



**AGENDA**  
MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP  
COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
February 12, 2020 6:00 PM

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1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. PUBLIC REMARKS
4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
  - A. January 2, 2020 Special Meeting DRAFT Minutes
6. A. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT
  - B. COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER REPORT
    1. 2020 Department Goals
    2. Communications Department Annual Report
7. COMMISSION MEMBERS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
  - C. Chair's Report
  - D. Township Board Liaison's Report
8. ACTION ITEMS
9. DISCUSSION ITEMS
  - A. Recommended Changes to HOMTV Operating Policies & Procedures
10. COMMUNICATIONS
  - A. Compliments/Complaints
11. REPORTS
  - A. VIDEO SERVICE PROVIDER (S)
  - B. PROGRAMMING
    1. Video On-Demand Program Analytics
  - C. WEBSITE ANALYTICS – YTD
  - D. PROMOTIONS/PUBLICATIONS
    1. Prime Meridian Magazine
  - E. FINANCE
  - F. HOMTV INTERNSHIP/ALUMNI
    1. Golden Tape Awards (GTA) 2020 Overview
12. PUBLIC REMARKS
13. ADJOURNMENT

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

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



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION **SPECIAL MEETING DRAFT MINUTES**  
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864  
Administrative Conference Room  
Wednesday, January 2, 2020 6:00 pm

PRESENT: Chair, Walter Benenson; Vice Chair, Tunga Kiyak and Commissioner, Leslie Charles  
ABSENT: Commissioner, Mike Nevells; Commissioner, Brian Seipel; Alternate Commissioner, Kevin Thatcher and Alternate Commissioner, Riti Adhi  
STAFF: Brandie Yates, Communications Manager  
TOWNSHIP: Patricia Herring-Jackson, Meridian Township Board Trustee  
COUNSEL: N/A  
COMCAST: N/A

**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

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

**4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Vice Chair Kiyak moved **TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS SUBMITTED**. Seconded by Chair Benenson

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner Charles moved **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2019 REGULAR MEETING**. Seconded by Chair Benenson.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

**6. ACTION ITEMS**

**A. 2020 Communications Commission Meeting Schedule**

Commission discussed all dates and suggested one change, moving February 2020 meeting to February 12, 2020.

Vice Chair Kiyak moved **TO APPROVE THE MEETING SCHEDULE WITH CHANGE OF FEBRUARY MEETING**. Seconded by Commissioner Charles.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

**B. Appointment/Reappointment of Communications Commissioners**

Vice Chair Kiyak moves **TO RECOMMEND THE REAPPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONER ADHI TO ALTERNATE COMMISSIONER** with a new term expiring on December 31, 2020. Seconded by Commissioner Charles.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

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Commissioner Charles moves **TO RECOMMEND THE NEW APPOINTMENT OF DEBORAH GUTHRIE TO ALTERNATE COMMISSIONER** with a new term expiring on December 31, 2020. Seconded by Vice Chair Kiyak.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Charles moves **TO RECOMMEND TUNGA KIYAK TO COMMISSION CHAIR** with a new term expiring on December 31, 2022. Seconded by Chair Benenson.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chair Kiyak moves **TO RECOMMEND WALTER BENENSON TO COMMISSIONER** to fill the remaining term expiring on December 31, 2020. Seconded by Commissioner Charles.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chair Kiyak moves **TO RECOMMEND THE REAPPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONER CHARLES TO COMMISSIONER** with a new term expiring on December 31, 2022. Seconded by Chair Benenson.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

**7. PUBLIC REMARKS**

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

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

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously

Chair Benenson adjourned the meeting at 6:27 pm.



Communications  
Commission

# COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER REPORT

# 2020 Work Plan ~ Communications

## Brandie Yates, Communications Manager

1. Expand our branding efforts to include new community pride signage at the major entry points to Meridian Township. We shall also include welcoming signs at the Marsh Road and Central Park Drive ingress points to our Municipal Building. (Action Plan E.)
2. Be diligent in our efforts to have a successful 2020 Meridian Township Census Count. (Action Plan I.)
3. Develop and implement a Strategic Communications and Marketing Plan that includes a multi-platform content timeline, statistic goal benchmarking and internal audit of communications/marketing needs.
4. Staff will conduct an audit of all web pages and redesign as necessary. The ability to make payments, create rental reservations and manage business listings are among the enhancements staff looks to implement on the website in 2020.
5. Work with departments on onboarding processes of new employees to include brand standard staff training, standardized email signatures and settings as well as the implementation branded templates.
6. Continue the digital conversion of historic programming and footage from tape/DVD formats into the HOMTV Video Archive System.
7. Staff looks to create a marketing plan for the Alumni Giving Program in 2020 that includes involvement by the Communications Commission.

# COMMUNICATIONS



The highest priority of the Communications Department is to provide residents with an increased access to transparency in governance with relevant information in a timely fashion. The Department is responsible for coordinating a strategic and comprehensive effort to inform the public of the Township's goals, plans, activities and events through various multimedia platforms including web, digital and print. The Department ensures that all media and communications successfully reaches their intended audience. Other main functions of the Communications Department includes serving as the Local Franchise Authority for nine Public, Educational and Governmental (PEG) Channels in Meridian Township, overseeing the operations and production for HOMTV (Government Access Channel) and CAMTV (Public Access Channel), operating a multimedia television internship training program and providing staff support to the Township's Communications Commission.

## 2019 DEPARTMENT GOALS AND ACTION PLAN

### **Continue CSC Communication Efforts**

These efforts were continued in 2019 through social media, programming and the website.

### **Website Enhancements**

Major enhancements to the website in 2019 included recreating the project section, creating a new marijuana section, redesigning the layout for park pages, updating information for individual parks, creating a section for redevelopment, reconfiguring navigation links, reconfiguring the resident section and creating layouts for every mobile page. With the restructuring of the Communications Department, additional staff were trained on how to create news items, share news items on social media, archive digital newsletters, create meetings and events, retrieve documents and properly replace documents.

### **Create/Find Additional HOMTV Revenue Sources**

Additional revenue sources included contractual agreements for programming, launching the Alumni Giving Program and hosting a summer kids' camp. Staff looks to create a marketing plan for the Alumni Giving Program in 2020 that includes involvement by the Commission. They also seek to continue offering the Summer Kids Camp.

### **Develop HOMTV Video Archive System & Integrate into Current System**

The archiving system has moved forward this year with the digitization of approximately 300-500 hours of historical programming. Part of the importance of this process is to tag footage with information about it that makes the files searchable by location, topics, people or show name, rather than just a filename. Interns and staff have been working on reviewing footage, tagging and organizing so that this footage is in a logical order and follows the production manager's structure, and that all current and future files and information follow this same structure for organization.

### Repair and Update Intern & Alumni Access Database

The Intern and Alumni Database has a new design layout, which will allow for a more efficient workflow during the exit interview process. The next steps will include transferring the paper records to digital records and reconfiguring some of the database queries. This will assist with the Alumni Giving Program that the Communications Commission approved and supports.

### Develop Township Visitor's Guide

Director Guthrie worked with Graphic Designer Lynn Meikle to create the framework for a Visitor's Guide size, ad space, costs and layout. Given the careful time taken in restructuring the department, the Communications team put the visitor guide on hold. With reduced staff, it may be more difficult for the Communications Department to take this project on but this could be something the Township may wish to work with the EDC or hire a marketing firm to accomplish. The framework is in place if the Township desires to publish a Visitor's Guide.

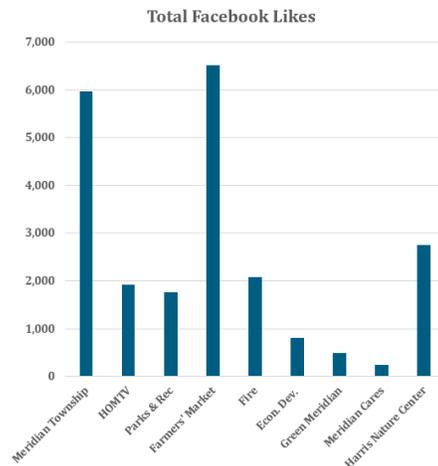
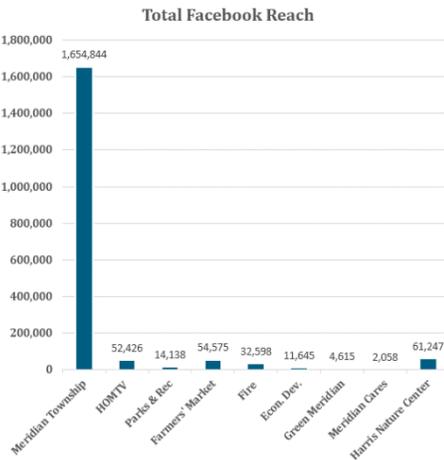
### Branded Meridian Signage

Director Guthrie led efforts with the sign committee to create a proposed plan of action for internal and external signage, wayfinding, directional, entryway and corridor signs. She conducted an internal audit of needed signage in each area. She worked with Graphic Designer Lynn Meikle and Johnson Signs on proposed signage. The back-end elements are complete and the elements are in place, ready to move forward once a budget presents itself.

### Digital & Print Analytics

The Communications Department oversees the content development and engagement of 25 different social media accounts across multiple platforms, including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, Flickr, YouTube and Nextdoor. The Township was added to Nextdoor as an agency in June 2019. Nextdoor is a communications platform that allows neighborhoods to connect and have conversations. The platform allows the Township to post messages to specific neighborhoods and then verified residents will automatically receive the updates.

In 2019, staff evaluated the Michigan Economic Development Facebook page and made the decision to fade out the page. Future postings and shares were made on the Township Facebook page. The Meridian Cares and Green Meridian Facebook pages were also evaluated, and based on the engagement, reach and followers, these pages will not move forward into 2020. All postings and shares will be made on the Township Facebook page.

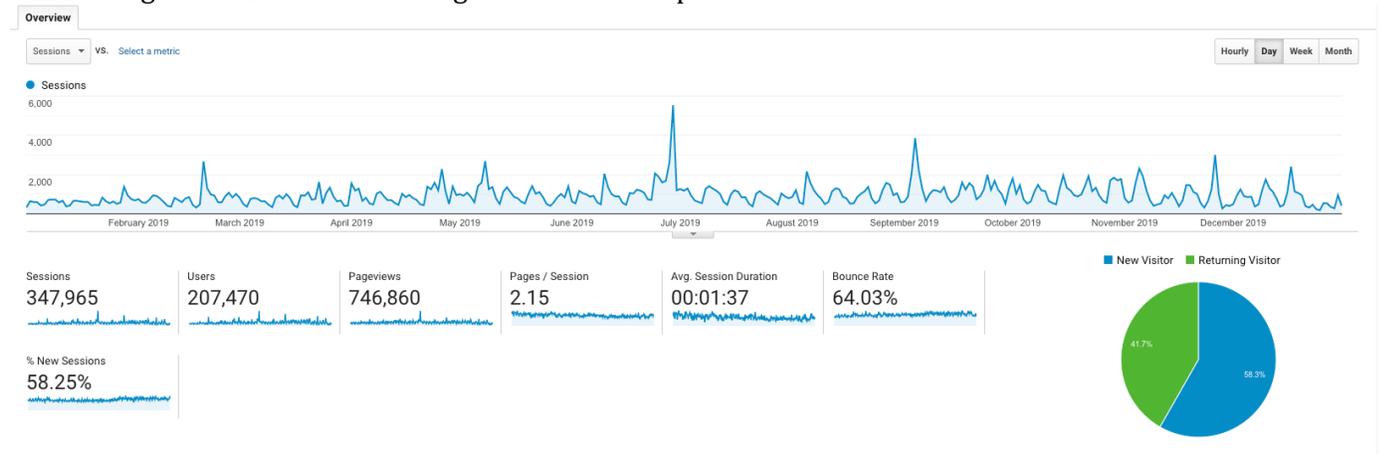


In 2019, staff began live streaming Township meetings on HOMTV's Facebook page and additional videos were posted to the various social media accounts. On Facebook, over 116,000 minutes of video were viewed and nearly 200,000, 3-seconds of video were viewed. These results show that our audience is engaged with the content that is being shared and also, how important social video sharing is for relaying information to the community.

Staff created various print publications, including three editions of the Prime Meridian Magazine, six Senior Center Newsletters and weekly Township digital newsletters. In September 2019, staff redesigned the Township weekly digital newsletters to include HOMTV and the Farmers' Market rather than offering separate newsletters. Marketing materials such as flyers, programs, brochures, logos, posters, signage, website and social graphics were created for Township events, activities, ribbon cuttings, groundbreakings and social campaigns.

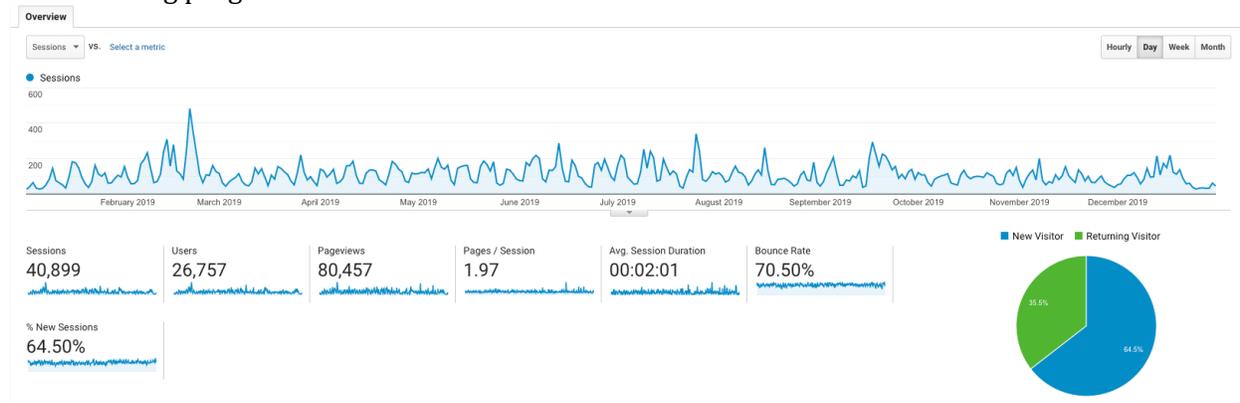
### Meridian Township Website Traffic 2019

The Meridian Township website experienced increased traffic with 746,860 page views from 207,470 visitors. New visitors of 58.3%, shows that over half of the website traffic are new people discovering the website and utilizing the information presented on it.



### HOMTV Website Traffic 2019

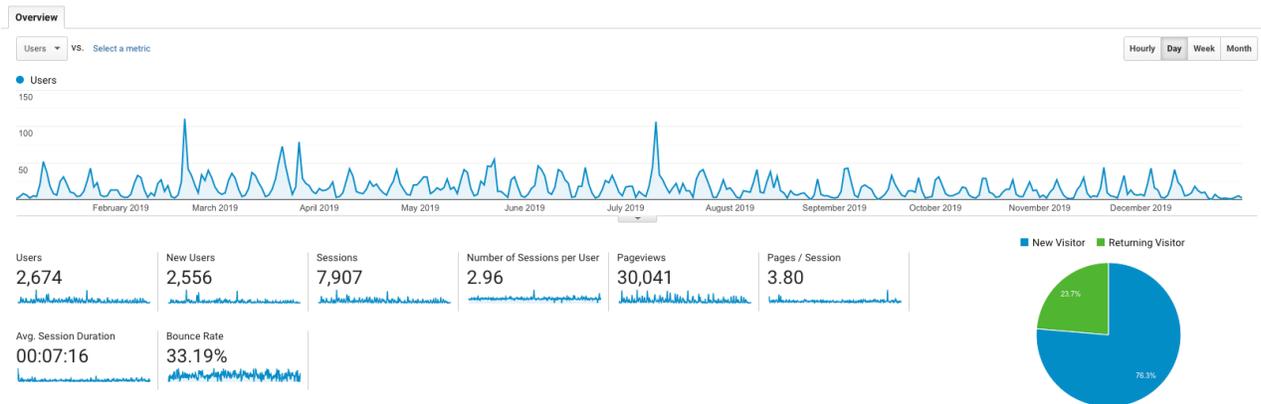
HOMTV.net statistics for 2019 show 80,457 views to the website, coming from 26,757 visitors on the site, in which 64.5% of those visitors are new. This shows that people are seeing stories on social media or other sources and visiting the website to see additional information, reading articles and watching programs.



### HOMTV Video On-Demand Traffic 2019

Video On-Demand had 30,041 page views from 5,230 visitors, of which 76.3% are new visitors to

the HOMTV website showing a positive trend that new people are discovering and watching HOMTV's programming online.



### **HOMTV Programming**

To serve the diverse cultures in the community, HOMTV began incorporating bilingual newscasts as part of the 2019 program lineup. A weekly Mandarin version of the “Meridian News Now” program began airing in February 2019. This program is expected to continue in 2020. In 2019, HOMTV aired 234 regular programs, 75 live Township meetings, 60 PSA’s and 82 social media videos. A new switcher was installed at the end of 2019, due to the old equipment experiencing technical difficulties during Township meeting coverage. The new equipment has streamlined production processes and allows for multiple source streaming and additional production capabilities.

### **HOMTV Internship Program**

Thirty-nine interns participated in HOMTV’s multimedia television internship program with a total of seven paid interns and freelance employees. The interns contributed approximately 13,385 hours, produced more than 600 stories and promo/PSAs, covered approximately 50 Township events and served as crew as well as on-air talent for 234 programs and 75 Township meetings.

### **Awards**

HOMTV received an Alliance for Community Media (ACM) 1st place national award for "Overall Excellence in Governmental Access Programming". HOMTV received an “Award of Honor” for “2018 General Election Night Coverage” in the Election Coverage Category in the 2019 National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (NATOA) Government Programming National Awards Competition. HOMTV also received “Finalist Awards” from ACM’s Central States Region 2019 Philo Festival of Media Arts Competition in the Overall Excellence Access TV Category as well as the Health Category for “Open Line – Opioid Crisis”.

### **MEMBERS OF THE CABLE COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION IN 2019**

- Walter Benenson, Chair
- Tunga Kiyak, Vice Chair
- Leslie Charles, Commissioner
- Mike Nevells, Commissioner
- Brian Seipel, Commissioner
- Kevin Thatcher, Alternate Commissioner
- Rita Adhi, Alternate Commissioner

## TEAM MEMBERS

Deborah Guthrie, Communications Director/Public Information Officer

Brandie Yates, HOMTV Executive Producer/Internship Coordinator

Andrea Smiley, Administrative Assistant II

Roy Kellerman, Studio TV Production Manager

Ben Makulski, Video Programmer

Erin Cornett, Part-Time Social Media Specialist (Resigned May 2019)

Lingfanglu Han, Temporary Part-Time Social Media Specialist (Hired June-December 2019)

Lynn Meikle, Freelance Media/Print Publications/Graphics



Communications  
Commission

# Discussion Items



9. A

**To: Communications Commission**  
**From: Brandie Yates, Communications Manager**  
**Date: February 7, 2020**  
**Re: Recommended Changes to HOMTV Operating Policies & Procedures**

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

At the October 2, 2019 meeting, the recommended changes to the HOMTV Operating Policies & Procedures were presented. At that meeting, there was discussion of creating a subcommittee to discuss future changes and make recommendations for the December 4, 2019 meeting. Subsequently, the December 4, 2019 meeting was canceled due to a lack of quorum.

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

Staff is asking the Communications Commission to once again review and discuss the recommended changes (see Attachment A), as well as suggest any additional changes to the HOMTV Operating Policies & Procedures.



## OPERATING POLICIES

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

## GOVERNMENTAL ACCESS

# CABLE ~~TELEVISION~~ CHANNEL

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

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

## PREAMBLE

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

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

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

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

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

## SECTION ONE: GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR PROGRAMMING AND PRODUCTION

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

## SECTION TWO: TOWNSHIP MEETING COVERAGE

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

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

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

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

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

SECTION THREE: TOWNSHIP ELECTION COVERAGE

- I. HOMTV shall present ~~television~~ programming pertaining to ~~all Meridian Township elections held in Meridian Township~~. The scope and format of such coverage shall be determined by the ~~Communications Director~~HOMTV Executive Producer. The minimum acceptable coverage shall be graphic material summarizing election results, initially presented sometime on election night, and carried on HOMTV at least until the normal program schedule begins the next day. The ~~Communications Director~~HOMTV Executive Producer shall work with the Township Clerk and Election Commission to provide graphic material and/or other material announcing pre-election administration information.
  
- II. Special efforts shall be made to produce programming in "even year" Township elections, with a maximum emphasis on elections held to fill positions on the Township Board ~~of Trustees~~ and/or the Park Commission. All registered candidates shall be afforded an equal opportunity to be included in this coverage. The scope and format of such election year programming shall be determined by the ~~Communications Director~~HOMTV Executive Producer, but it ~~should~~may include the following components:
  - A. An interview program for candidates, including standardized questions and follow-up questions.
  - B. An opportunity for candidates to make ~~up to a two minutes~~short statements on their candidacy.
  - C. A debate-style program for candidates, organized by party affiliation and/or desired office.
  - D. A call-in show to allow residents to ask questions of the candidates.
  
- III. The ~~Communications Director~~HOMTV Executive Producer shall ensure that all programming featuring registered candidates be fairly balanced with programming featuring their opponents. In cases where balance is not possible due to the lack of participation of one or more candidates, the participating candidates will receive balanced coverage in comparison to the entire field of participating candidates.
  
- IV. Candidates for elected office shall not be included in HOMTV programming ~~during the time period~~ninety days before an election, with the exception of Township meeting coverage, special election coverage and coverage of incumbents performing official duties ~~which warrant cablecasting~~. The ~~Communications Director~~HOMTV Executive Producer shall decide if equal time for opposing candidates is necessary to balance the coverage of incumbent candidate's performance of official duties.

## SECTION FOUR: PROGRAMS AND PROGRAM-SERIES

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

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

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

#### SECTION FIVE: LOCAL PROGRAMMING DEVELOPMENT

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

reasonable time, based on staff and facility limitations.

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

- II. The ~~Communications Director~~HOMTV Executive Producer shall use any of the following criteria to make judgments regarding the initiation of new programming:
  - A. The programming is about Meridian Township, its residents, its employees, its elected officials; and/or it's appointed officials.
  - B. The programming is in demand by Meridian Township residents or employees.
  - C. The programming is a public service to Meridian Township residents.
  - D. The programming serves to promote Meridian Township as a community.
  - E. The programming serves as communication from Meridian Township employees to Meridian Township residents.
  - F. The programming serves as communication from Meridian Township residents to Meridian Township residents.
  
- III. The ~~Communications Director~~HOMTV Executive Producer shall use any of the following criteria to make judgments regarding the denial of new programming:
  - A. The programming shall include no pornographic material.
  - B. The programming shall include no religious material.
  - C. The programming shall include no paid advertising.
  - D. The programming shall include no direct appeals to purchase commercial goods or services.
  - E. The programming shall be of sufficient technical quality to match the current minimum quality level of programming on the channel.
  - F. The programming does not meet one or more of the criteria set forth in paragraph II of this Section.

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

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

SECTION SIX: GENERAL POLICIES

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

SECTION SIX: GENERAL POLICIES (cont'd.)

III. HOMTV will make ~~videotape-duplicate~~ copies upon request of -programs as a whole produced by HOMTV for-a —nominal fee according to the attached fee schedule. Segments and/or raw footage are not available for duplication unless pre-approval granted by the HOMTV Executive Producer.

A. Fees may be waived by the ~~Communications Director~~HOMTV Executive Producer for people closely— involved with the production of the program being copied.

B. HOMTV will only make duplicate copies of programs that have aired on the channel.

IV. ~~HOMTV non-salaried staff members who have rendered exemplary service may be presented a gift upon departure from the Township. Such gifts shall not exceed \$50.00 in cost per person. Decisions regarding selection of the gift will be made by the Communications Director.~~

V. Expenditures ~~from the Communications Department budget~~ to finance the operations of HOMTV may be authorized by the ~~Communications Director~~Township Manager, subject to all requirements of the Township Purchasing Policies, and within maximum amounts appropriated in the Township Budget. Purchases proposed by ~~the Communications Director~~HOMTV Staff that are projected to exceed the total ~~Communication Department~~budget appropriations shall require a budget amendment recommended by the ~~Cable Communications Commission~~Township Manager and approved by the Township Board, in conformance with Township purchasing and budget policies. Transfers among line items within the total amount appropriated in the ~~Communications Department~~operating budget may be made by the ~~Communications Director, upon approval of the Superintendent and the Cable Communications Commission. All purchases are to be reported to the Cable Commission on a monthly basis. No payment shall be made for any purchase until the bill is approved by the Township Board.~~Finance Director upon approval of the Township Manager.

VI. All HOMTV video recordings ~~used for production of television programs by the staff of HOMTV~~ shall remain the property of HOMTV ~~and Meridian Township.~~

FEE SCHEDULE

Video Copies

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

Audio Copies

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



Communications  
Commission

# Compliments/ Complaints

# Individual Video Provider Customer Intakes

**Complaint Number** 2020-001

**Date** 1/24/2020

**Name**

**Street Address**

**City / Zip**

**Work Phone** **Ext**

**Cell Phone**

**Home Phone**

**Email**

**Best Time to Call**

**Best Time to Service**

**Service Provider** Comcast

**Reason for Calling** Complaint

**Unburied Cable**  **Waiting for Service**  **Missed Service Call**  **Cable Box**

**Bad Reception**  **Cable Out**  **Cannot Phone**  **Other**

**Bad Treatment**  **Bad Information**  **No Response to Request**

**Problem Description** Resident who lives on Sapphire Lane in the Emerald Lakes Condo reported that there is a utility box out front that has been missing a cover since November. She thinks this is why her phone is not working properly.

She wasn't sure if this was a Comcast issue or an issue with AT&T or different company.

**Problem Before?** No  **Ongoing**   **MPSC Information**

**Assigned Staff** Brandie Yates **Given**

**Staff Response** Staff forwarded resident issue to regional representative at Comcast.

**Resolution** Comcast regional representative said customr care speciliast with reach out to resident about her service and utility box.



Communications  
Commission

# Video Service Provider



January 9, 2019

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

Dear Ms. Guthrie:

We are committed to keeping you and our customers informed about Xfinity TV changes. In order to improve the customer experience, we are in the process of updating how we deliver some of our programming over the cable system to enhance the quality and reliability of our services.

In the coming weeks, we plan to implement delivery updates for our non-Hispanic international programming networks (IPNs) such as: TV Asia, Zee TV, TV Japan, etc. and out of market (OOM) sports Pay Per View packages (initially NHL Center Ice and NBA League Pass, followed by MLB Extra Innings).

A limited number of customers may still have older devices that do not support these upgrades and will not be able to continue to view them until the devices are replaced. Customers with this older equipment who receive the impacted channels are being notified that they can swap their equipment at no cost so they can continue to enjoy these channels. Please note that since the spring of 2018, we have provided updated devices to all new IPN subscribers, and since September 2019, have provided updated devices to all OOM Sports PPV customers. Accordingly, we expect the number of impacted customers from these first two sets of changes to be very minimal.

Over the next two years, we plan to expand this enhancement of our services to include additional channels on additional tiers of service. In each case, we will communicate with impacted customers well in advance so they can continue to enjoy this programming in their homes.

Please feel free to contact me at 734-359-2077 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

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



Communications  
Commission

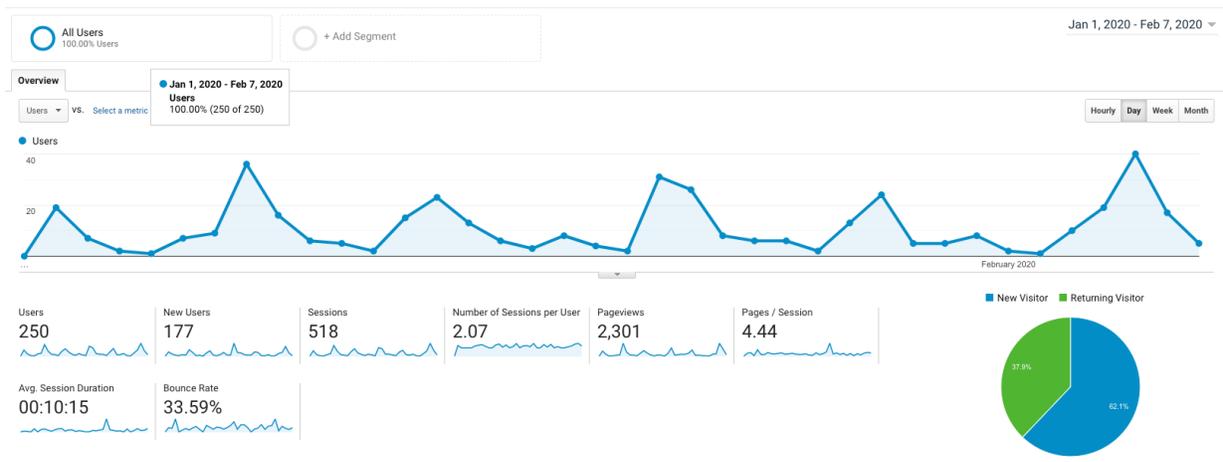
# Programming



**To:** Communications Commission  
**From:** Ben Makulski, Video Programmer  
**Date:** February 7, 2020  
**Re:** HOMTV On-demand Programming

---

HOMTV on-demand programming, provided by Swagit received 2,301 page views with 177 new users year to date for 2020 (Please see chart below). Of the total visitors, 62.1% were new and 37.9% were returning.





Communications  
Commission

# Website Analytics



**To: Communications Commission**  
**From: Ben Makulski, Video Programmer**  
**Date: February 7, 2020**  
**Re: Meridian Township & HOMTV Website Analytics**

---

The Meridian Township website, [meridian.mi.us](http://meridian.mi.us), received 100,650 page-views year-to-date from 46,713 users. The percentage of new visitors is 76% and 24% are from returning visitors (Please refer to Attachment B, Chart 1).

The HOMTV website, [www.homtv.net](http://www.homtv.net), received 6,653 page-views year-to-date from 2,774 users to the site. The percentage of new visitors is 66.9% and 33.1% are from returning visitors (Please see Attachment B, Chart 2). Visits to the HOMTV website are mainly the result of a search containing the name of a news story that was written, key word searches containing - Okemos, Haslett, etc. or local news topics leading the search to [www.homtv.net](http://www.homtv.net).

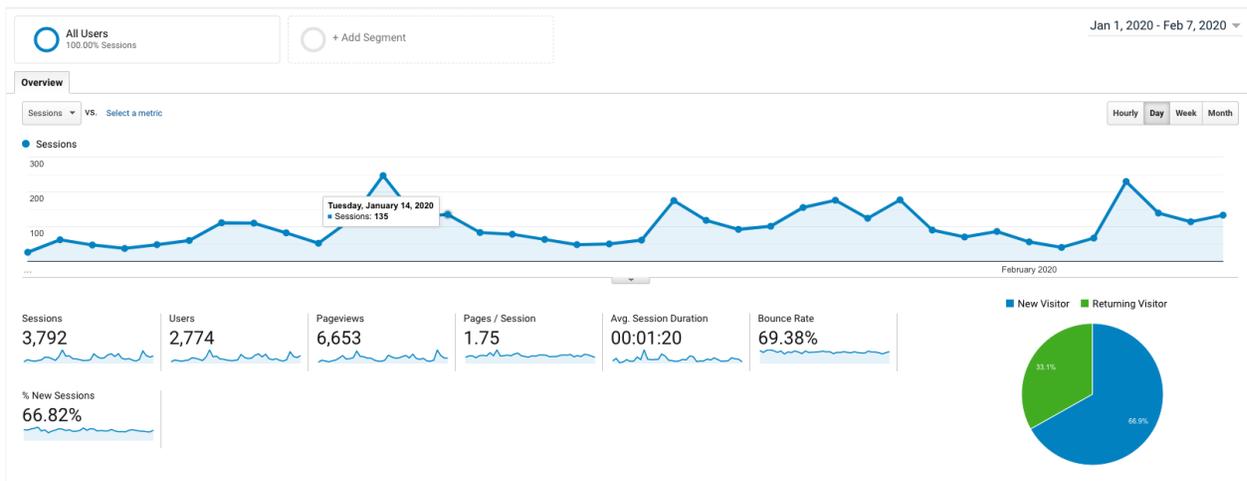


## Meridian Township & HOMTV Website Analytics

Chart 1:



Chart 2:





Communications  
Commission

# **Publications/ Promotions**

# PRIME MERIDIAN



magazine

WINTER | SPRING 2020



MERIDIAN.MI.US



## A Fond Farewell to Deborah

In late December, our Meridian Township Team said farewell to an extremely talented leader who has been a major component of our communications team for over two decades. Deborah Guthrie joined our team after a stint with ESPN on April 23, 1998. Deborah is moving on to pursue other career interests.

Deborah has led our communications team with pride, passion and performance. Our award-winning HOMTV is truly a hallmark of Deborah's leadership. Meridian Township is a respected leader in Michigan's telecommunications circles. In fact, Deborah has served as Chapter President of the Michigan National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (NATOA) for the past 10 years. Her stellar reputation goes well beyond Marsh Road.

What we will miss most about Deborah is her love for Meridian Township. Deborah was born and raised in the community and graduated from MSU. We are thankful she plans to remain in Meridian Township and has stated her intentions to remain active in local government.

Personally, I'm thankful our paths crossed. I learned a lot from Deborah since coming to Meridian Township in 2013.

On behalf of Meridian Township, we wish you well Deborah. Thanks for making us better.

*Frank*  
**Frank L. Walsh**  
 Township Manager



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### MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP ELECTED OFFICIALS

#### Township Board Members

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

#### Park Commission Members

<b>Chair Michael McDonald</b>	<b>517.243.2505</b>
<b>Vice Chair Amanda A. Lick</b>	<b>517.648.4681</b>
<b>Commissioner Mark Stephens</b>	<b>517.339.0159</b>
<b>Commissioner Ami Van Antwerp</b>	<b>517.927.5059</b>

### Nextdoor

## Find Us on Nextdoor

Nextdoor is a communication platform for neighborhoods to connect and have conversations about everything from finding a babysitter to learning about what is happening. Nextdoor's free public agency platform allows the Township to post messages to specific service areas or neighborhoods. Verified residents automatically receive posts shared by the Township on Nextdoor.

Agencies do not see personal profiles or content from your neighborhood. Agencies only see their own posts and replies to those posts.

# Prime Events & Activities

for the whole family



**Chinese New Year**  
**Sunday, January 26**  
 1 pm - 4 pm  
 Meridian Mall  
 Cost: Free



**Love A Park Day**  
**Saturday, May 16**  
 9:30 am - Noon  
 Location: TBA  
 Cost: Free



**Meridian Skates**  
**January 18 / February 2**  
 5 pm - 6:30 pm  
 Suburban Ice  
 Cost: \$2 skate rental



**Garden Club Plant Sale**  
**Friday, May 15**  
 9:30 am - 2 pm  
 Central Park  
 Cost: Plant prices vary



**Polar Bear 5K**  
**Sunday, January 26**  
 10 am  
 Central Park  
 Cost: \$20 / \$25



**Memorial Day Service**  
**Monday, May 25**  
 12 pm  
 Glendale Cemetery  
 Cost: Free



**Meridian Moonlight Sledding**  
**January 25 / February 22**  
 6 pm - 9 pm  
 North Meridian Road Park  
 Cost: Free



**Senior Health and Fitness Day**  
**Wednesday, May 27**  
 11 am - 2 pm  
 Senior Square, Meridian Senior Center  
 Cost: Free



**Meridian Swims**  
**Sunday, February 23**  
 6 pm - 8:30 pm  
 Call the MAC to reserve a spot  
 364.8888



**Summer Fishing Derby**  
**Saturday, June 6**  
 9 am - noon  
 Central Park/Historical Village Pond  
 Cost: Free



**Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser**  
**Saturday, March 7**  
 8 am - 11 am  
 242 Community Church  
 Cost: \$5 all you can eat



**Be A Tourist in Your Own Town**  
**Saturday, June 6**  
 10 am - 5 pm  
 Harris Nature Center, Historical Village  
 Cost: Free



**Explore Nature Open House**  
**Sunday, April 19**  
 12 pm - 4 pm  
 Harris Nature Center  
 Cost: Free



**SAVE THE DATE**  
**Celebrate Meridian**  
**Saturday, June 27**  
 Central Park  
 Cost: Free Admission



**Spring Regional Recycling Event**  
**Saturday, April 25**  
 9 am - 2 pm  
 Chippewa Middle School  
 Cost: Free



**Rummage Sale Fundraiser**  
**Thursday 7/9 & Friday 7/10** 9 am - 5 pm  
**Saturday 7/11** 10 am - 1 pm  
 Meridian Senior Center  
 Cost: prices vary by item



**HNC Native Plant Sale**  
**Saturday, May 2**  
 9 am - 1 pm  
 Harris Nature Center  
 Cost: plant prices vary

[MERIDIAN.MI.US](http://MERIDIAN.MI.US)



For Information & To  
**Sign Up NOW**  
[bit.ly/mtpronline](http://bit.ly/mtpronline)

# Youth Sports

baseball | softball | soccer | more...

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](http://bit.ly/mtpronline) for more information and to sign up.**

## Haslett K - 6th Grade Boys & Girls Basketball

Deadline has passed, please check online for information and availability [bit.ly/mtpronline](http://bit.ly/mtpronline)

### Baseball

#### 1st & 2nd Grade

May 5 - July 7

Registration Deadline: March 27

Price: \$60 (\$80 after 3/27)

#### 3rd & 4th Grade

May 4 - July 6

Registration Deadline: March 27

Price: \$70 (\$90 after 3/27)

#### U12 Baseball 12 or Under

April 6 - July 10

Registration Deadline: February 21

Price: \$130 (\$150 after 2/21)

#### U14 Baseball 14 or Under

April 6 - July 10

Registration Deadline: February 21

Price: \$140 (\$160 after 2/21)

#### Haslett T- Ball League Kindergarten

May 18 - June 1

Registration Deadline: April 24

Price: \$45 (\$65 after 4/24)

### Softball

#### 1st & 2nd Grade

May 4 - July 6

Registration Deadline: March 27

Price: \$60 (\$80 after 3/27)

#### 3rd & 4th Grade

May 5 - July 10

Registration Deadline: March 27

Price: \$70 (\$90 after 3/27)

#### U10 Softball (5th grade) Okemos Only

May 4 - Mid July

Registration Deadline: April 10

Price: \$120 (140 after 4/10)

#### U12 Softball, Okemos Only

April 28 - Mid July

Registration Deadline: April 10

Price: \$130 (\$150 after 4/10)

#### U14 Softball, Okemos Only

April 28 - Mid July

Registration Deadline: April 10

Price: \$140 (\$160 after 4/10)

### Soccer

Haslett and Okemos K-6th grade soccer program is a FALL/SPRING season. The teams that played in the Fall will play in the Spring, (same team, same coach and no additional fee for Fall season participants). For information and availability for just the Spring season please check online, [bit.ly/mtpronline](http://bit.ly/mtpronline). If your child's grade is full, please place your child on the waiting list.

#### 2020 Spring Soccer K - 6th Grade

April 13 - May 16

(5 weeks)

Registration Deadline: February 14

#### 2020 Fall - 2021 Spring K - 6th Grade

September - October 2020

April - May 2021

Registration Opens: June 1, 2020

Registration Deadline: July 10





## Polar Bear 5K

The Polar Bear 5K Run/Walk is a great family recreation activity that is fun for all ages and abilities! Participants will enjoy a 5K Run or Walk through scenic Central & Nancy Moore Parks. All Polar Bears registered by January 10 will receive a race giveaway! Awards will be given in 15 divisions.

Sunday, January 26  
10 am  
Central Park

Registration Fee: \$20  
Race Day Registration Fee: \$25



## Sporties for Shorties

Develop your 3 - 5 year old child's coordination and spark their sports interest in a fun atmosphere.

at the Michigan Athletic Club

Tuesdays, Feb 4 - 25 10:30 am - 11:30 am  
Thursdays, Mar 5 - 26 10:30 am - 11:30 am

Call the MAC for pricing and to register  
517.364.8888

T-ball, Soccer, Football, Track & Field

Summer and Fall 4-day (M-Th) Camps  
and Fall Camps once a week for 4-weeks

Registration Deadline: Until Full  
Price: \$45

Register at [bit.ly/mtpronline](http://bit.ly/mtpronline)



## Playmakers Running Club

Meridian Township and Playmakers have partnered to offer this unique fitness opportunity. Members receive professional instruction in Good Form Running during seven, 1 hour training sessions and concludes with a Fun Run Finale!

Boys & Girls/3rd - 6th Grade

Session I  
April 20 - May 13

Session II  
September 21 - October 14

Monday & Wednesday 6pm

Price: \$50

Registration Deadline: UNTIL FULL



## Golf

Junior Clinics, Play & Camp Programs  
at Meridian Sun Golf Club

Middle School/High School (ages 11-17)

Elementary School (ages 7-10)

Three Day Golf Camps

Tee Fore Tots Parent-Child Clinic

Register at [bit.ly/mtpronline](http://bit.ly/mtpronline)

Go to [meridiansungc.com](http://meridiansungc.com) or call 517.339.8281 for more information.

June - August  
Dates/times vary

Price: varies per  
camp/program

## Police Youth Citizens' Academy

Wednesdays, February 12 - March 25

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

If you have questions or wish to enroll in the Academy, please contact  
Sergeant Andrew McCready at 517.853.4800 or [mccready@meridian.mi.us](mailto:mccready@meridian.mi.us)



Meridian Moonlight  
Sledding

January 25 / February 22

6 pm - 9 pm

North Meridian Road Park

Price: Free



Meridian Swims

Sunday, February 23

6 pm - 8:30 pm

Price: Free Call the MAC to  
reserve a spot 517. 364.8888



Meridian Skates

January 18 / February 2

5 pm - 6:30 pm

Suburban Ice

Price: Free / \$2 skate rental





# Adult Sports

kickball | softball | pickleball | more...

## Pickleball

Available for Adults & Families  
Begins in May

### Hillbrook Park

#### Open Mixed Play

Mon/Wed/Fri/Sun 9 am - 12 pm  
Tues/Thurs 5 pm - dusk

#### 2.0-2.5 Level

Tues/Thurs/Sat 8 am - 12 pm

### Towner Road Park

#### Open Mixed Play

Mon/Wed/Fri/Sat 9 am - 12 pm  
Friday 5 pm - dusk  
One challenge court  
All levels with challenge court

#### 3.5 Level

Thursday 8 am - 12 pm  
One challenge court as needed

#### Open Mixed Advanced Competitive Play - USAPA 4.0 or IPTPA 4.0, or demonstrated 4.0 play

Tues/Thurs 5 pm - dusk  
Sun 9 am - 12 pm

#### Beginner Lessons:

Monday, June 1 9 am  
Thursday, June 4 5:30 pm  
Monday, July 6 9 am  
Thursday, July 9 5:30 pm  
Monday, August 3 9 am  
Thursday, August 6 5:30 pm

## Adult Softball

Tuesdays: Men's  
Wednesday/Thursday: Co-Ed

Session I: May 4 - Late July  
Registration Deadline: April 17

Session II: August - October  
Registration Deadline: July 17  
Team: \$295 / Player: \$20

## Sand Volleyball

Mondays/Tuesdays/Thursdays

Session I: May 4 - Mid July  
Registration Deadline: April 17

Session II: End of July - Early October  
Registration Deadline: July 10  
Team: \$125

## Kickball Leagues

Session I: Friday Evenings May 8 - July 17  
Registration Deadline: April 17

Session II: Monday, Thursday or Friday  
Mid July - Mid September 18  
Registration Deadline: July 10  
Team: \$220

## Golf

Meridian Sun Golf Club  
Women's "Night Out" Clinics  
Women's "Night Out" Learning League  
Meridian Sun Women's Golf Academy  
Classes and much more...

Register at [bit.ly/mtpronline](http://bit.ly/mtpronline)  
Go to [meridiansungc.com](http://meridiansungc.com) or call  
517.339.8281 for more information.

## Winter Warm Up

January to March 2020

Have fun getting fit with the Blue Cross® Winter Warm Up. Meet up with friends and family and join in on this great way to meet your 2020 health goals! The 5K training program is free and open to all ages and abilities (a parent or their designee must accompany children).

In addition, participants will receive a weekly communication with training information and nutrition tips.

The 15 instructional sessions will lead to a free goal event - the Blue Cross® Winter Warm Up 5K walk/run celebration at Hawk Island Park in Lansing on Sunday, March 22, 2020.

This eight-week training program involves attending two weekly one-hour sessions with certified Good Form Running and Walking coaches from the Playmakers Fitness Foundation.



To register go to  
[MIBluesPerspectives.com/](http://MIBluesPerspectives.com/)  
[BlueCrossWinterWarmUp.com/](http://BlueCrossWinterWarmUp.com/)

For Information & To Sign Up

**NOW** [bit.ly/mtpronline](http://bit.ly/mtpronline)

Dates/Times subject to change.





📍 Meridian Senior Center  
 4000 Okemos Road, Okemos, MI 48864  
 Monday - Friday 9 am - 4:30 pm  
 ☎ 517.706.5045  
 📘 facebook.com/meridianseniorcenter

# Meridian Senior Center

trips | classes | events | and more...

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

**Fitness Room Grand Opening**  
Friday, January 10 11:30 am

**An Evening on the Titanic**  
Friday, January 31 3 pm

**Cost: \$10members/\$20nonmembers**  
All aboard the RMS Titanic, the year is 1912 please join us on the D deck in the first class dining hall for a multi course dinner and 3 piece orchestra. Please be sure to dress the part, prizes will be awarded.  
Register by Tuesday, January 21

**Pool Tournament**  
Friday, February 21 1 - 4 pm  
**Cost: \$10members/\$20nonmembers**  
Register by February 7

**St. Patrick's Day Luncheon**  
Tuesday, March 17 12 noon  
**Cost: \$6 members / \$8 non members**  
Register by Monday, March 9

**Table Tennis Tournament**  
Friday, March 20 1 - 4 pm  
**Cost: \$5 members / \$10 non members**  
Register by Friday, March 6

**Rummage Sale Donations**  
Beginning Monday, April 13 - July 1  
We will be accepting donations for our Annual Fundraiser Rummage Sale

**Outdoor Cornhole Begins**  
Monday, Wednesday and Friday  
April 13 - June 29 12:30 pm - 2:30 pm  
Register by Wednesday, April 1

**Earth Day Nature Walk**  
Wednesday, April 22 9 am  
Harris Nature Center 3998 Van Atta Rd, Okemos, MI 48864  
Register by April 17

**Derby Party - Kentucky Style**  
Friday, May 1 12:30 pm  
**Entry fee: \$10**  
Race will begin at 1 pm  
Games, food, and non-alcohol beverages, be sure to wear your hat!  
Register by Wednesday, April 22

**Mother's Day Tea**  
Friday, May 8  
**Cost: Free for members (Mothers) \$5 all others**  
Register by Friday, May 1

**Father's Day Celebration/Outing**  
Friday, June 19 TBD  
**Old Nation Brewery**  
1500 E Grand River Ave, Williamston  
**Cost: Free to members (Fathers) \$8 for others**

**Summer Kick Off BBQ**  
Friday, June 26 12 pm  
Senior Square at the Senior Center  
**Cost: Free members / \$5 non-members**

**Annual Fundraiser RUMMAGE SALE**

Thursday, July 9	9 am - 5 pm
Friday, July 10	9 am - 5 pm
Saturday, July 11	10 am - 1 pm

**Meridian Senior Center**

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

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

**National Senior Health & Fitness Day**

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 27**  
**11 AM - 2 PM**

**NEW LOCATION**  
Senior Square  
at the Senior Center

**Free to all**

National Senior Health and Fitness Day is a nationwide health and fitness event for older adults to promote the importance of regular physical activity, and to showcase what local organizations are doing to improve health and fitness. Meridian Township will be holding their own event in the newly renovated Senior Square at the Meridian Senior Center.



# Harris Nature Center

classes | camps | walks | more...

## Howl at the Moon

Friday evenings

January 10	7 pm
February 7	7 pm
March 13	7 pm
April 3	8 pm
May 8	9 pm
June 5	9 pm
July 31	9 pm
August 28	8 pm

Price: \$3/person/walk

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

## Making Treats for Wildlife

Sunday, January 12 2 pm

Price: \$3/person or \$7/family

Create edible treats for the birds and squirrels during this hands-on nature discovery program.

## Chipmunk Story Time

Thursdays 10- 11 am

January 16	Pout Pout Fish
February 13	A Warm Winter Tail
April 16	Earth Day Birthday
May 21	Some Babies are Wild
June 11	The Best Nest

Price: \$3/child/session

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

## Snowshoe Class

Saturday, January 18 and February 1  
 9:30 am - 11:30 am OR 1 pm - 3 pm

Price: \$15/person with your equipment  
 \$20/person with our equipment

Don't miss out on your walks this winter... learn to snowshoe and nothing will stop you! Class includes tips from an expert instructor on staying warm in the cold, practice of shoeing techniques and guided shoeing on the park trails. Dress for outdoor activity. Snowshoe rentals are available and must be reserved.

## Owl Prowl Campfire

Saturday, January 25 7 pm

Price: \$3/person or \$7/family

Enjoy a campfire while learning about owls and then join a naturalist for a guided owl walk.

## "Woodchuck" Day Walk

Sunday, February 2 2 pm

Price: \$3/person or \$7/family

Did you know the Groundhog is also known as a Woodchuck? Celebrate "Woodchuck" Day at the nature center as you learn about this true hibernating mammal and enjoy fresh air on a guided winter walk with a naturalist.

## Introduction to Dog Sledding FOR ADULTS

Saturday, February 8 9:30am - 11:30am

Price: \$15/person

Have you wondered what it would be like to have a mushing team? Come learn about the history of the Iditarod and of the Samoyed dog breed. Our instructors will have their Samoyeds here to demonstrate how to harness the dogs and hook them up to the sled. There will be time for questions and extra resources will be provided. Space is limited so you must be registered to participate. Since the Samoyed dogs will be here for demonstrations, we ask that you do not bring your own dog.

## Mushing Camp FOR KIDS

Saturday, February 8 1 pm - 2 pm

Price: \$10/child (a parent/guardian must stay with the child)

Do you love dogs? Have you ever watched them pull sleds in a race? Come learn about the history of the Iditarod and of the Samoyed dog breed. Our instructors will have their Samoyeds here to demonstrate how to harness the dogs and hook them up to the sled. Space is limited so you must be registered to participate. Since the Samoyed dogs will be here for demonstrations, we ask that you do not bring your own dog.

## Guided Evening Snowshoe Walk

Saturday, February 15 7 pm - arrive 15 minutes early if borrowing equipment

Price: \$10/person with our equipment  
 \$3/person with your own equipment or walking

In the quiet winter woods, listen to the crunch of your snowshoes as you walk through the sparkling moonlit snow on this guided walk. You can also opt to walk without snowshoes. Bring your own snowshoes or borrow ours (extra fee). Our snowshoes are limited, so you must register ahead to reserve a pair.

## Leap into Nature

Saturday, February 29 2 pm

Price: \$3/person or \$7/family

Learn about Leap Year and why we have an extra day every 4 years. Enjoy hands-on nature activities and a guided walk while discovering the seasonal changes this time of year.

## Photography Class with Ron St. Germain

Mondays 6:30 pm - 9 pm

March 16, 23 and 30 and

Saturday March 21 at 10 am - 1 pm for an outdoor photo shoot

Price: \$60/4-day session

Whether your camera is an old one from the closet or the newest technology, this class will familiarize you with all of its buttons and functions. You will learn the basics in a fun and easily understood way with entertaining slide presentations and plenty of time to ask questions each week from International Award winning outdoor photographer, Ron St. Germain.

## Winter Nature Tots

Ages: 4 years and under

Mondays 9 am - 10 am

January 13 - February 10

(No class on January 20)

Price: \$25/4-week session

Each week is themed and includes crafts, nature walks and hands-on activities facilitated by a naturalist.

## Spring Nature Tots

**Ages: 4 years and under**

**Mondays** 9 am - 10 am OR  
10:30 am - 11:30 am OR 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm  
**March 23 - May 11**

**Price:** \$50/8-week session  
Each week is themed and includes crafts, nature walks and hands-on activities facilitated by a naturalist.

## Family Bird Walk

**Sunday, March 22** 2 pm  
**Price:** \$3/person or \$7/family

On this guided walk, a naturalist will teach you about basic bird habits and give tips for identifying our feathery friends. All ages are welcome and binoculars will be available to borrow.

## Gardening with Native Plants

**Tuesday, March 24** 7 pm - 9 pm  
**Location:** Meridian Service Center  
**Price:** \$15/person

Join Vern Stephens, owner of Designs by Nature, to learn about designing and maintaining a native garden. Please register ahead.

## Earth Day Stewardship

**Saturday, April 25** 9 am - 11 am  
**Price:** FREE

Give back to nature Earth Day weekend. We need your help to keep our park and trails healthy and safe by removing invasive plants, maintaining habitat areas, repairing troubled trail areas and gardening around the building. Please contact us at HNC. Please contact HNC if you would like to help.

## Preschool Nature Exploration

**Ages: 4 and 5 year olds**

**Thursdays** 1- 2 pm  
**April 2** Fun with Fossils  
**May 7** Amazing Amphibians  
**June 4** Incredible Insects  
**Price:** \$3/child/class

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

## Explore Nature Open House

**Sunday, April 19** 12 - 4 pm  
**Price:** FREE

In association with the MSU Science Festival, the Harris Nature Center is offering participants a chance to explore nature in our Nature Exploration Area. Pick up an activity sheet in the nature building and then have fun with the activities at the Turtle Sculpture, Log Jam, Spider Web, MI Fossil Dig and Beaver Lodge features. No registration needed. Find out more about the MSU Science Festival at sciencefestival.msu.edu.

## Spring Walk in Nature

**Sunday, April 26** 2 pm  
**Price:** \$3/person or \$7/family

The early wildflowers are beginning to show and animals are very active as they gather food for their young. This is a great time for a guided walk in the early spring woods!

## Native Plants Sale

**Saturday, May 2** 9 am - 1 pm  
**Price:** FREE (plant prices vary)

The Harris Nature Center is hosting a sale of over 80 varieties of native plants, shrubs and trees this spring. Pre-order your plants NOW or pick them out on May 2. Contact HNC for the plant list and order form for pre-ordering.

## Edible Wild Plants Walk

**Saturday, May 9** 2 pm  
**Price:** \$5/person

Join Peter Carrington, Curator of the W. J. Beal Botanical Garden at MSU, on a spring edible plant walking tour of the Harris Nature Center.

## Evening Wildflower Walk

**Tuesday, May 12** 7 pm  
**Price:** \$3/person or \$7/family

Join a naturalist for a guided walk to see beautiful spring wildflowers such as Trillium, Wild Phlox and Jack-in-the-Pulpit.

## All About Frogs Campfire

**Saturday, May 16** 7 pm  
**Price:** \$3/person or \$7/family

Gather around the campfire for a program on Michigan Frogs, roast marshmallows and then go on a guided walk to search for frogs.

## Be a Tourist in Your Own Town

**Saturday, June 6** 10 am - 5 pm  
**Price:** FREE

Whether you are a new or returning visitor, you will have a great time with the planned activities in the Nature Exploration Area, visiting with the animals and walking the nature trails. HNC is a stamp location.

## Introduction to Bee Keeping

**Saturday, June 13** 1 pm  
**Price:** \$5/person

Members of the Michigan Beekeepers Association will share basic bee facts, the importance of Honey Bees and how you can become a beekeeper. We will also be looking at our observation hive to practice the skills learned in the presentation to identify the types of bees in the hive.

## Animal Super Heroes Campfire

**Saturday, June 20** 7 pm  
**Price:** \$3/person or \$7/family

Learn about incredible animal adaptations while spending time around the campfire. Participants will also enjoy s'mores and a guided walk.

For Information & To  
**Sign Up NOW**  
[bit.ly/mtpronline](http://bit.ly/mtpronline)

Contact the Harris Nature  
Center with questions  
517.349.3866  
[hnc@meridian.mi.us](mailto:hnc@meridian.mi.us)

# Summer Day Camps

Your child can connect with nature this summer! HNC offers a number of camp experiences to meet a variety of interests and schedule needs. There are 1-day, 2-day and 4-day camps that last 1 hour, 3 hours or 6 hours. Camps are available for children going into 8th grade all the way down to toddlers. All campers will receive a camp tee shirt.

Take advantage of our Early Registration Discount! Save \$5 or \$2 on camp registrations received before June 1st.

All camps have limited enrollment and are open until full.

**4 Years and Under  
With an Accompanying Adult  
Nature Tots**

**4 & 5 Year Olds**  
Cool Critters  
Crafty Critters  
Bug Buddies  
Wild About Animals

**Going into K & 1st Grades**

Animal Seekers  
Feathery Friends  
Nature's Artists  
Animal Babies  
Frogs and Friends  
Insect Adventures  
Sensational Nature  
Turtle Time  
Amazing Animals

**Going into 2nd & 3rd Grades**

Bug Catchers  
Grossology  
Nature's Artists II  
Animal Trackers  
Animal World  
Birds, Birds, Birds!  
River Rascals  
Snakes Alive!  
Animal Adventures

**Going into 4th - 6th Grades  
Following Tracks and Traces**

Nuts about Nature  
River Explorations  
All Things Archery  
Rock Hounds  
Treasure Hunters  
Wilderness Child  
Wildlife Explorers  
Outdoor Adventures

**Going into 6th - 8th Grades  
Counselor-in-Training**



The Village Chapel and Gazebo are available for rent. Visit **meridianhistoricalvillage.org** for rates and availability.

Meridian Historical Village  
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864  
© 517.347.7300  
facebook.com/MeridianHistoricalVillage

## Meridian Historical Village

5151 Marsh Road, Okemos

The Meridian Historical Village is located in picturesque Central Park, a Meridian Township park located at 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos MI 48864, and contains historic buildings relocated from other locations and carefully restored to their original 19th century style. The Village is operated by the Friends of Historic Meridian, a non-profit organization formed in 1974 to create and sustain an active appreciation of local history. The Friends of Historic Meridian preserve and maintain the historic buildings, sponsor a variety of community events in the Village, hold weddings in the chapel and host school tours for local elementary students.

### School Tours Information

#### Village Sampler:

Experience a sampling of 19th century life with visits to three buildings of your choosing.

#### School Combination:

Students experience a morning in the school in this teacher conducted program, then visit two or more buildings after lunch.

#### BIG History Lessons:

Students, teachers and parents use the Village as their classroom for up to a week.

Check the calendar for available dates, then email or call today to book a school tour!

Teachers please book your school visit a minimum of two weeks in advance. BIG History Lessons require a minimum of four weeks notice.

### Endowment Fund

The Friends of Historic Meridian Endowment Fund was established within the Capital Region Community Foundation in 2014. Donations to the Foundation for the Friends' Endowment Fund will ensure work can continue at the Village for years to come. To make a donation, contact 517.347.3866.

## Nokomis Cultural Heritage Center

Nokomis Cultural Heritage Center is one of mid Michigan's hidden gems. Dedicated to preserving and presenting the culture, arts and language of the People of the Three Fires—the Ojibwe, Odawa and Potawatomi nations, the Center is open to the public and hosts various events, classes and workshops. Nokomis offers tours for school and community groups as well as conducting off-site presentations to help people learn about Michigan's first inhabitants.

### Ojibwe Kinoomaagewin / Weekly Ojibwe Language

Wednesdays from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. Come early at 6 pm for a potluck. Good way to start the night.

### Feast Gatherings

The Center holds a Spring Feast to celebrate and visit with our friends and relatives after a long winter. This is a potluck event. Date to be announced on Facebook.

### Education, Programs & Cultural Arts

Rotating programs and curriculum presentations. Ongoing cultural arts classes. Rotating gallery and museum tours. Public and corporate private tours. Interactive off site presentations are also available.

### Facility Availability

The Nokomis Cultural Heritage Center is available for meetings or gatherings. Please contact the Center for details.

### Center Hours

<b>Monday</b>	<b>10 am - 3 pm</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>10 am - 3 pm</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>10 am - 3 pm</b>

5153 Marsh Road  
Okemos, MI 48864

517.349.5777

info@nokomis.org  
tours@nokomis.org  
nokomis.org  
facebook.com/  
nokomislearningcenter

# Park Projects in 2020



## Large Dog Park

The future large dog park (30 lbs. and over) located in Central Park South is expected to open in spring 2020. An accessible pathway will be constructed between the Town Hall and Central Park South. Once the pathway is completed, it will provide the necessary access to the large dog park. Registration is required to enter the parks and is available online [meridian.mi.us/dogparks](http://meridian.mi.us/dogparks).



## Meridian Historical Village

A new, accessible "Gateway Bridge" will replace the current bridge connecting the Central Park Pavilion and Historical Village. An accessible restroom facility will also be a welcomed new addition across from the Plank Road Toll House. This \$300,000 project is made possible through a \$150,000 grant from the Land and Water Conservation Fund.



## HNC Waterless Restroom

A new year-around waterless restroom will be located near the existing trailhead to serve trail walkers, kayakers, cross-country skiers and the thousands of school children and other drop-in visitors who enjoy the area around the Nature Center building. This project is funded by a \$50,000 Land and Water Conservation Fund grant and Meridian Township Park Millage.



## HNC Pavilion

A new pavilion will provide an outdoor classroom for HNC summer camps and other programs, public rentals and used as a shelter for paddlers along the Red Cedar Water Trail. This project is funded by grant from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, Capital Region Community Foundation, Harris Nature Center Foundation, donations and Meridian Township Park Millage.



## Donated Properties

Meridian Township has received several additions to its parks through the generous donations of our friends of the parks. Over 90 acres has been donated this year adding forested land between Marsh Pointe and Hillbrook Park, trails and natural area at Sander Farm Preserve and wooded wetland at Brattin Woods Natural Area. Thank you to TJ Acquisitions, LLC, Dr. Maureen Sander and the Marilyn E. Pinnavaia Trust.



## Central Park

A Regional Trail Connector will offer a half-mile long paved trail and accessible fishing platform beginning near the Central Park Pavilion and running west through Central Park connecting to an existing paved trail in Central Park South. This \$395,000 project is funded through \$272,500 grant from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund and \$122,500 Park Millage.

# Township Parks & Amenities

## Township Parks

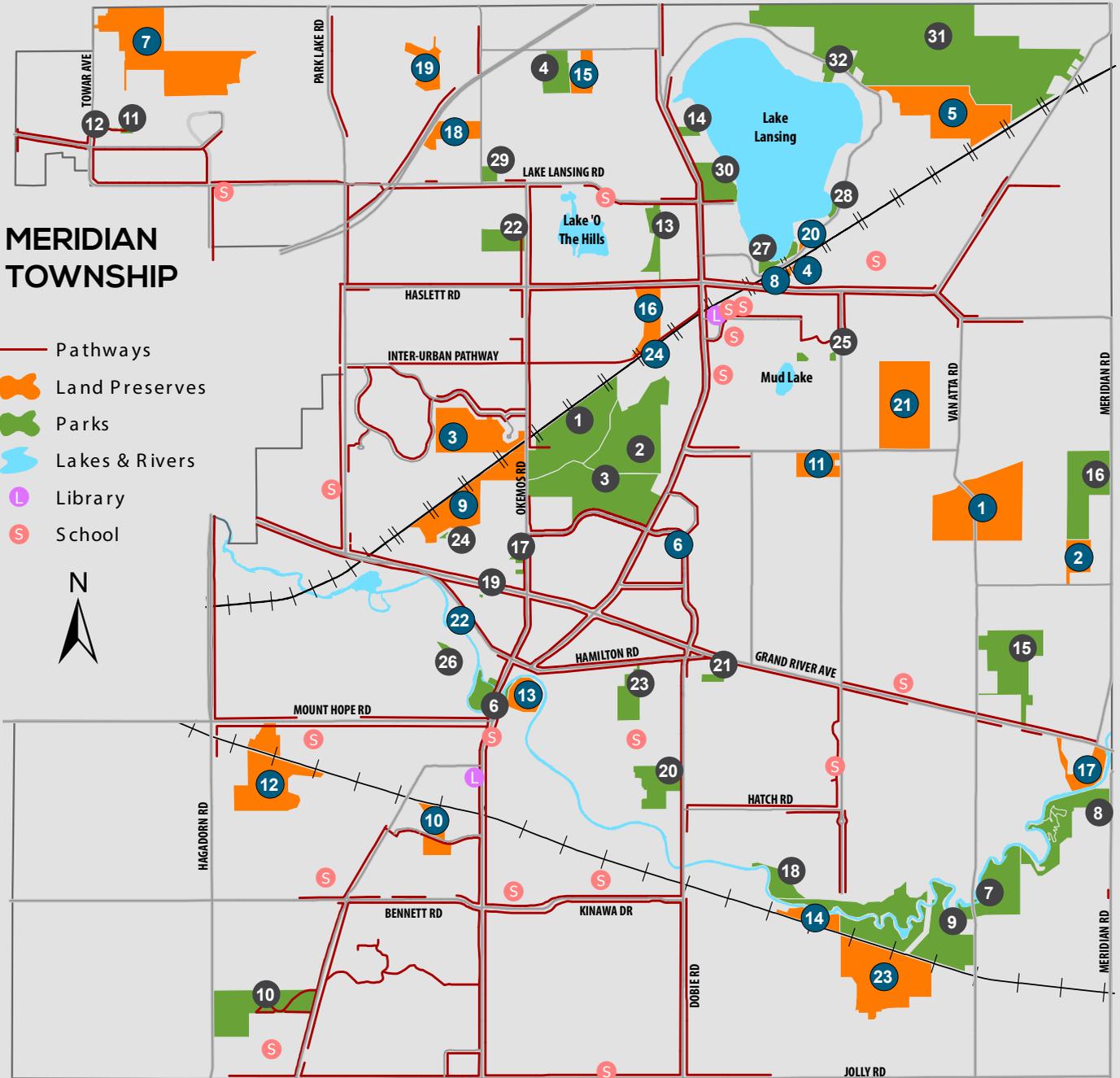
	Acres	Parking	Trails (N-natural   P-paved)	Natural Area with No Amenities	Lake   Pond   River   Drain   Wetland	Restrooms   Portable Toilets	Pavilion   Buildings   with set hours	Drinking fountain	Electricity	Grills	Picnic Area(s)	Fishing Access	Fishing Dock	Canoe   Kayak Launch	Boat Launch	River   Pond   Wetland Overlook Deck	Play Equipment	Nature Exploration Area	Story Book Trail	Soccer   Football   LaCrosse Fields	Baseball   Softball   Diamonds	Basketball Court	Pickleball Court   Tennis Court	Sand Volleyball Court	Sliding Hill   Pump Track	Horseshoe Pits   Cage Ball	Fitness Equipment   Dog Park	Open Space for Activities
1 Nancy Moore Park 1960 Gaylord C. Smith Court	40	x	N/P		D	R	P	x	x	x	x						x			x	x	x		x		GB	DP	x
Parks & Recreation Office		x				R	B																					
2 Central Park 5151 Marsh Rd	197	x	N		P	R	P	x	x		x	x	x			x	x			x							HP	
Township Building/Public Safety Building		x				R	B																					
Meridian Historical Village		x					B																					
Nokomis Learning Center		x				R	B																					
Farmers' Market Pavilion		x				R	P																					
3 Central Park South 1990 Central Park Dr	15	x	N/P		P					x	x	x																
4 Towner Road Park 2055 Towner Rd	23.6	x	P		W	R	P	x	x	x	x									x	x		x					x
5 Wonch Park 4555 Okemos Rd	15	x	P		R	R	P	x	x	x	x						x						x		HP	FE	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											x
8 Eastgate Park 4203 S. Meridian Rd	53	x	N		R		P			x	x	x													PT			x
9 Legg Park 3891 Van Atta Rd	103	x	N		R		P			x		x																x
10 Hartrick Park 3685 Hulett Rd	60.7	x	N/P		P	R	P	x	x	x	x				x	x				x	x							x
11 Snell-Towar Recreation Center 6146 Porter St		x				R	B	x																				
12 Towar Park 6146 Porter St	4	x								x	x						x											x
13 Hillbrook Park 1747 Lake Lansing Rd	25.4	x	N		D			x		x	x						x				x	x	x					x
14 Marshall Park 6105 Marsh Rd	5	x								x	x						x											x
15 Ted Black Woods 540 Grand River Ave   4714 Van Atta Rd	74	x	N		W					x					x													x
16 North Meridian Road Park 5191 N. Meridian Rd	60	x	N			R	P	x	x	x	x						x			x			x		SH	GB		x
17 Ottawa Hills Park 4980 Hillcrest Ave	3				D					x							x					x						x
18 Red Cedar Natural Area 1455 Oscoda Rd	56			x	R																							
19 Cedar Bend Heights Neighborhood Park 2280 Kenmore Dr	0.33									x							x											x
20 Sander Farm Preserved Natural Area 4344 Dobie Rd	34		N		D																							
21 Forest Hills Park 4625 Northview Dr	4		N																									
22 Brattin Woods 5851 Okemos Rd	22.2	x	N		W										x													
23 Tacoma Hills Park 1815 Hamilton Rd	22		N																									
24 Schriener Park 5039 Algonquin Way	1			x																								
25 Orlando Park 1275 Orlando Dr	1.3		P					x			x						x		x									x
26 Indian Hills Park 4730 Nakoma Dr	3																											x
27 Lake Lansing Marsh 1430 Lake Dr	46			x	W/L																							
28 Spengler Marsh 5929 Lake Dr	3.3			x	W/L																							
29 Newton Road Park 6025 Newton Rd	5	x																										x
30 Lake Lansing Park South (Ingham County Park)	30	x			L	x	x			x	x	x	x				x						x			HP		x
31 Lake Lansing Park North (Ingham County Park)	530	x	N		L	x	x			x	x			x			x				x	x						x
32 Lake Lansing Park Boat Launch (Ingham County)					L	x					x	x		x														

## Share the Trails

Everyone enjoys the parks in their own way. Here are things you can do while in the parks to be respectful for the next visitor. Footprints and paw prints ruin established ski tracks. Please do your part to preserve these ski trails. Remember that muddy trails are for foot traffic only, so please refrain from riding bikes and horses on the trails at these times. Bring your pets along for your walks but keep them on a leash and clean up after them (these are both code violations).

#scoopthepoop





## Land Preserves

- |                               |  |                          |
|-------------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| 1 Davis/Foster Preserve       | 10 Sower Woods Preserve                | 18 Forest Grove Preserve |
| 2 Foster-Crouse Preserve      | 11 Tihart/Cornell Wetland Preserve     | 19 North Ridge Preserve  |
| 3 Hubbel Preserve             | 12 Southwest Meridian Uplands Preserve | 20 Tank Wetland          |
| 4 Kuzma Preserve              | 13 Sumbal Preserve                     | 21 Tihart Preserve       |
| 5 Lake Lansing North Preserve | 14 Red Cedar Glen Preserve             | 22 Mandenberg Woods      |
| 6 Newman Equities Preserve    | 15 Towner Wetland Preserve             | 23 Ponderosa Preserve    |
| 7 Towar Woods Preserve        | 16 Meridian Central Wetland Preserve   | 24 Nemoke Preserve       |
| 8 Lake Lansing South Preserve | 17 Red Cedar River East Preserve       |                          |
| 9 Central Meridian Uplands    |  |                          |

## 2020 Election Dates

**March 10, 2020**  
Presidential Primary

**August 4, 2020**  
Primary Election

**November 3, 2020**  
General Election

### Registering to Vote and Voter Information

The Michigan Voter Information Center can help you determine whether you are registered to vote, where you cast your ballot on Election Day and where your local Clerk's Office is located. If you are not registered, you can follow the step-by-step instructions to register. You may also learn about voting equipment in your precinct, the voter identification requirement and what you need to know if you would like to work at the polls on Election Day.

Registered Michigan voters who have moved within 60 days of the election may still vote at their previous address if they did not register to vote at their new address by the close of registration for this election.

### Michigan Absentee Voter Information

Michigan is a no reason absentee voter state. This means that all registered voters in Michigan may request an absentee ballot without providing a reason.

Requests to have an absent voter ballot mailed to you must be received by the Clerk's Office no later than 5 pm the Friday before the election. Once your request is received by the Clerk's Office, your signature on the request will be checked against your voter registration record before a ballot is issued. You must be a registered voter to receive an absent voter ballot. Requests for absent voter ballots are processed immediately. Absent voter ballots may be issued to you at your home address or any address outside of your residence.

## THREE WAYS Meridian Township Residents Can Request An Absentee Ballot

- 1** Request an absentee ballot through the Meridian Township Clerk's Office at 517.853.4300 or [lemley@meridian.mi.us](mailto:lemley@meridian.mi.us).
- 2** Request an absentee ballot in person at Ingham County Clerk's Office, any Secretary of State Office or the Meridian Township Clerk's Office inside the Municipal Building at 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos. The application must be returned to the Township Clerk's Office either in person, by mail, email or fax.
- 3** Request an absentee ballot online through the State of Michigan website: [michigan.gov/sos](http://michigan.gov/sos). Print out the application and either mail, email or fax the form to the Meridian Township Clerk's Office.

After receiving your absent voter ballot, you have until 8 pm on Election Day to complete the ballot and return it to the Clerk's Office. Your ballot will not be counted unless your signature is on the return envelope and matches your signature on file. If you received assistance voting the ballot, then the signature of the person who helped you must also be on the return envelope. Only you, a family member or person residing in your household, a mail carrier or election official is authorized to deliver your signed absent voter ballot to the Clerk's Office.

~ Most information obtained from the State of Michigan Website

## Become an Election Inspector

Election Inspectors are needed in 2020 for the Presidential Primary in March, August Primary and November General Election. Any registered Michigan voter over the age of 18 is eligible to work elections.

Election Inspectors are paid \$11.00 per hour. A 90-minute paid training is provided the week before the election and is required for all new workers.

**Fill out application and apply online at [bit.ly/electioninspectorsapp](https://bit.ly/electioninspectorsapp) or email Clerk Dreyfus at [dreyfus@meridian.mi.us](mailto:dreyfus@meridian.mi.us).**

Meridian is **A PRIME COMMUNITY** because of the involvement of its citizens. We have numerous Boards & Commissions and volunteer opportunities, where hundreds of involved community members serve the Township. Whether your interest is in parks, transportation, business, planning or something else, we likely have a group of people who share your passion. Most Boards meet for an hour or two per month.

## Happy 50th Anniversary!

**Congratulations to the Meridian Garden Club Celebrating 50 years in 2020!**

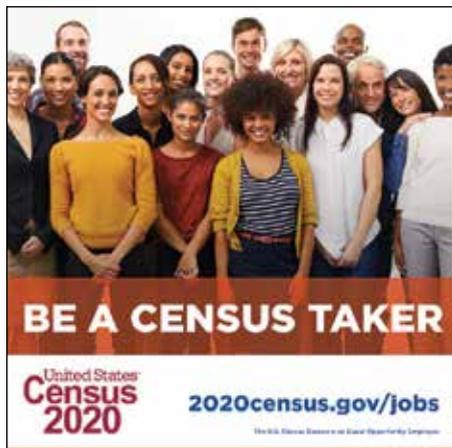
Their landscaping work has been nationally recognized. Most recently, they were awarded the Michigan Nursery & Landscape Association's Plant Michigan Green Community Landscape Beautification Award for the Safety Gardens in Meridian Township. This project was led by Haslett and Okemos High School students under the direction of the Meridian Garden Club, Inc.



The Meridian Garden Club is a group of people who delight in gardening and have come together to beautify the Meridian Township community, to learn more about all things horticultural, protecting the environment and floral design. Club membership is open to anyone interested in gardening and upholding the objectives of the organization. To join this group and learn more about them, visit the Meridian Garden Club website. [meridiangardenclub.weebly.com/membership.html](http://meridiangardenclub.weebly.com/membership.html)

## Being Counted is Being Involved

Census results help determine how billions of dollars in federal funding flow into states and communities each year. Meridian stands to lose around \$18,000 for each individual living in Meridian who is not counted. The once-a-decade population count also affects Meridian



Township's representation in government and provides data to help officials and staff plan for the future. Meridian Township has formed a Complete Count Committee to work together on informing residents about the importance of a complete count and encourage becoming Census Workers. Won't you help? **Contact Communications Manager Brandie Yates** [yates@meridian.mi.us](mailto:yates@meridian.mi.us).

## Ways to Volunteer

- Celebrate Meridian
- Eagle Scout Projects
- Earth Day Stewardship
- Friends of Complete Streets
- Friends of Haslett Library
- Friends of Historic Meridian
- Friends of Meridian Township Pathways
- Friends of Okemos Library
- Friends of Red Cedar River
- Haslett Beautification Association
- Junior Counselors at Summer Camps
- Love a Park Day
- Meridian Garden Club
- Meridian Senior Center
- Spring & Fall Recycling Events

## Boards & Commissions

- Board of Review
- Brownfield Authority
- Building Board of Appeals
- Communications Commission
- Community Resources Commission
- Corridor Improvement Authority
- Downtown Development Authority
- Economic Development Corporation
- Election Commission
- Environmental Commission
- Lake Lansing Advisory Committee
- Land Preservation Advisory Board
- Local Officials Compensation Commission
- Pension Board
- Planning Commission
- Transportation Commission
- Zoning Board of Appeals

Township Board & Park Commission members are elected positions.

**APPLY TODAY**  
**MERIDIAN.MI.US**

## Village of Okemos: What to Expect in 2020

On July 9th, the Township Board approved the mixed-use development plan which will transform two full blocks along the west side of Okemos Road between Clinton and Methodist Streets, with Hamilton becoming a focal point for street trees flanking quaint shopping and eating offerings.

Environmental work was the necessary first step of the project to mitigate the toxic soils left by three defunct gas stations and a dry cleaner site. The holes left by this fall excavation will become the foundation for seven buildings to be built on the two-block site. Throughout 2020 residents will see the construction of over 200 luxury living units and over 50,000 square feet of leasable space for commercial operations. Douglas J will occupy a significant portion of the southern block's commercial space.

During this time, significant road improvements and traffic flow enhancements will ensure that when occupied in mid/late 2022, the Village will be a calm and accessible Prime area.



## Wayfair Brings Over 500 Jobs to Meridian Township

Over a year's worth of market data analysis, site visits and strategic discussions, led by the Lansing Economic Area Partnership (LEAP) on behalf of the region, Site Selection Group and Wayfair, will culminate in a new customer service center at 4700 S. Hagadorn Road in Meridian Township.



Information provided by Lansing Economic Area Partnership (LEAP); a coalition of area leaders partnering to build a stronger community for all—working every day to grow, retain and attract business to the Lansing, Michigan region.

Wayfair will be fixing up and leasing 62,000 square feet of office space from the Eyde Company.

Founded in 2002 and headquartered in Boston, Wayfair strives to be the employer of choice in the e-commerce customer service space.

This new location in Meridian Township will employ over 500 full time competitively paid customer service jobs in the first three years. These jobs are expected to draw interest from the local University student community as well as surrounding regions,

acting as both an opportunity to retain existing talent and attract new talented professionals to the community.

The Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) contributed greatly to the project by approving over \$2 million dollars in grants to assist in Wayfair's job creation and investment.

Wayfair looks to begin hiring its first wave of employees in the first half of 2020, expanding its award-winning team and culture in the Lansing region.



## Coming to Meridian

MetroNet has stated that will be constructing their 100% fiber optic network in Meridian Township next year. Residents can expect to see clearly marked construction teams in and around neighborhoods completing both aerial and underground work. MetroNet will follow Township Ordinances to conduct work in Meridian Township. MetroNet's construction website [www.metronetinc.com/construction](http://www.metronetinc.com/construction) will contain FAQs, maps of construction areas, brief and informative videos, and a form to notify MetroNet of any potential property concerns, such as the location of an underground sprinkler system or invisible dog fence.

Residents can find information at [www.metronetinc.com](http://www.metronetinc.com) or by calling 1.877.407.3224 and social sites.

**Contact the Township if there are issues at [dpw@meridian.mi.us](mailto:dpw@meridian.mi.us).**

## Township Board Addresses Haslett Village Square Revitalization Plan

The Township Board has prioritized the revitalization of the Haslett PICA as defined in the 2017 Master Plan with a sharp focus on Haslett Village Square.

Due to inactivity in the area, Township staff requested pre-development funding of \$25,000 from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) for a market assessment study of this area which spans from Marsh Road from south of Haslett Road to North of the Lake Lansing Road intersection. The study included two visioning sessions with Haslett residents, business owners and dignitaries to obtain feedback. At the November 19, 2019 Township Board Meeting, a general summary of the study as well as an overview

of results was presented. Full Presentation: [bit.ly/35mG8gF](https://bit.ly/35mG8gF)

By 2025 the study shows that Haslett has opportunities to add 37 to 347 residential units, 62,000 to 141,000 square feet of new commercial space and 17,000 to 40,000 square feet of new office space. The focus of the market assessment included current and future market conditions consisting of area property sales and rentals, trends in office and residential space and survey analytics from households in the Lansing-East Lansing areas.

The study has been disseminated to the developer and commercial real estate community to encourage momentum in those areas.

## Commercial Medical Marijuana Facilities

In May of 2019, the Township Board adopted two ordinances related to medical marijuana. The first is a zoning ordinance, which allows the following:

- Establishes 6 different overlay areas in the Township where the 5 different types of medical marijuana facilities can locate; provisioning center, grower, processor, secure transporter, safety compliance facility.
- States which of the overlay areas each type of facility can locate.
- Requires a special use permit to open any of these types of facilities.

The second ordinance, a non-zoning ordinance, allows the following:

- Establishes the requirement for a license and details the rules/regulations for operating a

commercial medical marijuana facility.

- Establishes the number of licenses for each type of facility the Board will issue.

In July 2019, the Township started accepting applications for the various medical marijuana facilities. The only types of applications received were for provisioning centers. Since the Board established a limit on the number of licenses (6 for provisioning centers), the Township received more applications than available licenses, in September a lottery was held to determine the "winner" in each overlay area.

The "winner" gets to be the first applicant for a special use permit.

Friday, November 22, 2019 was the deadline for submitting special use permit applications for overlay areas 1, 2, 5, 6, and 7. Once received, staff will schedule Planning Commission Public Hearings, who make a recommendation to the Board for final decision.

The lottery for Area 3/4 was delayed due to an appeal, but was eventually held in October. The "winner" from Area 3/4 has until December 30, 2019 to submit a special use application.

After the special use permits are approved, there will be a detailed staff review called Site Plan Review, which will be followed by building permit review and inspections at both the local and State level.

We were honored to be included in so many business anniversary celebrations this year!  
**CONGRATULATIONS!**



## 175<sup>TH</sup> INGHAM COUNTY MEDICAL CARE FACILITY

We celebrated Ingham County Medical Care Facilities 175 year anniversary and the opening of its new state-of-the-art complex care rehab addition with an open house celebration and tribute.



## 150<sup>TH</sup> OKEMOS MASONIC LODGE

The Okemos Masonic Lodge has been serving the community since 1869! They celebrated with the community with a fun filled customer appreciation day.



## 50<sup>TH</sup> MERIDIAN MALL

As malls around the country are being closed, we celebrated how Meridian Mall is being rethought of as an experience destination and celebrated 50 years with them!



## 30<sup>TH</sup> PK COMPANIES

Located in seven states, yet home to Okemos is PK Companies who specializes in affordable housing and tax credit programs for historic preservation and low-income. They've done an entire remodel/addition and we were honored to celebrate 30 years with them!

If your business has an anniversary celebration, grand opening, ribbon cutting or ground breaking ceremony coming up, let us know about so we can celebrate with you! Email [communications@meridian.mi.us](mailto:communications@meridian.mi.us).

# Awards & Accolades

Meridian Township is honored to receive the following awards recognizing the hard work of staff.



## Township Receives Environmental Award!

Meridian Township received the silver ranking in the Michigan Green Communities Challenge for installing a 20-KW solar array as well as a solar garden. The new solar array was constructed in 2019. Over its lifetime, this 20-KW solar array will help reduce Meridian Township's carbon footprint by 548 tons.

The Michigan Green Communities network award presented an award recognizing Michigan communities for their efforts in becoming a more sustainable community.



## Township Receives Economic Development Award!

Meridian Township has been recognized as a Five-Star Community for its work to foster entrepreneurial growth and economic development in the annual eCities study conducted by researchers at iLabs, University of Michigan-Dearborn's Center for Innovation Research.

The eCities study analyzed publicly available data from 277 communities in 54 counties in Michigan. Researchers focused on the five-year changes in property values, community assets and tax rates, which can demonstrate the growth, investments and cost of doing business within the community.



## Bond Sale Draws AA+ Rating!

In October 2019, the initial set of road improvement bonds were sold in a competitive market. Township officials will use bond proceeds to expedite road improvements in 2020.

Due to Meridian's excellent bond rating, the Township financed \$11,500,000 bonds at a 1.3% interest rate. The extremely low interest rate will effectively allow the Township to receive an additional \$300,000 of net bond proceeds, over the next three years, without increasing the 1.9429 millage rate.



## HOMTV Receives National Recognition for Programming Excellence!

The National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (NATOA), Alliance for Community Media (ACM) and the Central States Region Chapter of ACM have recognized Meridian Township's Government Access Channel, HOMTV with Overall Excellence in Programming, Election Coverage and Debate programming.



## Winter Taxes Due Friday, February 14 at 5 pm

Winter automatic online payments can be set up on the Bill Payment section of the website by Wednesday, February 12, 2020.

Payments are accepted in person at the Treasurer's Office during business hours between 8 am and 5 pm Monday - Friday or via Drop Box 24 hours located outside the Municipal Building at 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos.

## 2020 Township Local Road Plan

Meridian Township is excited to begin implementing the first year of the Township Local Road Plan. The purpose is to raise the Township's 147-mile road system from a four on the Pavement Surface Evaluation and Rating (PASER) scale to an eight on a scale of one (failed) to ten (new) over a ten year period.

The 2020 plan includes 10.24 miles of rehabilitation work as well as 16.7 miles of preventative maintenance crack sealing work. Paving is expected to begin in May 2020 with

a goal of addressing a minimum of 10 miles of the most deteriorated roads each year

The Department of Public Works (DPW) and its consultants will manage and oversee the entire process including bidding, inspection and construction of the local roadwork as well as coordinating any other planned utility projects.

The total 2020 road program budget is \$4,122,500, with \$3.7 million coming from the recent

voter approved 10-year local road bond program approved by voters. All \$3.7 million will be used for the rehabilitation work that will focus on the worst local roads in the system (PASER 1-3). The remaining funding will come from the Ingham County Road Department (ICRD) and Township General Fund providing for the preventative maintenance work to preserve existing good pavement.

**Detailed map and information is available on the website.**

## MDOT Saginaw Highway Project

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) is continuing to perform resurfacing, repairs and sewer installation work at the I-69 BL (Saginaw Highway)/Marsh Road and I-69 BL/Old M-78 intersections. This work is part of the ongoing \$2.5 million safety investment to improve four intersections along I-69 BL in Meridian and Bath Townships in Ingham and Clinton Counties.

MDOT will be eliminating some of the straight-through median crossings at Newton, Towner and Marsh Roads and installing 'Michigan left' turns. A new traffic light in front of the Meijer in Bath

Township will be added to improve the intersection of Old M-78 and I-69BL (Saginaw).

Additionally, the Ingham County Road Department is working to convert Lake Lansing Road between Hagadorn Road and Saginaw Highway into three lanes. Those three lanes would include one through lane in each direction, a center dual direction turn lane and motorized lanes on both sides. The project will also include adding right turn lanes for eastbound Lake Lansing Road to both southbound Hagadorn and southbound Park Lake Roads.

Preliminary work for a new signal installation at both the Hagadorn Road and Park Lake Road intersections has been completed.

Although some work began in the fall of 2019, the main resurfacing project will take place in the spring of 2020 with an estimated completion of July 2020.

## The Future of Camelback Bridge

One of the main corridors through the Township is along Okemos Road through Downtown Okemos crossing over what is known as the Camelback Bridge. Located on Okemos Road near Ferguson Park dating back to 1924; Camelback is a 90-foot, curved bridge built by the Wolverine Engineering Company of Mason and is said to be one of only two known surviving examples of concrete girder camelback bridges in Michigan.

Due to the aging condition of the Camelback Bridge and the southbound conventional bridge on Okemos Road over the Red Cedar River, the Meridian Township Transportation Commission and Township Board have been reviewing alternatives for

replacement with the Ingham County Road Department (ICRD).

The Road Department and consultants have held public input sessions to inform the public on the condition of the bridge and costs to restore or replace the bridge, seek feedback and share data collected for next steps. The ICRD will continue to gather public input on the project.

Visit [meridian.mi.us](http://meridian.mi.us) in the project section for details.

As of the date of this publication, consultants are looking at preferred alternatives for the Okemos Road Bridge Replacement Project including building a new singular bridge and removing both of the existing bridges.



## Okemos Road Boardwalk

Meridian Township received \$975,000 in funding from the Ingham County Parks and Trail Millage for the newly constructed Okemos Road Boardwalk. The remaining \$325,000 of the 1.3 million-dollar project was funded by the Township's voter approved pathway millage.

The Okemos Road Boardwalk has completed the final remaining gap in the pathway system along the east side of Okemos Road from Jolly Road to Lake Lansing Road providing an off-road elevated walkway through the Mud Lake Drain wetland area.

The next major pathway project is the MSU to Lake Lansing Trail Connector. The entire length of this trail is approximately 5.5 miles long from Hagadorn Road to Lake Lansing and includes three phases.

Phase 1 is anticipated to begin in Winter 2020 and Phase 2 is

anticipated to begin in Summer 2020. Phase 1 will extend nearly 1.1 miles from Hagadorn Road along the Red Cedar River and CN Railroad to Park Lake Drive and Grand River Avenue. The estimated cost is \$3 million. Meridian Township was awarded \$2.65 million for this phase, including \$1.7 million from the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT).

The Ingham County Board of Commissioners awarded Meridian Township \$645,000 from the Ingham County Parks and Trails Millage for the construction of Phase 2, which will provide 1.2 miles of paved trail from Park Lake Road to Okemos Road through private property including Campus Hills Apartments and the Rysberg Land Preservation. The estimated cost is \$860,000. The remaining \$215,000 will be a 25% match from the Township Pathway Millage.

The next steps for this project include construction design, property easement acquisition and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) clearance from MDOT, involving protection of natural and cultural resources along the trail.

Once the design is finalized, Township engineers will work through Township and State processes for wetland and floodplain permitting.



# MERIDIAN Cares

One of the reasons Meridian Township is **A Prime Community** is the generous support provided to help those in need.

The Meridian Cares program assists Meridian Township residents with their financial crises, so they don't face greater catastrophe, such as eviction or having heat shut off. Due to recent changes in federal and state policies, fewer people are eligible for assistance, and with less public assistance available, there is greater need for Meridian Cares assistance. In fact, the need in 2019 has been 64% higher than one year ago. Most of the households assisted are older adults, individuals with a disability and/or families with children.

For households that aren't able to get assistance from community partners or can't get as much assistance as they need, the Meridian Cares needs fund is able to assist.

All of the funds raised stay in the Meridian Township community, helping the 12.6% that are struggling, and every donation helps. Meridian Cares financial donations can be made out to Meridian Cares program and mailed to Meridian Township c/o Meridian Cares 5151 Marsh Rd. Okemos, MI. 48864



## Police Chief Receives Governor's Appointment

Congratulations to Police Chief Ken Plaga on being appointed by Governor Whitmer to the School Safety Commission!

The School Safety Commission reviews and makes recommendations to the office of school safety using model practices for determining school safety measures. The school safety measures must address the development and evaluation of school safety model practices, a review of the statewide school safety information policy and the emergency operations plans, the role of school safety liaisons, the emerging trends in school safety technology, the baseline safety requirements for schools and the baseline hardening measures for new and existing schools.

These appointments are not subject to the advice and consent of the Senate. Chief Plaga is appointed to represent local law enforcement for a term commencing January 15, 2020 and expiring January 14, 2024.

**Congratulations!**



## Trench Rescue Training

The Meridian Township Fire Department is a member of the Metro Lansing Technical Rescue Team and provides response to rescue incidents

involving confined space, trench, water, ice, high angle and structural collapse throughout Michigan.

Training scenarios for these rescue incidents occur multiple times a year. The Meridian Township Fire Department participated in a multi-day Trench Rescue Training this past summer. According to Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), about 25 workers are killed each year in trench-related incidents.

The training included safety briefings, site preparation including adding pre-constructed walls to prevent further collapsing, heavy equipment operations and proper techniques for safely removing victims from a trench. **Watch on HOMTV's YouTube Channel.**



# Celebrate **MERIDIAN** FESTIVAL



**SAVE THE DATE TO  
CELEBRATE WITH US!**

**SATURDAY  
JUNE 27**



[meridian.mi.us/celebrate](http://meridian.mi.us/celebrate)

Central Park Drive  
Meridian Township Municipal Complex





5151 Marsh Road  
Okemos, MI 48864



## ECRWSS CAR-SORT POSTAL CUSTOMER

# Coming Soon....

Most of the construction for the new "Marketplace on the Green" will take place over the winter months; consisting of a pavilion, picnic area, playground, restroom and small music stage. Along with housing our popular Meridian Township Farmers' Market, this site will host arts and crafts markets, street fairs, food trucks, music, recreation, special events and artificial ice for skating throughout the winter.



## Year Round Farmers' MARKET

# SHOP ▲ PLAY ▲ EAT

**WINTER MARKET 10AM TO 2PM**  
EVERY OTHER SATURDAY

Meridian Mall  
JC Penney Corridor  
1982 W. Grand River, Okemos, MI

DECEMBER 7 & 21    JANUARY 4 & 18    FEBRUARY 1 & 15    MARCH 7 & 21    APRIL 4 & 18

**SATURDAYS 8AM TO 2PM**  
MAY - OCTOBER

**WEDNESDAYS 3PM TO 7PM**  
JULY - OCTOBER

**PRE-THANKSGIVING MARKET 8AM TO 2PM**  
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25

[FACEBOOK.COM/MERIDIANTOWNSHIPFARMERSMARKET](https://www.facebook.com/meridiantownshipfarmersmarket)

CENTRAL PARK PAVILION 5151 MARSH ROAD



Communications  
Commission

# **HOMTV Internship/Alumni**



**To: Communications Commission**

**From: Brandie Yates, Communications Manager**

**Date: February 7, 2020**

**Re: Golden Tape Awards (GTA) 2020 Overview**

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On January 23, 2020, HOMTV hosted its Annual Intern Appreciation and Golden Tape Awards Ceremony at Studio C! to celebrate the commitment and hard work of the 2019 HOMTV Interns. The event was once again open to the public, so the community could join in on showing support and celebrate the interns' success. Approximately 27 people were in attendance. The Golden Tape Awards Ceremony allows interns to enter their best work from their internship at HOMTV to receive constructive criticism and feedback from industry professionals. Sixteen interns submitted 55 entries in 17 different categories. Seventeen first-place winners and one special recognition award was presented during the ceremony.

**Golden Tape Awards Judges:**

- Alysia Burgio, 2015 HOMTV Alumni and General Assignment Reporter for NBC25 in Flint, MI.
- Kerry (Navarre) Chamberlain, 1998 HOMTV Alumni and Outreach, Exercise and Evaluation Liaison for Michigan Department of Health and Human Services in Lansing, MI.
- Marissa High, 2012 HOMTV Alumni and Video Director for CH Media in Los Angeles, CA.
- Lanard Ingram, 2008 HOMTV Alumni and Senior Media Relations Manager for Weber Shandwick in Detroit, MI.
- Brett Kast, 2014 HOMTV Alumni and Reporter for FOX59 & CBS4 in Indianapolis, IN.
- Jordan McGowen, 2016 HOMTV Alumni and News Producer for WILX-TV 10 in Lansing, MI.
- Eric Ripper, 2014 HOMTV Alumni and Senior Video Producer for Princess Cruises.
- Emily Scarlett, 2011 HOMTV Alumni and Anchor/Reporter for WIS-TV in Columbia, South Carolina.
- Kelsey Trotter, 2016 HOMTV Alumni and Communications and Public Relations Manager for Addiction Policy Forum in District of Columbia, WA.
- Ruta Ulcinaite, 2018 HOMTV Alumni and Multimedia Journalist/Reporter for KMTV in Omaha, NE.
- Bonnie Zhang, 2010 HOMTV Alumni and Digital Marketing Director for T.A. Forsberg, Inc. in Okemos, MI.

**Event Guest Speakers:**

- Audrey Dalhgren, 2011 HOMTV Alumni and Sports Director for WLNS-TV 6 in Lansing, MI.
- Jasmine Watts, 2016 HOMTV Alumni and Senior Digital Marketing Advisor for Morley in Southfield, MI.

**Memo to Communications Commission**  
**February 7, 2020**  
**Re: Golden Tape Awards (GTA) 2020 Overview**  
**Page 2**

**Event Sponsor:**

- Studio C! (venue sponsor)

Each year, the HOMTV Internship program continues to be a valuable asset to the Meridian Township community. In 2019, 29 interns participated in the HOMTV Internship Program contributing approximately 13,000 hours, producing more than 600 stories and PSAs, covering nearly 50 Township events, serving as crew and on-air talent for 234 programs and 75 Township meetings.

The Golden Tape Awards Ceremony will air on HOMTV during the month of February as a Special Feature Program. Photos from the event can be found here: <https://flic.kr/s/aHsmKWTePL>.