

# Oakland Township Sentinel

**Weekly Report – April 5, 2026**

**News and Information about  
Charter Township of Oakland Township Michigan  
Government**

Always free, on-line at

<https://oaklandtownshipsentinel.com>

## **Contact Information**

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## **About Us**

Oakland Township Sentinel is a DBA of Robert A. Yager and Associates L.L.C., Michigan Domestic Limited Liability Company #802404351.

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# Oakland Township Fire Department

2025 Annual Report [oaklandtwpmi.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/oakland\\_fire\\_infographic.pdf](https://oaklandtwpmi.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/oakland_fire_infographic.pdf)



# Sheriff's Department

## Crime Reports

If you look at pages 85-87 the Board of Trustees packet for October 9, 2012 [320142013.pdf](#) you will see a quarterly report of crime statistics. Why don't we see that now? I've sent Township Manager Joseph Merucci this question in an email on April 4, 2026. Will publish his response.

## Speed Limit Conformance

The following suggested starting point plan has been sent to our Board of Trustees and Manager for consideration.

### Suggested Goals -

- 1- Get drivers on Oakland Township roads to comply 100% with speed limits is an important goal for our Township Board to adopt.
- 2- An even more important and more urgent goal is to first eliminate those drivers who drive well over the speed limit, such as 70 – 90 in a 45 MPH zone.
- 3- Be known as the township in which you don't want to speed as you will surely get a ticket.

### What is the current situation regarding these goals.

- 1- They have not been adopted by our Board of Trustees nor communicated to our Manager as the level of performance they require under ordinance 45-C3 [Chapter 45: Officers and Employees - Charter Township of Oakland, MI](#) making him (or her) responsible ***"To see that all laws and Township***

***ordinances are enforced.***” Of course he does this via assistance of our Sheriff Dept contract.

- 2- We have little hard data on speed limit compliance.
- 3- Whatever data we have, besides and October 2025 study on Collins Rd. is not shared publicly; don't know if it is shared with Manager or Board.
- 4- We have few if any tools employed to assess the situation. We rely on the archaic method of direct observation of an officer, and even in that case gather no data, except tickets issued.
- 5- The correct tool for obtaining realistic speed data is likely a hidden monitoring device; not a device with flashing signs.
- 6- Compliance may be helped by an education component in addition to strict enforcement.
- 7- Recently a 15 year resident of Silverbell, who is concerned about a possible 50 MPH speed limit, and who has been a police officer for 42 years and investigating accidents for 12 said, “I can tell you that 90% of the traffic accidents that I investigated, the causation was speed” (Board special meeting 3/10/26, 2 PM during public comment. At minute 1:13:30 on video [Special Board of Trustees - March 10, 2026](#))

**What are the next steps to advance from where we are toward these goals?**

- 1 – Put this item on a Board meeting for discussion.

**What is needed to take the next steps?**

- 1-One of the following willing to put this on the agenda – Supervisor Robin Buxar, Manager Joe Merucci, Any two Trustees

# Parks and Recreation

## Calendar –

Please be aware that Parks and Recreation has an events calendar buried on the Township website here: [Calendar](#)

All Facilities									
<		Today		April 2026			Month	Week	Day
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat			
29	30	31	1	2	3	4			
		4p - 4:50p Team Archery-Middle/ High School Tue 4pm-4:50pm (Marsh View Park Archery Range)	8:30a - 10:30a Weekly Bird Walks 1/7/26 - 4/29/26 8:30am (Cranberry Lake Park)	10:30a - 11:30a Chair Yoga Thurs. 4/2-5/7 10:30-11:30am (Paint Creek Cider Mill)	10a - 1p Vernal Pool Monitoring Training 4/3 10am-1pm (Bear Creek Nature Park)				
			9:30a - 10:30a Mommy and Me Yoga 3/18-4/22 9:30-10:30am (Paint Creek Cider Mill)	5p - 6p Meditative Yoga Thurs. 3/12-4/16 5pm-6pm (Paint Creek Cider Mill)					
			5p - 5:50p Team Archery-Middle/ High School Wed. 5pm-5:50pm (Marsh View Park Archery Range)	5p - 6p Meditative Yoga Thurs. 4/2-5/7 5pm-6pm (Paint Creek Cider Mill)					
5	6	7	8	9	10	11			
8a - 9a Not Available due to Holiday (Bear Creek Nature Park Picnic Pavilion)	4:45p - 5:45p Meditation Mondays: Yin Yoga 4/6-5/11 4:45-5:45 (Paint Creek Cider Mill)	4p - 4:50p Team Archery-Middle/ High School Tue 4pm-4:50pm (Marsh View Park Archery Range)	8:30a - 10:30a Weekly Bird Walks 1/7/26 - 4/29/26 8:30am (Fox Nature Preserve)	10:30a - 11:30a Chair Yoga Thurs. 4/2-5/7 10:30-11:30am (Paint Creek Cider Mill)		9a - 10:30a Beginning Archery 4/11-5/9 9am-10:30am (Marsh View Park Archery Range)			
			9:30a - 10:30a Mommy and Me	5p - 6p Meditative Yoga Thurs. 3/12-		10a - 1p Build a LEGO® Brick			

To find it go to the Township website without depending on above link:

- 1 - Go to the Township website - <https://oaklandtwpmi.gov/>
- 2 - Click on “Departments” at top of main page
- 3 – On the scroll down menu, click on “Parks and Recreation”
- 4 – “Parks and Recreation” page comes up.
- 5 - Scroll down a little; on the left is a long list, click on ‘Calendars’.

# Roads – Silverbell / Gallagher Paving

**April 2, 2026 – 5-8 PM** - Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC) held an information meeting at Township hall on possible paving of Silverbell and Gallagher.

I was unable to attend. As I understand it they welcome further questions. Contact information is at the bottom of the meeting announcement flier [2026 info meeting flyer.pub](#)

Complete information ( as much as we have) on this project can be seen at the various links provided by the township in an email and published in the Weekly Report for March 22, 2026 pages 8-9 [Weekly Report – March 22, 2026 | Oakland Township Sentinel](#)

# Historic District Commission

**Opinion:** As I see it, our Township Board prohibited fund-raising activities such as weddings with alcohol in our local ordinance required by state law.

## State Law Governing

**399.213 Powers and duties of historic district **commission**.**

Sec. 13.

The local legislative body may prescribe powers and duties of the historic district **commission**, in addition to those prescribed in this act, that foster historic preservation activities, projects, and programs in the local unit.

**History:** Add. 1986, Act 230, Imd. Eff. Oct. 1, 1986

**Compiler's Notes:** For transfer of powers and duties of department of history, arts, and libraries or the Michigan historical center relating to the identification, certification, and preservation of historical sites to the Michigan state housing development authority, see E.R.O. No. 2009-26, compiled at MCL 399.752. For transfer of powers and duties of the state historic preservation office relating to the identification, certification, and preservation of historical sites from the Michigan state housing development authority to the Michigan strategic fund, see E.R.O. No. 2019-3, compiled at MCL 125.1998.

## Oakland Township Code of Ordinances Governing

### [Chapter 228: Historic Districts and Preservation - Charter Township of Oakland, MI](#)

#### [§ 228-39 Powers.](#)

### An Excerpt from Chapter 228 -39

[Amended 10-9-2012 by Ord. No. 37-A(2)-2012]

*“G. The Commission may, within the limits of its budget, organize, manage, advertise, and hold events and activities in the Township for the purpose of promoting and educating the public regarding the existence and preservation of historic resources located in the Township, provided that the Commission obtains advance permission from the person or entity having jurisdiction over or ownership of the property at which the*

**event or activity is to take place and complies with all applicable laws, regulations, and Township ordinances, policies and cash handling and audit requirements in connection with such events and activities. Such events and activities shall not involve fund-raising. For purposes of this subsection, the term "fund-raising" does not mean, include, or preclude charges or fees to participants that are assessed and applied for purposes of offsetting the costs of holding such events and activities.”**

I asked Preservation Planner, Barbara and Historic District Commission member and Township Supervisor Robin Buxar if they had any comments on the above. I received the following in an email from Barbara Barber.

*Thanks for your questions and opportunity for feedback for you and the Sentinel readers. Couple of comments regarding fundraising: Allowing residents to have private rentals is not fundraising activities. Private rentals can produce revenue to offset a portion of the costs to maintain the buildings and grounds. Rental revenue contributes to the fund balance that can be allocated to annual maintenance of the site so that the public can utilize and enjoy. The HDC has never had rental revenue exceeding the costs of maintaining the site. Compare charging fees for a program, the income generated helps pay for not only the program instructor yet also produces additional revenue to help maintain the site where the programs are being held. And it may generate revenue to help offset the use of staff time to run the program.*

*Alcohol is prohibited in Oakland Twp parks per Ordinance 38A. Cranberry Lake Farm Historic District, managed by the HDC, has followed the no alcohol policy since it lies within Cranberry Lake Park, which is managed by the PRC.*

*Preserving the Garling Barn for purposes of historic preservation should duly benefit our residents. Restoring the barn for public use requires substantial costs and good planning involves doing research on how the site and barn can*

*best benefit our residents. It can provide many opportunities for residents to enjoy, of which we have outlined ideas from farm markets to historical displays, and even occasional weddings. It is undeniable to not consider the popularity of barn weddings. For Cranberry Lake Farm, our private rentals of the site do generate interest. The one thing that reduces private rentals is the fact that we do not allow alcohol. 90% of the time, that quickly ends the conversation, and I refer them to Addison Oaks Buhl Estate, Springfield Oaks Ellis Barn, Stony Creek Metropark Sheldon Estate, Rochester Hills Museum at VanHoosen Farm, and Upland Hills.*

*Oakland County Parks allows alcohol in designated areas, the Ellis Barn in Springfield Oaks County Park, used for private wedding rentals with rules that alcohol must be discontinued by 11 pm. Metropolitan parks allow beer and wine in certain areas like picnic areas. And finally, State parks like Bald Mtn allow alcohol in their rental areas.*

*The Paint Creek Cider Mill is also owned by Oakland Twp however, the bldg. is not listed under Ord 38A and can on occasion, with permission from the Board of Trustees, serve alcohol for private functions. I remember the cider mill had a beer station for a local trail run which was sponsored by a craft beer company.*

*Allowing a full picture for future functions, it just made sense to keep the options open for the Garling site to warrant a special event that had the option to serve alcohol. Since the Trustees hold the cards, they can make the rules. For instance, rules that require a certified bartender that carries own liability insurance, only serves beer/wine, or even only a champagne toast of a wedding ceremony. It would undeniably broaden opportunities for our residents, yet more research should be done, and more opinions and concerns understood.*

*Check out this place Historic Barns Park owned by City of Traverse City and Garfield Township, a joint municipal body. The property, formerly part of the Traverse City State Hospital, is an example of collaborative local government efforts to preserve historic land and buildings for public use. While publicly*

*owned, the site is developed and operated through partnerships. It was purchased with millage funds approved by voters in both the City and Charter Township of Garfield. <https://www.historicbarnspark.com/historic-barnspark/>”*

## **Historic District Commission, Meeting -**

**March 18,2026**

### **Summary of meeting:**

There was a lot of discussion summarized in the draft minutes below.

**Video:** [Historic District Commission - March 18, 2026](#)

**Draft Minutes** [Minutes](#)

There were two motions; both were approved -

- approval of February minutes
- approval of March invoices.

**Agenda -** [HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION](#)

**Packet -** [753236925.pdf](#)



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***REGULAR MEETING AGENDA***

**March 18, 2026 at 7:00 PM**

***Oakland Township Main Hall Conference Room  
4393 Collins Road, Oakland Twp, Michigan 48306***

1. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Agenda March 18, 2026
4. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes: February 18, 2026
5. Approval of Special Joint November 12, 2025 PRC / HDC minutes
6. Welcome Public Comments
7. Oakland Twp Heritage Site
  - a. Garling Barn Project – Next steps
8. Cranberry Lake Farm Historic District
  - a. Maintenance
  - b. America 250MI
  - c. Programs
9. Local Historic Preservation
10. HDC Commissioner Interest
11. Preservation Planners Report
12. HDC March 2026 Invoices – for Approval
13. HDC Commissioner Comments
14. Adjournment

# Township Public Body Meetings in April

APRIL 2026						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
			6:00 pm: Safety Paths and Trails Committee Meeting	5:00 pm: Silverbell & Gallagher Paving Meeting	12:00 am: Good Friday - Office Closed	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
		7:00 pm: Planning Commission Meeting	7:00 pm: Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting			
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
		7:00 pm: Board of Trustees Meeting	7:00 pm: Historic District Commission Meeting			
20	21	22	23	24	25	
3:00 pm: Monthly Trustee Office Hours	7:00 pm: Zoning Board Meeting					
27	28	29	30	1	2	
	7:00 pm: Board of Trustees Meeting					

# Summaries of April Meetings Already Held

## Safety Paths and Trails, April 1, 2026

### Sentinel Synopsis of meeting.

- Attendance – Below shows members, their role on Committee, expiration date of their term and **present** or **absent**.
  - **Chairperson, Andrew Zale (5/28) – absent**
  - **Vice Chairperson & Planning Commission Rep., Teresa Mulawa (9/26) – present**
  - **Secretary, Evan Agnello (5/26) - absent**
  - **Member, Marisa Kallie (5/28) – present**
  - **Member, Shane Smith (6/27)– present**
  - **Board of Trustees Rep., Emily Campbell (11/28)- present**
  - **Parks & Rec Rep., Jim Quesenberry (11/28)- absent**
- Approved the Agenda
- Approved Draft Minutes: March 4, 2026 [753236238.pdf](#)
- Public Comment for items not on the agenda - no public present
- Future Path Discussion –
  - Discussed / acknowledged the discrepancy between approved study of Snell Road Pathway in March 4, 2026 SPTC minutes
    - SPTC 3/4/2026, draft minutes, page 4 - ***“MOTION by Mulawa, seconded by Smith to extend the Snell Road pathway contract through Township Manager Joseph Merucci or the Board of Trustees for an additional \$6800. MOTION carried unanimously.”***
    - Board of Trustees, 3/24/26 draft minutes, page 2 - [753242128.pdf](#)

**VI.2. Consideration of the request from the Safety Paths & Trails Committee to retain PEA to conduct a survey of Sheldon Road.**

Safety Paths and Trails Committee Chair, Andy Zale, presented on the request to retain PEA to conduct a survey of Sheldon Road.

Public comment:

David Phillips, a longtime resident of Oakland Township.  
Barb Barber, 1395 East Snell Road.

Motion to authorize PEA to conduct steps A-D of its proposal dated March 3, 2026, at a cost not to exceed \$46,000 for the Sheldon Road pathway project and authorize the Township Manager to sign the contract. This motion, made by Emily Campbell and seconded by Jack Elder, Passed.

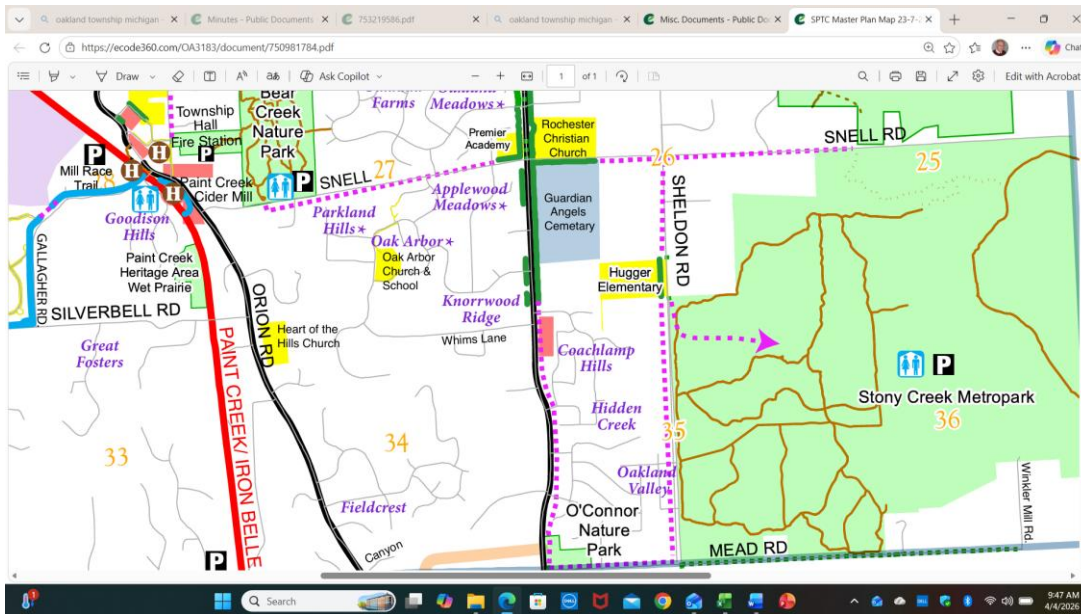
Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

- o Discussed Shelden Path \$46,000 PEA study to get all clear on details of study (Snell to Meade; preliminary, not detailed plan.

**Past studies of the Sheldon \$1,800,000 Pathway**

are on the township website. See below.

[SPTC Master Plan Map 23-7-20](#)



From April 3, 2023 letter PEA to Zale. [750982289.pdf](#)

**Sheldon Road from Mead Road to Snell Road (broken out into two sections)**

**Mead To Broadleaf**

Length: 1,920' (0.4 miles)

Easements: none

Technical Concerns: 68 LF of retaining wall

Potential Cost: \$288,000

Cost per lineal foot: \$150

General Comments: 6' concrete sidewalk the entire way but could be widened to 8-10' pathway. There is a recently constructed asphalt pathway in the middle of this route, which shortens the amount of new pathway required to complete this connection.

No easements and a wide R.O.W. in this area makes this section very feasible. The section ends at Broadleaf which is across the street from a significant intersection of trails within the Metropark. This location currently serves as a popular access point into the west side of the Metropark. This section of pathway would provide access to this trailhead from the sidewalk network south of Mead Road.

**Broadleaf to Snell**

Length: 5,929' (1.1 miles)

Easements: 1 (easement at residential lot is a high challenge)

Technical Concerns: 1,832 LF of retaining walls and a wetland crossing

Potential Cost: \$1,510,000

Cost per lineal foot: \$255

General Comments: 6' concrete sidewalk the entire way, 8-10' pathway won't fit in the R.O.W. Technically feasible, but the one required easement may be a challenge to acquire. If the pathway along Snell is not constructed, this section would not connect to any pathways.

Connection to the school is a benefit, but the existing pathway at the school property will need to be replaced.

[22-1558 SHELDON-SNELL TO BROADLEAF COST OPINION.xlsx](#)

**STRUCTURES**

PLAN QUANTITY	UNIT	DESCRIPTION	UNIT PRICE	ITEM PRICE
7,500	F.F.	MASONRY BLOCK RETAINING WALL	\$60.00	\$450,000.00
TOTAL STRUCTURES				\$450,000.00

<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	\$1,257,730.00
<b>MOBILIZATION (5%)</b>	\$62,886.50
<b>Contingency (15%)</b>	\$188,659.50
<b>TOTAL COST OF CONSTRUCTION</b>	<b>\$1,509,276.00</b>

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICES**

PLAN QUANTITY	UNIT	DESCRIPTION	UNIT PRICE	ITEM PRICE
1	L.S.	CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
1	L.S.	TRAFFIC CONTROL ALLOWANCE	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00
1	L.S.	REVIEW AND PERMIT FEE ALLOWANCE	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
1	L.S.	ENGINEERING ALLOWANCE	\$188,659.50	\$188,659.50
1	L.S.	SURVEYING ALLOWANCE	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
1	L.S.	STAKING ALLOWANCE	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
TOTAL PROFESSIONAL SERVICES				\$293,659.50

**TOTAL PROJECT COST                    \$1,802,935.50**

**PEA Preliminary Site Plans for Sheldon from Snell to Mead**

This gives fairly detailed drawings of exactly where the path is planned relative to property lines and roads. [753145335.pdf](#)

**Remainder of SPTC Meeting 4/1/26**

- Path Maintenance Update – RFP in progress
- SPTC Member Reports – Teresa Mulawa - Opening on Committee coming up soon – apply if interested; Drivers, please be courteous to walkers and bikers:

**Meeting Documents**

**Agenda:** [acab2faf-d81d-4f13-8824-62414b67d257.pdf](#)

**Video:** [Safety Paths & Trails - April 1, 2026](#) (12 minutes)

**Meeting Packet:** none

**Draft Minutes:** not available yet

**Final Minutes:** not available yet

# Silverbell and Gallagher Paving Meeting 5-8 PM, April 2,2026

See “Roads” above on [page 7](#)