WALK

Enjoy the full moon, while taking a guided walk through the nighttime woods. Dogs on a non-retractable leash and flashlights are welcome. Meet in the parking lot.

CHIPMUNK STORY TIME

THURSDAYS 10 - 11 AM
SEPTEMBER 19 **POSSUM'S HARVEST MOON**
OCTOBER 17 **FALL IS NOT EASY**
JANUARY 16 2020 **POUT POUT FISH**
PRICE: \$3/CHILD/SESSION

Story time comes alive as children interact with puppets Chicory Chipmunk and his animal friends. Stories are followed by a craft, games or a walk. Open to preschool and elementary aged children.

HNC STEWARDSHIP MORNINGS

SATURDAYS 9 - 11 AM
SEPTEMBER 21
OCTOBER 12
PRICE: FREE

Every day is Earth Day at the Harris Nature Center! We need your help to keep our park and trails healthy and safe by removing invasive plants, maintaining habitat areas, identifying/repairing troubled trail areas and gardening around the building. You can volunteer just one morning or become a regular steward by participating every month. Please contact us at HNC. Your help is NEEDED!

HARVEST MOON: TALES AROUND THE CAMPFIRE

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 21 7 PM
PRICE: \$3/PERSON OR \$7/FAMILY

The harvest moon is low in the sky and appears huge. The extra light it gives off is used to allow farmers the ability to stay in their fields harvesting crops well into the night. What a great time to enjoy a campfire, roast marshmallows and hear stories from the Lansing Storytellers before taking a short walk through the evening woods with a naturalist.

NATURE TOTS

AGES: 4 YEARS AND UNDER
MONDAYS **SEPTEMBER 23 - NOVEMBER 11**
 9 - 10 AM
 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM
PRICE: \$50/8-WEEK SESSION

Children 4 and under (accompanied by a parent or other adult) can toddle into their first nature experiences. Each week is themed and includes circle time, a nature walk, hands-on activities and a craft facilitated by a naturalist.

FAMILY SPECIAL: TAILS OF MICHIGAN WILDLIFE

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 29 2 PM
PRICE: \$3/PERSON OR \$7/FAMILY

What do woodpeckers and opossums have in common? Tails that help them stay on a tree. Tails can balance, propel, swat and so much more. Families will have fun learning about animals and their special tails through hands-on nature activities.

AUTUMN COLOR WALK

SUNDAY OCTOBER 13 2 PM
PRICE: \$3/PERSON OR \$7/FAMILY

Leaves of red and gold decorate the trees, flowers have gone to seed and animals prepare for winter. Autumn is a wonderful time for a guided discovery walk with a naturalist!

HALLOWEEN ADVENTURES

SATURDAY OCTOBER 19 10 AM - 5 PM
PRICE: \$8/CHILD

See page 7 for details.

NIGHTTIME SCAVENGER HUNT

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 2 7 PM
PRICE: \$3/PERSON OR \$7/FAMILY

Try a new twist on geo-caching. Embark on a treasure hunt using a flashlight while you follow reflective tacks on the trees. Find the hidden cache in the woods and receive a prize. Please register ahead and bring a flashlight.

MUSIC IN NATURE

THANK YOU
 For attending the Music in Nature Concert Series and making it a success.
 Look for more concert dates in 2020.

SPONSORED BY THE
 HARRIS NATURE CENTER FOUNDATION

For Information & To Sign Up
NOW bit.ly/mtpronline

Contact the Harris Nature Center with questions

Harris Nature Center Coordinator Celebrates Retirement

After 25 years of service, Meridian Township says goodbye to Senior Park Naturalist and Harris Nature Center Coordinator Kit Rich. Kit started working part-time with the Township in 1993. She worked closely with the Meridian Township Park Commission to build Harris Nature Center programs and the Harris Nature Center building. On June 8, 1996, the Township broke ground for the renovations to convert a 65-year-old house into a nature center building. On July 22, 1997, the building officially opened and began offering environmental

activities and outdoor recreation opportunities to the public. Kit was the very first Coordinator of the Center and was there the day it opened its doors to the public. She worked tirelessly to make the Harris Nature Center and its program offerings a big reason why Meridian Township is A Prime Community. Kit celebrated her retirement on August 23, 2019. We want to thank her for playing a key role in creating such a beautiful place for the community to enjoy nature and wish her well in the next chapter of her life.



Help Support the HNC Animal Ambassadors

The Harris Nature Center is home to 20 animals of various species, including birds, turtles, amphibians and a snake. These animals are permanently injured or unable to return to the wild for another reason and have become Animal Ambassadors, helping staff to teach about nature.

You can support these animals and the education that they provide through a symbolic adoption program. The funds raised provide for the proper nutrition, housing and care of the animals. Each adoption is for one year and you will receive: an adoption certificate, color photo of the adopted animal, biography of the adopted animal and recognition on the "Frame of Fame" located in the nature building.

ADOPTION FEES

RED-TAILED HAWK	\$150
EASTERN SCREECH OWL	\$125
AMERICAN CROW	\$125
WOOD TURTLE	\$100
EASTERN MILK SNAKE	\$75
EASTERN BOX TURTLE	\$50
AQUATIC TURTLE	\$50

Contact the Harris Nature Center at 517.349.3866 to arrange an adoption.

MEET ONYX THE CROW

Onyx is an American Crow and the newest live animal resident at the Harris Nature Center.

He was found on the ground as a young bird, not yet able to fly. Crows are remarkably smart birds that learn very quickly by observing their surroundings. So his curiosity caused him to interact with his rescuers and he quickly became reliant on humans to provide all his needs. Because of this reliance, he cannot be released back into the wild.

Now he is an ANIMAL AMBASSADOR, helping Harris Nature Center staff to teach the public about birds, ecosystems and human-wildlife encounters.





YOUTH SPORTS

📍 2100 Gaylord C Smith Ct, Haslett, MI 48840
 ☎ 517.853.4600
 📘 facebook.com/MeridianTwpParksRec

Meridian Township offers a variety of youth sports programs for ages 3-15. Each program encourages development of skills and self-esteem through physical activity and teamwork, while creating friendships in a fun and safe atmosphere. Please go to bit.ly/mtpronline for more information and to sign up.

HASLETT K - 6TH GRADE BOYS AND GIRLS BASKETBALL

KINDERGARTEN AND 1ST GRADE
 JANUARY 11 - FEBRUARY 8
 REGISTRATION DEADLINE: DECEMBER 6
 PRICE: \$55 / PLAYER (\$75 AFTER 12/6)

The Kindergarten and 1st Grade programs are taught by Mike Devlin, Meridian Township Parks & Recreation Specialist, with parent participation. It includes five (5) 1 - hour sessions Saturday mornings starting January 11.

2ND AND 3RD GRADE
 JANUARY 6 - MARCH 14
 REGISTRATION DEADLINE: DECEMBER 6
 PRICE: \$55 / PLAYER (\$75 AFTER 12/6)

The 2nd and 3rd grade programs combine weekly practice starting the week of January 6. There are seven (7) games on Saturday mornings beginning January 18. No games on February 15.

4TH - 6TH GRADE
 DECEMBER 2 - MARCH 7
 REGISTRATION DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 1
 PRICE: \$65 / PLAYER (\$85 AFTER 11/1)

4th - 6th Grade Basketball Leagues are operated in partnership with the Okemos and East Lansing Recreation Leagues. Practices begin the week of December 2 with games beginning on January 13.

OKEMOS AND HASLETT BASEBALL

1ST & 2ND GRADE
 MAY 5 - JULY 7
 REGISTRATION DEADLINE: MARCH 27
 PRICE: \$60 (\$80 AFTER 3/27)

3RD & 4TH GRADE
 MAY 4 - JULY 6
 REGISTRATION DEADLINE: MARCH 27
 PRICE: \$70 (\$90 AFTER 3/27)

U12 BASEBALL 12 OR UNDER
 APRIL 6 - JULY 10
 REGISTRATION DEADLINE: FEB 21
 PRICE: \$130 (\$150 AFTER 2/21)

U14 BASEBALL 14 OR UNDER
 APRIL 6 - JULY 10
 REGISTRATION DEADLINE: FEB 21
 PRICE: \$140 (\$160 AFTER 2/21)

HASLETT T-BALL LEAGUE KINDERGARTEN
 MAY 18 - JUNE 1
 REGISTRATION DEADLINE: APRIL 24
 PRICE: \$40(\$60 AFTER 4/24)

OKEMOS AND HASLETT SOFTBALL

1ST & 2ND GRADE
 MAY 4 - JULY 6
 REGISTRATION DEADLINE: MARCH 27
 PRICE: \$60 (\$80 AFTER 3/27)

U10 SOFTBALL 10 OR UNDER
 MAY 5 - JULY 10
 REGISTRATION DEADLINE: MARCH 27
 PRICE: \$70 (\$90 AFTER 3/27)

U12 SOFTBALL, OKEMOS ONLY 12 OR UNDER
 APRIL 28 - MID JULY
 REGISTRATION DEADLINE: APRIL 10
 PRICE: \$130 (\$150 AFTER 4/10)

U14 SOFTBALL, OKEMOS ONLY 14 OR UNDER
 APRIL 28 - MID JULY
 REGISTRATION DEADLINE: APRIL 10
 PRICE: \$140 (\$160 AFTER 4/10)

Youth Scholarship Program

Meridian Township offers a Youth Scholarship Program. The purpose of the Youth Scholarship Program is to provide children who reside in Meridian Township, age 17 and younger, the opportunity to participate in recreation activities regardless of household financial conditions.

Please visit the Meridian Township website for details. This program is made possible through donations from local businesses, civic organizations and private donations. Donations to the Fund can be made by contacting the Parks and Recreation Office at 517.853.4600.

For Information & To Sign Up
NOW bit.ly/mtpronline
 Dates/Times subject to change.



Meridian SENIOR Center

📍 4000 Okemos Road, Okemos, MI 48864
 Senior Center entrance is located off of Kinawa Drive
 ☎ 517.706.5045
 📘 facebook.com/meridianseniorcenter

Monday - Friday
9 AM - 4:30 PM

The Meridian Senior Center offers retired and older adults opportunities to remain active and healthy with a variety of activities. If you are age 55 and over, you can become a member at meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com

SENIOR TRIBUTE AT WILLOWS OF OKEMOS

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 1:30 PM
 Reserve your spot by contacting Andrea Smiley, smiley@meridian.mi.us 517.853.4384

TRIP: MOVIE AT STUDIO C!

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30
 Title and time announced by Thursday, September 19

HOME SAFETY

MONDAY, OCTOBER 7 10 AM
 Presented by: Sergent Ed Besonen

ONLINE SAFETY

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8 10 AM
 Presented by: Michigan Attorney General Office
 Hosted by: Phil Deschaine, Meridian Treasurer

MEDICARE OPEN ENROLLMENT

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16 11 AM - 1 PM

TRIP: COUNTRY MILL ORCHARD IN CHARLOTTE

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22 12:15 PM
PRICE: \$10 MEMBERS/\$15 NON MEMBERS
 Register by Monday, October 14

HALLOWEEN MASQUERADE LUNCHEON

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31 12 PM
PRICE: \$5 PER PERSON
 Register by Monday October 28.

THANKSGIVING SCAVENGER HUNT

NOVEMBER 6 - NOVEMBER 20
 Register to participate between October 28 and November 1

VETERANS APPRECIATION PANCAKE BREAKFAST

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8 8:30 AM
PRICE: FREE FOR VETERANS / \$3 NON VETERANS
 Sponsored by: The Willow of Okemos
 Registration Required.

IDENTITY THEFT

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19 10 AM
 Presented by: Chris Coady, Michigan Attorney General's office
 Hosted by: Phil Deschaine, Meridian Township Treasurer

TRIP: CORNWELL'S TURKEYVILLE "SANTA'S GOT A PINK SLIP"

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22
PRICE: \$55 PER PERSON
 Registration Required. Deadline to register November 18.

THANKSGIVING LUNCHEON

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25 12 PM
PRICE: \$5 MEMBERS/\$8 NON-MEMBERS
 Sponsored by: Burcham Hills
 Deadline to register November 18.

HOT COCOA BUFFET

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13 3 PM
PRICE: FREE
 Sponsored by: Brookdale Meridian
 Trip is limited to 20. Register by Thursday, December 5

WINTER HOLIDAY DINNER

MONDAY, DECEMBER 16 5:30 PM
PRICE: \$5 MEMBERS / \$8 NON-MEMBERS
 Register by Monday, December 9
 Sponsor: Medilodge of Okemos
 Location: Medilodge of Okemos 5211 Marsh Rd. Okemos, MI

TRIP: MICHIGAN HISTORICAL MUSEUM

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15 TBA
 January 18th is National Michigan Day. What a great opportunity to take advantage of visiting the Michigan Historical Museum located right here in our hometown and learn more about our great State. Registration Required.

TITANIC PARTY

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31 1 PM - 4PM
PRICE: \$5 MEMBERS / \$8 NON MEMBERS
 Register is Tuesday January 21

EXERCISE & ACTIVITIES

Whether you're looking to learn a craft, new computer skills or improve your flexibility, skilled instructors are available who provide classes designed for active older adults.

LUNCH WITH FRIENDS

Each Tuesday and Thursday, the Meridian Senior Center provides a warm and friendly place to meet and eat together. Join us for a nutritious and balanced meal, conversation and opportunities to build new friendships!

CALL 517.706.5045 TO REGISTER FOR CLASSES AND ACTIVITIES



The Meridian Historical Village is open to the public on Saturdays, May through October from 10 am - 2 pm. Come to the General Store in the Brick Building to begin your tour of eight historic buildings from the local area. Buildings include an 1849 inn and tavern, an 1850 tollgate house, an 1860's farmhouse with barn and outbuildings, an 1877 general store, an 1883 schoolhouse, an 1870's log cabin and a reconstruction of an 1870's chapel.

Tribute to Jane Rose

After seventeen years at the position of the Meridian Historic Village Executive Director, Jane Rose has decided to become Jane Rose, volunteer. Leaving the directorship will create a void in the Friends of Historic Meridian performing day to day operations that she has dubbed her "labor or love." The Meridian Historical Village has experienced growth in structures and events during her tenure.

Witnessing the growth of the village with corn crib, windmill, log cabin, chapel and interpretative signs, Rose enhanced the Village mission to display local history. Using artistic and creative energy, the brochures, curriculum guides, newsletters and even the walls add historic value to tours. Founding member of the Meridian Historical Village, Carlene Webster-Maier expressed her amazement in "the phenomenal growth in public attendance and school tours with unique activities, like doing laundry and making butter, that have made the village a wonderful learning opportunity".

Rose has cemented the bond between the Village and the Meridian Parks and Recreation Department, Township Maintenance, Communications Departments and HOMTV, as well as, local school districts. The Village has also networked with the award-winning Meridian Garden Club, Greater Lansing Convention and Visitors Bureau, Michigan Museum Association, Lansing Bridal Association and three reenactment groups during Rose's tenure. The Celebrate Meridian/Heritage Event, Saturday, June 29th, was the directing swan song for this accomplished leader.



The last seventeen years under her directorship has placed the Village on the map as a center of local history.

The Meridian Historical Village is operated by the Friends of Historic Meridian, a 501c3 non-profit organization committed to creating and sustaining an active appreciation of local history.

New Volunteer Training TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 17 | 1 PM

BARNES HOUSE INN AND TAVERN, MERIDIAN HISTORICAL VILLAGE

The Friends of Historic Meridian invite you to join an enthusiastic group of volunteers who educate, engage and excite students visiting the Village. We hope you will consider joining our educators to make history come alive for students and community members. RSVP at 517.347.7300 or meridianhistoricalvillage@gmail.com.



Small Dog Park is NOW OPEN!

To register, residents must visit the Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Department at the Meridian Service Center (2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett) during normal business hours, Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. Registration must be completed in-person to verify documents (dog license and proof of rabies vaccination) and to provide the registrant with the electronic key fob.

ANNUAL FEES

MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP RESIDENT	NON-TOWNSHIP RESIDENT
DOG #1: \$20	DOG #1: \$35
DOG #2: \$15	DOG #2: \$20



Large Dog Park

The large dog park (over 30 lbs.) will be open in early 2020. It will be located east of the pond at the Central Park South entrance off of Central Park Drive. This park will feature a 3+ acre area with trees, open space, and a natural pathway. The large dog park will be accessed via the future paved Central Park Regional Pathway, which will run from the Municipal Building to Central Park South.

Visit meridianhistoricalvillage.org



Small Dog Park

The Small Dog Park is at Nancy Moore Park (1960 Gaylord C Smith Ct., Haslett, MI). This doggie playground will allow small dogs (30 lbs. and under) and their owners to enjoy time together in a one acre space that includes open areas, agility equipment, drinking fountain and dog wash station. The park is located just east of the parking lot and features a paved entrance for accessibility.



Detailed information, including dog park rules and FAQ's are available online:

www.meridian.mi.us/dogparks

Business Revitalization

PART 4: TAX INCREMENT FINANCING & BROWNFIELD REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY



Tax Increment Financing (TIF) is used to assist development projects. There are two such funding mechanisms expected to be used in the proposed Village of Okemos.

The Brownfield Redevelopment Financing Act 381 of 1996 states that brownfield funds can only be used for environmental contamination or work on blighted, functionally obsolete or historic properties. The Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Act 197 of 1975 defines how municipalities can write a tax increment financing project plan within a defined DDA district.

The Township created requirements for the types of development projects that would be eligible for funding, as well as what activities can be reimbursed.

This type of brownfield funding was created to encourage development in areas defined by the government. It is often profoundly cheaper to build in a greenfield, an area never developed before, whereas repurposing a parcel that had a prior use can be more complex and expensive. Meridian encourages infill development versus sprawl. When a property is developed, the value increases. The difference between the predevelopment tax value and the new construction value is the increment. The increment is reimbursed to the developer after they've spent money on eligible activities. No existing taxes are taken away from taxing jurisdictions and taxpayers throughout the Township will not have an increase to their taxes because of this development project.

TIMELINE FOR THE DOWNTOWN OKEMOS REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT

2017

MAY Township Board adopts the Mixed Use Planned Unit Development (MUPUD) ordinance revision for Downtown Okemos and Haslett allowing taller buildings and denser development to encourage projects. Township staff, developer, traffic consultants and Ingham County Road Department meets jointly to discuss the results of the study and begins discussion on an approved plan.

NOVEMBER Board adopted Master Plan defining mixed use request for the Okemos PICA (Potential Intensity Change Area) zones.

2018

JUNE Township Board formally approves the Meridian Redevelopment Fund and the application and review process.

OCTOBER Meridian Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) sends confirmation email that Redevelopment Ready Communities certification approvals have been given.

DECEMBER Township Board adopts the 2018 Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Tax Increment Financing Plan (TIF) with the support of Ingham County, CATA, LCC and Capitol Regional Airport Authority which allows for 20-year funding to support infrastructure upgrades and environmental clean-up funding shortfalls. The Meridian Brownfield Redevelopment Authority passes a resolution to support a grant and loan request to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) for environmental clean up.

2019

JANUARY Township Board passes a resolution in support of the grant & loan application with MDEQ for environmental clean up.

FEBRUARY Township staff meets with Consumers Energy Economic Development team to ask for assistance with the utilities project scope and costs. Developer and staff team-up to present concept plans to the Planning Commission, Township Board and select neighborhood associations.

MARCH Ingham County Road Department updates DDA Subcommittee on traffic plans throughout the development project.

APRIL - JUNE Official approval of project plans.

JUNE - SEPTEMBER Environmental clean up.

FALL/WINTER Parking decks and foundations begin.

2020 Vertical construction.

2021 Complete phase 1 construction and begin occupancy.



Outdoor Eateries

Meridian Township has over 30 Restaurants that provide outdoor eating and dining options. With crisp weather and leaves changing color, the Fall Season is the perfect time to opt into sitting at an outdoor patio or rooftop bar.

Enjoy all that Meridian Township eateries have to offer in making Meridian Township A Prime Community by choosing an outdoor eatery, including Panera's new restaurant now located at 2080 W Grand River Ave, Okemos.

www.meridian.mi.us/visitors/restaurants/outdoor-eateries

New Restaurants

Check out the three new local restaurants that have opened their doors in 2019!

High Caliber Karting and Entertainment Restaurant and Bar at the Meridian Mall.

Paradise Indian Restaurant at the former McAllisters location at 4760 Marsh Rd.

The Black Barn Company American Smokehouse inside the Meridian Mall Food Court.

Additionally, Pizza Hut has returned and J-Dubb's has entered the Township at the former Subway location on Grand River Ave.

J-Dubb's Signature Subs
2160 W. Grand River Ave.

Pizza Hut
3320 E. Lake Lansing Rd.

Three MORE restaurants are under construction and expected to open their doors this year!

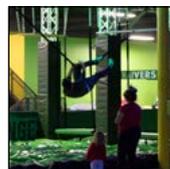
102 Pho & Banh Mi Vietnamese Soup & Sandwiches next to Biggby on Marsh at 4760 Marsh Rd.

Bread Bites Mediterranean Cuisine & Bakery where Tannin was formerly located at 5100 Marsh Rd., in Central Park Plaza.

Swagath Express food service located next to Swagath Market on 1731 W. Grand River at the former Farm Fresh Seafood Market.

Experience Meridian

The staycation experience landscape in Meridian Township is changing dramatically. This year, three new indoor year-round destinations opened their doors, making Meridian an experience destination. Couple these NEW indoor adventures with what Meridian Township already has to offer via our miles of trails, numerous parks and one-of-a-kind gems like the Harris Nature Center and the Meridian Historical Village, and planning your staycation, nearcation, or micro adventure has more options available than ever before.



LAUNCH TRAMPOLINE PARK offers connected trampolines forming GIANT jumping surfaces! Great fun for the whole family! launchtrampolinepark.com/lansing



X-GOLF is the Lansing regions leading indoor golf & entertainment venue, with state of the art golf simulators designed for golfers at all stages! www.xgolflansing.com



HIGH CALIBER KARTING AND ENTERTAINMENT punches boredom in the face with two indoor go-kart tracks, state-of-the-art racing simulators and axe throwing! www.highcaliberkarting.com

New Stadiums: Haslett and Okemos High Schools

It's no secret that Meridian Township is home to Prime Schools. In just the last two years, both Haslett and Okemos school districts have upgraded their facilities to better serve their students and the community. Some of those upgrades include athletic fields and complexes.

Phase one of the Haslett High School's Bond and Sinking Fund projects approved by Haslett voters in August 2018 included upgrades to Jamie Gent Stadium. The new multi-use turf playing surface, team rooms, concession building, remodeled press box, scoreboard, sound system and more was completed in August 2019. An Open House of the new turf field and complex took place on September 3, 2019.



In September 2018, the Okemos Athletic Department revealed a new synthetic turf field at Okemos High School thanks to a generous \$500,000 donation, the largest private donation in Okemos Athletics history.



A Message from the Manager

FRANK L. WALSH, TOWNSHIP MANAGER

With the recent passage of our road bond, we must deliver on our promise of spending every penny of bond revenue on our roads. The bond will generate \$3,500,000 per year for the next 10 years. By December 1st of each year, you can expect to see a list of roads that will be resurfaced in the following year. The initial list will be available on December 1, 2019. The list will include actual costs for each road. We will detail exactly where the \$3,500,000 is going. There will not be one cent spent out of the bond on administrative oversight of the program. In fact, we have budgeted an additional \$422,000 to preserve our better roads from persistent deterioration. We must allocate the necessary resources to maintain our better roads separate from the bond proceeds.

Over the past five years, Meridian Township has resurfaced approximately three miles of roads per year. We expect to preserve and resurface 15 miles in 2020. We have to care for 147 miles of local roads. At a rate of 15 miles per year, we will invest in every local road over the next 10 years. Prior to the bond, it was every road over 49 years.

No shell games. Let's fix our roads.

Thank you for supporting our road bond. We will deliver.



Lake Lansing Road to Saginaw Highway Project

Changes may be coming to Lake Lansing Road between Hagadorn Road and Saginaw Highway. The Ingham County Road Department is looking to convert the current roadway into three lanes. Those three lanes will include one through lane in each direction, a center dual direction turn lane and motorized lanes on both sides. The project will also include adding right turn lanes for eastbound Lake Lansing Road to both southbound Hagadorn and southbound Park Lake Roads. This project's completion date is extended into 2020 to avoid higher road construction bid prices. Some work may begin in 2019, but majority will take place in 2020 with the project being completed in early summer. Various scheduling factors and weather will play a large part in this project's timeline.



Lake Lansing South Band Shell Sidewalk

Ingham County Park South's newest addition, the completed sidewalk project for the Lake Lansing Band Shell, was celebrated with a ribbon cutting event on August 30, 2019. The project was 100% funded by donations given by the Friends of Ingham County Parks and Meridian Township's 175th Anniversary Fun in the Sun Day Event held in 2017.

The new sidewalk extends from the corner of Lake Lansing and Marsh Roads to the Community Band Shell making it more accessible to all residents visiting the park.



Deer Management

Meridian Township's ninth year of deer management will officially commence on October 1, 2019 and will run until January 1, 2020. This program places volunteer archery hunters on select Township and County owned properties to manage the deer population. Meridian Township has an over-population of deer that has resulted in an increase of damage to landscaping, reports of vehicle/deer accidents, concern for public health and a disruption to the ecological balance of our natural areas. In response, the Meridian Township Board directed staff to develop and implement a deer management plan that outlines measures for a highly managed program to harvest white-tailed deer in a number of selected Township owned properties.

- The program began in 2011.
- The harvest is held during the regular archery season, October 1st through January 1st
- The managed harvest is NOT open to the general public.
- All hunters must be approved by the Township and are tested for proficiency at the MSU Demmer Archery Center. Only approved, qualified, competent and experienced hunters will be considered to access Township property for the managed harvest.
- Neighboring property owners are notified each year. All parks and land preserves remain open to the public during archery season. The hunters have proven to be valuable partners and act as the eyes and ears on Township owned properties.

2018 STATS

74 TOTAL HUNTERS
 38 PROPERTIES HUNTED
 57 DEER HARVESTED
 129 REPORTED DEER/
 CAR COLLISIONS

Meridian Township's Deer Management Website Page:

www.meridian.mi.us/residents/living-with-wildlife/deer-management-program

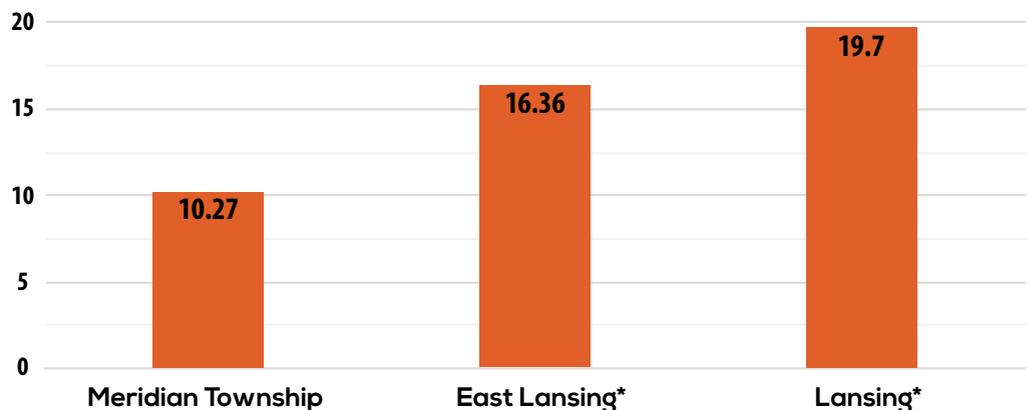
To sign up to participate in the program please email Jane Greenway at greenway@meridian.mi.us or Kelsey Dillon at dillon@meridian.mi.us.

Meridian rates include the 1.94 Road Improvement Millage approved by residents in August 2019.

*East Lansing and Lansing Both have 1% income tax on all residents. Meridian Township has no income tax.

2019 Winter Tax Rate Comparison

MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP, EAST LANSING AND LANSING

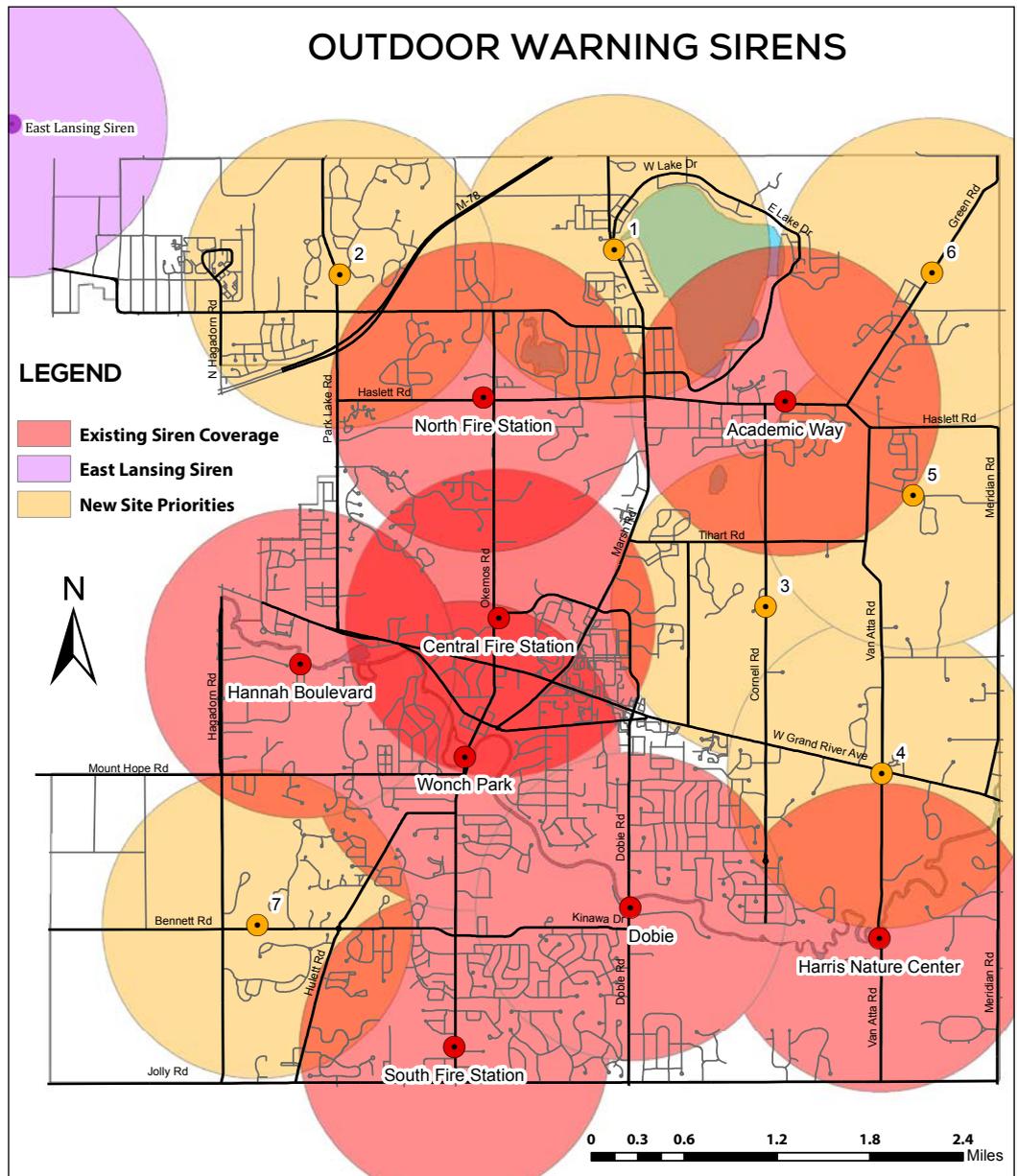




Outdoor warning sirens are used in emergency situations and can be found throughout the Township. Each warning siren currently covers a 5,000 ft. radius. The Fire Department will continue to expand the number of sirens in the Township. Our goal is to have every area in Meridian within hearing range of a warning siren.

For more information contact the Meridian Township Fire Department at 517.853.4700.

www.facebook.com/MeridianTwpFD



www.facebook.com/MeridianTwpPD

Fingerprint Scanner

The Meridian Township Police Department is implementing the use of a Mobile Fingerprint Scanner, which allows Police to effectively and accurately identify someone in the field or at the station. This equipment is important to verify someone's identity in a situation where a person of interest may be dishonest about who they really are and to help identify a Vulnerable or Impaired Person (VIP) who may be lost or find themselves in a situation, which they cannot identify themselves, and help them get back to their loved ones.

The Mobile Fingerprint Scanner only reads someone's fingerprint in the State of Michigan database repository. It does not capture fingerprints. To capture fingerprints electronically, Police use a non-mobile system called Live Scan where the fingerprints are captured on a lighted glass screen.

In Michigan, the Child Identification and Protection Act and Fingerprinting Residents of State Act allows a parent/legal guardian/power of attorney of an individual with special needs to voluntarily provide the VIP's fingerprints and photograph for inclusion in a State of Michigan database repository, which can be used to assist in identifying the VIP.

NEW BILLING SYSTEM

REGISTRATION DEADLINE CHANGED TO NOVEMBER 1ST TO PAY UTILITY BILLS ON MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP'S NEW BILLING SYSTEM WEBSITE

For residents who were signed up for automatic utility bill payments from the old billing system, automatic payments on that system will no longer occur after November 1st, 2019. In order for automatic utility payments to continue without missing a payment, residents signed up on the old system will need to register on the new system by November 1st, 2019.

Information from the old system will not carryover to the new system. To register, go to meridian.mi.us/billpayment



Summer Taxes Due September 16th

Summer taxes were mailed on July 1st and were due by 5:00 pm on Monday, September 16th, 2019.

Payments are accepted in person at the Treasurer's office during business hours between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm Monday - Friday or via 24-hour drop box located outside the Municipal Building at 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos.

See bill payment options below.

BILL PAYMENT OPTIONS



PAY ONLINE

- \$5 Quarterly Billing Fee
- Pay with electronic check or credit/debit card
- \$3.75 convenience fee for credit/debit cards
- NO FEE for checking accounts
- Access your account information 24/7
- Go Paperless
- View/receive your bills online
- View your previous online payments
- Schedule your payments online
- Confirm that your payment was received
- Receive eNotifications, reminders and receipts via email and text



MAIL-IN

- \$5 Quarterly Billing Fee
- Check or money order no cash
- Envelope Cost
- Stamp Cost
- Gas Cost
- Mail to: Meridian Township 5151 Marsh Road Okemos, MI
- Include payment stub
- Be mindful of postal delivery schedule to avoid late payments



DROP-OFF

- \$5 Quarterly Billing Fee
- Check or money order no cash
- Envelope Cost
- Gas Cost
- Drop Box Location 5151 Marsh Road Okemos, MI
- Include payment stub
- Available 24/7



PAY IN PERSON

- \$5 Quarterly Billing Fee
- Cash, check, money order
- Treasurer's Office 5151 Marsh Road Okemos, MI
- Open Monday - Friday 8 am - 5 pm
- Gas Cost
- OR pay at secured terminal in the Municipal Building using new online system
- Pay with electronic check or credit/debit card
- \$3.75 convenience fee for credit/debit cards
- NO FEE for checking accounts



Water & Sewer Rates Comparison Chart

Meridian Township has excellent water as reported in the Water Quality report on page 21. While the 2020 Budget presented to the Township Board on September 2, 2019 includes an increase in water and sewer rates, this increase is still lower than all other neighboring communities.

Rate Comparison Water & Sewer Based on a 12,500 gallons per quarter

23

Municipality	Quarterly Bill
Williamston	\$294.90
East Lansing	\$269.67
Pottersville	\$255.69
Delhi Township (BWL)	\$253.38
Lansing (BWL)	\$253.06
St. Johns	\$247.42
Grand Ledge	\$232.99
Charlotte	\$215.25
Bath Township (BWL)	\$214.31
Leslie	\$210.09
DeWitt Township (BWL)	\$200.39
Eaton Rapids	\$185.41
DeWitt (BWL)	\$174.11
Mason	\$163.48
Meridian Township 2019	\$130.01
Meridian Township Proposed 2020	\$137.63

Draining Your Swimming Pool

As our swimming season comes to an end, there are several ways to ensure that draining a swimming pool does not harm the environment.

Follow These
3 Easy Steps
to Drain Your
Chlorinated Pool

STEP 1: DECHLORINATE

Stop adding chlorine and expose the pool to sunlight for at least 2 weeks. Run the pump.



STEP 3: STORM GRATE

If you don't have a natural area available, you can slowly pump dechlorinated pool water into a storm drain.



STEP 2: INFILTRATE

Slowly pump pool water into a grass, garden or natural area in stages and allow it to soak into the ground.

Please visit meridian.mi.us/residents/social-campaigns for more information.

You can also discover additional tips for homeowners and business at www.mywatersheds.org.

SPRING RECYCLING 2019 STATS



OVER 750 VEHICLES
RECYCLED:



METAL
11 TONS



ELECTRONICS
16.5 TONS



HOUSEHOLD ITEMS
40' TRAILER & 30' TRUCK ALMOST FULL



PAINT
2493 CONTAINERS



PACKING PEANUTS
3/4 OF VAN



EGG CARTONS
SEVERAL HUNDRED



BICYCLES
~85

DON'T PUT A STRAIN ON YOUR DRAIN

NO Fats Oils Grease

FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO

[www.meridian.mi.us/residents/
social-campaigns](http://www.meridian.mi.us/residents/social-campaigns)

Pouring fats, oils and grease (FOG) down your drain can cause significant damage to the pipes in your home and the Township sanitary sewer system and cost you money!

These substances can build up in pipes, which can ruin plumbing and prevent wastewater from moving through sanitary sewer pipes to the treatment plant, resulting in overflowing manholes or basement backups.

2018 Water Quality Report

In June 2019, the 2018 Drinking Water Quality Report for the City of East Lansing and Meridian Township was released. The State and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) require water to be tested on a regular basis to ensure its safety. The Meridian Township-East Lansing Water Sewer Authority met all monitoring and reporting requirements for 2018. Through this testing, the water consistently meets state and federal drinking water standards. No contaminant concentration exceeds regulatory limits. **For the complete report go to bit.ly/twpwaterquality**

EST. 1842

Year Round Farmers' MARKET

SHOP PLAY EAT

<p>SATURDAYS MAY - OCTOBER</p> <p>8AM TO 2PM</p>	<p>WINTER MARKET 10AM EVERY OTHER SATURDAY TO 2PM</p> <p>MERIDIAN MALL JC PENNEY CORRIDOR 1982 W. GRAND RIVER, OKEMOS, MI</p>						
<p>WEDNESDAYS JULY - OCTOBER</p> <p>3PM TO 7PM</p>	<p>PRE-THANKSGIVING MARKET WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27</p> <p>8AM TO 2PM</p>	<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td>DECEMBER 7 & 21</td> <td>JANUARY 4 & 18</td> <td>FEBRUARY 1 & 15</td> <td>MARCH 7 & 21</td> <td>APRIL 2 & 16</td> </tr> </table>	DECEMBER 7 & 21	JANUARY 4 & 18	FEBRUARY 1 & 15	MARCH 7 & 21	APRIL 2 & 16
DECEMBER 7 & 21	JANUARY 4 & 18	FEBRUARY 1 & 15	MARCH 7 & 21	APRIL 2 & 16			

CENTRAL PARK PAVILION 5151 MARSH ROAD [FACEBOOK.COM/MERIDIANTOWNSHIPFARMERSMARKET](https://facebook.com/meridiantownshipfarmersmarket)



5151 Marsh Road
Okemos, MI 48864



ECRWSS CAR-SORT POSTAL CUSTOMER

MERIDIAN Cares Needs Your Help!

The holidays are a great time to give back to the community, and Meridian Cares has several opportunities to share your holiday spirit. We will host our Be a Santa to a Senior Program, provide holiday food baskets and collect coats for the St. Luke Coat Bank.

WINTER COAT COLLECTION

The Meridian Cares Team is collecting winter coats to keep our residents warm during the most frigid time of year. Coat donations can be dropped off in the lobby of the Township Municipal Building or bring them to the Fall Recycling Event on September 28th.

BE A SANTA TO A SENIOR

Adopt a senior this year and celebrate the spirit of giving. Our Be a Santa to a Senior Tree will be located in the lobby of the Municipal building beginning November 1st. Purchase an item on the Santa card and return your item with card by December 2nd to the Meridian Township Municipal Building.

SPONSOR A HOLIDAY FOOD BASKET

\$50 in groceries goes a long way to sponsor a family this holiday season. We will distribute food baskets to low-income Meridian Township households, mainly to families, seniors and individuals with disabilities. Donations should be submitted by November 1st to the Meridian Township Municipal Building.

We thank you for being part of the Meridian Cares spirit and community bond. If you have any questions about sponsoring a holiday basket, sponsoring a senior, volunteering and/or making a financial donation, please contact our Human Services Specialist.

WHAT IS THIS ENVELOPE IN MY UTILITY BILL?

Through the Meridian Cares needs fund, we are able to help seniors, families and children with emergency needs in Meridian Township. Your donation helps families stay warm in the winter when facing a shut-off notice, keeps their homes when served an eviction notice, and provides funds necessary for emergency transportation services if needed. Payments can be returned with your utility bill or at the Township offices.

THIS FALL, MERIDIAN CARES HAS A GOAL TO RAISE \$15,000 TO HELP HOUSEHOLDS IN NEED IN THE TOWNSHIP.

We have the following events planned, and you can be part of the effort to help your neighbors. The need this year is greater than ever, and every donation helps.

NIGHT OUT AT OLD CHICAGO

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18

4 PM - 9 PM

OLD CHICAGO PIZZA AND TAPROOM

1938 GRAND RIVER AVE., OKEMOS

Purchase a wristband for \$5 and enjoy an evening of karaoke, great food, drink specials, giveaways and more!

BENEFIT NIGHT AT HENRY'S PLACE

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15

4 PM - 8 PM

HENRY'S PLACE

4926 MARSH RD., OKEMOS

Come support Meridian Cares and your favorite team the night before the big Michigan-Michigan State game! \$5 wristband sales and drink specials.