



## 2022 Summer Update in Shelby Township

### Road Work:

This year we are slated to do several roads with Chip and Seal and complete other major paving projects. We partnered with Hart Township and the Oceana Road Commission to complete the final two miles of Baseline Road. Shelby Road and Woodrow will also have their perspective final two miles completed. Hayes Road is also on the schedule for a major re-paving. Shelby Township was successful in receiving a 650K grant from the State of Michigan, which enabled us to expand and expedite our Shelby Township Road Plan.



### School:

The new Shelby Elementary School has broken ground and dirt is moving at a very fast pace. This will be a wonderful addition to our community as we must continue to invest in the generations to come. Thank you to all the residents who supported the bond proposal.

### Housing:

Shelby Township is working with a developer to build 20 single-family homes and 32 two-bedroom apartments on a plot of land across from the high school. Affordable housing is the second pandemic facing our community. The Township has submitted several grants to offset some of the infrastructure costs and the savings will go directly to the future homeowners. The vision of the development is to grow the community by developing affordable, safe housing for Oceana County residents. Rules are in development that will ensure these properties do not become rental income residences or second homes for people wanting a summer home. The rules will include residency requirements that ensure the property is the primary residence of the homeowner. The Township is working with the Village of Shelby to provide water and sewage to the development.

### Cemetery and Park Millage:

At the next election, we will be asking the voters to approve a .5 millage for the Cemetery and Park Fund. Although we are fiscally conservative, it is becoming expensive to maintain the cemeteries to the high standard Shelby Township residents deserve. The millage will also enable us to install a much-needed equipment shed as well as a sprinkler system. The millage proposed is similar to that of several surrounding Townships.

### Township Park:

On June 8th, the Township held the official ground-breaking ceremony for the park. We have raised 2.5M to date in private donations and federal grants. As of today, there are several grant applications in the works and the Township continues to actively seek out additional private donors. We have also recently formed a fundraising committee of Shelby Township residents. We are still short funds to complete the final phases of the park.



The park will be the outdoor jewel in Oceana County. The Shelby Township Board would like to thank the Park and Recreation Committee for their endless hours of volunteering and their support of such a worthwhile project.

#### **Bark Park:**

We have designed and submitted grants for funding a Bark Park for those residents who don't have acres of land where their dogs can have a place to run and play with other dogs. The proposed site is to the east of the cemetery and will have two sections...one for large dogs and one for smaller dogs. Water and waste units will be built, and there will be a covered seating area for the dog owners. This is just one more initiative the Township Board is pursuing to support local outdoor activity.



#### **Blight and Grass Mowing:**

The Shelby Township Planning Commission has spent the good part of the year developing a comprehensive Blight Ordinance. The ordinance was approved by the Board at the June meeting and will be effective July 1, 2022. The purpose of the ordinance is not to penalize residents but to help support a Township beatification process.

We have also hired a local farmer to increase the mowing on our township roads. The Oceana County Road Commission completes one mowing a year, but the Board feels that is not enough. Our heartfelt thanks to all the residents who mow the front of their rural properties and exhibit pride in their homes and surrounding areas. I would like to challenge all farmers to mow by the road when they mow their orchards. This will help with the safety concern of deer hiding in the long grass.



#### **Join Us:**

Although we have a well-rounded Board filled with intelligence, creativity and several individuals with a Master's Degree in Common Sense, we still need your help in developing and executing the vision for Shelby Township. Please join us the first Monday of the month at our Board meeting and participate. We will listen and respond to your inquiries. We are also very open to feedback on what we are doing well, what we should be doing in addition, and what we should not be doing. We are focused on growing Shelby Township while at the same time working on making government easier and simpler to deal with. There is nothing more frustrating than unnecessary government bureaucratic nonsense. It takes a Township to run a Township. Please feel free to reach out to me at any time. My cell number is 214-674-2539.

Respectfully,

*Richard Raffaelli*

Richard Raffaelli  
Shelby Township Supervisor

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