



Welcome to the Shelby Township Newsletter where we will update all Shelby Township residents with an update of our activities in 2025 and also preview what is planned for the future.

## Enclosed Facility at Shelby Township

Excitement is building in Shelby Township as we officially break ground on the long-anticipated Enclosed Facility at Shelby Township Community Park. This multi-use indoor space will serve as a year-round hub for sports, recreation, events, and community gatherings. Designed with flexibility in mind, the facility will accommodate activities such as basketball, volleyball, fitness classes, and public meetings. It's a direct response to the needs voiced by residents who have long sought a place to stay active and connected during Michigan's colder months.

"We're thrilled to see this project come to life," said Township Supervisor Richard Raffaelli. "This facility reflects our commitment to enhancing the quality of life in Shelby and investing in spaces where people of all ages can come together. It's about building community and creating opportunity."

Construction is already underway, with crews preparing the site and laying the groundwork for the structure. The project has been a collaborative effort between the Township Board, community stakeholders, and our parks and recreation team. Once complete, the enclosed facility will not only support organized sports and township programming but will also be available for private rental and special events. Shelby Township is proud to take this important step forward and looks forward to celebrating its grand opening in the near future.

## Proposed Outdoor Swimming Pool in the Work

Planning continues for a potential new outdoor swimming pool designed to serve residents of all ages. The Township Board is currently evaluating options for funding, location, and design features, with public input playing a key role in the process. The goal is to offer a seasonal facility that supports recreation, swim lessons, and summer fun in a safe and accessible setting.

While still in the proposal phase, the pool project reflects Shelby Township's long-term vision for a vibrant and active community. Updates will be shared as plans move forward, and residents are encouraged to attend upcoming board meetings to stay informed and share their input.







## New Bark Park Opens at Shelby Township Community Park

Shelby Township is proud to announce the grand opening of its second Bark Park—this time located right inside Shelby Township Community Park. This exciting addition offers even more space for dogs and their humans to play, socialize, and enjoy the outdoors in a safe, welcoming environment. As visitors enter the park, they're greeted by "Roberto," a life-size fiberglass St. Bernard with roots in Shelby—an endearing mascot and photo opportunity for families and pet lovers alike.



Conveniently situated between the two baseball fields, the Bark Park features benches, waste disposal stations, and easy-access parking. A dog-friendly water fountain is located near the playground area, making it an ideal destination for the entire family. This Bark Park is part of the township's broader vision of promoting wellness, community, and outdoor recreation throughout Oceana County—with special focus on the residents of Shelby Township and Village.

## Continued Focus on Road Improvements and Grants

Shelby Township remains committed to improving local infrastructure, with a special focus on road repair and maintenance. Several projects are already underway this season, targeting the most heavily traveled and worn roadways. These efforts are part of a multi-year plan to improve safety, connectivity, and overall transportation quality for all residents.

To support these initiatives, the township has applied for a number of state and federal grants aimed at offsetting costs and accelerating project timelines. While some funding decisions are still pending, the Township Board is optimistic and continues to advocate for Shelby's needs at the county and state levels. We'll keep residents updated as new projects are scheduled and funded.

## Pet Memorial Opening in August

Another heartfelt project nearing completion is the Woodside Pet Memorial, a space dedicated to honoring the lives of beloved pets. Woodside Pet Memorial offers a permanent home for both large and small pets. Woodside will be one of the few public burials for West Michigan families to commemorate their four-legged companions.

Located next to Mt. Hope Cemetery, the pet memorial will offer residents a respectful and serene place to lay their furry companions to rest. This initiative was born out of community interest and is a meaningful way to reflect the deep bonds we share with our animals. More details—including reservation information and opening day events—will be shared in the coming months.

Respectfully,

*Richard Raffaelli*

Richard Raffaelli  
Shelby Township Supervisor

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