

CITY OF MERIDIAN

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MAYOR TAMMY ANNOUNCES NEW DEVELOPMENTS, PARKS AND PROGRAMS FOR CITIZENS – SAYS THE STATE OF THE CITY IS THRIVING

MERIDIAN – Meridian Mayor Tammy de Weerd announced major economic news during her 14th State of the City address on Wednesday, February 8, 2017.

In 2016 a total of 3,825 jobs were created in Meridian - a more than 10 percent increase over the prior year. In addition, commercial and residential construction values topped \$430 million, an increase of nearly 10 percent. The Village welcomed the addition of 600 jobs alone. With the construction of the Ameriben/IEC Group and Brighton Corporation headquarters underway at the new Ten Mile Crossing area off I-84 – a mixed-use development focus for the City– the economic outlook continues to be positive heading into this year.

“In the past year we have seen national recognition for our community. Businesses are expanding and locating to Meridian. And people are choosing one of our many great subdivisions to call home. I am pleased to say that the State of our City is Thriving,” said Mayor Tammy.

Mayor Tammy says it’s too soon to make some big business announcements, but in 2017 the City is bringing even more family wage job opportunities closer to where people live.

The City is also growing recreation opportunities for residents. Mayor Tammy told the crowd today that three new parks will open in Meridian in 2017. One of those parks, Bainbridge Neighborhood Park, is a 7.5-acre park located near the southwest corner of Chinden and Ten Mile, donated in part by Brighton Corporation. Mayor Tammy was thrilled to announce the name of the park during her State of the City – the Keith Bird Legacy Park, named after the current Meridian City Council President and longtime community advocate.

“The design of the Keith Bird Legacy Park will reflect the legacy he has brought to Meridian. His legacy values *family*; so the design is multi-generational with activities for all,” said Mayor Tammy.

Other announcements include:

A new development will soon take shape in Downtown Meridian at the corner of Main and Broadway. The \$2 million project will kick off in June and is the first loft-style, mixed use, residential living concept in downtown.

Just down the street, the owners of Meridian Cycles will begin their renovation project of the Frontier Club on Broadway early this summer. Their vision includes a ‘Nano Brewery’.

The Meridian Wastewater Resource Recovery Facility is undergoing the most massive and costly expansion project in Meridian's history. The \$45 million renovation will meet strict Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) guidelines and will make the plant more effective and increase capacity.

The City of Meridian's new transparent budgeting portal is now LIVE. The new site, called OpenGov, found at www.meridiancity.org/finances, gives citizens the ability to explore financial data and understand how their tax dollars are spent. It will give departments and elected officials the financial and performance insights they need to operate more efficiently. Meridian and Lewiston are the only two cities in Idaho to offer this program's level of transparency.

Mayor Tammy spoke about the successful body worn cameras program the Meridian Police Department implemented three years ago. "The department saw the benefit and value for body worn cameras before they were cool. Since implementation there has been a 69 percent drop in officer complaints!"

She also discussed the Pulse Point phone app that will be implemented this spring as a result of Meridian Fire's involvement with an EMS Partnership in the Valley. The goal of the app is to increase the response to sudden cardiac arrests, alerting the nearest person certified in CPR so they can start the lifesaving efforts, minutes before EMS teams arrive.

A public art project has been slated for 2017 with a new feature that will be added at Heroes Park. "Journey of Heroes" by Ken McCall is an art piece powered by wind that displays images of courageous individuals who have influenced history and each of us.

Finally, the Mayor announced this year's **Legacy Award**. The award is presented to a Meridian resident or business person who has contributed to the betterment of Meridian in a variety of capacities over a number of years. Mayor Tammy recognized David Turnbull for his contributions to the community including his work on the turf at Rocky Mountain's football field; improving facilities for non-profits like the Boys & Girls Club; helping to bring the YMCA to West Boise and now leading the effort to build one in South Meridian.

Video of the Mayor's State of the City speech can be viewed [here](#). A copy of Mayor Tammy's State of the City speech will be posted to the City's website, www.meridiancity.org on Thursday, February 9, 2016.

The City of Meridian's Annual Report was distributed at today's State of the City address. You can view it online [here](#).

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The City of Meridian is located in the heart of the Treasure Valley in southwest Idaho. Founded in 1893 and incorporated as a city in 1903, Meridian is one of Idaho's largest and fastest growing communities. 24/7 Wall Street named Meridian the *Number One Place to Live in America*. America's Promise Alliance/ING recognized the city as one of the nation's *100 Best Communities for Young People*. For more information, visit www.meridiancity.org.