



Welcome to the Shelby Township Newsletter where we will update all Shelby Township residents with a recap of our activities in 2023 and also preview what is planned for 2024 and beyond.



Park Update

The Township Park continues to make great progress. We were successful in receiving another grant from the State and are working on a federal grant. The park is on track to be open to the public in late Spring of 2024. The park will include basketball, pickleball, soccer fields (including a varsity field for the school), a softball field, several flushing restrooms, water fountains (including a place for our furry friends to drink), two entrances to the Rail Trail, a bike repair station, BBQ areas, pavilion for events, small amphitheater, children's playgrounds that are accessible, adult outdoor workout station, concession building and walking trails. We have planted 346 trees thus far, which will make the space carbon-neutral and aesthetically pleasing.

Roads and Right-of-Way (ROW)

With the majority of the paving completed for now, we are focused on upgrading the gravel roads. It is clear we need the roads shaped and at least 3 to 4 inches of new gravel added. We will upgrade based on high usage roads to low usage.

Our program to mow the ROW continues, and we have seen a marked improvement in safety and just the overall look. I urge residents and farmers to mow the right of way as often as you can.

We also received a grant from MDOT to pave Shelby Road in conjunction with Shelby Village and Oceana County Road Commission. Shelby Road will be paved from US-31 to Oceana Drive in the spring of 2024.

Township Infrastructure

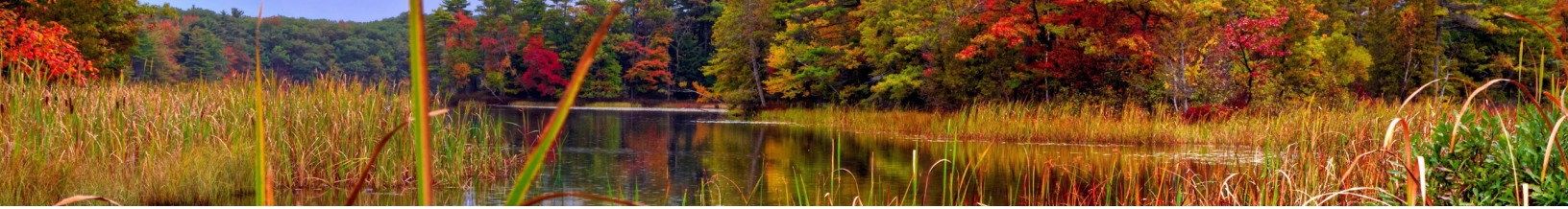
All Townships received Rescue Plan dollars from the State government. Our dollars have been busy adding infrastructure and value back to residents.

1. Our Dog Park is completed and being used.
2. The 6th street retaining wall has been repaired on the Township side.
3. The Board recently approved the building of Woodside Pet Memorial (Essentially an area where residents can bury their pets). The closest one to Oceana County is in Grand Rapids.
4. The Township Board and Village Council approved the new Shelby Acres housing development which is underway. Completed homes will be available for all residents to purchase.
5. The Township Board in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce and the Village of Shelby has approved four new Welcome to Shelby signage. They are located in a new spot on Shelby Road, a new spot on Oceana Drive and the final two are on M-20 East and West.
6. We approved a reduced fee back to Shelby taxpayers for their children who participate in the Shelby Recreation Club.
7. The Township has upgraded their server, computer equipment and cyber security software to ensure we are in a better position to combat any type of online attack.
8. The Township supported both New Era and Shelby fall festivals and the Village of Shelby supported the Shelby Festival. It's important that we bring more people to our small community.



Planning Commission

They are currently working on updating the Township Ordinances so we have the necessary tools to follow the roadmap previously developed for our 5 to 10 year master plan.



New Businesses and Expansions in Our Community

Although we appreciate all businesses located in Shelby Township we wanted to share news from current businesses and highlight new businesses that have recently joined our Township.

- **McCormick Gas** has built a new state of the art facility on the corner of M-20 and Oceana. The family are residents of Shelby Township, so it's nice to see a flagship facility here in Shelby Township.
- **Hometown Pharmacy** has built a multi million-dollar distribution center off of Oceana Drive. As you decide where to go for your pharmacy needs, please keep in mind that this organization has invested heavily in Shelby and Oceana County.
- You will also see another **Dollar General** on Oceana and M-20. The Board appreciates the company's investment into Shelby Township.
- **Meyers Chevrolet** has invested heavily in expanding their service facility. They have also installed a new state-of-the-art wheel alignment equipment. As a small community, we are very privileged to have this dealership in Shelby Township.
- **Lewis Farms** has once again expanded their footprint and attractions. In 2023, they added additional parking, paved the approach to their buildings and paved the Northern parking lot by the front entrance and store. They also invested heavily in a state-of-the-art splash pad.

The above represents specific actions that have occurred to promote the M-20 corridor for additional businesses. Stay tuned as this growth journey continues.

New Branding

The Township is partnering with the Chamber of Commerce and the Village of Shelby to develop and erect new Welcome to Shelby signage. We have chosen more of a retro style which we believe represents our Township's core values. In the near future, you will see signs erected on Oceana Drive, Shelby Road, M-20 East and M-20 West promoting our small but mighty community.



Grants

The Township Board has worked hard with the State government to receive some of your taxes back to Shelby Township, so the Board could invest in many of our projects. The below represents a lot of work over the last two years, and to be frank, it is time that Shelby Township received their fair share, and some would argue we received too much. I make the argument that we are making up for all those dollars lost in the past.

\$970K in Appropriations for Road Work
\$760K Appropriations for Park Project
\$500K DNR Grant for Park
\$160K State Grant for Park

\$760K MDOT Grant to Pave Shelby Road
\$30K Consumers Grant for Tree Planting
\$2.9M Grant for Water Pipeline
\$800K MEDC Grant for Housing

Tree Planting

The Township was successful in receiving two grants to plant trees. The decision was to plant these trees at our new park. We would now like to open the tree planting grants in 2024 to residents of the Township. Trees must be planted in the front of your property and not in the ROW. Please contact the office to have your name placed on a list of participating residents.

Blight

There are Brownfield Grants which provide the full cost of demolition and removal of blighted buildings, barns, commercial facilities etc. If you are interested, please submit your information to the Township office. Funds are limited, so it is on a first come, first served basis.

Respectfully,

Richard Raffaelli

Richard Raffaelli
Shelby Township Supervisor

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