

MERIDIAN MONITOR



SPRING/SUMMER
2016

Swing INTO MERIDIAN



ELECTION DATES



The Meridian Township Clerk's Office offers extensive voter information at 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

JULY 5 DEADLINE TO REGISTER TO VOTE FOR THE AUGUST 2ND PRIMARY ELECTION

OCT 11 DEADLINE TO REGISTER TO VOTE FOR THE NOVEMBER 8TH GENERAL ELECTION

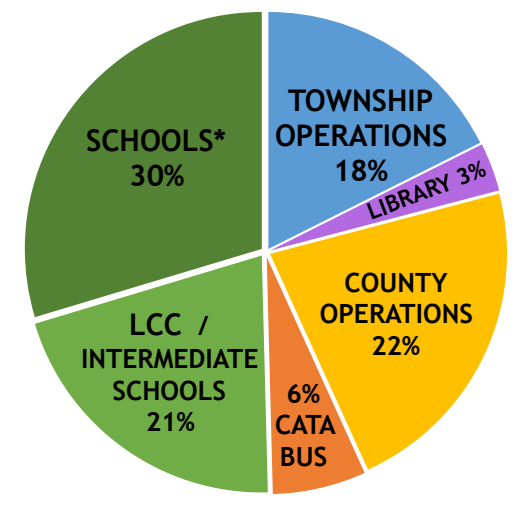


WHERE DO MY TAX DOLLARS GO?

THE AVERAGE 2015 MARKET VALUE OF A TOWNSHIP RESIDENCE IS \$191,000 AND HAS A TAXABLE VALUE OF \$95,500

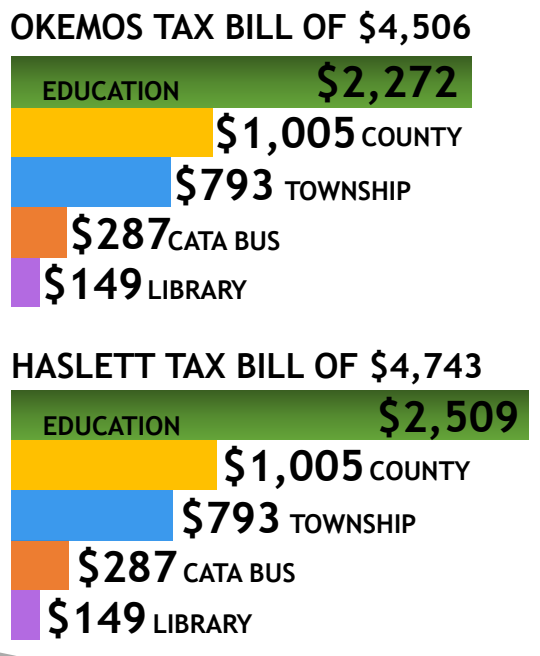
For more information: www.meridian.mi.us

1 YOUR TAX \$\$\$ DISTRIBUTED

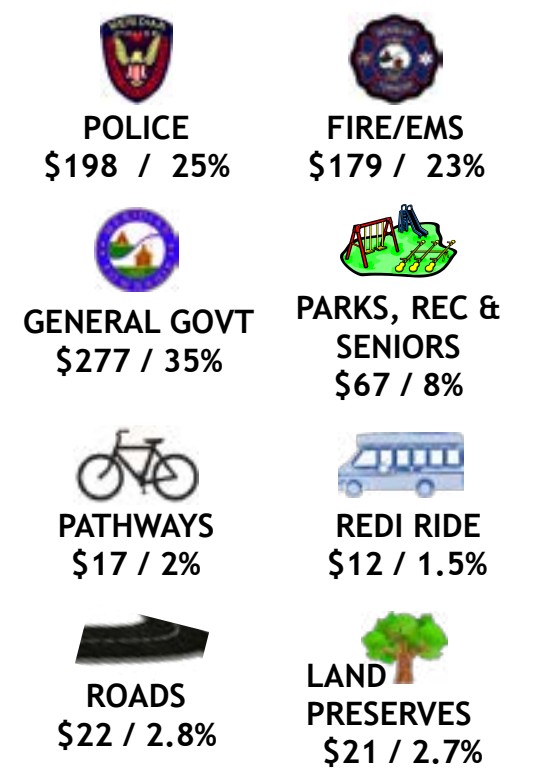


*This includes state education tax, debt, building and sinking for a principal residence (100% PRE)

2 YOUR TAX \$\$\$ AT WORK



3 \$793 TOWNSHIP EXPENDITURES



* expenditures taken from the 2016 Budget and percentages applied to \$793

EVENTS

- Recycle Event**
Saturday, April 23 | 9am - 2pm
Chippewa Middle School
- Love a Park Day**
Saturday, April 23 | 9 am - 12 pm
Parks & Land Preserves
- Farmers' Market**
Central Park Pavilion
Starting May 7 | Saturdays 8 am - 2 pm
Starting July 2 | Wednesdays & Saturdays 8 am - 2 pm
- Lake Lansing Band Shell**
Saturdays starting June 4 | 7 pm
Lake Lansing Park

Closing the gap on the south side of Mt. Hope Road between Okemos Road and Maumee Drive

Estimated cost around \$120,000

.53 miles of pathway

100% funded through the Pathway Millage

2016 Mt. Hope Pathway Extension Project

MILLAGE

Pedestrian/Bicycle Pathway

The Pedestrian/Bicycle Pathway Millage expires this year. Since the millage began in 1974, over 74 miles of pathway have been built. The current Pedestrian/Bicycle Pathway millage (.2774 mills) was renewed in 2004 expires in 2016.

Each year 75 miles of pathway are plowed, repaired, and maintained. The Township fills gaps between pathways and provides connectors to residential neighborhoods, schools, parks, and adjacent jurisdictions for a more walkable community. Last year, millage monies focused on closing a major gap along Haslett Road between Okemos Road and Marsh Road and cost sharing for the Kinawa Drive Safety Crossing.

The Township has also completed major projects with millage monies including partially funding the Interurban Pathway and fully funding the Pedestrian Pathway Bridge over the Red Cedar River.

- November 5, 1974 approved .33 mills from 1975-84 inclusive
- November 6, 1984 approved .33 mills from 1985-94
- August 2, 1994 approved renewal of .2947 mills (reduction due to Headlee Amendment) from 1995-2004 inclusive
- August 2, 1994 approved an increase of .0386 mills to offset millage reduction for levy in years 1995-2004 inclusive
- November 2, 2004 approved renewal of .2793 mills (reduction due to Headlee Amendment) from 2005-16 inclusive



HOMTV's Election Central is your one stop location for candidate interviews and statements, debates for contested races, and special programming on proposals appearing on your ballot in Meridian Township.

HOMTV.NET

HOMTV Your Source for Community News and Information

Follow us on @HOMTV and #BallotMeridian



- Fishing Derby**
Saturday, June 11 | 9 am - 12 pm
Central Park Pond
- Arts & Crafts Marketplace**
Sunday, June 26, July 24, & August 28 | 11 am - 4 pm
Central Park Pavilion
- Heritage Festival**
Saturday, September 10 | 10 am - 3 pm
Meridian Historical Village

Swing INTO MERIDIAN

Whether you're looking to improve upon your golf game or explore outdoor fun, Meridian Township offers **20 ways** to *Swing* INTO MERIDIAN & spring into summer

Golf Courses

1 Lake O' the Hills Golf Club
www.lakeothehills.com

2101 Lac Dumont Haslett
 This 9-hole par 3 facility is nestled within the Lake O' The Hills Community. This gem of a course provides a simple, yet fun layout where players can enjoy a day on the links and work on their game.

2 Indian Hills
www.ihcustomgolf.com
4887 Nakoma Dr, Okemos

Featuring lush watered fairways and pure rolling greens, Indian Hills 9-hole course is considered the area's hidden treasure. It is a wonderful experience for players of all ability levels.

3 Walnut Hills
www.walnuthillsgolf.com

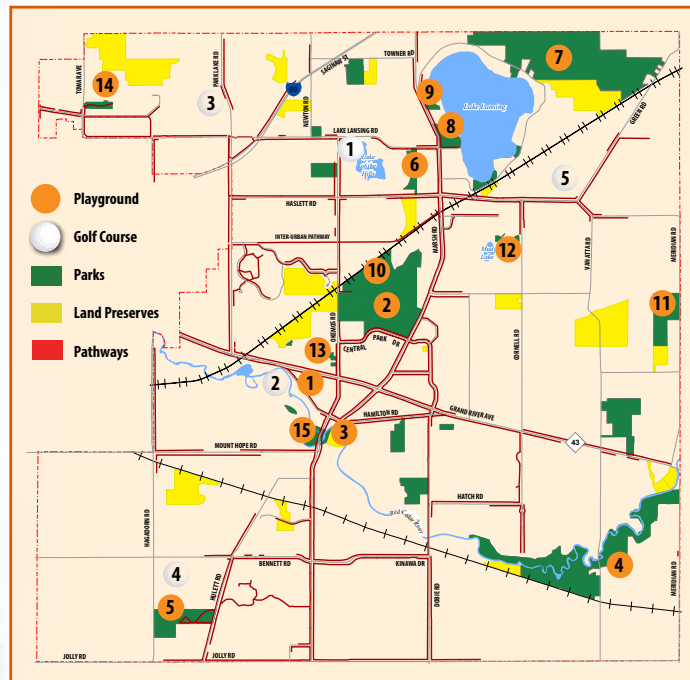
2874 Lake Lansing Rd, East Lansing
 Since 1921, Walnut Hills Golf Club has offered its Members a one of a kind experience where as a member you can relax, you can play and you can entertain.

4 College Fields
www.collegefields.net

3800 Hagadorn Road, Okemos
 This 18 hole championship public course was designed with the history of golf in mind. The course topography is characterized by large rolling greens, impact bunkers and fairway surrounds. Fashioned with the Golden Age of Golf Course Design by David Savic, College Fields offers a challenge to golfers of all skill levels.

5 Meridian Sun Golf Club
www.meridiansungc.com

1018 Haslett Rd, Haslett
 The course is owned and operated by long time area PGA Professional, Bill Mory, who invites you to Haslett to enjoy a wonderful day on this 18 Hole Championship Public Golf Course.



Parks with Playgrounds

Meridian offers 15 play structures

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 1 Cedar Bend Heights Neighborhood Park | 9 Marshall Park |
| 2 Central Park | 10 Nancy Moore Park |
| 3 Ferguson Park | 11 North Meridian Road Park |
| 4 Harris Nature Center | 12 Orland Park |
| 5 Hartrick Park | 13 Ottawa Hills Park |
| 6 Hillbrook Park | 14 Towar Park |
| 7 Lake Lansing North | 15 Wonch Park |
| 8 Lake Lansing South | |

Details on MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP Pinterest



We are excited to expand outdoor learning and play opportunities for families of all ages and abilities. This year we're investing over \$300,000 in interactive play equipment for children (and adults) of all ages and abilities to provide even more outdoor fun. We're even including our adorable furry canine friends.

Here is what's new and exciting this summer:

Hillbrook Park Accessible Playground

Thanks to the Park Millage, Hillbrook Park will soon be home to a new playground complete with tall slides, swings, climbers, trees and landscaping to create a fresh and welcoming "play environment" for children of all ages and accessible needs.

Wonch Park Outdoor Fitness Area

Adult outdoor fitness areas are the fastest growing amenity in parks and on trails throughout the country. Thanks to a grant from Greenfield Outdoor Fitness, Wonch Park will be home to 12 new universally accessible fitness stations. The opportunities are endless for residents to run, walk or drive to Wonch Park to obtain strength, toning and cardio activities.

Orlando Park Swing/Slide

New this spring will be additional play equipment for children ages 3-5 including shadow play, swings, a "Clifford the Big Red Dog" spring toy and slides.

Doggie Playground

A new Doggie Playground is in the works where pets and their owners can enjoy time together in this first-ever "off-leash" dog park in Meridian Township. The enclosed park, to be located on Gaylord Smith Court in Central Park will include areas for both small and large dogs, trails and agility equipment. Look for construction this summer.



Doggie Playground Draft Rendering

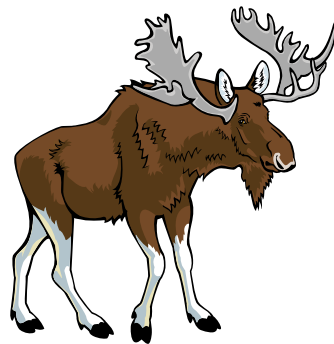
Central Park, Meridian Township, MI
 November 2015 | Total Area: 2 acres (small dog area is 1/4 acre)

I PLEDGE
 to do my part...



Moose on the Loose in Meridian!

StoryWalk® in the Park Capital Area District Libraries and Meridian Township are bringing a StoryWalk® to Haslett's Orlando Park! StoryWalk® encourages families to enjoy reading and the outdoors by posting a children's book – a page or two at a time – at intervals in a park, hiking trail or other outdoor site. Kids can move from sign to sign with fun activities as they read along! The picture book will be changed out seasonally. Our first story is the 2012 Michigan Reads *Moose on the Loose* by Kathy-jo Wargin.



Look for a mid-May StoryWalk® grand opening!

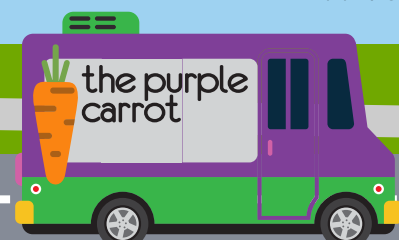
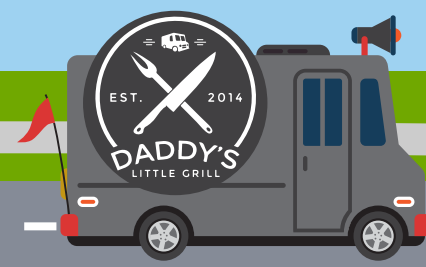


Truckin' in Meridian... Opportunities for food has been expanded!

Mobile food vending licenses are now available, and the license allows for the operation of food trucks and carts at commercial properties in the Township. We've already seen Detroit Frankie's Wood Fired Pizza and expect to see more trucks popping up in locations across the Township like El Oasis, Daddy's Little Grill and Purple Carrot.

Contact Meridian Township Associate Planner Peter Menser for an application to get started! 517.853.4576 | menser@meridian.mi.us

Bon appétit!



Greener MERIDIAN

A Greener Meridian reduces our carbon footprint

"I PLEDGE
to do my part to help have
a **Greener Meridian**
by scooping up after my dog...



...to help lessen the spread of disease in my yard.

...to reduce the 4.4 million pounds of dog poop on the ground in the U.S. each year.

...to change dog waste from being the 3rd leading cause of water pollution to one of the least.

...to reduce the 23 million fecal bacteria in 1 gram of feces that can be washed into our storm drains, rivers, streams, and lakes.

REMEMBER the fine for NOT scooping up is \$75 the first time

RECYCLE MERIDIAN
SATURDAY, APRIL 23, 2016
9 AM TO 2 PM
CHIPPEWA MIDDLE SCHOOL
Go to recycle.meridian.mi.us for more details

SPRING RECYCLING 2016

Here's how YOU helped reduce our carbon footprint during the 2015 Spring Recycling Event:

Bicycles
Any condition, including bike parts
Pick up available
Scrap Metal
Sinks, washers, dryers, AC units, Stoves, water heaters, fridges/freezers, Dehumidifiers, etc. *
Lawn mowers
* \$10/item with Freon
Working Household Items
Tools, books, knick knacks, Furniture (no rips or stains), Dishes, pots/pans, bakeware, Clothing, shoes, fabric, yarn
Newer working appliances & working electronics (< 10 yrs)
Egg Cartons & Packing Peanuts
Tires
\$3 off rim, \$5 on rim, \$8 semi, \$15 tractor (please call 517-853-4466 if you have over 10)
Paint
Latex only, liquid or dry, \$1/can
Mattresses & Box Springs
\$10 each, any condition

26,000 LBS of electronics
Several cubic yards of packing peanuts

1/2 truck full of clothing, shoes and fabric
56 mattresses

DO NOT BRING
Broken items
Paint/chemicals
Building materials
Sinks, counters, or toilets
Pianos and organs
Furniture in need of repair
Non-working computers, TVs, or appliances
Electronics, medicines, or documents
CRTs (older style monitors/TVs)

40 bikes
6880 pounds of metal

1620 pounds of glass
100s of egg cartons

Meridian Recycling Center
5967 E. Lake Dr. Haslett, MI 48840
• \$2/30 gallon bio-degradable brown bag
• \$15/cubic yard
• \$20/typical level truck bed
• No building or wood trash, trim to at least 4 ft length and 10 inches thick

Meridian Water Quality

Meridian Township and East Lansing share the same water source. The water comes from groundwater drawn from deep wells drilled several hundred feet into the Saginaw Sandstone Aquifer. Water is replenished or recharged from local surface sources like streams, lakes, wetlands or permeable soils.

since 1992 and the results have consistently been in full compliance with regulations, with lead levels below the Action Level of .015 parts per million (ppm)

40% of Americans don't pick up after their dog, and 44% of those wouldn't if you asked

FACT: Our natural ecosystem can handle 2 dogs per square mile. In urban areas, there are 125 dogs per square mile

According to the EPA, dog poop is as TOXIC to the environment as CHEMICAL and OIL SPILLS

Dog poop is the #3 cause of water pollution

29 WELLS
Groundwater is pumped to the conditioning plant from 29 wells located within a five mile radius of the Waste Water Treatment Plant

let them get into the water, especially pharmaceuticals or liquids like solvents, oils or fuels. Report all spills so they can be properly cleaned up before they enter lakes, streams or the groundwater to Michigan Pollution Emergency Alerting System (PEAS) 800-292-4706. The East Lansing Meridian Water Sewer Authority (ELMWSA) has been testing for lead in homes

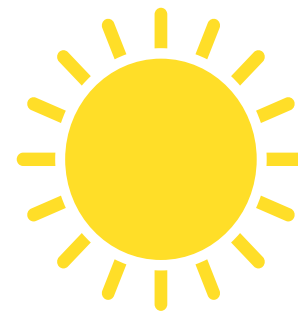
2014 Almost 2 BILLION GALLONS of treated water was processed and pumped to Meridian and East Lansing

There are only 3 things that should be flushed down the toilet; #1, #2 and toilet paper

Wastewater treatment systems were not designed to handle personal wipes which have cost municipalities millions to clean up

Properly recycle or dispose of wastes and don't

If you are interested in testing your water for lead, the ELMWSA provides a list of resources to contact for sampling www.cityofeastlansing.com/600/Water-Quality



10 Solar panels will keep about 68,000 lbs of CO₂ (and other pollutants) out of the environment that would otherwise be released from burning coal.

ONE 300 Watt solar panel will produce an average of 385 kilowatt hours (KWH) of energy per year.

GOOD SOLAR CENTS

A Greener Meridian has always been one of Meridian Township's top priorities. This year we're going even greener by participating in a regional community solar initiative. We are leasing 10 solar panels in a community solar project. Businesses and residents who are Lansing Board of Water & Light (BWL) customers can do the same. This 'good solar cents' community project benefits the environment by saving CO₂ emissions being released.

Participants in the program will make a long lasting greening impact on the earth and in their pocket. There are 1,000 panels being leased through the BWL community solar initiative, helping reduce the dependence on fossil fuels. Participants don't have to worry about installation or maintenance. The panels are located at Burcham Park and tied into participating customers' home or business.

Learn more about the community solar initiative: www.micommunitysolar.org

Learn more about Meridian's energy initiatives: recycle.meridian.mi.us/energy



YARD WASTE DUMPING, WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?

Meridian Township offers a drop off site for residential yard waste. Providing a site where residents can safely dump plant matter such as tree trimmings, leaf litter and garden waste reduces the harmful effects yard waste has on our beautiful natural areas both aesthetically and ecologically.

Myth: Yard waste is biodegradable, so it can't hurt to throw tree branches into the woods behind my house.

Fact: Natural systems are in a delicate nutrient cycling balance that can be thrown off with even the smallest amount of added yard waste. So, that pile of brush you and your neighbors create will take years longer to biodegrade than the leaf and woody litter that accumulates naturally.

Myth: Piles of yard waste provide wildlife habitat.

Fact: Native species appreciate the natural habitat that an undisturbed ecosystem provides rather than yard waste that could introduce invasive species or yard chemicals to their home.

Yard waste dumping in parks and natural areas is a consistent problem in Meridian Township and a violation of Meridian Charter Township Zoning Code, Section 46-2.

How YOU Can Help Preserve Neighboring Natural Areas:

1. Keep yard projects separate from natural areas
2. Do not extend your yard or store things beyond your property line
3. Consider using native Michigan plants in your garden and yard
4. Join local stewardship volunteer efforts in your neighborhood - natural area

