



Dear Shelby Township Resident,

I wanted to let each of you know of the projects that your Shelby Township Board has been working on since this past November. As always, your feedback is appreciated as it is our goal to improve our township for all who live here. We welcome your comments and suggestions as we are here to manage your expectations, not our own. My personal contact details, and those of the entire Board, can be found on the Shelby Township webpage, [www.shelbytownshipoceana.com](http://www.shelbytownshipoceana.com).

1. The Shelby Township Community Park Committee was formed, and 8 township residents are members. The committee developed a five-year park plan and approved the design of a 39 acres sports complex for residents and our school system. The land located on the rail trail, in section 7 of our township, was purchased and donated to the township. We are currently in the fundraising phase. Our new park will be funded privately and supported by state grants. Donations to the project, which are tax deductible, would be greatly appreciated and can be made to the Oceana Community Foundation, in care of the Shelby Township Community Park.

2. The Shelby Public Schools Bond Proposal has passed with the vast majority of Shelby Township residents supporting it. Thank you for having the vision to support our children as they are the foundation for a thriving community.

3. The Shelby Township Cemetery Committee has been formed. This group has the primary responsibility of a beautification project at Mount Hope Cemetery.



4. The Shelby Township Planning Commission has the major current project of updating the Shelby Township Master Plan, which will be the township's "road map for planning and zoning for the next two decades". The commission has also reviewed several new building plans for businesses coming into our township. They have passed the Sign Ordinance and a Parcel Size Ordinance (now allowing home builds on 1-acre minimum parcels as compared to the previous 2-acre minimum parcels). They have also passed a Density Ordinance allowing a "Mother-in-law" auxiliary home to be built on your lot.



#### Welcome to Shelby Township

Welcome to the official website of Shelby Township, located in Oceana County on the west coast of Michigan. This website is for the purpose of providing township information for the benefit of our residents and visitors.

If you cannot find the information here that you are seeking, please feel free to contact us, and we will do our best to provide what you need.



5. The Electronic Communication Committee has been formed. They have launched the new township webpage, new logo, new Facebook page and they have set up our township office so that Shelby Township residents can participate in zoom conferences of all township meetings. You will also now have the ability to download all township ordinances and forms, as well as pay your taxes online.

6. Shelby Township has currently applied for several State of Michigan and federal grants (some large and some small) available to us for various projects. As our township residents pay taxes to both the state and federal government, it is the responsibility of your township board to participate in these opportunities to return funds back to our township. A couple of examples are the “Welcome to Shelby Township” signs and the gardens around the larger signs, painting the outside of our township building and erecting an American flag.

7. It is our sincere hope that other businesses in the village will also exhibit “Shelby Pride” by updating our village. We support the Village Council and believe the council needs a more formal program to attract businesses back to our village. As we continue to lose more businesses and have more open store fronts, as a community we need to “re-purpose” our village. Please do your part by shopping in the village. Please also express to the council your support of a formal business plan to attract businesses to our village. A healthy downtown is a healthy township.

8. The Shelby Township Planning Commission and Shelby Township Board have approved a re-zoning application for a non-profit housing group to build up to 200 homes. The development is on Oceana Drive, across from Shelby High School and the site of the new elementary to be built. The development is within walking distance to our schools and the village. There will be several “mini-villages” within the development...a tiny home village, duplexes, quads and single-family homes. The development will feature both rental and attainable purchase options.

9. The Shelby Township Board has approved a bond for 1.7 million dollars, to be paid back over 15 years, which will go 100% to improving our township roads. The pay-back is based on 60% of the current road millage, so there will be NO ADDITIONAL TAXES to township residents. This bond will allow us to complete about 7 years’ worth of roadwork in a single year. This approach has not been used in Oceana County previously but makes a lot of financial sense. The interest we pay is 1.7% but that is less than inflation in roadwork which is about 4% per year. We actually get more roadwork done, with the same amount of money expended.

10. As promised during the election, I am not taking a salary as township supervisor. My budgeted salary goes back into the general operating fund. For myself, and the rest of the Shelby Township Board, we serve to help make our community better.

Since November your board has been very active. Seeing the fruits of all of the hard work of so many Shelby Township residents is rewarding. Thank you all for supporting Shelby Township.

Respectfully,

*Richard Raffaelli*

Richard Raffaelli  
Shelby Township Supervisor

