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City Contact: 208-888-4433 | meridiancity.org | @MeridianIdaho
I am honored to present our 2019 Annual Report. I take great pride in the accomplishments you will see within this report, not only as your new Mayor, but as a long-time member of the City Senior Leadership Team. We saw exciting changes in our community in 2019. From downtown to Ten Mile, and Overland to Chinden we have seen the addition of several thriving companies who added more family-wage jobs, and major strides in transportation and public safety.

Our City staff and departments have been focusing on innovating our processes for better customer service, creating award winning tools and facilities, and showing up to work each day with our CARE values in mind, ready to serve you. These accomplishments are a reflection of the pride we take in our great city, and our commitment to keep Meridian the best place to live, work, and raise a family.

Our dedicated team members are proud of the accomplishments contained in the 2019 Annual Report. That said, we can’t do it alone. A successful city requires input and support from the community. I invite you to join us in our efforts to maintain our premier, safe, and family friendly community by getting involved. We hold events throughout the year and seek your feedback. We offer many opportunities to get involved and volunteer, whether on committees, commissions or in other program areas. Be sure to subscribe to our bi-weekly newsletter for more information and opportunities.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve as your Mayor. I look forward to discovering what we can accomplish together and the milestones ahead. I am confident we will exceed our expectations.
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.

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Meridian City Council approved a new Comprehensive Plan, the City’s first in 17 years. The plan serves as a guiding document for growth and development in Meridian over the next couple of decades.

Meridian’s Community Development Department worked with the community to draft the plan over the course of 18 months. Staff hosted listening sessions with residents and attended dozens of community events throughout the community, where they sought input from the public. The Steering Committee also solicited opinions and ideas for the new Plan, through surveys and online submissions.

The Comprehensive Plan will serve as a policy document containing a vision for land use and development in Meridian. It illustrates the vision of Meridian’s future as a great place to live, work, and raise a family.

Focus areas of the plan include the planning of services like transportation, housing and sewer, along with safety, schools and parks. The plan also looks at priorities of high importance from residents such as transitional areas, open space, and pathways. Further work sought by citizens also includes development of districts in Meridian that capture unique identities, and definition of priority growth areas.

To view the new Comprehensive Plan, visit meridiancity.org/compplan
WELLS, TREATMENT FACILITIES AND OTHER ADDITIONS
The City continues to focus on drinking water quality improvements. Recently, the City completed its fifth water treatment facility at Well 28 located near the Black Rock subdivision. The primary focus of treatment to date is removal of naturally occurring elements such as iron and manganese that can contribute to discolored water. The Public Works department will continue to focus on water treatment throughout Meridian.

WASTEWATER RESOURCE RECOVERY FACILITY
Significant progress was made on two major projects at the Wastewater Resource Recovery Facility (WRRF) in 2019. These projects add capacity, allowing the City to support growth needs, and help meet interim discharge limits from the City’s 2017 National Pollution Discharge Elimination System permit.

Completed in the fall, the $16M headworks upgrade project relocated the sewage entry point, improved the equipment that supports the primary processing, and enclosed the headworks process area to help with odor reduction at the facility.

The liquid stream capacity project is nearing completion and will commission in early 2020. This $44M project allows the City to meet interim permit requirements, which go into effect in 2022. Phase II of the expansion project will include upgrading the old wastewater processing plant and adding critical nutrient removal and advanced filtration technologies. All of these projects support the City’s ability to meet its final discharge permit levels by the 2027 deadline.

3.6 Billion
Gallons of Water Pumped

2.8 Billion
Gallons of Wastewater Treated

6,373
Streetlights
A NEW ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS PLAN

In 2019, Public Works updated its Environmental Programs Plan. The plan outlines strategies and concepts that will guide the City’s efforts in the coming years for protecting natural resources and creating a path towards more sustainable operations.

The plan describes existing program areas in stormwater, waterways, floodplain, and education by outlining objectives, regulatory activities, daily ongoing business needs and long-term strategic initiatives. It also adds a fifth environmental program in sustainable operations designed to proactively identify, evaluate and implement practices that improve energy efficiency and water conservation, reduce solid waste impacts, and increase effective resource recovery.

Visit meridiancity.org/environmentalplan to view the 2019 Environmental Programs Plan.

LIGHTING UP MERIDIAN

The City’s streetlight program continues to grow along with the City. Meridian added 450 new streetlights in 2019, bringing our total number of maintained lights to 6,373. In an effort to conserve power and save money on electricity and maintenance costs, the program continues to invest and upgrade older streetlights to LED technology. A new interactive map was also implemented, allowing customers to report streetlight outages and issues with the click of a button. The map can be found at meridiancity.org/streetlightmap.

Learn more about trash and recycling in Meridian by joining our Facebook group Meridian Trash Talk.

32,844
Nextdoor Members

10,030
Facebook Followers

3,658
Instagram Followers
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.

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CIVIC BLOCK PROJECT
Following a request for proposal process from the City and Meridian Development Corporation, plans for a new Community Center and an exciting downtown full Civic Block project are moving forward. The block, between Broadway and Idaho Avenues, and 2nd and 3rd Streets, will feature a new, expanded Community Center and public open spaces replacing Centennial Park. The existing VRT/COMPASS building will remain, and the Meridian Library District’s UnBound will move into an existing building following renovations. The project is expected to be completed in 2022 and will bring additional energy and visitors to downtown.

EXPANDING CORPORATE FOOTPRINTS
Scanning technology firm nextScan moved into its new building, expanding operations and adding employees to meet worldwide demand for its scanning and archival machinery and software. With over 700 employees, AmeriBen, a corporate human resource consulting and third party administration services firm, prepares to move into its second building at Ten Mile Crossing to accommodate its growth. Also at Ten Mile, United Site Services celebrated the grand opening of its western headquarters, bringing more than 100 new jobs to Meridian.
ALBERTSONS MARKET STREET & TRADER JOE’S OPEN

Two enviable options for grocery shopping opened in 2019. At nearly 110,000 square feet, the new Albertsons Market Street at Eagle and Fairview is the Idaho-based company’s largest location and takes grocery shopping to new level, featuring a food court, full-service bar, and foods from local farms and ranches. The long-awaited Trader Joe’s also opened on Eagle south of Ustick. Combined, the retailers created more than 500 new jobs, and added to Meridian’s shopping amenities, meeting community needs locally.

MAJOR EMPLOYERS

WEST ADA SCHOOL DISTRICT
ST. LUKE'S HEALTH SYSTEM
BLUE CROSS OF IDAHO
WAL-MART

SCENTSY
IEC GROUP (AMERIBEN)
ALBERTSONS
CITY OF MERIDIAN

DEVELOPMENT & PROJECTS COMING IN 2020

With more than 420,000 square feet of office space leased in 2019, Meridian continues to be a popular corporate headquarters location. Eagle View Landing, El Dorado, Ten-Mile Crossing, The Village, and Silverstone will all be unveiling new Class A office space in 2020.

We look forward to welcoming Americor, who broke ground in 2019. The finance technology company will move from California creating hundreds of new jobs in Meridian. Local company Idaho Central Credit Union also broke ground on their second-largest ICCU facility.
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.

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A NEW COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Community events are easier than ever to find with our new community calendar. This new addition to our website allows the community to view city sponsored events. Community members can also submit public events to share as well. In 2019, customers were able to view 1,609 public events ranging from Meridian City Council and Commission meetings to annual favorites like Trunk or Treat, Movie Nights and other community events. The calendar is a great way for us to stay connected as a community and share information from local partners such as the Meridian Library District, West Ada School District, ACHD and COMPASS. For all things happening in Meridian, visit meridiancity.org/calendar.

A STRATEGIC APPROACH

Our city continues to make progress on our Vision to be a premier place to live, work and raise a family. Our Strategic Plan outlines specific goals and objectives to achieve our Vision. We completed five of those objectives in 2019, bringing us to 69% complete in our five year plan. The Parks and Recreation Department approved incorporating discovery elements and art theming in our existing parks, which means more amenities for you to enjoy in the parks including Champion and Renaissance Parks. Additionally, the entire city organization completed an evaluation of all city programs along with the costs to better align programs with the priorities in our Strategic Plan, which will be a tool as we prioritize funds for future budgets. In 2020, we will begin efforts to create our next 1-5 year strategic plan for our community! Be on the lookout for more information on that effort to improve outcomes for our City and our citizens.
TRASH OR TREASURE
The Public Works Department worked in partnership with Republic Services and the Solid Waste Advisory Commission to host a city-wide solid waste diversion event this year. In an effort to keep re-usable items out of the landfill, the Trash or Treasure program offered residents the opportunity to place unwanted, but re-usable, items at the curb for one weekend. Interested “Treasure Hunters” were able to use the participant map to claim the items, giving them a new home and keeping them out of the county landfill. The program was a great success with over 300 participants and countless items salvaged for re-use. The department looks forward to the program growing each year. To learn more about Trash or Treasure, visit meridiancity.org/trashortreasure.

IMPROVING SERVICES THROUGH INNOVATION
In 2019, employees initiated Meridian’s Innovation and Change Academy, where we invest in our employees by training and coaching them to identify and solve problems in their workplace. Modeled after Denver’s PEAK Academy, the program uses process improvement to eliminate waste, and deliver value-add services to both internal and external customers.

One example of a successful innovation involved our Residential Fence Permit process. Our Community Development team recognized that significant improvements could be made to the process to improve both the customer and staff experience. The team worked together to reduce the length and legalese of the application. The process is more efficient with less staff involvement, and a fee reduction from $55 to $10.

By the end of 2019, 67 employees were trained in the innovation process. Through innovation and change, improvements are always possible, and we are excited to continue to improve service for our customers.
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.

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CREWS GET INSTANTANEOUS FEEDBACK ON CPR

The Ada County City Emergency Services System (ACCESS) went through a system wide RFP to standardize Cardiac Monitors in the county. Through this process and the standardization, we now have the ability to have instantaneous CPR feedback. All fire crews, on all cardiac arrests, will have the ability to monitor their CPR quality in real time. This helps improve our cardiac arrest survivability. As a system we have been hovering just above 40% cardiac arrest survival rate in Ada County. Having CPR feedback for all of the crews is vitally important to achieve our survivability goal of 50%.

MERIDIAN’S SCHOOL SAFETY PLAN GOES STATE-WIDE

The Idaho Standard Command Response for Schools (ISCRS) was formed by the Treasure Valley School Safety Committee, which focuses on standardizing protocols and concepts for initial protective actions a school should take during an emergency situation or heightened threat environment. In addition to developing the protocol, the committee developed a training program and presenters guide to support and promote ISCRS. The response protocol was developed with the assistance of Meridian Fire Deputy Chief Joe Bongiorno and Meridian Police Lieutenant Shawn Harper. The team presented it to school communities throughout Idaho, encouraging the adoption of the standard. Now adopted by over 60% of the school districts in Idaho, the plan is transforming the way schools look at safety and response to emergency situations. The development and deployment of the response standard has been a great endeavor and shows our commitment to working with other departments and agencies to meet our goal to keep Idaho children safe.
PREVENTION SAVES LIVES

Fire departments throughout the world have similar challenges trying to quantify the results of their public education efforts. Let’s face it, it’s simply difficult to identify a fire or emergency that was prevented due to an education effort. However, in 2019, we had three confirmed saves. The first was a cardiac arrest that took place in a public place in the city. One of the people who rendered aid to the victim had taken a CPR class, and quickly knew how to administer CPR and use an AED. The victim is now doing great. The second save was a result of an elementary student who took the fire prevention message seriously. He went home and convinced his mother to fix the home’s nonoperational smoke alarms. Just a few short weeks later, the family experienced a home fire and the same young man heard the smoke alarms, woke both his mother and grandmother up, and got them out of the home safely. The third save was also an elementary student. After attending a class on how to call 911 utilizing our training simulator, he had a friend over to his home and that friend experienced a medical emergency. The student called 911 and followed the dispatchers’ instructions to help his friend until the first responders arrived. This shows that our community risk reduction efforts are not only needed, but actually save lives!
FIRE STATION SIX BREAKS GROUND
The Meridian Fire Department conducted a groundbreaking for Fire Station Six in March, 2019. This Station is located at the intersection of Linder Road and Overland Road providing the City with a second fire station south of Interstate 84. This new fire station includes several design features and a layout that will reduce firefighter’s exposure to carcinogens. Additionally, the layout of the station provides for multiple paths of entry into the apparatus bay allowing for faster response to emergency calls. Fire Station Six will be completed and fully operational in March of 2020.

A UNIFIED RESPONSE TO VIOLENT INCIDENTS
After several years of planning, all of the Ada County Fire, EMS and Police agencies, along with the Ada County Office of Emergency Management, came to a consensus outlining the Unified Response to Violent Incidents. As part of the plan, all Fire and EMS agencies in Ada County, through the Department of Homeland Security, obtained a grant to put ballistic vests and trauma gear on every seat of every frontline Fire and EMS apparatus in the county. Training has been ongoing and relationships are being built across all three public safety entities.

Follow Meridian Fire Department on Facebook
@MeridianFireDepartment
A COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO MENTAL HEALTH

The public has become increasingly aware of the need to help individuals with mental illness. Because of this, the Meridian Police Department along with other public safety partners in the Treasure Valley come together bi-monthly to discuss local trends and issues surrounding the mental health crisis issues using data analytics. This collaborative effort includes members of local law enforcement agencies, medical personnel, paramedics, the Veterans Administration, Health & Welfare, social workers, and analysts. These stakeholders discuss and look for solutions to assist people who suffer from mental illness. The site assists in the coordination of information and communication in one location, allowing officials to be proactive with a person-centered approach to mental health.
MERIDIAN POLICE COLLABORATE ON NEW ACADEMY
In collaboration with the Nampa Police Department, the Meridian Police Department has developed and completed its first Nampa / Meridian Police Joint Academy, with a graduating class of 10 officers. This joint academy allows us to train officers internally instead of sending them to Idaho POST. It has facilitated an opportunity for both departments to consolidate resources, reduce training redundancies and build a continued partnership with local agencies. With the completion of the first Nampa / Meridian Police Joint Academy we have now started our second class, due to graduate February 2020.

MERIDIAN HOSTS DRUG TAKE BACK EVENTS
Prescription Drug Take-back days are a great opportunity for community organizations to partner with local law enforcement in an effort to prevent medicine abuse by providing education and reducing access to unused prescription medications through safe disposal. In April of 2019 the Meridian Anti Drug Coalition collaborated with Blue Cross of Idaho, Crime Stoppers, Idaho State University School of Pharmacy Students and a local Eagle Scout Troop to offer community members a quick and convenient drive-thru to safely dispose of unused medications. More than 812lbs. of medications were safely taken back at that single event. The coalition hosted two DEA sponsored take-back days held at different locations in the spring and the fall. Additionally, the Meridian Police Department has three safe disposal bins in the department lobby for residents to drop off their unused medications throughout the year. A total of 3,706 lbs. of medications were safely disposed of in 2019.

3,706
Pounds of Prescription Drugs Safely Recovered

9,718
Public Records Requests

92
Neighborhood Watch Liaisons
Follow Meridian Police Department on Facebook

@ MeridianPD
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.

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DISCOVERY PARK (PHASE I) OPENS
The first phase of Meridian’s newest Regional Park opened this year – offering south Meridian an oasis full of unique amenities that focus on the theme of “discovery”. City leaders gathered together for a ceremonial ribbon cutting in July and park goers of all ages have enjoyed the park each day since. This initial phase of the park spans approximately 27-acres and is equipped with two illuminated softball fields, destination playground, splash pad, three picnic shelters that can be reserved, walking paths, and an off-leash dog park. Discovery Park is the ultimate park to combine play and discovery.

FULLER PARK RE-OPENS WITH DEDICATION
The City officially took full ownership of Fuller Park in 2018. Once owned and maintained by the Western Ada Recreation District, the donated 22-acre park was a great addition to the exiting parks system in Meridian. Our Parks and Recreation Department added a few special touches before a grand re-opening celebration that included the dedication of a ball field to longtime former City Councilman, Charlie Rountree.

FISHING DOCK INSTALLED
Accessing the south fishing pond in Kleiner Park is easier than ever with the newly dedicated fishing dock. The addition came to be as part of the Senior Advisory Board’s participatory budget project. The 12’ x 18’ floating dock is connected to the shore by a concrete pathway, providing easier accessibility to seniors and those with differing abilities.
KLEINER PARK PERFORMERS GET RELIEF FROM HEAT
A much-needed shade structure to protect the stage of the Kleiner Park bandshell from summertime heat and glare was installed this year. The giant shade sails will help provide relief from the heat for the musicians and performers who utilize the facility for performances.

HOMECOURT WELCOMES IMPROVEMENTS
Meridian Homecourt, the City’s 49,000 square foot indoor sports court facility received several welcomed improvements to the building that will benefit both staff and residents as they use the facility. While staff is now enjoying an updated and more effective work space, residents will now have access to space for volleyball, pickleball, and community education classes.
The City of Meridian takes a conservative, responsible, and transparent approach to the City’s annual operating budget. We take our fiduciary responsibilities very seriously, and understand that each dollar we are entrusted with must show results for our customers. A recent implementation of Priority Based Budgeting is a great way for us to show the direct impact of each dollar, as well as the staff time, on the programs and services we provide.

The City’s financial mission is to achieve community goals within a framework that is fiscally sustainable. This requires a proactive 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 link at the bottom of this page will lead you to the Fiscal Year 2020 budgets which began October 1, 2019. You’ll find links to the operating and capital budgets for the General Fund and Enterprise Fund and utilizing the OpenGov software, you can take a deeper look into any part of the budget that you wish to see. Please note: Capital is a one-time investment and the operating budget illustrates ongoing expenses.

The **General Fund** 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.

Dive in at meridiancity.org/finances

FY2020 budget figures as of February 3, 2020. Data subject to change.
CHANGING OF THE GUARDS
Meridian experienced a lot of change in 2019 with one of the biggest being the election of a new Mayor. Mayor Tammy de Weerd, who served as the Meridian Mayor for 16-years, chose not to run for re-election. Instead, she will focus on time with her family. Elected to take the reins is Robert Simison, who plans to focus his efforts on transportation solutions, public safety, and connectivity of pathways and sidewalks, allowing residents to safely enjoy Meridian.
NEW LEADERS ELECTED
The end of 2019 brought with it a change in leadership on City Council. Council Members Genesis Milam, Anne Little Roberts, and Ty Palmer completed their terms on the council and chose not to run for re-election. Stepping into the roles are Liz Strader, Brad Hoaglun, and Jessica Perreault.
TOPPING THE CHARTS
Meridian continues to receive both local and national recognition as one of the best places to live in the country. Being recognized as one of the best places in the U.S. to retire, and one of the safest cities in the state, is especially impressive when we also topped the charts as the seventh fastest growing city in the nation. With an award winning staff, library district, and schools, the influx in new residents is no surprise.

PREMIER PEOPLE & PREMIER SERVICES
Meridian departments and employees were recognized for outstanding work in their industries in 2019. Below are a few of the honors that were received by our premier employees.

CITY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD - Awarded to Meridian Community & Development by the Association of Idaho Cities

IDAHO MEDAL OF HONOR - Awarded to Meridian Police Officer Kyle Mikowski by the State of Idaho.

CHAMPION OF CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY - Awarded to Pam Orr by the ITD Office of Highway Safety Occupant Protection Program.

SW IOS OPERATOR OF THE YEAR - Awarded to Dave Gassel by the Southwest Idaho Operators Section.
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