

PRIME MERIDIAN

magazine
2024



CELEBRATING THE

50th Anniversary

OF THE MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP FARMERS' MARKET
AND THE MERIDIAN HISTORICAL VILLAGE

Elected Officials

Township Board

Supervisor Patricia H. Jackson
Clerk Deborah Guthrie
Treasurer Phil Deschaine
Trustee Scott Hendrickson
Trustee Kathy Ann Sundland
Trustee Peter Trezise
Trustee Marna Wilson

Park Commission

Mary Nardo Farris (Chair)
Ami Van Antwerp (Vice Chair)
Amanda A. Lick
Michael McDonald
Mark Stephens

Township Manager Frank Walsh (Non-Elected)

2023 Township Board Listening Sessions

Following the Township Board's Community Listening Sessions in 2023, the Board compiled common community concerns and ideas to help guide decisions on local issues in the coming years. Find the Board's summary from the Community Listening Sessions by scanning the QR code provided here.



Participate in a Public Meeting!

Attend a Public Meeting

Hearing residents' questions, concerns, and ideas allows Meridian Township to cultivate a prime community to live and work. Consider attending any of our public meetings to share your voice and make positive change. Scan the QR code provided here to find Meridian Township's public meetings calendar.



Watch Public Meetings From Home

Meridian Township's government-access channel, HOMTV, broadcasts the meetings of the Meridian Township Board, Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, and Environmental Commission at the following locations:



- Comcast Channel 21
- homtv.net
- youtube.com/user/21HOMTV
- meridianmi.swagit.com/live



Prime Meridian Magazine Contributions

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Allegra Marketing

One of Meridian Township's new wayfinding signs, located along northbound Okemos Road



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QR Codes

We want to make sure you have all the information you need to enjoy an exceptional year in Meridian Township, so we're using QR codes to provide you with quick links to access additional information from this magazine! To use a QR code:

1. Open your smartphone camera app (if available).
2. Point your camera at the QR code and hold steady!
3. A link will appear on your screen. Tap on the link to open our suggested website. Try it here to reach our homepage!

Looking for Other Topics?

Visit Meridian Township's website, www.meridian.mi.us, to access routinely updated news, calendar events, contact information, and more!





Township Projects

Local Roads Program

In 2023, Meridian Township completed the following work on its local roads:

- **8.86 miles of road reconstruction**
- **7.3 miles of overlay paving**
- **14.27 miles of asphalt rejuvenator**
- **3.95 miles of crack sealing**

The 2024 program will be announced in March. Scan the QR code to learn more.



MSU to Lake Lansing Trail

In December of 2023, Meridian Township opened Phase I of the MSU to Lake Lansing Trail, connecting the north side of the Hagadorn Road/Shaw Lane intersection with the Grand River Avenue/Park Lake Road intersection.

Phase II is on schedule to be completed in June of 2024, providing 1.2 miles of pathways beginning near the Grand River Avenue/Campus Hill Drive intersection and concluding near the Okemos Road/Gaylord C. Smith Court intersection. Once all three phases are complete, the MSU to Lake Lansing Trail will enhance the Meridian Township region with approximately 6.75 miles of trail system connecting to the MSU and Lansing River Trails.



Projects in Motion

As several developments begin and continue in 2024, residents may notice changes coming to the following areas:

- 2755 E. Grand River Avenue
- 2763 E. Grand River Avenue
- 2731 W. Grand River Avenue
- 1614 W. Grand River Avenue, Okemos
- 1655 Haslett Road, Haslett
- Vacant land south of The Willows at Okemos (between Central Park Drive and Powell Road)

Upcoming Developments

Meridian Township has been active in development since the COVID-19 pandemic. During this period of growth, the 2023 Master Plan was approved, which will guide the vision and developments in the Township over the next 5 to 20 years.

For the current status of ongoing projects, scan the QR code or check out our page for updates: www.meridian.mi.us/DevelopmentProjects.



Are You a Business Owner in the Township?

Consider joining the Meridian Area Business Association (MABA)! This group meets at 9:00 am on the second Friday of every month at the Farm Lane MSUFCU in East Lansing. Earn free membership into the Small Business Association of Michigan and establish a direct connection to Meridian Township and its government!

Special Events



Celebrate Meridian Festival

June 28 (Teen Night) & June 29 (Block Party)

Once summer arrives and the sun's shining, join us for live music, food trucks, kiddie fun, a beer tent, historical exhibits, and a grand finale event! Updates to come at meridian.mi.us/CelebrateMeridian.



Heritage Festival

October 5

History comes alive at the Meridian Historical Village with a family-friendly celebration of our local history! Join the Village's 50th anniversary celebration and experience historical demonstrations, games, and exhibits!

Other Events & Programs*



Spring

Meridian Garden Club Plant Sale
Harris Nature Center Native Plant Sale
Songwriters Showcase
Memorial Day Ceremony
Spring Recycling Day



Summer

Summer Farmers' Market (all season)
Summer Concert Series (all season)
Meridian Senior Center DJ Bingo & BBQ
Blues & Jazz Festival
Karaoke at the Marketplace



Autumn

Meridian Senior Center Health Fair
Fall Electronics Recycling Event
Fire Prevention Open House
Harris Nature Center Autumn Stroll
Halloween Adventures



Winter

Artificial Ice Rink at Marketplace
Christmas in the Village
Harris Nature Center Wine in the Woods
Meet & Greet With Santa
GLCA Chinese New Year Celebration

*The list of events provided is not exhaustive, and events may be added, modified, or removed as planning continues. For an active listing of Township events, visit: www.meridian.mi.us/Calendar.



CUT AND SAVE FOR LATER



Elections



**PRESIDENTIAL
PRIMARY**

TUESDAY,
FEBRUARY 27

**PRIMARY
ELECTION**

TUESDAY,
AUGUST 6

**GENERAL
ELECTION**

TUESDAY,
NOVEMBER 5

Voting Options

Option 1: Voting In-Person on Election Day

Find your polling location at mi.gov/vote or refer to your Voter Information Card. If you need a new card, email clerksoffice@meridian.mi.us.

Option 2: Voting In-Person Early

Meridian Township's early voting site is at the Meridian Township Municipal Building. Early voting is held for the 9 consecutive days prior to the Monday before Election Day between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm.

- Presidential Primary: February 17 to February 25
- Primary Election: July 27 to August 4
- General Election: October 26 to November 3

Option 3: Voting Absentee

You may apply for an absentee ballot by filling out an application. Voters who wish to automatically receive a ballot for all future elections may sign up for the Permanent Mail Ballot List. Applications are available at mi.gov/vote.

What's on the Ballot?

Voters can visit mi.gov/vote to preview their ballot or visit the Clerk's Office to get a sample ballot.

Ballot Drop Box Locations

Meridian Township Municipal Building

5151 Marsh Road,
Okemos, 48864

**Indoor & outdoor
drop boxes available*

Haslett Library

1590 Franklin Street,
Haslett, 48840

Okemos Library

4321 Okemos Road,
Okemos, 48864

Drop boxes will close
at 8:00 pm on each
election day.

Taxes, Utility Bills & Other Payments

Did You Know?

Summer 2024 tax bills will be mailed on July 1, 2024 and due September 14, 2024. Winter 2024 tax bills will be mailed on December 1, 2024 and due February 14, 2025.

Taxes levied within the "summer" and "winter" tax bills cover the full year, not just the "summer" or "winter" seasons.

Improved Payment Options in 2024!

Payments can be made by cash or check, and many payments (taxes, utilities, permits, and special assessments) can now be made by credit or debit card.

For more information, call the Treasurer's Office at 517.853.4140, scan the QR code, or visit www.meridian.mi.us/BillPayments.



Pay Your Bill Your Way!

Online Payments

Drop Box Payments

In Person Payments

Mail In Payments

Green Meridian

Green Dialogue

Join us on Wednesdays at 9:00 am on Zoom to discuss environmental topics, interests, challenges, questions, and more!



Green Gazette

Subscribe to our monthly newsletter highlighting environmental news, opportunities, and resources in our community!



Green Grants

Neighborhoods, schools, businesses, and organizations are invited to apply for assistance for their environmental projects, such as tree planting, native landscaping, energy projects, and more!

Green Meridian 2024 Events

March 16: Green Fashion & Energy Day

April 27: Spring Recycling Day

May 18: Planting a Native Meridian

June 8: Eco-Tour & Compost Bin Sale

July 20: Green Fair

September 28: Electronics Recycling Day

For more information about Green Meridian, visit www.meridian.mi.us/greenmeridian or call 517.853.4466





Farmers' Market

50th Anniversary

2024 Farmers' Market Schedule

Winter Market

Alternating Saturdays
Through April 20
10:00 am to 2:00 pm
Meridian Mall
JCPenney Wing

Saturday Summer Market

Every Saturday
May 4 - November 23
8:00 am* to 2:00 pm
Marketplace on the Green
**10:00 am beginning Nov 2*

Wednesday Summer Market

Every Wednesday
June 5 - October 30
3:00 pm to 7:00 pm
Marketplace on the Green

Winter Market

Every Saturday
November 30 - December 20
10:00 am to 2:00 pm
Meridian Mall
JCPenney Wing

On May 4, 1974, four regional vendors and farms gathered in the parking lot outside Meridian Township's Municipal Building, providing the community's first opportunity for residents to shop fresh, local produce and goods.

Within a few years, the Meridian Township Farmers' Market quickly expanded, connecting more vendors with the Township community. Such growth required the construction of the Farmers' Market Pavilion (now Central Park Pavilion) outside the Municipal Building in 1978.

In the decades since, the Market has expanded further, with community support inspiring the construction of the Marketplace on the Green pavilion, a vibrant, outdoor gathering spot for the Market, summer concerts, an artificial ice rink, and various special events throughout each year.

This expansion has also grown the Township's reputation for providing quality products and sustainable practices. In 2023, the Market was named Greater Lansing's Best Farmers' Market in City Pulse's Top of the Town contest.

Collecting Farmers' Market Memories

Do you remember the early Township Farmers' Markets? Do you have photos of the Market over the years? We'd love to hear your story or see your photos! Please email meridianmarket50th@gmail.com to share your Farmers' Market memories with the community.

Find weekly market updates, vendor and musician information, and more at meridian.mi.us/FarmersMarket/ 



Thank You!
for voting us
Greater Lansing's
BEST FARMERS'
MARKET



Wednesday Market Summer Concert Series





Parks & Recreation



Letter from the Director

Dear Meridian Township Resident,

I am exceptionally excited to serve as your new Parks and Recreation Director. Our team has many recreation opportunities and activities in the works, including the 50th Anniversary of the Farmers' Market and the Meridian Historical Village!

In 2024, we will continue to focus on ensuring our parks are enjoyable and accessible to everyone. We are also working hard to renew the ecological value of our land preserves and the environmental integrity of our adored parks and natural spaces.

We look forward to spending time and having fun with you this year.

All the best,

Courtney Wisinski

Pavilion Rentals

We offer rentals at eight pavilions at a rate of \$100 for residents and \$200 for non-residents (excluding Marketplace on the Green). Rental time blocks include 8:00 am to 3:00 pm or 4:00 pm to dusk. Scan the QR code or visit recreation.meridian.mi.us and select *Park Pavilion Registrations* to schedule your rental.



Subscribe to Our E-Newsletter to Receive Monthly Program Updates!

Scan the QR code to subscribe to our monthly newsletter, The Playbook, to hear about upcoming events, programs, and registration openings!



Year-Round Sports for Year-Round Play!

We offer sports programs throughout our park and trail system to bring our community's families and friends together for fun, activity, and exploration of new skills and spaces.

To register for a sports program, visit recreation.meridian.mi.us and select *Adult Sports* or *Youth Sports* from the menu to see available offerings.



Spring

Softball (1st-4th grade; U12-14)
Baseball (1st-4th, U10-U14) & T-Ball (DK-K)



Summer

Sand Volleyball (Adult Co-ed)
Softball (Mens & Adult Co-ed)



Fall

Soccer (K-6th)
Flag Football (K-7th)
Kickball (Adult Co-ed)



Winter

Basketball (K-6th, Haslett)



Multiple Seasons

Fitness Over 50
Sporties for Shorties (3-5 yo)



Discover the Nokomis Cultural Heritage Center

The Nokomis Cultural Heritage Center (5153 Marsh Road, Okemos) preserves and honors the history of the Anishinaabe people, the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi nations. Nokomis fulfills this mission through programs, exhibitions, and special events. To learn more, contact the center by calling 517.349.5777, scan the QR code, or visit www.nokomis.org.



Bring Your Barks to Our Dog Parks!

Our centrally located, off-leash small (30 pounds and under) and large (30 pounds and over) dog parks mean your furry friends have the perfect place to make new friends, test their agility, burn off their energy, and enjoy the sounds of nature!

***DOG PARK MEMBERSHIP IS REQUIRED FOR PARK ACCESS. MEMBERSHIP REQUIRES DOG LICENSE AND PROOF OF RABIES VACCINE.**



Membership fees (first dog/additional dogs):
Residents - \$20/\$15; Non-Residents - \$35/\$20

To register, scan the QR code and select *Dog Parks*.



Harris Nature Center

Surrounded by 200 acres of forest and meadows and rested against the beautiful Red Cedar River, the Harris Nature Center (3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos) provides wonderful opportunities for all ages to explore trails, discover wildlife, and enjoy the wondrous colors of nature each season.

Inside the nature center, visitors can view several Michigan native reptile, amphibian, and bird species. Outside the center, visitors will find several miles of trails, quiet areas to sit, a pavilion, outdoor restrooms and the Nature Exploration Area.

Find more information by scanning the QR code or visiting www.meridian.mi.us/HNC.



Special Events

SUMMER DAY CAMPS

June 18 to August 9
Registration Begins March 1

HNC FOUNDATION FUN RUN

June 5

NATIVE PLANT SALES

May 4 & October 5



Meridian Historical Village

The Meridian Historical Village (5151 Marsh Road, Okemos) fosters an appreciation of local history with a speaker series, summer day camp, and special events each year, including the Heritage Festival. By popular demand, additional 2024 events include a Victorian Tea on May 19 from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm and the 50th Birthday Celebration of the Friends of Historic Meridian on May 5 at 3:00 pm.

To contact the Friends of Historic Meridian, call 517.347.7300 or visit www.meridianhistoricalvillage.org to learn more.



Meridian Senior Center

Join a welcoming community for Meridian Township residents age 55 and over to engage in enrichment programs and activities! At the Meridian Senior Center (4000 N. Okemos Road; east wing of Chippewa Middle School), new friendships are formed, skills are built, and memories are made with various programs and class opportunities.

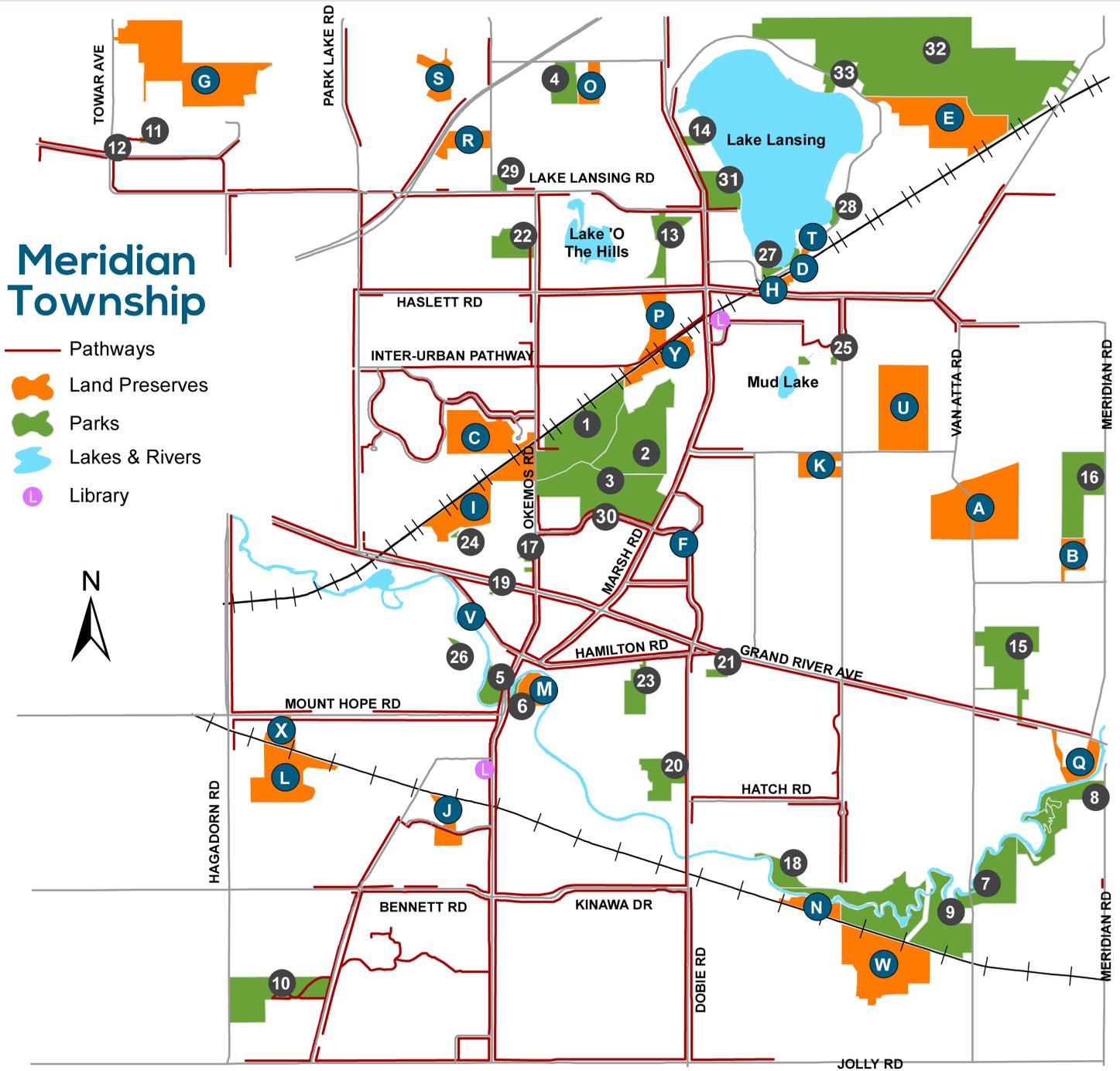
To learn more, visit meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com, scan the QR code, or call the senior center at 517.706.5045.



Meridian Township Land Preserves (see map on page 13)

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| A Davis/Foster Preserve | J Sower Woods Preserve | R Forest Grove Preserve |
| B Foster-Crouse Preserve | K Cornell Wetland Preserve | S Glacial Ridge Preserve |
| C Hubbel Preserve | L Heron Creek Preserve | T Tank Wetland |
| D Kuzma Preserve | M Sumbal Preserve | U Tihart Preserve |
| E Lake Lansing North Preserve | N Red Cedar Glen Preserve | V Mandenberg Woods |
| F Newman Equities Preserve | O Towner Wetland Preserve | W Ponderosa Preserve |
| G Towar Woods Preserve | P Inter-Urban Wetland Preserve | X Serafine Preserve |
| H Pike Crossing Preserve | Q Red Cedar River East Preserve | Y Nemoke Preserve |
| I Okemos Road Preserve | | |

Parks, Pathways & Preserves



Meridian Township Parks

1 Nancy Moore Park	12 Towar Park	23 Tacoma Hills Park
2 Central Park	13 Hillbrook Park	24 Schriener Park
3 Central Park South	14 Marshall Park	25 Orlando Park
4 Towner Road Park	15 Ted Black Woods	26 Indian Hills Park
5 Wonch Park	16 North Meridian Road Park	27 Lake Lansing Marsh
6 Ferguson Park	17 Ottawa Hills Park	28 Spengler Marsh
7 Harris Nature Center	18 Red Cedar Natural Area	29 Newton Road Park
8 Eastgate Park	19 Cedar Bend Heights Park	30 Marketplace on the Green
9 Legg Park	20 Sander Farm	31 Lake Lansing Park South (County)
10 Hartrick Park	21 Forest Hills Park	32 Lake Lansing Park North (County)
11 Snell-Towar Recreation Center	22 Brattin Woods	33 Lake Lansing Boat Launch (County)

Looking for Park Amenities? Visit: bit.ly/MTwpParkAmenities





Meridian Garden Club members tend the Blue Star Memorial garden outside of the Meridian Township Municipal Building.

Get Involved



Special Event Volunteers



Meridian Conservation Corps

Meridian Township is a prime community in part due to the engagement and generosity of its residents, many of whom are involved in community organizations and our Township boards and commissions.

With exceptional options for community participation between our local volunteer groups, non-profits, boards, and commissions, there is an opportunity for nearly every resident to be heard, share their passion, build community, and make a positive difference.

If you are unable to provide time as a volunteer, please consider supporting Meridian Cares, described on the following page.

Boards & Commissions

The input of our residents matters! Join a board or commission to influence community decisions and create positive change! Scan the QR code to find our Public Service Application.

Example opportunities include the Environmental Commission, Economic Development Corporation, Communications Commission, and many more!



Local Volunteer Opportunities

- Friends of Haslett Library
- Friends of Historic Meridian
- Friends of Meridian Township Pathways
- Friends of Okemos Library
- Friends of Red Cedar River
- Haslett Beautification Association
- Meridian Conservation Corps
- Meridian Garden Club
- Meridian Senior Center
- Nokomis Cultural Heritage Center
- East Lansing Meridian Lions Club
- Kiwanis Club of Haslett-Okemos
- Rotary Club of Haslett-Okemos





MERIDIAN *Cares* Making a Difference

Meridian Cares provides Meridian Township residents facing emergency financial need with assistance from a human services specialist. The Emergency Needs Fund is also available to support residents at risk of losing their shelter or facing a utility shutoff.

How Does Meridian Cares Work?

Meridian Township residents facing emergency financial need (relating to shelter or utilities) contact the Human Services Specialist.

Resident's need is determined in a confidential intake assessment.

Federal, state, and local resources are considered for financial aid. When no aid or not enough aid is available, Meridian Cares may use its donation-based Emergency Needs Fund to financially assist the resident.

Financial assistance recommendations are made by the Human Services Specialist to the Township's Community Resource Commission for approval.

Approved financial assistance is given directly to the utility company or landlord seeking payment.

Resident remains in their home with working utilities.

"Meridian Cares helped me tremendously; I was recently out of work due to the birth of my son, and I was behind on my rent. I was given help, and we still had our home for the holidays. I'm forever grateful."

- Meridian Township Resident

The **Meridian Township Emergency Needs Fund** is set aside to assist residents in danger of losing their shelter or having their utilities shut off.

The Emergency Needs Fund is funded 100% by donations & 100% of donations assist Township residents in emergency need.

In 2023, this fund supported 96 families with a total of **\$41,796.56.**

Need Help?

Call Meridian Township's Human Services Specialist, Katie Love, at 517.853.4204 for a confidential call and intake assessment to determine options for your situation.

To Donate:

Scan the QR code to contribute to the Meridian Cares Emergency Needs Fund (PayPal). Thank you!





5151 Marsh Road
Okemos, MI 48664

Let's Get Connected!

EMERGENCY ALERTS

Your safety and wellbeing matters to us. Meridian Township uses **Everbridge** to alert you by text and/or email about emergencies affecting our community. Visit meridian.mi.us/everbridge to sign up for alerts including road closures, severe weather, serious incidents, and other local emergencies.



E-NEWSLETTERS

We provide 3 monthly email newsletters to help keep you updated with local news (Meridian Happenings), Parks & Recreation programs and events (The Playbook), and local green and sustainability initiatives and opportunities (Green Gazette).

To subscribe, visit bit.ly/SignUpMTwpNewsletters or scan the QR code provided here!



@MeridianTownship



Meridian Township



@meridiantownship



Meridian Township



@meridiantwp



@MeridianTownship