

# CELEBRATE MERIDIAN

Meridian Monitor 175th Special Edition Winter 2017



## Special Events Guide

Come Celebrate With Us

EVENT DETAILS: [www.meridiancelebrates175.com](http://www.meridiancelebrates175.com)  
[facebook.com/meridiancelebrates175](https://facebook.com/meridiancelebrates175)



# CONGRATULATIONS MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP

LOOKING FORWARD TO  
CELEBRATING WITH YOU ON  
NEW YEAR'S EVE



Meridian Mall | 1999 Central Park Drive | Okemos, MI 48864  
[celebrationcinema.com/studioc](http://celebrationcinema.com/studioc)  
 517.393.7469

## Family Friendly New Year's Eve Event



### 175th Anniversary Kick Off Celebration & Fireworks

Saturday, December 31st | 4:00pm - 8:00pm  
 Studio C! | 1999 Central Park Drive, Okemos

FREE Event Admission for Documentary: \*\$7.50 per person

Join us at Studio C! on Saturday, December 31st to kick off celebrating Meridian Township's 175th Anniversary. Enjoy a safe and family friendly New Year's Eve with fireworks and a good old-fashioned movie night. Movie goers and visitors to Studio C! will enjoy a kick off celebration filled with family friendly games and kids activities, special screening of "Meridian: The Lines That Define Us", fireworks and much more.

**On the Big Screen** "Meridian: The Lines That Define Us" 175 Years of Meridian History | Documentary Admission: \$7.50 | tickets available online and at the door) **2 Showings: 5:15 pm 7:30 pm**

\*100% of ticket sales from the event go to the Friends of Historic Meridian

**Traveling Pictorial Exhibit** Travel in time through 175 Years of Meridian History on display

**Oscar's Bistro Signature Cocktail** Kick off our 175th Anniversary with a Signature Cocktail "The Meridian Mule" for \$7.50 (Price includes a commemorative mug.)

**Free Giveaways** Free "Time Capsule" giveaways to the first 75 documentary goers at each screening and other giveaways during the event.

**Kids 'Mini Maker' Activity** organized and sponsored by tinkrLAB

**New Year's Eve Fireworks Display at 6:45 pm** Weather permitting

**Photo Booth** Make memories that last a lifetime! Go back in Meridian Township history and take an old school photo from the late 1800's and early 1900's commemorating New Year's Eve 2016. Photo Booth sponsored and organized by GREAT LAKES PHOTO BOOTH

**Book Signing** by Jane Rose, Executive Director of the Meridian Historical Village and the author of Meridian Township History, part of the "Images of America" series from Arcadia Publishing. Available for purchase online.



Main Event and Firework's Sponsors:



# Welcome to Meridian Township!

We have plenty of reasons why you'll want to plan your visits to Meridian Township during 2017. It's our 175th Anniversary and we are delighted to celebrate our 175th special events with you and your family. We kick off 2017 with Celebration Cinemas at Studio C! in Okemos on New Year's Eve with fireworks, family friendly kids activities, a vintage photo booth, special screening event and more.

The family fun and celebration does not end there! Using our *Meridian Monitor 175th Anniversary Special Events Guide*, you can plan your visits and explore the many opportunities to celebrate all year long. Meridian Township has been collaborating with nonprofits, organizations and businesses to celebrate and embrace the history and the people of Meridian Township.

Enacted in 1842 along the Red Cedar River as a trading point, Meridian Township lies along the eastern border of East Lansing and the campus of Michigan State University, within close proximity to the Michigan State Capitol.

A destination for raising families since before the turn of the century, Meridian Township offers an array of quiet neighborhoods and an abundance of natural beauty with four seasons of outdoor activities. Meridian Township is a great atmosphere for families, seniors and young professionals.

Meridian Township welcomes visitors from surrounding areas to its vibrant business districts, over 906 acres of parks and natural areas and to the largest lake within 25 miles of the State Capitol, Lake Lansing.

As you plan your visit, please take a moment to notice our sponsorship ads. Without their support, the 175th Anniversary Quartoseptcentennial events would not be possible.



*Deborah Guthrie*

Deborah Guthrie, CTA  
Communications Director  
175th Special Events Coordinator



*LuAnn Maisner*

LuAnn Maisner  
Parks & Recreation Director  
175th Special Events Coordinator



## Celebrate Enactment Day

Admission: FREE and Open to the Public

Thursday, February 16th | 1:30pm - 2:30pm  
Michigan State Capitol, 100 N Capitol Ave Room 402/403  
Lansing

Meridian Township was established by an act of the legislature on February 16, 1842. Delhi Township was also enacted on this day. We are the two townships in Ingham County enacted on this date and we invite you to join us at the Capitol for a proclamation and tribute flag ceremony.

Attendees will receive an enactment day tribute gift

Sponsor(s): Special thanks to Senator Curtis Hertel's Office, Meridian Garden Club, local Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts and HOMTV.



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All dates and times are subject to change

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#celebratemeridian



# 175 Years of Meridian

Follow the history of the Township and discover the growth and prosperity in the community.

**1836**

November 1, 1836 Obed Marshall and his brother bought **160 acres of land**, south of Lake Lansing, in Haslett for **\$318.08**. They were probably the first settlers in Meridian Township.



1832

**1842**

The Township of Meridian was organized by an **act of the Legislature** approved on February 16, 1842.



1840

**1839**

In December, 1839, J.H. Kilbourne built the **first house** in Meridian Township in Okemos.



**1842**

The **first township meeting** was held at the home of George Matthews. The **first sawmill** was built by Freeman Bray after he laid out the village of Okemos in 1841.

**1857**

The name of the post office was changed to **Okemos** after the desires of the people.



1860

**1870 - 1874**

One of the finest pleasure resorts in this portion of Michigan is located at the northern extremity of **Pine Lake**. It becomes a favorite resort for pleasure-seekers for many years.



**1859**

In 1859 the state legislature renamed Hamilton Village to Okemos Village in honor of **Chief Okemos**. Born around 1775, Chief Okemos lived until 1858. Native Americans led by



Chief Okemos lived in this vicinity trading with white settlers in the area, including Freeman Bray, who founded the village of Hamilton in 1840. Chief Okemos was buried near Portland Michigan on Sacred Indian Lands.

1870

1880

**1890's**

A group of Lansing businessmen built a social club in the middle of Pine Lake, called the **Izzer Club**. (It is rumored that during prohibition, the trap door was used to hide liquor from the feds).

1890

1900



1910

**1888**

An auditorium was dedicated at **Haslett Park** that could seat 2000. There was a dormitory/hotel, dining hall, Séance Hall, barn for horses, and boating facilities.



1920

**1923**

In 1923 **Grand River Road** became a state trunk line and was rerouted north of its original location, which was Hamilton Road. Hamilton was a plank road at this time. Some of these planks are on display at the Meridian Historical Village.

**1934**

The **Mayfair Bar** was established in 1934 and is known to be the oldest neighborhood bar with the longest running continuous liquor license in Ingham County. The present building was constructed in 1928. Bret Story obtained the bar in 1996 and is still the current owner.



1930

1940

1950

1960

1970

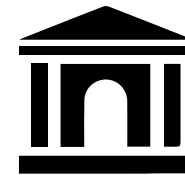
1980

1990

2000

2010

2020



**1971**

On September 14, 1971 a **Charter of the City of Meridian Park** was published. Becoming Meridian Hills city failed at the polls. The Mayor and the city councilmen who were elected but didn't have a city to run were puzzled.

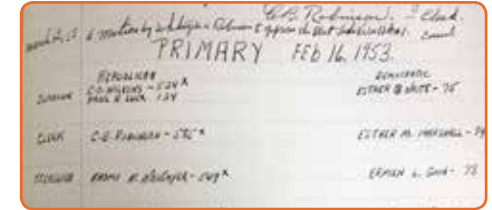
**1974**

**The Friends of Historic Meridian (FHM)**, a nonprofit organization formed in 1974 to create and sustain an active appreciation of local history.



**1987 - 1997**

In 1987 Paul and Vi Allen sold their house to Meridian Township. The house was renovated into the nature center in 1996 and opened its doors to the public on July 22, 1997. The **Harris Nature Center** was named after Joseph Harris, who was the Director of Development Control in Meridian Township for 12 years.



**1957**

According to the Township records, Naomi Whitmyer becomes the **first female elected** to serve on the Meridian Township Board on February 16, 1953. She served as Treasurer until April 2, 1957 when she did not run for re-election again.



**1969**

LSJ reported, **Meridian Mall** opened on November 6, 1969. The cost to build the mall was \$18 million with more than 50 stores employing around 1,500 people. J.W. Knapp and Woolco anchored the mall when it opened.



**1974 - 1986**

The South Park was bought in 1974 by Ingham County after the amusement park shut down. Fire had gutted the "Casino" pavilion, which had initially been built by the trolley company during Spiritualist camp days. A historic Denzel carousel in the amusement park was sold to Cedar Point. In 1986, **Lake Lansing Park North** was completed.

**2042 Bicentennial**  
Meridian Township celebrates 200 years ...



# History of Meridian Traveling Pictorial Exhibit

As part of Meridian Township's 175th Anniversary celebration, we are celebrating the History of Meridian through pictures with a traveling pictorial exhibit. Each month throughout 2017, various locations are hosting The History of Meridian Pictorial. This educational glimpse at Meridian Township's history will be engaging and a treasure for all to see. As participants walk through the traveling pictorial, they will have an opportunity to share stories or leave comments of their own. The Traveling Pictorial begins its travels at Studio C! in Okemos for the New Year's Eve kick off celebration on December 31, 2016. Its final destination will be at the Meridian Township Municipal Center at the end of the year with many sites to choose from in between.

To request a private showing, contact the Communications Department at 517.853.4370



## Exhibit Locations

### December 31, 2016 - January 26, 2017

Studio C Oscar's Bistro | 175th Anniversary Kick Off  
1999 Central Park Dr, Okemos

### January 28 - February 16

Meridian Mall  
1982 West Grand River Avenue, Okemos

### February 18 - March 2

CADL Okemos Library  
4321 Okemos Rd, Okemos

### March 4 - March 30

Library of Michigan | National Reading Month  
702 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing

### April 1 - April 27

CADL Haslett Library | National Library Week 9th - 15th  
1590 Franklin St., Haslett

### May

Looking for host site

### June 1 - June 29

Meridian Township Municipal Building  
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos

### June 16 ONLY | Lake Lansing Park South

1621 Pike St, Haslett

### July 1 - July 29 | Saturdays

Celebrate Meridian  
Meridian Historical Village  
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos

### August 3 - August 31 | Fridays

Okemos Masonic Center  
2175 Hamilton Rd, Okemos

### September

Looking for host site

### October

Looking for host site

### November

Looking for host site

### December

Looking for host site



## Senior Center Brunch Tribute

September Date TBD

Location: TBD

Admission: \$30 a seat  
or \$300 per table

A premier event in honor of the Meridian Township Senior Center, this fundraiser event will provide an opportunity for the community to come together and celebrate the contributions from our seniors to the history of the Township. The proceeds from this ticketed event will help support any necessary updates and continued programming at the Senior Center. The 2017 Brunch will be held during the National Senior Center Month in September. Date, time and location TBD. Tickets will be on sale at the Senior Center at a cost of \$30 a seat or \$300 for a company sponsored table. Entertainment for the brunch will also be provided.



## National Senior Health & Fitness Day

Wednesday, May 31st | 11:00am - 1:00pm

Wonch Park, 4555 Okemos Rd, Okemos, MI

Admission: FREE and  
Open to the Seniors

Seniors across the township will participate in National Senior Health & Fitness Day held on the last Wednesday in May each year. This year the Meridian Senior Center and area Senior facilities will participate. The common goal for this day: to help keep older Americans stay healthy and fit.

## Network with a Senior Program

In celebration of Meridian Township's 175 years of history, the Meridian Senior Center is looking to make connections across generations through their Network with a Senior program. Cross generational experiences help shape the way we see things and how we connect with the community. We have a goal to help connect the large senior population in Meridian Township with area students through the Senior Center's Pen Pal Program.


Contact Cherie Wisdom at the Senior Center for more information: 517.706.5045

## Haslett Beautification

In 2017 we will be working with the Haslett Beautification Association (HBA) to assist in raising \$4,000 in funds for a new gateway into the Haslett community at the "Triangle By The Lake" (Marsh Rd., Lake St. and Reynolds Rd.). If you would like to be part of this 2017 project with us to help create an attractive gateway to the Haslett business district, please email [info@beautifyhaslett.com](mailto:info@beautifyhaslett.com).

Donations can be sent to  
HBA, P.O. Box 22  
Haslett, MI 48840





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**517.381.7472**

# TASTE OF *Meridian*



## HOW IT WORKS

Each participating location will have Taste of Meridian pocket-sized trail cards. Restaurant and bar goers can pick these up at any location or at the Meridian Township Municipal Building. The card will include a map and list of participating establishments throughout the township. Patrons will bring their cards into each location and have them punched at checkout. Once each location has been visited by the patron, cards will be mailed to or dropped off at Meridian Township offices (5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864) and that patron will receive a commemorative 175th anniversary gift for participating.

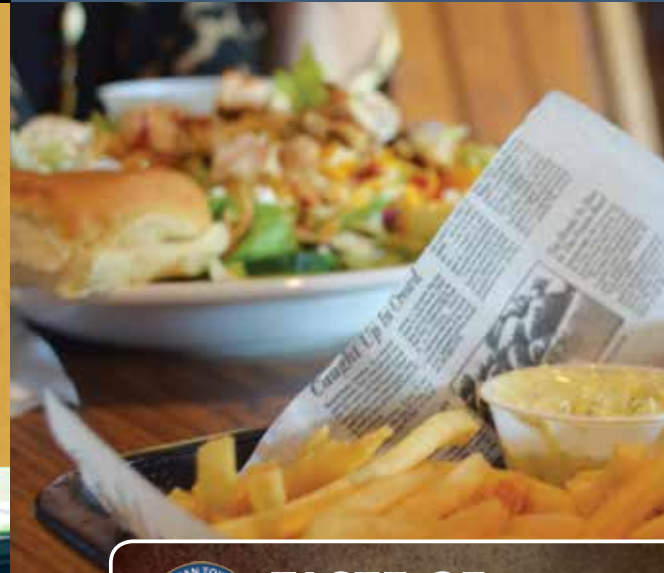
## WELCOME TO MERIDIAN

Hop on the Taste of Meridian Trail and enjoy a tasting tour of Meridian Township's finest restaurants, laid back appeal and spirited concoctions. If you consider yourself a foodie or maybe just craving a craft brew, or a rich red; you're in luck, the finest dishes and drinks in Meridian are just a "Taste" away. Taste of Meridian may be your first time trying local favorites, but it most certainly won't be your last.



## PARTICIPATING LOCATIONS

Asian Buffet	Meridian Towne Center, 4920 Marsh Rd, Okemos
Burgdorf's Winery	5635 Shoeman Rd, Haslett
Cancun Mexican Grill	2398 Jolly Rd, Okemos 1754 Central Park Drive, Okemos
Dusty's Cellar	1839 W Grand River Ave, Okemos
Dusty's Tap Room	1857 W Grand River Ave, Okemos
Ellison Brewery	4903 Dawn Ave, East Lansing
Henry's Place	4926 Marsh Rd, Okemos
Maru Sushi	5100 Marsh Rd, Okemos
MayFair Bar	1585 Lake Lansing Rd, Haslett
New Thai Kitchen	4690 Okemos Rd, Okemos
Oscar's Bistro	Studio C!, 1999 Central Park Dr, Okemos
Red Haven	4480 S Hagadorn Rd, Okemos
Tannin	5100 Marsh Rd, Okemos
Watershed Tavern & Grill	5965 Marsh Rd, Haslett
WOW Pizza	1754 Central Park Dr, Okemos



Taste of Meridian cards available at participating establishments

*If your business would like to participate contact Deborah Guthrie, 175th Events Coordinator 517.853.4370*

# CONGRATULATIONS MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP ON 175 YEARS






5965 Marsh Rd, Haslett, MI 48840  
[thewatershedtavern.com](http://thewatershedtavern.com)  
 517.999.7433



## Perpetual Lessons, Perpetual Progress!

Year-round lessons help children learn to swim and be safer in the water at a much faster pace and help avoid the regression associated with session-based lessons.

-  Various lesson days and times available for busy families. And class flexibility and make-up lessons allows for changing schedules.
-  Kids learn at their own pace and move up when they are ready.
-  Shiver-free swim lessons in our 90-degree pool
-  Small class sizes! Our 4:1 student-to-teacher ratio gives your children lots of attention



**Goldfish Swim School**  
 — Okemos  
 5135 Times Square Drive, Suite B  
 Okemos, MI 48864  
 847.777.3474  
[goldfishswimschool.com](http://goldfishswimschool.com)

**Picnic . Canoe . Sand Volleyball . Mountain Bike**

**Walk . Splash Pad . Ski . Cross Country . Snow Tube . Swim . Nature Hikes . Playgrounds . Pedal Boat . Run**


### Your Ingham County Parks

From the earliest days of our Meridian Township history what is now Lake Lansing Park South has been a place to bring families and communities together.

Ensure that the rich history of our community lives on by sharing your stories of the park and the park history with your children and grandchildren.



Past Times



*Meridian Township*  
*Congratulations on 175 Years*  
*We Love Being Part of the History!*

[inghamcountyparks.org](http://inghamcountyparks.org)  
 517-676-2233

### Summer 2016



- Your Ingham County Parks
- Bunker Rd. Canoe Landing  
11000 Bunker Hwy, Eaton Rapids
  - Burchfield County Park  
881 Grovenburg Rd, Holt
  - Hawk Island County Park  
1601 E. Cavanaugh Rd, Lansing
  - Lake Lansing Boat Launch  
6271 E. Lake Dr, Haslett
  - Lake Lansing Park North  
6260 E. Lake Dr, Haslett
  - Lake Lansing Park South  
1621 Pike St, Haslett
  - McNamara Landing  
At Columbia Rd & Waverly Rd, Mason

**Kayak . Disc Golf . Concerts . Fishing . Boat Launch**



# Fun in the Sun Day at Lake Lansing

**Friday, June 16th | 4:00pm - 10:00pm**

Lake Lansing Park South  
1621 Pike St, Haslett

Admission: **FREE** and  
Open to the Public



To celebrate this historical milestone, we are working on bringing back the "Carnival" to Lake Lansing South with a "Fun in the Sun Day". The event will feature family fun with Capital Area District Libraries kicking off their summer reading program, an outdoor barbecue sponsored by the Okemos Masonic Center, dunk tank, inflatables, and petting zoo. The "Fun in the Sun Day" will continue into the evening with a LIVE performance in the bandshell.

- **Musical Performance at Lake Lansing Bandshell**  
the new rule.
- **Dunk Tank: Dunk a Local Celebrity**  
(small fee supports Lake Lansing Parks)
- **Inflatable Moonwalk**
- **Giant Inflatable Slide**
- **Petting Zoo**
- **Outdoor Chicken BBQ**
- **Free Parking**
  
- **CADL Summer Reading Kick Off** | Join Linc the library cat and some of his friends for songs, stories and lots of fun! Sponsored by the Haslett and Okemos branches of the Capital Area District Libraries.

 Capital Area District Libraries  
*Everything...right here.*  
cadl.org



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## **Food, fun & family**

They make Meridian Township a great place to be! Congratulations on your 175th anniversary, from your friends at the Haslett and Okemos branches of Capital Area District Libraries.

**Barbecue at Pine Lake** (now Lake Lansing),  
**August 24, 1912** – Image is part of the David Caterino Postcard Collection, the Forest Parke Library & Archives at Capital Area District Libraries.

 Capital Area District Libraries  
*Everything...right here.*  
cadl.org



# Celebrate Meridian Independence Day Celebration

**Saturday, July 1st | 11:00am - 10:30pm**

Meridian Municipal Complex | 5151 Marsh Rd, Okemos

Admission: FREE and Open to the Public

Come join our Independence Day Celebration on Saturday, July 1, 2017 at Central Park North, Farmers' Market Pavilion and the Historical Village. We're celebrating big for our 175th Anniversary starting with a 175th parade, day long activities and events and ending with an evening of fireworks. There will be family friendly activities for all ages, musical performances throughout the day and much more.

## Parade

**Heritage Festival** | Sponsored by Friends of Historic Meridian

**Fireworks | Weather Permitting**

**Pet Adoption & "Mutt Kissing Booth"** | Sponsored by Solden's

**Kids Activity Area including clowns, facepainting, 'bubbleman', inflatables, and train rides**

Sponsored by CADL and local Boy Scout Troops

**Food Truck Rally** | Brought to Meridian Township by Generation Entertainment. Over 100 Food trucks at the event. Participating vendors will be announced on the event fanpage [www.facebook.com/generationfoodtruck](http://www.facebook.com/generationfoodtruck)

**Make & Take Area** | Sponsored by Meridian Garden Club and CADL

**Meridian Farmers' Market** | 8:00am - 2:00pm

**Main Stage Musical Performances** | Sponsored by Delta Dental

*"Delta Dental is pleased to be the silver sponsor of Meridian Township's 175th Anniversary Celebration. We are proud to be a part of this vibrant community and salute this important milestone."*

*~ Claire Doroh, Corporate Citizenship Specialist  
Delta Dental of Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana*

## Celebrate Meridian Sponsors:



THE HARKNESS LAW FIRM, PLLC  
Attorneys & Counselors



Become a Sponsor:  
517.853.4370

## Beer & Wine Tasting

Saturday, July 1st | 5:00pm - 10:00pm

Meridian Municipal Complex | 5151 Marsh Rd, Okemos

\*Proceeds go towards sustaining future township events

Tickets are non-refundable and are the responsibility of the buyer.

Attendees must be 21 or older with a valid ID to enter.



Join us in Central Park South for our Independence Day Beer & Wine Tasting Celebration featuring craft beer from Ellison Brewery and wines from Burgdorf's Winery.



Burgdorf's Winery will be auctioning off a **Taste & Tour Certificate** (valued at \$100). Proceeds go towards a designated charity. Burgdorf's will also be taking sales orders for bottles of wine with special 175th labels.

## Art Mural

Contribute to a piece of Meridian Township's History by putting your artistic stamp on Meridian's 175th anniversary community mural project.



2016 Celebrate Meridian Mural

# Good health starts with a healthy smile!

## DELTA DENTAL®

[www.deltadentalmi.com](http://www.deltadentalmi.com)

# Food Truck Rally

Saturday, July 1st | 11:00am - 10:30pm  
Meridian Mall | 1982 West Grand River Avenue, Okemos  
Younkens Parking Lot - Northside of Central Park Drive

Free Parking  
Free Admission

During Meridian Township's 175th Anniversary Independence Day Celebration, Generation Entertainment will be bringing the largest food truck rally that the Lansing area has ever seen! Organized by Generation Entertainment, who holds the Guinness Book of World Record for the largest Food Truck Rally, will bring almost 100 of the Best Gourmet Food Trucks Michigan has to offer. The rally will be at the north side of the Meridian Mall Parking Lot. Join us for this event on Saturday, July 1 and taste amazing food all at one location from trucks all over the state.

The Celebrate Meridian Independence Day parade, music, festival, fireworks and kids activities will be going on, as well. Take a look at a list of food trucks joining the rally on Generation Entertainment's Facebook event page [www.facebook.com/generationfoodtruck](http://www.facebook.com/generationfoodtruck)



**Culver's of Okemos:**  
5140 Times Square Dr.  
(517) 853-8714  
[www.culvers.com](http://www.culvers.com)

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## MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION



GENERATION  
ENTERTAINMENT



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**JULY 1ST, 2017 11AM - 10:30PM**  
**OKEMOS, MICHIGAN 5151 MARSH ROAD**



f GenerationFoodTruck e GenFoodTruck 813.562.9599

# Okemos Masonic Center

2175 Hamilton Rd., Okemos MI 48864 (517) 999-3089

Facebook.com/Okemos-Masonic-Center

As the oldest resident in Meridian Township, the Okemos Masonic Center houses both the Okemos Masonic Lodge #252 and the Okemos Order of the Eastern Star #267. Weddings, Graduations, Corporate events, Community forums, Library Book Sales, Birthdays, Showers, and much more have been held here. This is the center for all your Special Events! With competitive rates and amenities, our availability is booking quickly. Call (517) 204-4971 today to schedule your next party.

Breakfast for Dinner	Spring Barbeque	Masonic Works	Summertime Barbeque	Fall Tailgate Dinner
January 27, 17 5:30-8pm	April 14, 17 5:30-8pm	-Bikes for Books -Child ID -Local Senior centers -Scholarships	July 28, 17 5:30-8pm	October 27, 17 5:30-8pm
	Interested in Masonry? Ask 1 2 B 1			

Okemos Chapter #267  
The Eastern Star is a Fraternal Organization of dedicated members striving to support our community  
Come join us, for information call (517) 775-6356



Chicken Dinner	Cup & Saucer Tea	Charities	Chicken Dinner
March 25, 17 3:00-6pm All you can eat Family Style	May 13, 17 For Haven House Call for reservations	-Local Food Banks -Ronald McDonald House -School Supplies -Scholarships	April 22, 17 3:00-6pm All you can eat Family Style



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## Gus Macker Comes to Meridian Friday - Sunday, July 14th - 16th

Meridian Mall | 1982 West Grand River Avenue, Okemos

Get ready for a fun filled weekend and intense competition when Gus Macker brings 3-on-3 basketball to Meridian Township for the very first time on July 15 & 16, 2017. This weekend will be packed full of family fun, whether its shopping at your favorite store in the mall, catching the latest movie release or just hanging out watching some good old street ball competition, we have activities for all ages to enjoy. The nonprofit groups benefiting from all the hoop action are the **Haslett & Okemos Athletic Boosters and Mankowski's Christmas Party for Kids.**

The event will take place behind the Meridian Mall on Central Park Drive, between Marsh and Okemos Roads, right in the middle of all the action and activities. As a community, we are excited to bring you not only the Gus Macker 3-on-3 Tournament, but other activities including fun inflatables and lots of local food vendors.

Make sure to stay in the area so you don't miss out on all the activities! Besides the local food vendors, be sure to visit the food court centered in the middle of all the action at the Meridian Mall. You are sure to find many tasty treats that will appeal to your taste buds. For any questions or information on activities please contact the Communications Department at 517.853.4370 or visit our Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/MeridianCelebrates175Years](http://www.facebook.com/MeridianCelebrates175Years) for the latest updates on all activities, locations and times.

**We can't wait to see you!**  
Presenting Sponsor: Meridian Mall  
Special Court Sponsor: Horizon Bank



Meridian Township  
175th Anniversary  
Celebration!

Proud to celebrate this  
historic event with  
our community.

*make it yours.*



**MERIDIAN MALL**

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ON YOUR 175TH ANNIVERSARY



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## Annual Turtle Toast Gala at Harris Nature Center

**Saturday, July 22nd | 5:00pm - 8:00pm**  
3998 Van Atta Rd, Okemos

**Ticket Prices: \$20 in  
advance, \$25 at the  
door (if available)**

In 2017, the Harris Nature Center (HNC) will celebrate its 20th Anniversary. As part of the 175th Anniversary Celebration, the Harris Nature Center Foundation will host a Turtle Toast Gala to highlight the nature center's history, celebrate its success and raise funds for the continuation of the Nature Exploration Area.

Since opening its doors in 1997, the HNC has steadily increased its visitorship to almost 20,000 each year. People come from the entire Greater Lansing area to walk the refreshing trails, play in the Nature Exploration Area and observe the many live animal exhibits. Each year the center presents approximately 450 programs, engaging people of all ages in nature experiences. 200 of these are school programs that allow over 4,400 students annually to enhance their academics with nature discoveries.

In 2010, the Foundation began raising funds for projects. In 2012, they started raising funds for the Nature Exploration Area. Currently the area includes a Climbable Turtle Sculpture, Log Jam, Michigan Fossil Dig, Sticks and Stones, Gathering Circle and Beaver Lodge. Foundation supporters also provided funds for the River Overlook and the School Bus Scholarship Project which allows 50 classes annually to participate in nature field trips that may have not been affordable otherwise. Future projects include finishing the Nature Exploration Area with 2 Tree Houses and a Sky Walk to connect them.

**Gala Tickets:** Tickets are \$20 in advance - \$25 at the door, non-refundable and are the responsibility of the buyer. Includes two wine tickets and commemorative glass. Attendees must be 21 or older with a valid ID to enter. Price of ticket goes to support the Foundation's many enhancement projects.

### Burgdorf Winery

Enjoy wine samples from Burgdorf's Winery, a mid-Michigan Garagiste Winery with over 38 years of artisan wine making experience, along with hors d'oeuvres and live jazz!

Burgdorf will also be taking sales orders for bottles of wine with a special Turtle Toast 2017 label.



[www.hncfoundation.org](http://www.hncfoundation.org)

[facebook.com/meridiancelebrates175](https://facebook.com/meridiancelebrates175) 25

# Rock the Block! Celebration



## Rock the Block! at Carriage Hills Shopping Center

Saturday, August 12th | 1:00pm  
Spartan Dance & Fit Center  
6075 N. Hagadorn, East Lansing

ROCK the BLOCK! at Carriage Hills Shopping Center in East Lansing. On August 12, Spartan Dance and Fit Center will be hosting a fun filled day for the whole family. Come join us for a day of free dance & fitness classes for both children and adults. There will be performances on the main stage by Spartan Dance Company, Spartan Fit Center and an evening performance by Starfarm. We will also have a bounce house, face painting, and balloon art for the kids! Vendor tents will be on hand from local businesses. This event will include music, movement, food, games, activities and most importantly a FUN filled day. This is one you don't want to miss. Come see how we at Spartan ROCK the Block!

- **Performances on Main Stage** | by Spartan Dance Company & Spartan Fit Center
- **Free adult and kids classes**
- **Bounce house, face painting, balloon art**
- **Vendor tents from local businesses**
- **Evening performance by Starfarm**

[www.starfarmband.com](http://www.starfarmband.com)  
[twitter.com/starfarmband](https://twitter.com/starfarmband)  
[www.facebook.com/starfarmband](https://www.facebook.com/starfarmband)

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#celebratemeridian

# SPARTAN DANCE & FIT CENTER

@ 6075 N. Hagadorn Carriage Hill Shopping Center

August 12, 2017

Presents



Live Performances By



SPARTAN DANCE  
COMPANY



STARFARM  
[www.starfarmband.com](http://www.starfarmband.com)

[SpartanDanceCenter.com](http://SpartanDanceCenter.com) 517-999-4515 [SpartanFitCenter.com](http://SpartanFitCenter.com)

FREE Dance and Fitness classes for all Ages

Bounce Houses \* Face Painting \* Balloon Art \* Photo Booth

Food and Beverage tent \* Vendor Tents \* Free Prizes and swag

# Rock the Block! Celebration



## Rock the Block! in Downtown Okemos

Saturday, August 26th | Evening Gala  
4663 Ardmore Ave, Okemos

ROCK the BLOCK! in Downtown Okemos – be sure to strut down it too! On August 26, 2017, Douglas J Salon & Spa will feature five decades of hair and fashion while we celebrate our 50th anniversary serving your community. Our artistic team will send you back in time as they showcase trends long gone but not forgotten. Glam up for our gala and enjoy a fashion show, music, hors d'oeuvres and how-to demonstrations.

- Five decades of hair and fashion show
- Music
- Hors d'oeuvres
- How-to Demonstrations

Exclusive retail and service packages, as well as special giveaways will be available, too.

We look forward to seeing you  
ROCK your favorite decade at Douglas J Salon & Spa!

#celebratemeridian



# CONGRATULATIONS MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP ON 175 YEARS

*Douglas J*  
salon & spa  
OKEMOS

At Douglas J, there is nothing more important than being engaged with our guests and contributing to great causes that help our communities thrive. We want to lend a helping hand whenever we can. Our company has a great relationship with the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation [www.jdrf.org](http://www.jdrf.org), the Alliance for the Great Lakes [www.greatlakes.org](http://www.greatlakes.org) and Shining A Light [www.shiningalight.org](http://www.shiningalight.org). Through in-store fundraising, corporate donations and even our infamous golf outing, Douglas J has donated over 1.5 million dollars to these and many more local organizations over the past 10 years. We are happy to host a 2017 benefit night for JDRF and Meridian children in need.

4663 Ardmore Ave | Okemos | MI  
[www.douglasj.com](http://www.douglasj.com)  
517.349.0430

# “SAVE THE DATE”

Okemos K-12 Wrestling Cordially Invites You to Attend The  
**7<sup>th</sup> Annual Adam D. Nevells Memorial  
Golf Outing & Dinner  
Sunday August 28, 2017**



Wheatfield Valley Golf Course  
1600 Linn Road, Williamston, MI \* 517-655-6999  
Registration at 12:00 P.M.

**CONTACT: Mike Nevells 517-285-8733 [mike.nevells@go-sgi.com](mailto:mike.nevells@go-sgi.com)**

Adam's fatal car accident in front of Okemos High School in 2009 was both a tragic end as well as a beginning. In addition to supporting the speed limit drop from 55 MPH to the now 45 MPH in front of the High School on Jolly road; the Nevells Family established the Adam D. Nevells Memorial fund.

The Adam D. Nevells Memorial Fund is in its eighth year and as of the 2017 distributions has provided over **\$27,000** total through individual scholarships & grants to the areas Adam held most dearly: Academics, Music, Athletics, Boy Scouts, and his Church (*OHS Athletic and Band Boosters, Boy Scout Troop 125, & Martin Luther Chapel to support a variety of community youth programs*).

The Adam D. Nevells Memorial fund continues to grow through the ongoing donations from the community he loved and who he touched and impacted so profoundly. Thank you for your contributions and support of Adam's Fund. This continued support will ensure that Adam's spirit will live on in the lives his memorial fund touches and helps the dreams and ambitions the fatal car accident stole from Adam come to fruition through the individuals and groups Adam's Fund supports.

In addition to supporting the Annual Golf Outing, contributions can be made payable to the Capital Region Community Foundation with the notation "Adam D. Nevells Memorial Fund" on the memo line or in accompanying note and also online at: [www.crcfoundation.org](http://www.crcfoundation.org)

**\*\* Please make checks payable to: "Okemos Wrestling Inc."**  
4310 Kenosha Trail, Okemos MI 48864\*\*

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- Eczema
- Hives

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**OkemosInfusionCenter.com | 517.455.7880**



# Historic Tours

These events are being presented by the Friends of Historic Meridian to create and sustain an active appreciation of local history. All donations go to the Friends of Historic Meridian. Donations are accepted and appreciated at each event.



## Old Pine Lake Tour

**Sunday, August 20th | 2:30pm - 3:30pm**  
**Lake Lansing South**  
**1621 Pike St, Haslett**

Admission:  
By donation

Pine Lake (now Lake Lansing) is the largest body of water in Ingham County and Native tribes camped along its shores and cut a trail along the west side of the lake. The area was along the trail leading to the seasonal campsite for Chief Okemos and his Chippewa and Ottawa followers. This map from the Michigan Archeological Atlas indicates the principal Indian Trails compiled from records of E. A. Calkins, a Mason Surveyor.

*Join the Friends of Historic Meridian and Jane Rose to learn more about the history of these trails and how they connect to our trails and roadways today.*



## Village of Hamilton Guided Walking Tour

**Sunday, September 17th | 2:30pm - 4:30pm**  
**Okemos Community Church**  
**4734 Okemos Rd, Okemos**

Admission:  
By donation

The Friends of Historic Meridian is providing a walking tour of downtown Okemos and what was originally called the Village of Hamilton. Visitors will take a walking historical tour of downtown Okemos and it's many monuments. Learn about the origins behind this area of the township, it's settlers and a local Native American Chief Okemos. Chief Okemos, was well known throughout the area. The village area was one of his primary camping areas and he traveled frequently between the village and another campsite near present-day Portland. Tour starts at the Michigan Historic Monument behind Okemos Community Church.



## Old Okemos /Riverside Cemetery Guided Tour

**Sunday, October 29th | 2:30pm - 3:30pm**  
**Riverside Cemetery**  
**2451 Small Acres Ln, Okemos**

Admission:  
By donation

Riverside Cemetery has also been known as Old Okemos Cemetery. Join us on October 28th and learn about this small cemetery with the earliest settlers and pioneers in the township buried here. The last burial was in 2001. Enclosed by an iron fence, with a gateway at the east end off Hamilton Road, this cemetery is marked by history and Meridian's past.



## Poor Farm Cemetery Guided Tour

**Sunday, October 29th | 3:30pm - 4:30pm**  
**Ingham County 'Poor Farm' Cemetery**  
**3860 Dobie Rd, Okemos**

Admission:  
By donation

The Ingham County Home Cemetery is also known as the Poor Farm Cemetery and is an Ingham County Historical Marker. This cemetery was used to bury residents of the Ingham County Poor Farm from the late 1800's to the early 1940's.

Join us on October 29th and learn about the people who lived on the Poor Farm because they were unable to care for themselves. Their tombstones are a reminder of the lives and the place that they called "home". During the guided tour you will learn about the people and learn about how their bodies were sold for research.

# Friends of Historic Meridian

The Friends of Historic Meridian (FHM) has a deep commitment to preserving community history. Established in 1974, their mission is "to create and sustain an active appreciation of local history". The Friends of Historic Meridian preserve and maintain the Meridian Historical Village historic buildings, sponsor community events in the Village and hold free public lectures.

In addition, FHM offers a variety of community outreach and educational programs including both on-site and in-class programs that are designed to make history come alive. Annual events include a day camp for children in August, the Heritage Festival being held in July and Christmas in the Village in December.

Enjoy stepping back in time with us not only at these events, but by visiting the Meridian Historical Village located in picturesque Central Park 5151 Marsh Rd., Okemos, Michigan. To become a friend, call 517.347.7300. Visit [www.meridianhistoricalvillage.org](http://www.meridianhistoricalvillage.org).

**We believe you'll enjoy  
what you find here**

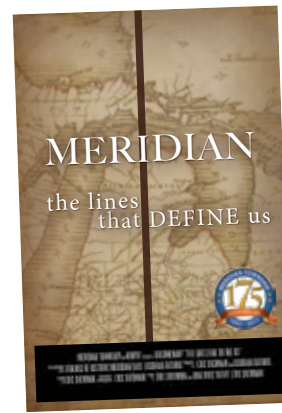




# Congratulations on 175 years Meridian Township!

The Greater Lansing Convention and Visitors Bureau is proud to be a long-time partner in helping to promote all there is to see and do in Meridian Township. For a full list of great events and attractions visit [www.lansing.org](http://www.lansing.org) today!

1-800-648-6630  
[www.lansing.org](http://www.lansing.org)



## 175th Anniversary Kick Off Celebration & Fireworks

Saturday, December 31st | 4:00pm - 8:00pm  
 Studio C! | 1999 Central Park Dr, Okemos

FREE Event Admission for Documentary: \*\$7.50 per person

Sometimes we forget how a simple line can shape our history. We communicate through lines. Wage war over lines. Some travel across lines. Some toe the line. Our lives are often defined by lines.

“Meridian: The Lines That Define Us” is a film that takes us back through the history of 175 years and how lines have shaped the Haslett and Okemos history. From when Native Americans traveled the trails around the largest body of water in the area, even before Michigan was a state, up to the state of affairs today, this film celebrates 175 years of Meridian Township history and the history of her greatest resource; her people. 2017 marks the 175th anniversary of Meridian Township. Celebrate with us on New Year’s Eve at Studio C! as we kick off the yearlong commemoration with a film about how a simple imaginary line defines so much of who we are today.



## Pancake Breakfast

Saturday, March 11th | 8:00am - 11:00am  
 Meridian Township Central Fire Station #91  
 5000 Okemos Rd, Okemos

Admission: Small donation Open to the Public

Come support the MDA and Boy Scouts at this event. All you can eat pancakes and sausage are cooked by the Meridian Township Firefighters. Juice and coffee are served by local Boy Scout Troop 125. This event is part of Meridian Township’s 175th Anniversary Celebration. Donations will go to support the local boy scout troops and the MDA.

*This event is being organized and offered by local Boy Scouts and the Meridian Township Firefighters’ Union.*



## National Quilting Day March 18th

Admission: Free Open to the Public

See how Meridian Township has preserved and showcased 175 years of history through quilting. The Friends of Historic Meridian will display Historical Community Quilts at the Haslett and Okemos library branches for viewing. The quilts will be on display at each branch during the month of March in celebration of National Quilting Day.

## Historical Storytimes at the Library

Monday, February 20th | 2:30pm – 3:30pm  
 Homeschool Discoveries | Okemos Branch | 4321 Okemos Rd, Okemos

Historical storytime with Tom Shilts, featuring a special storytime celebrating Meridian Township’s 175th anniversary. HOMTV will be on hand to film this event which will air during the month of March, National Library Month and again for CADL Summer Reading.

Wednesday, March 15th | 10:30am-11:00 am  
 Storybook Quilt Lady Storytime (Ages 3-6) | Haslett Branch | 1590 Franklin St, Haslett

Celebrate National Quilting Day with Capital Area District Libraries! Quilter and storyteller, Linda Kuhlman, will read stories and share quilts she has made to go along with them in this special storytime celebrating Meridian Township’s 175th anniversary. A Haslett historical quilt, provided by Meridian Township, will be on display at the library as well. HOMTV will be on hand to film this event which will air during National Library Week, April 9-15 and again for CADL Summer Reading.



# What's your plan?

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## Wine & Canvas Benefit Night

For the Meridian Garden Club

Saturday, May 20th | 5:00 pm

Wine & Canvas Instructed Painting | 5:30pm – 8:30pm

Hosted by: Frames Unlimited | 1929 W Grand River Ave, Okemos

**\$40 for Wine &  
 Canvas painting class  
 Free to attend benefit**

On Saturday, May 20th Frames Unlimited hosts an evening dedicated to the arts, culture and beauty of Meridian gardening provided by the Meridian Garden Club. On display and available for purchase will be hand crafted pressed flower art, each uniquely crafted by Meridian Garden Club members. No two designs are alike.

During the event, non-ticket holders can peruse around the store, purchase one of many arts, frames or Garden Club designs on display. Wine and Canvas ticket holders will enjoy light jazz in the background and wine sampling, all while creating their own floral themed canvas masterpiece, step by step. Space is limited. Tickets for painting are \$40 each with all proceeds from the event supporting the Meridian Garden Club. The Meridian Garden Club was organized in 1970 and currently has over 80 active members.

*Your monetary contribution may be tax-deductible and can help continue to provide community beautification, education and youth educational activities in Meridian Township.*



## Be a Tourist in Your Own Town

Saturday, June 3rd | 9:00am - 10:00pm



The 175th Events Committee is planning special events for this day next year. Featured hometown stops include:

- tinkerLab kids activities located inside Meridian Mall
- Meridian Historical Village Building Tours located at Central Park North
- Harris Nature Center Nature Exploration Area
- HOMTV Studio Tour
- Okemos Masonic Center

*To find out more about Be a Tourist in Your Own Town, visit the website at: [www.lansing.org/events/be-a-tourist](http://www.lansing.org/events/be-a-tourist)*



## Free Yoga in the Park for International Day of Yoga

**Admission: FREE  
 Open to the Public**

Wednesday, June 21st | 5:30am - 7:00am

Central Park Soccer Field, Okemos

Thousands of people are joining around the world on June 21st to celebrate International Day of Yoga. We will be conducting classes that will provide simple Yoga routines. Bring your family (minimum age of 7), friends, colleagues and neighbors! Class sessions will take approximately 30 minutes or 90 minutes at the Central Park Soccer Field beginning at 5:30 am. Help us reach 175 people! *Yoga practices will be led by a certified yoga instructor.*

## Rock the Block! Zumbathon

Saturday, October 14th | 2:00pm -4:00pm

Haslett Shoptown Neighborhood Center Parking lot  
 SE corner of Haslett Rd. and Marsh Rd.



Licensed Zumba Instructor Colleen Opphile will lead a regular Zumba class for over 175 participants from around the area.

*This event is being organized and sponsored by Curves of Haslett.*



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Clerical-Technical Union of Michigan State University

Congratulations, Meridian Township, on your 175th Anniversary

From the Clerical-Technical Union at MSU, a partner in the community



## Thank You

We want to thank and recognize our sponsors, businesses and board members for supporting Meridian Township's 175th Anniversary and events. We began almost one year ago with an inquiry from former Township Trustee Milton L. Scales asking if we were planning on celebrating Meridian's 175th Anniversary. This question sparked the planning process. Subsequently, the Board approved a Resolution of Support of the 175th events. We give special thanks to the 2016 Meridian Township Board for passing the resolution and supporting these events.

We also want to thank Township Manager Frank Walsh for his support and encouragement to celebrate our rich history with our community partners.

Without our sponsors, these events would not be possible. We could not thank the business community, service club organizations and nonprofits enough. Since day one, our goal was to not only celebrate 175 years of Meridian history, but also to put Meridian Township on the map. We aimed to connect our various community members and businesses together to raise awareness for what makes Meridian Township great. Everywhere we went, we were embraced with the willingness to celebrate and an excitement to participate.

## Get Involved

We knew we wanted to kick off 2017 with New Year's Eve Fireworks, so we reached out to Celebration Cinemas and Studio C!. Our idea to kick off with a family friendly community event was quickly embraced. We invite residents, visitors, businesses and community organizations to join us in embracing the history of the Township and the people, while celebrating who we are today and building upon for a better future tomorrow.

Each month is filled with family friendly events and activities located throughout the Township, including music concerts and history tours. These would not be possible without the generous support of the community.

We thank all of our sponsors listed in this 175th Anniversary Special Edition Events Guide. We thank additional businesses, residents and service club organizations for hosting event activities and participating in events throughout the year.

If you would like to become a sponsor and/or participate, please contact Andrea Smiley, 175th Anniversary Sponsorship Coordinator at 517.853.4374 smiley@meridian.mi.us



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Hampton Inn & Suites offers Complimentary Hot Breakfast, Free Parking, Free Wi-Fi, 24/7 Fitness Center, 24/7 Business Center, Pool and Hot tub. Please show or mention this ad or enter the promotional code for a special offer provided to all visitors during our 175th Anniversary yearlong celebration of events. For all Gus Macker 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament families, Hampton Inn & Suites is offering a special rate for a 2-Queen Standard Room.

**Promo Code: L-MER**  
Rate code will provide visitors  
10% off from 1/1/17-12/31/17  
pending availability

For more information, please contact the hotel  
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[www.lansing.hamptoninn.com](http://www.lansing.hamptoninn.com)  
517.349.6100

