

# PRIME MERIDIAN

magazine

SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2019

## FALL IS HERE

Find out what's new in  
Meridian Township

## SMALL DOG PARK

Now, Open!



REGISTER FOR  
ACTIVITIES & SPORTS  
[bit.ly/mtpronline](http://bit.ly/mtpronline)



# Dear Neighbors,

Once every decade, the federal government conducts a census of the entire population to count everyone in the United States and record basic information about them. Our nation's founders believed this data to be so important that they mandated the decennial census in the Constitution.

In 2020, for the first time ever, the U.S. Census Bureau will accept responses online and by phone, but you can still respond by mail if you prefer. Strict federal law protects census responses. It is against the law for any Census Bureau employee to disclose or publish any census information that identifies an individual or business. Census Bureau employees take a lifelong pledge of confidentiality to handle data responsibly and keep respondents' information private.

Federal funds, grants and support to states, counties and communities are based on population totals and breakdowns by sex, age, race and other factors. Our community benefits the most when the census counts everyone. When you respond to the census, Meridian Township gets its fair share of the more than \$675 billion per year in federal funds spent on schools, hospitals, roads, public works and other vital programs.

Businesses use census data to decide where to locate and this creates jobs. Developers use the census to build new homes and revitalize old neighborhoods. Local governments use the census for public safety and emergency preparedness. Residents use the census to support community initiatives involving legislation, quality-of-life and consumer advocacy.

The census.gov website provides Quick Facts statistics for communities you want to check out: [www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/US/PST045218](http://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/US/PST045218)

What to expect from the 2020 Census and timeline is on the next page. We thank you in advance for understanding the important role you play in participating in the Census.



Derek N. Perry, Deputy Township Manager



United States<sup>®</sup>  
**Census**  
**2020**

## COMPLETE COUNT COMMITTEE

The U.S. Census Bureau works with a broad spectrum of government and community leaders to form Complete Count Committees (CCC) that educate and motivate residents to participate in the 2020 Census.

The Committee is key to creating awareness.

- CCCs utilize local knowledge, influence, and resources to educate communities and promote the census through locally based, targeted outreach efforts.
- CCCs provide a vehicle for coordinating and nurturing cooperative efforts between tribal, state, and local governments; communities; and the Census Bureau.
- CCCs help the Census Bureau get a complete count in 2020 through partnerships with local governments and community organizations.

Contact Deputy Township Manager Derek Perry to participate:

[perry@meridian.mi.us](mailto:perry@meridian.mi.us)

## GO EXPERIENCE, GO SHARE, GO SOCIAL

Visit Meridian Township to experience our outdoor eateries, local businesses, 29 parks, 20 miles of trails and 76 miles of pedestrian/bicycle pathways and share your story.

Sign up for email notifications and know when the next event happens, restaurant opens, construction project occurs, meeting is scheduled, job opens and more.

**#APRIMECOMMUNITY**

**MERIDIAN.MI.US**



# How the 2020 Census will invite everyone to respond



## What to Expect in the Mail

When it's time to respond, most households will receive an invitation in the mail.

Every household will have the option of responding online, by mail, or by phone.

Depending on how likely your area is to respond online, you'll receive either an invitation encouraging you to respond online or an invitation along with a paper questionnaire.

### Letter Invitation

- Most areas of the country are likely to respond online, so most households will receive a letter asking you to go online to complete the census questionnaire.
- We plan on working with the U.S. Postal Service to stagger the delivery of these invitations over several days. This way we can spread out the number of users responding online, and we'll be able to serve you better if you need help over the phone.

### Letter Invitation and Paper Questionnaire

- Areas that are less likely to respond online will receive a paper questionnaire along with their invitation. The invitation will also include information about how to respond online or by phone.

WHAT WE WILL SEND IN THE MAIL	
On or between	You'll receive:
March 12-20	An invitation to respond online to the 2020 Census. (Some households will also receive paper questionnaires.)
March 16-24	A reminder letter.
	<b>If you haven't responded yet:</b>
March 26-April 3	A reminder postcard.
April 8-16	A reminder letter and paper questionnaire.
April 20-27	A final reminder postcard before we follow up in person.

### We understand you might miss our initial letter in the mail.

- Every household that hasn't already responded will receive reminders and will eventually receive a paper questionnaire.
- It doesn't matter which initial invitation you get or how you get it—we will follow up in person with all households that don't respond.

## MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP ELECTED OFFICIALS

### Park Commission Members

Chair Michael McDonald	517.243.2505
Vice Chair Amanda A. Lick	517.648.4681
Commissioner Annika B. Schaetzl	517.897.0993
Commissioner Mark Stephens	517.339.0159
Commissioner Ami Van Antwerp	517.927.5059

### 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



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[WWW.MERIDIAN.MI.US](http://WWW.MERIDIAN.MI.US)

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# THANK YOU FOR MAKING US A PRIME COMMUNITY IN 2019



## CELEBRATE MERIDIAN FESTIVAL

THANK YOU TO OUR 2019 SPONSORS

SAVE THE DATE  
06.27.20

The Eyde Company,  
George F. Eyde Family  
Culvers of Okemos  
Horizon Bank  
Schupan Recycling  
Meijer  
The Harkness Law Firm PLLC  
Heat 'N Sweep  
Consumers Energy  
CBL Associates Management/Meridian Mall  
Douglas J  
Klug Law Firm  
Embassy Transportation LLC  
Delta Dental of Michigan

Fahey, Schultz, Burzych, Rhodes, PLC  
KEBS, Inc.  
Independent Bank  
Graff Chevrolet  
PMW-Professional Metal Works  
MSUFCU  
Russell Builders, Inc.  
Eastside Tax and Accounting  
Okemos Auto Collection  
Greg Darrow & Sons @Water Hauling  
Courtesy Ford  
Dean Transportation  
Vision Collision Center LLC  
Okemos Animal Hospital  
McKearney Asphalt

ISKCON  
HOMTV  
Granger Container  
Launch Trampoline Park  
Mosquito Squad  
Tom's Food Center  
Dominos of Okemos  
College Fields Golf Club  
Capital Area District Libraries



MERIDIAN.MI.US



# CHOOSE YOUR PRIME EVENTS



## Senior Tribute Luncheon

THE WILLOWS AT OKEMOS

In honor of our Meridian Township Seniors, the annual Senior Tribute Luncheon provides an opportunity for the community to recognize our seniors and their many contributions to the Township. This event is free to Meridian Township senior residents, age 55 and older. Contact Andrea Smiley at [smiley@meridian.mi.us](mailto:smiley@meridian.mi.us) or 517.853.4384 to reserve your seat. Space is limited.

TUESDAY  
SEPTEMBER 24  
1:30 PM - 3 PM



## Fall Regional Recycling Event

CHIPPEWA MIDDLE SCHOOL

Take part in the annual Fall Regional Recycling Event where you have the opportunity to properly recycle paint, metal, plastics, electronics, medicines and more. Proper disposal of these items protects the environment, reduces the amount of waste in landfills and reduces global warming. This event is open to residents and non-residents alike. Visit [meridian.mi.us/recycle](http://meridian.mi.us/recycle) for a detailed list of items you can recycle.

SATURDAY  
SEPTEMBER 28  
9 AM - 2 PM



## Blue and Grey Event

MERIDIAN HISTORICAL VILLAGE

11 AM COMPANY DRILL AND "COURT MARTIAL", 3 PM BATTLE REENACTMENT

Join the 2nd Annual Blue and Grey Event highlighting historical 19th century activities including a Civil War encampment, battle reenactment, live company drill and court martial with 7th Michigan Volunteer Infantry, Co. B and 102nd Regiment U.S. Colored Troops. Visit the docents and tour the historic buildings. Admission is free.

SATURDAY  
OCTOBER 05  
11 AM - 4 PM



## Fire Prevention Open House

CENTRAL FIRE STATION

Find out what it is like to be a firefighter! Sit in a fire truck, spray the fire hose, learn about fire safety and more. See Jaws of Life extrication demonstrations, EMS simulations and smoke detector and evacuation exercises in the smoke trailer. Families will enjoy treats, prizes and tour the Central Fire Station.

SATURDAY  
OCTOBER 12  
10 AM - 1 PM



## Halloween Adventures

2 DAYS OF FUN

HARRIS NATURE CENTER, POLICE DEPARTMENT, MERIDIAN HISTORICAL VILLAGE AND MERIDIAN FARMERS' MARKET

Find out more about this boo-tastic Adventure on Page 7.

SATURDAY 19 &  
OCTOBER 26  
TIMES VARY



## Christmas in the Village

MERIDIAN HISTORICAL VILLAGE

Join Santa and Friends for an old-fashioned Christmas! Volunteers in period dress share their Christmas traditions from days past. Carolers can be heard as you tour the historical buildings decorated for the holidays. Have your picture taken with Santa, enjoy delicious cookies, cider and hot chocolate. The Okemos Community Church Choir will provide a performance in the Village Chapel. Join the annual tree lighting ceremony at 4:00 pm. Admission is free.

SATURDAY  
DECEMBER 08  
2 PM - 4 PM

# PRIME FUN FOR THE FAMILY

TUESDAY 17 SEPT	<b>NEW VOLUNTEER TRAINING</b> MERIDIAN HISTORICAL VILLAGE 1 PM
SAURDAY 21 SEPT	<b>STEWARDSHIP MORNINGS</b> HARRIS NATURE CENTER 9 AM - 11 AM
SAURDAY 21 SEPT	<b>MERIDIAN HISTORICAL VILLAGE BUILDINGS OPEN</b> MERIDIAN HISTORICAL VILLAGE 10 AM - 2 PM
SAURDAY 21 SEPT	<b>TALES AROUND THE CAMPFIRE</b> HARRIS NATURE CENTER 7 PM - 8:30 PM
TUESDAY 24 SEPT	<b>SENIOR TRIBUTE LUNCHEON</b> THE WILLOWS AT OKEMOS 1:30 PM - 3 PM
THURSDAY 26 SEPT	<b>VIRTUAL 5K FUNDRAISER FINALE</b> NANCY MOORE PARK 6 PM - 8 PM
SAURDAY 28 SEPT	<b>FALL RECYCLING EVENT</b> CHIPPEWA MIDDLE SCHOOL 9 AM - 2 PM
SAURDAY 28 SEPT	<b>MERIDIAN HISTORICAL VILLAGE BUILDINGS OPEN</b> MERIDIAN HISTORICAL VILLAGE 10 AM - 2 PM
SUNDAY 29 SEPT	<b>TAILS OF MICHIGAN WILDLIFE</b> HARRIS NATURE CENTER 2 PM - 3:30 PM
MONDAY 30 SEPT	<b>SENIOR TRIP: MOVIE AT STUDIO C!</b> STUDIO C! TBA
SAURDAY 05 OCT	<b>BLUE AND GREY EVENT</b> MERIDIAN HISTORICAL VILLAGE 11 AM - 4 PM
SAURDAY 05 OCT	<b>SOLAR HOME TOURS OPEN HOUSE</b> VARIOUS LOCATIONS ALL DAY
SAURDAY 05 OCT	<b>MERIDIAN HISTORICAL VILLAGE BUILDINGS OPEN</b> MERIDIAN HISTORICAL VILLAGE 10 AM - 2 PM
MONDAY 07 OCT	<b>SENIOR HOME SAFETY</b> MERIDIAN SENIOR CENTER 10 AM - 2 PM
TUESDAY 08 OCT	<b>SENIOR ONLINE SAFETY</b> MERIDIAN SENIOR CENTER 10 AM - 2 PM
FRIDAY 11 OCT	<b>HOWL AT THE MOON</b> HARRIS NATURE CENTER 7 PM - 8 PM
SAURDAY 12 OCT	<b>STEWARDSHIP MORNINGS</b> HARRIS NATURE CENTER 9 AM - 11 AM
SAURDAY 12 OCT	<b>FIRE PREVENTION OPEN HOUSE</b> CENTRAL FIRE STATION 10 AM - 1 PM
SAURDAY 12 OCT	<b>MERIDIAN HISTORICAL VILLAGE BUILDINGS OPEN</b> MERIDIAN HISTORICAL VILLAGE 10 AM - 2 PM
SUNDAY 13 OCT	<b>AUTUMN COLOR WALK</b> HARRIS NATURE CENTER 2 PM - 3 PM
WEDNESDAY 16 OCT	<b>MEDICARE OPEN ENROLLMENT</b> MERIDIAN SENIOR CENTER 11 AM - 1 PM

SAURDAY 19 OCT	<b>HALLOWEEN ADVENTURES</b> HARRIS NATURE CENTER 10 AM - 5 PM
SAURDAY 19 OCT	<b>MERIDIAN HISTORICAL VILLAGE BUILDINGS OPEN</b> MERIDIAN HISTORICAL VILLAGE 10 AM - 2 PM
TUESDAY 22 OCT	<b>SENIOR TRIP: COUNTRY MILL ORCHARD</b> CHARLOTTE MI 12:15 PM
SAURDAY 26 OCT	<b>HALLOWEEN ADVENTURES</b> POLICE DEPARTMENT 10 AM - 1 PM FARMERS' MARKET 8 AM - 2 PM MERIDIAN HISTORICAL VILLAGE 10 AM - 2 PM
SAURDAY 26 OCT	<b>MERIDIAN HISTORICAL VILLAGE BUILDINGS OPEN</b> MERIDIAN HISTORICAL VILLAGE 10 AM - 2 PM
TUESDAY 22 OCT	<b>SENIOR HALLOWEEN MASQUERADE LUNCHEON</b> MERIDIAN SENIOR CENTER 12 PM
SAURDAY 02 NOV	<b>NIGHTTIME SCAVENGER HUNT</b> HARRIS NATURE CENTER 7 PM - 8:30 PM
WEDNESDAY 06 NOV	<b>SENIOR THANKSGIVING SCAVENGER HUNT</b> MERIDIAN SENIOR CENTER REGISTER BETWEEN OCTOBER 28 - NOVEMBER 1
FRIDAY 08 NOV	<b>VETERANS' APPRECIATION PANCAKE BREAKFAST</b> MERIDIAN SENIOR CENTER 8:30 AM
FRIDAY 08 NOV	<b>HOWL AT THE MOON</b> HARRIS NATURE CENTER 7 PM - 8 PM
TUESDAY 19 NOV	<b>IDENTITY THEFT</b> MERIDIAN SENIOR CENTER 10 AM - 11 AM
FRIDAY 22 NOV	<b>SENIOR TRIP: CORNWELL'S TURKEYVILLE</b> LEAVING FROM MERIDIAN SENIOR CENTER 12:15 PM
MONDAY 25 NOV	<b>SENIOR THANKSGIVING LUNCHEON</b> MERIDIAN SENIOR CENTER 12 PM
WEDNESDAY 27 NOV	<b>PRE-THANKSGIVING FARMERS' MARKET</b> CENTRAL PARK PAVILION 8 AM - 2 PM
SUNDAY 08 DEC	<b>CHRISTMAS IN THE VILLAGE</b> MERIDIAN HISTORICAL VILLAGE 2 PM - 4 PM
FRIDAY 13 DEC	<b>SENIOR HOT COCOA BUFFET</b> MERIDIAN SENIOR CENTER 3 PM
FRIDAY 13 DEC	<b>HOWL AT THE MOON</b> HARRIS NATURE CENTER 7 PM - 8 PM
MONDAY 16 DEC	<b>SENIOR WINTER HOLIDAYS DINNER</b> MERIDIAN SENIOR CENTER 5:30 PM
WEDNESDAY 15 JAN	<b>SENIOR TRIP: MI HISTORICAL MUSEUM</b> LEAVING FROM MERIDIAN SENIOR CENTER TBA
FRIDAY 31 JAN	<b>SENIOR TITANIC PARTY</b> MERIDIAN SENIOR CENTER 1 PM

Sign up for eNotify to receive event information at [meridian.mi.us/enotify](http://meridian.mi.us/enotify)



# HALLOWEEN ADVENTURES

SATURDAY  
OCTOBER 19

10 AM - 5 PM \$8/CHILD

HARRIS NATURE CENTER



If you like spooky fun or just plain fun, you'll have a blast at the HNC Halloween Adventures. Children will squeal with delight as they enter the Halloween Fun House, a Halloween thrill without blood or gore.

Inside the nature building there will be crafts, pumpkin decorating and treats.

Outside, find a large games area, follow the path through the Friendly Forest playing games along the way, meet a very large spider, bumblebee and opossum, enjoy a hayride through the autumn woods, select your pumpkin from the pumpkin patch, roast marshmallows over a campfire and capture memories at various themed photo booths!

## POLICE DEPARTMENT

PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING  
10 AM - 1 PM

Tour the Public Safety Building, visit with McGruff the Crime Dog, sit in a patrol car, register for prizes and gobble up Halloween treats. Cider and donuts will be available to all visitors.

SATURDAY  
OCTOBER 26  
FREE EVENTS



## MERIDIAN FARMERS' MARKET

CENTRAL PARK PAVILION  
8 AM - 2 PM

The Market will be offering many wonderful and delicious goodies for your trick or treaters, no matter the age, especially for those last minute pumpkin purchases.



## HALLOWEEN IN THE VILLAGE

MERIDIAN HISTORICAL VILLAGE  
10 AM - 2 PM

The Historical Village buildings will be open for walk through tours (donations appreciated). Stop by the buildings for little goodies for your gobblers.



# HARRIS NATURE CENTER

3998 Van Atta, Okemos, MI 48864  
 517.349.3866  
 facebook.com/harrisnaturecenter



## PRESCHOOL SCIENCE EXPLORATION

AGES: 4 AND 5 YEAR OLDS  
 THURSDAYS 1 - 2 PM  
 OCTOBER 3 ANIMALS IN AUTUMN  
 PRICE: \$3/CHILD/CLASS

Curious preschool children explore nature through hands-on science activities and discovery walks with a naturalist guide.

## HOWL AT THE MOON

FRIDAY EVENINGS  
 OCTOBER 11 7 PM  
 NOVEMBER 8 7 PM  
 DECEMBER 13 7 PM  
 JANUARY 10 2020 7 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.



## MUSIC IN NATURE

### THANK YOU

For attending the Music in Nature Concert Series and making it a success.

Look for more concert dates in 2020.

SPONSORED BY THE HARRIS NATURE CENTER FOUNDATION

## CHIPMUNK STORY TIME

THURSDAYS 10 - 11 AM  
 SEPTEMBER 19 POSSUM'S HARVEST MOON  
 OCTOBER 17 FALL IS NOT EASY  
 JANUARY 16 2020 POUT POUT FISH  
 PRICE: \$3/CHILD/SESSION

Story time comes alive as children interact with puppets Chicory Chipmunk and his animal friends. Stories are followed by a craft, games or a walk. Open to preschool and elementary aged children.

## HNC STEWARDSHIP MORNINGS

SATURDAYS 9 - 11 AM  
 SEPTEMBER 21  
 OCTOBER 12  
 PRICE: FREE

Every day is Earth Day at the Harris Nature Center! We need your help to keep our park and trails healthy and safe by removing invasive plants, maintaining habitat areas, identifying/repairing troubled trail areas and gardening around the building. You can volunteer just one morning or become a regular steward by participating every month. Please contact us at HNC. Your help is NEEDED!

## HARVEST MOON: TALES AROUND THE CAMPFIRE

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 21 7 PM  
 PRICE: \$3/PERSON OR \$7/FAMILY

The harvest moon is low in the sky and appears huge. The extra light it gives off is used to allow farmers the ability to stay in their fields harvesting crops well into the night. What a great time to enjoy a campfire, roast marshmallows and hear stories from the Lansing Storytellers before taking a short walk through the evening woods with a naturalist.

For Information & To Sign Up  
**NOW** [bit.ly/mtpronline](http://bit.ly/mtpronline)



Contact the Harris Nature Center with questions

## NATURE TOTS

AGES: 4 YEARS AND UNDER  
 MONDAYS SEPTEMBER 23 - NOVEMBER 11  
 9 - 10 AM  
 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM  
 PRICE: \$50/8-WEEK SESSION

Children 4 and under (accompanied by a parent or other adult) can toddle into their first nature experiences. Each week is themed and includes circle time, a nature walk, hands-on activities and a craft facilitated by a naturalist.

## FAMILY SPECIAL: TAILS OF MICHIGAN WILDLIFE

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 29 2 PM  
 PRICE: \$3/PERSON OR \$7/FAMILY

What do woodpeckers and opossums have in common? Tails that help them stay on a tree. Tails can balance, propel, swat and so much more. Families will have fun learning about animals and their special tails through hands-on nature activities.

## AUTUMN COLOR WALK

SUNDAY OCTOBER 13 2 PM  
 PRICE: \$3/PERSON OR \$7/FAMILY

Leaves of red and gold decorate the trees, flowers have gone to seed and animals prepare for winter. Autumn is a wonderful time for a guided discovery walk with a naturalist!

## HALLOWEEN ADVENTURES

SATURDAY OCTOBER 19 10 AM - 5 PM  
 PRICE: \$8/CHILD

See page 7 for details.

## NIGHTTIME SCAVENGER HUNT

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 2 7 PM  
 PRICE: \$3/PERSON OR \$7/FAMILY

Try a new twist on geo-caching. Embark on a treasure hunt using a flashlight while you follow reflective tacks on the trees. Find the hidden cache in the woods and receive a prize. Please register ahead and bring a flashlight.

# Harris Nature Center Coordinator Celebrates Retirement

After 25 years of service, Meridian Township says goodbye to Senior Park Naturalist and Harris Nature Center Coordinator Kit Rich. Kit started working part-time with the Township in 1993. She worked closely with the Meridian Township Park Commission to build Harris Nature Center programs and the Harris Nature Center building. On June 8, 1996, the Township broke ground for the renovations to convert a 65-year-old house into a nature center building. On July 22, 1997, the building officially opened and began offering environmental

activities and outdoor recreation opportunities to the public. Kit was the very first Coordinator of the Center and was there the day it opened its doors to the public. She worked tirelessly to make the Harris Nature Center and its program offerings a big reason why Meridian Township is A Prime Community. Kit celebrated her retirement on August 23, 2019. We want to thank her for playing a key role in creating such a beautiful place for the community to enjoy nature and wish her well in the next chapter of her life.



## Help Support the HNC Animal Ambassadors

The Harris Nature Center is home to 20 animals of various species, including birds, turtles, amphibians and a snake. These animals are permanently injured or unable to return to the wild for another reason and have become Animal Ambassadors, helping staff to teach about nature.

You can support these animals and the education that they provide through a symbolic adoption program. The funds raised provide for the proper nutrition, housing and care of the animals. Each adoption is for one year and you will receive: an adoption certificate, color photo of the adopted animal, biography of the adopted animal and recognition on the "Frame of Fame" located in the nature building.

### ADOPTION FEES

RED-TAILED HAWK	\$150
EASTERN SCREECH OWL	\$125
AMERICAN CROW	\$125
WOOD TURTLE	\$100
EASTERN MILK SNAKE	\$75
EASTERN BOX TURTLE	\$50
AQUATIC TURTLE	\$50

Contact the Harris Nature Center at 517.349.3866 to arrange an adoption.

## MEET ONYX THE CROW

Onyx is an American Crow and the newest live animal resident at the Harris Nature Center.

He was found on the ground as a young bird, not yet able to fly. Crows are remarkably smart birds that learn very quickly by observing their surroundings. So his curiosity caused him to interact with his rescuers and he quickly became reliant on humans to provide all his needs. Because of this reliance, he cannot be released back into the wild.

Now he is an ANIMAL AMBASSADOR, helping Harris Nature Center staff to teach the public about birds, ecosystems and human-wildlife encounters.





# YOUTH SPORTS

📍 2100 Gaylord C Smith Ct, Haslett, MI 48840  
 ☎ 517.853.4600  
 📘 facebook.com/MeridianTwpParksRec

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](http://bit.ly/mtpronline) for more information and to sign up.

## HASLETT K - 6TH GRADE BOYS AND GIRLS BASKETBALL

**KINDERGARTEN AND 1ST GRADE**  
 JANUARY 11 - FEBRUARY 8  
 REGISTRATION DEADLINE: DECEMBER 6  
 PRICE: \$55 / PLAYER (\$75 AFTER 12/6)

The Kindergarten and 1st Grade programs are taught by Mike Devlin, Meridian Township Parks & Recreation Specialist, with parent participation. It includes five (5) 1 - hour sessions Saturday mornings starting January 11.

**2ND AND 3RD GRADE**  
 JANUARY 6 - MARCH 14  
 REGISTRATION DEADLINE: DECEMBER 6  
 PRICE: \$55 / PLAYER (\$75 AFTER 12/6)

The 2nd and 3rd grade programs combine weekly practice starting the week of January 6. There are seven (7) games on Saturday mornings beginning January 18. No games on February 15.

**4TH - 6TH GRADE**  
 DECEMBER 2 - MARCH 7  
 REGISTRATION DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 1  
 PRICE: \$65 / PLAYER (\$85 AFTER 11/1)

4th - 6th Grade Basketball Leagues are operated in partnership with the Okemos and East Lansing Recreation Leagues. Practices begin the week of December 2 with games beginning on January 13.

## OKEMOS AND HASLETT 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: FEB 21  
 PRICE: \$130 (\$150 AFTER 2/21)

**U14 BASEBALL 14 OR UNDER**  
 APRIL 6 - JULY 10  
 REGISTRATION DEADLINE: FEB 21  
 PRICE: \$140 (\$160 AFTER 2/21)

**HASLETT T-BALL LEAGUE KINDERGARTEN**  
 MAY 18 - JUNE 1  
 REGISTRATION DEADLINE: APRIL 24  
 PRICE: \$40(\$60 AFTER 4/24)

## OKEMOS AND HASLETT SOFTBALL

**1ST & 2ND GRADE**  
 MAY 4 - JULY 6  
 REGISTRATION DEADLINE: MARCH 27  
 PRICE: \$60 (\$80 AFTER 3/27)

**U10 SOFTBALL 10 OR UNDER**  
 MAY 5 - JULY 10  
 REGISTRATION DEADLINE: MARCH 27  
 PRICE: \$70 (\$90 AFTER 3/27)

**U12 SOFTBALL, OKEMOS ONLY 12 OR UNDER**  
 APRIL 28 - MID JULY  
 REGISTRATION DEADLINE: APRIL 10  
 PRICE: \$130 (\$150 AFTER 4/10)

**U14 SOFTBALL, OKEMOS ONLY 14 OR UNDER**  
 APRIL 28 - MID JULY  
 REGISTRATION DEADLINE: APRIL 10  
 PRICE: \$140 (\$160 AFTER 4/10)

## Youth Scholarship Program

Meridian Township offers a Youth Scholarship Program. The purpose of the Youth Scholarship Program is to provide children who reside in Meridian Township, age 17 and younger, the opportunity to participate in recreation activities regardless of household financial conditions.

Please visit the Meridian Township website for details. This program is made possible through donations from local businesses, civic organizations and private donations. Donations to the Fund can be made by contacting the Parks and Recreation Office at 517.853.4600.

For Information & To Sign Up  
**NOW** [bit.ly/mtpronline](http://bit.ly/mtpronline)  
 Dates/Times subject to change.



# Meridian SENIOR Center

📍 4000 Okemos Road, Okemos, MI 48864  
 Senior Center entrance is located off of Kinawa Drive  
 ☎ 517.706.5045  
 📘 facebook.com/meridianseniorcenter

**Monday - Friday**  
**9 AM - 4:30 PM**

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](http://meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com)

## SENIOR TRIBUTE AT WILLOWS OF OKEMOS

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 1:30 PM**  
 Reserve your spot by contacting Andrea Smiley, [smiley@meridian.mi.us](mailto:smiley@meridian.mi.us) 517.853.4384

## TRIP: MOVIE AT STUDIO C!

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30**  
 Title and time announced by Thursday, September 19

## HOME SAFETY

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 7 10 AM**  
 Presented by: Sergent Ed Besonen

## ONLINE SAFETY

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8 10 AM**  
 Presented by: Michigan Attorney General Office  
 Hosted by: Phil Deschaine, Meridian Treasurer

## MEDICARE OPEN ENROLLMENT

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16 11 AM - 1 PM**

## TRIP: COUNTRY MILL ORCHARD IN CHARLOTTE

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22 12:15 PM**  
**PRICE: \$10 MEMBERS/\$15 NON MEMBERS**  
 Register by Monday, October 14

## HALLOWEEN MASQUERADE LUNCHEON

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31 12 PM**  
**PRICE: \$5 PER PERSON**  
 Register by Monday October 28.

## THANKSGIVING SCAVENGER HUNT

**NOVEMBER 6 - NOVEMBER 20**  
 Register to participate between October 28 and November 1

## VETERANS APPRECIATION PANCAKE BREAKFAST

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8 8:30 AM**  
**PRICE: FREE FOR VETERANS / \$3 NON VETERANS**  
 Sponsored by: The Willow of Okemos  
 Registration Required.

## IDENTITY THEFT

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19 10 AM**  
 Presented by: Chris Coady, Michigan Attorney General's office  
 Hosted by: Phil Deschaine, Meridian Township Treasurer

## TRIP: CORNWELL'S TURKEYVILLE "SANTA'S GOT A PINK SLIP"

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22**  
**PRICE: \$55 PER PERSON**  
 Registration Required. Deadline to register November 18.

## THANKSGIVING LUNCHEON

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25 12 PM**  
**PRICE: \$5 MEMBERS/\$8 NON-MEMBERS**  
 Sponsored by: Burcham Hills  
 Deadline to register November 18.

## HOT COCOA BUFFET

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13 3 PM**  
**PRICE: FREE**  
 Sponsored by: Brookdale Meridian  
 Trip is limited to 20. Register by Thursday, December 5

## WINTER HOLIDAY DINNER

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 16 5:30 PM**  
**PRICE: \$5 MEMBERS / \$8 NON-MEMBERS**  
 Register by Monday, December 9  
 Sponsor: Medilodge of Okemos  
 Location: Medilodge of Okemos 5211 Marsh Rd. Okemos, MI

## TRIP: MICHIGAN HISTORICAL MUSEUM

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15 TBA**  
 January 18th is National Michigan Day. What a great opportunity to take advantage of visiting the Michigan Historical Museum located right here in our hometown and learn more about our great State. Registration Required.

## TITANIC PARTY

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 31 1 PM - 4PM**  
**PRICE: \$5 MEMBERS / \$8 NON MEMBERS**  
 Register is Tuesday January 21

## 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!

**CALL 517.706.5045 TO REGISTER FOR CLASSES AND ACTIVITIES**



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.

## Tribute to Jane Rose

After seventeen years at the position of the Meridian Historic Village Executive Director, Jane Rose has decided to become Jane Rose, volunteer. Leaving the directorship will create a void in the Friends of Historic Meridian performing day to day operations that she has dubbed her "labor or love." The Meridian Historical Village has experienced growth in structures and events during her tenure.

Witnessing the growth of the village with corn crib, windmill, log cabin, chapel and interpretative signs, Rose enhanced the Village mission to display local history. Using artistic and creative energy, the brochures, curriculum guides, newsletters and even the walls add historic value to tours. Founding member of the Meridian Historical Village, Carlene Webster-Maier expressed her amazement in "the phenomenal growth in public attendance and school tours with unique activities, like doing laundry and making butter, that have made the village a wonderful learning opportunity".

Rose has cemented the bond between the Village and the Meridian Parks and Recreation Department, Township Maintenance, Communications Departments and HOMTV, as well as, local school districts. The Village has also networked with the award-winning Meridian Garden Club, Greater Lansing Convention and Visitors Bureau, Michigan Museum Association, Lansing Bridal Association and three reenactment groups during Rose's tenure. The Celebrate Meridian/Heritage Event, Saturday, June 29th, was the directing swan song for this accomplished leader.



The last seventeen years under her directorship has placed the Village on the map as a center of local history.

**The Meridian Historical Village is operated by the Friends of Historic Meridian, a 501c3 non-profit organization committed to creating and sustaining an active appreciation of local history.**

## New Volunteer Training TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 17 | 1 PM

**BARNES HOUSE INN AND TAVERN, MERIDIAN HISTORICAL VILLAGE**

The Friends of Historic Meridian invite you to join an enthusiastic group of volunteers who educate, engage and excite students visiting the Village. We hope you will consider joining our educators to make history come alive for students and community members. RSVP at 517.347.7300 or meridianhistoricalvillage@gmail.com.



## Small Dog Park is NOW OPEN!

To register, residents must visit the Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Department at the Meridian Service Center (2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett) during normal business hours, Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. Registration must be completed in-person to verify documents (dog license and proof of rabies vaccination) and to provide the registrant with the electronic key fob.

### ANNUAL FEES

MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP RESIDENT	NON-TOWNSHIP RESIDENT
DOG #1: \$20	DOG #1: \$35
DOG #2: \$15	DOG #2: \$20



## Large Dog Park

The large dog park (over 30 lbs.) will be open in early 2020. It will be located east of the pond at the Central Park South entrance off of Central Park Drive. This park will feature a 3+ acre area with trees, open space, and a natural pathway. The large dog park will be accessed via the future paved Central Park Regional Pathway, which will run from the Municipal Building to Central Park South.

Visit [meridianhistoricalvillage.org](http://meridianhistoricalvillage.org)



## Small Dog Park

The Small Dog Park is at Nancy Moore Park (1960 Gaylord C Smith Ct., Haslett, MI). This doggie playground will allow small dogs (30 lbs. and under) and their owners to enjoy time together in a one acre space that includes open areas, agility equipment, drinking fountain and dog wash station. The park is located just east of the parking lot and features a paved entrance for accessibility.



Detailed information, including dog park rules and FAQ's are available online:

[www.meridian.mi.us/dogparks](http://www.meridian.mi.us/dogparks)

# Business Revitalization

## PART 4: TAX INCREMENT FINANCING & BROWNFIELD REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY



Tax Increment Financing (TIF) is used to assist development projects. There are two such funding mechanisms expected to be used in the proposed Village of Okemos.

The Brownfield Redevelopment Financing Act 381 of 1996 states that brownfield funds can only be used for environmental contamination or work on blighted, functionally obsolete or historic properties. The Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Act 197 of 1975 defines how municipalities can write a tax increment financing project plan within a defined DDA district.

The Township created requirements for the types of development projects that would be eligible for funding, as well as what activities can be reimbursed.

This type of brownfield funding was created to encourage development in areas defined by the government. It is often profoundly cheaper to build in a greenfield, an area never developed before, whereas repurposing a parcel that had a prior use can be more complex and expensive. Meridian encourages infill development versus sprawl. When a property is developed, the value increases. The difference between the predevelopment tax value and the new construction value is the increment. The increment is reimbursed to the developer after they've spent money on eligible activities. No existing taxes are taken away from taxing jurisdictions and taxpayers throughout the Township will not have an increase to their taxes because of this development project.

### TIMELINE FOR THE DOWNTOWN OKEMOS REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT

#### 2017

**MAY** Township Board adopts the Mixed Use Planned Unit Development (MUPUD) ordinance revision for Downtown Okemos and Haslett allowing taller buildings and denser development to encourage projects. Township staff, developer, traffic consultants and Ingham County Road Department meets jointly to discuss the results of the study and begins discussion on an approved plan.

**NOVEMBER** Board adopted Master Plan defining mixed use request for the Okemos PICA (Potential Intensity Change Area) zones.

#### 2018

**JUNE** Township Board formally approves the Meridian Redevelopment Fund and the application and review process.

**OCTOBER** Meridian Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) sends confirmation email that Redevelopment Ready Communities certification approvals have been given.

**DECEMBER** Township Board adopts the 2018 Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Tax Increment Financing Plan (TIF) with the support of Ingham County, CATA, LCC and Capitol Regional Airport Authority which allows for 20-year funding to support infrastructure upgrades and environmental clean-up funding shortfalls. The Meridian Brownfield Redevelopment Authority passes a resolution to support a grant and loan request to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) for environmental clean up.

#### 2019

**JANUARY** Township Board passes a resolution in support of the grant & loan application with MDEQ for environmental clean up.

**FEBRUARY** Township staff meets with Consumers Energy Economic Development team to ask for assistance with the utilities project scope and costs. Developer and staff team-up to present concept plans to the Planning Commission, Township Board and select neighborhood associations.

**MARCH** Ingham County Road Department updates DDA Subcommittee on traffic plans throughout the development project.

**APRIL - JUNE** Official approval of project plans.

**JUNE - SEPTEMBER** Environmental clean up.

**FALL/WINTER** Parking decks and foundations begin.

**2020** Vertical construction.

**2021** Complete phase 1 construction and begin occupancy.





## Outdoor Eateries

Meridian Township has over 30 Restaurants that provide outdoor eating and dining options. With crisp weather and leaves changing color, the Fall Season is the perfect time to opt into sitting at an outdoor patio or rooftop bar.

Enjoy all that Meridian Township eateries have to offer in making Meridian Township A Prime Community by choosing an outdoor eatery, including Panera's new restaurant now located at 2080 W Grand River Ave, Okemos.

[www.meridian.mi.us/visitors/restaurants/outdoor-eateries](http://www.meridian.mi.us/visitors/restaurants/outdoor-eateries)

## New Restaurants

Check out the three new local restaurants that have opened their doors in 2019!

**High Caliber Karting and Entertainment Restaurant and Bar** at the Meridian Mall.

**Paradise Indian Restaurant** at the former McAllisters location at 4760 Marsh Rd.

**The Black Barn Company American Smokehouse** inside the Meridian Mall Food Court.

Additionally, Pizza Hut has returned and J-Dubb's has entered the Township at the former Subway location on Grand River Ave.

**J-Dubb's Signature Subs**  
2160 W. Grand River Ave.

**Pizza Hut**  
3320 E. Lake Lansing Rd.

Three MORE restaurants are under construction and expected to open their doors this year!

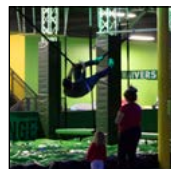
**102 Pho & Banh Mi Vietnamese Soup & Sandwiches** next to Biggby on Marsh at 4760 Marsh Rd.

**Bread Bites Mediterranean Cuisine & Bakery** where Tannin was formerly located at 5100 Marsh Rd., in Central Park Plaza.

**Swagath Express** food service located next to Swagath Market on 1731 W. Grand River at the former Farm Fresh Seafood Market.

## Experience Meridian

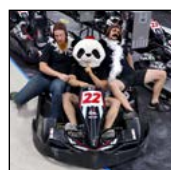
The staycation experience landscape in Meridian Township is changing dramatically. This year, three new indoor year-round destinations opened their doors, making Meridian an experience destination. Couple these NEW indoor adventures with what Meridian Township already has to offer via our miles of trails, numerous parks and one-of-a-kind gems like the Harris Nature Center and the Meridian Historical Village, and planning your staycation, nearcation, or micro adventure has more options available than ever before.



**LAUNCH TRAMPOLINE PARK** offers connected trampolines forming GIANT jumping surfaces! Great fun for the whole family! [launchtrampolinepark.com/lansing](http://launchtrampolinepark.com/lansing)



**X-GOLF** is the Lansing regions leading indoor golf & entertainment venue, with state of the art golf simulators designed for golfers at all stages! [www.xgolflansing.com](http://www.xgolflansing.com)



**HIGH CALIBER KARTING AND ENTERTAINMENT** punches boredom in the face with two indoor go-kart tracks, state-of-the-art racing simulators and axe throwing! [www.highcaliberkarting.com](http://www.highcaliberkarting.com)

# New Stadiums: Haslett and Okemos High Schools

It's no secret that Meridian Township is home to Prime Schools. In just the last two years, both Haslett and Okemos school districts have upgraded their facilities to better serve their students and the community. Some of those upgrades include athletic fields and complexes.

Phase one of the Haslett High School's Bond and Sinking Fund projects approved by Haslett voters in August 2018 included upgrades to Jamie Gent Stadium. The new multi-use turf playing surface, team rooms, concession building, remodeled press box, scoreboard, sound system and more was completed in August 2019. An Open House of the new turf field and complex took place on September 3, 2019.



In September 2018, the Okemos Athletic Department revealed a new synthetic turf field at Okemos High School thanks to a generous \$500,000 donation, the largest private donation in Okemos Athletics history.



## A Message from the Manager

**FRANK L. WALSH, TOWNSHIP MANAGER**

With the recent passage of our road bond, we must deliver on our promise of spending every penny of bond revenue on our roads. The bond will generate \$3,500,000 per year for the next 10 years. By December 1st of each year, you can expect to see a list of roads that will be resurfaced in the following year. The initial list will be available on December 1, 2019. The list will include actual costs for each road. We will detail exactly where the \$3,500,000 is going. There will not be one cent spent out of the bond on administrative oversight of the program. In fact, we have budgeted an additional \$422,000 to preserve our better roads from persistent deterioration. We must allocate the necessary resources to maintain our better roads separate from the bond proceeds.

Over the past five years, Meridian Township has resurfaced approximately three miles of roads per year. We expect to preserve and resurface 15 miles in 2020. We have to care for 147 miles of local roads. At a rate of 15 miles per year, we will invest in every local road over the next 10 years. Prior to the bond, it was every road over 49 years.

No shell games. Let's fix our roads.

Thank you for supporting our road bond. We will deliver.



## Lake Lansing Road to Saginaw Highway Project

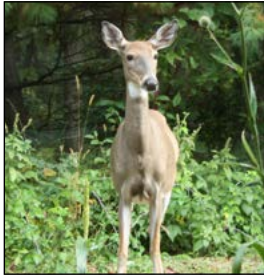
Changes may be coming to Lake Lansing Road between Hagadorn Road and Saginaw Highway. The Ingham County Road Department is looking to convert the current roadway into three lanes. Those three lanes will include one through lane in each direction, a center dual direction turn lane and motorized lanes 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. This project's completion date is extended into 2020 to avoid higher road construction bid prices. Some work may begin in 2019, but majority will take place in 2020 with the project being completed in early summer. Various scheduling factors and weather will play a large part in this project's timeline.



## Lake Lansing South Band Shell Sidewalk

Ingham County Park South's newest addition, the completed sidewalk project for the Lake Lansing Band Shell, was celebrated with a ribbon cutting event on August 30, 2019. The project was 100% funded by donations given by the Friends of Ingham County Parks and Meridian Township's 175th Anniversary Fun in the Sun Day Event held in 2017.

The new sidewalk extends from the corner of Lake Lansing and Marsh Roads to the Community Band Shell making it more accessible to all residents visiting the park.



## Deer Management

Meridian Township's ninth year of deer management will officially commence on October 1, 2019 and will run until January 1, 2020. This program places volunteer archery hunters on select Township and County owned properties to manage the deer population. Meridian Township has an over-population of deer that has resulted in an increase of damage to landscaping, reports of vehicle/deer accidents, concern for public health and a disruption to the ecological balance of our natural areas. In response, the Meridian Township Board directed staff to develop and implement a deer management plan that outlines measures for a highly managed program to harvest white-tailed deer in a number of selected Township owned properties.

- The program began in 2011.
- The harvest is held during the regular archery season, October 1st through January 1st
- The managed harvest is NOT open to the general public.
- All hunters must be approved by the Township and are tested for proficiency at the MSU Demmer Archery Center. Only approved, qualified, competent and experienced hunters will be considered to access Township property for the managed harvest.
- Neighboring property owners are notified each year. All parks and land preserves remain open to the public during archery season. The hunters have proven to be valuable partners and act as the eyes and ears on Township owned properties.

### 2018 STATS

74 TOTAL HUNTERS  
 38 PROPERTIES HUNTED  
 57 DEER HARVESTED  
 129 REPORTED DEER/  
 CAR COLLISIONS

**Meridian Township's Deer Management Website Page:**

**[www.meridian.mi.us/residents/living-with-wildlife/deer-management-program](http://www.meridian.mi.us/residents/living-with-wildlife/deer-management-program)**

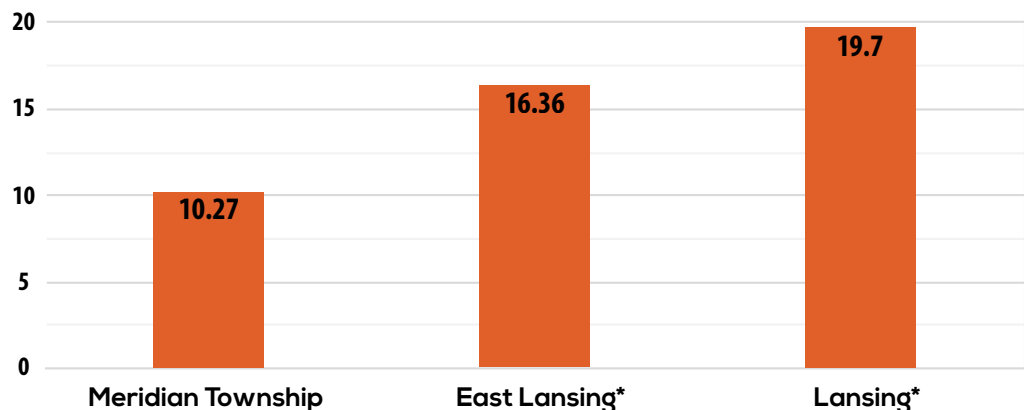
**To sign up to participate in the program please email Jane Greenway at [greenway@meridian.mi.us](mailto:greenway@meridian.mi.us) or Kelsey Dillon at [dillon@meridian.mi.us](mailto:dillon@meridian.mi.us).**

Meridian rates include the 1.94 Road Improvement Millage approved by residents in August 2019.

\*East Lansing and Lansing Both have 1% income tax on all residents. Meridian Township has no income tax.

## 2019 Winter Tax Rate Comparison

MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP, EAST LANSING AND LANSING

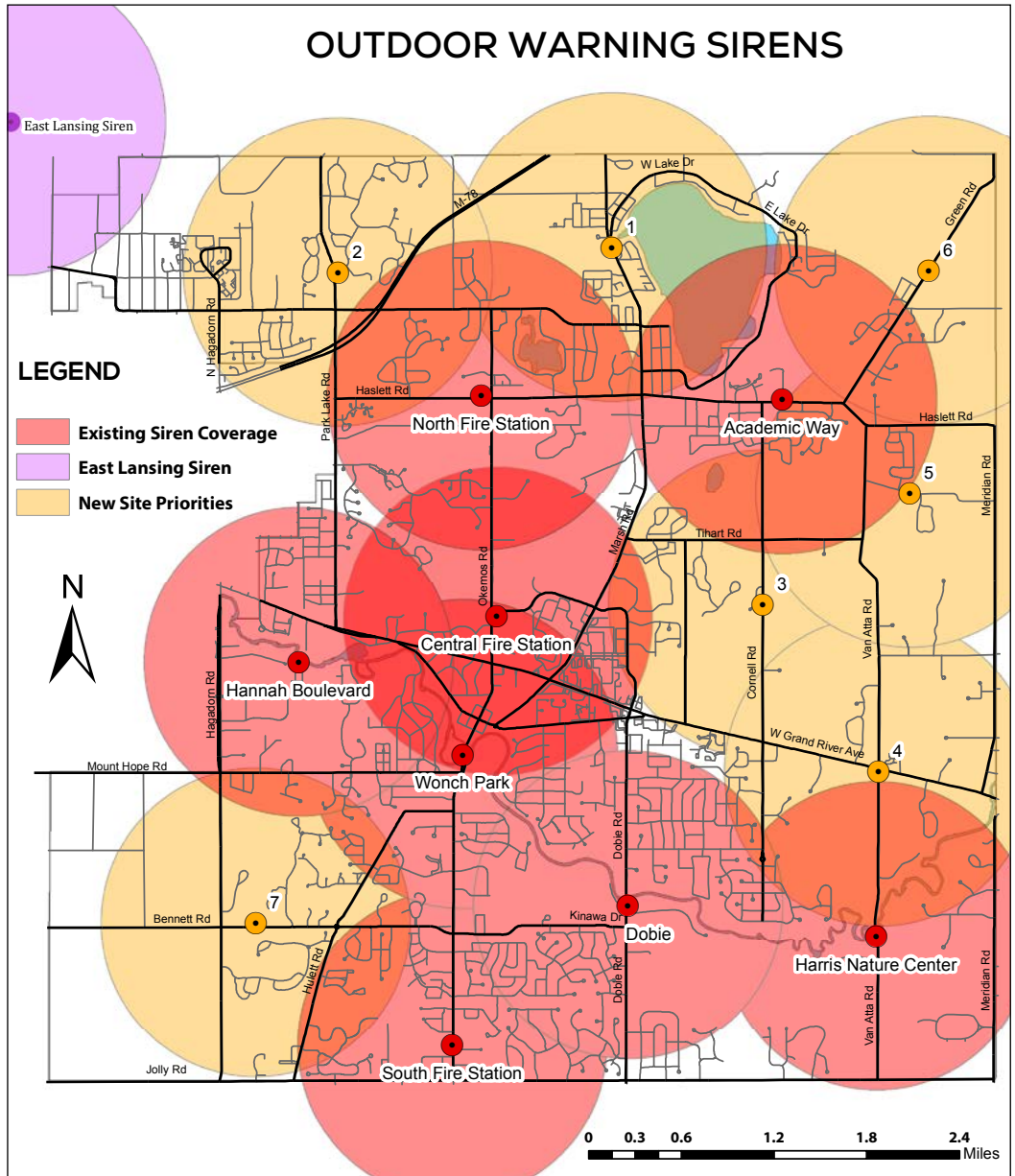




Outdoor warning sirens are used in emergency situations and can be found throughout the Township. Each warning siren currently covers a 5,000 ft. radius. The Fire Department will continue to expand the number of sirens in the Township. Our goal is to have every area in Meridian within hearing range of a warning siren.

For more information contact the Meridian Township Fire Department at 517.853.4700.

[www.facebook.com/MeridianTwpFD](http://www.facebook.com/MeridianTwpFD)



[www.facebook.com/MeridianTwpPD](http://www.facebook.com/MeridianTwpPD)

## Fingerprint Scanner

The Meridian Township Police Department is implementing the use of a Mobile Fingerprint Scanner, which allows Police to effectively and accurately identify someone in the field or at the station. This equipment is important to verify someone's identity in a situation where a person of interest may be dishonest about who they really are and to help identify a Vulnerable or Impaired Person (VIP) who may be lost or find themselves in a situation, which they cannot identify themselves, and help them get back to their loved ones.

The Mobile Fingerprint Scanner only reads someone's fingerprint in the State of Michigan database repository. It does not capture fingerprints. To capture fingerprints electronically, Police use a non-mobile system called Live Scan where the fingerprints are captured on a lighted glass screen.

In Michigan, the Child Identification and Protection Act and Fingerprinting Residents of State Act allows a parent/legal guardian/power of attorney of an individual with special needs to voluntarily provide the VIP's fingerprints and photograph for inclusion in a State of Michigan database repository, which can be used to assist in identifying the VIP.

# NEW BILLING SYSTEM

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE CHANGED TO NOVEMBER 1ST TO PAY UTILITY BILLS ON MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP'S NEW BILLING SYSTEM WEBSITE**

For residents who were signed up for automatic utility bill payments from the old billing system, automatic payments on that system will no longer occur after November 1st, 2019. In order for automatic utility payments to continue without missing a payment, residents signed up on the old system will need to register on the new system by November 1st, 2019.

**Information from the old system will not carryover to the new system. To register, go to [meridian.mi.us/billpayment](http://meridian.mi.us/billpayment)**



## Summer Taxes Due September 16th

Summer taxes were mailed on July 1st and were due by 5:00 pm on Monday, September 16th, 2019.

Payments are accepted in person at the Treasurer's office during business hours between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm Monday - Friday or via 24-hour drop box located outside the Municipal Building at 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos.

See bill payment options below.

### BILL PAYMENT OPTIONS



#### PAY ONLINE

- \$5 Quarterly Billing Fee
- Pay with electronic check or credit/debit card
- \$3.75 convenience fee for credit/debit cards
- NO FEE for checking accounts
- Access your account information 24/7
- Go Paperless
- View/receive your bills online
- View your previous online payments
- Schedule your payments online
- Confirm that your payment was received
- Receive eNotifications, reminders and receipts via email and text



#### MAIL-IN

- \$5 Quarterly Billing Fee
- Check or money order no cash
- Envelope Cost
- Stamp Cost
- Gas Cost
- Mail to: Meridian Township 5151 Marsh Road Okemos, MI
- Include payment stub
- Be mindful of postal delivery schedule to avoid late payments



#### DROP-OFF

- \$5 Quarterly Billing Fee
- Check or money order no cash
- Envelope Cost
- Gas Cost
- Drop Box Location 5151 Marsh Road Okemos, MI
- Include payment stub
- Available 24/7



#### PAY IN PERSON

- \$5 Quarterly Billing Fee
- Cash, check, money order
- Treasurer's Office 5151 Marsh Road Okemos, MI
- Open Monday - Friday 8 am - 5 pm
- Gas Cost
- OR pay at secured terminal in the Municipal Building using new online system
- Pay with electronic check or credit/debit card
- \$3.75 convenience fee for credit/debit cards
- NO FEE for checking accounts



# Water & Sewer Rates Comparison Chart

Meridian Township has excellent water as reported in the Water Quality report on page 21. While the 2020 Budget presented to the Township Board on September 2, 2019 includes an increase in water and sewer rates, this increase is still lower than all other neighboring communities.

## Rate Comparison Water & Sewer Based on a 12,500 gallons per quarter

23

Municipality	Quarterly Bill
Williamston	\$294.90
East Lansing	\$269.67
Potterville	\$255.69
Delhi Township (BWL)	\$253.38
Lansing (BWL)	\$253.06
St. Johns	\$247.42
Grand Ledge	\$232.99
Charlotte	\$215.25
Bath Township (BWL)	\$214.31
Leslie	\$210.09
DeWitt Township (BWL)	\$200.39
Eaton Rapids	\$185.41
DeWitt (BWL)	\$174.11
Mason	\$163.48
<b>Meridian Township 2019</b>	<b>\$130.01</b>
<b>Meridian Township Proposed 2020</b>	<b>\$137.63</b>

## Draining Your Swimming Pool

As our swimming season comes to an end, there are several ways to ensure that draining a swimming pool does not harm the environment.

Follow These  
3 Easy Steps  
to Drain Your  
Chlorinated Pool

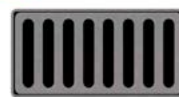
### STEP 1: DECHLORINATE

Stop adding chlorine and expose the pool to sunlight for at least 2 weeks. Run the pump.



### STEP 3: STORM GRATE

If you don't have a natural area available, you can slowly pump dechlorinated pool water into a storm drain.



### STEP 2: INFILTRATE

Slowly pump pool water into a grass, garden or natural area in stages and allow it to soak into the ground.

Please visit [meridian.mi.us/residents/social-campaigns](http://meridian.mi.us/residents/social-campaigns) for more information.

You can also discover additional tips for homeowners and business at [www.mywatersheds.org](http://www.mywatersheds.org).

## SPRING RECYCLING 2019 STATS



OVER 750 VEHICLES  
RECYCLED:



METAL  
11 TONS



ELECTRONICS  
16.5 TONS



HOUSEHOLD ITEMS  
40' TRAILER & 30' TRUCK ALMOST FULL



PAINT  
2493 CONTAINERS



PACKING PEANUTS  
3/4 OF VAN



EGG CARTONS  
SEVERAL HUNDRED



BICYCLES  
~85

DON'T PUT A STRAIN ON YOUR DRAIN

# NO Fats Oils Grease

FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO

[www.meridian.mi.us/residents/  
social-campaigns](http://www.meridian.mi.us/residents/social-campaigns)

Pouring fats, oils and grease (FOG) down your drain can cause significant damage to the pipes in your home and the Township sanitary sewer system and cost you money!

These substances can build up in pipes, which can ruin plumbing and prevent wastewater from moving through sanitary sewer pipes to the treatment plant, resulting in overflowing manholes or basement backups.

## 2018 Water Quality Report

In June 2019, the 2018 Drinking Water Quality Report for the City of East Lansing and Meridian Township was released. The State and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) require water to be tested on a regular basis to ensure its safety. The Meridian Township-East Lansing Water Sewer Authority met all monitoring and reporting requirements for 2018. Through this testing, the water consistently meets state and federal drinking water standards. No contaminant concentration exceeds regulatory limits. **For the complete report go to [bit.ly/twpwaterquality](http://bit.ly/twpwaterquality)**



Year Round  
**Farmers'  
MARKET**

**SHOP ▲ PLAY ▲ EAT**

**SATURDAYS**  
MAY - OCTOBER

**8AM  
TO 2PM**

**WEDNESDAYS**  
JULY - OCTOBER

**3PM  
TO 7PM**

**PRE-THANKSGIVING  
MARKET**  
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27

**8AM  
TO 2PM**

**WINTER MARKET 10AM  
EVERY OTHER SATURDAY TO 2PM**

MERIDIAN MALL  
JC PENNEY CORRIDOR  
1982 W. GRAND RIVER, OKEMOS, MI

DECEMBER  
7 & 21

JANUARY  
4 & 18

FEBRUARY  
1 & 15

MARCH  
7 & 21

APRIL  
2 & 16

CENTRAL PARK PAVILION 5151 MARSH ROAD

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



5151 Marsh Road  
Okemos, MI 48864



## ECRWSS CAR-SORT POSTAL CUSTOMER

### MERIDIAN Cares Needs Your Help!

The holidays are a great time to give back to the community, and Meridian Cares has several opportunities to share your holiday spirit. We will host our Be a Santa to a Senior Program, provide holiday food baskets and collect coats for the St. Luke Coat Bank.

#### WINTER COAT COLLECTION

The Meridian Cares Team is collecting winter coats to keep our residents warm during the most frigid time of year. Coat donations can be dropped off in the lobby of the Township Municipal Building or bring them to the Fall Recycling Event on September 28th.

#### BE A SANTA TO A SENIOR

Adopt a senior this year and celebrate the spirit of giving. Our Be a Santa to a Senior Tree will be located in the lobby of the Municipal building beginning November 1st. Purchase an item on the Santa card and return your item with card by December 2nd to the Meridian Township Municipal Building.

#### SPONSOR A HOLIDAY FOOD BASKET

\$50 in groceries goes a long way to sponsor a family this holiday season. We will distribute food baskets to low-income Meridian Township households, mainly to families, seniors and individuals with disabilities. Donations should be submitted by November 1st to the Meridian Township Municipal Building.

We thank you for being part of the Meridian Cares spirit and community bond. If you have any questions about sponsoring a holiday basket, sponsoring a senior, volunteering and/or making a financial donation, please contact our Human Services Specialist.

#### WHAT IS THIS ENVELOPE IN MY UTILITY BILL?

Through the Meridian Cares needs fund, we are able to help seniors, families and children with emergency needs in Meridian Township. Your donation helps families stay warm in the winter when facing a shut-off notice, keeps their homes when served an eviction notice, and provides funds necessary for emergency transportation services if needed. Payments can be returned with your utility bill or at the Township offices.

#### THIS FALL, MERIDIAN CARES HAS A GOAL TO RAISE \$15,000 TO HELP HOUSEHOLDS IN NEED IN THE TOWNSHIP.

We have the following events planned, and you can be part of the effort to help your neighbors. The need this year is greater than ever, and every donation helps.

#### NIGHT OUT AT OLD CHICAGO

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18

4 PM - 9 PM

OLD CHICAGO PIZZA AND TAPROOM

1938 GRAND RIVER AVE., OKEMOS

Purchase a wristband for \$5 and enjoy an evening of karaoke, great food, drink specials, giveaways and more!

#### BENEFIT NIGHT AT HENRY'S PLACE

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15

4 PM - 8 PM

HENRY'S PLACE

4926 MARSH RD., OKEMOS

Come support Meridian Cares and your favorite team the night before the big Michigan-Michigan State game! \$5 wristband sales and drink specials.