



**AGENDA**  
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
TELEVISED PARK COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
March 12, 2024, 4:30pm  
Township Hall

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**REGULAR MEETING – 4:30PM**

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
4. PUBLIC COMMENT
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES  
February 13, 2024 Park Commission Regular Meeting Minutes
6. COMMUNICATIONS
  - A. March Stewardship Calendar
  - B. March Snell Towar Calendar
7. DIRECTOR'S REPORT
  - A. Joint Commissions Meeting – March 26, 2024
  - B. Marshall Park Playground Update
  - C. Renovations to Central Park Pavilion
  - D. Harris Nature Center Spring, 2024 Update
8. LAND PRESERVATION REPORT – Commissioner Stephens
9. PUBLIC COMMENTS
10. OTHER MATTERS AND COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS
11. ADJOURNMENT

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

Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact Parks & Recreation Director, Courtney Wisinski : 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett, MI 48864 or 517.853.4600 - Ten Day Notice is Required.

Meeting Location: Meridian Township Hall, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864

Providing a safe and welcoming, sustainable, prime community.



A PRIME COMMUNITY  
meridian.mi.us



**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
PARK COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
Service Center  
2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett, MI 48840  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2024 4:30 PM**

**PRESENT:** Chair, Mary Nardo Farris; Commissioner, Mark Stephens; Commissioner, Mike McDonald  
**ABSENT:** Commissioners Amanda Lick and Ami Van Antwerp - excused  
**STAFF:** Courtney Wisinski, Director of Parks and Recreation and Bridget Cannon, Administrative Assistant

**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Chair Nardo-Farris called the meeting to order at **4:37 pm**.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Chair Nardo-Farris called the roll of the Commission. Commissioners Lick and Van Antwerp excused absent.

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Commissioner Stephens moved **TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS SUBMITTED**. Seconded by Commissioner McDonald.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously

**4. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

NONE

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner McDonald moved **TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 9, 2024 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**. Seconded by Commissioner Stephens.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

**6. COMMUNICATIONS**

- A. February Stewardship Calendar
- B. February Snell-Towar Calendar

**COMMISSIONER STEPHENS MOVED TO PLACE THE COMMUNICATIONS ITEMS PRESENTED ON FILE**. Seconded by Commissioner McDonald.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

## 7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

### A. Marshall Park Update

Three contractors currently bidding on play structures for Marshall Park, concept plans deadline this week to Director Wisinski. Existing play equipment at the park will be deconstructed and play structure will be replaced. New play structure will be inclusive and ADA compliant. Future budget items at Marshall Park will include a new walking path and an update to the parking area. Conceptual designs will be on display at Parks Office.

### B. Central Park Pavilion Update

Renovation of current pavilion. RFP deadline is February 29 all bids due with architectural assessment. There has been a lot of interest from contractors.

## 8. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Joint Commissions Meeting – March 26, 2024
- Celebrate Meridian Festival – June 28 and June 29, 2024 – festival planning underway
- Farmers' Market 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – yearlong celebration planning and a new logo being designed for the anniversary year
- Friends of Historic Meridian – 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
- mParks annual conference last week of February

## 9. LAND PRESERVATION REPORT – Commissioner Stephens

None

## 10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

NONE

## 11. OTHER MATTERS AND COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioners like to see the additional programming taking place at Snell-Towar, Commissioner Stephens suggested partnering with Groovy Donuts for a Vinyl Night at the Rec Center.

## 12. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Nardo Farris adjourned the meeting at **5:50 pm**.

The next scheduled meeting is **March 12, 2024**, at the Township Hall, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864, 4:30 pm.

# MARCH

CONNECT  
LEARN  
CONSERVE



# STEWARDSHIP

## STEWARDSHIP SATURDAYS | 9:30 AM - 12 PM

These workdays occur every other Saturday year round.

- March 9th, Red Cedar Glen Preserve (End of Sylvan Glen Road), Prescribed Fire Site Prep & Invasive Scouting
- March 23rd, Hartrick Park, Scouting & Bagging dame's rocket & garlic mustard

## VERNAL POOL PATROL VIRTUAL TRAINING SERIES

- If you are interested in learning about vernal pools & potentially volunteering to monitor them, consider attending this three part virtual training. We will host a follow up field training on March 30th at Lake Lansing North Preserve (1000 Wild Ginger Trail).

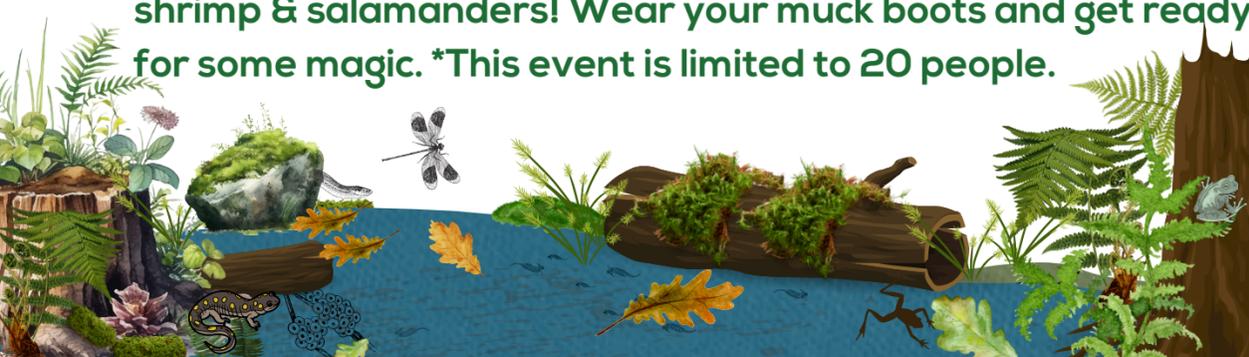
## WEEKDAY WARRIORS | 1 - 3 PM

- March 14th, Van Atta Road Litter Pickup (Meet at Davis Foster Preserve, 5120 Van Atta Rd.)
- March 28th, Nancy Moore Park (1960 Gaylord C. Smith Court), Herbaceous Invasive Species Removal

## TRAILSIDE ECOLOGY | VERNAL EQUINOX

Vernal Pool Discovery Walk @ Lake Lansing North Preserve

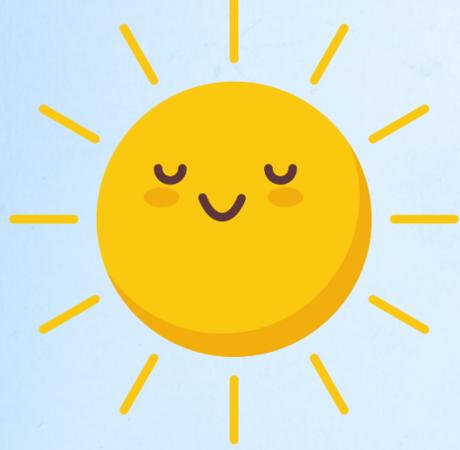
- Join us to celebrate spring by learning about some of our smallest & most valuable wetlands; Vernal Pools! We will do some pool dipping to look for indicator species like fairy shrimp & salamanders! Wear your muck boots and get ready for some magic. \*This event is limited to 20 people.



**\* ALL EVENTS ARE WEATHER DEPENDENT & MAY BE CANCELLED THE DAY OF**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6 VERNAL POOL TRAINING 6 - 8 PM	7	8	9 STEWARDSHIP SATURDAY 9:30-12 PM
10	11	12	13 VERNAL POOL TRAINING 6 - 8 PM	14 WEEKDAY WARRIORS 1-3 PM	15	16 GREEN FASHION SHOW & FAIR 10AM-2PM
17	18 TRAILSIDE ECOLOGY 5:30-7 PM	19	20 VERNAL POOL TRAINING 6 - 8 PM	21	22	23 STEWARDSHIP SATURDAY 9:30-12 PM
24	25	26	27	28 WEEKDAY WARRIORS 1-3 PM	29	30 VERNAL POOL FIELD TRAINING 10 AM-12 PM

**PLEASE CONTACT EMMA AT ECAMPBELL@MERIDIAN.MI.US, OR 517.853.4614**



# SNELL TOWER



## March

S M T W T F S

					1	2
3	4	5 OPEN CENTER	6 VINYL NIGHT 6 PM - 8 PM	7 OPEN CENTER	8	9
10	11	12 OPEN CENTER	13 EUCHRE NIGHT 6 PM - 8 PM	14 OPEN CENTER	15	16
17	18	19 OPEN CENTER	20 EUCHRE NIGHT 6 PM - 8 PM	21 OPEN CENTER	22	23
24	25	26 OPEN CENTER	27	28 OPEN CENTER	29	30
31						

**\*ALL EVENTS ARE WEATHER DEPENDENT & MAY BE CANCELLED THE DAY OF CENTER HOURS OPEN FROM 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM**



**To: Park Commissioners**

**From: Courtney Wisinski, Director of Parks and Recreation**

**Date: March 12, 2024**

**Re: Marshall Park Playground Enhancements Project Award**

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Marshall Park, located at 6105 Marsh Road, Haslett, is the first park residents and visitors see when entering our community from the north on Marsh Road. The park is nearly 5 acres. However, due to damp soil conditions, park amenities are few and include only a basketball court, small parking lot and a 27-year-old play structure.

A new park identification sign has been installed, which brings greater awareness to this space. Based on evaluation of the existing playground, this play structure was installed in 1996 and is overdue for replacement. This park not only serves nearby neighbors, but the parking lot also welcomes visitors from greater distances.

At the December 5, 2023, Township Board Meeting, the Board unanimously approved \$150,000 in general funds for playground improvements in Marshall Park estimated for construction in June of 2024.

The Parks and Recreation staff requested proposals and concept plans from three vendors: Sinclair Recreation, Penchura LLC, and Miracle Recreation. The concept plans, fee and installation schedules were shared via email and in-person for Chair Farris and Park Commissioners to provide recommendations. The recommendation to proceed with Sinclair Recreation was decided by Chair Farris with Commissioner input.

The total project cost is \$161,109 with a structure installation date of mid-May and safety turf installation by mid-June. The \$11,109 overage to the appropriated general funds will be funded by Park Development funds.

Next steps will be the review of the community survey and recommended site amenities for additional park improvements.



Custom Woodlands Palette



Meridian Township  
Marshall Park





Rendered in Custom Woodlands Palette





**To: Park Commission**  
**From: Courtney Wisinski, Director of Parks and Recreation**  
**Date: March 12, 2024**  
**Re: Renovations to Central Park Pavilion**

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In accordance with our 2024 Parks and Recreation Goals, the Park Commission approved \$300,000 of Park Development funds to provide renovations to the Central Park Pavilion. The Parks Department staff issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Central Park Pavilion Renovations on February 1, 2024, with submittals due by February 29, 2024. The RFP included the following line items for improvements:

- Architectural drawings of pavilion upgrades
- Replacement/addition of T1-11 wallboards, including the creation of openings for viewing the park fields
- Installation of sliding barn doors on the north and south ends of existing structure
- Replacement ceiling
- Upgrade lighting with LED fixtures
- Replacement of soffit, fascia, gutters, and downspouts
- Installation of two exterior doors (previous vending areas) and replacement of one existing exterior door (utility/storage)
- Construct stalls and add toilet in women's restroom
- Installation of ceramic tile in both restrooms
- Install native landscaping and grass seeding/repair
- General conditions for project (supervision, dumpsters, scissor lifts, insurance, etc.)

The original RFP did not include replacing the roof or painting the walls of the building as the Parks Department staff planned to contract those services separately using existing contractors. However, due to the proposed price, the existing budget allows for both services to be included within the overall project bid. Therefore, the Parks Department staff issued an amendment to include:

- Painting of exterior building components and interior restroom walls (as amended)
- Replacement of existing roof (as amended)

One proposal was received from Nielson Construction for the original bid of \$125,000. The amended bid to include painting and roofing replacement totaled \$39,050. This results in an entire project cost of \$164,050. The contractor can begin the work immediately and will meet the required end date of June 14, 2024. The contractor indicated that the project will be completed well before June.

Staff is recommending to proceed with improvement using Neilson Construction within the budget and timeline listed above.



# Chipmunk Story Time



**March:**

**Thursday, March 14  
10:00 am**

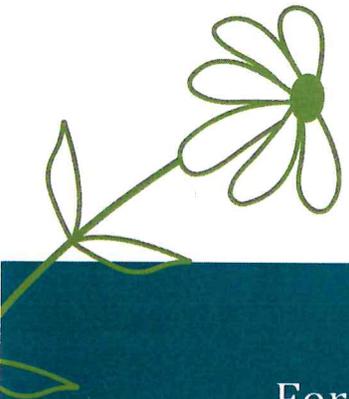


**April:**

**Thursday, April 18  
10:00 am**

**May**

**Thursday, May 16  
10:00 am**



**June**

**Thursday, June 6  
10:00 am**

\$5/child  
For more information,  
or to register.



# WINE IN THE WOODS

SATURDAY

MARCH 16, 2024 | 7:00 - 9:00 PM

HARRIS NATURE CENTER

\$10/person

Bring your own beverage

Pre-registration required

Must be 21+ to attend



Scan for more  
information  
or to register



# Gardening With Native Plants

Make gardening easier and attract birds  
and butterflies with native plants.



Make gardening easier and attract birds and butterflies  
with native plants. Join Vern Stephens, owner of Designs  
by Nature, to learn about designing and maintaining a  
native garden. Please register ahead.

**Tuesday, March 19**  
**7:00 pm - 9:00 pm**  
**\$20/person**

**Please register  
in advance**





# NIGHT OUT IN NATURE FOR KIDS!

Friday, March 22

5:30 - 7:30 pm

No need to book a sitter, send your kids to HNC for a fun night out. We will explore the trails, enjoy nature activities, and meet live animals. Pizza dinner is included.



**\$25/child**  
Pre-registration  
is required



HARRIS NATURE CENTER



# DOGS After Dark

Guided Walk

**2024 Dates**

**January 12 at 7:00 pm**

**April 12 at 8:00 pm**

**August 2 at 7:00 pm**

**November 1 at 7:00 pm**

**\$5/person**

For more information,  
scan the QR Code



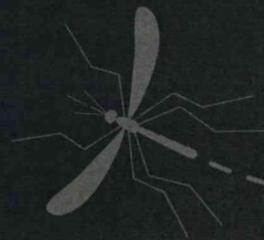


# All About Frogs

## Campfire Program

SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 2024

7:00 pm | \$5/person



For more  
information  
or to  
register



# nature for toddlers!

**Mondays**  
**April 29 - May 20**  
10:00 - 11:00 am

**\$60/child**

**Pre-registration is required.**  
**For more information**



Harris Nature Center

# NATIVE PLANT SALE

SATURDAY, MAY 4, 2024

9:00 am - 1:00 pm



Pre-orders due Friday, April 19



Get a pre-order form today!



# 2024 Native Plant Sale

## Available Plants Listed by Common and Scientific Name

Common Name	Scientific Name
<b>Wildflowers:</b>	
Bergamot	<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>
Black-eyed Susan	<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>
Blue Vervain	<i>Verbena hastata</i>
Boneset	<i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i>
Butterfly Weed	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>
Cardinal Flower	<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>
Compass Plant	<i>Silphium laciniatum</i>
Culver's Root	<i>Veronicastrum virginicum</i>
Cup Plant	<i>Silphium perfoliatum</i>
False Boneset	<i>Brickellia eupatorioides</i>
Foxglove Beard Tongue (Smooth Penstemon)	<i>Penstemon digitalis</i>
Gray Headed Coneflower	<i>Ratibida pinnata</i>
Golden Alexanders	<i>Zizia aurea</i>
Great Blue Lobelia	<i>Lobelia siphilitica</i>
Hairy Beard Tongue	<i>Penstemon hirsutus</i>
Hoary Vervain	<i>Verbena stricta</i>
Horsemint	<i>Monarda punctata</i>
Ironweed	<i>Vernonia missurica</i>
Jacob's Ladder	<i>Polemonium reptans</i>
Joe-pye Weed	<i>Eutrochium maculatum</i>
Lead Plant	<i>Amorpha canescens</i>
Marsh Blazing Star	<i>Liatris spicata</i>
New England Aster	<i>Symphyotrichum novae-angliae</i>
New Jersey Tea	<i>Ceanothus americanus</i>
Nodding Wild Onion	<i>Allium cernuum</i>
Northern Blazing Star	<i>Liatris scariosa</i>
Prairie Coreopsis	<i>Coreopsis palmata</i>
Prairie Dock	<i>Silphium terebinthinaceum</i>
Prairie Smoke	<i>Geum triflorum</i>
Pale Purple Coneflower	<i>Echinacea pallida</i>
Purple Coneflower	<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>
Rattlesnake Master	<i>Eryngium yuccifolium</i>
Rosin Weed	<i>Silphium integrifolium</i>
Rough Blazing Star	<i>Liatris aspera</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
<b>Wildflowers:</b>	
Roundleaf Ragwort	<i>Packera obavata</i>
Sand Tickseed (Lanceleaf Coreopsis)	<i>Coreopsis lanceolata</i>
Showy Coneflower	<i>Rudbeckia fulgida</i>
Showy Goldenrod	<i>Solidago speciosa</i>
Sky Blue Aster	<i>Symphyotrichum oolentangense</i>
Spiderwort	<i>Tradescantia ohiensis</i>
Stiff Goldenrod	<i>Solidago rigida</i>
Swamp (Red) Milkweed	<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>
Sweet Black-eyed Susan	<i>Rudbeckia submentosa</i>
Tall Coreopsis	<i>Coreopsis tripteris</i>
Thimbleweed	<i>Anemone cylindrica</i>
Western Sunflower	<i>Helianthus occidentalis</i>
White Turtlehead	<i>Chelone glabra</i>
Wild Blue Iris	<i>Iris virginica</i>
Wild Columbine	<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>
Wild Lupine	<i>Lupinus perennis</i>
Wild Petunia	<i>Ruellia humilis</i>
Wild Senna	<i>Senna hebecarpa</i>
Woodland Sunflower	<i>Helianthus divaricatus</i>
<b>Grasses:</b>	
Big Bluestem	<i>Andropogon gerardii</i>
Bottlebrush Grass	<i>Hystrix patula</i>
Canada Wild Rye	<i>Elymus canadensis</i>
Indian Grass	<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>
June Grass	<i>Koeleria cristata</i>
Little Bluestem	<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>
Prairie Cord Grass	<i>Spartina pectinata</i>
Prairie Dropseed	<i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i>
Purple Top	<i>Triodia flava</i>
Sideoats Grama	<i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i>
Sweet Grass	<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>
Switch Grass	<i>Panicum virgatum</i>
<b>Woodlands:</b>	
Wild Ginger	<i>Asarum canadense</i>

Flats hold 38 plugs

Specialty garden mixes include a 38 plug flat and a design plan.

Choose from: Butterfly, Lakeshore, Native Grass, Pollinator, Rain, Wasp/Moth and Wildflower

All plants are grown by Designs by Nature in Laingsburg MI

## 2024 Native Plant Sale Pre-Order Form

Wildflowers	# of quart pots \$7/each	# of flats \$75/each	Wildflowers (cont.)	# of quart pots \$7/each	# of flats \$75/each
Bergamot			Sky Blue Aster		
Black-eyed Susan			Spiderwort		
Blue Vervain			Stiff Goldenrod		
Boneset			Swamp (Red) Milkweed		
Butterfly Weed			Sweet Black-eyed Susan		
Cardinal Flower			Tall Coreopsis		
Compass Plant			Thimbleweed		
Culver's Root			Western Sunflower		
Cup Plant			White Turtlehead		
False Boneset			Wild Blue Iris		
Foxglove Beard Tongue			Wild Columbine		
Gray Headed Coneflower			Wild Lupine		
Golden Alexanders			Wild Petunia		
Great Blue Lobelia			Wild Senna		
Hairy Beard Tongue			Woodland Sunflower		
Hoary Vervain			<b>Grasses</b>	\$7/quart pot	\$75/flat
Horsemint			Big Bluestem		
Ironweed			Bottlebrush Grass		
Jacob's Ladder		N/A	Canada Wild Rye		
Joe-pye Weed			Indian Grass		
Lead Plant			June Grass		
Marsh Blazing Star			Little Bluestem		
New England Aster			Prairie Cord Grass		
New Jersey Tea			Prairie Dropseed		
Nodding Wild Onion			Purple Top		
Northern Blazing Star			Sideoats Grama		
Prairie Coreopsis			Sweet Grass		N/A
Prairie Dock			Switch Grass		
Prairie Smoke		N/A	<b>Woodlands</b>	\$9/quart pot	No flats
Pale Purple Coneflower			Wild Ginger		
Purple Coneflower			<b>Garden Mixes</b>	No quarts	\$90/ flat
Rattlesnake Master			Butterfly garden mix		
Rosin Weed			Lakeshore garden mix		
Rough Blazing Star			Native grasses mix		
Roundleaf Ragwort			Pollinator garden mix		
Sand Tickseed			Rain garden mix		
Showy Coneflower			Wasp/Moth garden mix		
Showy Goldenrod			Wildflower garden mix		
<b>Total Columns</b>			<b>Total Columns</b>		

TOTAL PRICE (add all columns together) \_\_\_\_\_

Please include full payment with form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Numbers (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (C) \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

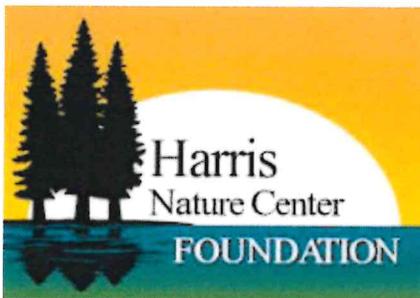
# Dine at Culvers of Okemos North

**MONDAY, MAY 6TH FROM 5-9PM**

and we will donate a percentage of all sales to the:

## **HARRIS NATURE CENTER FOUNDATION**

The Harris Nature Center is raising funds to enhance the facilities and programs of the Harris Nature Center in Meridian Township.



*No flyer or code needed.*

*Drive-thru, dine-in, carryout or  
order online at [culvers.com](http://culvers.com)*

## **SHARE NIGHT**

Enjoy a delicious meal, benefit a great cause and feel good all over.

Thank you for supporting the:

***Harris Nature Center  
Foundation!***



Come on in to your local Culver's restaurant:

### **CULVER'S OF OKEMOS NORTH**

5140 Times Square Dr. Okemos, MI 48864

(517) 853-8714 | [culvers.com/restaurants/okemos](http://culvers.com/restaurants/okemos)

