



2024 State of the City
Mayor Robert E. Simison
Meridian, ID

Before I start, I want to say thank you to all of you for attending and watching online. I appreciate the Chamber hosting this annual event.

Thank you, Sean, and to your team and the Board for helping to make it happen. Working with you all is one of the highlights of my job, as together, we are establishing Meridian as a leading voice for Main Street businesses.

Additionally, I would like to thank all of the sponsors, particularly CBH Homes, who is this year's title sponsor and who has been a key investor in the Valley. With your headquarters on Overland, I know you proudly call Meridian home.

To all of the current and former elected officials in attendance, I appreciate your service and the work you have done to make Idaho and Meridian the premier community in which to live, work, and raise a family.

Finally, I would like to recognize my family—Jenny, E, Nat, Ryty. You are there every step along the way, and give more than you should for me to serve our community. Truly, I am forever grateful. Thank you.

Imagine living in a community with no libraries or parks.

Imagine living in a community where, after going out to dinner with your family, you plan to walk down the street to get some ice cream. But you are forced to turn back because of people loitering around the streets who are under the influence of drugs.

Imagine living in a community where there is no investment in education.

For some of you, these might be very real experiences you have had in other cities. Perhaps you have thought these things could have happened here if an election turned out differently.

Now imagine you live in a community where a police officer will knock on your door at night if you leave your garage door open.

Imagine you live in a community where the sounds of kids laughing, balls bouncing, and parents cheering are heard in your schools and throughout your neighborhood.

And, imagine you live in a community where businesses are thriving, and others want to come be a part of the success.

If you currently live in Meridian, you don't have to imagine any of this.



Our Police Department takes care of the little things late at night, so they don't become big things. This has long been our practice and we are committed to ensuring it remains.

We have a plan which is creating spaces in neighborhoods and growing our award-winning park system that helps create lasting memories for families and enhances our quality of life.

We are committed to growing responsibly. Our efforts are focused on smart policies, needed infrastructure, and following the comprehensive plan that was developed with the community.

And, businesses that start here, want to stay here, with those new to the area choosing Meridian. Why? Because these companies understand we have had strong, consistent leadership that believes in the free market and is here to help, not hinder, those looking to invest in Meridian.

When we combine the infrastructure with the people, we are able to deliver premier police and fire services, clean water and treatment, and advocate for policies to keep harmful drugs like fentanyl off our streets and out of our schools, ensuring a safe community.

It allows new parks, improved amenities, and for more pathways that maintain the quality of life that we have been creating for families to gather and stay connected to one another.

I say this to you: the state of Meridian is resolute, and as your Mayor I am determined to stay firmly focused on being the west's premier place to live, work and raise a family.

We can all agree that Meridian is cared for and fostering success. As we walk through the recent accomplishments, there is a common theme—that is our people. Our employees come to work every day to serve our community with our CARE values.

To our City of Meridian employees: your commitment to customer service, your buy-in to accountability and what the city is doing, your responsiveness and respect for the work being done and the needs of the community makes the City an excellent organization full of dedicated public servants. If I could ask all the city employees to please stand and be recognized.

Thank you, Team Meridian, I appreciate and am proud to stand alongside each one of you.

Since we came together last year, our project wins have come across all areas of the city. We have seen several public safety enhancements—specifically, we have put people, facilities, and processes in place.

Last fall, we opened two new fire stations. In addition to having engine companies, one currently includes an ambulance crew operated by Ada County EMS, and the other will include one in the future.



This is putting resources where they make sense in a way to minimize cost to all County taxpayers. This, combined with the onboarding and training of the new firefighters, was a great department accomplishment.

Additionally, the Meridian Fire Department became the 1st CFAI accredited department in the State of Idaho. This was a two-year long effort of external reviews and assessments benchmarking where we are today, that we are who we say we are, and helping to identify next steps for the department.

These wins are possible because of the collaboration between the firefighters in the field, the administration team, and our Rural Fire District.

We recently completed an upgrade of our Opticom system. This system creates a green traffic light providing priority travel to our police and fire vehicles to safely clear intersections. The upgraded system is opening lights further ahead and is no longer predicated on vehicle proximity to an intersection. It's now navigated with GPS and based on the predicted route of travel.

This will help our first responders get to emergencies quicker, when every second counts. We couldn't have done this without the willingness and support of the Ada County Highway District.

Last November, we opened our second police station in northwest Meridian. This station is providing needed space for our growing department and allowing our police officers to spend more time in our neighborhoods focusing on community policing.

The Meridian Police Department also completed a successful assessment of their internal processes and policies conducted by ICRMP. This effort confirms that the Police Department is ensuring efficient operations in a low-risk way.

The department also celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Meridian Anti-Drug Coalition, a coalition whose mission is to strengthen our community through substance abuse prevention efforts. MADC, which includes many individuals and businesses from the community, helped in legislative efforts to get fentanyl off our streets.

And, MADC wasn't just advocating at the state level to keep fentanyl off the streets. They also led efforts to keep all illegal drugs from being advertised on billboards to our families and children in Meridian through enactment of a City ordinance.

Our investments and work are showing results. Total crime offenses in Meridian were down in 2023 by more than 10 percent compared to 2022, and that trend is on track this year too.

Let's talk about the number one concern according to residents: transportation. We continue to see needed road improvements in Meridian.



Last year, we saw the long-anticipated widening of Locust Grove between Overland and Victory, as well as Lake Hazel between Eagle and Locust Grove. Both of these south Meridian projects—one near Mountain View High School done by Ada County Highway District, and the other near Discovery Park done by Brighton—are helping our residents safely access our community gathering spots.

We have also seen our number 1 project—the Linder Road Overpass—continue to move forward. Project design is complete, and ACHD is working on right-of-way plans and purchasing the land needed for the build.

Additionally, the Idaho Transportation Department awarded Meridian a grant earlier this year in the amount of \$4.3 million for road improvements, and has also programmed another \$7.5 million for the bridge construction in fiscal year 2026.

I can't tell you how excited I am to see the meaningful progress on this important transportation improvement.

Our City teams are also getting things done behind the scenes. Our Finance Department was able to receive a clean financial audit for the ninth year in a row—helping our tax- and ratepayers know their funds are being safeguarded. In Public Works, our Wastewater Treatment Plant was found to be in full compliance by Idaho DEQ.

And our Community Development Department recently gave a certificate of occupancy to one of the largest commercial buildings to be built in Meridian at Scheel's, which required nearly 800 Inspections!

The completion of this building was just one of many new expansions or entries into the area. Other projects include the expansion at Western States Cat, the new home for Red Aspen, Primrose Academy, the Children's Museum of Idaho addition, and, of course, In-N-Out.

Many folks are enjoying the benefits that these businesses are bringing, and the activity is good for the community. In fact, according to the Idaho Department of Labor, nearly 500 new businesses came to Meridian last year, and the community continues to show job strength for it.

Our unemployment was below three percent in 2023. One of the lowest in the broader metro service area.

Whether it is honoring Meridian Speedway being listed on the National Registry of Historic Places, or any of the new and remodeled hotels, credit unions, and other businesses, the energy continues to be here, in Meridian. Congratulations to the businesses and our team for helping make it all happen!



These new businesses are providing jobs and access to services sought by residents. They also go hand-in-hand with our expanded pathways and parks all of which are designed with that quality of life we all desire in Meridian.

The Parks team recently completed several important pathway connections, maybe none more important than a segment that was connected to Mary McPherson Elementary.

Jenny and I live in Tuscany and our kids went to Sienna Elementary. We felt safe letting our kids walk or bike to school along the sidewalks and pathways from our house. And this is true for many of the other families in our neighborhood.

For the families that lived on the other side of Locust Grove where many of the kids went to Mary Mac, it wasn't the same. They had to ride the bus, be driven by a parent, or walk down a road with no sidewalks and 40 MPH speed limits.

This new connection is a gamechanger for those kids, families, and school district, as a majority of the kids can now walk or ride their bike to school safely. This is something that hasn't been possible since the school was built in 1959. It's a great win for the community thanks to collaboration with the Simplot family, West Ada, Boise Project Board, and the City.

We also recently cut the ribbon on our first trailhub at Ten Mile and celebrated the pathway connection on Fivemile Creek in the area that is our "Golden Spike". You might recall the meeting of the railroads coming from east and west that were connected in Utah from your history books. Much like that, we connected five miles of pathway on one side to two and a half miles of pathway on the other side.

This much anticipated segment allows for eight miles of continuous pathway, connecting north Meridian to our downtown. Truly a wonderful accomplishment!

In addition, we have seen updates and expansions in our parks and other facilities. We continued our investments and made much-needed improvements to the Lakeview Clubhouse to help elevate this asset to the standards of our parks and amenities.

Interior renovations and exterior additions now provide needed shade for the patio and are helping make Lakeview a better experience for all.

This comes after we completed a major expansion at Discovery Park last fall. The park has some wonderful new features. If you recall, I predicted that my son Ryan would be there a lot. Well he is, along with many other teens at the skate and bike amenities. Recently, we highlighted some of the great talents our staff have with a video series. Let's take a look at Joey, who works at Discovery Park and can tell you more about the new expansion.

[\[VIDEO\]](#)



Thank you, Joey, for giving your time and talent to Discovery Park.

Our team has been busy! To all of our employees, a sincere thank you and appreciation for all you do to ensure Meridian remains a safe community built around families.

Imagine a place where everyday heroes stand out and share their time and talent with the community. That is Meridian. That is this year's Legacy Award winner.

This year's winner shares her passion for feeding people healthy food and teaching others the lifelong skill of gardening. Whether engaging in children's programs, delivering fresh flowers to care centers, leading cooking demonstrations, or simply lending a guiding hand and listening ear, she remains dedicated to building community through gardening.

Under her leadership as president of the Meridian Co-Op Gardeners, pollinator projects at Kleiner and Heroes are thriving, and the community garden at Kleiner Park has been going strong for 12 years.

Her work has paved the way for the next community garden that is taking shape at Discovery Park—truly creating a legacy. It's my pleasure to introduce this year's Legacy Award Winner: Juli Bokenkamp.

Thank you, Juli, and what a true legacy where others are following in your footsteps.

Imagine that everything that I just spoke about wasn't part of our community. Take away the people that care. Eliminate investments in public safety and quality of life facilities, remove the road improvements, get rid of the new and expanded businesses.

Is that the Meridian you want to live in? It's not what I, nor what City Council, imagines.

I want to acknowledge our current Council President Luke Cavener. With 11 years of service, he is helping lead our community in his role. He is joined by Vice President Liz Strader and John Overton, both of whom were elected to continue to serve this past November.

These three are joined by some new and returning faces. Anne Little Roberts was elected in November and is back on City Council for a second time. Anne is a native Idahoan and has lived in Meridian for 27 years. She has worked in the business and non-profit sectors and is the Council Member for District 5 in south Meridian.

Doug Taylor was also elected this past November and is the City Council Member for District 3. Doug is a fourth generation Idahoan, has worked at the federal and state level, and is now putting his skills to work for local government.



And our newest member, Brian Whitlock, was just confirmed by City Council last week for District 1. Brian has spent his career working for elected officials at the state, local, and national level, as well as being a representative for major employers in Idaho.

Please help me in thanking them for their commitments to Meridian.

It is my privilege to work alongside all of these individuals. They are following in the footsteps of others who have set us on a path as a City many years ago. When the mantra was set to “save before we spend” and ensure “growth pays for growth.” Where the focus was on our employees and the issues relevant to the services we provide.

Now, together we are making decisions for positive change and navigating the course of Meridian. We are determining the appropriate policies and necessary budgets to provide services to our community—sticking to our shared values in good and challenging times.

Last week, I delivered my proposed budget to City Council. Through this year’s budget efforts, our team has found areas to reduce ongoing operation costs and still deliver the premier services to our community.

Additionally, we maintain our “save before we spend” philosophy that has created a strong cash balance to fund capital and one-time expenditures.

Despite the efficiencies and healthy balance, the long-held mantra of growth paying for growth is more of a challenge today than ever.

I have mentioned before that legislative policies have immediate and lasting impacts on communities. For instance, growth is no longer paying for growth due to legislation like House Bill 389 from a few years ago. This bill is costing the City of Meridian about \$1.4 million dollars each year and continues to grow. That \$1.4 million could fund 10 police officers that are needed today.

While increased home values have benefits, they can also drive down the City levy rate. The levy rate—which is just our budget expenses divided by the total value of all property in Meridian—is used to determine the property taxes that will be paid by new homes and commercial buildings in what we call new construction.

Here is the reality. Up on the screen is a graph that shows the new construction value in Meridian and the levy rate from fiscal year 2016 to fiscal year 2025. It also shows the levy rate in those two years.

Basically, our levy rate has decreased about 50% during this time period while the value of our new construction more than doubled. What this graph shows you is that the amount of new construction revenue we received in 2016 is about a 15% difference compared to 2025.



Had our levy rate not changed, the City would have received approximately \$2.9 million instead of the \$1.47 million for new construction. That is another \$1.4 million that could fund 10 firefighters that are needed today.

I share both of these examples because the property taxes paid by new residents or businesses aren't covering the full cost of growth. Not because these homeowners and businesses aren't willing to pay their cost. Rather, because of the changes in laws and existing policies of the State of Idaho. Policy matters.

In order to keep up with rising costs of goods and services, meet our commitments to our employees, comply with the significant increase imposed upon us by PERSI, and provide funding to hire needed public safety personnel, my budget requests taking the full 3% allowed.

Additionally, my budget requests taking 1% of foregone—all of which and more was reserved last year when we didn't take the full 3%. This will help us meet the current needs and deliver on the long-term service expectations. I don't like taking foregone one bit. But if we want to keep up with our public safety needs, it is what we need to do.

With limited resources for new positions, my recommendation is to invest in needed personnel for the Police Department and related services. This includes hiring a support services commander, a detective, a police attorney, and two police officers.

These are needed positions to help our growing department continue to be present in our community, and help provide the necessary support to our officers in the field.

Additionally, you may remember the SAFER Grant we accepted last year. It was a great win for Meridian to receive, and provides the majority of funding for 18 new firefighters for three years, helping place four firefighters on our engines.

For us to maintain all of these new firefighters at the end of the grant, we need to identify and earmark a little more than 3 million dollars so we can add it to our FY27 budget when the grant ends. By applying the 1% of foregone funds towards these positions, we can be on our way.

Even though finding ongoing revenue for personnel is a current challenge, we still have a "save before we spend" philosophy that is allowing us to move capital projects forward in this year's budget.

This year, we will begin in earnest on bringing a new community center to Meridian. After working with West Ada School District, we were able to purchase about eleven acres adjacent to Settlers Park where we plan to build a new community center.



First comes the space planning and design of the center, with the goal of being under construction during fiscal year 2026. Having this space will provide more opportunities for recreation programs and classes needed in our community.

And, as Settlers Parks gets an expansion, we also had a property donation from Marti Hill that will enlarge Hillsdale Park in south Meridian. Thank you, Marti, for your generosity to make this possible.

Additionally, my budget proposes continued investment at Lakeview Golf Course with funding for needed restrooms on the course.

Speaking of restrooms, what would a budget in Meridian be without additions to our Waste Water Treatment Plant where we need a new aeration basin and tertiary filter? These projects are joined by the final phase of our Can Ada lift station, and another water treatment facility as we continue to ensure we have the water quality our residents deserve.

What you may not realize is the projects I just mentioned in two sentences cost over \$40 million dollars in this budget, with total costs of around \$110 million dollars. It's amazing how expensive a few words can be!

Finally, last year we conducted an audit of all signalized intersections in Meridian to identify any needed safety improvements. This budget includes funding to upgrade streetlights at identified intersections to LED. It also includes funding to work on striping projects and other identified constraints to help make our intersections safer.

As the City invests in these areas, we are working with our partners to effect positive change in our community—sometimes that's easier said than done.

The Meridian Library District continues to extend services as part of their successful levy passed by voters in 2019. This September, they will be hitting their 100-year anniversary and they look to open their newest south Meridian branch that month. Congratulations to them on both of these important milestones!

On the flip side, Meridian needs another post office. I know it. Our community knows it. Heck, I think the United States Postal Service knows it. Unfortunately, we haven't been able to effect collaborative change with them, yet.

The post office in downtown isn't adequate for our community, and something needs to be done to bring another facility to Meridian. The City of Meridian and our federal delegation have been persistent in our efforts to garner an actionable response from regional leadership, and we will continue to reach out until we can engage with them to find a solution.



You've already heard me talk about Linder Road Overpass, and construction on Highway 16 continues. One other road was a subject of last year's State of the City—Eagle Road.

While it has taken a year to get here, I appreciate ITD bringing an innovative solution to safety concerns on Eagle Road to their Board for consideration. Yesterday they presented several changes to making Eagle Road safer, including a variable speed pilot project.

This pilot project will lower the speed limit during times of congestion – a much-needed change to improve safety and allow for enforcement by our officers. Thank you for listening to our concerns and working with us, and sharing this solution with your Board.

While these are today's needs, we also need to be planning for the future—specifically, how we will move people east and west in the valley. I appreciate the work of Idaho 2040 as the private sector looks to address this issue. To me, the existing rail corridor should be utilized not just to move goods, but people as well.

For this corridor to have some form of viable public transportation in the future, it needs funding and the attention of our governor, legislature, and ITD. Specifically, as the lone remaining state with no dedicated state funding for public transportation, that situation needs to be addressed. Until state funding exists, local government has to choose between funding public safety or public transportation.

I do want to thank the governor and legislature for taking the first step to meet its constitutional obligation to fund school facilities. Meridian has been advocating this position for years, and it is a great way to help lower the property tax burden for all residents.

Questions still remain, including is it enough funding to meet the needs? And what discretion or responsibilities do local communities have? I encourage our leaders to continue the conversation so this needed investment can occur, and these questions can be answered.

In the meantime, I am confident that West Ada will make wise funding decisions to address needed maintenance and construction of new facilities. As enrollment has decreased over the last few years, I know they are committed to using the tools they have in order to best align facilities, people, and needs.

And, to the patrons of West Ada, thank you for supporting the supplemental levy to ensure funding for the safe and effective operations of our schools.

Passing a levy in many ways might feel like winning a championship to some degree. And while our high schools compete, and win state in numerous sports and activities—what is not clear is who is the community champion?



Imagine our downtown streets flanked proudly by school flags hanging on light posts. Or imagine the Meridian water tower proudly displaying a school mascot.

In an effort to build community, school spirit, and healthy competition, I'm excited to announce the creation of the Mayor's Watertower Championship. Working with West Ada, we want to celebrate youth in a fun way between our four Meridian high schools—Meridian, Mountain View, Rocky Mountain, and Owyhee

These schools will compete with one another in all sports, activities and academics during the school year for bragging rights, a school celebration, community recognition, and the soon-to-be coveted Watertower Trophy—crowning the true community champion.

The Mayor's Watertower Championship is sponsored by Capital Educators. Thank you to their team for helping make this possible.

More details will be announced in August, but the official launch will take place during the Mountain View versus Rocky Mountain football game on September 13th. I'll be there and I invite you to join me. In the meantime, as a resident of south Meridian who just had a graduate of Mountain View, I say go Mavs and horns up!

As I look forward to celebrating with the winning high school next May, let's take a moment and honor this year's City of Meridian youth scholarship winners.

[\[VIDEO\]](#)

Congratulations to our recipients. I look forward to what you do next in life.

As demonstrated by these scholarships, their committees, events, or other work, the Chamber continues to be a great partner while adding value for its members and the community. They help businesses grow success across the City, and we have to ensure the infrastructure keeps up with the needs of our commercial partners.

With the recent improvements to the water and sewer pipes on Idaho Avenue in downtown, we believe that this area will be an even greater asset and allow for more vibrancy to the area through the possibility of the live, work, play concept.

The first block of the project is complete between Main and Northeast Second Street. To support the businesses who were impacted by the construction, the Chamber is hosting a downtown block party tomorrow from four to eight PM to welcome patrons back and celebrate the businesses impacted by the work. Come on down, hear some live music, get a bite, and do some shopping downtown.

So where do we go from here?



Imagine having a place for your kids and grandkids to have sports tournaments in Meridian so you don't have to travel. Or imagine watching your son or daughter walking across a stage in Meridian as they receive their diploma, rather than traveling to another city like I did this past weekend.

Efforts are underway to create the Auditorium District of Meridian that would provide funding for a multi-sport event center. A space large enough for eight basketball courts, 16 volleyball courts, or one high school graduation! This would offer more opportunities to both the community and to the economic success of Meridian.

The Chamber has been working to bring this reality to Meridian. Currently, they are collecting signatures to get the formation of the Auditorium District placed on the November ballot. If you live in these boundaries and want to learn more or sign the petition, stop and chat with one of the amazing Chamber ambassadors on your way out.

And, if your kids graduate and go on to a career in healthcare, imagine it all taking place right here in Meridian. A place where doctors and healthcare professionals are educated and trained, then practice, providing needed care for our community. That is why we are actively working to make Meridian the healthcare epicenter of Idaho.

This effort requires full engagement, and we continue to work with our partners like ICOM and Idaho State University, who together recently reaffirmed their commitment to health education with joint degree programs and enhanced research.

With ISU's infrastructure improvements funded for the 20 acres they own on Central and Locust Grove, they are committed to Meridian's future. We are excited for the educational opportunities that will lead to locally educated, locally residing health care professionals.

As with any major project, it is important that we work together and plan for impacts to the area. We know there are transportation challenges along Central Drive. We need to ensure long-term success and the best use of the state property in the area.

This means having important conversations with ISU, ICOM, West Ada, the Idaho State Police, and others to make sure we get it right, as well as updating the land use planning in the area between Locust Grove and Eagle Road so the area can thrive.

After working in your new healthcare job thanks to the collaboration between ISU, ICOM, and others, imagine being at home with your family, relaxing or having dinner, and no one is on their phones. Instead, conversation is flowing, games and laughter are developing, and connection is happening. Doesn't that sound great?

We all know the value of being more connected with one another. I know I am guilty of doing just the opposite when I get home from work, and I know many of you are too.



I can't help but think of the growing need for mental health wellness in our society. Especially for our kids as our phones and technology have pushed the evolution of our society, but are also limiting our connection with one another.

That is why I am supportive of West Ada's efforts to consider how and when to limit cell phone access in classrooms. Classrooms should be free from as many distractions as possible for learning and connection. I feel confident in West Ada's ability to provide a way for parents and students to connect when necessary—no different than when we were back in school.

As a community, we all have a vested interest in healthy kids and strong families, and it starts at home. Let's work to put down our phone a little more often and engage around the dinner table with those that matter the most, building the best possible community where our youth not only live, but thrive.

Imagine if our past leaders did not have the philosophy of growth paying for growth, or saving before we spend? What would our core services of public safety, parks, water, and sewer look like? Imagine if our partners at West Ada or the Meridian Library District hadn't advocated for people and more facilities? Fortunately, they all have made tough decisions when necessary for us to have the community we all know and love.

We will continue to do that in Meridian, but we are not immune to outside pressures and short-sighted policies.

What keeps me up at night is the challenge of keeping up with the cost of doing business. Ensuring a fair and competitive wage for our current employees, as well as the need for new positions to deliver services to our growing community.

With our long-term needs—especially in public safety—we need to be focused on how we move forward and continue our efforts to be as efficient as possible with the revenue the city receives.

Sometimes at night, I imagine having an east/west transportation solution in the Treasure Valley. Or, I imagine a community that doesn't need property taxes to fund school facilities. Yes, I can be boring while I'm falling sleep.

But then I wake up, and I get to work with our partners, and together we encourage the State to meet its responsibility, and work to find solutions that have the highest return on investment and the lowest financial impact possible.

And sometimes, when I am lying awake because Natalie came home late from work and I wonder if the garage door was closed, I am comforted in knowing we have the best police force in Idaho and the nation. They are out taking care of the little things, so they do not become big things, and I am able to go to sleep.



The next day, I'm motivated to ensure our officers know they are valued. Why? Because policing is changing and attitudes towards officers are impacting the desire by many to consider the profession. So, I do what I can to provide them the necessary support so our community will have the kind of law enforcement it insists on.

Part of that support means keeping harmful substances out of our community like we have done for meth, fentanyl, and marijuana. You don't have to imagine a place where we stand against drug use. Chief Basterrechea and I do not support the current efforts by the White House to change the drug classification of marijuana.

That is not the right thing for Meridian or Idaho, and I urge our legislature to take any necessary action in opposition to this effort. Idaho can't lower its standards and expect the same quality of life we have come to know and enjoy.

As I conclude, one of my favorite quotes is from former Secretary of Defense Mark Esper, who said, "Stay focused on your mission, remain steadfast in your pursuit of excellence, and always do the right thing."

That is my motto and how I try to operate. We have a Council who is action-oriented and employees who CARE and are working on tomorrow's challenges. We are fully engaged with our stakeholders and partners, and we are resolute in our efforts to make Meridian the premier place to live, work, and raise a family.

As you go about the rest of your day and think about what has been shared, I ask you to imagine what the bright future of Meridian holds. I know I'm excited to get there, and together, we can make it a reality.

Thank you.