

## SPECIALTY GROCERIES

Where to get those hard-to-find items in Meridian.  
PAGE 2

## BACK TO THE BEGINNING

First of a 3-part series on the history of Meridian Township.  
PAGE 3

## OLDEST BAR IN INGHAM COUNTY

Find out where regulars become friends and friends become family.  
PAGE 3

# MERIDIAN MONITOR

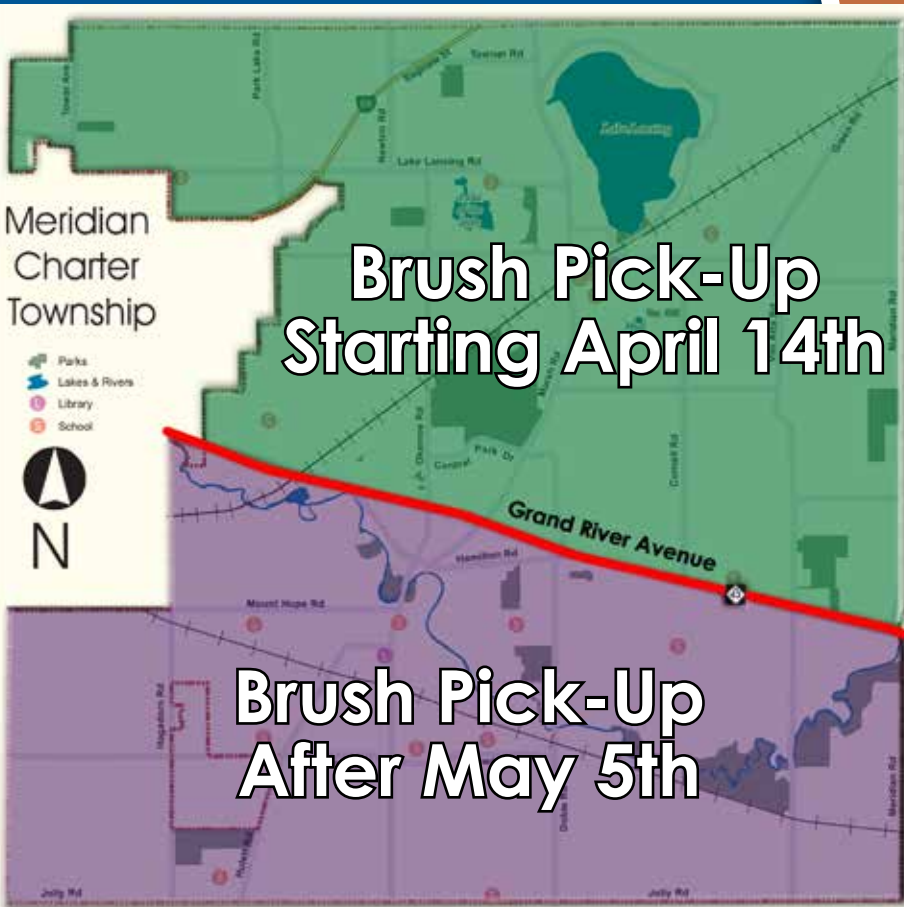
Spring 2014



## Pick-Up Tips

- **FREE** brush pick-up program begins April 14th
- All brush and limbs **NORTH** of Grand River Avenue will be collected starting April 14th
- All brush and limbs **SOUTH** of Grand River Avenue will be collected after May 5th
- Meridian is contracting with outside companies to collect the brush
- Brush will be picked up curbside between the sidewalk and the road
- If there is no sidewalk, place brush at the end of the property line
- **ONLY** brush and limbs will be picked up
- Brush and limbs must be **NO BIGGER** than 8" in diameter and 6' in length
- Residents are responsible for general clean up

## FREE Brush and Limb Pick-Up Schedule



CONNECT with MERIDIAN





## Specialty Grocers in Meridian Township

By: Andrea Mantakounis

From market-made sausages to hard-to-find spices, specialty grocery stores in Meridian Township provide residents with niche products outside of the big box grocery chains. Whether you are a novice foodie looking to experiment in cuisine outside the standard fare or a gourmet aficionado well versed in flavorful fineries, specialty stores can steer you in the right direction for your next meal. These smaller, locally owned shops may offer services that many large-scale grocers cannot such as specially ordering products for their customers, advising pairings and preparations, and custom cutting pieces of meat.

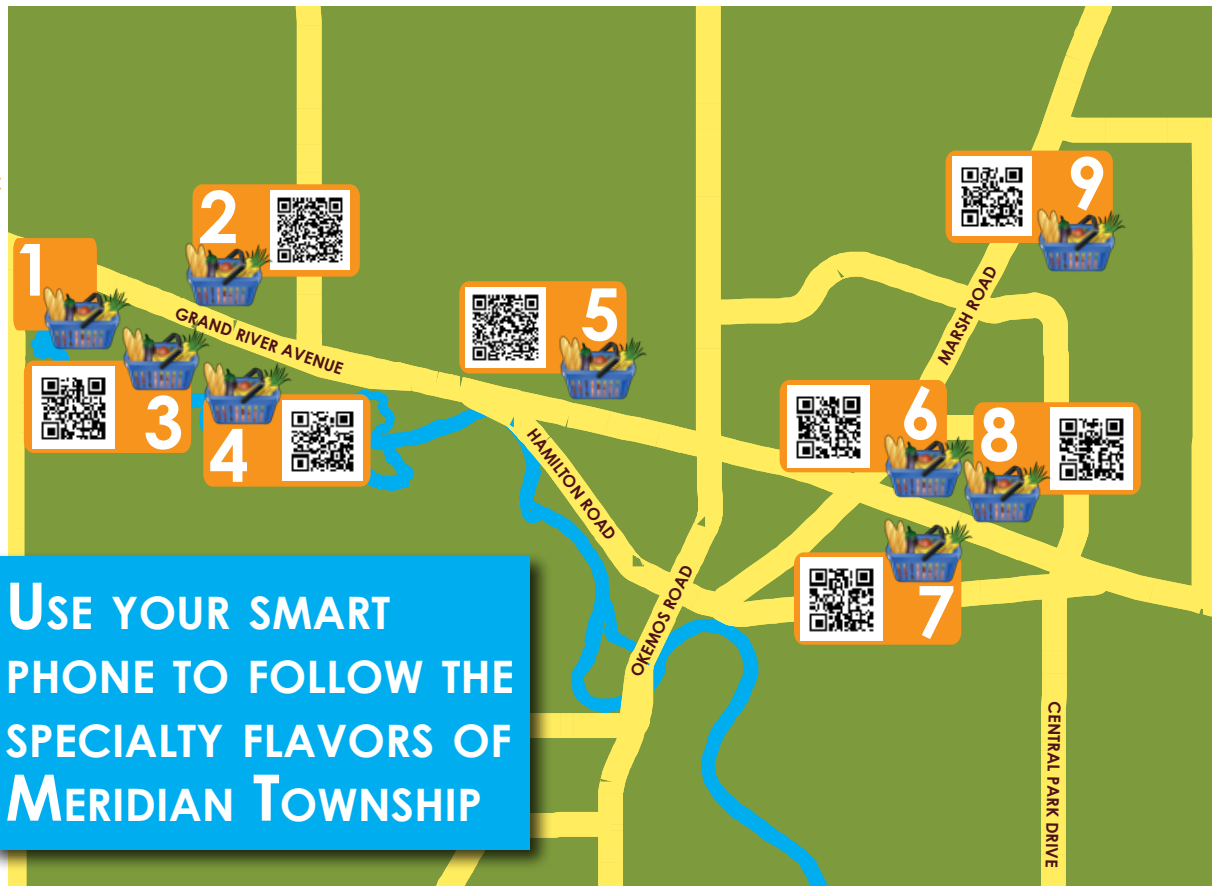
“We can’t compete with them [large grocery chains], we know that, all we can do is what we do best—customer service. If someone comes in and we don’t have what they are looking for, we will try to order it for them. If we can’t, we will help the customers track it down, another store in the area may have it and we can help the customer find it quicker. We are here to make sure the customer gets what they want,” commented Shirley Decker Prescott, owner of Mert’s Specialty Meats.

Finding Meridian Township’s population supportive of new businesses and traffic appealing for retail, more specialty shops may call the Township home. “Within the last five years we have seen an increase in the number of mom ‘n pop stores arriving in this area. I believe the increase in specialty stores reflects the increasingly diverse population of Meridian Township,” commented Associate Planner, Peter Menser.

In Meridian Township alone, there are nine specialty shops open and two on the way, ranging from locally grown produce and meats to foods and beverages from around the globe.

# YOUR DELICIOUS DESTINATIONS

- 1 SAKURA MARKET**  
2843 Grand River Ave.  
(517) 253-7961
- 2 ORIENTAL MART**  
2800 Grand River Ave.  
(517) 337-2519  
[www.facebook.com/NewOrientalMart](http://www.facebook.com/NewOrientalMart)
- 3 E.L. FOOD CO-OP**  
4960 Northwind Dr.  
(517) 337-1266  
[www.elfco.coop](http://www.elfco.coop)
- 4 FOODS FOR LIVING**  
2655 Grand River Ave.  
(517) 324-9010  
[www.foodsforliving.com](http://www.foodsforliving.com)
- 5 LOTTE MARKET**  
2305 Grand River Ave.  
(517) 347-6653  
[www.facebook.com/LotteMarket](http://www.facebook.com/LotteMarket)
- 6 MERTS MEATS**  
1870 Grand River Ave.  
(517) 574-5014  
[www.mertspecialtymeats.com](http://www.mertspecialtymeats.com)
- 7 DUSTY’S WINE CELLAR**  
1839 Grand River Ave.  
(517) 349-5150  
[www.dustyscellar.com](http://www.dustyscellar.com)
- 8 FARM FRESH SEAFOOD**  
1731 Grand River Ave.  
(517) 347-4999  
[www.farmfreshseafood.com](http://www.farmfreshseafood.com)
- 9 ASIA BAZAAR**  
1754 Central Park Dr.  
(517) 347-3565  
[www.asiabazaarmi.com](http://www.asiabazaarmi.com)





## MERIDIAN FARMERS' MARKET

### SPRING MARKET

MAY 3 - JUNE 28  
SATURDAYS ONLY, 8 AM - 2 PM

### SUMMER MARKET

JULY 2 - OCTOBER 29  
WEDNESDAYS: 8 AM - 2 PM  
SATURDAYS: 8 AM - 2 PM

For more information, call Meridian Township Parks & Recreation  
517-853-4600

**Central  
Park  
Pavilion**



# Back to the Beginning: The Village of Okemos (Part 1)

By: Heather Hartmann

The village of Okemos began in the 1830s. Sanford Marsh and his wife Asenath were the first white settlers, purchasing land on the northwest corner of Okemos and Mt. Hope Road. The second white settlers were Freeman and Caroline Bray, who proceeded to buy land and then sell off the southeast corner of the plot. This became the village of Okemos, which was originally named Sanford and then Hamilton.

Cheap land is what brought in the first settlers, those selling the plots hoping to draw people in, build up the area, and create a community. Farming became the primary purpose for most of those that moved to Okemos. One of the earlier settlers was John Grettenberger. He, along with his son Jake, heard about the cheap land and bought up 80 acres. The Grettenbergers are still heavily involved in the Okemos community today.

Due to the bend in the river near Ferguson Park, saw mills soon came to town! One of the early pioneers, John Salt Marsh, was one of these millers. Homes went from being built of logs to sawn lumber, and the Plank Road was built from Detroit to Lansing, passing through Okemos. As the population increased, the schools changed, going from being held in Daniel Cooper's shed to a one room school house to the buildings we have today.

But before the settlers came to Okemos, Native Americans used the land, namely a tribe of Chippewa led by Chief John Okemos roaming from Okemos to Portland. There are many stories of Chief Okemos' community involvement; including strong ties and friendships with many people, and tales of his love for children.

After he died and was buried in Portland, the people of Okemos (at that time named Hamilton) petitioned for the village name to be changed to honor the chief. In 1859, the village official became known as Okemos.

*Look for the history of Haslett in the next issue of the Monitor.*

Thanks to the following people who helped with historical information and dates: *Jane Rose, Meridian Historical Village; John Grettenberger, Okemos resident; Eric Stelljes, Historian; and Elaine Davis, Historian.*



## Time Capsule in a Tumbler: Oldest Bar in Ingham County

By: Andrea Mantakounis

Older than NATO, Velcro, Disney World, and the Beatles, Haslett's own watering hole, Mayfair Bar, has stood the test of time. Celebrating their 80th birthday this past winter, Mayfair Bar has the oldest continuous liquor license in Ingham County.

In the early 1900's the Michigan United Railways Association purchased the eastern half of Lake Lansing Park and built a dance hall named "The Casino". A year after the United States repealed the prohibition law against alcohol, Al and Pauline Sprague bought the park including the dance hall and acquired the liquor license. The bar changed names, hands, and even location until 1947 when it moved to its current spot at 1525 Lake Lansing Road.

The bar changed ownership two more times (to Leonard Good, then to Doc Bearden and Tom Lundeen) until the current owner, Bret Story, purchased the Mayfair in 1996. Story had his eye on the bar for quite some time. "Before I could even drink legally I walked in here, looked around and said 'Someday I am going to buy this place.' I fell in love." After law school and starting a painting company, Story's childhood dream came true.

After decades and different owners, what has been the secret to the Mayfair's longevity? Story credits the customers and employees for the success. "At Mayfair, you can have someone who is a prominent attorney in town sitting at the bar next to a painter from down the street. It's like everyone's attitudes are checked at the door," stated Story. "Whatever it is that makes this work, it just keeps chugging along."

The addition of the roof top patio bar, a year and a half ago, was the "smartest thing I've ever done," claimed Story. For those who remember the painted mural of famous MSU figures from the back room, it will be making its return to the bar shortly. Story estimates it will be back up along the shuffleboard wall in the next month.

It's a place where regulars become friends and friends become family. "With being the oldest bar, you run into people who say that they've met their spouse here or always come in on their anniversaries. Where you go, someone's heard of the Mayfair."



# PROPOSED EXPLORATION AREA



## Children's Nature Exploration Area

By: Andrea Mantakounis

Providing a natural, wild play area within the confines of a traditional park may seem like two contrasting ideas but the Harris Nature Center Foundation hopes to marry the two concepts with their planned Nature Exploration Area.

"The idea and vision for the exploration area is to have a place where people, especially children, can explore in nature and make their own discoveries in their own individual way. We wanted to give people the opportunity to be in nature the old-fashioned way, where you walk where you want to walk, sit where you want to sit, pick up what you want to pick up," enthused Senior Parks Naturalist, Kit Rich.

Kicking off the Exploration Area was the giant cement and tile turtle sculpture created by local artist Doug DeLind. Last summer he was invited to build a piece that children could climb over and under.

"It seemed like a fun opportunity, as I've always thought pieces of art should be accessible. I'm not quite done. I want to tile the inside as well to create a magical space for the kids when they go under the turtle," reflected DeLind.

Joining the turtle sculpture will be a log jam area where children can climb on, roll over and dig around the logs. There will also be a pre-historic sand/soil dig space where fossils and bones of Michigan specific creatures will be buried and ready for excavation, as well as a section with saplings and rocks that can be used to build teepees.

Patty Robbins, the President of the HNC Foundation, has plans to get the Nature Exploration Area funding in motion. The Harris Nature Center Foundation is currently applying for grants to help fund phase one of the project. "We sponsor several local fundraisers each year including our Turtle Toast, featuring wine and craft beers, gourmet food and music."

The Foundation hopes that individuals or local businesses will be inspired to sponsor a particular component of the project. All major contributors will be honored on appreciation signs at the completed Nature Exploration Area. Monetary donations, in-kind services, and volunteer labor are welcome. Contact the Harris Nature Center at [hnc@meridian.mi.us](mailto:hnc@meridian.mi.us) to receive the HNC newsletter containing updates on the Nature Exploration Area and specific dates for volunteering.

Community members who are interested in helping the Foundation with these and other projects are needed. For more information about Foundation projects or to make a donation, please check their website [www.hncfoundation.org](http://www.hncfoundation.org).



# Canoe Launch at Van Atta

Replacement of the Van Atta Road bridge is currently underway with completion scheduled for mid-summer. A canoe landing built in 1978 existed near the bridge site and is now scheduled for replacement at an improved location at the Harris Nature Center. "This project supports a new multi-jurisdictional effort to improve recreational use of the Red Cedar River," stated LuAnn Maisner, Director of Parks and Recreation.

The Red Cedar River "Water Trail Master Plan" when completed, will not only identify existing canoe landings and associated amenities such as restrooms, picnic areas, parking and shelter from Williamston to Lansing, it will serve as a planning tool for improvements and additions throughout the 20-mile stretch. Having a completed Water Trail Master Plan on file with the MDNR provides additional points on grant applications and also offers an extraordinary opportunity to market our area on the "Pure Michigan" website. For additional information, call (517) 853-4610.

## RED CEDAR WATER TRAIL MAP



- |                           |                                       |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 MCCORMICK PARK          | 5 MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY           |
| 2 RED CEDAR ROADSIDE PARK | 6 AURELIUS ROAD/KRUGER LANDING        |
| 3 HARRIS NATURE CENTER    | 7 CONFLUENCE WITH GRAND RIVER         |
| 4 FERGUSON PARK           | 8 RIVER STREET PARK/SWEENEY'S LANDING |

### DID YOU KNOW?

The Meridian Township park system consists of 904 acres of land at 29 sites including Harris Nature Center, Farmers' Market, Snell-Towar Recreation Center, and the Meridian Historical Village, that have been acquired through donations, purchases, and long-term lease agreements.

## Wonch Park Loop Trail

Located on Okemos Road at the historic camel-back bridge, Wonch Park is one of the oldest parks in the Meridian Township Park system. In 2007, a renovation plan was created for Wonch Park but funding has not been available for development. In 2012, the Township received a grant from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund to develop an accessible loop trail along the Red Cedar River. Construction of the walking path should begin this summer, together with the new pedestrian bridge over the Red Cedar River.

To supplement the pathway development, the Park Commission has applied for a grant to help fund construction of a new pavilion. The awards will be announced in December 2014.

## PROPOSED WONCH PARK MASTER PLAN



# “Meridius Prime” Garnishes Roundabout

By: Brandie Yates

The stainless steel sculpture by artist Tim Higgins has made its way to its new home at the roundabout on Hamilton and Marsh Roads near Downtown Okemos. The sculpture is approximately 8 feet wide and 14 feet tall and is intended to be a landmark sculpture in Meridian Township.

“This work will evoke not only a sense of place, but also a feeling of pride in our community,” stated Higgins in his narrative for the sculpture. “As the name implies “Meridius Prime” will tie into the township’s somewhat cartographic name and location along Michigan’s prime meridian.”



The sculpture was installed on March 29th and was funded by a \$10,000 Placemaking Public Art Grant Meridian Township received from the Lansing Economic Area Partnership (LEAP) in 2013. Higgin’s proposal was selected out of the nine submitted proposals.



## Celebrate

Run, walk, bike or drive – Get there any way you can as you will not want to miss this kick-off to summer celebration! Meridian Downtown Development Authority invites you to attend the 2014 “Celebrate Downtown Okemos” event.

**Date:** Saturday, June 14th  
**Time:** 2 pm - 9 pm  
**Price:** FREE

## Downtown Okemos

...imagine the possibilities

- 5K Race
- Beer Tent
- Pig Toast
- Elephant Ears
- Pizza
- Ice Cream

- Dance Performances & Martial Arts Demos
- Arts and Crafts Show
- Inflatable Obstacle Course
- Bicycle Corrale

**LIVE MUSIC:** Global Village & Toppermost Beatles Tribute Band



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 watch us   
 tweet us   
 pin us   
 flickr pic us



Meridian  
CHARTER TOWNSHIP

## Watch the Video Versions of the Monitor Online

Watch the videos by scanning the QR Code or online at [www.meridian.mi.us](http://www.meridian.mi.us) by clicking “Township Publications” under the “Media Room” tab.



## Join the Conversation

HOMTV has added a new feature to their website allowing viewers to comment on individual news stories. Comments can also be posted directly to Facebook from the website. Join the conversation at [www.homtv.net](http://www.homtv.net).

## Wedding Chapel Historical Village

By: Andrea Mantakounis

If wedding bells are ringing in your future, look no further than right here in Meridian Township to say your "I dos". Nestled in the Historical Village is a replica 19th century chapel complete with a belfry, steeple and sanctuary. The 14 rows of oak wood pews can seat up to 100 guests.

The expansive lawn surrounding the church is perfect for pictures, especially with the collection of restored 19th century buildings as a backdrop. The gazebo is also available for outdoor ceremonies and can accommodate up to 200 guests.

Availability for locations can be checked on the Historical Village's calendar. Prior to setting reservations and paying the deposit, it is policy to meet with the Friends of Historic Meridian to plan out accommodations such as parking, audio, and seating. Please contact the organization by email, [meridianhistoricalvillage@gmail.com](mailto:meridianhistoricalvillage@gmail.com), by phone, (517) 347-7300 or go to [www.meridianhistoricalvillage.org](http://www.meridianhistoricalvillage.org)



## Pavilion Rentals

By: Brandie Yates

Residents looking to move their events outside for a family reunion, barbeque or birthday party, can do so by renting a pavilion at one of Meridian Township's beautiful parks. Pavilions can be rented at Central Park, Eastgate Park, Legg Park, Nancy Moore Park, Wonch Park, Ferguson Park, Hillbrook Park, North Meridian Road Park, and Hartrick Park. Electricity, water, and restrooms are available at Nancy Moore Park, Central Park, and Hartrick Park.

Pavilion rentals are \$60 for every four hours for residents and \$120 for non-residents. The application form can be found in the forms and applications tab on the Meridian Township website. The completed form and fee must be submitted to the Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Department.

## Meridian July 4th Fireworks Celebration

Join in the festivities as we

### CELEBRATE INDEPENDENCE

with an exciting display of fireworks at 10 pm

**Date and Time:** Friday, July 4th  
**Location:** Central Park  
**Price:** Free Admission

2014 Major Sponsors: Meijer, Douglas J Salon & Spa, Meridian Plumbing, The Hubbard Law Firm PC, WLNS, Culvers Frozen Custard and Butter Burgers, and Meridian Township

**meijer**

*Douglas J*  
salon & spa  
OKEMOS

  
MERIDIAN  
PLUMBING • HEATING • COOLING • SANITATION

  
THE HUBBARD  
LAW FIRM, P.C.

  
Culver's  
FROZEN CUSTARD  
BUTTERBURGERS

  
MERIDIAN  
TOWNSHIP

  
6 WLNS  
LIVING ACCOUNT

## April Recycling Event

By: Brandie Yates

Spring is in the air, meaning the beginning of spring cleaning. Meridian Township has just the spot for residents to take their items. The annual Recycling Event takes place on Saturday, April 26th from 9 am to 2 pm at the Chippewa Middle School.

"The 100 volunteers and dozens of community businesses really help make this event possible every year," said LeRoy Harvey, Meridian Recycling and Energy Coordinator.

### Area residents can safely recycle:

- Electronics
- Metals and appliances
- Bicycles and bike parts
- Packing peanuts
- Egg cartons
- Shoes
- Clothing and textiles
- Furniture and building materials
- Books \*\*will be available for purchase

Major sponsors for the event include Foods for Living, Kellie's Consignment, and Delta Dental of Michigan.





**Meridian Township**  
 5151 Marsh Road  
 Okemos, MI 48864  
 (517) 853-4000

**ECRWSS**  
**CAR-SORT POSTAL CUSTOMER**

# MERIDIAN MONITOR

Spring 2014



## Election Information

The Meridian Township Clerk's Office offers extensive voter information at [www.meridian.mi.us](http://www.meridian.mi.us) by clicking on the "Elections and Voter Information" tab to the left.

Sample ballots may be viewed directly at [www.michigan.gov/vote](http://www.michigan.gov/vote).

**DEADLINE TO REGISTER TO VOTE FOR THE AUGUST ELECTION: JULY 7TH**

**DON'T FORGET TO VOTE ON AUGUST 5TH!**

## Proposed Millage for Park Improvements, Renovation, Maintenance, and Operations

The current .317 mills that residents pay to support the park system has not changed since 1984 yet the Park system has increased dramatically from 325 acres in 1984 to 904 acres today. In order to support the vast amount of parks that residents enjoy, the Meridian Township Board approved placing a ballot proposal before voters to request a new park millage to fund activities that will maintain and enhance the Meridian Township community parks.

The proposed millage would be levied for a period of twelve (12) years, 2014 through 2025 inclusive and raise approximately \$1,042,000 per year to support necessary park improvements, renovation projects, maintenance, and operations. If approved by voters on August 5th, 2014, the owner of a home with a taxable value of \$100,000 would pay \$66.67 per year in property taxes for the next twelve (12) years. The existing 0.317 Park Millage will continue until it expires in 2016. If approved, both Millages would be collected during the overlap period of two (2) years.

## What You Will See in the Voting Booth

The following ballot question will appear before voters in the **August 5, 2014**, general election.

### MERIDIAN PARK SYSTEM MILLAGE

**Shall the currently authorized limitation in the amount of taxes that may be assessed against all property in the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, be increased in the amount of .6667 mills (\$0.6667 on each \$1000 of taxable value), for a period of twelve (12) years, 2014 through 2025 inclusive, for additional funding of the Township's existing programs for park development, maintenance and operations? The estimate of the revenue that the Township would collect from this .6667 mill addition in the first year (if levied in 2014) is \$1,042,000.**

Yes

No

## Election Coverage on HOMTV

HOMTV coverage of the 2014 elections will help provide viewers with the information needed to make an educated decision at the polls. Candidates running at the Local, County and State Levels will be given the opportunity to participate in Live call-in debates, candidate Interviews and statements.



Watch on Comcast channel 21, online at [homtv.net](http://homtv.net), or stay connected through [facebook.com/HOMTV](https://www.facebook.com/HOMTV) and Twitter @HOMTV #BallotMeridian.

