



AGENDA
MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP
COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
June 14, 2023 6:00 PM

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. PUBLIC REMARKS
4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 - A. March 22, 2023 Regular Meeting DRAFT Minutes
6. COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER REPORT
 - A. 2023 2nd Quarter Report
7. COMMISSION MEMBERS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
 - A. Chair's Report
 - B. Township Board Liaison's Report
 - C. Commissioner Reports
8. ACTION ITEMS
9. DISCUSSION ITEMS
 - A. History of the Communications Commission
 - B. Communications Commission Member Recruitment
 - C. Affordable Connectivity Program
10. COMMUNICATIONS
 - A. Compliments/Complaints
 - B. Correspondences
11. REPORTS
 - A. Video Service Provider(s)
 - B. Programming
 - i. Program Totals and Video On-Demand Analytics
 - C. Website & Social Media
 - i. Website Analytics
 - ii. Social Media Analytics
 - D. Promotions/Publications
 - i. Family Fun Guide
 - E. Finance
 - F. HOMTV Internship/Alumni
12. PUBLIC REMARKS
13. 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 Manager, Brandie Yates, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864 or 517.853.4208 - 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
Wednesday, March 22, 2023 | 6:00 pm

PRESENT: Chair, Brian Seipel; Commissioner, Leslie Charles; Commissioner, Lisa Whiting-Dobson
ABSENT: Vice Chair, Walter Benenson; Alternate Commissioner, Mike Nevells
STAFF: Samantha Diehl, Communications Manager
TOWNSHIP: None
COUNSEL: None
COMCAST/AT&T: None

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Seipel called the meeting to order at **6:05 pm**.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Whiting-Dobson moved **TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS SUBMITTED**.
Seconded by Commissioner Charles.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Whiting-Dobson moved **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2023 SPECIAL MEETING**. Seconded by Commissioner Charles.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

6. COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER REPORT

Manager Diehl reviewed the 1st quarter report. The Meridian Township Municipal Building will be undergoing an interior renovation beginning April 24, 2023, and lasting until October 2023. This includes new wayfinding signs internally.

HOMTV will need to shut down operations while the Control & Server Rooms are updated, but this won't be until later on in the renovation process. The Communications Department is operating out of the HOMTV Studio during renovations.

Marketing & Public Relations Specialist Andrea Smiley submitted her resignation, with a final day of March 30, 2023. The Marketing & Public Relations Specialist position was posted March 17, 2023.

On March 1, the Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Department unveiled their new newsletter, The Playbook. The monthly newsletter will highlight information and events offered through the Parks Department. The Communications Department will be overseeing the newsletter. Meridian Happenings will now move to a bi-weekly schedule to accommodate this new newsletter.

Okemos Road bridge is open and road construction updates are still being provided.

Manager Diehl's report went into marking and communications efforts done by the Communications Department.

This next portion was not included in the March 22, 2023 Regular Meeting packet due to it not being confirmed, but Manager Diehl announced that the Meridian Cares About You: Health & Safety Expo would take place on May 10, 2023.

Celebrate Meridian will be a two-day event on Friday, June 23 and Saturday, June 24. Event takes place from 8:00 am – 11:00 pm. Celebrate Meridian page was updated and flyers created.

Meridian Freedom Fest will be happening in June. There will be two free movie screenings and a blues and jazz festival.

Meridian Township is hosting its first Pride Event on August 26, 2023. Website has been made, but no details yet.

Communications Department assisted with the marketing for the Chinese New Year Event at the Meridian Mall. They were there to take photos and videos of the event as well.

Town Hall Room renovation mostly completed, but still waiting on one more piece of equipment to be delivered.

Catching Up with Kenize filming returned in 2023. The episode was filmed at Art Unlimited in Downtown Okemos. HOMTV also filmed multiple episodes of HOM Entertainment and interviewed cast members performing at the Wharton Center.

HOMTV Spring Internship consisted of 3 interns. 12 applicants for the summer 2023 internship.

7. **COMMISSION MEMBERS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Communications Chair: Chair Seipel would like to present on the history of the Commission at a future meeting. Stated that he would like a directory of Commission members. Chair Seipel asked Manager Diehl about the Ingham County broadband survey, but Manager Diehl had no updates to report at the time.

Township Board Liaison:

None.

Commissioners Report:

None.

8. **ACTION ITEMS**

None.

9. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. HOMTV Operating Policies Revision

Manager Diehl expressed her interest in revising HOMTV's Operating Policies to make the language more inclusive and to match the Township's policies on wording. Manager Diehl asked Commissioners to read through the policies and provide their feedback.

10. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Compliments/Complaints

None.

B. Correspondences

None.

11. REPORTS

A. Video Service Provider(s)

None.

B. Programming

Program totals and video on-demand analytics were shared in the packet. Manager Diehl noted that Swagit on-demand 1st quarter stats increased 50% from 2022. This means more people were watching the televised meetings.

C. Website & Social Media

Website and social media analytics were shared in the packet. Manager Diehl mentioned that a new Instagram account was made for Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Department. Manager Diehl also stated that Nextdoor is another channel that is being utilized more, but residents were upset that Nextdoor wasn't alerting them of new posts from Meridian Township.

D. Promotions/Publications

Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Department will be releasing their Family Fun Guide publication in mid-April. The Family Fun Guide will list all the events available in 2023.

E. Finance

None.

F. HOMTV Internship/Alumni

None.

12. PUBLIC REMARKS

None.

13. ADJOURNMENT

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

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously

Chair Kiyak adjourned the meeting at 7:02 pm.



Communications
Commission

COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER REPORT



**Communications Department
2nd Quarter Report
April – June 2023**

Municipal Building Renovation

The Meridian Township Municipal Building began renovations on Monday, April 24. In the week leading up to the move, Township staff relocated to their temporary work stations. The Communications Department moved into the HOMTV Studio so that equipment could still be accessed. The HOMTV Studio provides an external door to the outside, so Staff can avoid areas under renovation if needed.

The Town Hall Room remains open to serve residents who utilize the Municipal Building for its various in-person services.

The HOMTV Server & Control Rooms will be renovated in late August/September. Staff will need to schedule renovations around the Township meeting schedule, as HOMTV operations will need to be powered down during work in those rooms.

Staffing Changes

On May 1, Rachael Stohlin started in the position of Marketing and Public Relations Specialist, taking over for Andrea Smiley. The Marketing and Public Relations Specialist position received over 20 applications, and three in-person interviews were conducted before Manager Diehl made the final decision.

The interview panel consisted of Multimedia Production and Operations Specialist Danneisha McDole, Human Resources Director Abby Tithof, Director of Project Management and Operations Melissa Massey, and Janet Lillie, who serves as the Assistant Vice President at Michigan State University.

Certified Tourist Ambassador (CTA) Class

Manager Diehl, Specialist McDole, and Specialist Stohlin will be completing a CTA certification class on June 22 through the Greater Lansing Convention and Visitor's Bureau (GLCVB). The certification is a four-hour class, followed by a test.



**Communications Department
2nd Quarter Report
April – June 2023**

Marketing & Communications

Meridian Cares About You: Health & Safety Expo

On Wednesday, May 10, Meridian Township held the inaugural Meridian Cares About You: Health & Safety Expo at the Marketplace on the Green Pavilion. Community members were encouraged to attend to learn more about the health and safety resources offered in the Lansing area. Participants had the ability to visit 23 booths relating to mental health, physical health, wellness, law enforcement, and more.

The Communications Department assisted Trustee Marna Wilson and other Township Staff with promotion of the event. This included paid Facebook ads, a flyer, social media graphics, coordinating with the participating vendors, and updating the Meridian Township website.

HOMTV was at the event to capture photos and video, and a recap video of the event was shared on social media. The flyer from the event can be found at the end of this document.

Celebrate Meridian

The first communication regarding Celebrate Meridian was published in February 2023. This included the creation of Facebook event links, Township calendar and webpage updates, a call for sponsors/volunteers, and social media posts announcing the return of Celebrate Meridian.

Leading up to the event, promotional efforts will focus on highlighting the different activities offered at Celebrate Meridian.

In addition to the regular festival, a campaign titled Celebrate Meridian Business Week will be in effect from June 17-June 24. Participating businesses who donated to the Celebrate Meridian Festival will be receiving picture-selfie boards to hang in their establishments. Customers will be encouraged to take a photo with the board and post to their social media to help promote the event.

Specialist McDole and current HOMTV intern Stella Govitz designed the 16 photo boards that will be sent to sponsors. Celebrate Meridian will be a two-day event taking place on Friday, June 23 and Saturday, June 24 (www.meridian.mi.us/CelebrateMeridian).

Examples of promotional materials will be provided below.

Meridian Freedom Fest

The Meridian Freedom Fest honoring Juneteenth will return for its third year and takes place the weekend before Celebrate. Multiple flyers and social media graphics were made for the event. A paid ad will also be placed in the City Pulse for their Juneteenth edition.

The event will feature two movie screenings (June 9 & June 16), a Blues & Jazz Festival at Lake Lansing Park South (June 17), and a Historical Spiritual Review at the Meridian Historical Village (June 18). HOMTV will be in attendance to cover every event.

The website can be viewed at www.meridian.mi.us/Juneteenth.

Examples of promotional materials will be provided below.



**Communications Department
2nd Quarter Report
April – June 2023**

Meridian Pride

The inaugural Meridian Pride event will take place on Saturday, August 26 at the Marketplace on the Green Pavilion. The event will feature food trucks, entertainment, a beer garden, proud puppy pageant, art vendors, and more.

The webpage has been created and is available at www.meridian.mi.us/MeridianPride.

A paid digital ad was printed in the Pride edition of the City Pulse. Once Celebrate Meridian and the Freedom Fest have concluded, Staff will focus on promoting Meridian Pride.

Examples of promotional materials will be provided below.

Summer Concert Series & Farmers' Market

The first Summer Concert Series was held on June 7, and will run every Wednesday from June through the end of September. June 7 also marked the first day of the Wednesday Farmers' Market at Marketplace on the Green. The Meridian Farmers' Market outdoor season began as Saturdays only in April and May but will now run every Wednesday and Saturday until the end of October.

HOMTV will be in attendance to capture photos and videos of the various Summer Concert Series and Farmers' Market days. Examples of promotional materials will be provided below.

HOMTV Operations

Town Hall Room A/V Upgrades Project

The final piece of equipment needed for the Town Hall Room project was delivered and installed. This will allow for different inputs to be displayed on the various screens.

HOMTV National Award Winner

The Alliance for Community Media named HOMTV as the 2022 winner in the Overall Excellence in Government Access category for the Hometown Media Awards. The ceremony will take place in New York City on June 28, and the plaque will be mailed to HOMTV in early July.

HOMTV Programming & Internship

The Spring 2023 HOMTV Internship Program included 4 reporting interns and 1 promotions intern. 2 of the 5 interns were returning interns, with 3 of them being new interns that semester.

Training Workshops Provided by Specialist McDole:

- How to use the HOMTV website.
- How to conduct a standard news story package.
- How to interview on-camera.
- Photography and videography skills, including how to edit.



**Communications Department
2nd Quarter Report
April – June 2023**

- How to conduct a podcast.
- Creating a resume and demo reel.

Intern Segments Filmed:

- **Dining with Dom**
 - HOMTV intern Dominic Carroll visited family-owned restaurants in Meridian Township to learn more about what they offer.
- **Behind the Scenes at HOMTV – Taeya Takeover**
 - HOMTV intern Taeya Wright recorded behind the scenes footage of the shows, segments, and story assignments filmed by the other interns. These were done in Reels format and shared on HOMTV’s Facebook and Instagram.
- **Catching Up with Kenize**
 - HOMTV intern Mackenize Dekker visited Art Unlimited, Great Harvest Bread Co., and then filmed a final recap episode with the other HOMTV interns.
- **Women’s History Month**
 - Taeya Wright and Mackenize Dekker interviewed 5 Meridian Township department heads for Women’s History Month.

The Summer 2023 HOMTV Internship Program will include 1 reporting intern, 1 production intern, and 1 promotions intern. Two of those interns are new, with one being a returning intern.

The HOMTV Summer Internship began on May 22 and will conclude on August 3.

(Photo features Staff and Spring 2023 interns)



Meridian Cares About You: Health & Safety Expo

May 10, 2023

5:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Marketplace on the Green
1995 Central Park Drive

Sponsored By:



Family friendly event
featuring **FREE** food,
music, giveaways & more!

FREE & open to the public! Learn more about health & safety resources available in Meridian Township.

Participating Booths:

- Meridian Township Police Department
- Meridian Township Fire Department
- Meridian Cares
- Meridian Township Parks & Recreation
- Ingham County Health Department
- Ingham County Emergency Management
- Community Mental Health Authority of Clinton, Eaton and Ingham Counties
- Meridian Senior Center
- NAMI Lansing
- MSU Police and Public Safety
- MSU Sexual Assault Healthcare Program
- Delta Dental
- Red Cross
- Greater Lansing Area Food Bank
- Small Talk Children's Advocacy Center
- Okemos Woolf Pack
- EVE (End Violent Encounters)
- Ele's Place - Capital Region
- Tri-County Office on Aging



This event is co-hosted by the Meridian Township Board, Okemos Public Schools & Haslett Public Schools.

For more information, contact Trustee Marna Wilson at wilson@meridian.mi.us or 773.860.8388.



Celebrate MERIDIAN FESTIVAL

FRIDAY, JUNE 23 | 6:00 PM TO 9:00 PM
SATURDAY, JUNE 24 | 8:00 AM TO 11:00 PM



MERIDIAN FREEDOM FEST CELEBRATE JUNETEENTH

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- FREE MOVIE SCREENING OF "THE WIZ"
 - Friday, June 9 at 9:00 pm
 - Meridian Historical Village
- FREE MOVIE SCREENING OF "QUEEN OF KATWE"
 - Friday, June 16 at 9:00 pm
 - Meridian Historical Village
- BLUES & JAZZ FESTIVAL
 - Saturday, June 17 at 1:00 pm
 - Lake Lansing Park South
- A SPIRITUAL HISTORICAL REVIEW
 - Sunday, June 18 at 2:00 pm
 - Meridian Historical Village Chapel

THANK YOU
TO OUR
SPONSORS:



JUNETEENTH
FUNDRAISING
COMMITTEE



DELTA DENTAL[®]



2023 Meridian Pride

Saturday, August 26 | 4:00 pm to 10:00 pm
Marketplace on the Green Pavilion
1995 Central Park Drive, Okemos, MI 48864

Join Meridian Township, LGBTQ+ members, allies, and local organizations to celebrate diversity and inclusion in the Township community!

Join the festivities and enjoy:

- Food Trucks
- Beer Garden
- Live MC and DJ
- 5K Fun Run
- Proud Puppy Pageant
- Art Vendors
- Advocacy Resources

For more information, visit meridian.mi.us/MeridianPride or contact Brian (Raven) Shorkey at 517.853.4576 or shorkey@meridian.mi.us.





Summer

Concert Series

Wednesdays at 6:00 pm, June - September
Marketplace on the Green
(1995 Central Park Drive)



Summer Concert Series



Wednesdays at 6:00 pm
Marketplace on the Green - 1995 Central Park Drive



June
7

Sea
Cruisers



Communications
Commission

Commission Members Reports & Announcements



Communications
Commission

Action Items



Communications
Commission

Discussion Items



To: Communications Commission
From: Samantha Diehl, Communications Manager
Date: June 9, 2023
Re: History of the Communications Commission

At the March 22, 2023 Regular Communications Commission, Chair Brian Seipel expressed his interest in compiling a history of the Communications Commission. Commissioner Charles also expressed interest in learning more about the history of the Commission.

The Communications Department retains the minutes for the Communications Commission, as well as the Cable Commission, which was the original Commission name before it was changed to Communications Commission. Commissioners and Manager Diehl could go through the minutes to compile a written historical timeline of the Cable/Communications Commission.



9.B

To: Communications Commission
From: Samantha Diehl, Communications Manager
Date: June 9, 2023
Re: Communications Commission Member Recruitment

The Communications Commission consists of five members and two alternates who are appointed by the Township Supervisor. All members/alternates serve a three-year term. Presently, there are three members, one alternate, and the Board Liaison.

Chair Seipel, Commissioner Charles, and Commissioner Whiting-Dobson have expressed interest in reaching out to individuals who may want to serve on the Communications Commission. Manager Diehl is recommending that the Commissioners discuss the qualifications they hope applicants to have when applying for the Communications Commission, as well as how they may want to go about recruiting members.



To: Communications Commission
From: Samantha Diehl, Communications Manager
Date: June 9, 2023
Re: Affordable Connectivity Program

On June 8, 2023, Governor Gretchen Whitmer and the Michigan High Speed Internet Office announced the statewide Michigan Affordability Connectivity Program Act Now initiative to increase awareness of the Affordability Connectivity Program (ACP), which is a \$14.2 billion federal broadband benefit funded by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. The goal is to help lower-income families pay for their high-speed internet.

The ACP provides eligible households with a monthly discount of up to \$30 per month and a one-time \$100 discount toward a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet. Nearly 1.7 million Michigan households are eligible for the ACP, but only 644,000 have enrolled in the program.

Township Supervisor Patricia Herring Jackson contacted Manager Diehl on June 9 looking for ideas that Township could promote the ACP to its residents.

The email correspondence between Supervisor Jackson and Manager Diehl can be viewed below.



CONNECTING
MICHIGAN
COMMUNITIES

Governor Whitmer Launches Statewide Initiative to Increase \$14.2B Affordable Connectivity Program Adoption

Today, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and the Michigan High Speed Internet Office announced the kick-off a statewide Michigan ACP Act Now initiative to increase awareness of the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), a \$14.2 billion federal broadband benefit funded by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, that will connect more Michiganders to the long-term benefit that helps lower-income families pay for high-speed internet.

The ACP provides eligible households with a monthly discount of up to \$30 per month (up to \$75 per month for households on tribal) and a one-time \$100 discount toward a laptop, desktop computer or tablet. Nearly 1.7 million Michigan households are eligible for the ACP, yet only 644,000 have enrolled.

“With affordable high-speed internet available to all Michiganders, we can grow our economy, create jobs and improve healthcare and education outcomes,” said **Governor Whitmer**. “These critical investments will connect homes and small businesses across Michigan, and we are committed to achieving our ambitious goal to connect every Michigan community.”

The Michigan ACP Act Now initiative will unite a broad coalition of partner cities, community-based organizations and trusted institutions in partnership with EducationSuperHighway, the national non-profit with a mission to close the broadband affordability gap. Organizations are encouraged to sign up to help spread awareness to Michigan residents.

Through the ACP Act Now Initiative, EducationSuperHighway will support statewide awareness efforts by training community leaders and partner organizations and providing outreach materials and tools to help households enroll. **The non-profit recently launched [GetACP.org/Michigan](https://www.getacp.org/michigan), a virtual mobile assistant that simplifies the ACP enrollment process by providing real-time support to help eligible households determine the easiest way to qualify.**

ACP-eligible households include families with incomes at or below 200% of the federal poverty level and those who qualify for Lifeline, SNAP, Free and Reduced-

Re: Governor Whitmer Launches Statewide Initiative to Increase \$14.2B Affordable Connectivity Program Adoption

Samantha Diehl <diehl@meridian.mi.us>

Fri 6/9/2023 1:34 PM

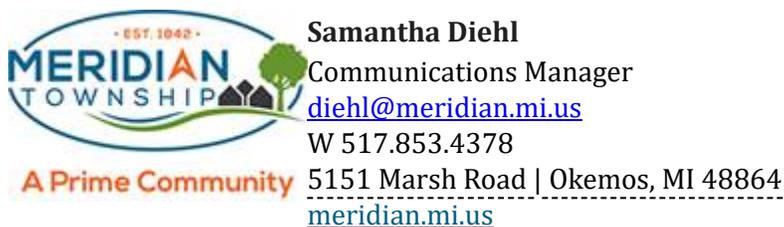
To: Patricia Herring Jackson <pjackson@meridian.mi.us>; Frank Walsh <walsh@meridian.mi.us>

Cc: Danneisha McDole <mcdole@meridian.mi.us>; Rachael Stohlin <stohlin@meridian.mi.us>

Thank you for forwarding this along, Supervisor. I think it would be great to create a campaign aimed at educating residents about these programs and how they can apply for them. I also signed up for the webinar on June 26.

I have a Communications Commission meeting this Wednesday, so I can add a discussion item on the topic and discuss it with the commission members. I also think this would be a great talking point for your listening sessions in the fall, in addition to promoting the programs on our website and social media.

Thank you,



From: Patricia Herring Jackson <pjackson@meridian.mi.us>

Sent: Friday, June 9, 2023 12:39 PM

To: Frank Walsh <walsh@meridian.mi.us>; Samantha Diehl <diehl@meridian.mi.us>

Subject: Fwd: Governor Whitmer Launches Statewide Initiative to Increase \$14.2B Affordable Connectivity Program Adoption

Frank and Samantha,

I am looking for ideas about how we bring these kinds of opportunities and benefits to the residents and businesses of Meridian Township, So I have sign up for inclusion in building network. I am wondering if there is benefit in our communications department and/or the communications commission exploring participation to ensure that our residents and businesses area aware and participate in these programs.

Happy to discuss further.

Pat Jackson

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)



Communications
Commission

Compliments/ Complaints



Communications
Commission

Video Service Provider



Communications
Commission

Programming



11Bi.

To: Communications Commission
From: Danneisha McDole, Multimedia Production and Operations Specialist
Date: June 9, 2023
Re: Program Totals and Video On-Demand Totals

Program Totals (Year to Date):

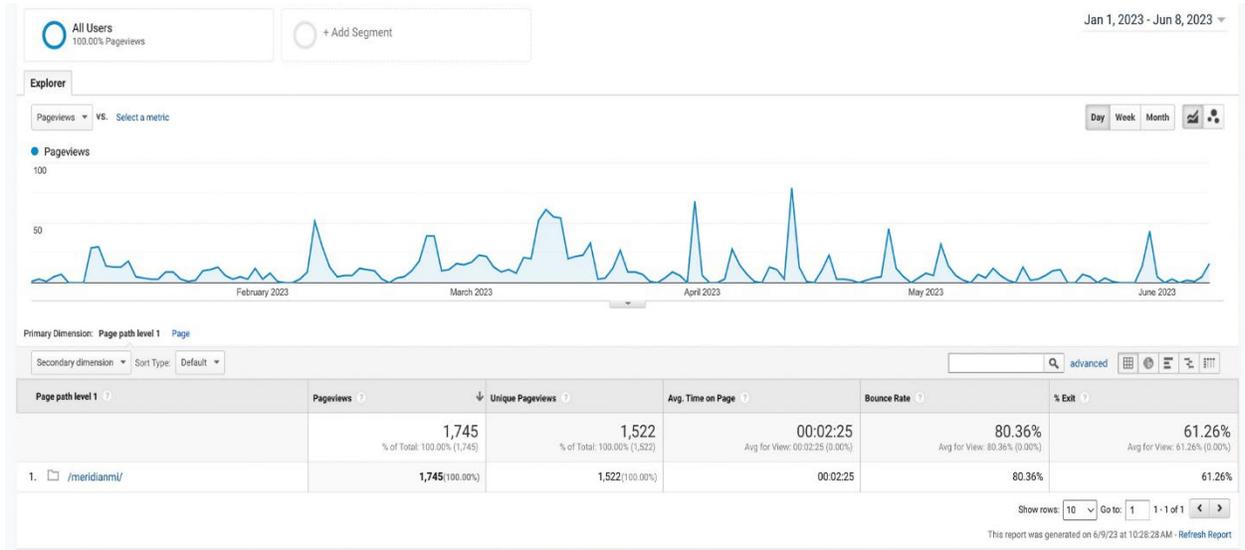
- Meridian Live: 35
 - Township Board: 13
 - Planning Commission: 12
 - Environmental Commission: 6
 - Zoning Board of Appeals: 4
- Catching Up with Kenize: 3
- HOM Entertainment: 10
- Event Coverage: 7

Video On-Demand Analytics on next page.

Memo to Communications Commission
June 9, 2023
Re: Programming
Page 3

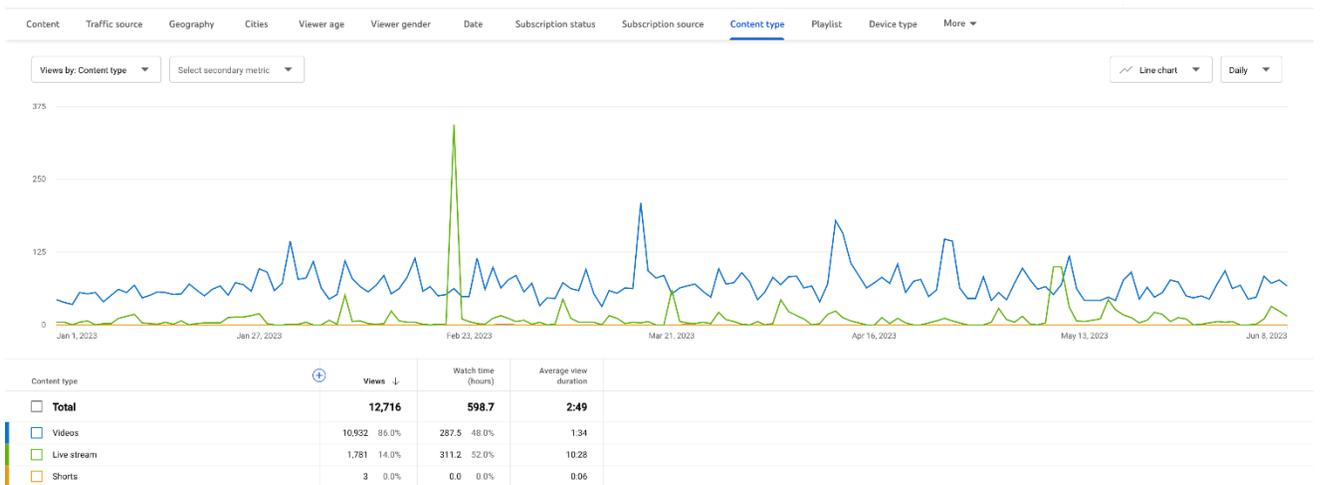
HOMTV Website Video On-Demand (Swagit)

The graph shows that HOMTV on-demand services via Swagit had 1,745 year-to-date pageviews.



YouTube Live vs. Uploaded Content Stats

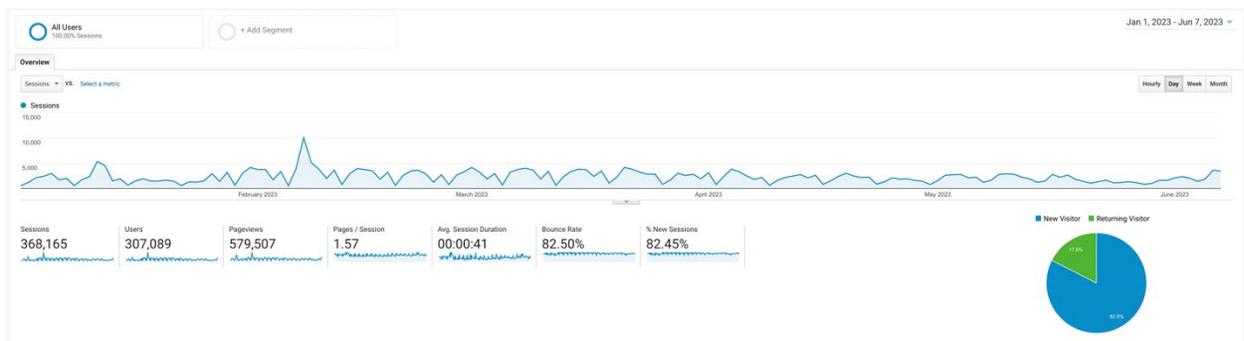
This graph shows the amount of HOMTV YouTube views based on uploaded content and live streams. Of the 12,716 total views for the year, 86.0% of those were for uploaded content and 14.0% were for the video streamed live (Township meetings).



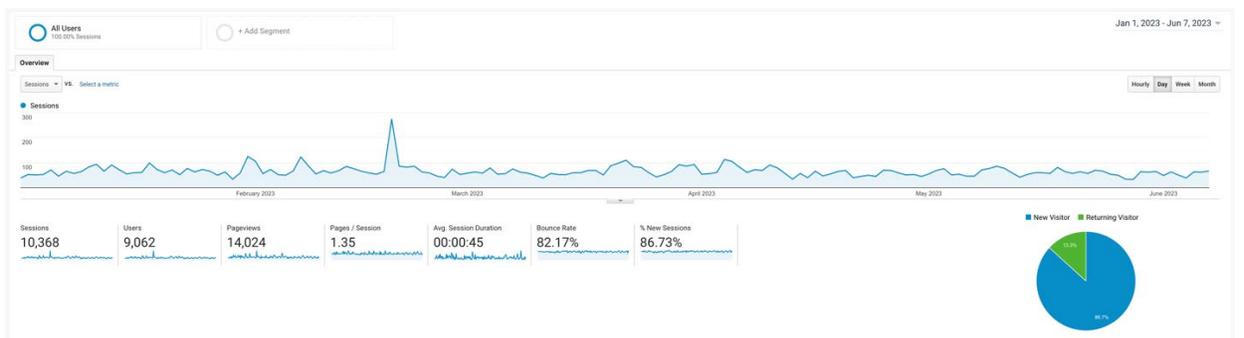


To: Communications Commission
From: Rachael Stohlin, Marketing and Public Relations Specialist
Date: June 9, 2023
Re: Meridian Township & HOMTV Website Analytics

The Meridian Township website received 579,000 pageviews from January 1, 2023, to June 7, 2023. Of those visitors, 82.5% were new and 17.5% were returning.



The HOMTV website received 14,000 pageviews from January 1, 2023, to June 7, 2023. Of those visitors, 87% were new and 13% were returning.





To: Communications Commission
From: Rachael Stohlin, Marketing and Public Relations Specialist
Date: June 9, 2023
Re: Marketing Updates & Social Media Performance Summary YTD

Updates

I joined the Meridian Township Communications Department on May 1, 2023, and am actively learning the Township's marketing strategy and deciding on new ways that our department can build and apply the Township's brand.

Having assumed this role in the weeks leading up to Meridian Township's largest events, I've recently collaborated with Township staff to develop marketing materials for Celebrate Meridian Festival, Meridian Freedom Festival, and Meridian Pride, developing posts, signage, and/or advertising for each.

In the coming months, I will also work with the Communications Department to create a social media policy that provides clear expectations for community members engaging with our content, and I will also progressively update our existing marketing strategy to address the new ways that social media and email users interact with content, ensuring our news and information reaches those who need it. The social media policy has an expected completion date of July 2023, and the marketing strategy completion date is to be determined.

Paid Ads on Social Media

As the Celebrate Meridian Festival approaches, we are planning social campaigns to advertise Celebrate Meridian Business Week sponsors, as well as key event information to attract visitors to the festival.

Facebook

Meridian Township: Total Facebook followers YTD is 8,786, which is an increase of 385 new followers since the start of the year. Total page reach is 154,731, which is an increase of 11.5%. The page received 29,145 visits, which is an increase of 46.2%.

HOMTV: Total Facebook followers YTD is 2445, which is an increase of 36. Total Facebook page reach is 12,172, which is an increase of 12.5%. Page visits were 2,335, which is an increase of 7.4%.

Meridian Township Parks & Recreation: Total Facebook followers YTD is 3152, which is an increase of 85. Total Facebook page reach is 27,931, which is a decrease of 57.1%. Page visits were 3,831, which is a decrease of 44.4%.



Harris Nature Center: Total Facebook followers YTD is 4,204, which is an increase of 132. Total Facebook page reach is 62,368, which is an increase of 87.5%. Page visits were 3,432, which was an increase of 246%.

Meridian Township Farmers' Market: Total Facebook followers YTD is 12,598, which is an increase of 649 new likes. Total page reach is 357,623, which is a decrease of 70.8%. The page received 24,484 visits, which is a decrease of 2.7%.

Meridian Township Fire Department: Total Facebook followers YTD is 3,002, which is an increase of 41 new page likes. Total page reach was 17,427, which is a decrease of 80.3%. The page received 2,085 visits, which is a decrease of 42.3%.

Twitter

Meridian Township: The Communications Department continues to monitor news about Twitter's new ownership and changes happening within the platform, including concerns about safety and content quality. At this time, Meridian Township continues to post on Twitter to engage with audience members who may only use this platform and offer quick information to local news networks about Township happenings.

Total followers YTD is 3,372, which is an increase since 2022 YTD. Twitter impressions from March 10 – June 8 totaled 24,500. The top tweet, which earned 635 impressions during the period, was about the reopening of the Okemos Road Bridge on March 22.

HOMTV: Total followers YTD is 1719, which is a decrease since 2022 YTD. Twitter impressions March 10 to June 8 totaled 5,000. The top tweet, which earned 331 impressions during the period, described an episode of HOM Entertainment covering the 2023-2024 Broadway season at the Wharton Center.

Instagram

Meridian Township: Total Instagram followers is 2,217, which is an increase of 196. Posts reached 4,443 accounts, a decrease of 43.6%. Post interactions equaled 1,637, a decrease of 53.2%. Content interactions equaled 1,772, a decrease of 51.7% when compared to the previous quarter. Accounts engaged equaled 435, a decrease of 60.4%.

HOMTV: Total Instagram followers YTD is 497, which is a decrease of -1.2%. Posts reached 1,503 accounts, a decrease of -34.4%.

Harris Nature Center: Total Instagram followers YTD is 934, which is an increase of 128. Posts reached 726 accounts, a decrease of 80.4%. Post interactions equaled 340, an increase of 3.3%. Content interactions equaled 379, a decrease of 3.1% when compared to the previous quarter. Accounts engaged equaled 125, a decrease of 29.8%.



Meridian Township Farmers' Market: Total Instagram followers YTD is 1,303, which is an increase of 6.5% compared to the previous quarter. Posts reached 341 accounts, which is a decrease of 16.7%.

LinkedIn

Meridian Township: Total LinkedIn followers is up to 769. Post impressions YTD were 11,653. The account had 280 unique visitors during this period.

HOMTV: Total LinkedIn followers is 1,230 as of June 7. Post impressions YTD were 2,295. The account had 136 unique visitors.

NextDoor: NextDoor continues to have the highest volume of followers and greatest engagement for the Township. Meridian Township has 12,827 subscribers, which is an increase of 442 since year end 2022.

Constant Contact: The Communications Team will now send out the Meridian Happenings newsletter monthly around the 3rd week of each month, while continuing to assist with the monthly Green Gazette digital newsletter, as well as the Playbook digital newsletter, both of which are released around the first week of each month.

Currently, we have 9,684 contacts across the Township's three newsletters, with an average open rate of 47%, remaining well above the industry average.



Communications
Commission

Publications/ Promotions



11.Di

To: Communications Commission
From: Samantha Diehl, Communications Manager
Date: June 9, 2023
Re: Family Fun Guide Publication

The 2023 Family Fun Guide by the Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Department was mailed out to residents at the beginning of May. This 24-page issue provides residents with every Parks and Recreation activity and event in 2023.

The Communications Department was tasked with designing the final product, which will be attached to this memo. The publication has also been digitized and formatted to be ADA compliant. The Family Fun Guide can be found digitally at www.meridian.mi.us/Publications.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Family Fun Guide

2023



3



Summer Concert Series

5



Celebrate Meridian Festival



A PRIME COMMUNITY
meridian.mi.us

It's time to get out and play!

A Message from the Director



Dear Meridian Township Residents,

Happy spring! As we look ahead in 2023, there are multiple options available for recreation, learning, socializing and volunteering here in our community to get you connected and keep you connected. No matter your age, ability or area of interest, I hope you will explore the many local attractions, programs and events that are planned for your enjoyment!

Meeting new people, learning a new skill, enjoying live music or even a leisurely walk in the woods, are all beneficial for your mental, social and physical well-being. It's time to come out and play! We look forward to seeing you soon and serving you always.

Sincerely,

LuAnn Maisner, CPRP
Parks & Recreation Director

Park Commission

- Mary Nardo-Farris - Chair
- Ami Van Antwerp - Vice Chair
- Mark Stephens - Commissioner
- Mike McDonald - Commissioner
- Amanda Lick - Commissioner

Meridian Township Board

- Patricia Herring Jackson - Supervisor
- Deborah Guthrie - Clerk
- Phil Deschaine - Treasurer
- Scott Hendrickson - Trustee
- Kathy Ann Sundland - Trustee
- Marna Wilson - Trustee
- Courtney Wisinski - Trustee

Park & Recreation Staff

- LuAnn Maisner - Parks & Recreation Director
- Bridget Cannon - Administrative Assistant
- Kati Adams - Parks & Land Preserve Maintenance Superintendent
- Emma Campbell - Land Stewardship Coordinator
- Mike Devlin - Parks & Recreation Specialist
- Allison Goodman - Harris Nature Center Naturalist
- Larry Bob - Lead Worker, Park Maintenance
- Tom Baker - Utility Worker, Park Maintenance
- Dan Inman - Utility Worker, Park Maintenance
- Josh Cannon - Utility Worker, Park Maintenance
- Troy Goodwin - Utility Worker, Park Maintenance
- Traverse Fuller - Utility Worker, Park Maintenance
- Nick Wing - Parks & Recreation Specialist
- Cherie Wisdom - Meridian Senior Center Coordinator
- Tom Cary - Farmers' Market Manager

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Garden Club
Haslett Beautification
- 17/18** MCC
- 19** Volunteer with Us
- 20** Farmers' Market



03



05



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07



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Calendar of Events



Dogs After Dark	April 14
Yappy Hour Dog Park Members	April 17
Love A Park Day	April 19
Wine in the Woods	April 22
Earth Day Pull-Pizza-Plant	April 22
Trailside Ecology Ephemeral Discovery	April 25
Wildflower Walk	April 30
Late Spring Nature Tots	May 1-22
Dogs After Dark	May 5
Kentucky Derby Party	May 5
Native Plant Sale	May 6
Wetland Walk at Foster Crouse Preserve	May 6
Victorian Tea	May 7
Mother's Day Celebration	May 11
Yappy Hour Dog Park Members	May 12
Edible Wild Plants Walk	May 13
Trailblazers Workday at Foster Crouse Preserve	May 13
Stars in the Grass Chipmunk Story Time	May 18
Spring Tea	May 18
Wild Canines Campfire Program	May 20
Meridian Garden Club Plant Sale	May 20
Mom2Mom and Kid2Kid Garage Sale	May 21
Expert Speaker Panel	June 2
Planting a Native Meridian	June 3
Sea Cruisers at Marketplace	June 7
Wetland Walk at Sumbal Preserve	June 7
Summer Woods Chipmunk Story Time	June 8
Dogs After Dark	June 9
Intro to Bee Keeping	June 10
Cops & Bobbers Fishing Derby	June 11
Don Middlebrook at Marketplace	June 14
Father's Day Outing	June 16
Yappy Hour Dog Park Members	June 20
Showdown at Marketplace	June 21
Trailside Ecology - Summer Solstice Edition	June 21
Volunteer Day at Horse Haven Rescue	June 23
Celebrate Meridian Festival	June 23-24
Shellouts at Marketplace	June 28
Wetland Walk at Nancy Moore Park	July 5
Meridian Community Band at Marketplace	July 5
National Cow Day: Ice Cream Bar	July 11
The Black Barn Band at Marketplace	July 12
All About Bats Campfire Program	July 15
Oxymorons at Marketplace	July 19
Karaoke at Marketplace	July 20
Yappy Hour Dog Park Members	July 24
Slick Jimmy at Marketplace	July 26
Musical Bingo - Teen Night	July 27

Mike and Lisa at Marketplace August 2
 Wetland Walk at North Meridian Park August 2
 Turning Back the Pages Summer Camp August 7-11
 Garage Sale Band at Marketplace August 9
 Karaoke at Marketplace August 10
 Murder Mystery Dinner Fundraiser August 11
 Fantastic Bees and Facts About Them August 12
 Global Village at Marketplace August 16
 Musical Bingo – Adults Night August 17
 Yappy Hour Dog Park Members August 18
 ABC Sisters and the Big Bang Theory Band August 23
 Dogs After Dark August 25
 Steve Spees at Marketplace August 30



Joe Wright at Marketplace September 6
 Wetland Walk at Davis Foster Preserve September 6
 Tailgate Party September 8
 Invasive Species Field Training September 9
 An Evening With Trees Campfire Program September 9
 Early Fall Nature Tots September 11- October 2
 Kanin Wren at Marketplace September 13
 Hello Harvest Moon | Chipmunk Story Time September 14
 Yappy Hour Dog Park Members September 17
 Tony Thompson & Friends at Marketplace September 20
 Fall Wildlife Festival September 23
 Native Seed Collection Workshop September 23
 Dedfoot Duo at Marketplace September 27
 Dogs After Dark September 29



Early Fall Nature Tots October 2
 Fall Native Plants Sale October 7
 Heritage Festival October 7
 Wine in the Woods October 14
 Night Out in Nature for Kids October 15
 Seed Sorting Party October 18
 Freddie the Leaf | Chipmunk Story Time October 19
 Autumn Color Walk October 22
 Happy "Howl"oween! Large Dog Park October 24
 Halloween Spooktacular at the Market October 25
 Happy "Howl"oween! Small Dog Park October 26
 Dogs After Dark October 27
 Halloween in the Village October 28
 Trailside Ecology | Creepy Cool Critters October 30
 Halloween Party with Apple Bar October 31



Late Fall Nature Tots November 6-27
 Let's Talk Turkey November 12
 Seed Sorting Party November 15
 Giving Thanks | Chipmunk Story Time November 16
 Dogs After Dark November 17



Night Out in Nature for Kids December 1
 Wine in the Woods December 9
 Christmas in the Village December 10
 Snow Time | Chipmunk Story Time December 14
 Dogs After Dark December 15
 Critter Holiday December 17
 Santa Paws December 18
 Drive Thru Santa December 19
 Trailside Ecology | Winter Solstice Edition December 21

LIVE Music at Marketplace on the Green Delta Dental Stage

Summer Concert Series

Join us every Wednesday, June - September
for FREE LIVE music from local bands.



LIVE Music

Wednesdays, 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm



- **June 7 - Sea Cruisers**
(50s, 60s and 70s)
- **June 14 - Don Middlebrook**
(Trop Rock - wear your Hawaiian shirt)
- **June 21 - Showdown**
(Michigan's Classic Rock)
- **June 28 - Shellouts**
(Classic Rock favorites)
- **July 5 - Meridian Community Band**
(Connecting our community through Americana music.)
- **July 12 - The Black Barn Band**
(70s to Today's Hits)
- **July 19 - Oxymorons**
(Eclectic list rooted in the 60s and 70s)
- **July 26 - Slick Jimmy**
(80s Pop, Rock, Top 40, Dance, Big Hair, 70s & Country)
- **August 2 - Mike and Lisa**
(Easy listening Jazz favorites)
- **August 9 - Garage Sale Band**
(80s, 90s to current Pop/Rock covers)
- **August 16 - Global Village**
(60s through present day)
- **August 23 - ABC Sisters & the Big Bang Theory**
(40s Tribute, big bands of the past)
- **August 30 - Steve Spees**
(Jazz, Blues, Easy Listening, Country & Classic Rock)
- **September 6 - Joe Wright**
(Solo Country cover artist)
- **September 13 - Kanin Wren**
(Eclectic list rooted in the 60s and 70s)
- **September 20 - Tony Thompson & Friends**
(Soul/Funk, Motown, Dance)
- **September 27 - Deadfoot Duo**
(Blues music)

Sponsored by:

Orthopaedic Rehab Specialists, Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes PLC, Embassy Transportation, Midwest Power Equipment, School of Rock East Lansing and Thornton Realty Team powered by Caldwell Banker Realty.

Special Events



Mom2Mom/Kid2Kid Sale

Sunday, May 21
\$10/Table
Marketplace on the Green
Buy or sell products closely related to families; clothing, toys and sporting equipment.



Celebrate Meridian Teen Night

Friday, June 23
6:00 - 9:00 pm
Marketplace on the Green
Enjoy LIVE music from the local band, dogsneeze.



Playmakers Running Club

3rd - 6th Grades
Mon. & Wed. | May 1 - 24
5:30 - 6:30 pm | \$50/child
Nancy Moore Park
Receive professional instruction on good form running, training sessions and a Fun Run Finale!



DJ Bingo

July 27 | Teen Night
August 17 | Adult Night
6:00 - 8:00 pm
Marketplace on the Green
Name that tune or artist to fill your Bingo card. Feel free to sing along.



Cops & Bobbers Fishing Derby

Sunday, June 11
9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Meridian Historical Village Pond
Join Meridian Parks & Recreation and Meridian Police for a morning of fishing (fishing poles available, first come first served).



Halloween Spooktacular

Wednesday, October 25
5:30 - 7:00 pm
\$5/Child - Registration Fee
Marketplace on the Green
Dress for Halloween fun. Enjoy games, scavenger hunt, crafts, music & more!



Karaoke at the Marketplace

Thursday, June 20 | Adult Night
Thursday, August 10 | Teen Night
6:00 - 9:00 pm
Marketplace on the Green
Sing like a rock-star on the Delta Dental Stage at Marketplace on the Green.



Drive Thru Santa

Tuesday, December 19
3:00 - 8:30 pm
\$12/vehicle
Visit with Santa from the comfort of your car.

For your convenience, you can now make your reservation online using our new registration system, RecPro. Scan the QR Code with your smartphone camera or visit <https://recreation.meridian.mi.us/>



CELEBRATE MERIDIAN FESTIVAL



SATURDAY
JUNE 24
8:00 am - 11:00 pm



Farmers' Market
8:00 am - 2:00 pm



Children's Activities
3:00 pm - 9:00 pm



Nokomis Center
3:00 pm - 7:00 pm



Historical Village Tours
12:00 pm - 4:00 pm



Food Vendors
3:00 pm - 11:00 pm



LIVE Entertainment
3:00 pm - 11:00 pm



Beer Garden
3:00 pm - 11:00 pm



Fireworks Finale
10:15 pm - 10:40 pm

meridian.mi.us/CelebrateMeridian

Adult Sports

Men's League Softball

Tuesday evenings | May 9 - June 27

Team fee: \$295, Player fee: \$20/player, Umpire Fee: \$17

Co-ed Softball

Wednesday evenings | May 10 - June 28.

Team fee: \$295, Player Fee: \$20/player, Umpire Fee: \$17

Co-ed Sand Volleyball - 4 vs. 4

May - June and July - September

Team fee: \$125

Adult Co-ed Spring Kickball

May - July and August - September

Team Fee: \$200.00



Fitness Over 50 Low-impact Exercise Program

2023 marks the 30th anniversary of our low-impact chair exercise & stretching program. Held year-round Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

9:00 am - 10:00 am

Drop-in Fee: \$1/per class.



Haslett & Okemos Baseball and Softball

T-ball through U12 leagues beginning in May.

Registration fees vary based on level. *Okemos residents are offered T-ball through their Community Education department.

Fall/Spring Soccer - Registration Opens End of May

Practices start the week of September 5

Games - Saturdays, September 16 - October 28

Games are scheduled between 9:00 am - 1:00 pm.

Prices vary.

Youth Sports

Haslett & Okemos K-7th Grade Flag Football

Practices start the week of September 5

Games - Sundays, September 17 - October 29

Prices vary.

Haslett K-6th Grade Recreation Basketball

Clinics available for Kindergarten & 1st grade.

1st - 6th grade leagues available for Haslett residents.

December 2023 - March 2024

*Okemos residents are offered basketball through their Community Education department.

Sporties for Shorties

3 - 5 year old's

Check our website for upcoming sessions. Parent participation is required throughout the program.

Registration Fee: \$50

NEW Online Registration System

It's now easier than ever to register and pay for programs and facility rentals. Scan the QR Code or visit meridian.mi.us/ParksRecreation and click the green "Register" button to get started. Once you create an account, you can view all the program offerings and facility rental opportunities. Contact the Parks Department by phone or email with questions.



Harris Nature Center

2023 Summer Day Camp June 20 - August 10



Enjoy a 1-day, 2-day or 4-day adventure at Harris Nature Center.

All day camps at the Harris Nature Center are nature themed with an emphasis on conservation. Camps are arranged and designed with age appropriate activities. Personal attention is given to each child by a dedicated Harris Nature Center Naturalist.

Registration

For more information or to get registered, scan the QR code or visit meridian.mi.us/HNC.



Native Plant Sale

May 6 | 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Deadline for preorders is Friday, April 21

"Buy local, grow local in 2023" - plant prices vary.

Enhance your garden this spring with a colorful array of native plants. There are over 80 varieties to choose from! The pre-order form is available on the Meridian Township website, meridian.mi.us or by contacting HNC at 517.349.3866. Limited quantities of additional plants will also be available on-site for purchase.

To learn more about native plants, check out our digital guide, *Planting a Native Meridian*. Scan the QR code or visit meridian.mi.us/MCC.



Chipmunk Storytime

Thursdays - April 13, May 18, June 8, Sept. 14, Oct. 19, Nov. 16 & Dec. 14.
10:00 - 11:00 am | \$5/child

Storytime comes alive as kids interact with puppets, Chicory Chipmunk & friends. Enjoy a story, nature activities and a guided walk.



Fall Wildlife Festival

Saturday, September 23
10:00 am - 2:00 pm
\$5/person in advance
\$8/person at the door

Celebrate wildlife and the arrival of autumn. Meet our resident wildlife, walk thru the friendly forest, enjoy nature activities & more!

Dogs After Dark

Fridays - April 14, May 5, June 9, August 25 - 8:00 pm
Sept. 29, Oct. 27, Nov. 17 & Dec. 15 - 7:00 pm.
\$5/person

Take your dog on a walk in the nighttime woods with a Naturalist. Dogs must be on a 6 ft. non-retractable leash.



Nature Tots

Mondays - May 1 - 22, Sept. 11 - Oct. 2 & Nov. 6 - 27.
4-week sessions | \$60
Visit meridian.mi.us/HNC for session times.

Children 4 & under (adult must be present) can enjoy nature experiences, including crafts, nature walks & hands-on activities.

Wine in the Woods

Saturdays
April 22, October 14 & December 9.
7:00 - 9:00 pm | \$10/person

Bring your favorite beverage & enjoy a guided walk through the woods, "unwine" by the campfire with gourmet s'mores. Register in advance.



Fall Native Plant Sale

Saturday, October 7
9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Plant prices vary.

Native plants such as coneflower, butterfly weed and cardinal flower can enhance your garden with color and low maintenance. Proceeds support HNC.

Campfire Programs

Saturdays - May 20/Wild Canines, July 15/All About Bats and Sept. 9/An Evening with the Trees.
7:00 pm | \$5/person

Join our naturalists around the campfire for a fireside chat, s'mores and a guided walk.

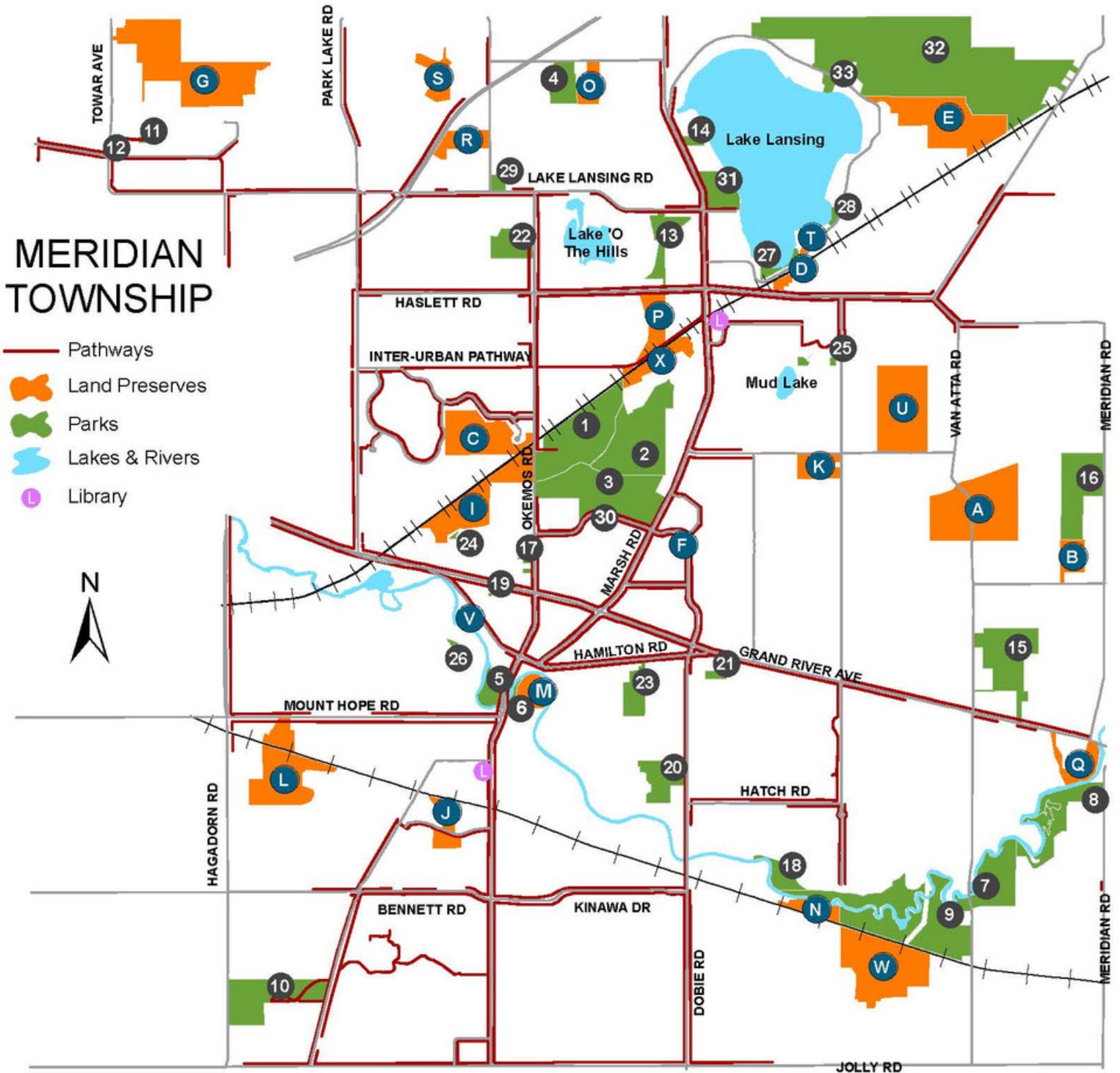


Critter Holiday

Sunday, December 17
1:00 pm | \$5/person

Bring your family and friends to the Harris Nature Center to create edible treats for the birds and squirrels in your back yard.

Meridian Township Parks, Pathways & Preserves



Meridian Township Parks

- | | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 Nancy Moore Park | 11 Snell-Towar Rec Center | 28 Spengler Marsh |
| *Parks and Recreation Office | 12 Towar Park | 29 Newton Road Park |
| *Small Dog Park | 13 Hillbrook Park | 30 Marketplace on the Green |
| 2 Central Park | 14 Marshall Park | |
| *Townhall Building | 15 Ted Black Woods | |
| *Public Safety Building | 16 North Meridian Rd. Park | |
| *Meridian Historical Village | 17 Ottawa Hills Park | |
| *Nokomis Learning Center | 18 Red Cedar Natural Area | |
| *Large Dog Park | 19 Cedar Bend Heights | |
| 3 Central Park South | 20 Sander Farm | |
| 4 Towner Road Park | 21 Forest Hills Park | |
| 5 Wonch Park | 22 Bratlin Woods | |
| 6 Ferguson Park | 23 Tacoma Hills Park | |
| 7 Harris Nature Center | 24 Schriener Park | |
| 8 Eastgate Park | 25 Orlando Park | |
| 9 Legg Park | 26 Indian Hills Park | |
| 10 Hartrick Park | 27 Lake Lansing Marsh | |

Ingham County Parks

- 31 Lake Lansing Park South
- 32 Lake Lansing Park North
- 33 LL Park North - Boat Launch

Meridian Township Land Preserves

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| A Davis/Foster Preserve | M Sumbal Preserve |
| B Foster-Crouse Preserve | N Red Cedar Glen Preserve |
| C Hubbel Preserve | O Towner Wetland Preserve |
| D Kuzma Preserve | P Meridian Central Wetland Preserve |
| E Lake Lansing North Preserve | Q Red Cedar River East Preserve |
| F Newman Equities Preserve | R Forest Grove Preserve |
| G Towar Woods Preserve | S North Ridge Preserve |
| H Lake Lansing South Preserve | T Tank Wetland |
| I Central Meridian Uplands | U Tihart Preserve |
| J Sower Woods Preserve | V Mandenberg Woods Preserve |
| K Tihart/Cornell Wetland Preserve | W Ponderosa Preserve |
| L Southwest Meridian Uplands | X Nemoke Preserve |

For more info: 517.853.4600
 parks@meridian.mi.us
 www.meridian.mi.us

Facilities

Rent A Pavilion

Gatherings in the parks are a special time for residents, families and community members. Eight park pavilions are available for rent.

\$80/Township resident | \$160 non-resident

Marketplace on the Green

\$300/Township resident | \$500/non-resident

Rental times:

8:00 am - 3:00 pm | 4:00 pm - dusk.

*A \$100 deposit is required when renting a pavilion, in addition to the rental fee.



Not pictured are the Eastgate Park and Legg Park pavilions. These pavilions do not have restrooms, so they are available on a first come, first served basis at no charge.

For your convenience, you can now make your reservation online using our new reservation system, RecPro. Scan the QR Code with your smartphone camera or visit recreation.meridian.mi.us



Dog Days of Meridian



Yappy Hour

Meets monthly - April 17, May 12, June 20,
July 24, August 18 and September 17
6:30 pm | Small & Large Dog Parks

Enjoy the park and little treats at the monthly
"Yappy" hours. Free to all Meridian Township Dog
Park members.

Santa Paws

Monday, December 18 | 6:00 - 8:00 pm
\$5/dog | Nancy Moore Park

"Here Comes Santa Paws" walk and pet
photo. Come take a stroll down "Santa
Paw Lane" with your fur-baby and get a
photo with Santa. Meet at Service Center.

Dog Park Registration

\$20/Residents
\$35/Non-residents

Dog Parks are a place for the community to come
together. We hope you have a dog-gone good
time! Registration and payment must be made
online. Scan the QR code or for more information,
visit meridian.mi.us/DogParks.



Happy "Howl"oween!

Tuesday, October 24 - Large Dog Park
Thursday, October 26 - Small Dog Park
6:30 - 8:00 pm | \$5/dog

Dog "paw" rade, costume contest, find treats at the
BONE-yard, play a game of musical SITS and more!
*Must be a Meridian Township Dog Park member.





Thomas Moore, Regional Head Librarian

Book Sales

Get great deals on books while supporting your libraries.

Friends of the Haslett Library On-going Sale

The Bookend, located inside the Haslett Library.
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, 12:00 – 4:00 pm
Thursday, 12:00 – 6:00 pm
Saturday, 12:00 – 2:00 pm

Friends of the Okemos Library Sale

Okemos Masonic Center | 2175 Hamilton Road
June 3 – 4, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm
September 9 – 10, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm
December 2 – 3, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Friends of the Okemos Library Summer Outdoor Sale

Central Park Pavilion | 5151 Marsh Road
July 29 – 30, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm



For more information, visit cadl.org.



Early Literacy

Inspire a love of books and reading in your children with storytimes at both our Haslett and Okemos branches.



Days and times are available at cadl.org/events.



CADL Haslett
1590 Franklin Street
Haslett
517.339.2324

CADL Okemos
4321 Okemos Road
Okemos
517.347.2021



Anyone Can Paint

1st Tuesday of Each Month | 9:30 am
 \$30/member or \$35/non-member
 Pre-registration & payment required.
 All supplies provided.

Kentucky Derby Party

Friday, May 5 | 11:30 am
 Deadline to register is May 1.
 Drinks, food, games and more!

Mother's Day Celebration

Thursday, May 11 | 2:00 pm
 Women - Free, Men \$5/person
 Deadline to register is May 5.
 Willows at Okemos

Spring Tea

Thursday, May 18 | 2:30 pm
 Deadline to register is May 15.
 Tea and Charcuterie Board.

Expert Speaker Panel

Friday, June 2 | 1:00 pm
 Deadline to register is May 30.
 Local experts in various fields present
 and answer questions.

Father's Day Outing

Friday, June 16 | 11:30 am
 Men - Free, Women \$5/person
 Deadline to register is June 12.
 Live music, food, beverages, dancing
 and games!

Volunteer Day at Horse Haven

Friday, June 23 | 9:30 am
 Deadline to register is June 16
 Includes box lunch and school bus
 transportation.

Ice Cream Social & Hot Dog Bar

Tuesday, July 11 | 1:30 pm
 Deadline to register is July 6.

DJ Bingo & Dinner

Thursday, July 20 | 5:30 pm
 Deadline to register is July 13.

Murder Mystery Dinner

Friday, August 11 | 6:00 pm
 \$60/person + fees, Table - \$420
 This event is a fundraiser for the
 Senior Center.

Tailgate Party

Friday, September 8 | 1:00 pm
 \$5/member or \$10/non-member
 Deadline to register is September 5.
 Wear your team colors and enjoy a
 little tailgate cuisine.

Halloween Party with Apple Bar

Tuesday, October 31 | 12:00 pm
 \$5/member or \$10/non-member
 Deadline to register is October 26.
 Costumes, Chili, Baked Potato and
 Apple Bar.

Veterans Day Breakfast & Assembly

November Date TBD
 Information - Coming Soon!

Thanksgiving Luncheon

November Date TBD
 Information - Coming Soon!

Winter Holiday Luncheon - Haslett/Okemos Rotary

December Date TBD
 Information - Coming Soon!



To register for programs, please contact the Meridian Senior Center by phone at 517.706.5045 or email meridianseniorcenter@gmail.com. For additional information, visit the senior center website by scanning the QR code or visit www.meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.



Meridian Historical Village



Friends of Historic Meridian

517.347.7300 | meridianhistoricalvillage@gmail.com
meridianhistoricalvillage.org

Chapel & Gazebo Rentals

Rental Fees:

Chapel - \$950, includes \$150 deposit.

Gazebo - \$325, includes \$75 deposit.

Our beautiful 19th century inspired chapel is available for rent for up to 100 guests for small weddings, musical programs, memorials and other public events. Please confirm wedding date with the Village office before making an online deposit. It is our policy to meet with every potential couple prior to booking in order to answer any questions.

Victorian Tea

Sunday, May 7 | 3:00 pm

Barnes House Inn & Tavern | \$12/person

Celebrate Meridian Festival - Ice Cream Social

Saturday, June 24 | 12:00 - 4:00 pm

Buildings open to the public.

Turning Back the Pages - Summer Camp

August 7 - 11 | 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Designed for 3rd - 6th graders.

Call or email to register.

Heritage Festival

Saturday, October 7 | 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

History comes alive at the Village and Nokomis Cultural Heritage Center. Enjoy vintage baseball and more!

Friends of Historic Meridian Speaker Series

Wednesday, September 6 | 10:00 - 11:00 am

Join Michael Mumaugh in the Village Chapel - "How Outlaws Shaped America's West."

Halloween in the Village

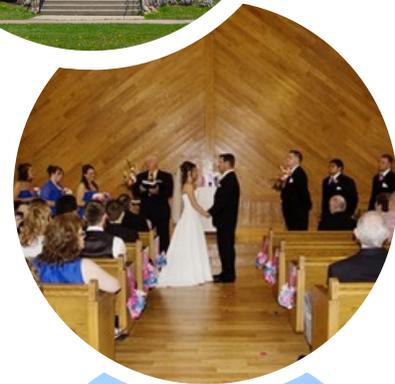
Saturday, October 28 | Time TBD

Families are invited to dress in costume and visit the Village for tours and trick-or-treating.

Christmas in the Village

Sunday, December 10 | 2:00 - 4:00 pm

Enjoy Christmas traditions from the 1800's.



Nokomis Cultural Center

Craft Days

Saturdays - On-going

Beading, Ribbon Skirt & Shirt Making, Drum Making, Quill Earring Class, Medicine Bag Making, Sweetgrass Braiding and Unconfined Painting - using grass stems, reeds, pine cones and other natural items.

Other Events

Celebrate Meridian, Spring Craft Show - Basket Making, Copper Art and Bead Work, Heritage Festival, Holiday Craft Sale & More! For details, visit www.nokomis.org.

Contact the Nokomis Cultural Heritage Center by calling 517.349.5777 or emailing info@nokomis.org.

Nokomis Cultural Heritage Center is located at 5153 Marsh Road, Okemos



Meridian Garden Club

The Meridian Garden Club is a group of people who delight in gardening and have come together to beautify our community, learn about all things horticultural, protect the environment and to share their knowledge.

Meridian Garden Club Plant Sale

Saturday, May 20 | 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Central Park Pavilion, 5151 Marsh Road

Get your garden started with perennials, grown by members of the club.

Contact the Garden Club by emailing meridiangardenclub@gmail.com or visit the website, meridiangardenclub.weebly.com.



Haslett Beautification Association

The Haslett Beautification Association (HBA) is dedicated to serving our community. HBA is a nonprofit civic organization, incorporated in 2005, with the single mission to improve the aesthetic appearance of Haslett's key commercial corridors.

HBA has created 27 garden plots in public spaces along Haslett and Marsh Roads, and Marsh and Lake Lansing Roads. All ages and skills are welcome. We make Haslett bloom! Join the HBA group on Facebook!



MCC

meridian.mi.us/MCC



Turn Intention Into Action - Connect, Learn & Conserve!

The Meridian Conservation Corps is a program devoted to increasing community involvement in our parks and preserves. It is a vehicle to grow awareness of volunteer opportunities involving the care and conservation of Meridian Township's local green spaces. These places will grow on their own, but in order to thrive we need to take care of each aspect of their health. Natural areas are important for the physical and mental well-being of human life. We need nature and nature needs us. This program aims to utilize the community's knowledge and passion and gather it into one concentrated place: the conservation corps!



Trailside Ecology Ephemeral Discovery

Tuesday, April 25 | 5:30 pm
Hartrick Park
Identify local flora & fauna for April.



Earth Day Pull-Pizza-Plant Harris Nature Center

Saturday, April 22
9:30 - 11:30 am | 1:00 - 3:00 pm
Activities all day and pizza for lunch.



Trailblazers Workday Foster Crouse Preserve

Saturday, May 13 | 1:30 - 3:30 pm
Help us blaze a better path through one of our oldest preserves.



Stewardship Saturdays Every Other Saturday - All Year

Saturday, April 8 | 9:30 am - 12:00 pm
Help remove invasive species, clean up litter, collect native seeds and more.



Wetland Walks First Wednesday of Each Month

May 3, June 7, July 5, Aug. 2 & Sep. 6
5:30 - 7:00 pm
Wetland tours for wetland education.



Weekday Warriors Every Other Thursday - All Year

1:00 - 3:00 pm
Remove invasive species, collect native seed, plant, litter pick up & more.

Planting a Native Meridian

Part of Stewardship Saturdays

Saturday, June 3 | 9:30 am - 12:00 pm

Location TBD

Learn about native plants & restore native habitat.

Trailside Ecology

Summer Solstice Edition - Kick off the Summer

Wednesday, June 21 | 5:30 - 7:00 pm

Davis Foster Preserve

Learn how to identify Swamp Milkweed and more!

Invasive Species Field Training

Presentation Followed by Field Session

Saturday, September 9 | 1:30 -3:30 pm

Nancy Moore Park

Learn more about invasive species and how to identify.

Native Seed Collection Workshop

First Day of Fall Celebration

Saturday, September 23 | 9:30 am - 12:00 pm

Davis Foster Preserve

Learn how to collect native seed responsibly and more!

Seed Sorting Party

Restoring Native Habitat

Wednesdays, Oct. 18 & Nov. 15 | 5:00 - 7:00 pm

Meridian Township Service Center

Get cozy with hot cocoa, popcorn & a movie.

Trailside Ecology

Creepy Cool Critters

Monday, October 30 | 5:30 - 7:00 pm

Ted Black Woods Park

Off trail search for creepy cool insects, fungi & more!

Trailside Ecology

Winter Solstice Edition

Thursday, December 21 | 5:30 - 7:00 pm

Red Cedar Glen Preserve

Look for nocturnal animals, and enjoy hot cocoa.

Recruiting Crew Members

Clean Up the Parks & Preserves

Help remove items in the parks & preserves that often get dumped. Let us know what needs cleaning next.



Volunteer
with Us!



Discover Something New

Friends of Historic Meridian
meridianhistoricalvillage.org

Harris Nature Center Foundation
meridian.mi.us/HNC

Meridian Garden Club
meridiangardenclub.weebly.com

Haslett Beautification Association

Haslett-Okemos Rotary Club
haslettokemosrotary.org

Haslett-Okemos Kiwanis Club
kiwanis-haslett-okemos.org

Special Events

Adult & Youth Sports: Umpires/Referees

Youth Sports Coaching

Eagle Scout Projects

Parks & Land Preservation Stewardship

Meridian Conservation Corps



WEDNESDAY
APRIL 19
5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

**LOVE A
PARK DAY**

Come together as a community to help clean up the parks, land preserves and other public spaces throughout the Township. Individuals and groups can sign-up for projects by scanning the QR Code or visiting, <https://signup.com/go/NUEtZid>.



meridian.mi.us/MCC



FARM  FOOD  CRAFTS

FARMERS' MARKET

Providing local food and a sense of
community since 1974.

Marketplace on the Green
1995 Central Park Dr.

Saturdays | 8:00 am - 2:00 pm
May 6 - October 28, 2023

Wednesdays | 3:00 pm - 7:00 pm
June 7 - October 25, 2023

www.meridian.mi.us/FarmersMarket





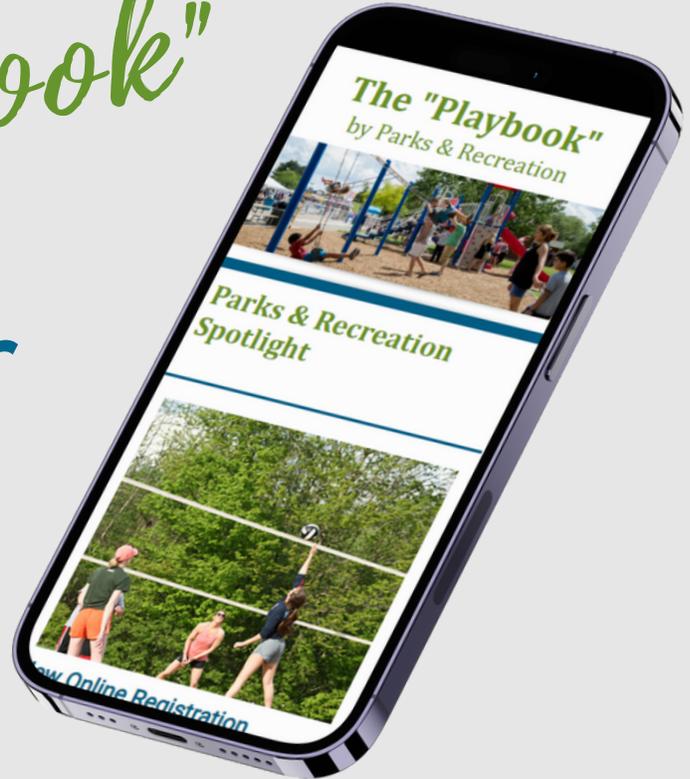
5151 Marsh Road
Okemos, MI 48664

The "Playbook"

Sign Up for Our New Parks Newsletter



Scan the QR Code or visit,
<https://bit.ly/SignUpMTwpNewsletters>



Connect With Us



meridian.mi.us/ParksRecreation



@MeridianTwpParksRec



517.853.4600



@meridianparksandrec



parks@meridian.mi.us



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Finance



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HOMTV Internship/Alumni