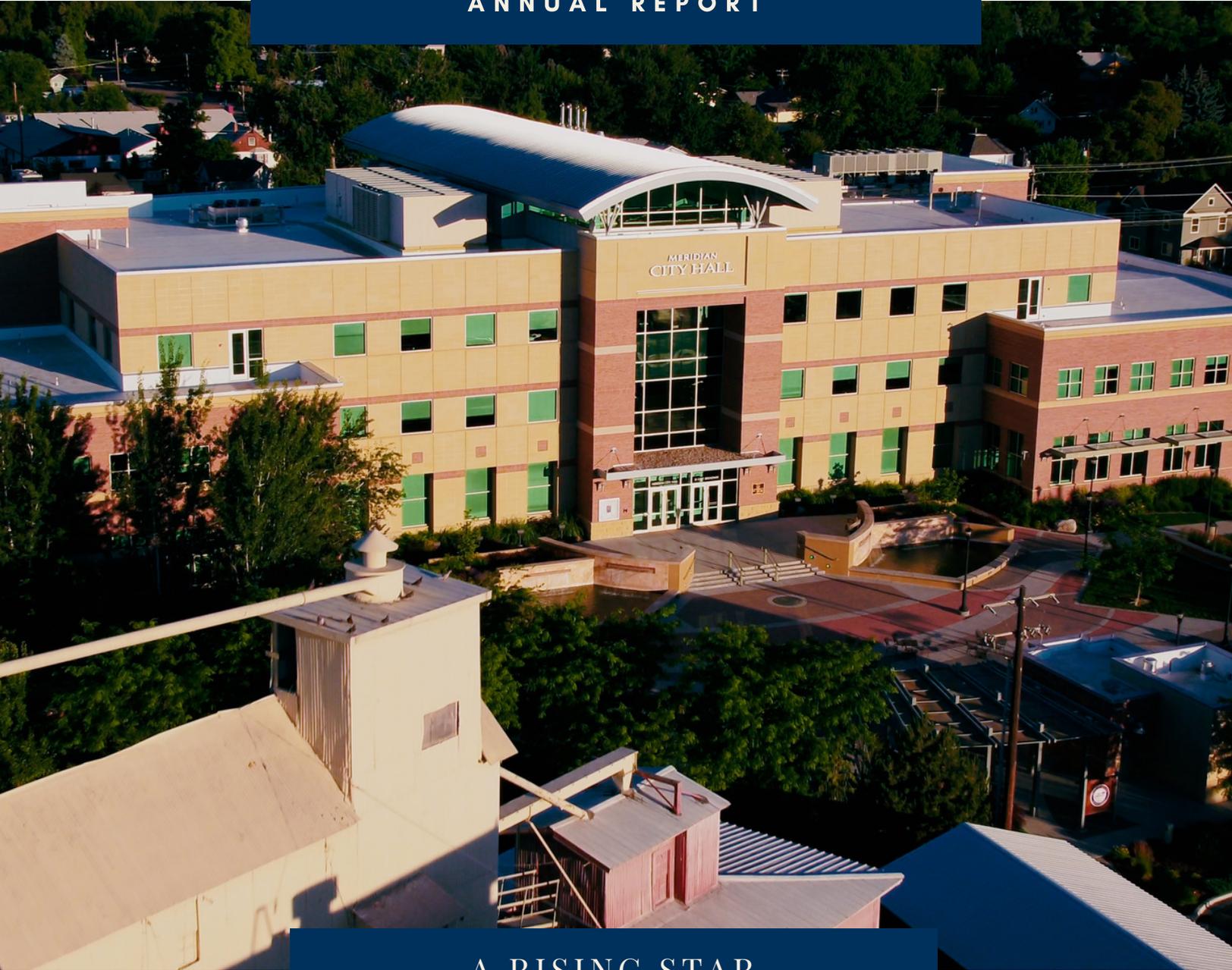


2017

# MERIDIAN

ANNUAL REPORT



A RISING STAR



CITY OF MERIDIAN 2017 ANNUAL REPORT



Customer Service • Accountability • Respect • Excellence

## The Meridian Way

Providing CARE to our community in a timely, friendly, professional, and solution-oriented manner.

MERIDIAN IDAHO



# MERIDIAN: A RISING STAR

*by Mayor Tammy de Weerd, City of Meridian*

Meridian once again landed on lists for 'best places' and 'safest cities' by publications like Money Magazine, USA Today and 24/7 Wall Street, as well as WalletHub. We appreciate these national accolades because sometimes living here, it can be easy to forget just how great we have it!

This past year, we had a North American business magazine reach out to us because they wanted to feature Meridian after hearing so many good things about our community and our economy. The reporter, who was calling from his home on the east coast, paused during our interview and told me the facts he had gathered for the article sounded almost unreal. He was floored by our statistics, our way of life. The reporter titled his piece "A Rising Star", and I couldn't help but think just how perfect that title was for the article.

Our rising stars are our neighbors, businesses, community partners and our employees. We all join forces to provide the foundation for a community that cares, one that rises above the rest.

In 2017, we made great strides for our city. We added more safety elements, more recreation space, welcomed new businesses, cheered the expansion of local companies and continued to provide the level of service our citizens have come to expect. I look forward to continuing our efforts in 2018. We live, work and raise our families in an unbelievable place and there is even more on the horizon. We are a rising star.

Connect at [meridiacity.org/mayortammy](http://meridiacity.org/mayortammy)

# MERIDIAN CITY COUNCIL

## THE END OF AN ERA BRINGS A NEW FACE

The year 2018 ushered in some changes for the Meridian City Council as the council welcomed newly elected member Treg Bernt. The council welcomed back Joe Borton who was re-elected in November for a third time and is now the Council President and Luke Cavener, re-elected for a second term, who was chosen to be the Council Vice President.

A big change for the council was the departure of Keith Bird at the start of 2018. Throughout his 20 years on City Council, he has contributed to our community becoming a destination for families and businesses. He will be greatly missed.

Bernt, the newest City Council member, is ready to carry on Bird's tradition of service to the community. Prior to his election, Bernt served on the Parks and Recreation Commission, the Impact Fee Advisory Committee and on the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Borton, Cavener and Bernt join council members Genesis Milam, Anne Little Roberts and Ty Palmer. Together they are asked to make decisions that are best for our community. And, it's important that your voice is heard! In 2017, the City Council added time for public comment at the beginning of each regular meeting. This gives residents a chance to speak on any topic they wish to address, on the record, with council. Regular council meetings are every Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. A workshop is held the second Tuesday of each month when the meetings begin at 3:00 p.m. You're invited to attend in person at Meridian City Hall or view a LIVE video stream online at [www.meridiancity.org](http://www.meridiancity.org) from the comfort of your home.



*Mayor Tammy presented Councilman Keith Bird (pictured above at the 2017 State of the City) with a "Key to the City" to commemorate his retirement.*



*President Joe Borton*



*Vice President Luke Cavener*



*Genesis Milam*



*Anne Little Roberts*



*Ty Palmer*



*Treg Bernt*

Connect at [meridiancity.org/council](http://meridiancity.org/council)

# CITY BUDGET

The City of Meridian takes its fiduciary responsibilities seriously. Our financial mission is to achieve community goals within a framework that is fiscally sustainable. 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 FUND** derives 60% 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.

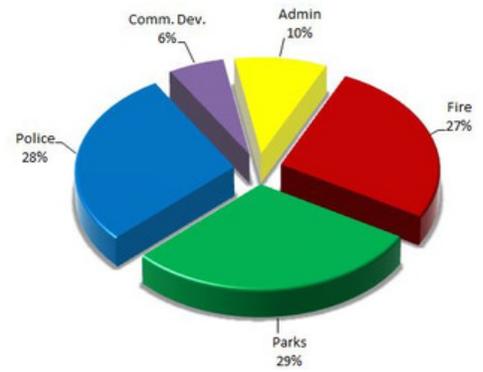
The **ENTERPRISE FUND** provides water and sewer service to Meridian residents and businesses. This fund is financed completely with fees. There are two principal types of fees: user fees, which are based on each customer's system usage, and connection fees, which are paid when a new structure "connects"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

The graphs to the right illustrate the operating budget and capital budget for the General Fund and Enterprise Fund. Capital is a one-time investment and the operating budget illustrates ongoing expenses.

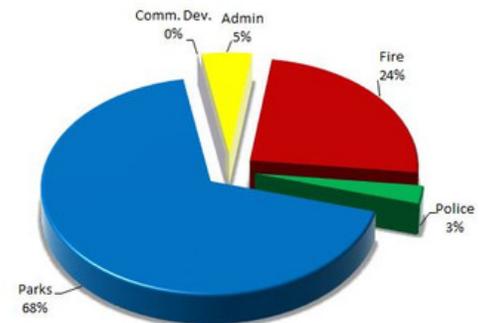
Now you can break down the budget however you want, via a new platform the City is using called OpenGov. Learn more in the *Responsive Government* section of this report.

## GENERAL FUND

OPERATING BUDGET - \$44,798,030

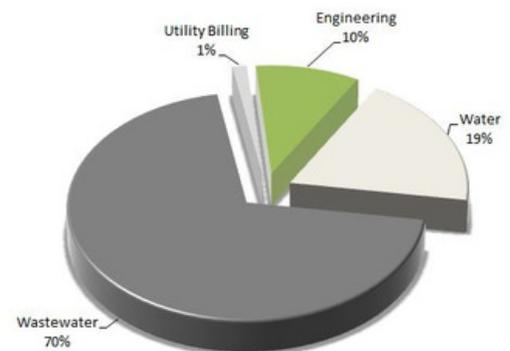


CAPITAL BUDGET - \$19,907,401

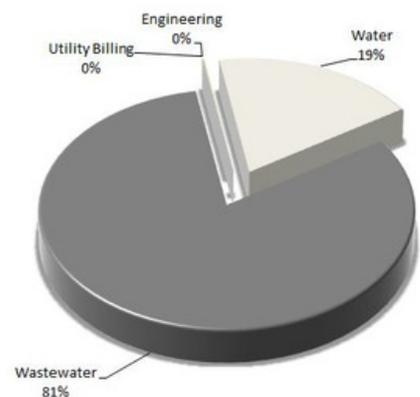


## ENTERPRISE FUND

OPERATING BUDGET - \$20,458,709



CAPITAL BUDGET - \$69,624,136



Dive in at [meridiancity.org/finances](http://meridiancity.org/finances)

# CITY SURVEY RESULTS

2017

SAY CITY EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS AS A PLACE TO RAISE A FAMILY

93%



RATE MERIDIAN AN EXCELLENT PLACE TO LIVE

92%

The City of Meridian conducted a city-wide survey in 2017 to assess citizen satisfaction with City services and their priorities. There were 743 randomly selected residents who completed the survey. The last time the City surveyed the community was in 2014 and the ratings were even better this time around, particularly in the areas of Communications, Programs for Youth and Code Enforcement.

As part of the survey, comparative benchmarks were made between Meridian, the Mountain Region, and nationally. The City and its partners rated above the national average in 42 of the 46 areas that were compared and significantly higher (10% or more) than the U.S. average in 35 areas. Overall quality of City services provided, customer service from City employees, and overall value received for City taxes/fees were each at least 30% higher than the U.S. average.

REPORT AN OVERALL FEELING OF SAFETY IN MERIDIAN

91%

## HIGHEST PRIORITIES FOR RESIDENTS:



ROADS/TRAFFIC/  
TRANSPORTATION



EDUCATION/SCHOOLS



GROWTH/  
DEVELOPMENT

SATISFACTION RATINGS INCREASED IN 64 OF 84 AREAS SINCE 2014



More results at [meridiacity.org](http://meridiacity.org)



# STRATEGIC GROWTH

Good growth fuels a city. Meridian will promote growth that enhances the vision for the city, is family focused, properly planned, financially viable and diverse.



# STRATEGIC GROWTH

## **WATER AND WASTEWATER IMPROVEMENTS**

The City's Public Works team continues to offer the service level citizens have come to expect, thanks in large part to careful planning. One example is the extension of sewer and water main lines west and south of the Franklin and Black Cat intersection. These improvements not only accommodate future development but were completed in conjunction with the Ada County Highway District's road project, saving the City significant money.

## **WELL UPDATES**

A water filtration system was completed for Well 27 in March of 2017 to improve water quality for that area. The well, located off Ten Mile and Pine, is the third treatment facility built for this purpose. Since becoming operational, there has been a 98% reduction of iron and manganese minerals, which helps reduce discolored water occurrences. This improvement has increased production capacity and provided the flexibility to run the well as a primary source.

In Northwest Meridian, Public Works crews completed Well 29. The four-year project includes a test well, production well and pumping facility that can pump

an average of one million gallons per day to supply water to customers in that area. If needed, this facility can easily expand to provide up to three million gallons per day.

## **WASTEWATER: MEETING NEW REGULATIONS**

In August of 2017, the Wastewater Division obtained a new National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit, which is the first new permit for wastewater since 1999. The permit regulations determine current and future standards for wastewater treatment. These regulations are a huge factor behind the capacity expansion at the Wastewater Resource Recovery Facility. The new permit includes a significant number of new regulations and testing requirements - increasing time and the investment to comply with regulations. For instance, we now produce four times the number of samples, equating to over a thousand samples per week! Thanks to staff foresight, we have been preparing and saving for this day and are working diligently to meet new federal requirements.

## **USTICK ROAD PROJECT COMPLETE**

Drivers are thrilled to have a smoother commute along Ustick Road between Linder and Locust Grove!

After a year's worth of work, the Ada County Highway District wrapped up this project. It improved motorist, pedestrian and bicyclist mobility and safety by widening almost two miles of Ustick. The project also included the rebuilding of the intersection at Meridian Road, and a pedestrian signal on Ustick just west of 3rd Street at the Settlers Park entrance.

## COMING IN 2018

### DOWNTOWN SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS

Meridian's Community Development team is working with the Meridian Development Corporation to improve sidewalks near Cole Valley High School. This project is currently in the design phase for construction and will be covered by Community Development Block Grant funds. It will help fill in sidewalk gaps around the local school in downtown.

### NEW COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Beginning in 2018, the City will undergo a process to update the long range plan for the community called The Comprehensive Plan. It has been seven years since the last plan was updated and it was focused on South Meridian. Since then, more than 20,000 people have moved to the City, so it is an important update. The process will also include input from residents and stakeholders - giving citizens a sense of ownership as a new strategy is developed for the future.

### CHINDEN PROJECT (HIGHWAY 20/26)

The City continues to identify Chinden Blvd. (Highway 20/26) as a priority focus with the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD). Currently, developers are working with ITD on possible Sales Tax Anticipation Revenue (STAR) agreements to improve Chinden ahead of the ITD plan, which calls for widening projects but not until 2021. A STAR agreement allows a developer to be reimbursed for road investments with sales tax revenue generated by the development. If the STAR agreements move forward, Chinden improvements could include widening all the way from Locust Grove to McDermott/State Highway 16 within the next few years.



# 98,300

MERIDIAN POPULATION

3,249 average yearly increase  
between 2010 and 2017

## 26

Well Facilities  
(2 added in 2017)



## 450

Miles of sewer line  
(15 miles added in 2017)

## 558

miles of water line  
(23 miles added in 2017)

## 2.6 Billion

Gallons of Wastewater Treated

## 3.4 Billion

Gallons of Water Pumped

## 5,882

Streetlights  
(482 added in 2017)



## 5,264

Fire Hydrants  
(190 added in 2017)

## 11,805

Manholes





# ECONOMIC VIBRANCY

Meridian will recruit family-wage jobs and promote the growth of existing organizations. Jobs make a city vibrant and Meridian will continue to be a destination for businesses - a place where residents can live, work and raise a family.



# ECONOMIC VIBRANCY

## TEN MILE CROSSING

Ten Mile Crossing, located off the Ten Mile Interchange along I-84 is quickly attracting more businesses. Ameriben moved in to its new facility this year and Brighton, Horrocks Engineers, as well as Paylocity are planning to move to the area. The development is designed to be mixed-use, combining residential, entertainment and business amenities. In 2018, look for more announcements regarding businesses moving to this new destination.

## MORE FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT OPTIONS

Meridian continues to be a top destination for families, and this past year, families got even more entertainment options to choose from in our community! Due to JumpTime's popularity, the company built a new, larger facility on Franklin Road that is twice the size of the old space. Another trampoline park, Urban Air Meridian, just opened its doors at the end of 2017.

Meridian's only community pool, owned and operated by the



Western Ada Recreation District, received a major face lift this year. The \$3.1 million renovation included a new pool building, a "kiddie" or auxiliary pool, improvements to the main pool, new slides and

updates to the restrooms. Across the interstate from the Meridian Pool, another popular family destination, Roaring Springs/Wahooz, is looking to expand again in 2018. This project includes renovations to the kiddie pool and expanding the current event center.

## DOWNTOWN MERIDIAN ANNOUNCEMENTS

We welcomed several new businesses to Downtown Meridian in 2017 including Deja Brew, Potter's Tea House, That Cute Little Boutique and Coffee Paint Repeat. While we lost a couple businesses in 2017, the new ones have brought great energy to downtown, hosting many events, including live music nights.

New Ventures, the makers' space in Downtown Meridian, is thriving as a place for businesses and new start-up companies in the city. It is currently home to 12 companies that employ 29 people on site.

Downtown Meridian continues to grow and bring new life to the heart of the community. The City remains focused on making it even more of a destination.

## ICOM GROUNDBREAKING/ACCREDITATION

2017 marked the groundbreaking of Idaho's first medical school that will be located in Meridian. The Idaho College of Osteopathic Medicine (ICOM) also earned its accreditation and will open to its first class of 150 students in the fall of 2018. By January 2018,

ICOM had accepted 18 students and all but one are from Idaho. This is an exciting addition to the community – bringing an educational opportunity to the area that has never been available!

### MORE FAMILY-WAGE JOBS

Meridian saw continued growth in the number of family-wage jobs. The City is working with its partners to continue to attract new companies while encouraging growth of current companies in the community. Since last year, Meridian added 2,877 jobs and the average annual wage increased by \$1,185 from what was reported in 2016.

### RISE IN RESIDENTIAL/COMMERCIAL NUMBERS

People are starting to realize why publications are calling Meridian one of the best places to live in America! In 2017 the community saw a huge spike in residential and commercial numbers as seen below:

**\$142.7 MILLION** ↑ **49%**  
NEW COMMERCIAL VALUE

**\$475.3 MILLION** ↑ **23%**  
NEW RESIDENTIAL VALUE

### THE VILLAGE AT MERIDIAN LOOKS TO EXPAND

The Village at Meridian is now nearly 90% occupied. The Village opened new businesses totaling 40,000 square feet – 30,000 square feet of new or relocated retail space and 10,000 of new Class-A office tenants. New businesses added in 2017 include: Rural Haze, Urban Outfitters, MAC Cosmetics, Tricked Out Accessories and Revitalize Juice Bar.

CenterCal Properties sold a 2.5 acre parcel along Records Road at River Valley that will be developed by Brighton Homes in 2018. The development includes more than 200 luxury apartments/town homes. In the near future, CenterCal plans to expand out to Eagle Road. That expansion will include more retail, restaurants, office and the possibility of residential units or even a hotel.

**43,529** JOBS  
**2.7%** UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

**\$38,495**  
AVERAGE ANNUAL WAGE



**\$64,337**  
MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME

**22 MINUTES**  
AVERAGE COMMUTE



**95.3%**  
HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE



**33.4%**  
BACHELORS DEGREE OR HIGHER

**\$199,100**  
MEDIAN HOME VALUE



**75.9%**  
HOME OWNERSHIP RATE

### TOP EMPLOYERS IN MERIDIAN

- WEST ADA SCHOOL DISTRICT
- ST. LUKE'S
- CITI
- BLUE CROSS OF IDAHO
- SCENTSY
- POWER ENGINEERS
- T-MOBILE
- WESTERN STATES EQUIPMENT
- AMERIBEN
- FOOD SERVICES OF AMERICA



# RESPONSIVE GOVERNMENT

Successful government is service driven, approachable and responsive. Meridian will embody these qualities by improving efficiency, enhancing transparency, utilizing technology and investing in our employees.



# RESPONSIVE GOVERNMENT

## NOTICES ON NEXTDOOR



The City of Meridian now posts public hearing notices on the NextDoor app. This pilot project kicked off in 2017 and helps make more citizens aware of development proposals. If your neighborhood is within an identified area of the proposed property, you will see a public hearing notice with information about the project application. This is in addition to post cards that are mailed and signs posted on site, per Idaho code. NextDoor is an online site designed to help neighbors connect with each other and their City. If you're not already on the site, you can join at [www.nextdoor.com](http://www.nextdoor.com).

## NEW FINANCIAL SITE

A new open data platform called OpenGov is up and running for the community to explore. OpenGov is cloud-based software that makes it easy for the public to explore the City's budget with improved reporting, operational intelligence and comprehensive transparency. It delivers critical analytics, immediately answering questions such as "how much did each department spend on overtime?" to "how much property tax does the City receive?" View the site at [www.meridiancity.org/finances](http://www.meridiancity.org/finances).

## DOG DAYS OF 2017

The City of Meridian held the first ever Paws in the Park event in the spring of 2017. It was a huge success featuring great local vendors. Those who attended the inaugural dog festival were also able to get a free first-time dog license with the City.

Beginning this last year, dog licenses now expire one year from the date of issuance instead of at the end of the year. This makes it easier for owners to update the license after 12 months and a "reminder" post card will be mailed to dog owners ahead of the year renewal. Looking ahead, the City Clerk's office is working to make it possible for dog owners to purchase and renew tags online.



## PUBLIC RECORDS REQUESTS STREAMLINED

New software for Public Record Requests has made the City even more accessible. It produces a quicker turnaround for those requesting public records due to better tracking and visibility for all staff involved. Now, citizens can submit a request and then City Staff will upload documents to that same interface. The City no longer has to use Dropbox for large files or send multiple emails if attachments are too large.



## "SNOWMAGGEDON" RESPONSE

The Winter Storm of 2017 was unlike anything communities in this area had ever experienced. Our Incident Command Team quickly answered the call of duty by establishing twice daily meetings with our community partners (Ada County Highway District and the West Ada School District) as well as employees from various departments. The City also implemented a hotline to make sure citizens' voices were heard – prioritizing each and every call/email that came in to the hotline. It was so successful that other agencies are now set to do the same thing if needed.

*Most importantly, we saw the spirit of our community shine bright during this time – with so many stories of neighbors helping neighbors. While it was one for the record books, the storm proved once again that Meridian is full of generous people willing to answer the call for help when needed.*

## NEW WATER AUDIT PROGRAM

In the wake of "snowmagedon" an audit program developed by the Meridian Water Division, helped save homeowners money! The subzero temperatures caused some customers' water lines to freeze and break. Many of the leaks were unnoticeable to homeowners, and if left alone, would read as high water usage on their utility bill. The program, along with manual checks, helps show abnormal usage and the possibility of leaks. In 2017, 275 properties were identified with a leak that was able to be remedied before the next billing cycle.

## MEMORIAL PLAZA AT KLEINER PARK

A new Memorial Plaza at Kleiner Park is the result of the second year of the Participatory Budgeting program with the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council (MYAC). Meridian is the first in the state to launch the program designed to give citizens an even greater voice. City Council appropriated up to \$20,000 for MYAC to spend on a project. The teens had to identify issues to tackle, investigate their options, work with City employees and present the proposals to each other.



The winning project selected was a Memorial Plaza at Kleiner Park designed to give the community a place to honor loved ones. The public will soon get a chance to purchase personalized bricks that will be part of the plaza near the Rock of Honor. Construction on the Memorial Plaza began in the fall and a ribbon cutting is planned for late spring/early summer 2018, to celebrate this project led by teens.

## SENIOR RESOURCE GUIDE

The Mayor's Senior Advisory Board completed the Senior Resource Guide this year. It is full of helpful information for seniors and was funded by a Community Development Block Grant. It was distributed to Meridian Senior Living Centers, the Senior Center and the Meridian Library. Check it out online: [www.meridiantcity.org/msab](http://www.meridiantcity.org/msab).



## EXISTING CONDITIONS UPDATE

The Community Development team updated the Existing Conditions Report this year, the first update in six years. This report provides a framework for future decision making. It takes the City's Mission, Vision and Values and melds those with the City's Strategic Plan initiatives, City Department Capital Improvement Plans and initiatives in the current Comprehensive Plan. While not policy-oriented, this report is intended to aid in integrated decision making, for example, decisions that are made regarding land use policy within Meridian. The plan takes into full account existing conditions within the community and the impacts current policies have had on transportation, housing, and economic strategies. The report is an important resource for the City because it prioritizes responsible growth.

## LEADERSHIP TRAINING FOR CITY EMPLOYEES

The City wants to serve its customers and community the best that it can! That's why the City of Meridian invests in employees and leaders. This year, the City launched a Leadership Training Program for the Mayor, City Council, Department Directors and employees identified as emerging leaders in their respective departments. The program supplements other training offered to staff, with a focus on leadership. It gives participants an opportunity to discover who they are as leaders and engage with other leaders from the private sector and state. The goal is to continue educating employees in order to better serve you!

# 427

CITY OF MERIDIAN  
FULL TIME EMPLOYEES

# 94%

CITY EMPLOYEE RETENTION RATE



# 18,490

CITY VOLUNTEER HOURS AT  
CITY HALL, CITY PARKS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

# 7,055

PUBLIC RECORDS REQUESTS

# 3,253

PASSPORTS ISSUED  
A RECORD YEAR!



# 606

LICENSES/PERMITS ISSUED



# 25,557

CALLS TO CLERK'S OFFICE

# 168

STUDENTS IN THE  
MAYOR'S YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL





# SAFE, HEALTHY, SECURE

For a community to prosper, it must be safe, healthy and secure. Meridian will continue to invest in activities and services that support the City's top rankings in public safety and community health. The City is focused on building a strong community and promoting the quality of life that its citizens and employees expect.



# SAFE, HEALTHY, SECURE

## BACKPACK GIVEAWAY

Mayor Tammy and her staff were thrilled to be part of the National Foundation for Women Legislators 2017 National Backpack Program – a partnership with the Office Depot Foundation. Mayor Tammy handed out 150 “sackpaks” to the public at the Meridian Youth Farmers Market. The backpacks contained essential school supplies and other fun items donated by local businesses. These partners helped kick off the school year by contributing to those who could use it.

## BOOK-A-BIKE PROGRAM

The City of Meridian partnered with the Meridian Library District to launch a new Book-a-Bike program. In spring of 2017, the Meridian Library District began circulating bikes from the downtown unBound location. The available bikes are a variety of sizes, from toddler push bikes to adult. Funding for the program came from the City of Meridian’s High Five Grant from Blue Cross to fight childhood obesity. The goal of the project is to promote family activity and healthy lifestyles, decrease transportation and recreational barriers, promote and educate on bike safety and explore alternative transportation in Meridian.

## GRANT AIDS MERIDIAN FAMILIES

During the last year, the City’s Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program provided much needed service, housing and public facility support to tens of thousands of residents. These efforts have helped to provide and support affordable housing options, after-school care, hunger relief programs, accessible public facilities, new street lights, sidewalks and a new senior resource guide for Meridian’s residents. In addition, the CDBG program has put forth concerted efforts to help prevent homelessness for at least five Meridian families. The program also coordinated participation with local and regional groups to help in meeting the needs of the homeless, hungry and destitute in the Meridian/Ada County area as a whole.

## CYBER-SECURITY ASSESSMENT

Cyber-security is a real threat, so this year the Meridian Information Technology team met with a consultant to assess how the City is doing to keep its systems and information safe. Overall, the assessment described the City as above average with one major takeaway – the implementation of an annual Cyber-Security Awareness Training for all employees. This will not only be good information for staff, but it will help keep them up-to-date on emerging cyber-security threats.

**100**

BOOK-A-BIKE RENTALS  
MARCH - AUGUST 2017



## PULSEPOINT APP

Local Ada County public safety agencies launched the use of the PulsePoint App in 2017. Meridian Fire encouraged the public who are trained in CPR to download and use the free mobile phone app. It not only tells where emergency responses are occurring in the area, but it can also be activated to notify app users if CPR is needed nearby. When a 911 call comes in about a sudden cardiac arrest in a public place, the dispatch center sends out an alert to PulsePoint app users. The app also shows users where to find the nearest automated external defibrillator (AED). The goal is to increase the chances of cardiac arrest survival by partnering with community members who know CPR. *View 2017 PulsePoint stats above, right.*

## FIREFIGHTER FITNESS PROGRAM

The Meridian Fire Department (MFD) took another great step in its growth evolution - this time in the area of firefighter health and safety. Over the past few years, there has been great discussion about firefighter fitness and health, while working toward solutions to reduce injury. This year, the fire administration, firefighters, along with the mayor and city council partnered together to adopt, fund and implement a comprehensive and progressive firefighter fitness program. This program works for all ages and all fitness levels, with education and benchmarks as a foundation for success. A goal of the program is to reduce future work related injuries on fire calls and around the firehouse.

## COLLABORATION SAVES TAX DOLLARS

In October, Meridian Fire began the process of planning and designing Fire Station #6 - the first new station to be built in the past nine years. As you can imagine, times have changed and so has the cost since the last station was built! To maximize all efforts, the Meridian Fire Department partnered with the Caldwell Fire Department because both were pursuing the same type of project. Through this collaborative effort, the citizens of Meridian (and Caldwell) saved approximately \$55,000 in just the first phase of the architectural design process.

## PULSE POINT



**3,565** followers with  
CPR alerts enabled  
June - Nov. 2017

**67** Devices alerted to CPR  
events June - Nov. 2017



**72**  
FIREFIGHTERS

**5:13**  
AVERAGE RESPONSE TIME  
5 MINUTES, 13 SECONDS

**5**  
FIRE STATIONS

**274**  
CITIZENS TRAINED FOR  
HANDS ONLY CPR

**6,398**  
CALLS FOR SERVICE

**1,217**  
MERIDIAN FIRE PUBLIC  
EDUCATION EVENTS

**189**  
CITIZENS CERTIFIED  
IN CPR BY MFD



**234**  
CAR SEATS INSPECTED  
DURING 15  
INSPECTION EVENTS

**55,405**  
CITIZENS ATTENDED EVENTS



## POLICE IMPLEMENT DRONE PROGRAM

Meridian Police implemented an Unmanned Aerial System program (UAS) in December with officers trained and certified by the FAA as pilots. The UAS program, commonly known as drones, will assist patrol operations with photographing certain crime scenes, such as serious traffic accidents. It will also enhance officer safety while searching for known criminal(s) who have fled from officers. The drone program includes policies and procedures and will be used to support official law enforcement investigations as well as public safety missions.

## TRAUMA KITS

Every Meridian patrol vehicle now includes a trauma kit. The police department partnered with Ada County Paramedics in training all officers to effectively use the kits to help save lives. The kit includes medical supplies to assist with people suffering a severe trauma, such as equipment to help with chest wounds, severe cuts, etc. It also includes tourniquets to assist officers with lifesaving measures. Officers received training on all of the equipment in the kit.

This is an important addition because oftentimes police officers are the first to arrive on scene of emergencies, since they are already on patrol in the community.

## CELEBRATING HOMETOWN HEROES

Meridian Police, in partnership with The Village at Meridian, held the first ever Celebrating Hometown Heroes fundraising event and sold plush K-9's. Proceeds supported the funding of a new K-9 officer, bullet proof vests and K-9 unit needs.



# 114

POLICE OFFICERS



# 48,947

CALLS FOR SERVICE

# 4:26

AVERAGE RESPONSE TIME  
4 MINUTES, 26 SECONDS



# 2,218

ARRESTS

# 776

MERIDIAN POLICE PUBLIC  
EDUCATION EVENTS



# 68,270

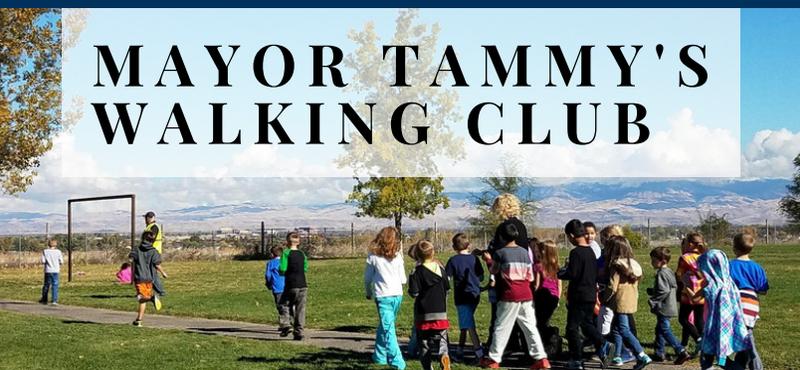
CITIZENS ATTENDED EVENTS



# 4,060

POUNDS OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS  
DROPPED OFF AT THE MERIDIAN POLICE  
DEPT. - AN INCREASE FROM 2016

## MAYOR TAMMY'S WALKING CLUB



# 16

SCHOOLS PARTICIPATED

# 9,073

STUDENTS

# 149,451

COMBINED MILES





# ARTS, CULTURE, RECREATION

A premiere community embraces the diversity of its citizens and promotes a variety of arts, entertainment and recreational opportunities. Meridian will invest in services, facilities, programs and partnerships to establish itself as an active and vibrant community that fulfills the diverse cultural and recreational needs of its people.



# ARTS, CULTURE, RECREATION

## TWO NEW NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

The grand opening of Keith Bird Legacy Park may have included a windy fall storm in early November, but that didn't dampen the excitement! The park was named as a tribute to longtime Meridian City Councilman Keith Bird who retired this year after more than 20 years of elected public service in Meridian. The Brighton Corporation donated the full 7.5 acres of land and a portion of the construction. The neighborhood park, located in the Bainbridge Subdivision in North Meridian, offers multi-generational activities for all ages including an outdoor gym, game tables, playground, walking path, public art and more.



The construction of Reta Huskey Park was completed in the fall of 2017. Coleman Homes donated 8.9 acres of land to honor the request of the Leonard Huskey Trust to bring this park to fruition. This neighborhood park, located in the Bellano Creek

Subdivision in North Meridian, includes a playground, pickleball courts, a basketball court, outdoor gym equipment, a pathway connection and more!

## PARK AMENITY IMPROVEMENTS

The Meridian Parks and Recreation team was busy with many park amenity improvements in 2017 including:

New signage along the year-round disc golf course in Kleiner Park, the burial of a time capsule at the Rock of Honor in Kleiner Park, restroom upgrades in Storey Park, a new shelter near the ball fields in Bear Creek Park and new signs to help the public find Storey Bark Park (Meridian's popular dog park).

## PUBLIC ART DIGITAL MAP

Here's something you may not know that is really exciting: You can take a tour of Meridian art displays, right from the comfort of your own home! The City now has a digital map of traffic box wraps and public art. The Meridian Arts Commission and the City's Information Technology staff worked together to create this incredible map that is updated as art is added throughout the city. You can access the map at [www.meridiancity.org/mac](http://www.meridiancity.org/mac). Tour all of the art in Meridian and learn more about each piece.

## NEW ART AT HEROES PARK

If you've visited Heroes Park lately you may have seen a new art feature that was installed. It's called "Journey of Heroes" and reflects both national and local heroes based on recommendations from the community. The Meridian Arts Commission (MAC) teamed up with the Parks and Recreation Department and Commissioners on this project as part of MAC's goal of adding more art to the city's open spaces.



# COMING IN 2018

## HILLSDALE PARK COMPLETION

The playground at Hillsdale Park was completed in time for students at Hillsdale Elementary to use it for the 2017-2018 school year. The entire park, however, won't be complete until spring of 2018. This 10-acre Community Park features a looped half-mile fitness trail with outdoor gym activity options, a picnic shelter, playground, a fun splash pad, unique public art and more. A dedication ceremony is slated for late spring. The theme of the park celebrates the agricultural heritage of the site.



Hillsdale Park is part of "The Hill" partnership in South Meridian. It includes a wellness center (YMCA and St. Luke's), the school (West Ada School District), the park (City of Meridian) and a shipping container that will house a children's library branch (Meridian Library District). The park's dedication ceremony in the spring of 2018 will also include "The Hill" partners.

## SOUTH MERIDIAN REGIONAL PARK

The design of the 77-acre South Meridian Regional Park is complete and construction of phase one is set to begin in 2018. The park will be located off of Lake Hazel Road near South Locust Grove. It will include a playground, picnic shelter, splash pad, two softball fields, a small stage, a restroom and a concessions building. The first phase is expected to be complete and open to the public by the summer of 2019.

## ZAMZOWS MURAL

The Meridian Arts Commission is working with the Meridian Development Corporation and the Zamzows family to install a mural on the south-facing side of the Meridian Mill, located on Main Street. The mural design is in its preliminary stages, but the goal is to complete the project during the spring of 2018.

# 387

ACRES OF DEVELOPED PARK LAND  
(132 ACRES OF UNDEVELOPED LAND)



# 22

MILES OF PATHWAYS

# 22

CITY PARKS



# 4,387

TREES MAINTAINED BY THE CITY

# 1,110

SHELTER RESERVATIONS



# 4,903

ACTIVITY GUIDE RESERVATIONS

# 5,508

PLAYERS IN THE ADULT SPORTS  
LEAGUE (583 TEAMS)

# 41

TRAFFIC BOXES WRAPPED  
(12 IN 2017)



# 80

ARTISTS FEATURED IN THE  
INITIAL POINT GALLERY



# 100+

VOLUNTEER HOURS MAINTAINING  
THE INITIAL POINT GALLERY

# 600+

DOWNLOADS OF THE  
HISTORIC WALKING TOUR APP



# ACCOLADES

2017

## TOP 100 "BEST PLACES TO LIVE IN AMERICA"

THE 5TH TIME MERIDIAN  
HAS BEEN RECOGNIZED ON  
THIS LIST BY  
MONEY MAGAZINE



## #1 "BEST PLACE TO LIVE IN IDAHO"

MONEY MAGAZINE

## TOP 25 "MOST LIVABLE CITIES IN AMERICA"

24/7 WALL STREET AND USA TODAY

## TOP 101 "SAFEST CITIES IN THE U.S."

SAFEHOME.ORG



## TOP 10 "SAFEST CITIES IN IDAHO"

SAFEWISE



MAYOR TAMMY

## "2018 WOMEN OF THE YEAR"

IDAHO BUSINESS REVIEW



MAYOR TAMMY

## ELECTED WOMEN OF EXCELLENCE

NATIONAL FOUNDATION  
FOR WOMEN LEGISLATORS

MAYOR TAMMY

## HAROLD HURST AWARD

"OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE  
ASSOCIATION OF IDAHO CITIES"

STOREY BARK PARK  
**"ONE OF THE BEST  
 DOG PARKS IN THE  
 VALLEY"**

IDAHO STATESMAN



#1



**"CITY FOR NEW  
 HOMES SALES"**

CURBED

TOP 30

**"AFFORDABLE  
 TOWNS"**

COMPARE INSURANCE COMPANIES



**TREE CITY  
 USA**

ARBOR DAY  
 FOUNDATION



**CITY OF MERIDIAN -  
 WORKPLACE ACHIEVEMENT**

AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION

**City of Meridian Recognizes  
 Three Local Restaurants for  
 Food Service Excellence**

The City recognizes restaurants each year for demonstrating environmental stewardship and a concerted effort to prevent oil and grease from entering the city sanitary sewer system.



Gino's Italian Ristorante  
 (3015 W. McMillan Rd.)



Beef 'O' Brady's  
 (1505 S. Eagle Rd.)



The partnership of Guckenheimer  
 and Scentsy Commons Café  
 (2901 E. Pine Ave.)

**MAYOR'S LEGACY AWARD  
 Tom Nicholson**

This year's recipient has built a personal legacy on kindness, humility, hard work and life-long learning. Twenty years ago, Tom Nicholson



made a huge investment in Meridian and local youth that he continues to build on to this day. Nicholson is the majority owner of Roaring Springs/Wahooz. Last winter the Indoor Adventure Park at Wahooz opened with seven new attractions and this year more expansions are planned at Roaring Springs/Wahooz. Nicholson is not only committed to increasing family entertainment options for our community, but also giving youth an opportunity for employment. He is a tremendous community partner with a business that continues to make a great impact in Meridian.

# SNAPSHOTS OF 2017





CITY OF MERIDIAN



# STAY CONNECTED

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