

A FOCUSED VISION

Vision

Meridian, Idaho is a vibrant community whose vision is to be the premier city to live, work and raise a family.

Mission

The City of Meridian's mission for 2025 is to continue to be a safe, attractive, and inviting community that is full of diverse activities. Meridian delivers quality service, planning, and fiscal responsibility with open spaces, strong partnerships, and various educational opportunities. Culture, unique business, venture, and an abundant choice of jobs make Meridian not just a destination, but a lifestyle.

C.A.R.E Values

We provide our best for the community we serve. We will provide quality service to our customers and positive development of our staff that promotes and expects accountability, respect and excellence.

Customer Service • Accountability • Respect • Excellence



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(2089) 888-4433
www.meridiancity.org

ANNUAL REPORT

Meridian 2014



MAYOR'S WELCOME



Mayor Tammy de Weerd

Each year I look forward to this opportunity to reflect on our community's recent achievements and innovations. This year's State of the City Address theme – Building Meridian Together – perfectly captures the pride I feel for Meridian and our shared accomplishments, as well as our challenges, of the past year.

This report is an opportunity to celebrate the contributions made by our citizens, elected officials, City staff, volunteers, and community partners who work side-by-side to improve our city in so many ways.

We strive to make Meridian a city you can be proud of with our focus on providing excellent services and fiscal responsibility; beautiful neighborhoods and strong business support; family-friendly parks and meaningful community events; strong leadership and open communication. We are focused on safety and being responsive to you.

Meridian has so much to be proud of — the energy continues to be in Meridian! This last year, 2013, brought us continued economic growth, improved traffic flows to and through downtown

KEEP IN TOUCH

Visit Our Website - www.meridiancity.org

Subscribe to the City E-Newsletter - www.meridiancity.org/register.aspx

Find Events on the Community Calendar - www.meridiancity.org/calendar.aspx

"Like" Meridian City Hall on Facebook

"Follow" @MeridianIdaho on Twitter

CITY DEPARTMENTS

In Case of Emergency	Dial 9-1-1
Meridian City Hall	(208) 888-4433
City Attorney's Office	(208) 898-5506
City Clerk's Office	(208) 888-4433
Community Development	(208) 884-5533
Finance/Accounting	(208) 888-4433
Fire (Non-Emergency)	(208) 888-1234
Human Resources	(208) 898-5503
Information Technology	(208) 888-4433
Mayor and City Council	(208) 489-0529
Parks and Recreation	(208) 888-3579
Police (Non-Emergency)	(208) 888-6678
Public Works	(208) 898-5500
Utility Billing	(208) 888-4439



COMMUNITY PROFILE

Meridian, Idaho — the population and geographic center of Idaho's Treasure Valley — is located just minutes from Idaho's state capitol and is a dynamic and thriving city built for business and designed for living.



History: Established 1893; incorporated 1903
Land Area: 27 square miles
Elevation: 2,605
Climate: Semi-arid with four distinct seasons
Population Estimate: 81,380
Number of Households: 26,899
Number of Persons per Household: 2.84
Workforce: 38,560
Gender Split: 51% Female / 49% Male
Median Age: 32.8 Years
High School Graduate or Higher: 94.5%
Bachelors Degree or Higher: 32.3%
Median Annual household Income: \$65,343
Cost of Living: 94% of National Average
Median Home Value: \$198,200
Home Ownership Rate: 83.8%
Mean Travel Time to Work: 21.8 minutes
Parks: 20 parks covering over 240 acres
Pathways: 14.3 miles

and even expanded our community representation adding two City Council seats.

The City Council and I, along with City staff are committed to you. We strive to make wise decisions that will maintain our utility infrastructure, public facilities, and parks for current and future generations to enjoy and cherish. I encourage you to get involved in your government by staying informed, letting us know what you think about our services, becoming a City volunteer, or by serving on one of our many boards or commissions.

Meridian's future has never looked brighter and we greatly appreciate your ongoing participation and support as we are building Meridian together.

DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS

Community Development
 Bruce Chatterton
 finance
 Stacy Kilchenmann
 Fire Department
 Chief Mark Niemeyer
 Human Resources
 Patti Perkins
 Information Services
 Joyce Holman
 Legal
 Bill Nary
 Parks & Recreation
 Steve Siddoway
 Police Department
 Chief Jeff Lavey
 Public Works
 Tom Barry

MERIDIAN CITY COUNCIL



Pictured Left to Right: President Charlie Rountree, Vice-President Keith Bird, Joe Barton, Luke Cavener, Genesis Millam, David Zarembo

THE PLACE FOR FAMILIES



Children and young families are crucial to community sustainability. Meridian is dedicated to fulfilling the needs of the young as well as the young-at-heart. Meridian prides itself on being a caring community where individuals and families feel welcome, safe, and have fun.

Public safety remains a top community priority and it shows through the city's low crime rate and responsive police and fire services. In fact, CQ Press recently named Meridian the safest city in Idaho. By using technology to share data between agencies and create real time crime mapping, the Meridian Police Department is continuing to move the bar higher to ensure our community's safety.

Firefighters and police officers respond to emergencies but they also spend a lot of

time in the community teaching people what they can do to stay safe.

To keep young drivers safe on the road, the Meridian Police Department teaches "Alive at 25," a driving course for 15 through 24 year olds. During 2013, more than 1,250 participants completed this course.

Through Project SAFE, the Meridian Fire Department has distributed more than 3,800 free smoke alarms and bed shakers for the hearing impaired. Two of the homes equipped with these devices by the fire department recently experienced fires and homeowners were alerted to danger in time to escape to safety.

ACCOLADES



Meridian City Hall Earns Energy Star Award

The City of Meridian's Public Works Department implemented facility improvements and presented the documentation necessary to achieve the Energy Star rating for Meridian City Hall. Compared to other buildings across the country, Meridian City Hall is in the 88th percentile for energy efficiency.

Meridian Named Safest City in Idaho

CQ Press, a publication focused on American government, named Meridian as Idaho's Safest City in 2013 according to its crime ranking.



Julius M. Kleiner Memorial Park Earns State and National Awards

The City of Meridian's newest park — Julius M. Kleiner Memorial Park — received a trio of awards in 2013, including:

- National Recognition Award from the American Council of Engineering Companies, 2013 Engineering Excellence Awards Competition
- 2013 Outstanding Facility & Parks Award for the State of Idaho from the Idaho Recreation & Parks Association
- 2013 Merit Award for General Design from the American Society of Landscape Architects Idaho/Montana Chapter

Mayor's Youth Advisory Council Named Idaho's Brightest Star

Idaho Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter and First Lady Lori Otter named the Meridian Mayor's Youth Advisory Council as a top winner in the Idaho's Brightest Star recognizing Idaho's best community volunteers.

Meridian Projects Win City Achievement Award

During 2013, the IT Department's Meridian Enterprise Addressing Database (MEAD) and the Meridian Fire Department's Project S.A.F.E. each received a City Achievement Award from the Association of Idaho Cities. This annual awards program recognizes Idaho cities for programs or projects that improve quality of life, solve community problems, reduce costs of government, and increase municipal service.

As good fiscal stewards of the public's money, the City continues to take a conservative approach to budgeting. The City operates with a balanced budget of \$89 million while maintaining services at the level the community expects. The City budget comprises of the General Fund of \$44M and the Enterprise Fund of \$45M.

The Enterprise Fund pays for water, sewer, and related services and is supported by rate payers. The General Fund pays for all other City services - Police, Fire, Parks, Community Development, and Administration - with revenue from property tax, state revenue-sharing and sales tax, as well as other sources. Property tax for 2104 is forecasted at \$21.9M; sixty-three percent of the total General Fund revenues. Public safety (Police and Fire), the City's top priority, totals \$27.4M from General Fund Revenues.

City Finance Department



WORKING FOR YOU

Whether building a new park, hiring additional police officers, or building a new well; the Mayor and City Council ensures projects are fully funded before they start.

Input from citizens and business owners is important. In 2013, a focus group asked the City to increase representation by an additional two seats. Citizens voted in May to expand the council and in November seats five and six were elected for the first time.

Meridian prides itself on staying true to its small-town roots. Like early settlers who depended on one another to create a thriving city, the City works with community partners to accomplish shared goals.

It is this type of cooperation which enabled the creation of an Emergency Services Joint Powers Agreement between cities and emergency services providers in Ada County. This agreement is transforming the way all agencies do business in order to bring better emergency medical services at reduced costs to all taxpayers.

Meridian isn't just a great community because it's safe. People love calling Meridian home because of all there is to do.

There are more than 240 acres of parks to explore, including Meridian's award-winning Julius M. Kleiner Memorial Park. The City offers community sports leagues that continue to grow in popularity; in fact 4,538 participated last year. Our Recreation Division offered 162 different classes and camps to help children and adults cultivate new talents.

The Mayor makes sure teenagers can get an up-close look at many aspects of the community through the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council (MYAC). In 2013, Governor Otter and First Lady Lori picked MYAC as a top winner for "Idaho's Brightest Stars" because of the many volunteer hours the teens gave to the community.

The quality, breadth and depth of education offered by our community partner, the Joint School District No. 2, also continues to expand, most notably with the addition of eight new STEM programs offering curriculums heavily weighted in science, technology, engineering, and math for K-12 students.

These programs are just one way Meridian's school system is offering real world education designed to prepare children for future workplace success.



Free Family Fishing Day at Settlers Park

PARTNERS IN BUSINESS

In Meridian, the City doesn't just view itself as a place to do business but also as a partner in business success. The City works hard to encourage local economic growth by streamlining processes, meeting regularly with business leaders and planning for industry clusters accommodating job growth.

Meridian is home to small family-owned businesses, company headquarters, and multi-million dollar companies with ties around the globe. With Idaho being ranked by KPMG as the state with the lowest cost of doing business in the Pacific Northwest, Meridian is an attractive place for companies to grow. In fact, there was \$125 million in commercial project value developed in the City in 2013.

Businesses in Meridian enjoy accessibility to the City. The Mayor is committed to helping the economy grow and meets with a number of different companies each month. She listens to what their leaders have to say and uses that information to help make Meridian the most responsive City to do business within the Treasure Valley. When our small businesses were being impacted by road construction in downtown, the City organized a handful of cash mobs to help give the companies an extra boost. To encourage small business growth, Meridian recently developed a Small Business



Scentsy Commons



Village Ribbon Cutting

year, but contractors worked long hours to open the road 33 days ahead of schedule.

The City realizes there are more ways to get around than just hopping in your car. The City worked closely with Valley Regional Transit and the Senior Center to expand senior transportation options. With more residents looking to get around Meridian on a bike or lacing up a pair of sneakers, the City is making progress in expanding its more than 14 miles of pathways through prioritizing our needs with ACHD. In 2013 we added four sidewalk projects, two pedestrian HAWK signals, and installed green wayfinding signs along bike routes improving the mobility in our community.



Safe, well-lit streets benefit everyone



Walking the dogs in Kleiner Park

ITD has recently begun preparations to replace the I-84 Meridian Road Interchange with a new Single-Point Urban Interchange (SPUI) which will reduce congestion, improve safety, and make way for a fourth lane on I-84.



Meridian
Split Corridor
Grand Opening

MOVING YOU FORWARD

With all that Meridian has to offer, and all that Meridian residents and businesses have to do, the City realizes how important it is for people to easily get from one side of town to the other. The Meridian Transportation Commission was formed in 2013 to advise the Council on traffic safety and transportation issues within the community. So, no matter how you want to travel, the City is working with our partners to make it safer and easier for you to get to your destination.

The City's partnerships with Ada County Highway District (ACHD), the Idaho Transportation Department, and developers make Meridian's roads more efficient. Since Meridian's population has more than

doubled in the last 10 years it is not an easy job, but numerous miles of roads have been improved and five intersections which were once controlled by stop signs have been recently upgraded to signalized intersections.

This past year, traffic flow greatly improved in downtown Meridian with the completion of the Meridian Split Corridor Phase 2 Project. During construction, Meridian Road was widened to handle increased traffic and the Public Works Department replaced the old sewer and water mains in downtown making the systems more reliable to our citizens and businesses in this area. The \$9.5 million project was expected to take a



Meridian Business Day at Meridian City Hall

Coordinator to help guide entrepreneurs through the process of opening a business in Meridian. We listen and respond. We are on their team as they go through the permitting and public hearing process.

Partnerships between the City and businesses are paying off. Companies are realizing growth and the community benefits in services and jobs. Meridian's 5% unemployment rate is well below the national average and jobs continue to be added to the economy. As business expands, more people move to the area. In 2013, we had 1399 new residential units and it looks like that momentum will carry through the next year. Meridian is more than just a place for businesses to locate; it is a place where successful partnerships are formed.

MERIDIAN COMPANIES

The following are just a few of the many successful companies located in Meridian and include some of Meridian's largest employers:

- Blue Cross of Idaho
- ESI, Inc.
- United Heritage Insurance
- St. Luke's Meridian Medical Center
- Cliff Cards
- Power Engineers
- Crucial Technology
- Saint Alphonsus Meridian Health Plaza
- Western States Equipment
- Scensty
- PKG User Interface Solutions
- D.L. Evans Bank
- Idaho Dept. of Law Enforcement
- Food Services of America
- Swire Coca-Cola
- Jackson's Food Stores
- Micro 100 Tool Corporation
- Bank of the Cascades
- Republic Services
- Woodland Manufacturing
- Anderson & Wood Construction
- Blac Rac Manufacturing
- Dutch Bros. Coffee
- Babicenko Dental Labs
- Polymer Systems
- Forward Movement Training
- Idaho State University - Meridian
- BlackHawk

OUT ON THE TOWN

Boredom is not an option as Meridian's dining, shopping, and entertainment scene has never been more vibrant and diverse.

Downtown Meridian offers a growing blend of small shops and restaurants. Efforts continue to create a more pedestrian-friendly heart of the community with walkable streets containing information kiosks, completed sidewalks, and improved lighting for easier access to outdoor dining, public art projects and community events.

By hosting a variety of events in downtown, such as Concerts on Broadway, the Public Works Expo and the new Winter Lights Parade, the City remains committed to being a partner in creating a positive environment for the redevelopment of downtown and the success of its businesses.

Community events are an important part of Meridian life. While traditional favorites such as Dairy Days, CableOne Movie Night in Meridian, the Firefighters' Annual Chili Cook-Off and the Community Block Party remain popular, several new events have taken shape during the past year. These included MYAC's formal charity dance - a prom for



Concerts on Broadway at City Hall

parents - called "The Ball at the Hall," and "Trunk or Treat & Dance to the Beat" a new community Halloween favorite.

For those seeking a more metropolitan experience, The Village at Meridian is an inviting new destination. With approximately 600,000 square feet of upscale shops, trendy restaurants and state-of-the-art entertainment facilities meld in a unique indoor-outdoor setting reminiscent of a European village.

Fountain Square is the place to find families ice skating, outdoor fireplaces, lush landscaping and a Bellagio-style fountain show with 67 animated vertical jets capable of 30' in height set to music which adds to the ambience of this rapidly growing lifestyle center.

Whether taking in stock race races at Meridian Speedway, practicing their backhand at the new tennis complex at Settlers Park, browsing downtown's vintage shops, or riding one of the new slides at Roaring Springs, Meridian residents and visitors have plenty of places to go for dining, shopping, entertainment and fun.



THE VILLAGE AT MERIDIAN

- 80 Acres
- Project cost: \$300 million
- 1,020,000 sq ft of entertainment, retail and commercial space
- 15-screen cinema with bistro
- 4,100 Parking Spaces
- 400-600 contractors employed daily during construction for more than a year
- 1,800 new jobs created by mid-Oct. 2013
- 1,000 additional new jobs by early 2014
- 60,000 plants and 200 ornate lamp posts