

# Shelby - Utica News

**Rick Stathakis**  
Shelby Township Supervisor

Supervisor's Office:  
52700 Van Dyke Ave.  
Shelby Township, MI 48016  
Phone:  
(586) 721-8154  
Fax:  
(586) 726-9370  
Email:  
rstathakis@shelbytwip.org

Board of Trustees:  
Rick Stathakis, Supervisor  
Stan Grot, Clerk  
Michael Elton, Treasurer

Inside this issue:

- 1 page
- 1 Township names bond to pursue community center upgrades
- 1 Major road construction maps, progress graphics



## Shelby Township Supervisor's Report

Fourth Quarter October - December 2015

Volume 2, Issue 4

### A letter from your Township Supervisor



Dear Neighbors:

People spend a lot of time talking about progress, but the hard thing about progress is that it not only requires time talking about it, but progress means an increasing bill. Progress is not achieved by sitting. It is achieved by doing.

In Shelby Township your local elected officials and our township employees provide the drive to success. Since then we have the greatest day. Progress is always earned, and when it's earned, it makes for a better tomorrow and a better world. Progress like the work being done in our town is the Shelby Township success story.

While this year has seen a number of challenges for our residents and ourselves, by the end of the year we will have seen a lot of progress. We will have seen a lot of progress. We will have seen a lot of progress.

**LOOK INSIDE:**  
**For the latest Shelby Township Supervisor's Report**



## Shelby to Utica trail connection work to wrap up Nov. 15

NEXT TRAIL PROJECT WILL CONNECT NEW  
PARK TO MACOMB ORCHARD TRAIL

BY SARAH WOJCIK  
[swojcik@candgnews.com](mailto:swojcik@candgnews.com)

SHELBY TOWNSHIP/UTICA — Township Engineer Carol Thurber said construction on the 1.28-mile trail connecting River Bends Park to the city of Utica is on schedule to finish by Nov. 15.

“This has been in the works for at least five years,” Thurber said. “It’s finally near the end of construction, and I’m pleased to say that the portion from the south end of the River Bends trail all the way to the wetland area where the boardwalk (is), is already constructed.”

In a Sept. 30 interview, she said that crews were planning to pave everything up to the Utica portion of the trail within the next week. The crews then would work on shor-

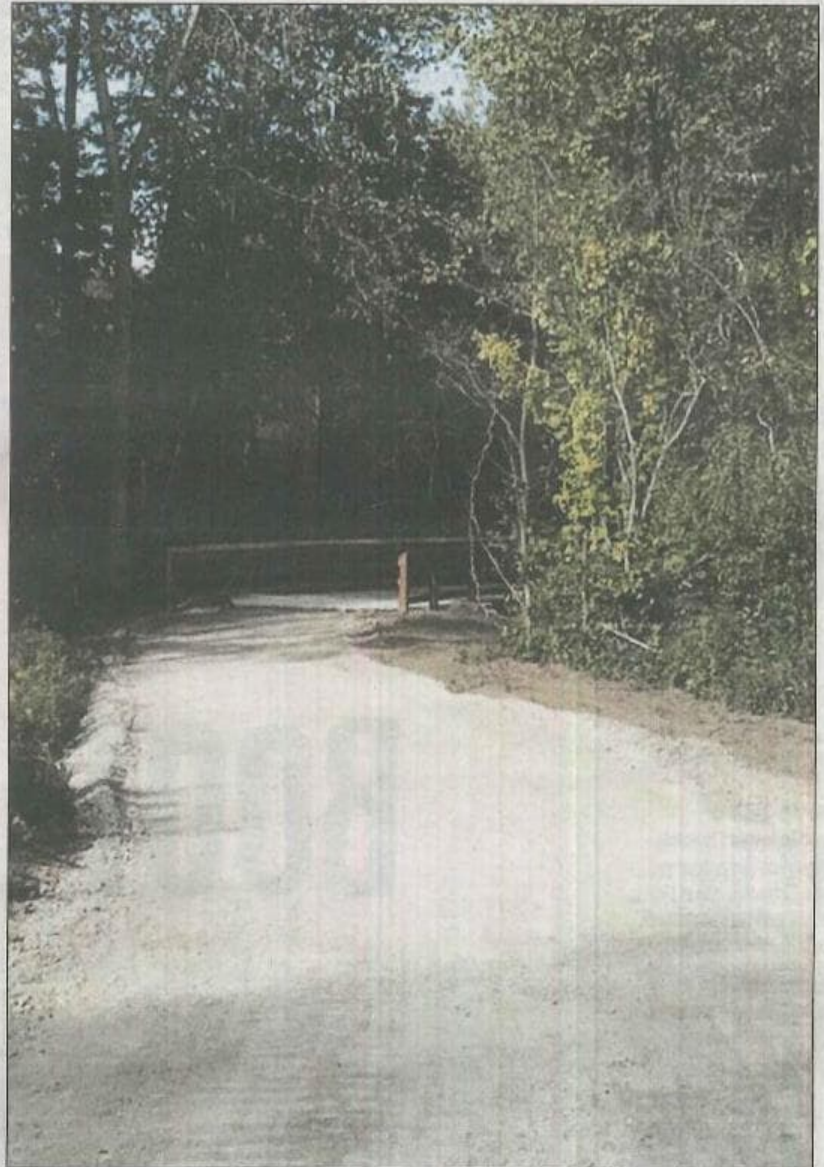


Photo provided by Joe Youngblood

**A gravel path, which crews plan to pave within the next week, leads up to the newly constructed boardwalk in River Bends Park.**

See TRAIL on page 12A

# Trail

from page 3A

ing up the area along the Clinton River on Auburn Road.

"They had to wait until the end of September to do that part so they would not disturb the fish habitat," she said.

Joe Youngblood, director of the Shelby Township Parks, Recreation and Maintenance Department, said that upon completion of the trail connection, trail users can travel by trail from River Bends Park to Lake St. Clair Metropark.

The cost of the trail is \$2.4 million, with federal and state grants funding the majority of the project — \$1,774,000 from the Federal High Priority Projects Program secured by Utica Mayor Jacqueline Noonan, and \$338,000 from the Michigan Transportation Alternatives Program.

Shelby Township and Utica agreed to split the remaining cost of the project 41 percent to 59 percent, respectively. Although both communities will receive 0.64 miles of trail, Utica's portion is more costly because its construction costs include tunneling under Conrail train tracks and stabilizing the trail where it will hug the Clinton River.

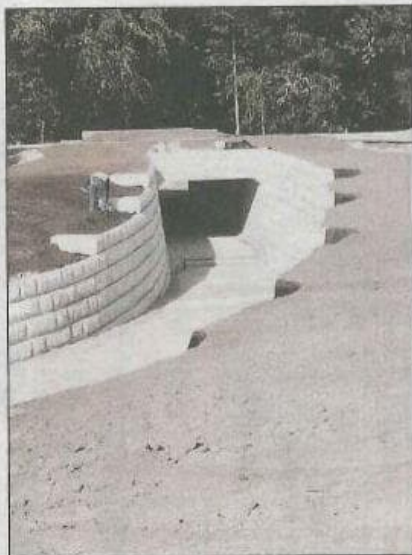


Photo provided by Joe Youngblood

**A newly constructed boardwalk stretches across a wetland area, part of a trail connection between River Bends Park and the city of Utica. Construction is slated to be completed by Nov. 15.**

The next trail project in Shelby Township, Thurber said, will be to connect Chief Gene Shepherd Park to the Macomb Orchard Trail.

"We anticipate the construction of that to be next year," she said. "There will be some removal of sidewalk to make it a 10-foot-wide asphalt trail, according to the actual requirements."

Youngblood estimated that the trail will stretch approximately 2.5 miles.

Because of two grants secured by township officials that work as a match for each other, the trail connecting Chief Gene Shepherd Park to the Macomb Orchard Trail will cost the township nothing, Thurber said.

The Michigan Natural Resource Trust Fund will cover \$232,261 of the cost of the trail, and the Michigan Transportation Alternatives Program will cover \$272,333.

Thurber said the two trails are crucial to Michigan's Iron Belle Trail project, which includes a proposed 1,259-mile hiking route and a 744-mile biking route connecting Ironwood, Michigan, in the Upper Peninsula to Belle Isle Park in Detroit.

She said the township recently received another \$20,000 grant from the state to plan and design the most feasible and cost-effective route for trails that would connect River Bends Park to Chief Gene Shepherd Park.

"We're really in the spotlight," Thurber said. "I went to an Iron Belle regional coordination meeting in August, and Shelby Township was really on the forefront. They said we are doing a great job with the grants and things like that, so we are looking good."

She said she looks forward to

phasing things so the township can receive grant after grant after grant to pay for future trails and not have to allocate as much money.

"We're excited about what's going on in Shelby Township," Youngblood said. "As popular as the trails are, we are trying to keep improving the quality of life in Shelby Township, and I think we're

heading in the right direction."

Call Staff Writer Sarah Wojcik at (586) 498-1029.



In Your Mail,  
Every Week.

13650 11 Mile  
Warren, MI  
48089

Meals on Wheels Volunteers  
deliver...



A meal, and so much more.