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Remembering Supervisor Ron Styka

"Ron Styka was a kind and ethical guy. He cared deeply about Meridian Township and his remarkable 30 years of public service are a model for others to emulate."
~Township Manager
Frank L. Walsh



In February 2022, the community mourned the passing of Township Supervisor Ron Styka and paid tribute to his legacy of public service since 1990.

- Meridian Township Supervisor 2016-2022
- Meridian Township Trustee 2012-2016
- Michigan Association of School Board's Award of Merit in 2010
- Okemos Board of Education 1990-2006, 2011 & 2012
- Various other community organizations

He was a native of Detroit, proud graduate of Cass Tech High School, University of Detroit and the University of Michigan Law School. His legal career at the Michigan Attorney General's Office spanned 40 years. Ron will be greatly missed by the community.

MERIDIAN
Cares Making a Difference

Ron Styka Memorial Fund

Contribute to the Ron Styka Memorial Fund to benefit those in need in the community through Meridian Cares.

To make a tax-deductible donation, visit meridian.mi.us/MeridianCares or scan the QR Code.

Donations can also be mailed to: Meridian Cares, Ron Styka Memorial Fund, 5151 Marsh Rd., Okemos, MI 48864.



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QR Code
Introduction

Scan the QR Codes throughout the Prime Meridian Magazine for additional details on our website including maps, photos, videos and more! Using your smartphone camera app, hover over each QR Code for access to more information.

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Elected Officials

Township Board:

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

To contact the Township Board, email board@meridian.mi.us or to email a board member directly, visit meridian.mi.us/TownshipBoard

Park Commission:

Chair - Mary Nardo Farris
Vice Chair - Ami Van Antwerp
Commissioner - Amanda A. Lick
Commissioner - Michael McDonald
Commissioner - Mark Stephens

Utility Bill & Tax Payment Options

- **In person at the Treasurer's Office**
Monday - Friday
8:00 am - 5:00 pm
- **24-hour White Drop Box**
Located outside at the Municipal Building.
- **Mail**
5151 Marsh Rd., Okemos, MI
- **Pay Online**
meridian.mi.us/BillPayments



On the Cover:

Turn intention into action by joining the Meridian Conservation Corps. For volunteer opportunities and environmental conservation efforts, visit meridian.mi.us/MCC.

Leading the Way

New Leadership



Trustee Patricia Herring Jackson was appointed to the position of Supervisor to fill the vacant seat due to the unfortunate passing of Supervisor Styka.



Marna Wilson and Scott Hendrickson were unanimously selected to fill the two vacant Trustee seats on the Meridian Township Board.

**Under state law, the appointed individuals will serve until November 20, 2022. Anyone seeking to be elected to serve the remainder of the term (November 2024) are required to run for office in the 2022 Primary and General Elections.*



Trustee Dan Opsommer was named as the new Assistant Township Manager/Director of Public Works & Engineering.

"It has been an honor to serve our residents over the past 6 years and I'm excited to continue that public service in this new role."
~Assistant Township Manager Dan Opsommer

Your Vote Counts!

2022 Elections

Approx.
33,000
Registered Voters
& 16,000
Absentee
Voters

➤ Primary Election
August 2, 2022

➤ General Election
November 8,
2022

Polls Open
7:00 am - 8:00 pm
on Election Days



Vote at Home

All registered voters in Michigan can vote using an Absentee Ballot without leaving their home. Voted Absentee Ballots can be returned by mail, dropped off in the 24-hour White Drop Box or inside at the Township Clerk's Office at the Municipal Building.

To request an Absentee Ballot Application or to join the Permanent Absentee Voter List, call 517.853.4300 or email clerksoffice@meridian.mi.us.

Check to see if you are registered, view your ballot online or change your voter information at michigan.gov/vote or scan the QR Code.



Drop Box



Municipal Building
5151 Marsh Rd.

Voter Registration

The last day to register in any manner other than in-person with the local clerk is:

- July 18 - Primary Election
- October 24 - General Election

After these dates, residents may only register to vote in-person with proof of residency at the Township Clerk's Office through 8:00 pm on August 2 for the Primary Election and November 8 for the General Election.

Precinct Changes

Ingham County's Reapportionments and State Redistricting, along with long standing school boundary lines, has caused several split precincts in the Township. To lessen voter confusion, boundary lines have been redrawn to eliminate split precincts.

All Meridian Township voters will receive new voter identification cards with updated information for this year's elections.



For important election information including candidates, ballot language and polling locations, visit meridian.mi.us/Elections.

Under Construction



Haslett Marathon

1619 Haslett Rd.



Village of Okemos
(New Rendering)

4663 Hamilton Rd.

Development Projects

2021 was an incredibly strong year with approximately \$75 million of new investments in the Township. As developments continue to progress in 2022, residents are encouraged to keep an eye on some key commercial projects:

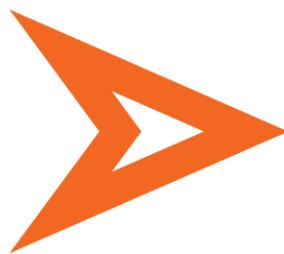
- Trader Joe's (2755 E. Grand River Ave.)
- Pine Village (1673 Haslett Rd.)
- Haslett Village Square Concept 2 (1655 Haslett Rd.)
- Joe's on Jolly (2360 Jolly Rd.)
- Sparrow Emergency Room (2446 Jolly Rd.)

For development updates, visit meridian.mi.us/DevelopmentProjects or scan the QR Code.



Support Local During Construction

Follow the Meridian Arrows to support local businesses during road construction. Continue to enjoy access to your favorite local business for shopping and dining.





Local Roads Program

Paving expected to begin in May 2022

Township Projects

Okemos Rd. Bridge

The Ingham County Road Department is replacing the two existing Okemos Rd. bridges with a 5-lane, single span bridge. Northbound traffic will be maintained, southbound traffic will be detoured throughout the project.



Bridge to open by late November 2022



MSU to Lake Lansing Trail Phase I & II complete in 2022



Ongoing construction April-October 2022



Daniels Drain Scheduled April-June 2022

M-43/Grand River Ave. Enhancement

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) is investing approximately \$14.7 million to perform resurfacing and drainage improvements on M-43. Intermittent curb & gutter replacements, sidewalk & ADA ramp improvements, HMA cold milling & resurfacing of Grand River Ave., watermain installation & full re-construction of Grand River Ave. at Okemos Rd. will take place in 2022.

For construction related questions or concerns, contact dpw@meridian.mi.us or call 517.853.4440.

For road closures and construction updates, visit meridian.mi.us/TownshipProjects or scan the QR Code.



Explore Meridian

Places to Visit



Marketplace on the Green

Home of the year-round Farmers' Market, the Marketplace on the Green pavilion is the Township's social & economic centerpiece providing community space for events, recreation, live music and more! Pavilion rentals are available. For details, contact parks@meridian.mi.us or call 517.853.4600.

Saturday Market Days (May-Oct.) 8:00 am - 2:00 pm
Wednesday Market Days (June-Oct.) 3:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Meridian Historical Village

Visit our picturesque Historical Village at Central Park, where historic buildings are carefully restored and history is preserved. We invite you to enjoy the village grounds and surrounding trails throughout the year. Join the Friends of Historic Meridian at the Heritage Festival on October 1.

Schedule a tour by calling 517.347.7300



Nokomis Cultural Heritage Center

Dedicated to the preservation of history, arts, culture and language of the Anishinaabe people (Ojibwe, Odawa and Potawatomi nations), the Center fulfills this mission through programs, exhibitions and special events.

Join cultural classes by calling 517.349.5777

A Prime Community

Things To Do

For a full listing of Township events happening throughout the year, visit meridian.mi.us/Calendar or scan the QR Code.



Memorial Day Program
Glendale Cemetery
May 30, 2022 @ 11:00 am
Honoring those who served and celebrating those who continue to protect our country.



Celebrate Meridian Marketplace & Central Park
June 25, 2022
8:00 am - 11:00 pm
Make the most of your summer with a community-wide celebration, including fireworks.



Sports Leagues
Recreational sports programs & activities for all ages. Have fun and stay physically active!



Summer Concert Series
June - August 2022
Enjoy talented local artists on stage at the Marketplace on the Green pavilion every Wednesday night.



Volunteer
Help beautify our parks, become an environmental steward, join a service group, apply for public service or donate to Meridian Cares.



Visit Lake Lansing
Come out for a day of picnicking, swimming, fishing, volleyball, horseshoes and boating. Coming soon - a disc golf course.

Trails



- 20 miles of trails
- 76 miles of pedestrian & bicycle pathways

Parks



- 30 parks for recreation, play and relaxation

Playgrounds



- 14 playgrounds for endless fun

Green Meridian

Our Wetlands

Over 25% of Meridian Township is covered in wetlands, making wetland stewardship an important responsibility and opportunity in every neighborhood. Join the Wetland Education Team in the “Build Back the Buffer” Wetland Education Campaign.



#BuildBacktheBuffer

Residents can help protect wetlands and take part by planting native plants on their property. Putting native plants back into the buffer or in a vegetation strip, helps to maintain ponds, streams and wetlands in their natural state by filtering out pollutants, providing habitats for wildlife and securing stream banks against erosion. Visit meridian.mi.us/Wetlands to find out more.



Solarize Meridian

Meridian Township has a goal of obtaining 25% of electricity from renewable energy by 2025. Each year, Meridian Township officials and staff determine a viable location for a solar panel installation.

2021

355 solar panels were installed on the roof of the Meridian Service Center.

2022

Two 20kW solar arrays will be installed on the Public Safety Building carports.

To help residents learn about solar electric systems and purchase solar panels at a discounted price, Meridian homeowners who have purchased a solar system will share their experiences with their neighbors during short in-person or virtual Solarize Meridian Meetings. The homeowner's solar installer will also be there to talk about and answer questions about solar equipment, installation and costs. Join the conversation or host a presentation today! Visit meridian.mi.us/Solar for more details.

To learn more about environmentally friendly initiatives and how you can get involved, visit meridian.mi.us/GreenMeridian or scan the QR Code.





Celebrating!

25th Anniversary

The Harris Nature Center (HNC) opened its doors to the public in 1997 making this year the 25th anniversary! Located along the Red Cedar River, nestled between Eastgate and Legg Parks within Meridian Riverfront Park, HNC's focus is on protecting, promoting and interpreting the Red Cedar River through educational opportunities.



Visit meridian.mi.us/HNC or scan the QR Code for more information about visiting the nature center and registering for events & classes!





1986

The Township purchased the HNC property with Land and Water Conservation funds.

June 8, 1996

The Township broke ground for the renovations to convert the house into a nature center building.

July 22, 1997

The HNC officially opened and began offering environmental activities and outdoor recreation opportunities to the public.



Over the Years

- HNC serves more than 20,000 visitors every year.
- HNC offers educational displays and live animal exhibits with 23 animal residents.
- HNC is the only nature center in Mid-Michigan dedicated to the preservation of the Red Cedar River.
- Funded by the Meridian Township Park Millage, grant funds, generous donors and the Harris Nature Center Foundation.



In addition to exploring the nature center and six miles of trails on your own, the center offers many youth and adult programs led by a naturalist.

Over the years, HNC has enhanced the exhibits and nature programs with added features. Additions include the river overlook deck, Nature Exploration Area, birding observation deck, pavilion and outdoor restrooms.



Enhancing Service

Police

Meridian Police partnered with the Community Mental Health Authority launching the Telehealth Program in 2021, and continue to provide mental health services to the community. Through this program, officers are equipped with tablets to virtually bring clinicians to those in crisis. The goal of this program is to increase both hospital and jail diversions by providing additional support in stabilizing and connecting people with services in their time of crisis. In summer 2022, the program is expected to expand to be used for follow-up care.

“We want people in crisis to know that we will do everything we can to provide them a safe connection to resources that will help them through their situation.”

~ Police Chief Ken Plaga

Visit meridian.mi.us/Police for community outreach and safety tips.



FIRE

In order to serve those with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Meridian Township ambulances are equipped with sensory friendly kits. These kits help those with developmental disabilities and sensory processing disorders, as well as other neurodivergent individuals and their families.

The sensory friendly kits are plastic totes containing items such as fidget spinners, little cars, soft items and communication cards.

The Fire Department worked with the Mid-Michigan Autism Association to put together these kits and provide additional training for staff to better serve the community.

For more community initiatives and fire safety information, visit meridian.mi.us/Fire.



For those interested in serving and protecting the community by joining the ranks of Police Officer or Firefighter/Paramedic, apply at meridian.mi.us/Careers or scan the QR Code.



5151 Marsh Road
Okemos, MI 48664

A PRIME COMMUNITY
meridian.mi.us



Get Connected

Like us, follow us and join our conversation!

Visit meridian.mi.us/GetConnected or scan the QR Code to sign up for digital newsletters and eNotifications.

Find us on social media!



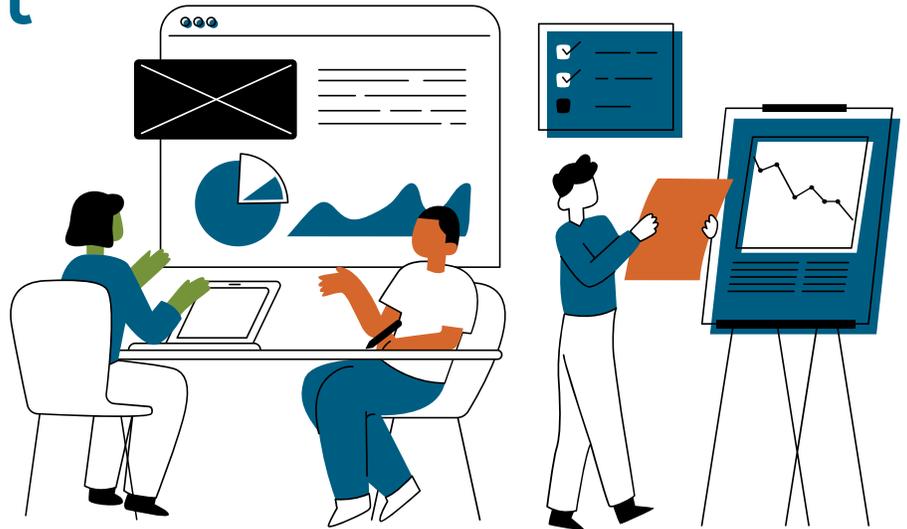
Community Engagement



Survey Snapshot

Thank you to those who participated in the recent Community Engagement & Communications Survey! Your input is an important contribution to our communications strategy on the ways we could better connect and inform our community. Results can be found at meridian.mi.us/GetConnected.

If you would like to provide feedback and/or require a paper copy of the survey, please contact communications@meridian.mi.us or call 517.853.4370.



This annual magazine is published by the Meridian Township Communications Department. Please contact communications@meridian.mi.us or call 517.853.4370 with questions or comments. Visit meridian.mi.us/Publications for the electronic version of this magazine and past issues.