

PRIME MERIDIAN

APRIL - AUGUST 2018
Former Meridian Monitor &
Parks & Recreation Family Fun Guide

magazine



GET CONNECTED

Celebrate Meridian
Go On a Selfie Tour
Attend Prime Events



BE IN THE KNOW

CSC (Criminal Sexual Conduct) Initiatives
Farewell to Fire Chief Cowper
Spotlight on Land Preserves
Meet Interim Fire Chief Lori Schafer



GET ACTIVE

Bring Back the Mile
Take a Trip Along the Red Cedar
Participate in Youth & Adult Activities

Sign Up
NOW
bit.ly/mtponline



Register for Summer Activities
and Fall Youth Sports



A PRIME COMMUNITY

meridian.mi.us

Contents at a Glance



Meridian Township Offices will be Closed for the remaining dates of observance in 2018:

Memorial Day

Monday, May 28th

Independence Day

Wednesday, July 4th

Labor Day

Monday, September 3rd

Veterans Day

Observed on Monday,
November 12th

Thanksgiving Holiday

Thursday, November 22nd &
Friday, November 23rd

Christmas Holiday

Monday, December 24th &
Tuesday, December 25th

**Cover Photo: Storybook Walk is
located at Orlando Park
2075 ORLANDO DR**



MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864

📞 517.853.4000

📅 M-F 8 am - 5 pm

📘 facebook.com/
MeridianTownship



PARKS & RECREATION SERVICE CENTER

2100 Gaylord C Smith Court, Haslett, MI 48840

📞 517.853.4600

📅 M-F 8 am - 5 pm

📘 facebook.com/
MeridianTwpParksRec



HARRIS NATURE CENTER

3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos, MI 48864

📞 517.349.3866

📅 Hours vary

📘 facebook.com/
HarrisNatureCenter

meridian.mi.us

Engage with Meridian

With four seasons of Meridian, every time of year is the perfect time to get out and enjoy what Meridian Township has to offer. You'll find a safe and welcoming, sustainable, prime community around every corner. In this issue of Prime Meridian Magazine, we invite you to engage with us through our digital communications, by attending one of our events and touring our community. There is no better way to get active, get connected and be in the know than to get out and get engaged.



We strive to bring prime services to our community members and visitors, with Township services being provided by over 150 employees in 13 different departments. In this edition of Prime Meridian Magazine, our feature articles say farewell to Chief Cowper, share part 2 of Township Business Revitalization efforts, provide spotlights on Land Preservation and Community Gardens and update residents on the CSC (Criminal Sexual Conduct) Initiatives.

We hope you find this edition educational, relevant and engaging. In addition to this tri-annual print publication, should you wish to receive information on a weekly basis, sign up for our digital newsletter at <http://bit.ly/MTwpHappenings>

Deborah Guthrie, CTA
Communications Director/Editor

LuAnn Maisner, CPRP
Parks and Recreation Director



ELECTED OFFICIALS

Park Commission Members

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------------|
| Commissioner Amanda A. Lick | 517.648.4681 |
| Commissioner Michael McDonald | 517.243.2505 |
| Commissioner Annika B. Schaeztl | 517.897.0993 |
| Commissioner Mark Stephens | 517.339.0159 |
| Commissioner Courtney Wisinski | 517.410.1527 |

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 Julie Brixie | 517.853.4144 | brixie@meridian.mi.us |
| Trustee 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 |



A PRIME COMMUNITY



PRIME EVENTS

Get Connected

APRIL - AUGUST

Meridian Township offers Prime Events for residents and visitors from around the area. We are situated in a prime location where all roads in Michigan lead to Meridian Township. We are a welcoming community inviting you to join our family friendly events year-round and discover why Meridian Township is A Prime Community. Details available at meridian.mi.us.
* Dates and times are subject to change



**SPRING
RECYCLING**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 21
9 AM - 2 PM**

Clean out your closets and your garage by taking your items to Meridian Township's Annual Regional Recycling Event. Spring cleaning by way of recycling helps us Go Green! List of recyclable items are on page 6.

**CHIPPEWA MIDDLE SCHOOL PARKING LOT
4000 OKEMOS ROAD**



**VOLUNTEER
LOVE A PARK DAY**

**SATURDAY, MAY 19
9:30 AM - NOON**

Volunteer to help keep our parks, land preserves and other public spaces through the Township in Prime condition. Individuals and groups are welcome to sign up at 517.853.4600. Locations will be assigned at registration.

MULTIPLE PARK LOCATIONS



**SENIOR HEALTH &
FITNESS DAY**

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 30
11 AM - 1 PM**

Celebrate National Senior Health & Fitness Day with us! Participants will learn how to get in on the Michigan Senior Olympics, enjoy outdoor activities, music, giveaways, food and more.

**WONCH PARK
4555 OKEMOS RD**

**ARBOR DAY
TREE PLANTING
SATURDAY, APRIL 28
9:30 AM**



Take part in the biggest hardwood tree planting Meridian Township has ever done as we plant 300 native trees in Towar Woods Land Preserve. Sign up at dillon@meridian.mi.us or 517.853.4614.

TOWAR WOODS LAND PRESERVE

**NATIVE PLANTS
DAY AND SALE
SATURDAY, MAY 5
9 AM - 1 PM**



Native Plant species are available for purchase at the Harris Nature Center. Wild flowers, ferns, grasses and complete garden sets are available. Pre-order your plants by filling out an order form at www.meridian.mi.us/hnc or by emailing hnc@meridian.mi.us. Only cash or check accepted.

**HARRIS NATURE CENTER
3998 VAN ATTA RD**

**MERIDIAN
GARDEN
PLANT SALE
FRIDAY, MAY 18**



The Meridian Garden Club provides gardening services at several Township properties. Members are also actively engaged in the community. Support the Garden Club at this annual fundraising event. How to join can be found at: meridiangardenclub.weebly.com/membership.html

**CENTRAL PARK PAVILION
5151 MARSH ROAD**

**VIRGINIA WHITE
MEMORIAL
GARDENS
SUNDAY, APRIL 22
2 PM**



The community is invited to attend a memorial for Virginia White on Sunday, April 22 at 2 pm, where a tree has been planted and a plaque will be placed in the

Meridian Historical Village near the pond in her honor. Virginia is a beloved member of the community. She was Township Clerk for 25 years; receiving many awards, including Clerk of the Year. She worked tirelessly on projects like the pedestrian/bicycle pathways, building of the Lake Lansing Park Community Band Shelter, hosting several programs on HOMTV; and many other volunteer efforts.

Virginia was influential in local politics, which wasn't common for women at the time. She was "a force of nature" always smiling making sure someone was recognized for their good deeds.

Anyone who would like to share a memory of her is invited to attend and honor Virginia White.

**MERIDIAN HISTORICAL VILLAGE
5151 MARSH RD**



**FISHING
DERBY**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 9
9 AM - NOON**

We are celebrating Michigan DNR's Free Fishing Weekend on Saturday, June 9. Helping discover, explore and enjoy Michigan's fishing opportunities, kids of all ages are welcome to attend. Prizes will be awarded to ages 16 and under, pre-registration is not required.

**HISTORICAL VILLAGE POND
5151 MARSH RD**



**FOOD TRUCK
RALLY**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 30
11 AM - 10 PM**

Get ready for Meridian Township's Food Truck Rally! Around 50 of the best gourmet food trucks Michigan has to offer will be at the Meridian Mall Parking Lot, joined by live music, beer and wine tent and family fun festival. Come taste amazing food all in one location from trucks all over the state.

CENTRAL PARK DRIVE



**CELEBRATE
MERIDIAN**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 30
11 AM - 11 PM**

All roads lead to Meridian Township for our annual Independence Day Celebration.

- ▲ Beer & Wine Tent
- ▲ Business Expo
- ▲ Car Show Cruise
- ▲ Community Mural Painting
- ▲ Fireworks
- ▲ Food Truck Rally
- ▲ Heritage Festival
- ▲ Kids Games & Carnival Rides
- ▲ Live Music

MUNICIPAL COMPLEX, 5151 MARSH ROAD

**BE A TOURIST
IN YOUR OWN
TOWN**

**SATURDAY JUNE 2
10 AM - 5 PM**

Explore Hidden Gems in Meridian Township during the Greater Lansing Convention and Visitors Bureau's Be a Tourist in Your Own Town. Visit lansing.org/events/be-a-tourist. Enjoy family friendly Township attractions including:

**MERIDIAN HISTORICAL VILLAGE
HARRIS NATURE CENTER
HOMTV STUDIOS**



**BRING BACK
THE MILE RACE
SERIES EVENT**

**FRIDAY, JUNE 29
7 PM**

Join Playmakers and Meridian Township as we kick-off Celebrate Meridian by running or walking a mile! Your friends and neighbors can come together for a friendly competition that helps raise money for the Meridian Cares Program. Register at Playmakers.

CENTRAL PARK DRIVE



**NATIONAL
NIGHT OUT
TUESDAY, AUGUST 7**

6 PM - 9 PM

We invite all Neighborhood Watch Groups, Neighborhood Associations and the community to be part of National Night Out. Community police officers will be visiting neighborhoods with McGruff the Crime Dog and/or our K-9 Unit, on motorcycles and police vehicles. 517.853.4800 with questions and to let them know your group is participating.



SUMMER FUN

CONCERT SERIES



| DATE | THEME | GROUP |
|---------------------|-------------------|--|
| June 1 | Retro | New Rule |
| June 8 | Variety | Kathy Ford Band |
| June 15 | Dance | Smooth Daddy |
| June 22 | Barbershop | Capital City Chordsmen |
| June 29 | Patriotic | Meridian Community Band |
| July 6 | 70's - 80's | Life Support |
| July 13 | Concert Band | Lansing Concert Band |
| July 20 | 60's - 70's | Sea Cruisers |
| July 27 | Country | Brenda Loomis Band |
| Aug 3 6:30 start | Irish - Pipes | Peat in the Creel & Glen Erin Pipe Band |
| Aug 10 | Oldies | Oldies but Goodies |
| Aug 17 | Caribbean | Don Middlebrook & the Pearl Divers |
| Aug 24 | Classic Rock | The Black Barn Band |
| Aug 31 | Classic Favorites | Jeff Baldori |

FARMERS' MARKET

SATURDAYS
MAY - JUNE
8 AM - 2 PM

**WEDNESDAYS
& SATURDAYS**
JULY - OCTOBER
8 AM - 2 PM

5151 MARSH ROAD



Come check out the Farmers' Market opening outdoors Saturday, May 5. The market features Michigan strawberries, beans, tomatoes, peaches and blueberries in June and apples, winter squash and pumpkins in the fall. Fresh bouquets of flowers are available throughout the season. A majority of the products sold at the market are grown locally or within the state.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients can use their Michigan Bridge Card at the Meridian Township Farmers' Market. The market also accepts Double Up Food Bucks, WIC Project FRESH and Senior Project FRESH/Market FRESH coupons. Many vendors are also now accepting credit cards.

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

ON HIATUS 2018: Arts and Crafts Marketplace

The Meridian Township Arts and Crafts Marketplace that normally operates on the fourth Sunday of the month from June through October will be on hiatus in 2018. There are a number of changes taking place in Central Park that will lead to improved facilities and better access in 2019. We are looking forward to continuing the market in the near future, as it provides an opportunity for local artists to showcase their craft. Questions please call the Parks and Recreation Office.

PARKS & RECREATION SERVICE CENTER

2100 Gaylord C Smith Court
Haslett, MI 48840

 517.853.4600

 M-F 8 am - 5 pm

 facebook.com/

MeridianTwpParksRec

TOP 9 REASONS TO GO TO

Celebrate MERIDIAN

SATURDAY
JUNE 30



FOOD TRUCK RALLY



CAR SHOW CRUISE



COMMUNITY MURAL



PET ADOPTION



FRIENDS & FAMILY



KIDS ACTIVITIES



LIVE MUSIC



BEER & WINE TENT



FIREWORKS

5151 MARSH ROAD
OKEMOS

#CELEBRATEMERIDIAN

SPRING RECYCLING EVENT

SATURDAY, APRIL 21
9 AM - 2 PM
CHIPPEWA MIDDLE SCHOOL PARKING LOT
4000 OKEMOS ROAD

Join the Go Green Movement

Meridian Township is hosting a Spring Recycling Event on April 21 and wants you there with your recyclables! From 9 am to 2 pm, the parking lot at Chippewa Middle School, 4000 Okemos Rd. in Okemos, will hum with volunteers helping visitors unload their goods at collection stations. Admission is free and open to all! Some modest fees will apply for paint, TVs/Monitors, and items with Freon (air conditioners, refrigerators, dehumidifiers).

Recycling rewards us in many ways. Those who rid their homes, garages and basements of items they no longer use, will love the extra space that opens up. The environment also gets huge paybacks whenever landfills are spared from tons of reusable waste.

On Recycling Day, drivers will be directed where to drop off their goods at designated stations. Volunteers will help them unpack. After unloading, cars drive out to make room for those behind them.

Items Accepted

ELECTRONICS – TVs, VCRs, scanners, printers, radios, stereos, cameras, software, cords and more

PAINT: LIQUID OR DRY – Both Latex and Oil-based. Small cost per container

HOUSEHOLD ITEMS – No ripped or stained furniture, working order only. Tools, books, knick-knacks, newer working appliances/electronics under 10 years old, clothing, shoes, fabric and yarn

BIKES AND BIKE PARTS – Working and non-working bikes and bike parts

EGG CARTONS & CLEAN PACKING PEANUTS – Dozen size egg cartons only. Put peanuts in clear bags; no other packing materials

METAL – Large appliances, sinks, fridges, washers, A/Cs, stoves, lawn mowers, etc. (Drain oil/gas) \$10 if contains Freon

NOT Accepting mattresses, medical equipment, building materials, lighting, pianos, toilets, counters or furniture needing repair

2017 Recycling Event Results

An enormous amount of materials were recycled in 2017 leading up to a world record breaking amount of recycled electronics and local record for bicycles.

111,586 LBS. of electronics recycled, almost twice the amount as in 2016. Meridian helped set a World Record for electronics recycled in one day at multiple locations.

4557 CANS of latex and oil based paint to be recycled and resold

12 CU. YARDS of documents shredded/recycled

174 BICYCLES reconditioned/donated

4 LARGE TRUCKS filled with clothing, shoes, household items re-used and recycled

40 MATTRESSES recycled

60 CUBIC YARDS of metal recycled

250 LBS. of old medicines safely incinerated

3 CU. YARDS of packing peanuts re-used & 800 egg cartons re-used

And Freon reclaimed from 130 appliances

meridian.mi.us

Volunteers Needed

This event is not possible without the tremendous amount of support and time from our co-sponsors and volunteers. To become a sponsor or to volunteer, contact LeRoy Harvey, Recycling Coordinator at 517.853.4466.

COMMUNITY GARDENS

Chances are pretty good that there's a community garden in your neighborhood!

If not... there's also a good chance you can get some help starting one. Meridian Township and the "Garden Project" are partnering with congregations, neighborhood groups and residents to make this happen. With support from the Township, Greater Lansing Food Bank's Garden Project provided community gardens with plant starts, seeds and many other important resources to help our gardeners be successful in growing food for their families in 2017.

Read about ten success stories and more here:
meridian.mi.us/garden



Community Gardens in Meridian Township:

Okemos International Garden
at Central/Cedar Creek

Marsh Pointe Garden

Edgewood Village Community
Garden

Grange Acres

Wardcliff Garden

Northwind Community Garden

St. Paul Lutheran Church

Haslett Middle School

Kinawa Middle School &
Chippewa Middle School

St Luke's Lutheran Church,
God's Glory Garden



TOWNSHIP INFORMATION

Be in the Know

Summer Taxes Due FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

Meridian Township Summer Tax Bills will be mailed out by the Treasurer's Office on July 1. Summer Tax Bills are due Friday, September 14, 2018 by 5 pm. For more information about taxes or other Township services, please visit the Meridian Township website meridian.mi.us.

Automatic Tax Payments

Interested in avoiding long lines on tax day or the risk of forgetting to pay your property tax? To enroll in Meridian Township's automatic bill payment plan, simply fill out the Automatic Bill Payment Enrollment Form located on the Meridian Township website meridian.mi.us. The form must be submitted at least two weeks before the due date. Once enrolled, Meridian Township will initiate an ACH withdrawal from the taxpayer's account.

Other Payment Options

Payments may be made in person at the Treasurer's Office in the Meridian Township Municipal Building daily between the hours of 8 am and 5 pm, dropped off in the white drop box in front of the Meridian Township Municipal Building 24 hours a day or mailed to 5151 Marsh Rd. Okemos, MI 48864. Cash, checks or money orders are accepted in the building. Taxes may also be paid online or by phone by credit or debit card, fees will be applied. Payments must be received in the office by the due date or a 1% late fee will be charged. Post-marks are not accepted.



Water Quality Report Available

The water quality report describing the source & quality of your drinking water is available at www.cityofeastlansing.com/elmwsa/waterquality

To receive a paper copy in the mail, contact us at 517.337.7535 x 4

2018 PRIMARY ELECTION DEADLINES

**Primary Election
Registration**
MONDAY, JULY 9

Absentee Ballots

Last Day to Receive by Mail
CLERK'S OFFICE OPEN
SATURDAY, AUGUST 4
8 AM - 2 PM

Last Day to Receive in Person
Must Vote at the Clerk's Office
MONDAY, AUGUST 6
8 AM - 4 PM

State Primary Election
TUESDAY, AUGUST 7

For more election information
visit meridian.mi.us/Elections
or contact the Meridian
Township Clerk's Office



CLERK'S OFFICE

Municipal Building
5151 Marsh Rd, Okemos, MI 48864



517.853.4300



M-F 8 am - 5 pm

meridian.mi.us/Elections



TREASURER'S OFFICE

Municipal Building
5151 Marsh Rd, Okemos, MI 48864



517.853.4140



M-F 8 am - 5 pm

meridian.mi.us/Taxes

meridian.mi.us



CSC INITIATIVES

CRIMINAL SEXUAL CONDUCT

On Thursday, February 1, 2018 Meridian Township held a press conference in regards to the Meridian Township 2004 Police Report involving one of the survivors in the Larry Nassar sentencing; Ms. Brianne Randall-Gay.

Township Manager Frank Walsh and Township Chief of Police David Hall issued a public statement and apology on the handling of the 2004 Police Report in reference to Ms. Brianne Randall Gay, who attended via Skype. Press Conference: <http://bit.ly/2FBKvrH>

In mid-September of 2016, MSU notified Meridian Township of the 2004 Nassar report. At the same time the Ingham County Prosecutor's Office directed that the Township not release the 2004 Police Report under FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) until after the conclusion of the Nassar hearing in Ingham County. The Attorney General's Office allowed the Township to release the report on Monday, January 29, 2018.

During the press conference Meridian Township Manager Frank Walsh and Chief of Police David Hall announced new initiatives and training regarding Criminal Sexual Conduct investigations within the Meridian Township Police Operations.

Three (3) new Criminal Sexual Conduct initiatives update:

1. Criminal Sexual Conduct training will be increased amongst all sworn officers. The initial training, offered by the Prosecuting Attorneys of Michigan, will begin in April 2018. The training will include a video segment with Nassar survivor Brianne Randall-Gay sharing her story. Sexual Assault Investigator Becky Payne attended a sexual assault training in March to determine if the course would be appropriate for all sworn personnel.
2. Criminal Sexual Conduct cases are being reviewed from 2000-2017. We are currently reviewing 595 Sexual Assault cases to assure all survivors' cases have properly been investigated. The Police Chief will sign off on every CSC report.
3. The Meridian Township Police Department is partnering with Brianne Randall-Gay to develop a community-wide program that addresses how to better educate children on understanding Criminal Sexual Conduct and reporting it to authorities.

Protecting our community against sexual predators remains a top priority for our Township.

19TH ANNUAL POLICE CITIZENS' ACADEMY

THURSDAYS, BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 6
6:30 PM – 9:30 PM

Gain knowledge about the criminal justice system and the Township Police Department's role in the community when you sign up for the 19th Annual Citizens' Academy.

The program is open to residents, community members and business people of Meridian and Williamstown Townships. Participants will meet from 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm every Thursday evening from September 6 through November 8, 2018.

If you have questions or wish to enroll in the Academy, please email:
policeacademy@meridian.mi.us



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

TUESDAY, AUGUST 7
6 PM – 9 PM



We invite all Neighborhood Watch Groups, Neighborhood Associations and the community to be part of National Night Out. Community police officers will be visiting neighborhoods with McGruff the Crime Dog and/or our K-9 Unit, on motorcycles and police vehicles. Contact your community police officer at 517.853.4800 with questions and to let them know your group is participating.



MERIDIAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Public Safety Building
5151 Marsh Rd, Okemos, MI 48864

☎ Main Line: 517.853.4800

📅 Office Hours M-F 8 am - 5 pm
Building Open 24/7

📘 [facebook.com/MeridianTwpPD](https://www.facebook.com/MeridianTwpPD)



Farewell to Chief Cowper

Chief Fred Cowper served as Meridian Township's Fire Chief for almost 20 years. Hired in October, 1998, Chief Cowper had a tall order before him restructuring the Fire Department.

One of his first tasks was to create organizational structure to best serve the residents of the Township. Prior to his arrival, Battalion Chiefs, Captains and an Incident Command System were non-existent. Now, Battalion Chiefs oversee all three stations and the staff on duty each day. They mitigate emergencies and are responsible for firefighter safety. At the end of their shift, Chief Cowper would look forward to hearing them report, "Chief, everyone is going home safe."

He put a succession plan in place to ensure department staff are groomed to fill future leadership roles. Chief stated, "We needed an immense amount of change here. Some was easier than others."

One of the major goals was to build a new Central Fire Station. In 2012, just over 58% of voters approved a \$3.5 million millage to build a new Central Fire Station.

The new facility replaced the Clinton Street station that closed in February, 2013 due to water damage and mold.

The new Central Fire Station has amenities the previous Central Fire Station was not equipped to handle. Most notable are the separate men's and women's locker rooms and bunk rooms. A training/community room functions as the Township's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and the backup center for the Ingham County EOC.


The Township Fire Department provides excellent response time to it's 40,000 residents and boasts the only double staffed paramedic advanced life support, transporting ambulances in the tri-county region. Fire prevention, code enforcement, plan review and fire safety education were reestablished during his tenure. The 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.

Through June, he is serving in a consulting role. Projects include overseeing the installation of an outdoor warning siren, working with the Insurance Services Office (ISO) to reevaluate the Township's Public Protection Classification (PPC) rating and promoting the part-time paramedic/firefighter program.

Upon retirement, Chief Cowper stated his goal was to leave the Fire Department better than he found it, an important goal he learned from his father.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST WITH FIREFIGHTERS & LOCAL BOY SCOUTS
SATURDAY, MAY 19
8 - 11 AM
 All you can eat pancakes and sausage for \$5 donation!
 All proceeds will go to the MDA and our local Scout Units' Campership/Scholarship Fund

ALL YOU CAN EAT!
\$5



2142 COMMUNITY CHURCH 2600 BENNETT RD, OKEMOS



Smoke/CO Alarm Installation

In 2017, the Meridian Township Fire Department was awarded \$70,000 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency for the purchase and installation of 2,500 combination smoke and carbon monoxide alarms for Meridian Township homeowners.

Fire department professionals will determine where and how many alarms are needed in your home. As part of the program, they provide informational brochures on maintaining your alarms and the dangers of carbon monoxide.

If you are a Meridian Township residential homeowner, you can submit a request for a free assessment and installation on the Township website.

<http://bit.ly/SmokeCOalarmRequest>

Meet Interim Fire Chief Lori Schafer

On January 1, 2018 Lori Schafer became Meridian Township's new Interim Fire Chief. On that day she also became the first female fire chief in Meridian Township history. Schafer began her career with Meridian Township in June of 1989, but her passion for saving lives began a few years earlier.

While attending Lansing Community College on a basketball scholarship, she grew an interest in the health care field. After taking her first EMT class, she was hooked. Schafer continued her education by graduating EMT school, Paramedic school and eventually getting her Firefighter I and II certifications.

Schafer paved the way for future female firefighters by facing adversity in a male dominated field. Before retiring in 2014, she was the first woman to hold the positions of Lieutenant, Captain and Battalion Chief.

As the Interim Fire Chief, Schafer oversees the daily fire department operations, including recently replacing a 16 year old lifesaving boat. She will also serve on the panel that selects the next fire chief. When she is not at the fire station, Schafer drives a school bus for Okemos Public Schools. She plans to be fully retired from both jobs by August 2018.

In her spare time, Schafer also enjoys watching sports and spending time with her family, friends and her dog, Syd.

FIRE DEPARTMENT
 Central Fire Station #91
 5000 Okemos Rd, Okemos, MI 48864
 ☎ 517.853.4700
 📅 M-F, 8 am - 5 pm
 📘 facebook.com/MeridianTwpFD

Warning Sirens

Meridian Township added another warning siren in 2017. Warning sirens are now located at Harris Nature Center, Academic Way, The Lodges and at three (3) Township buildings. An additional warning siren will be added in late April at Wonch Park.

This new addition will make a total of seven (7) warning sirens throughout the Township. Sirens are used in an emergency situation and are being added to cover the entire Township.



7 WARNING SIRENS IN MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP



Public Works Information

Streetlights

All public streetlights in the Township are owned and operated by either Consumers Energy or the Lansing Board of Water and Light (BWL). Consumers Energy services the majority of the Township excluding areas on our extreme western border. Depending on the electric company for your residence, usually the streetlight near you is serviced by the same provider.

If you see a streetlight that is out or not functioning correctly you may report it using the following contact options:

Consumers Energy

www.consumersenergy.com/streetlightoutage

Board of Water and Light (BWL)

877.295.5001

Roads

The Ingham County Road Department (ICRD) is responsible for all road maintenance and operations in the Township excluding Grand River and Saginaw Highway - MDOT roads. If you have a pothole or other concern regarding roads, curb/gutters, signs, traffic signals and trees between the road and the sidewalk, please contact the ICRD at 517.676.9722. The Township participates with the ICRD each year on several local neighborhood street paving projects. For more information on this program please contact 517.853.4440 or dpw@meridian.mi.us.

Storm Drains

The Ingham County Drain Commissioner (ICDC) is responsible for the construction, maintenance and improvement of the storm drains in the Township. Problems with storm water or drain maintenance should be directed to the ICDC by calling 517.676.8395.

No Wipes Down the Pipes

Only three items should be flushed down the drain; #1, #2 and toilet paper. All other material is not made to flush smoothly through the sewer system. Please help keep the Meridian Township sewer system flowing smoothly by not flushing anything else down the toilet.

Unfortunately, some items marketed as “flushable” have become a threat to residential and municipal sewer systems, causing expensive clogs and messy sewage back up in homes and businesses.

If you must use a “wet wipe” instead of toilet paper, please dispose of them in the garbage. Remember, the only thing you should ever flush down a toilet is #1, #2 and toilet paper. And keep in mind: “No Wipes Down the Pipes”

For more information on items NOT to flush, please visit meridian.mi.us/socialcampaigns

EMERGENCY WATER AND SEWER SERVICES

☎ 517.349.0010

For all water or sewer emergencies, please call our on-call number 517.349.0010, 24 hours a day / 7 days a week. Between 8 am - 5 pm, our office staff will take your call. Between 5 pm and 7 am, you will reach our on-call pager; leave a message, including your name, address, phone number and a brief description of the problem. You will receive a return phone call shortly and someone will respond to your address if necessary.

Please call the Township before you call a plumber. If the problem is the Township's responsibility, we will correct it and you will save the cost of a plumber.

The Township does not reimburse plumber expenses unless the Township authorizes the expense in advance.

Business Revitalization Underway

Part 2: Meridian Mall



In the Prime Meridian Magazine Winter edition, the business district section featured three core districts; Carriage Hills Shopping District, Downtown Okemos and Haslett Village Square. This issue features the Meridian Mall.

The mall has been a business district staple since opening its doors in 1969. For decades it has served as the hub of commerce, perched on the Grand River Corridor. However, the effects of online shopping and challenges facing traditional brick-and-mortar merchants has changed the way in which traditional malls are having to thrive and attract both customers and tenants.

The Meridian Mall is looking to attract experience-based types of tenants to draw groups of people to the mall for an event or an experience with the hopes they will stay longer and explore. In 2017 the Women's History Center opened its doors. This year, Launch Trampoline Park will be open, occupying roughly 26,000 square feet of the vacant Gordman's location.

CBL Properties, the owners of Meridian Mall and Meridian Township are looking into a public/private partnership to relocate the Meridian Farmers' Market. Meridian Township staff have engaged with CBL to gain access to the greenspace parcel on the north end of the mall, to the east of Studio C! The vision is

to utilize the underused space and parking to allow for construction of permanent shelters to house the market, a quarter mile down the street from the existing market, which has outgrown its current space.

This proposed site proves to be a prime spot to host events as evidenced by three prime 175th events hosted by Meridian Township in 2017; the New Years' Eve Celebration, Food Truck Rally and Gus Maker Basketball Tournament. Each event attracted thousands of people and the mall confirmed a spike in sales when events like these occur along its perimeter. If constructed, the space is expected to be used for flea markets, food trucks, playgrounds, live music, antique shows, swap meets and more.

Contact Economic Development Director Chris Buck for information on Economic Development
buck@meridian.mi.us
517.853.4568

Contact Darcie Weigand for information on the Farmers' Market
weigand@meridian.mi.us
517.853.4616

PLEASE BE ADVISED

MAJOR ROAD CONSTRUCTION

The Ingham County Road Department (ICRD) is conducting two (2) major road construction projects on Jolly and Okemos Road. Motorists should anticipate traffic congestion and delays within the project vicinity during construction. We greatly appreciate your patience during what we know is an inconvenience in travel plans.

Okemos-Jolly Intersection Rehabilitation/expansion Concrete resurfacing with new turn lanes and traffic signal, including storm sewer, sidewalk and ADA improvements. Signal and utility work is ongoing (started last October); traffic restrictions and drainage work to start early April; open to traffic expected early August; completion expected by Labor day.

Jolly Road Resurfacing Dobie to Meridian which is the recycle (grind up) and widening for paved shoulder project, including culvert/storm sewer replacement with ADA and guardrail. This project got underway in late February starting with tree work, then start of road work early to mid-March (depends on weather; road work expected to start after lifting of annual frost law weight restrictions); expected open to traffic by Labor Day; project completion mid-September.

Details of the project as well as use of alternate routes will be posted on the ICRD website:
rc.ingham.org/Home.aspx

If you have any questions or concerns, you are welcome to contact the Road Department for more information 517.676.9722.

Updates available at [facebook.com/Ingham-County-Road-Department](https://www.facebook.com/Ingham-County-Road-Department)

Submitted by the ICRD

Open Monday – Friday 9 am – 4:30 pm

MERIDIAN SENIOR CENTER

The Meridian Senior Center offers retired and older adults opportunities to remain active and healthy with various activities. If you are age 55 and over you can become a member and enjoy family friendly events like Mother's Day Tea & Brunch and Father's Day Beer and Brats. Become a member at meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

📍 4000 N. Okemos Road, Okemos, MI 48864

Senior Center entrance is located off of Kinawa Drive

☎ 517.706.5045

📘 facebook.com/meridianseniorcenter

RUMMAGE SALE

JULY 12 - 13

9 AM - 6 PM

Open to the Public

Find a hidden treasure at the Senior Center's annual fund raising event.

HOMTV Partners with Friends of Historic Meridian to Tell Meridian's Story

HOMTV and the Friends of Historic Meridian are working together to preserve the Township's history by bringing back the Reflections program series. HOMTV's Reflections program features interviews with longtime residents, business owners and Township employees reflecting on Meridian Township's rich history.

Reflections originally aired on HOMTV in 1992. In recognition of Meridian Township's 175th Anniversary, the Friends of Historic Meridian are taking an active role reviving the program by hosting and co-producing.

Jane Rose, Executive Director of the Meridian Historical Village, hosted her first episode of Reflections with Ronald Wheeler, a descendant of the Proctor family (pictured). The Proctor family ran the tollbooth during the 1800's and were among the first residents of Okemos.

The interview began airing on February 7, 2018 and can be found on demand on the HOMTV website at www.homtv.net.



If you know of anyone who you think should be interviewed on the Reflections program, contact HOMTV Executive Producer, Brandie Yates at 517.853.4208 or yates@meridian.mi.us.



Lights Camera Action

HOMETV's 2018 Election Coverage

Since 1988, HOMETV has won numerous awards at the state, regional and national level for Overall Excellence in government programming and election coverage. HOMETV is arguably the leader in providing extensive election coverage by a Government Access Channel. HOMETV continues its tradition of excellence with award-winning election programming in 2018 providing one-on-one candidate interviews, live call-in debates, candidate statements, ballot proposal features and live election night coverage.

Viewers will have the opportunity to participate in the democratic process by asking questions during the live debates and on election night by calling 517.349.1232 or on Twitter using the @HOMETV Twitter handle and #BallotMeridian hashtag. HOMETV gives residents a chance to get to know the candidates and proposals on the ballot. HOMETV is your source for local election information.

While providing fair and balanced election coverage is of utmost importance to HOMETV, the most unique aspect is the role of the HOMETV Interns. Most people would never guess that behind the scenes is only a few staff members

with the rest of the crew being student interns. Not only will viewers receive the information they need to make an educated decision at the polls, but HOMETV Interns will receive valuable hands-on experience to create a professional resume reel and begin their career in the television industry.

HOMETV's Primary Election coverage will begin with candidate interviews, statements and live debates airing during the month of July. General Election coverage will begin airing during the month of October.

All 2018 election programs will air on HOMETV Comcast Channel 21 and be simulcast on CAMTV Channel 30. Programs will also be available on demand on the HOMETV website at hometv.net.



HOMETV

Municipal Building, Administration Wing
5151 Marsh Rd, Okemos, MI 48864

📞 517.349.1232

📅 M-F, 8 am - 5 pm

📘 [facebook.com/hometv](https://www.facebook.com/hometv) 🐦 @hometv

hometv.net



TOWNSHIP PARKS

Get Active



80 MILES MAINTAINED PAVED PATHWAYS including interurban and off road pathways and pathways along roads

20 MILES PAVED AND NATURAL TRAILS Through the Parks

Approximate Totals

#MERIDIANTRAILS

Trails of Meridian

Meridian Township provides a park or natural area within a 15 - 20 minute walk for every Township resident. That is approximately 2000 steps on your pedometer, taking you closer to a positive and active lifestyle. With over 900 acres on 29 park properties, 20 miles of trails and 80 miles of pedestrian/bicycle pathways, and over 900 acres of land preserves, we have numerous opportunities for you and your family to enjoy getting to your destination along the Trails of Meridian.

Trails and pathways are funded through the Park Millage and Pedestrian/Bicycle Pathway Millage and are maintained by the Township's Parks and Grounds Maintenance Staff.

Take a Trip on the Red Cedar River

4.8 MILES Take a leisurely 4.8 mile trip on the charming Red Cedar River in Meridian Township from Harris Nature Center to Ferguson Park. This three hour trek allows you to discover exceptional parks and wildlife in Meridian Township.

23 MILES Explore the 23 mile - 14 hour Red Cedar River Water Trail from Williamstown Township to the Grand River confluence and Cherry Hill Boat Launch in Lansing. Visit the Township website to print the Red Cedar River Water Trail map and locate launch points, parking, facilities and trip lengths.

POINTS OF INTEREST ALONG THE RED CEDAR

- Ferguson Park
- Harris Nature Center
- Mandenberg Woods
- Meridian Riverfront Park
- Red Cedar Glen Preserve
- Red Cedar Nature Area
- Red Cedar River Land Preserves
- Sumbal Land Preserve
- Wonch Park



Explore

Red Cedar River

LAND PRESERVATION

SPOTLIGHT

Recent Township Land Acquisitions

Residents now have an additional 186 acres of public natural area to enjoy!

It's been an exciting year of acquisitions for Meridian Township's Land Preservation program. Four (4) properties were acquired in the last several months adding an additional 186 acres totaling 954 acres of land preserves across the Township. This number is in addition to the existing 904 acres of park land.

The Land Preservation program has been active since the year 2000 and is supported by a millage that protects natural areas as well as improves them, through stewardship. Land Preserves are open to the public from dawn to dusk. Please contact 517.853.4600 with any questions regarding accessing the land preserves or suggestions for where to take your next hike!

2017

LAND PRESERVATION ACQUISITIONS

▲ ADDED TO TOWAR WOODS PRESERVE

A one (1) acre donation came from the Mitroka family. It squares off a corner in the current Towar Woods Preserve located in the northwest portion of the Township. Towar Woods is a gorgeous forest community that boasts trails for hiking and ample animal viewing opportunities.

▲ MANDENBERG WOODS PRESERVE

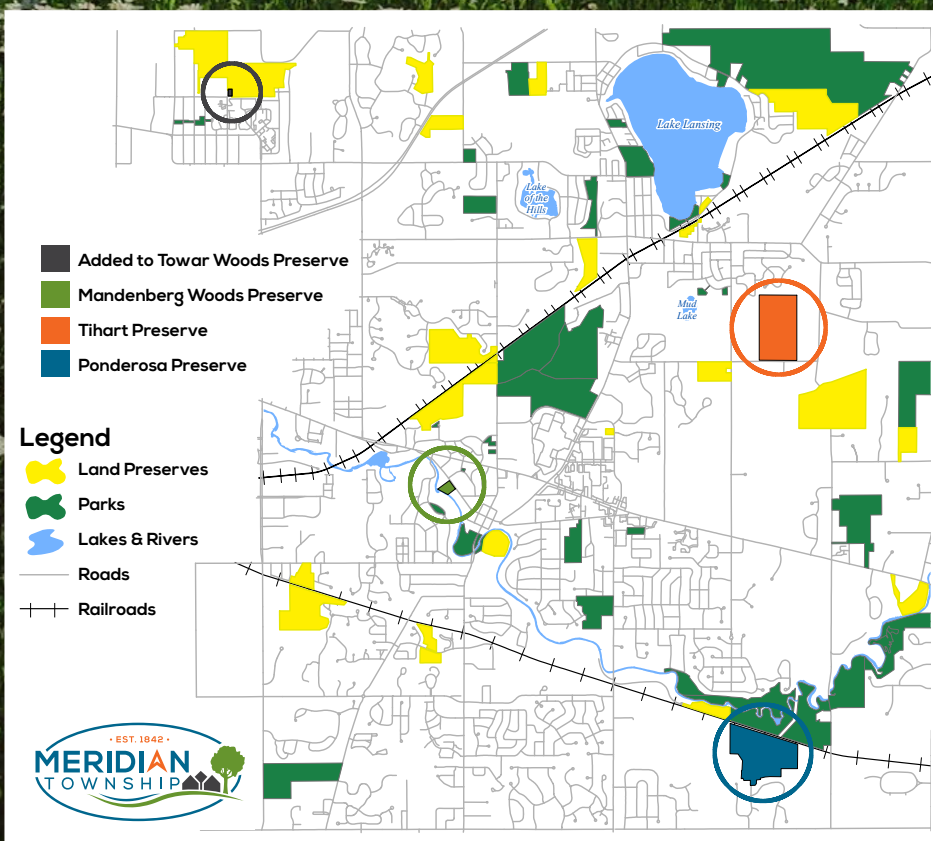
A six (6) acre parcel near downtown Okemos along the Red Cedar River was acquired from the Mandenberg family. The parcel has vernal pools which provide habitat for plants and animals.

▲ TIHART PRESERVE

A ninety (90) acre parcel on Tihart Road was acquired from the Linn family. A native prairie planting is planned for the farm field in this new preserve.

▲ PONDEROSA PRESERVE

An eighty nine (89) acre parcel south of Legg Park was acquired in part with a grant from the Michigan DNR. This preserve has trails that you can walk to view a variety of communities, including woodlands with huge and notable oaks and maples, wetlands, streams, ponds and many different types of wildlife, including spawning salmon that utilize the creek.



HARRIS NATURE CENTER ACTIVITIES



| ACTIVITY | DATES & TIMES |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Chipmunk Story Time | Thursdays: April - August at 10 am |
| My Cub and I: Nature for Toddlers | Mondays: April - May at 10:30 am |
| Preschool Science Exploration | Thursdays: April - June at 1 pm |
| Timber Tots | Mondays: April - May at 9 am |
| Bird Watching in Our Parks | Sundays: April - May at 8 am |
| Howl at the Moon | Fridays: April & August at 8:30 pm May, June, July at 9 pm |
| HNC Stewardship Mornings | Saturdays: April - October at 9 am |
| Gardening with Native Plants | Tuesday March 27 from 7- 9 pm |
| Photography w/ Ron St. Germain | Wednesdays: April 4 - 18 at 6:30 pm |
| Explore Nature Open House | Sunday April 15 from 12 pm - 4 pm |
| Song Bird Nest Box Workshop | Sunday April 21 at 2 pm |
| Earth Day Walkabout | Sunday April 22 at 2 pm |
| Native Plants Day and Sale | Saturday May 5 from 9 am - 1 pm |
| Wildflower Walkabout | Sunday May 6 at 3 pm |
| Nature at Night Campfire | Saturday May 12 at 7 pm |
| Be A Tourist In Your Own Town | Saturday June 2 from 10 am - 5 pm |
| Introduction to Bee Keeping | Saturday June 9 at 1 pm |
| Family Bird Walk | Sunday June 10 at 3 pm |
| Frog Forage Campfire | Saturday June 23 at 7 pm |
| Stomp and Tromp: A Guided Walk | Sunday July 15 at 3 pm |
| Spectacular Stars Campfire | Saturday August 4 at 7 pm |

*** DATES & TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. CHECK WEBSITE FOR DETAILS.**

Sign Up **NOW**
bit.ly/mtpronline

Contact the Harris Nature Center with questions.

SUMMER DAY CAMPS

The Harris Nature Center offers a variety of Summer Day Camps that allow children to engage in nature by learning about native plants, reptiles, insects, birds and more. Summer day camps are offered from preschool to 8th grade levels.

Camp fees vary. Discounts are available when registering before June 1. To register your child, visit bit.ly/mtpronline or contact the Harris Nature Center by phone or hnc@meridian.mi.us. Registration forms are also online at meridian.mi.us/HNC.

This summer, enjoy the great outdoors at the Harris Nature Center. Step into nature on one of the many guided walks, learn more about plants and animals, enjoy a campfire, become a steward of the land and more. The Harris Nature Center will give your family an outdoor experience to remember. To learn how your family can get active in nature, visit the website.



HARRIS NATURE CENTER

3998 Van Atta Rd, Okemos, MI 48864



517.349.3866



Hours vary



[facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/HarrisNatureCenter)

[HarrisNatureCenter](https://www.facebook.com/HarrisNatureCenter)





VISIT MERIDIAN HISTORICAL VILLAGE

The Meridian Historical Village is open to the public on Saturdays May through October from 10 am – 2 pm. Come to the General Store in the Brick Building to begin your tour of eight historic buildings from the local area. Buildings include an 1849 inn and tavern, an 1850 tollgate house, an 1860's farmhouse with barn and outbuildings, an 1877 general store, an 1883 schoolhouse, an 1870's log cabin and a reconstruction of an 1870's Chapel.

Rent the Village Chapel

Set in a beautiful location, the Village Chapel is a reconstruction of a 19th century church which stood in Okemos for nearly 100 years. The chapel features an exquisite narthex and sanctuary. A decorative wall towers behind the raised altar area, providing an inviting backdrop complemented by rich oak floors. A center aisle divides 14 pews that can comfortably seat up to 100 guests. The chapel has been constructed to modern standards and is fully accessible.

Schedule a Group Outing

The Meridian Historical Village is available for groups, baby or bridal showers, music recitals, weddings, parties or other events. The Village has historic buildings for rent at very reasonable rates. Many options are available depending on your event size and needs.

Become a Docent!

Learn about sharing our past with the children who will shape our future. School tour season is spring and autumn. Learn about our programs and join the fun. Training is in April.

MERIDIANHISTORICALVILLAGE.ORG

BLUE AND GREY SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 11 AM – 5 PM

Join the Friends of Historic Meridian for the Blue and Grey, highlighting historical 19th century activities.

Visitors enjoy early American demonstrations and exhibits as well as children's activities and games. Witness what life was like during the Civil War with a Civil War Encampment and visit docents and tour the historic buildings.

* Date and time may be subject to change



The Meridian Historical Village is owned and operated by the Friends of Historic Meridian, a 501c3. Contact the friends at 517.347.7300.



MERIDIAN HISTORICAL VILLAGE

5151 Marsh Rd, Okemos, MI 48864

📞 517.347.7300

📅 Saturdays, May - Oct, 10 am - 2 pm

📘 facebook.com/

MeridianHistoricalVillage



| ACTIVITY | REGISTRATION DEADLINE |
|---|---|
| Baseball/Softball | Contact for availability devlin@meridian.mi.us |
| Playmakers Kids' Running Club April - May | April 13 |
| Youth Fishing Derby - June 9 Historical Village Pond at 9 am | All Welcome |
| Okemos K - 8th Grade 2018-2019 Soccer | July 13 Registration opens 5/21 |
| Okemos K - 8th Grade Boys & Girls Fall Flag Football | August 3 |
| Haslett/HYRA K - 1st Grade Boys and Girls Fall Soccer | August 3 |
| Haslett/HYRA K - 8th Grade Boys and Girls Fall Flag Football | August 3 |
| Sporties for Shorties Camps Boys and Girls, ages 3 - 5 June - October | Until Full |

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 of each program.

*** All programs are subject to change.
Check bit.ly/mtpronline for details.**

| ACTIVITY | REGISTRATION DEADLINE |
|--|-----------------------|
| Spring/Summer Adult Softball Begins Week of May 7 M/W/Th: Co-ed T: Men's | April 27 |
| Co-ed 4 vs 4 Adult Sand Volleyball | |
| Session I: May 14 - July 19 | May 4 |
| Session II: July 23 - September 27 | July 13 |
| Adult Kickball leagues | |
| Friday Evenings Begins May 18 | May 4 |
| M/Th/F Begins week of July 23 | July 13 |
| Pickleball Begins in May Hillbrook Park Open Play M/W/F 9 - 11 am Available for Adults and Families | Until full |

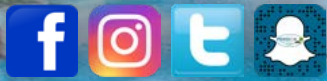


Meridian Township offers a variety of programs and activities for adults who want to have fun and stay physically and socially active during the warmer months. Adult sports and programs create an engaging and supportive environment, while adding a little friendly competition. Enjoy our local parks and local sport venues, while participating in activities like kickball, pickleball, and volleyball.

Sign Up
NOW
bit.ly/mtpronline

**PARKS & RECREATION
SERVICE CENTER**
2100 Gaylord C Smith Court, Haslett, MI 48840
☎ 517.853.4600
📅 M-F 8 am - 5 pm
📘 facebook.com/MeridianTwpParksRec

#MERIDIANTOWNSHIP
#PRIMEMERIDIAN



FREE To Do
& Social **SHARE** Worthy...

Top 3 Reasons to Go on a Selfie Tour in Our Parks

Put the keys away, dust off that bike and go on a little self-guided selfie tour across the township and feel free to share #MeridianTownship #PrimeCommunity.

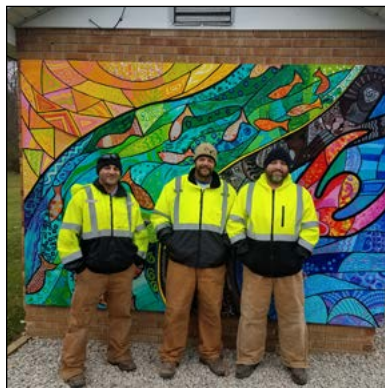
1

Smack dab in the middle of the Township, located at the Historical Village is the Proctor Tollgate House. While we realize the Meridian Historical Village is 100% Instagram worthy, this tollgate house is the only remaining tollgate house in the state.



2

The latest community art mural was installed in October 2017 at Hillbrook Park. Painted by community members, this mural represents a culmination of true pride and spirit across the Township.



3

The most popular location in Meridian Township to take Instagram pics is Lake Lansing. Check out the hashtag #lakelansing on Instagram and you will see why the largest lake in the county is so insta worthy.



Courtesy: Emily Lutz
Lasting Frame Photography

Check Out Our Selfie Best Places: www.meridian.mi.us/SelfieTour



TOP 9 OF 2017



 **#MERIDIANTWP**