

PRIME MERIDIAN

SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2018

magazine



GET ACTIVE

Prime Events
Playmakers Kids' Running Club
Friends of the Parks



CONNECT WITH NATURE

New Addition to Harris Nature Center
Towner Road Park
What's the Buzz



BE IN THE KNOW

Meet the New Police Chief and Fire Chief
Ingham County Trail Connector Coming
Local Roads Rehabilitation Program



A PRIME COMMUNITY

meridian.mi.us

Sign Up
NOW

bit.ly/mtpronline



Register for Activities and Youth Sports

Dear Residents,

I have some very good news to report.

On behalf of the Meridian Township Board, I am writing to update you on our combined efforts over the last two years to eradicate the Township's long-term pension debt. Recognizing the seriousness of the problem, a committee that included Treasurer Julie Brixie, Trustee Dan Opsommer, Township Manager Frank Walsh and myself worked together to develop a possible solution.

Last year, you, the voters of Meridian Township generously approved a 1.483 mill increase for police and fire operations, with an annual amount of \$1,500,000 targeted to be paid toward eliminating our unfunded pension liabilities. At that time, our overall pension portfolio was 58% funded, which led us to develop a 10-year plan to reach 100% funding by 2027. Through excellent investment strategies and proper spending policies, the Board and administration set aside enough funds to allow for the deposit of an additional \$2,100,000 over the past two years. This amount was over and above the annual required pension contribution. Although Meridian Township has always paid our annual required contribution, the Board chose to accelerate the payments, in order to rid ourselves of this debt.

In early July, 2018 the Township received the Charter Township of Meridian 2017 MERS Valuation Report from the Municipal Employees Retirement System, and we are pleased to inform you that we have turned the corner. Our overall funding position has improved from 58% to 64%, and, according to the actuaries, we remain on target to reach 100% in 9 years. Further, our funding position is at the highest level the Township has seen in 20 years. Indeed, all but two of our retirement accounts are more than 80% funded. This is great news, but I can assure you that your Township Board will not be satisfied, until we reach a 100% funded position.

Given all the statewide and national news regarding the pension crisis, on behalf of the Board, I wanted to take this opportunity to inform you, thank you and assure you that we are on our way to resolving it in Meridian Township.

Thank you for everything you do to make Meridian a PRIME community. We hope you enjoy the rest of your summer.

Sincerely,
Ronald J. Styka, Township Supervisor



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PRIME ACTIVITIES

Get Active

Meridian Township offers Prime Activities for residents and visitors from around the area. These family-friendly opportunities to get active and get involved are just some of the ways in which our residents make Meridian Township

A Prime Community

THURSDAY 06 SEPT	MERIDIAN CITIZENS' ACADEMY BEGINS PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING 6:30 PM	SATURDAY 13 OCT	HNC STEWARDSHIP MORNINGS HARRIS NATURE CENTER 9 AM - 11 AM
SATURDAY 8-9 SEPT	BLUE AND GREY EVENT MERIDIAN HISTORICAL VILLAGE 11 AM - 4 PM	SATURDAY 13 OCT	FIRE PREVENTION OPEN HOUSE CENTRAL FIRE STATION 10 AM - 1 PM
SATURDAY 15 SEPT	HNC STEWARDSHIP MORNINGS HARRIS NATURE CENTER 9 AM - 11 AM	SUNDAY 14 OCT	AUTUMN COLOR WALK HARRIS NATURE CENTER 2 PM
SUNDAY 16 SEPT	FAMILY SPECIAL: BUSY BEAVERS HARRIS NATURE CENTER 2 PM	FRIDAY 19 OCT	MERIDIAN CARES BENEFIT NIGHT OLD CHICAGO 4 PM - 10 PM
TUESDAY 18 SEPT	SENIOR BRUNCH TRIBUTE 242 COMMUNITY CHURCH 11:30 AM - 1 PM	FRIDAY 26 OCT	HOWL AT THE MOON HARRIS NATURE CENTER 7 PM
THURSDAY 20 SEPT	HOMTV STUDIO OPEN HOUSE HOMTV STUDIO, MUNICIPAL BUILDING 5:30 PM - 7 PM	SATURDAY 27 OCT	HALLOWEEN ADVENTURES VARIOUS LOCATIONS 10 AM - 5 PM
FRIDAY 21 SEPT	SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION COMMITTEE PUBLIC INPUT TOWN HALL ROOM, MUNICIPAL BUILDING 11 AM - 12 PM	SATURDAY 31 OCT	HALLOWEEN BINGO NIGHT MERIDIAN SENIOR CENTER 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM
FRIDAY 21 SEPT	SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION PUBLIC FORUM TOWN HALL ROOM, MUNICIPAL BUILDING 2 PM - 3:30 PM	SUNDAY 09 NOV	RISE N SHINE PATRIOTIC PANCAKE BREAKFAST MERIDIAN SENIOR CENTER 8:30 AM - 10:30 AM
FRIDAY 21 SEPT	HOWL AT THE MOON HARRIS NATURE CENTER 7:30 PM	SUNDAY 11 NOV	FAMILY SPECIAL: CRITTER HOLIDAY HARRIS NATURE CENTER 2 PM
SATURDAY 29 SEPT	FALL RECYCLING EVENT CHIPPEWA MIDDLE SCHOOL 9 AM - 2 PM	FRIDAY 16 NOV	HOWL AT THE MOON HARRIS NATURE CENTER 7 PM
SATURDAY 29 SEPT	HARVEST MOON: TALES AROUND THE CAMPFIRE HARRIS NATURE CENTER 7 PM	WEDNESDAY 21 NOV	FARMERS' MARKET PRE - THANKSGIVING DAY MUNICIPAL COMPLEX PAVILION 8 AM - 2 PM
SUNDAY 30 SEPT	STRIKE OUT FOR A CAUSE CITY LIMITS, EAST LANSING 1 PM - 3 PM	SATURDAY 01 DEC	WINTER FARMERS' MARKET OPENING DAY MERIDIAN MALL 8 AM - 2 PM
SATURDAY 06 OCT	RED CEDAR RIVER CLEARING EVENT HARRIS NATURE CENTER 9 AM - 2 PM	SATURDAY 09 DEC	CHRISTMAS IN THE VILLAGE MERIDIAN HISTORICAL VILLAGE 2 PM - 4 PM
TUESDAY 09 OCT	COLOR, CRUISE AND CUISINE STARTS AT MERIDIAN SENIOR CENTER 1:30 PM	FRIDAY 21 DEC	HOWL AT THE MOON HARRIS NATURE CENTER 7 PM

Details available at meridian.mi.us
* Dates and times are subject to change



PRIME EVENTS

Get Active

Meridian Township offers Prime Events for residents and visitors from around the area. We are situated in a prime location where all roads in Michigan lead to Meridian Township. We are a welcoming community inviting you to join our family-friendly events year-round and discover why Meridian Township is

A Prime Community



SATURDAY 8-9 SEPT **BLUE AND GREY EVENT NEW!**
MERIDIAN HISTORICAL VILLAGE, 5151 MARSH ROAD, OKEMOS
11 AM - 4 PM

SATURDAY 11 AM COMPANY DRILL
3 PM BATTLE REENACTMENT

SUNDAY 11 AM "COURT MARTIAL"
3 PM BATTLE REENACTMENT

Join the Friends of Historic Meridian for this NEW event! The Blue and Grey event highlights historical 19th century activities including a battle reenactment!

Watch a live company drill or court martial at 11 am and see a battle reenactment at 3 pm with 7th Michigan Volunteer Infantry, Co. B and 102nd Regiment U.S. Colored Troops. Witness what life was like during the Civil War with a Civil War Encampment and visit docents and tour the historic buildings. There is free admission to the village buildings from 11 am - 4 pm.



TUESDAY 18 SEPT **SENIOR BRUNCH TRIBUTE**
242 COMMUNITY CHURCH, 2600 BENNETT ROAD, OKEMOS
11:30 AM

Please join us for delicious food as we honor the senior community in the Township. This event is free to Meridian Township Senior Residents, age 55 and older. Space is limited. Reservations required by contacting Andrea Smiley at smiley@meridian.mi.us or by calling 517.853.4384.

 **#MERIDIANTWP**



SATURDAY 29 SEPT **FALL RECYCLING EVENT**
CHIPPEWA MIDDLE SCHOOL, 4000 OKEMOS ROAD, OKEMOS
9 AM - 2 PM

Items which can be recycled include:

- Electronics (TVs, computers, monitors, printers, VCRs, radios, tape recorders, stereo equipment, phones, answering machines, routers, cables, cell phones, typewriters, remotes, calculators, software, CDROMs/floppy disc, cords, scanners, digital cameras, & more. (No batteries, smoke detectors, lighting, thermostats, coffee makers, toasters or light bulbs/tubes) \$10 suggested donation for monitors, \$20 - \$40 suggested for TV's
- Old Medicines
- Bicycles (any condition, incomplete bikes and bike parts)
- Scrap Metal (sinks, washers, dryers, AC units, stoves, microwaves, air conditioners, dehumidifiers* etc.) *\$10/item containing Freon
- Egg Cartons & Packing Peanuts (dozen - size egg cartons, clean packing peanuts, but no other packing materials)
- Latex and Oil Paint (liquid or dry, fees apply)
- Document collection/destruction (to be confirmed)
- Household Items (tools, dishes, pots/pans, clothing, shoes, household items, etc.) clean, no stains, and unbroken (to be confirmed)

Please visit our website in September for the final list and preparation instructions. There is a possibility of offering collection of some household hazardous waste as well, in addition to paint. meridian.mi.us/gogreen



SATURDAY 13 OCT **FIRE PREVENTION OPEN HOUSE**
CENTRAL FIRE STATION, 5000 OKEMOS ROAD, OKEMOS
10 AM - 1 PM

Learn what it is like to be a firefighter! Sit in a fire truck, spray the fire hose, learn about fire safety and more. Families will enjoy treats, prizes and tour the Central Fire Station. For more information call 517.853.4700.



SATURDAY 27 OCT HALLOWEEN ADVENTURES
VARIOUS LOCATIONS

HARRIS NATURE CENTER
3998 VAN ATTA ROAD, OKEMOS
10 AM - 5 PM

Enjoy a wide range of activities including a fun house, friendly forest, games area, pumpkin pinata with a real pumpkin, pumpkin patch, hayride, crafts area, campfire with marshmallows and refreshments. \$8/child.



HOMTV'S STUDIO FUN HOUSE
MUNICIPAL BUILDING
5151 MARSH ROAD, OKEMOS
10 AM - 1 PM

Experience the illusion of television as HOMTV presents the Studio Fun House Tour. See the magic of TV behind the scenes and pick up a treat after walking through the maze of 'distorted' video monitors! Free.

MERIDIAN FARMERS' MARKET
CENTRAL PARK PAVILION
5151 MARSH ROAD, OKEMOS
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. Free.



POLICE DEPARTMENT
PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING
5151 MARSH ROAD, OKEMOS
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. Free.

HALLOWEEN IN THE VILLAGE
MERIDIAN HISTORICAL VILLAGE
5151 MARSH ROAD, OKEMOS
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. Free.



SATURDAY 09 DEC CHRISTMAS IN THE VILLAGE
MERIDIAN HISTORICAL VILLAGE, 5151 MARSH ROAD, OKEMOS
2 PM - 4 PM

Join Santa and the Friends for an old-fashioned Christmas in the Village! Historic buildings will be open and decorated for the holidays. Volunteers in period dress will share their Christmas traditions from days past. Gift shop will be open. Free, family-friendly event! Village Buildings open to public.

Celebrate MERIDIAN
THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

American Cycle and Fitness
Courtesy Ford
Dean Transportation
Eastside Tax and Accounting
Embassy Transportation LLC
Forsberg Real Estate
Gleaner Financial
Greg Darrow & Sons @ Water Hauling

Independent Bank
Kroger
Mayfair Bar
MET-Michigan Education Trust
Mosquito Squad
MSUFCU
Okemos Animal Hospital
Okemos Auto Collection

Okemos Marathon
Russell Builders, Inc. - John, Zane, Nate
Teri Banas for State Representative
The Diver Agency - Farm Bureau Insurance
Tom's Food Center

Sign Up For eNotifications

- The Meridian Township website offers new features right at your fingertips making planning your day much easier.
- Sign up for email notifications and know when the next restaurant opens, receive construction project updates, know when the next meeting or event is happening and more!
- A new intuitive calendar narrows down which events and meetings you choose to know about!
- Registration for HNC programs is now available online!

SIGN UP HERE
meridian.mi.us/eNotify

meridian.mi.us

YOUTH SPORTS

For Information & To Sign Up

NOW

bit.ly/mtpronline



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 on each program and to register.

*** All programs are subject to change.**
Check bit.ly/mtpronline for details.

CHECK ONLINE FOR CURRENT AVAILABILITY

Promoted in Previous Issue

**OKEMOS/HASLETT K - 8TH GRADE
BOYS AND GIRLS FALL/SPRING SOCCER**
DATES: SEPTEMBER 4 - OCTOBER 27

**OKEMOS/HASLETT K - 7TH GRADE
BOYS AND GIRLS FLAG FOOTBALL**
DATES: SEPTEMBER 4 - NOVEMBER 4

2018 SPORTIES FOR SHORTIES CAMPS

AGES: BOYS AND GIRLS, AGES 3 - 5

LOCATION: CENTRAL PARK

PRICE: \$45

MONDAY - THURSDAY SEPT 17 - 20

5:30 - 6:30 PM OR 6:35 - 7:35 PM

MONDAY CLASS OCT 1 - 22

5:30 - 6:30 PM OR 6:35 - 7:35 PM

TUESDAY CLASS OCT 2 - 23

5:30 - 6:30 PM OR 6:35 - 7:35 PM

THURSDAY CLASS OCT 4 - 25

10:30 AM - 11:30AM

Spark your child's interest in sports through activities that will develop gross motor skills and coordination. Sports introduced are t-ball, soccer, football, and track and field.

PLAYMAKERS KIDS' RUNNING CLUB

MONDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 21

DATE: SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 17

6 PM - 7 PM

LOCATION: NANCY MOORE PARK

PRICE: \$50

Meridian Township and Playmakers have partnered to offer this unique fitness opportunity for children in 3rd-6th grades. Running Club members receive professional instruction in Good Form Running from Playmakers during seven (7) training sessions and conclude the class with a Fun Run Finale! Our goal is to promote healthy, active lifestyles and help children get in shape for other sporting activities.

2018 - 2019 HASLETT K - 6TH GRADE BOYS AND GIRLS BASKETBALL

KINDERGARTEN AND 1ST GRADE

DATE: JANUARY 12 - FEBRUARY 9

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: DECEMBER 7

PRICE: \$55 / PLAYER (\$75 AFTER 12/7)

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 12.

2ND AND 3RD GRADE

DATE: JANUARY 7 - MARCH 16

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: DECEMBER 7

PRICE: \$55 / PLAYER (\$75 AFTER 12/7)

The 2nd and 3rd grade programs combine weekly practice starting the week of January 4. There are seven (7) games on Saturday mornings beginning January 19. No games on February 16.

4TH - 6TH GRADE

DATE: DECEMBER 3 - MARCH 9

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 2

PRICE: \$65 / PLAYER (\$85 AFTER 11/2)

4th - 6th Grade Basketball Leagues are operated in partnership with the Okemos and East Lansing Recreation Leagues. Practices begin the week of December 3 with games beginning on January 12.



MERIDIAN SENIOR CENTER

📍 4000 Okemos Road, Okemos, MI 48864

Senior Center entrance is located off of Kinawa Drive

☎ 517.706.5045

📘 facebook.com/meridianseniorcenter

SENIOR BRUNCH TRIBUTE

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

11:30 AM

242 COMMUNITY CHURCH, 2600 BENNETT ROAD, OKEMOS

FREE

Please join us for delicious food as we honor the senior community in the Township. This event is free to Meridian Township Senior Residents, age 55 and older. Space is limited. **Reservations required by contacting Andrea Smiley at smiley@meridian.mi.us or by calling 517.853.4384.**

COLOR, CRUISE AND CUISINE

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9

1:30 PM - BUSES WILL BEGIN LOADING AT 12:15 PM

STARTING AT MERIDIAN SENIOR CENTER

FREE

Join Brookdale Meridian, The Willow's and Burcham Hills for a four course, progressive luncheon and color cruise. Transportation will be provided. Deadline to register is September 24th.

OPIOID CRISIS PRESENTATION

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9

4 PM - 5 PM

CHIPPEWA AUDITORIUM

FREE

An opioid epidemic is happening across the country. According to statistics, law enforcement agencies are not only administering Narcan frequently, but some are also dealing with drug fatalities in numbers that surpass other emergency response situations. Linda Vial, Health Officer for the Ingham County Health Department will discuss the "perfect storm" that led to the current epidemic, local data and a comprehensive list of impact areas with specific actions that can be taken, including community resources and approaches to pain management.

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

HALLOWEEN BINGO NIGHT

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 31

4:30 PM - 6:30 PM

MERIDIAN SENIOR CENTER

MEMBERS \$5 / NON-MEMBERS \$8

Bingo night with a twist! Costumes encouraged (prize for the best costume). Snacks, and great prizes! Pre-registration required no later than Wednesday, October 24th. Sponsored by: Ingham County Medical Care Facility, The Care Team, and Burcham Hills.

RISE N' SHINE PATRIOTIC BREAKFAST

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9

8:30 AM - 10:30 AM

MERIDIAN SENIOR CENTER

FREE

Meridian Senior Center and Brookdale Senior Living are hosting a pancake breakfast to honor local veterans and their families. Deadline to register is Friday, November 2nd.

1968: LOOKING BACK ON A HISTORIC YEAR

MONDAY, DECEMBER 3

3:30 PM

MERIDIAN SENIOR CENTER

FREE

It was the best of times; it was the worst of times. The year 1968 was marked by the peak and turning point of the Vietnam War, the loss of two American leaders by violence, revolution and unrest in the U.S. and around the world, as well as significant events in sports (summer and winter Olympics, and the '68 Tigers), entertainment, technology and a trip around the moon. 1968: Looking Back on a Historic Year discussion will be hosted by Tony Ettwien of Portage and author of the new book "1968 = 50: Looking Back on the Historic, Tumultuous Year."

CALL 517.706.5045 TO REGISTER



TOWNSHIP PARKS

Connect with Nature

Meridian Township provides over 954 acres on 20 land preserves and 904 acres of park land on 29 park properties with 20 miles of trails and 76 miles of pedestrian/bicycle pathways. We have numerous outdoor spaces for you and your family to discover

why Meridian Township is
A Prime Community

Towner Road Park

New Park Coming!

The Meridian Township Park Commission acquired the former Applegate Driving Range on Towner Road in 2005 for development of a sports park in the northern portion of the community. After years of public input and planning, construction of the park began in 2017. Now that the main construction is completed, care is being taken to ensure a lush turf is established.

Total cost for development of Towner Road Park was 1.8 million dollars. A grant application was recently submitted to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to assist in funding new playground equipment and a nature viewing area.

This new park includes two full size soccer fields that can also accommodate sports such as lacrosse and football, two multi-use ball diamonds and six pickleball courts. Other park accommodations include a one-third mile paved walking path, restrooms, pavilion and parking lot.

Bleachers, picnic tables and park benches that need to be purchased are available to be sponsored by individuals and organizations. Interested persons may contact Jane Greenway at greenway@meridian.mi.us 517.853.4610.

While the basic construction of Towner Road Park has been completed, the facility is not quite ready for public use. Meridian Township Parks and Recreation is working on finishing touches including access control, turf management and the installation of site amenities. Fields are expected to be ready for use in spring of 2019.



What's the Buzz?

Meridian Parks Celebrate Pollinators!

The National Recreation and Parks Association recently conducted a poll showing that nearly all Americans agree that promoting pollinator health should be a conservation priority across the United States. Parks play a critical role in providing habitat for vital pollinator species such as bees and butterflies by preserving and enhancing greenspace.

The Meridian Township Parks Department has taken numerous steps to enhance pollinator habitat and promote pollinator education in its parks and land preserves:

- Hartrick Park has a Monarch Watch certified Monarch Way Station Garden that was planted and is maintained by students from Okemos' Bennett Woods Elementary School.
- Seed ball projects have been completed in numerous parks and land preserves in which local students create soil balls with native, pollinator friendly seeds to throw into grasslands for enhancement.
- The Mary M. G. Helmbrecht Pollinator Buffer in the Meridian Historical Village was planted in 2015 by students from Haslett's Murphy Elementary School and has been expanded every year to provide habitat for pollinators.
- The Meridian Land Preservation Program installed and maintains over 100 acres of native grasslands that feature native forb species which support a variety of pollinator species.

Residents can support pollinators in their backyards by planting native forbs in home gardens. A full list of pollinator-friendly species can found at MonarchWatch.org. Residents can also get involved in stewardship volunteer activities by contacting Kelsey Dillon at dillon@meridian.mi.us or 517.853.4614.



V I S I T

MERIDIAN HISTORICAL VILLAGE

NEW EVENT

SATURDAY
8-9
SEPT

BLUE AND GREY EVENT

HISTORICAL VILLAGE
11 AM - 4 PM

DETAILS ON PAGE 2



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 replica of an 1870's New England Style Chapel.

Historical Village Interpretive Signs

Take a Self-Guided Walking Tour of Five New Interpretative Signs at the Meridian Historical Village

The Meridian Township Park Commission announced the installation of five new interpretive signs in the Meridian Historical Village in Central Park in June. The interpretive signs were funded through a \$4,000 grant from the Haslett-Okemos Rotary Foundation in commemoration of the 175th Anniversary. These signs provide visitors the opportunity to take a self-guided tour through the Village.

Interpretive signs include descriptions of the historical structures and life in the 1800s. The Friends of Historic Meridian are excited to add this type of engagement experience at the Village. The Meridian Historical Village is operated by the non-profit organization Friends of Historic Meridian. This organization was started in 1974 with a mission to sustain and protect local history. The Historical Village contains buildings that were relocated from their original locations and restored to their original 19th century style.

The new interpretative signs provide more information on the topics of: travel, commerce, education and faith, farming and pioneer life in the 1800s.

The Meridian Historical Village is located at 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos. The park is open from dawn to dusk.



New Addition at Harris Nature Center



The newest addition to the Harris Nature Center Nature Exploration Area is the Beaver Lodge Play House. This latest addition opened for kids to play on in June. Children have a great time pretending to be beavers and other animals at the Beaver Lodge. This is the place for true imaginative play! The lodge includes an "underwater" entrance like a real beaver lodge as well as alternate entrances.

Resembling a giant beaver's lodge, it is complete with a glass deck to symbolize water. The idea for this play structure began with drawings from preschoolers and was formalized by David VanderKlok of Studio [intrigue] Architects in Lansing. VanderKlok became so enamored with the project that he donated his services, built the structure and raised much of the money needed for materials.

The Beaver Lodge Playhouse blends with the Nature Exploration Area's theme, where visitors can interact with nature. The Nature Exploration Area also includes:

- Log Jam Climbing and Balancing Experience
- Michigan Fossil Dig
- Sticks and Stones Building Space
- Haslett-Okemos Rotary Gathering Circle
- Eastern Box Turtle Climbing Sculpture
- Giant Spider Web Climbing Rope

The Harris Nature Center is located at 3998 VanAtta Road, Okemos. The park is open daily from dawn until dusk.

Harris Nature Center School Programs

The Harris Nature Center offers various environmental programs for school classes (pre-school through high school levels). These programs engage students by bringing classroom lessons to life through hands-on activities and nature encounters.

Programs are grade specific and designed to coordinate with each grade's science curriculum. Modifications can be made to tailor a program to the needs of a class. Program lists and Bus Scholarship information are available online meridian.mi.us/HNC or 517.349.3866.



Bus Scholarships For Harris Nature Center School Programs

Field trips to the Harris Nature Center are a wonderful way for children to learn about nature firsthand. To help bring children to the Harris Nature Center, the HNC Foundation offers \$100 School Bus Scholarships to teachers.

For the 2017 - 2018 school year, 19 bus scholarships (\$2,694.52) allowed 46 classes (1,023 kids) to participate in nature programs.

Teachers interested in participating in School Bus Scholarships are encouraged to "fill the bus" with 2 - 3 classes. Classes are limited to one scholarship per school year. For more information or to apply contact the Harris Nature Center at 517.349.3866





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



Contact the Harris Nature Center with questions

HARRIS NATURE C E N T E R

PRESCHOOL SCIENCE EXPLORATION

AGES: 4 AND 5 YEAR OLDS PRICE: \$4/CHILD/CLASS
 THURSDAYS 1 PM - 2:30 PM
 SEPTEMBER 6 DRAGONFLY DANCE
 OCTOBER 4 MISUNDERSTOOD ANIMALS

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

CHIPMUNK STORY TIME

THURSDAYS 10 AM - 11 AM PRICE: \$3/CHILD/SESSION
 SEPTEMBER 20 HOME AT LAST
 OCTOBER 18 BIG PUMPKIN

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.

TIMBER TOTS

AGES: 3 AND 4 YEAR OLDS PRICE: \$50/8 WEEK SESSION
 MONDAYS 9 AM - 10 AM
 SEPTEMBER 17 - NOVEMBER 5

Introduce your young preschooler (accompanied by a parent or other adult) to nature experiences with the help of a naturalist. Each week, program activities are based on a story book and include a nature walk, craft and hands-on activities.

MY CUB AND I NATURE FOR TODDLERS

AGES: 3 YEARS AND UNDER PRICE: \$50/8 WEEK SESSION
 MONDAYS 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM
 SEPTEMBER 17 - NOVEMBER 5

Children 3 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.

HOWL AT THE MOON

FRIDAY EVENINGS PRICE: \$3/PERSON/WALK
 SEPTEMBER 21 7:30 PM OCTOBER 26 7 PM
 NOVEMBER 16 7 PM DECEMBER 21 7 PM

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 HNC parking lot.

HNC STEWARDSHIP MORNINGS

SATURDAYS 9 AM - 11 AM PRICE: FREE
 SEPTEMBER 15 AND OCTOBER 13

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! Contact hnc@meridian.mi.us or 517.349.3866

FAMILY SPECIAL: BUSY BEAVERS

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16 2 PM PRICE: \$3/PERSON OR \$7/FAMILY

Did you know there are beavers in the Red Cedar River? At this family friendly program, we'll bust some common myths and learn about their habits and characteristics through hands-on activities, including time at the Beaver Lodge in the Nature Exploration Area.

HARVEST MOON: TALES AROUND THE CAMPFIRE

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29 7 PM PRICE: \$3/PERSON OR \$7/FAMILY

At this time of year, the harvest moon is low in the sky and appears huge. The extra light it gives off used to allow farmers 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 Story Tellers before taking a short walk through the evening woods with a naturalist.

AUTUMN COLOR WALK

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14 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 27 10 AM - 5 PM PRICE: \$8/CHILD

Details under Prime Events on page 3

FAMILY SPECIAL: CRITTER HOLIDAY

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11 2 PM PRICE: \$3/PERSON OR \$7/FAMILY

The whole family can connect with nature by creating edible treats for the birds and squirrels during this hands-on nature discovery program.

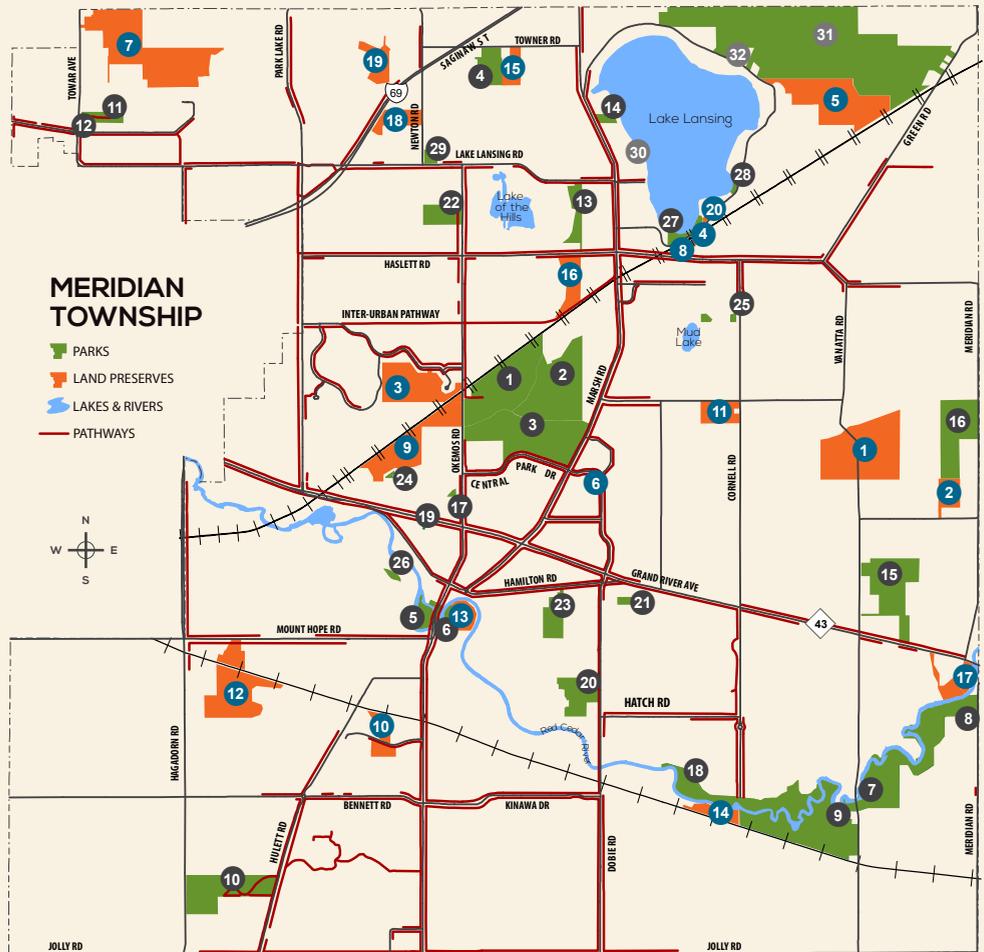


PARKS & AMENITIES

	Acreage	Parking	Trails (N-natural P-paved)	Natural Area with No Amenities	Lake Pond River Drain Wetland	Restrooms Portable Toilets	Pavilion Building(s) with set hours	Drinking Fountain	Electricity	Grill(s)	Picnic Area(s)	Fishing Access	Fishing Dock	Canoe Kayak Launch	Boat Launch	River Pond Wetland Overlook Deck	Play Equipment	Nature Exploration Area	Story Book Trail	Score Football Lacrosse Fields	Baseball Softball Diamonds	Basketball Court	Pickleball Court Tennis Court	Sand Volleyball Court	Shedding Hill Pump Track	Horsehoe Pits	Fitness Equipment	Open Space for Activities		
1 Nancy Moore Park 1960 Gaylord C. Smith Court Parks & Recreation Office	40	x	N P		D	R	P	x	x	x	x						x			x	x	x						x		
2 Central Park 5151 Marsh Rd Municipal Building/Public Safety Building Meridian Historical Village Nokomis Learning Center Farmers' Market Pavilion	197	x	N		P	R	P	x	x		x	x	x			x	x			x						x		x		
3 Central Park South 1990 Central Park Dr	15	x	N P		P						x	x	x																	
4 Towner Road Park 2055 Towner Rd	24	x	P		R	P				x	x									x	x							x		
5 Wonch Park 4555 Okemos Rd	15	x	P		R	R	P	x	x	x	x						x							x		x	x	x		
6 Ferguson Park 4540 Okemos Rd	5.7	x			R	R		x		x	x	x	x	x			x													
7 Harris Nature Center 3998 Van Atta Rd	48	x	N P		R	R P	B	x		x	x	x	x			x		x												
8 Eastgate Park 4203 S. Meridian Rd	53	x	N		R	R	P			x	x	x													PT			x		
9 Legg Park 3891 Van Atta Rd	103	x	N		R	P				x		x																	x	
0 Hartrick Park 3685 Hulettd Rd	61	x	N P		P	R	P	x	x		x					x	x			x	x								x	
1 Snell-Towar Recreation Center 6146 Porter Ave						R	B	x																						
2 Towar Park 6166 Pollard Ave	4	x								x	x						x												x	
3 Hillbrook Park 1747 Lake Lansing Rd	16	x	N		D					x	x						x				x	x							x	
4 Marshall Park 6105 Marsh Rd	5	x								x	x						x												x	
5 Ted Black Woods 540 Grand River Ave 4714 Van Atta Rd	74	x	N		W					x	x					x													x	
6 North Meridian Road Park 5191 N. Meridian Rd	60	x	N			R		x			x						x			x				x		SH			x	
7 Ottawa Hills Park 4980 Hillcrest Ave	3				D						x						x												x	
8 Red Cedar Natural Area 1455 Oscoda Rd	56			x	R																									
9 Cedar Bend Heights Neighborhood Park 2280 Kenmore Dr	0.3										x						x												x	
0 Sander Farm Preserved Natural Area 4344 Dobie Rd	34		N		D																									
1 Forest Hills Park 4625 Northview Dr	4		N																											
2 Brattin Woods 5851 Okemos Rd	20	x	N		W											x														
3 Tacoma Hills Park 1815 Hamilton Rd	22		N																											
4 Schriener Greenspace 5039 Algonquin Way	1			x																										
5 Orlando Park 1275 Orlando Dr	1.3							x			x						x		x											
6 Indian Hills Greenspace 4730 Nakoma Dr	3																													x
7 Lake Lansing Marsh 1430 Lake Dr	46			x	L																									
8 Spengler Marsh 5929 Lake Dr	3.3			x	L																									
9 Newton Road Park 6025 Newton Rd, East Lansing	5	x																												x
0 Lake Lansing Park South (Ingham County Park)	30	x			L	x	x			x	x	x		x			x							x		x			x	
1 Lake Lansing Park North (Ingham County Park)	530	x	N		L	x	x			x	x	x		x			x				x	x							x	
2 Lake Lansing Park Boat Launch (Ingham County)					L	x					x	x				x														

LAND PRESERVES

- Davis/Foster Preserve
- Foster-Crouse Preserve
- Hubbel Preserve
- Kuzma Preserve
- Lake Lansing North Preserve
- Newman Equities Preserve
- Towar Woods Preserve
- Lake Lansing South Preserve
- Central Meridian Uplands
- Sower Woods Preserve
- Tihart/Cornell Wetland Preserve
- Southwest Meridian Uplands Preserve
- Sumbal Preserve
- Red Cedar Glen Preserve
- Towner Wetland Preserve
- Meridian Central Wetland Preserve
- Red Cedar River East Preserve
- Forest Grove Preserve
- North Ridge Preserve
- East Lake Drive Preserve



For reservations and park information:

517.853.4600

meridian.mi.us

Map Available for Download



TOWNSHIP INFORMATION

Be in the Know

**MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP
MUNICIPAL BUILDING**
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864
☎ 517.853.4000
📅 M-F 8 am - 5 pm
📘 facebook.com/MeridianTownship

MANAGER WALSH'S OFFICE
☎ 517.853.4254
✉ walsh@meridian.mi.us

CLERK'S OFFICE
☎ 517.853.4300
🌐 meridian.mi.us/Elections

TREASURER'S OFFICE
☎ 517.853.4140
🌐 meridian.mi.us/Taxes

ASSESSING DEPARTMENT
☎ 517.853.4400

BUILDING DIVISION
☎ 517.853.4500

PLANNING DIVISION
☎ 517.853.4560

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
☎ 517.853.4568

HUMAN RESOURCES
☎ 517.853.4210

HUMAN SERVICES
☎ 517.853.4204

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
☎ 517.853.4440

EMERGENCY WATER & SEWER SERVICES
☎ 517.349.0010

For all water or sewer emergencies, please call our on-call number 517.349.0010, 24 hours a day / 7 days a week. Between 8 am - 5 pm, office staff will take your call. Between 5 pm and 7 am, you will reach an on-call pager; leave a message, including your name, address, phone number and a brief description of the problem. You will receive a return phone call and someone will respond.

Please call the Township before you call a plumber. If the problem is the Township's responsibility, we will correct it and you will save the cost of a plumber. **The Township does not reimburse plumber expenses unless the Township authorizes the expense in advance.**

FIRE DEPARTMENT
Central Fire Station #91
5000 Okemos Rd, Okemos, MI 48864
☎ 517.853.4700
📅 M-F 8 am - 5 pm
📘 facebook.com/MeridianTwpFD

POLICE DEPARTMENT
Public Safety Building
5151 Marsh Rd, Okemos, MI 48864
☎ Main Line: 517.853.4800
📅 Office Hours M-F 8 am - 5 pm
Building Open 24/7
📘 facebook.com/MeridianTwpPD

HOMTV
Municipal Building, Administration Wing
5151 Marsh Rd, Okemos, MI 48864
☎ 517.349.1232
📅 M-F 8 am - 5 pm
📘 facebook.com/homtv 🐦 @homtv
🌐 homtv.net

PARKS & RECREATION
Service Center
2100 Gaylord C Smith Court, Haslett, MI 48840
☎ 517.853.4600
📅 M-F 8 am - 5 pm
📘 facebook.com/MeridianTwpParksRec

MERIDIAN SENIOR CENTER
4000 Okemos Road, Okemos, MI 48864
Entrance off of Kinawa Drive
☎ 517.706.5045
📅 M-F 9 am - 4:30 pm
📘 facebook.com/meridianseniorcenter

MERIDIAN HISTORICAL VILLAGE
5151 Marsh Rd, Okemos, MI 48864
☎ 517.347.7300
📅 Saturdays, May-Oct, 10 am - 2 pm
📘 facebook.com/
MeridianHistoricalVillage

HARRIS NATURE CENTER
3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos, MI 48864
☎ 517.349.3866
📅 Hours vary
📘 facebook.com/HarrisNatureCenter

Local Roads Rehabilitation Program

Meridian Township is responsible for providing many services such as Police, Fire, Water, Sewer, Planning and Zoning and Parks. One area the Township does not have jurisdictional control is the road system. Road maintenance and repair in the Township is the responsibility of the Ingham County Road Department (ICRD). Unlike Cities and Villages, by State law, Townships in Michigan do not have legal authority to manage the roads in their community. As such, Townships do not directly receive road funding collected through fuel taxes and vehicle registration fees, which is the primary funding source for Michigan roads.

State law is specific on how road fees can be spent. The ICRD is limited in the amount of funding towards local roads. Most funding provided to the ICRD is required to be spent on primary roads. Examples of primary roads in Meridian Township include: Okemos Road, Jolly Road, Hagadorn Road, Park Lake Road, Meridian Road, Marsh Road and Haslett Road. Grand River Avenue and Saginaw Highway are Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) Roads.

Because of funding restrictions for local roads, Meridian Township provides the funding for a majority of repaving work that occurs on neighborhood streets. In addition to the voter approved dedicated road millage of 0.2484 mills, the Township Board has historically also allocated funds from the General Fund towards local roads each year. In the 2018 Local Roads budget, over 1 million dollars is allocated on 147 miles of local streets. Of that million dollars, approximately \$416,000 is generated by the road millage, \$172,500 is provided by the ICRD, and the rest is a one-time General Fund allocation of \$550,000.

The Meridian Township Department of Public Works (DPW), working in partnership with the ICRD, develops a list of road repaving work to perform each year. When determining which local roads to select the following criteria is used: available funding, current road condition, location in conjunction with vehicle usage, and the number of years since the road has received any rehabilitation. Currently, 30% of our local roads are considered "poor to failed".

In 2018, three miles of local roads will be repaved with the \$1,000,000 budget that is available. A list of the streets is available online. www.meridian.mi.us/2018projects

For more information on this program email the Meridian Township Department of Public Works at dpw@meridian.mi.us or call 517.853.4440.



Traffic Pattern Changes

Jackson National Life Headquarters continued expansion has created a need for housing and accommodations. The Ingham County Road Department states additional turn lanes and dedicated thru-only lanes will improve traffic patterns and shared pedestrian use.

With the opening of Costco, along the M78 business loop, MDOT has stated their new traffic patterns will allow for smoother movement of traffic, while improving safety for pedestrians and bicycles.

The ICRD anticipates Okemos Road from Mt. Hope Road to Grand River Avenue will have improved traffic pattern changes in preparation for Downtown Okemos development changes.

Meridian Redi-Ride Service Expanded

The Meridian Redi-Ride service was expanded in 2018 to include service to Costco, Bath Township Meijer, MSU Clinical Center, College Fields and East Lansing Aquatic Center (seasonal). Meridian Redi-Ride is an advance reservation, curb-to-curb service within select locations beyond the Township's service area.

The service currently operates 9:00 am - 5:00 pm Monday - Friday and Saturday from 8:00 am - 5:00 pm. On August 15, the CATA Board will decide on a proposal from the Meridian Township Board to expand the weekday Redi-Ride service hours to operate 7:30 am - 6:30 pm. If approved, changes take effect on August 27, 2018.

Call 517.394.2282 to schedule service.



Lake Lansing to MSU Trail Connector

In November 2014, Ingham County voters approved the County Trails and Parks Millage to support the development of a county-wide regional trails and parks system. The six year, .5 mill tax will generate approximately \$3.4 million annually.

In March 2017, Ingham County awarded funding from the millage to six local municipalities for trail improvements. The approved projects provide for new trail construction, trail repairs, support for a volunteer coordinator position and the development of a trail plan. Meridian Township was awarded \$950,000 to construct phase 1 of the MSU to Lake Lansing Trail Connector.

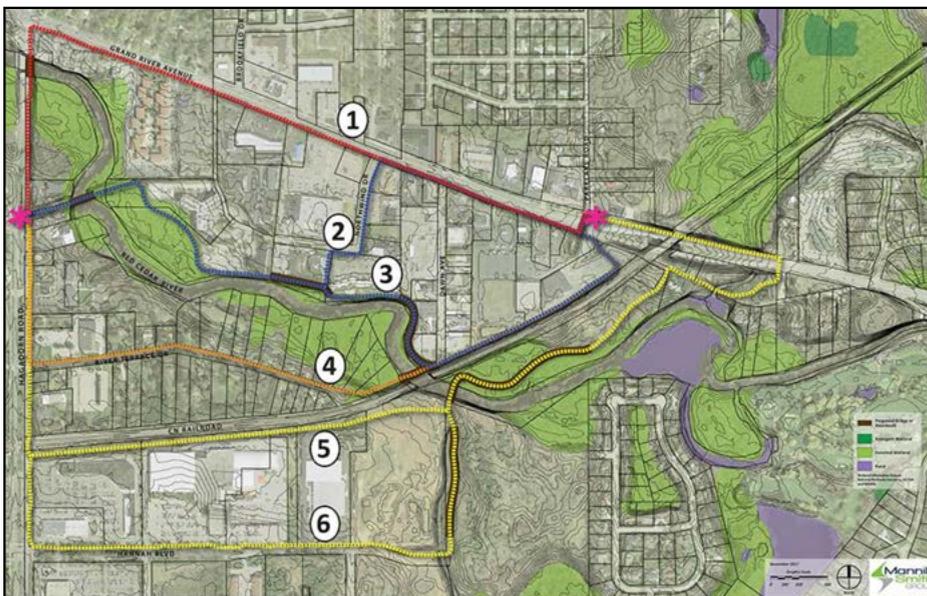
The total cost of the project is nearly \$3 million with additional funding pending from the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) for \$1.7 million. The remaining \$350,000 will be provided by the Meridian Township Pathway Millage. Construction of phase 1 will begin in 2020.

The entire trail is approximately 5.5 miles long from Hagadorn to Lake Lansing and will be rolled out in 3 phases.

PHASE 1: Hagadorn Road to Park Lake Road

PHASE 2: Park Lake Road to Marsh Road

PHASE 3: Marsh Road to Lake Lansing Park/Trail



A feasibility study was conducted to determine the best trail alignment for extending a shared use path from MSU to Lake Lansing. This study detailing the proposal for the project can be found on the Meridian Township website:

bit.ly/MSUtoLakeLansingTrailStudy

Contact Department of Public Works with questions about these projects at dpw@meridian.mi.us or 517.853.4440

Okemos Road Boardwalk

Meridian Township received \$975,000 in funding from the Ingham County Parks and Trail Millage for a newly constructed boardwalk on Okemos Road between Central Park Drive and the Meridian Service Center. The remaining \$325,000 of the 1.3 million dollar project, will be funded by the Township's local voter approved pathway millage.

The Okemos Road Boardwalk will complete the final remaining gap in the pathway system along the east side of Okemos Road. It will connect the pathway from Jolly Road to Lake Lansing Road. Additionally, the boardwalk will close a gap within the Central Park trail network.

The boardwalk is planned to be used for non-motorized transportation and as a recreational trail. The project is scheduled to begin this fall and expected to be completed in summer of 2019.





Congratulations Police Chief Ken Plaga

Meridian Township welcomed Police Chief Ken Plaga to serve as the next Police Chief on July 24, 2018. Chief Plaga brings 25 years of service to Meridian Township. While serving as Assistant Chief for Meridian Township from February 2016 - July 2018, Ken Plaga was instrumental leading the Township on a complete internal Criminal Sexual Conduct (CSC) Case review in regards to Nassar.

Chief Plaga earned his BA in Criminal Justice from Michigan State University in 1991. He then earned a Master of Public Administration from Western Michigan University. Plaga began his career as a Public Safety Officer for Blackman Township from 1992 – 1995. In 1995 he began his career with Meridian Township starting as a Public Safety Officer and working his way up to Assistant Police Chief and Interim Chief in 2018 before being appointed by the Township Board as the next Meridian Township Police Chief on July 23, 2018.

As a dedicated law enforcement professional, Chief Plaga's career has focused on a commitment towards community development and customer service.

Chief Plaga states he is excited to continue to work for the community in his new capacity as Chief. He also states that the Township Police Department is full of incredible men and women whom he looks forward to continuing to work with. He also looks forward to continuing to work with the community.

CSC INITIATIVES

CRIMINAL SEXUAL CONDUCT

SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION COMMITTEE PUBLIC INPUT

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2018 AT 11 AM - 12 PM
TOWN HALL ROOM, MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING
5151 MARSH ROAD, OKEMOS

The public and media are invited to attend a public comment portion of the Sexual Assault Prevention Committee meeting. This is the last of three committee meetings. The Sexual Assault Prevention Committee consists of Haslett Public Schools, Okemos Public Schools, Meridian Township Police Department, Meridian Township Board and Brianne Randall-Gay.

Ms. Randall-Gay is a graduate of Haslett High School and is a survivor of Nassar. Ms. Randall-Gay's mission is to provide evidence-based, age appropriate education regarding sexual abuse to the community in order to empower victims to speak out and provide adults the tools necessary to recognize signs of abuse and respond appropriately. Protecting the community against sexual predators remains a top priority for the Township.

PUBLIC FORUM

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21 AT 2 PM - 3:30 PM
TOWN HALL ROOM, MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING
5151 MARSH ROAD, OKEMOS

As part of Meridian Township's Criminal Sexual Conduct (CSC) Initiatives, HOMTV is hosting a Public Forum on the red flag behavior of "Pillars of the Community", Nice Guy Offenders, as well as Grooming and Compliant Victimization. The forum will feature an expert panel including Brianne Randall-Gay, Nassar Survivor and Leader of Meridian Township's Sexual Assault Prevention Initiatives. The public and media are invited to attend and ask questions.

HOMTV will televise the Public Forum LIVE on HOMTV Comcast 21, homtv.net and Facebook Live.

HOST/MODERATOR:

Alexandra Ilitch, WLNS Anchor/Reporter covering Nassar Scandal

TOPICS:

Red Flag Behavior of Pillars of the Community
Nice Guy Offenders, Grooming and Compliant Victimization
Meridian Township CSC Initiatives

GUEST PANEL:

Brianne Randall-Gay, Nassar Survivor and Leader of Meridian Township's Sexual Assault Prevention Initiatives

TBD - Meridian Township Representative

Ryan Schuiling, Sports Reporter covering Nassar Scandal

Jim Clemente, Retired FBI Supervisory Special Agent/Profiler/Expert Witness

Francey Hakes, Former Federal Prosecutor, National Security and Child Protection Consulting



Chief Hall Retires

After almost 40 years of service to the community, Chief David Hall retired on June 29, 2018.

On Tuesday, April 3rd Township Police Chief Dave Hall announced his retirement from his position after almost 40 years of service to the community. "I have enjoyed my time in law enforcement, especially working to build the Department's relationships and trust with our residents, schools and community," said Chief Hall.

Chief Hall began his career in Meridian Township on December 26, 1978 as a patrol officer. During his time with the Meridian Police Department he also held positions as Sergeant (1981), Lieutenant (1992), Captain of the Services Division (1998) and Chief (2004). He was the only internal candidate to ever be sworn in as Police Chief.

During his time, he created the Citizens' Academy in 1999 under the direction of his predecessor, which he expanded to include the Youth Citizens' Academy. He fostered agreements with Williamstown Township to provide public safety services, oversaw neighborhood meetings, helped secure grants to improve public safety including automatic license plate readers in 1999, digital car cameras in 2005 and body cameras in 2017.

During the recession, he worked to continue the School Resource Officer Program and the D.A.R.E. Program at Haslett and Okemos Public Schools. He also instituted the Public Safety Building as a designated safe place for transactions in 2015 and helped strengthen the K-9 Unit. Thank you for your dedicated service to the Township.

20TH ANNUAL POLICE CITIZENS' ACADEMY

THURSDAYS, BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 6
6:30 PM – 9:30 PM

The 20th Annual Meridian Township Police Citizens' Academy for residents, community members, and business people of Meridian and Williamstown Township is scheduled from September 6 through November 8, 2018. Participants will meet from 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm every Thursday evening, at the Meridian Township Public Safety Building. Lectures and active participation will give attendees the opportunity to gain knowledge about the criminal justice system and the Department's role in the community. Some of the covered topics include:

- Uniform Patrol Functions
- Criminal Investigations and CSI
- Arrest Law and Use of Force
- Traffic and OWI (Operating while Intoxicated)
- Accident Investigations
- Narcotics
- Community Policing and Code Enforcement
- Criminal Law and the Michigan Court System
- K9 Presentation
- 911 Dispatch Center Tour
- Firearms Training Simulator

This program is free. Past participants have given overwhelming support for the Academy and found it valuable for gaining a better understanding of the importance of Police Officers in the community. If you have questions or wish to enroll in the Academy, please contact Sergeant Scott Dawson.



SERGEANT SCOTT DAWSON

Police Department

517.853.4800

policeacademy@meridian.mi.us





Welcome Fire Chief Michael Hamel

Meridian Township welcomed Fire Chief Michael Hamel to serve as the next Fire Chief on July 2, 2018. Chief Hamel brings 25 years of fire service operation experience to Meridian Township. As Assistant Chief of Lansing Fire Department, he managed administrative operations including a \$34 million dollar budget, Emergency Management, Fire Prevention and the Training Division. He was successful with the formation of a five year replacement plan that included apparatus, personnel protective equipment and succession planning. He will be taking a big picture view of Meridian Fire, as well as the citizens the Township protects.

Chief Hamel served for two years as Emergency Manager and Continuity of Operations Manager for the Lansing Board of Water and Light. Prior to that he served the Lansing Fire Department from 1992 – 2016, including Emergency Management Chief and Assistant Fire Chief.

Chief Hamel states he feels very blessed and honored to be offered the position and excited to join the Meridian team. He is married with three children and lives in the Township.

On June 6, 2018, Township Manager Frank Walsh announced selection of the new Meridian Township Fire Chief. On June 11, the public was invited to meet the new chief. The Meridian Township Board approved appointment of Chief Hamel on June 19.

New Jaws of Life Extrication Equipment

The Fire Department worked with the Haslett-Okemos Rotary on \$10,000 of grant funding for new extrication equipment (Jaws of Life). In combination with additional funding of \$18,555 approved by the Township Board, the grant allows the purchase of a combination tool, gasoline pump, extension hoses and fittings. Now under-performing and not serviceable, the old extrication equipment was used for 20 years. This upgrade will support the Fire Department with effectively extricating citizens from severe accidents in the Township, as well as mutual aid to Alaiedon, Bath, Delhi, East Lansing and Williamston, including Interstates 96 and 69.



Burning Permits

There are two different types of burning permits required in Meridian Township: recreational fire permit and rural residential burning permit. Eligibility is limited by parcel zoning and size. Most properties are only eligible for the Recreational Fire Permit. Properties zoned rural residential and over 1 acre in size are eligible for both permits.

RECREATIONAL FIRE PERMIT RULES

Recreational fire pits must be able to "contain a fire". An approved pit either has a grill top at ground level or has non-combustible sides in order that wind cannot sweep the fire from the pit. There is a 12" minimum recommendation for depth and a maximum size of a 3-foot diameter. Permits are free and valid through December 31 of the issue year.

RURAL RESIDENTIAL BURNING PERMIT RULES

For rural residential burning, the lot must be one acre or more and zoned rural residential. Burning is limited to materials that grow on the lot. The burn pile size is limited to 4' X 4' X 4' with a clear space 4' around the pile. Rural residential burning permits will not be issued if the wind speed is 10 mph or above. Permits are valid only on the day they are issued. Additional conditions and modifications may be applied as needed.

Recreational fire permits can be obtained by visiting meridian.mi.us/fire. For a rural residential burning permit, please call 517.853.4791.

'18 GENERAL ELECTION VOTER DEADLINES

ABSENTEE BALLOTS DEADLINES

**SATURDAY NOV 3
BY 2 PM** LAST DAY TO RECEIVE
ABSENTEE BALLOT
BY MAIL

Electors who wish to receive an absentee voter ballot for the November general election by mail must submit absentee voter ballot applications by this deadline.

**MONDAY NOV 5
BY 4 PM** LAST DAY TO RECEIVE
ABSENTEE BALLOT
IN PERSON

Electors qualified to obtain an absentee voter ballot for the November General Election may vote in person at the Clerk's office.

**TUESDAY NOV 6
BY 4 PM** EMERGENCY
ABSENTEE
VOTING

Any registered elector may apply for an absentee voter ballot at any time prior to 4 pm on Election Day if he shall have become physically disabled or shall be absent from the Township because of sickness or death in the family, which has occurred at a time which has made it impossible to apply for an absentee voter ballot by the statutory deadline. The application shall be called an emergency absentee voter application. Emergency absentee voter applications may be made by letter or on a form provided by the Clerk.

**TUESDAY OCT 9
BY 5 PM** LAST DAY
TO REGISTER TO VOTE

**TUESDAY NOV 6
7AM-8PM** STATE GENERAL
ELECTION

For more election information including polling locations visit meridian.mi.us/Elections or contact the Meridian Township Clerk's Office



WATCH
General Election
Candidate Interviews,
Live Call-In Debates,
and State, County and
Township Proposal
programs

Watch LIVE on HOMTV Comcast Channel 21,
HOMTV.net and Facebook

View the Program Schedule for dates and times

HOMTV.NET

FOLLOW US
#BallotMeridian

517.349.1232



Summer Taxes Due FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

Meridian Township Summer Tax Bills were mailed out by the Treasurer's Office on July 1. Summer Tax Bills are due Friday, September 14, 2018 by 5 pm.

AUTOMATIC TAX PAYMENTS

Interested in avoiding long lines on tax day or the risk of forgetting to pay your property tax? To enroll in Meridian Township's automatic bill payment plan, simply fill out the Automatic Bill Payment Enrollment Form located at meridian.mi.us. The form must be submitted at least two weeks before the due date. Once enrolled, Meridian Township will initiate an ACH withdrawal from the taxpayer's account.

OTHER PAYMENT OPTIONS

Payments in person must be made at the Treasurer's Office in the Meridian Township Municipal Building weekdays between the hours of 8 am - 5 pm, dropped off in the white drop box in front of the Meridian Township Municipal Building 24 hours a day or mailed to 5151 Marsh Rd. Okemos, MI 48864. Cash, checks or money orders are accepted in the building. Taxes may also be paid online or by phone using a credit or debit card, fees will be applied. Payments must be received in the office by the due date or a 1% late fee will be charged. Postmarks are not accepted.

Visit meridian.mi.us/taxes for payment options and tax questions.



Business Revitalization

Part 3: Haslett Redevelopment

Major efforts and activities have gone towards the redevelopment of aging business districts in Meridian Township. Some of those efforts include adoption of an updated Master Plan, major sale of property in Downtown Okemos, working with developers and business owners on revitalization efforts and taking steps to become a Redevelopment Ready designated community. Although challenging and considering the significant changes in the retail shopping habits of consumers, it remains a top priority in the Township.

The recently adopted Master Plan focuses on three potential intensity change areas (PICA) which include Downtown Okemos (Okemos and Hamilton Roads), Downtown Haslett (Marsh and Haslett Roads) and the Carriage Hills Shopping Center (Lake Lansing and Hagadorn Roads). The Master Plan, in summary, calls for a mixed-use, village-like development that includes retail, restaurant, office and living space, all in close proximity to each other.

The Township has established a redevelopment fund which can only be used for the Haslett and Okemos PICAs, allowing modern types of development projects to be considered for approval. Having the Township enrolled in the Redevelopment Ready Communities program through the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, opens the doors for the availability of additional state funding, grants and loans to assist redevelopment of these types of areas.

The Haslett PICA seems particularly suitable for this type of development. The Township is working with developers, property owners and commercial realtors to brainstorm new projects for this area. Combining new development ideas with well established businesses in Haslett, along with the close proximity of Lake Lansing Park South, means greater opportunities for redevelopment. Downtown Okemos Revitalization efforts provided on hometown.net:

May 24, 2018 Downtown Okemos Press Conference

August 6, 2018 Four Corners Alliance Community Forum: True North, HRC Traffic Consultants, Douglas J, Advanced Redevelopment Solutions and the Ingham County Road Department

NEW OPTIONS FOR LODGING

Despite Mid-Michigan hosting the state capitol and Michigan State University, the region has surprisingly had few hotel options. That is changing. Meridian Township, East Lansing, Downtown Lansing and Lansing's west side all have hotel development projects underway.

Meridian Township is a Prime location, lying along the eastern border to Michigan State University and in close proximity to the State Capitol. Hotel investments are occurring to accommodate regional conferences, sports competitions, event-driven tourism, short term stays (conferences and projects) and long term stays (temporary housing while new arrivals find their permanent home).

Also driving the increase in demand aside from easy I96 freeway access, is major employers like Jackson National Life, Delta Dental, TechSmith and the future McLaren Health Care \$450 million campus at MSU's University Corporate Research Park located near Collins Road by Forest Akers Golf Course.

According to a Press Announcement by McLaren, an estimated 2,500 jobs will be created to construct the health care campus, adding approximately 80 new employees to its workforce when the campus opens, in addition to filling about 75 current full and part-time openings at the hospital.

Staybridge former General Manager stated that as long as the region grows its employer base, and those employers are recruiting talent into the Lansing region, there will be an increased need for more hotel beds for both short term and long term use.

In 2017 Hampton Inn invested in extensive renovations. Holiday Inn Express opened in 2018 investing \$6 million and Courtyard by Marriott is expected to open in 2019 investing just over \$7 million.

No matter how you look at it, Meridian is on the move and the demand for additional beds to accommodate those drawn to the region is undeniable.

Find hotel accommodations on Meridian Township's website: meridian.mi.us/accommodations

 Read Business Revitalization Articles Part 1 and Part 2 in the Prime Meridian Magazine, spring edition and winter edition online meridian.mi.us/publications

 **CHRIS BUCK**
Economic Development Director
 517.853.4568
 buck@meridian.mi.us



Solarize Meridian!

There current 30% federal tax credit that is available for solar is being phased out over the next 4 years. Net metering, which provides bill credits for extra electricity put on the grid, will be replaced next year by a new less favorable distributed generation tariff. The federal solar tariff on solar panels hasn't impacted solar prices yet.

The Meridian Energy Team is facilitating a Solarize Meridian project to inform homeowners, businesses and churches about installing photovoltaic (PV) systems. Twenty-eight solar installers were surveyed by the Lansing Area Solar Users Network and over a dozen contractors have agreed to participate in the project.

Several Solarize Meridian Sessions have been held and more sessions have been scheduled with local civic groups and churches. Presentations include a 15 minute solar overview and description of the project, a 15 minute presentation from a homeowner or business person that owns a solar system, and 30 minutes for Q&A. We invite you to attend and participate.

Solarize Meridian Sessions

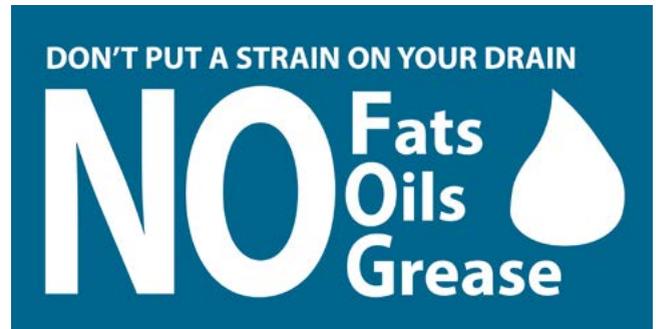
LINC AT HASLETT LIBRARY
THURSDAY, AUGUST 16 6:45 PM

HARRIS NATURE CENTER
THURSDAY, AUGUST 23 7:00 PM
Pre-register at 517.853.4466

EDGEWOOD UNITED CHURCH WITH LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12 7:00 PM

MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP HALL AND TOUR OF HASLETT COMMUNITY CHURCH
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6 8:30 AM
20 kW PV Showcase

Contact Recycling Coordinator LeRoy Harvey with questions harvey@meridian.mi.us or 517.853.4466



Holiday Fats, Oils and Grease

Pouring fats, oils and grease (FOG) down your drains can cause significant damage to the pipes in your home and the Township sanitary sewer system.

When hamburger meat grease, bacon grease, oils, butter and other FOG products are poured down the drain, FOG can cool, become solid in your pipes and accumulate inside your pipes. Over time, this accumulation of FOG restricts water flow and causes blockages in the sewer which can result in overflowing manholes or basement backups.

AVOID COSTLY CLOGS

- Don't put oil, grease or food scraps down the drain. Instead, place them into trash bins or covered collection containers like cans.
- Don't run hot water over greasy dishes, pans or fryers. Wipe the grease off with a paper towel before washing dishes by hand or in the dishwasher.
- Don't rely on a garbage disposal. Instead, use a strainer in the sink to collect excess food particles.
- Don't use chemicals to remove grease clogs; they can damage the piping system.
- Pour, scrape or otherwise dispose of fats, oils or grease into cans.
- Collect fryer oil and store in barrels for recycling.
- Do not put food (including liquid food) like milk shake syrups, batters and gravy down the drain.



MERIDIAN Cares

Meridian Cares and Meridian Township offers several opportunities to help those in need. According to the 2016 U.S. Census data, 12.1% or just under 5,000 people in Meridian Township live below the poverty level and could use our help.

MERIDIAN.MI.US/MERIDIANCARES

Ways to Join Meridian Cares

STRIKE OUT FOR A CAUSE

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30
CITY LIMITS EAST, 2120 EAST SAGINAW HIGHWAY, EAST LANSING

Join the Meridian Cares team for hours of bowling fun and 'Strike Out for a Cause' to benefit families and individuals in financial crisis in Meridian Township. Bowlers pay \$20 per person to participate.

BENEFIT NIGHT AT OLD CHICAGO

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19
4 PM - 10 PM
OLD CHICAGO, 1938 W. GRAND RIVER, OKEMOS

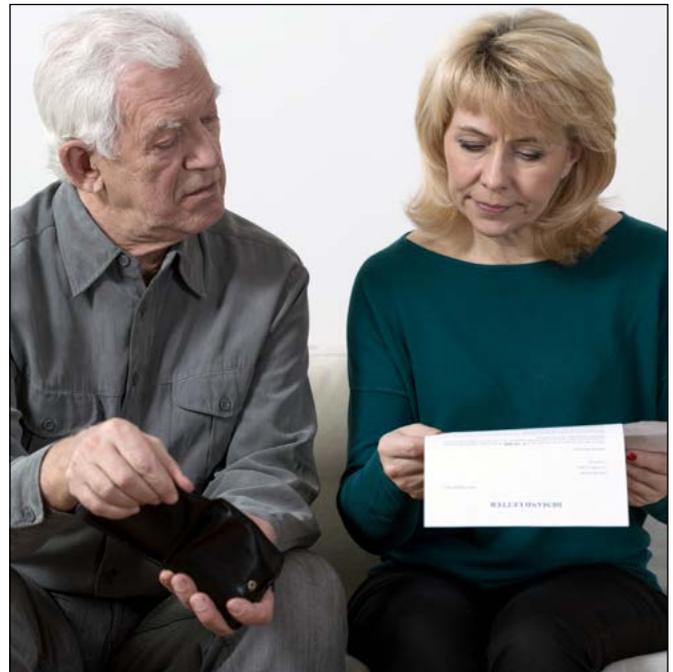
Come support Meridian Cares and your favorite team the night before the big Michigan-Michigan State game! Purchase a wristband for \$5 and enjoy an evening of karaoke, great food, drink specials, giveaways, and more!

The holidays are a great time to give back to the community, and Meridian Cares has several opportunities to share your holiday spirit.

WINTER COAT COLLECTION

The Meridian Cares Team is collecting winter coats to keep our residents warm during the most frigid time of year. When you're cleaning out your closet, you can donate what you no longer use to help keep someone warm this winter. Please drop off coat donations in the lobby of the Municipal Building at 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos.

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 the Human Services Specialist Darla Jackson at jackson@meridian.mi.us



BE A SANTA TO A SENIOR

Adopt a senior this year and celebrate the spirit of giving. The "Be a Santa to a Senior Tree" is located in the lobby of the municipal building beginning November 4th. Purchase an item on the Santa card and return your item with card by December 3rd to the Meridian Township Municipal building 5151 Marsh Road Okemos, MI. 48864

EMERGENCY NEEDS FUND

Through the Meridian Cares needs fund, we are able to help seniors, families, and children with emergency needs in Meridian Township. We help families stay warm in the winter when facing a shut off notice, help families keep their homes when facing an eviction notice, and help provide funds necessary for emergency transportation services if needed. Financial donations can be made out to the Meridian Cares program and mailed to Meridian Township c/o Meridian Cares 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864

SPONSOR A HOLIDAY FOOD BASKET

\$50 in groceries goes a long way to sponsor a family this holiday season. Food baskets will be distributed to low-income Meridian Township households, mainly to families, seniors and individuals with disabilities. Donations should be submitted by October 23rd to the Meridian Township Municipal building located at 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos.



Archie Virtue Excellence Award

AVEA

In 2018 Meridian Township began the Archie Virtue Excellence Award (AVEA) honoring Archie's long term commitment to Meridian Township. He was an employee of Meridian Township for 57 years, retiring in June 2018. He always exhibited an extremely positive attitude, an unparalleled work ethic and loyalty to Meridian. Because of that, the AVEA award for Township employees was created for non-salaried employees who've worked for the Township for over 5 years and exemplify Archie's work ethic, positive attitude and a real commitment to the residents.

Archie Virtue was first hired on June 5, 1961 as Summer Help. He worked June, July and August of that summer helping lay down a water main line in the Wardcliff Neighborhood from Wardcliff Drive in front of Wardcliff Elementary School to Brentwood. At that time the Public Works Department was only a water department. There was no sewer component to public works back then.

In mid-March, 1962, Archie was hired full time as a Laborer. He did everything from painting pump house doors to mowing lawn to installing water services to houses. When Archie was hired full time, there were 950 water customers. Today, Meridian Township has around 13,000 water and sewer customers. There was no water and sewer in many parts of the Township when he first began. He installed water services in Indian Hills, Forest Hills, Hiawatha Park, Ottawa Park and Chippewa Hills, among others.

When he first started, Archie was a volunteer fireman. He said that back then, it was automatic for public works employees to be volunteer firemen. Since they were around during the day, they could respond if needed. He responded to house fires, transported people to the hospital, etc. He said grass fires were the most fun.

In 1980, Archie cablecast the first Township Board meeting. He did two meetings taped before going out on air. Archie also took the first video modulator to the Haslett Public Schools, cabling the school building so they could cablecast onto the cable system.

From 1971 - 2001, Archie was the Superintendent of Water. He retired on August 3, 2001, but then was hired on December 3, 2001 as a Part - time Engineering Aid doing inspections of water and sewer repairs, installations, bacteriological samples before new water mains go in service, pressure tests on new water mains and researching old water and sewer services needing upgrades.

In 2018, Jay Graham became the first AVEA recipient. Jay will have worked for Meridian Township for 29 years this November 2018. He is the Department of Public Works and Engineering Records Manager.

Thank you to Archie for his 57 years of service and congratulations Jay! This year's award recipient will be announced in late December.



5151 Marsh Road
Okemos, MI 48864



ECRWSS CAR-SORT POSTAL CUSTOMER



Become a Community Media Partner

HOMTV Launches Sponsorship Opportunities

As “Your Source for Community News”, HOMTV not only provides exclusive gavel-to-gavel coverage of official Township meetings, original programming and community news to Meridian Township residents, but HOMTV is also now offering sponsorship opportunities for local businesses, organizations and nonprofits to stay connected and truly feel at HOME. Sponsorships include HOMTV Shows, Events, Website and Social Media Promotions. Production services are also available.

As a hidden gem in our Prime Community, HOMTV has an experienced staff and a fully equipped studio to provide these opportunities. With more than 260 national and regional awards for production excellence and content, HOMTV’s programming is engaging and informative reaching over 31,000 households on Comcast Channel 21 and thousands of viewers across multiple digital platforms.

On Wednesday, September 20 from 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm, HOMTV is hosting a Studio Open House to launch and introduce the sponsorship program to the community. Guests will enjoy light hors d’oeuvres, studio and master control room tours, live entertainment and free giveaways.

Being a sponsor and supporter of HOMTV will help raise awareness and provide information to the community about your business or organization. For any and all sponsorships and donations, organizations will receive specific benefits including; recognition on the HOMTV website, channel and social media platforms.

Whether it’s raising awareness, covering sports and education or showcasing your local business, HOMTV would like to collaborate with you!

Contact HOMTV Executive Producer Brandie Yates at yates@meridian.mi.us for more information.



The Meridian Township Park Commission is seeking community-minded individuals and groups of all ages to adopt one of the community’s local parks as a

“Friend of the Park”

This ongoing program asks that volunteers commit to oversee a local park, serving as the Township’s “eyes and ears,” as well as develop suggestions, clean-up activities and improvement projects to enhance a site’s appearance and public use. “Friend of the Park” volunteers can be individuals or neighborhood associations, service clubs and youth groups.

Having this kind of special attention has been invaluable. Residents have conducted routine clean-up projects, created and maintained flower gardens, organized fundraising efforts and groomed trails.

If you are interested in becoming a “Friend of the Park” please contact Park Naturalist Kelsey Dillon at dillon@meridian.mi.us or 517.853.4600

THURSDAY 20 SEPT HOMTV STUDIO OPEN HOUSE
HOMTV STUDIO, MUNICIPAL BUILDING
5:30 PM - 7 PM