

MERIDIAN

ANNUAL REPORT
2016-2017



WWW.MERIDIANCITY.ORG

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CITY OF MERIDIAN

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www.meridiacity.org

#MyMeridian

BY MAYOR TAMMY

2016 was a banner year for #MyMeridian – a year that began with big news as Governor Butch Otter announced that the state’s first medical school will be built in Meridian. We also welcomed a number of new businesses to Downtown Meridian including The Vault, The Processing Bar Salon, Gallery Coffee and Blue Sky Bagels. An unforgettable moment for our community was the Meridian Boys and Girls Club ribbon cutting for their new gymnasium and teen center in our downtown—furthering our commitment to youth in Meridian.

We added more recreation amenities! In December we celebrated the grand re-opening of the Homecourt facility off of Franklin Road which gives residents more options for indoor recreation and Tully Park received a new addition that was instantly a success—an outdoor gym! It was a unique project led by our next generation—the Mayor’s Youth Advisory Council.

We saw businesses expand in 2016 making Meridian the busiest jurisdiction in the State of Idaho. AmeriBen held a groundbreaking ceremony for its new company headquarters at Ten Mile and soon to be joined by Brighton Corporation. Other companies are now headquartered in our community including AECOM (formerly URS) and MarkMonitor, Inc. These businesses, and others, contributed to the addition of more than 3,800 jobs that were created in Meridian in 2016. That is almost three times the amount of jobs created in 2015 and most were family wage jobs!



Finally, this year we celebrated a unique partnership called “The Hill” in South Meridian. It includes a combination of education, health, and recreation with the Treasure Valley Family YMCA, the West Ada School District, the City and St. Luke’s. An exciting project!

So what’s next? We have many projects to build upon in 2017. I look forward to moving #MyMeridian forward - continuing to be a destination where businesses and families thrive.

MERIDIAN CITY COUNCIL

The Meridian City Council regularly meets the 1st, 3rd, and 4th Tuesdays of the month at 6:00 p.m.; and on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 3:00 p.m. Meetings are held at Meridian City Hall. For more information or to contact a council member visit: www.meridiancity.org/council.



Pictured Above (left to right): Top Row - Council Vice President Joe Borton, Council President Keith Bird, Councilman Luke Cavener, Councilman Ty Palmer. Bottom Row - Councilwoman Anne Little Roberts, Mayor Tammy de Weerd, Councilwoman Genesis Milam

DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS

The City of Meridian Department Directors are committed to demonstrating the City's C.A.R.E. values - Customer Service, Accountability, Respect and Excellence. With a focused vision for being the premiere place to live, work and raise a family, they work hard to ensure their departments are striving toward the five main areas of the Meridian Strategic Plan which includes strategic growth; economic vibrancy; responsive government; safe, healthy and secure; and arts, culture and recreation.

Community Development - Bruce Chatterton
Chief Financial Officer - Todd Lavoie
Chief Information Officer - Dave Tiede
City Attorney - Bill Nary
Fire Chief - Mark Niemeyer

Human Resources - Crystal Ritchie
Parks and Recreation - Steve Siddoway
Police Chief - Jeff Lavey
Public Works Interim - Dale Bolthouse
Support Services - Jaycee Holman

CITY BUDGET

The City of Meridian takes its fiduciary responsibilities seriously. Our financial mission is to achieve community goals within a framework that is not only fiscally sustainable now, but also in the future. This requires a conservative approach to budgeting revenues; long range financial planning and economic forecasting; saving for large capital projects; and collaboration between all of the City's departments.

The **GENERAL OPERATING FUND** derives 54% of its income from property tax, the rest comes from development and intergovernmental revenue. It pays for basic City services: Community development and planning, parks and recreation, fire, police and administration.

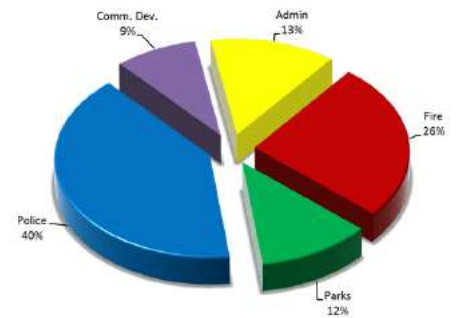
The **ENTERPRISE FUND** provides water and sewer service to Meridian residents and businesses. Similar to a business, this fund is financed completely with user fees. There are two principal types of fees: user fees, which are based on each customer's system usage, and connection fees, which are paid when a new structure "connects" to the utility system.

The graphs to the right show the base budget and capital budget for the general operating fund and enterprise fund. Capital is a one-time expense and the base budget illustrates ongoing expenses.

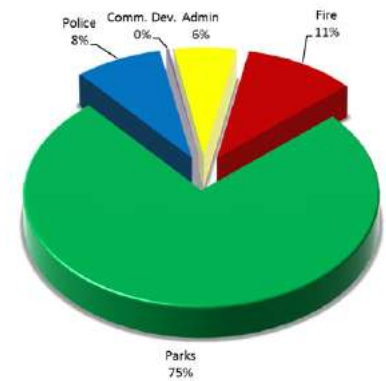
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GENERAL FUND

BASE BUDGET - \$39,660,145

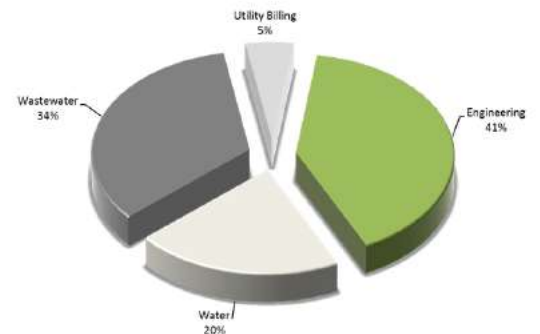


CAPITAL BUDGET - \$12,838,851

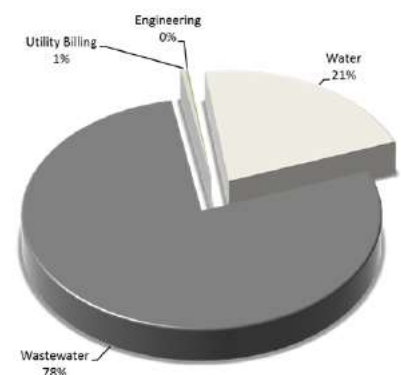


ENTERPRISE FUND

BASE BUDGET - \$19,842,930



CAPITAL BUDGET - \$46,889,723





TOP 16 OF 2016

IDAHO AVENUE IMPROVEMENTS

This year, Downtown Meridian welcomed many new businesses and celebrated the completion of the "Lighter, Quicker, Cheaper" placemaking re-design efforts on one block of Idaho Avenue. Placemaking is a process for invigorating public spaces and building community vitality. Updates include increased sidewalk space, outdoor dining options, planters, and opportunities for art. It was done so well, in fact, that Idaho Smart Growth recognized the project with the Re-Development Award.

The overall goal is to provide a public gathering space that makes Idaho Avenue even more of a destination - where people come to relax, socialize, shop, dine, work, and live.

IDAHO'S FIRST MEDICAL SCHOOL

After years of work to bring a medical school to the State of Idaho, Governor Butch Otter announced in 2016 that Idaho's first school will be in Meridian. The City is excited to be a part of this new opportunity for our state, and look forward to the groundbreaking for the proposed Idaho College of Osteopathic Medicine next to the Idaho State University Campus in Meridian scheduled for April 2017. This will give local students a chance to achieve their dreams in the medical field, right here at home.

TEN MILE DEVELOPMENT

The Meridian City Council approved a Ten Mile Interchange Urban Renewal District that has already begun to attract family wage jobs. Two new corporate headquarters are under construction in this important new employment center. It will serve as a mixed-use development, combining residential, entertainment and business amenities. There will be more announcements to come in 2017 - stay tuned!

YOUTH FARMERS MARKET

The City kicked off its first-ever Meridian Youth Farmers Market season on Saturday, June 25, 2016. The City and Epique Events worked together to organize the weekly market that was funded by a Blue Cross High Five Children's Collaborative Grant and the Meridian Development Corporation. Nearly a dozen youth vendors were on hand every Saturday selling fresh fruits, vegetables, berries, melons, flowers, eggs, meats, baked goods, and handmade crafts. There was also live entertainment and food trucks. Summer 2017 is sure to be another great year, building on last year's success!





MERIDIAN HOMECOURT

The Meridian Parks and Recreation Department and Commission have been planning for a field house for a number of years. This year, as a result of a unique partnership with the Treasure Valley Family YMCA, the idea of the field house became a reality with the purchase of the Meridian Homecourt facility located at 936 Taylor Avenue. This purchase gives residents indoor recreation options. The YMCA has allocated the funds from the purchase to the construction of the new full-service YMCA facility in South Meridian.

TULLY PARK OUTDOOR GYM

This new park amenity was made possible through a collaborative effort called participatory budgeting that involved the Meridian Mayor's Youth Advisory Council (MYAC), the Meridian City Council, the City's Finance and Parks and Recreation Departments and community partners. Participatory budgeting grants MYAC members a voice and process to direct city funds to projects deemed important to youth and the community. City Council approved a one-time budget of \$20,000. MYAC developed the ideas, a proposed ballot, conducted the vote and presented the proposal to council for approval.

KLEINER PARK DISC GOLF COURSE

There's a new golf course in town – a disc golf course that is! Disc golf enthusiasts were excited to learn about the opening of Meridian's first year-round nine-hole disc golf course in Kleiner Park. It opened in February 2016 and has grown in popularity throughout the year!

PROTECTION OF GROUND WATER

Providing the cleanest and safest drinking water possible to the more than 31,000 homes and businesses located within our Meridian City limits is always first and foremost on our minds. For the past several years the City, specifically the Public Works Department, engaged in discussions with the State of Idaho, neighboring cities and water agencies located throughout the region, to address this serious concern and to help create public awareness for protecting ground water sources.

Based on these critical discussions, the City of Meridian took a big step to address the issue by officially petitioning the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) to establish an 'Area of Drilling Concern,' or A-D-C as it is commonly referred to in the industry.

The intent of our petition was twofold: First, our aim was to protect our ground water sources from private wells located in close proximity to our valuable ground water sources. Some of these private wells may have been improperly abandoned, while others may lack proper sealing. Such wells can eventually lead to contamination of our City ground water sources. Second, we requested the creation of the A-D-C for a geographical area in West Ada County.

Although the state did not grant our request for the A-D-C, the agency did agree to enforce a number of "higher administrative safety standards" specifically outlined and requested within our official petition. Subsequently, the state responded by indicating that the tougher standards requested by the City will apply to all new well construction.



NEW WATER TREATMENT FACILITY

Improving water quality for all Meridian customers remains a top priority for the City. As we continue our ongoing efforts to meet this high standard, the City brought online its third water treatment facility in December. The project was specifically aimed at reducing the levels of iron and manganese in the water drawn from and produced by Well 27 (located near the intersection of Ten Mile and Franklin Roads). At a cost of about \$1.2 million, the addition of this new water treatment facility will provide a dramatic improvement in water quality for Meridian homes and businesses served in that area. Well 27 now serves as a primary service well, capable of producing up to 3 million gallons of water daily. This valuable production will contribute to the growth and quality of life that makes Meridian such a vibrant place to live.

EMS COLLABORATION SAVINGS

The continued countywide Emergency Management System (EMS) Joint Powers Agreement collaboration reached new heights in 2016. Quality assurance, a State of Idaho requirement for EMS agencies, was an unmet need for Fire Departments in Ada County. To meet this need, and under the Joint Powers Agreement, five agencies worked together to develop a shared position. A benchmark has now been met for mandatory quality assurance for medical documentation, while saving Meridian taxpayers the cost of a full time employee- or approximately \$80,000 per year. This is in line with a goal set when the system was formed three years ago - identifying where agencies could share the cost of personnel.

NEW RECYCLING PROGRAM

The Meridian Solid Waste Advisory Commission with support from Republic Services and Western Recycling created a new, innovative program called Hand in Hand We Recycle. It gives residents and businesses an alternative place to drop off separated (unmingled) recyclable materials to benefit the Community Recycling Fund - a fund that reinvests in projects that use recycled material and build awareness about recycling. The program includes a mobile collection opportunity at local events such as CableONE Movie Night and a permanent location at the Meridian Transfer Station (2130 W Franklin Rd). The program is generating revenue and the commission looks forward to continuing to promote the merits of Hand in Hand We Recycle in the community and watching it grow!

CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS UPDATE

The City of Meridian updated the electronic equipment in the City Hall Council Chambers in December 2016. The updated equipment is state-of-the-art technology that improves the citizen experience. When attending City meetings in the Chambers, citizens are able to view presentations on four large screens. It improved the listening and sound quality - eliminating feedback and includes enhanced Assisted Listening Devices. If a citizen chooses to view meetings from the Internet, the streaming quality is much better because we now have high-quality cameras in the Chamber and enhanced sound from microphones. The presentation experience has also been improved because the system offers better interaction capabilities with Council and a more intuitive experience for those presenting.



MORE PUBLIC ART AND EVENTS

If you've been to Downtown Meridian recently you may have noticed two new art pieces in the area! Daniel Borup's "Out on the Town" was installed in the Meridian City Hall Outdoor Plaza during Meridian Art Week in September. We have already seen a lot of interaction with the statue! Also in September, CJR Design's "Native Grasses" was added to the corner of Fairview and Main.

The Meridian Arts Commission added several new Traffic Box Art Installations across town - bringing the total to 29, up from 12 in 2015.

In 2016, the Commission bolstered event opportunities in Meridian with an Art Show at Dairy Days and Meridian Art Week! The week included an "Art Drop" in which citizens left art for others to find throughout Downtown Meridian, a high school chalk art competition, and a celebration that wrapped up the successful week. All of these new events will be back in 2017!



IMPROVED UTILITY BILLING SYSTEM

You may have noticed that it became easier to pay your bill and track your water usage the past few months! We were excited to launch a new software for our utility billing called TrueBill. Aside from a more updated look online, customers can set up recurring credit card payments, utilize a mobile device QR code for easy payments, and access water and sewer usage graphics as well as year over year usage comparison information. Behind the scenes, the new software gives staff access to real-time data in the field for service calls, offers real-time payment processing, efficient processing, and more!

INTERNET PURCHASE EXCHANGE

The Meridian Police Department set up a safe internet exchange location for the community this year - an idea that spurred other departments in the area to do the same. The location, where you can safely meet others to exchange internet goods, is marked by a sign and is in the parking lot at the department (1401 E. Watertower Ave), which is under 24 hour surveillance.

HARVEST TRANSIT

The Meridian City Council approved funding to support a transportation option for some residents in our community. Harvest Church in partnership with Go-Ride, is offering Harvest Transit, an accessible transportation service for all seniors and persons with disabilities. This program is designed to help this group of citizens reach services and activities within Meridian. For more info or to schedule a ride, visit www.harvesttransit.com.

ON THE HORIZON

FOR 2017

NEW PARKS

Three new Neighborhood Parks (Hillsdale, Reta Huskey and Bainbridge) will be constructed during summer of 2017 for tentative park openings and dedications in late 2017! The Parks and Recreation Department is also working on design plans for the South Meridian Regional Park, with a goal to bid the project in December 2017 for a Spring 2018 groundbreaking for Phase 1.

RAIL WITH TRAIL

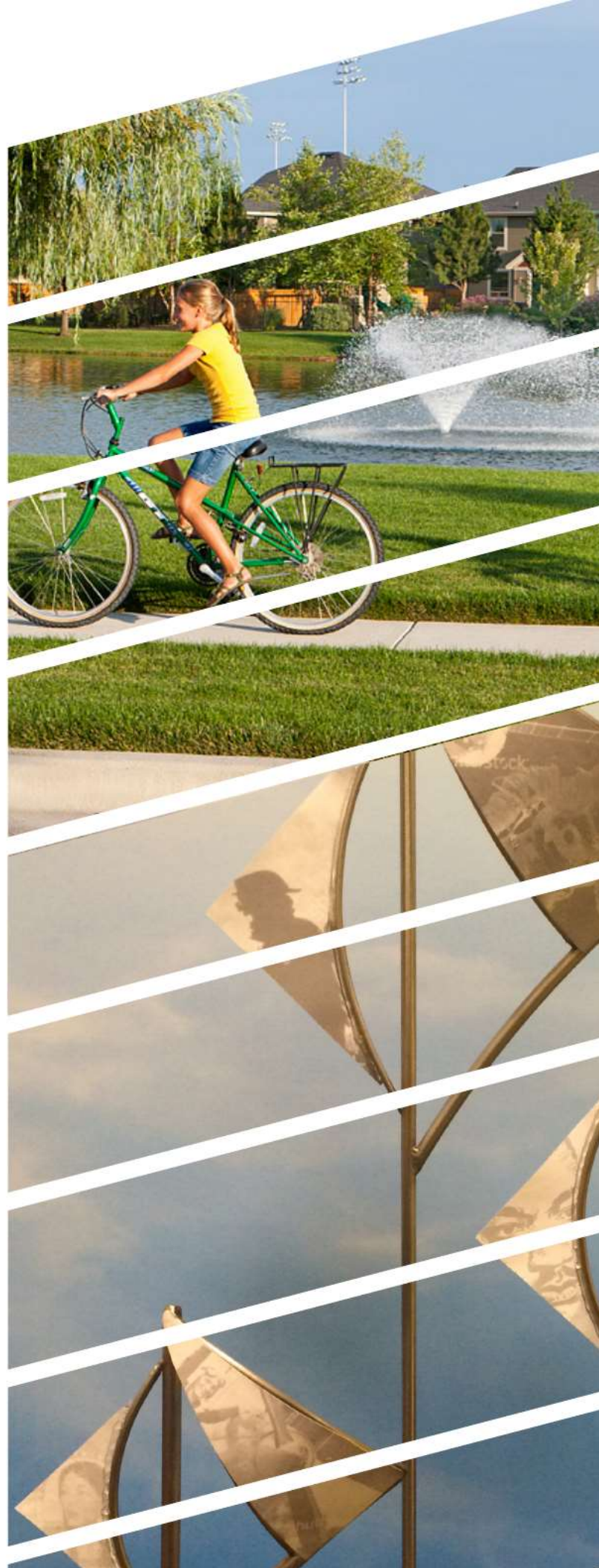
The Meridian Parks and Recreation Department is actively working to develop the first half mile of the Rail with Trail project, from Meridian Road to W. 8th Street. Design is set to begin in 2017 with construction planned for 2018/2019. The hope is that this segment is the first step in a larger project that would give residents another recreation/transportation option across the valley.

ART IN HEROES PARK

The Meridian Arts Commission is teaming up with the Parks and Recreation Department and Commission to add art to the City's open spaces. The goal is to reinforce identities in parks, with Heroes Park set to be the first site, honoring local and national heroes (rendering of the art is pictured bottom, right).

A TRANSPARENT BUDGET

The City will be implementing OpenGov Intelligence in 2017. It delivers critical information and analytics - immediately answering questions such as "how much did each department spend on overtime?" to "how much property tax does the City receive?" Easily view how dollars are spent when it goes live on the City's website in February 2017. www.mericiancity.org/finances





TRASH OR TREASURE PROGRAM

The Solid Waste Advisory Committee is currently working on creating a novel recycling program. Here's the concept: The weekend before the 2017 Spring Collection week begins, two Meridian neighborhoods will pilot the program by setting out reusable items curbside, allowing others to come by, pick them up and give the items a new home. This is good for the landfill, the environment, and the community!

MERIDIAN HISTORY? THERE'S AN APP FOR THAT!



The Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) is working on a digital historic walking tour through a new app called TourBuddy. This is a free app that uses geo-location and additional platforms to link diverse content. HPC has partnered with Nic Herman, Cole Valley Christian's Senior Class President, to develop and add content to the app before it is piloted. UnBound agreed to help support content development and to check out iPads to downtown history walkers so that everyone can access and use the app.

Be on the lookout for an announcement when that app is up and running – most likely in the spring!

WASTEWATER RESOURCE RECOVERY FACILITY RENOVATION

The City is committed to meeting strict Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) guidelines for wastewater treatment processes. Therefore, the Wastewater Resource Recovery Facility on Ten Mile Road is currently undergoing the largest expansion project in Meridian's history; a 45-million dollar renovation to make the plant more effective and increase capacity.

Other supporting projects include the addition of a new ultraviolet disinfection system -a process that involves using ultraviolet light to kill the microscopic bacteria and pathogens commonly found in wastewater. This improvement will eventually help more than double the capacity of the treatment system, and return even more water to our environment for irrigation purposes and other areas of use. Another critical area of improvement is the initial stage of the wastewater treatment process called the "Headworks." It helps reduce larger-sized pollutants to a level that will allow the treated wastewater to be safely discharged back into creeks and rivers.

Work has begun on these projects and is expected to be completed within three years.

ACCOLADES

2 BEST CITY IN AMERICA
- 24/7 Wall Street and USA Today

2 FASTEST GROWING SMALL CITY
- Wallethub.com

6 ECONOMIC GROWTH IN THE U.S.
- Wallethub.com

1 HOUSING MARKET FOR NEW HOMES
- National Association of Realtors



SAFEST CITY OF OUR SIZE IN IDAHO
- Safewise

TOP 25 BEST PLACES TO RETIRE IN THE U.S.
- Forbes



HAPPIEST APARTMENT RENTERS
- Apartment Advisor



TREE CITY USA
- Arbor Day Foundation



CITY IS FIT FRIENDLY WORKPLACE
- American Heart Association



MAYOR TAMMY RECEIVED:
ECONOMIC IMPACT AWARD
- Leadership Boise

LIGHTS ON AFTER SCHOOL CHAMPION
- Idaho After School Network

ELECTED WOMEN OF EXCELLENCE
- NatL Foundation for Women Legislators



MERIDIAN PUBLIC WORKS:
APWA Exceptional Performance in Adversity
and Chapter Technical & Management
Innovation

MERIDIAN POLICE:
SRO's received Community Service Award
from the Department of Justice for their
work in schools and with youth

HOMETOWN HERO - FIRST PET
Jaxson the Pug (pictured left) became the
1st pet to receive the City of Meridian
Hometown Hero award for alerting his
owners to a house fire. The award garnered
international media attention.



ACCOLADES

MERIDIAN STARS

Each year the City recognizes Meridian residents and businesses for their commitment to preserving, maintaining and improving the quality of life and safety in their neighborhoods, as well as the broader Meridian community. Award recipients are nominated by a community member. The 2016 award recipients were:

Star of the Year - Mayor's Choice

Ken Pierson

Youth of the Year

Dominic Al-Shawaf

Senior of the Year

David Pritchard

Neighbor of the Year

Joel Howard

Business of the Year

Scentsy

FOOD SERVICE ESTABLISHMENT EXCELLENCE

This award recognizes Meridian restaurants for demonstrating environmental stewardship and a concerted effort to prevent oil and grease from entering the city sanitary sewer system.

Chick-fil-A

Hungry Onion

Red Pavilion



LEGACY AWARD: DAVID TURNBULL

Mayor Tammy recognized developer David Turnbull with the 2017 Mayor's Legacy Award for his part in bringing our community to the next level - building communities that people were proud to call home, or business areas that created jobs and bringing services closer to where people live. Turnbull has donated land for school, sponsored the turf at Rocky Mountain's football field, improved facilities helped with the new expansion at the Boys & Girls Club, and is leading the effort to build the new Treasure Valley Family YMCA in South Meridian.

BY THE NUMBERS

A MERIDIAN SNAPSHOT

COMMUNITY STATS

Meridian Population: 91,420 (per COMPASS)

Meridian Population Growth: 16% in 5 years

Average Commute: 22.7 minutes

High School Grad or Higher: 94.7%

Bachelors Degree or Higher: 33.3%

Median Household Income: \$63,023

Median Home Value: \$191,000

Home-ownership Rate: 75.7%

ECONOMIC STATS

Total Jobs: 41,556 (3,825 created in 2016)

Increase in Individual Wage: \$2,150

Unemployment: 3.5%

Top Employers: West Ada School District, St. Luke's, CITI, Blue Cross of Idaho, Scentsy, Power Engineers, T-Mobile, Ameriben, Western States Equipment, Food Services of America

New Residential: 1,638 (\$348 million)

New Commercial: 49 (\$59 million)

PARKS

Parkland: 387 Acres

City Parks: 19

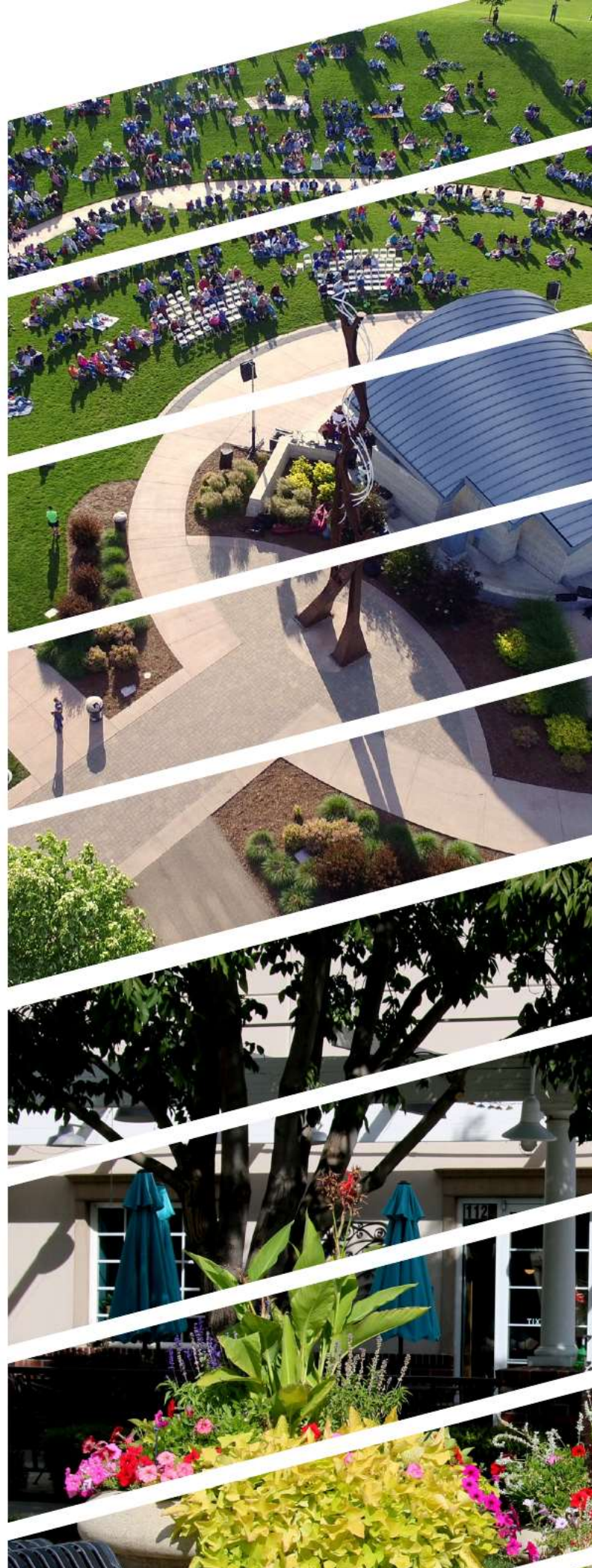
Pathways: 22 Miles

Trees: 4,387 maintained by City

Shelter Reservations: 1,340

Activity Guide Registrations: 4,056

Sports Teams: 554





BY THE NUMBERS



GOVERNMENT STATS

City Employees: 382 (full time), 20 (part time), 19 (youth summer interns), 26 (seasonal groundskeepers), 20 (temporary part time)
City Employee Retention Rate: 90.63%
Public Records Requests: 235
Passports Applications Accepted: 2,235
Calls to City Clerk's Office: 25,860
Volunteers: 32 active, 45 seasonal, plus special event and project help volunteers (hundreds)
Volunteer Hours: 8,551
Early Voting at City Hall (Ada County Elections Collaboration): 9,379
Initial Point Gallery Featured Artists: 160

MERIDIAN FIRE

Firefighters: 76
Total Calls for Service: 6,275
Response Time Average: 6:04 (average of emergency and non-emergency response times)
Top Incidents: Emergency Medical, False Alarm, Building Fire, Grass Fire, Vehicle Fire
AED's: 28 (12 added in 2016)
Car Seats Inspected: 306
Hands Only CPR Grads: 177
(Plus 1,000 trained by MYAC at area Dutch Bros. locations during GoRed Week)

MERIDIAN POLICE

Police Officers: 106
Total Calls for Service: 53,105
Response Times: Priority 1 - 8.74, Priority 2 - 7.21, Priority 3 - 3.38
Top Five Accident Locations: Cherry/Ten Mile, Eagle/Franklin, Chinden/Meridian, Eagle/Ustick, Locust Grove/Ustick
RX Take Back Program: 3,800 lbs of medications (a 21% increase over 2015)
Neighborhood Watch Groups: 67 (33 new groups in 2016)
Ada County Magistrate Court Load (State/City Code Citations): 15.2% (City Code Citations only is 0.0016%)

PUBLIC WORKS

Water lines: 535 miles (19 miles added in 2016)
Wells: 24 (25% increase in the last 5 years)
Well Production: 3.65 billion gallons of water
Wastewater treated: 2.4 billion gallons of used water
Sewer lines: 435 miles (12 miles added in 2016)
Street lights: 5,400 (400 new in 2016)

MAYOR TAMMY'S WALKING CLUB

Elementary Schools: 12 plus homeschool students
Students: 6,900
Total Miles: 165,574 (Equal to 6.7x around the Earth)

EVENTS

CITY OF MERIDIAN



COFFEE WITH THE MAYOR
QUARTERLY

TOWN HALLS
QUARTERLY

INITIAL POINT GALLERY RECEPTIONS
MONTHLY

IGNITE YOUTH
FEBRUARY 27

DO THE RIGHT
APRIL 12

PUBLIC SAFETY ACADEMY
APRIL

UNPLUG AND BE OUTSIDE WEEK
APRIL 24 - 29

CABLEONE MOVIE NIGHT
FRIDAYS, JUNE - AUGUST

CONCERTS ON BROADWAY
JULY & AUGUST

GENE KLEINER DAY
JUNE 10

PUBLIC WORKS WEEK
JUNE 3 - 9

KLEINER PARK LIVE
THURSDAYS, JUNE - AUGUST

YOUTH FARMERS MARKET
SATURDAYS, END OF JUNE - SEPTEMBER

DAIRY DAYS ART SHOW
JUNE 23 - 24 (PARADE IS 23RD)

INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION
JULY 4

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT
AUGUST 1

MERIDIAN ART WEEK
SEPTEMBER 10 - 16

COMMUNITY BLOCK PARTY
SEPTEMBER 9

TRUNK OR TREAT
LAST THURSDAY IN OCTOBER

CHRISTMAS IN MERIDIAN
FIRST WEEKEND IN DECEMBER



www.meridiancity.org/events

