

PRIME MERIDIAN

magazine

WINTER | SPRING 2020



MERIDIAN.MI.US



A Fond Farewell to Deborah

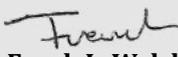
In late December, our Meridian Township Team said farewell to an extremely talented leader who has been a major component of our communications team for over two decades. Deborah Guthrie joined our team after a stint with ESPN on April 23, 1998. Deborah is moving on to pursue other career interests.

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 L. Walsh
 Township Manager



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MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP ELECTED OFFICIALS

Township Board Members

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

Park Commission Members

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

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



For Information & To
Sign Up NOW
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 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

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. 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



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

Go to 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



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





Parks & Recreation Department
 2100 Gaylord C Smith Ct, Haslett, MI 48840
 ☎ 517.853.4600
 📘 facebook.com/MeridianTwpParksRec

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
 Go to 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/
BlueCrossWinterWarmUp.com/

For Information & To Sign Up

NOW 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

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.

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

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

Contact the Harris Nature
Center with questions
517.349.3866
hnc@meridian.mi.us



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

Monday	10 am - 3 pm
Wednesday	10 am - 3 pm
Saturday	10 am - 3 pm

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.



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

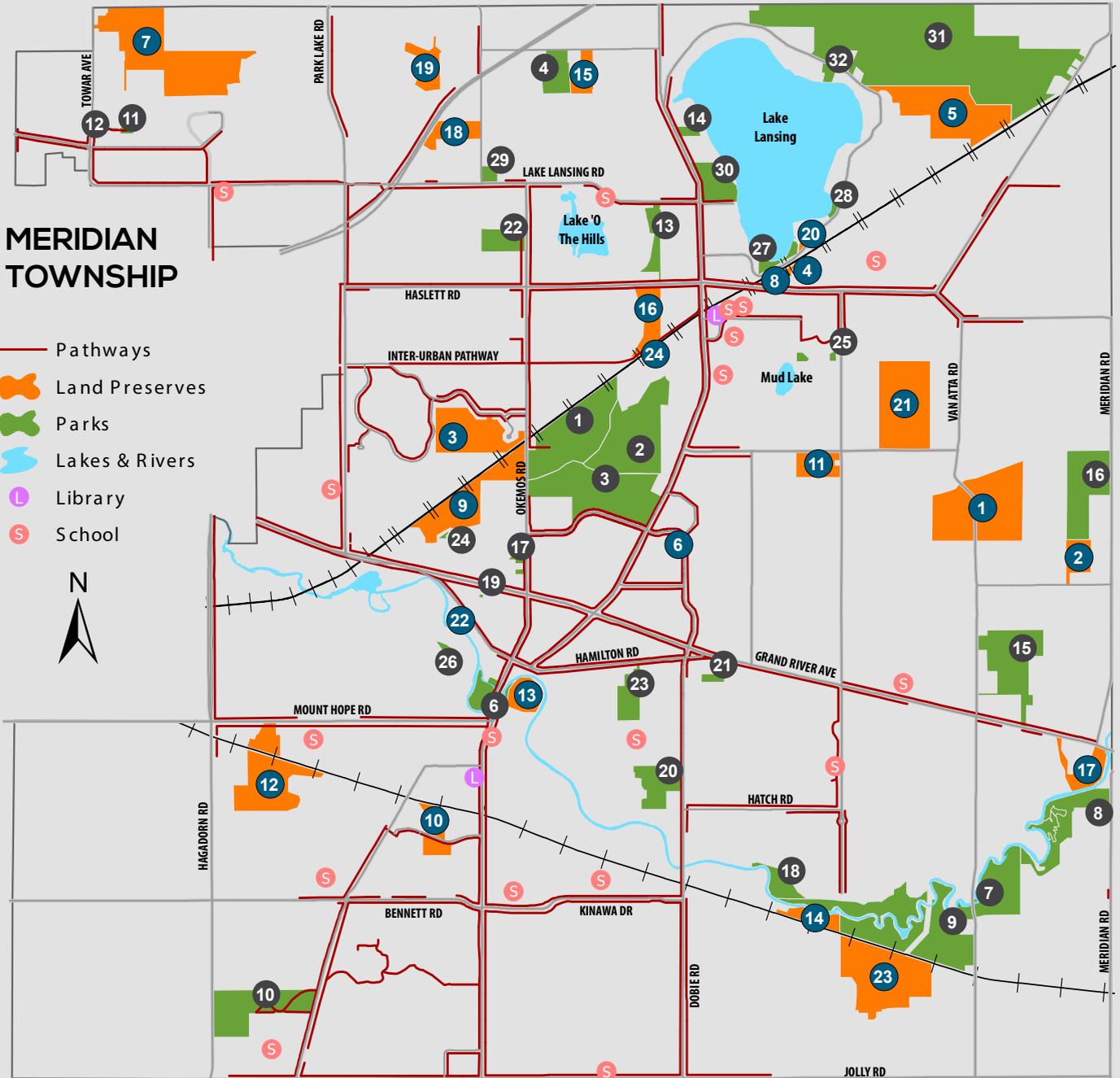
	Acres	Parking	Trails (N-natural P-paved)	Natural Area with No Amenities	Lake Pond River Drain Wetland	Restrooms Portable Toilets	Pavilion Buildings with set hours	Drinking fountain	Electricity	Grills	Picnic Area(s)	Fishing Access	Fishing Dock	Canoe Kayak Launch	Boat Launch	River Pond Wetland Overlook 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		x					
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					
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			
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.
- 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. 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 or email Clerk Dreyfus at 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



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



BE A CENSUS TAKER

United States
Census 2020

2020census.gov/jobs

The U.S. Census Bureau is an Equal Opportunity Employer

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.

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 they will be constructing their 100% fiber-optic network in parts of 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 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 or by calling 1.877.407.3224 and social sites.

Contact the Township if there are issues at 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

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!



175TH 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.



150TH 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.



50TH 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!



30TH 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.

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 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 and MSU Trail Connector

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!



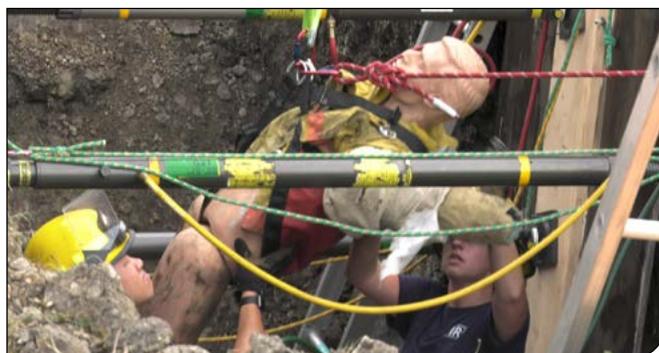
Trench Rescue Training

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
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/meridiantownshippfarmersmarket)

CENTRAL PARK PAVILION 5151 MARSH ROAD