



2011 - 2012

# ANNUAL REPORT



Built for Business

Designed for Living

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

City of Meridian Department Directors	2
Leadership — Where Vision Meets Action	3
Meridian-at-a-Glance	4-5
Money Matters	6-7
Coming Together to Celebrate Meridian	8
Honors & Awards	9
2011 Featured Accomplishments	10-15
Economic Development	16
Julius M. Kleiner Memorial Park	17
Transportation	18
Citizen Involvement	19

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From there you can subscribe to the newsletter and other useful City notices and publications.

This *Annual Report* is published by the  
**City of Meridian**  
 33 E. Broadway Avenue  
 Meridian, ID 83642  
 Editor: Shelly Houston  
 (208) 489-0531

## City of Meridian Department Directors

### Back Row Left to Right:

- Tom Barry, Public Works
- Steve Siddoway, Parks and Recreation
- Tammy de Weerd, Mayor
- Chief Mark Niemeyer, Fire
- Bill Nary, Legal / HR / IT

### From Row Left to Right:

- Chief Jeff Lavey, Police
- Stacy Kilchenmann, Finance
- Rich Dees, Community Development  
*(Interim Director)*



## At Your Service

**Meridian City Hall**  
 33 E. Broadway Avenue  
 Meridian, ID 83642  
 (208) 888-4433

**Business Hours:**  
 Monday—Friday  
 8:00 a.m. — 5:00 p.m.

**Visit us online at:**  
[www.meridiancity.org](http://www.meridiancity.org)





Mayor Tammy de Weerd

### THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

The Mayor and members of the Meridian City Council are elected by the citizens of Meridian. They work together to set policies, guide city government, and appropriate funds for various community needs.

Through their public service to the constituents of Meridian, the Mayor and Council members maintain a deep-rooted commitment to enhance the quality of life, safeguard neighborhood interests, respond to public concerns, and stay connected to the community they represent.

The Meridian City Council meets the first, third, and fourth Tuesdays of every month at 7:00 p.m. and on the second Tuesday of every month at 3:00 p.m. at Meridian City Hall. These meetings, presided over by the Mayor, are open to the public and streamed live from the City website.

We are very proud to present the City of Meridian's accomplishments for 2011. Some of these highlighted items have been years in the making, but all of them demonstrate our vision to be a premier city to live, work, and raise a family.

You will see our achievements reflect a commitment to values, expertise, and sustainability embraced by your public servants, City employees, and the community. In this report we highlight the delivery of quality City services, the innovative use of technology to not only be more efficient in our day to day jobs, but also in how we connect to the community, strengthening business relationships and our communication with citizens.

There continues to be great energy and excitement in Meridian – with the opening of the Ten Mile Interchange, new construction projects in nearly every corner of our community, and the recent dedication of the Veterans' Rock of Honor in the soon-to-be-opened Julius M. Kleiner Memorial Park. These are just a preview of the endeavors that keep Meridian at the forefront, breaking new ground and setting milestones for progress.

Much has been done, but there is more to do! We look forward to working together and staying focused on building a safe, attractive, and inviting community that we are all proud to call home — putting the people and businesses in Meridian first!

*Mayor Tammy*



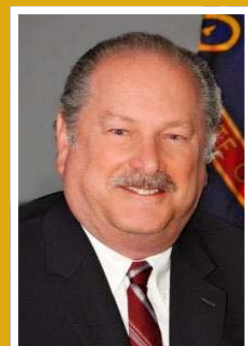
Brad Hoaglund  
President



Charlie Rountree  
Vice President



Keith Bird



David Zaremba

## Location

Meridian, the population center of the Treasure Valley, is just minutes away from anywhere in the Boise metropolitan area, including airports, regional medical centers, cultural events, and government services. Interstate 84 links Meridian with Boise to the east and Nampa to the west.



**Latitude** 43.61 N  
**Longitude** 116.40 W

**Land Area**  
27 square miles

**Elevation**  
2,600 feet

**Climate**  
High Avg. Daily Max Temp: 90.6F  
Low Avg. Daily Min Temp: 22.6F  
Average Annual Precipitation: 11.7"  
Average Annual Snowfall: 21.6"

**History**  
Established in 1893, Meridian was incorporated as a village in 1903 with a population of approximately 200.

**Population:**  
76,510 (COMPASS estimate)

**Median Resident Age:**  
31

**Gender Split:**  
Male 49%  
Female 51%

**Median Household Income**  
\$60,230

**Cost of Living**  
94% of national average

**Median Home Value**  
\$190,400

**Average Commute Time**  
21.9 minutes

**Education**  
Meridian Joint School District No. 2:  
3 K-8 Schools  
28 Elementary Schools  
9 Middle Schools  
9 High Schools

**High School Graduation Rate**  
94% of high school students graduate

**College attendance rate**  
68% of high school graduates go on to college

**Area Colleges & Universities**  
Idaho State University – Meridian  
University of Idaho – Boise  
George Fox University  
University of Phoenix  
Stevens-Henager College  
Broadview University  
Boise State University  
Northwest Nazarene University  
College of Idaho  
College of Western Idaho  
Treasure Valley Community College  
Brown Mackie College  
Carrington College  
College of Idaho  
ITT Technical Institute  
Boise Bible College  
Guardian College

**Meridian Library District**  
Meridian Library — Main  
Meridian Library — Silverstone  
Bookmobile

**Developed parks**  
19 developed parks  
181.974 acres

**Undeveloped Parks**  
6 undeveloped parks  
184.252 acres

**Future Parks**  
2 neighborhood parks  
14 acres

**Pathways**  
8 pathways  
5.85 miles



## 2011 Property Tax Distribution

**Total Mill Levy**  
0.013685134

City of Meridian	32.71%
Schools (Bonds & Emergency)	24.82%
Ada County	24.28%
County Highway District	9.43%
Library & Bonds	4.86%
College of Western Idaho	1.33%
Emergency Medical / Ambulance	1.27%
Western Ada Recreation District	0.79%
Mosquito Abatement	.27%
Cemetery	0.23%



**Fire**

5 Fire Stations  
 1 Training Tower  
 1 Fire Safety Center

30 Firefighter/EMTs  
 23 Firefighter/Paramedics  
 12 Part-Time On-Call Firefighters  
 11 Administrative Staff

ISO Rating: 3

Total Incident Calls: 4,828  
 City Limits — 3,926  
 Rural — 323  
 Aid to Other Depts. — 546

Average Response Time  
 for Code 3—Emergency Calls  
 within the City Limits — 4:42

**Total Permits issued by  
 The City Clerk's Office: 697**

Liquor \* Catering \* Fireworks  
 Massage \* Mobile sales units  
 Pawn brokering \* Private security  
 Temporary uses \* Citizens use  
 Dog licenses

**Police**

87 Sworn Police Officers  
 28 Non-Sworn Police Staff

2011 Calls for Service: 58,406  
 (7,919 more calls than 2010)

2011 Police Response Times by Type:

Level 3—Emergency Call  
 3:26 (27 seconds faster than 2010)

Level 2—Urgent Response Required  
 7:05 (23 seconds faster than 2010)

Level 1—Non Emergency Call  
 9.25 (31 seconds faster than 2010)

Number of Group A Offenses: 2,946  
 (Increase of 3.88% from 2010)

Number of Group A Arrests: 1,243  
 Number of Group B Arrests: 1,395



Crimes against Persons: 518  
 (Decrease of 8.96% from 2010)  
 Examples: sex offenses and assaults

Crimes against Property: 1,728  
 (Decrease of 4.16% from 2010)  
 Examples: burglaries, fraud

Crimes against Society: 700  
 (Increase of 50.86% from 2010)  
 Examples: drug violations, weapons

The Police Department's overall  
 clearance (crimes solved) rate of  
 Group A Offenses is up from 46.8% in  
 2010 to 50.75% in 2011

**New  
 Building Permits  
 Calendar Year 2011**



**New residential permits**

**Total permits: 542**  
**Value: \$136,295,952**

**New commercial permits**

**Total permits: 36**  
**Value: \$50,154,517**

**Infrastructure**

455 miles of water line  
 371.8 miles of sewer line  
 21 PRV stations  
 2 booster station  
 18 active wells  
 14 lift stations  
 4,380 active fire hydrants  
 9,100 manholes



**Volunteerism**

Citizens donated 23,860  
 volunteer hours of their time to  
 the City of Meridian during  
 2011.

**FY2011 Financial and Budgetary Highlights**

**Significant Budget Items - General**

**Police**

- 7 sworn officer positions
- 1 animal control officer

**Parks**

- 2 positions – city arborist and maintenance position for Kleiner Park

**Fire**

- 1 Division Chief

Major capital asset events in the general government funds in FY2011 included:

- \$417,857 for refurbishing two fire engines
- \$827,755 for purchase of land for a Parks Dept. maintenance building
- \$2.6 million in total in construction in progress account, \$2.4 million for park development
- \$671,425 for permit, licensing, and code enforcement software
- \$439,761 for Police vehicles

Actual revenues 4% over original budget

Increased fund balance:  
\$523,505 dollars

**Significant Budget Items - Enterprise**

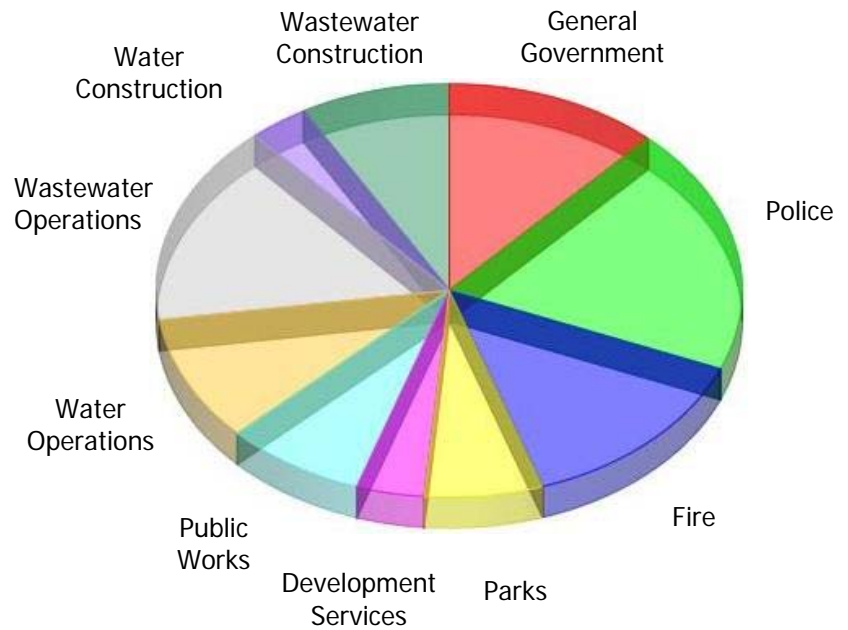
Major capital asset events in the business-type funds in FY2011 included:

- \$2.5 million in sewer trunk, reclaimed, and water line expansions
- \$1.3 million in donated and contributed capital water and sewer infrastructure
- \$3.3 million moved out of construction in progress for waste water treatment plant improvements

Increased fund balance:  
\$3.27 million dollars

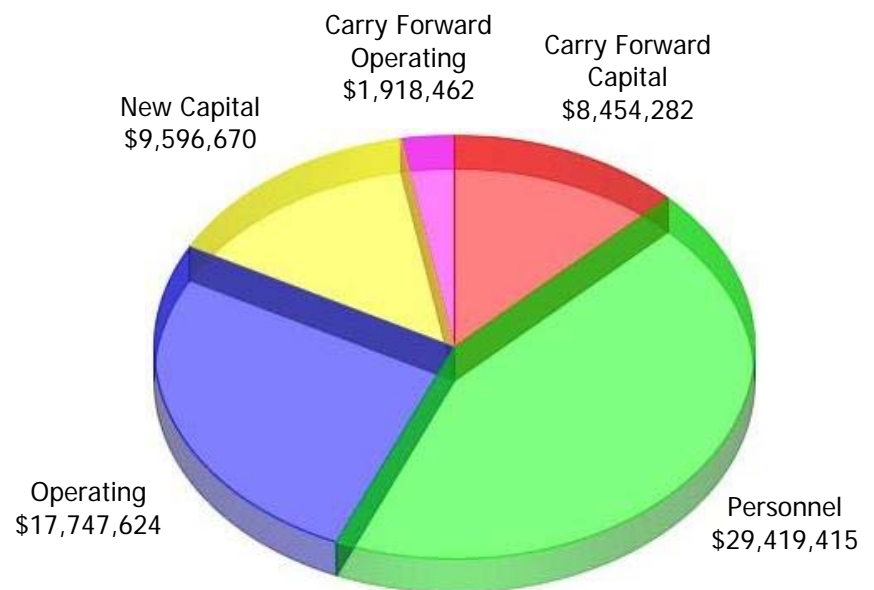
**Where We Came From...**

**FY2011 Actual Expenditures by Department**  
(Personnel, Operating, and Capital)  
\$58,484,721



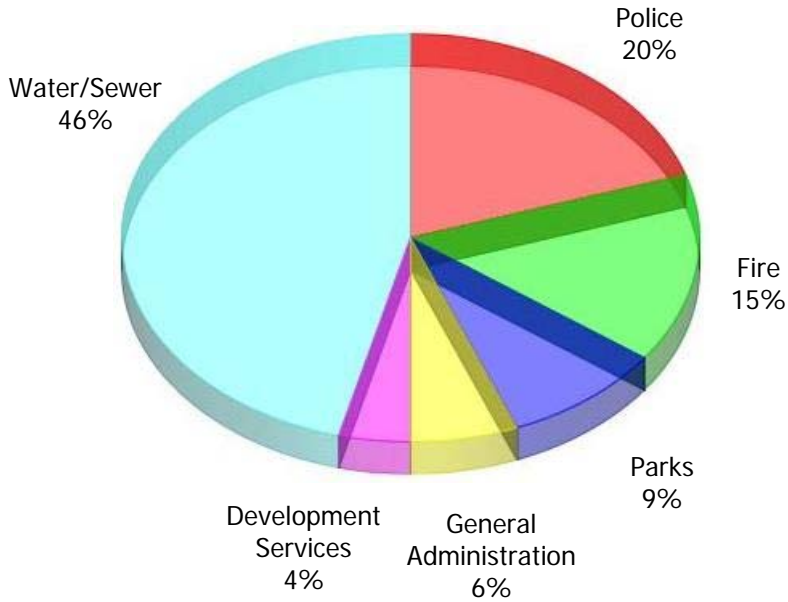
**Where We Are Going...**

**FY2012 Total Budget Request**  
\$67,136,453

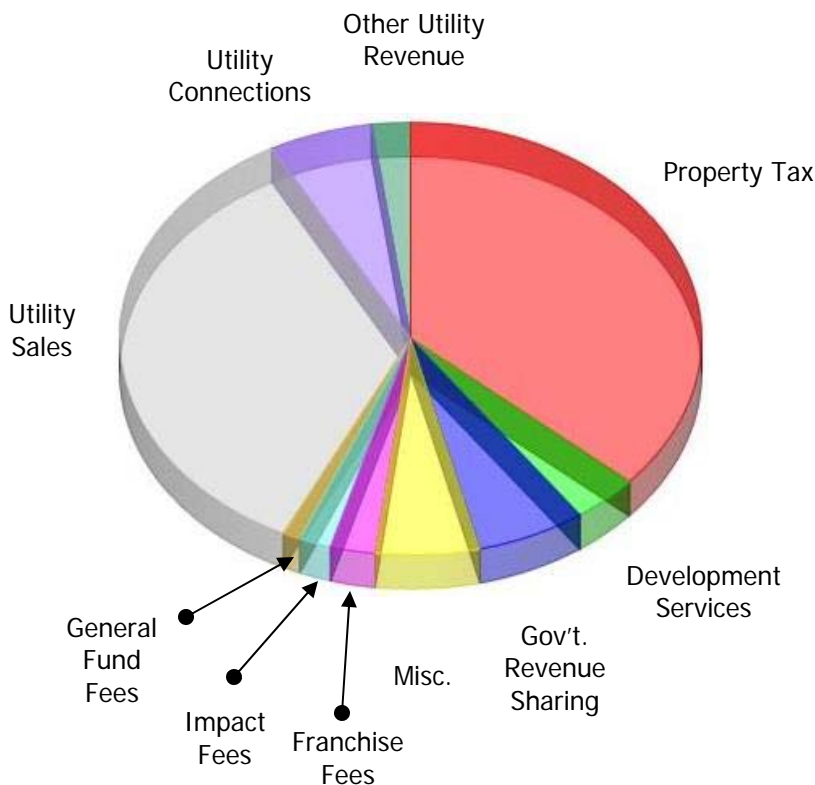


**Note:** The graph above illustrates the City's total FY2011 budget by class of expense. The term "Carry Forward" refers to capital projects that have been budgeted in prior periods but not yet completed.

**Total FY2012 Budget Request by Department**  
(Personnel, Operating, and Capital)  
\$56,763,709



**Projected FY2012 Total Revenue**  
\$53,004,544



**FY2012 Financial and Budgetary Highlights**

The City was very conservative with all revenue estimates for the budget. The City did not take the allowable 3% property tax increase and the increase from new construction is only 2%. No other revenue categories were increased and sales of building permits were reduced below the FY2011 budget number. In total FY2012 revenue was budgeted at the same levels as the FY2011 budget.

**Projected FY2012 General Fund Revenue**  
**\$30.3 Million**

- Property Tax—65%
- Development Services Fees—6%
- General Fees / Misc.—5%
- Franchise Fees—4%
- Impact Fees—3%
- Intergov't. Revenue Sharing—17%

**Significant Budget Items**

- Fire added 3 Division Chiefs.
- Parks budgeted \$500,000 towards a field house, \$1.5 million towards a maintenance shop and \$100,000 towards pathway improvements.
- Police replaced \$306,600 worth of vehicles and equipment.
- Water budgeted \$150,000 towards SCADA, \$305,000 towards waterline extensions, \$550,000 for water main replacement, \$560,000 for well construction, and \$330,000 for pressure zone development.
- Wastewater budgeted \$100,000 towards SCADA, \$200,000 for sewer main replacements, \$2.6 million towards wastewater treatment plant improvements, \$1 million for sewer line extensions and \$655,000 for reclaimed water lines.

## BRINGING THE COMMUNITY TOGETHER

Public Safety Day  
Meridian Neighbor Night  
Ignite Youth  
Rock of Honor Unveiling  
Community Block Party  
Mayor's Prayer Breakfast  
Old Town Cleanup  
National Watercolor Society Show  
Paint the Town  
Yellow Ribbon Campaign  
Rake Up Meridian  
Free Family Fishing Day  
Recovery Day Celebration  
Missoula Children's Theatre  
Concerts on Broadway Series  
Firefighters Salmon BBO  
Community Chili Cook-Off  
Arbor Day Tree Planting  
Town Hall Meetings  
Patriot Day Ceremony  
State of the City Address  
Barn Sour Fun Run  
Independence Day Celebration  
CableOne Movie Night  
Teen Activities Council Events  
Meridian Business Day  
Public Works Expo  
Taste of Meridian Reception  
Annual Faith Leaders Luncheon  
Mayor & CEO's Kids Book Club  
Christmas Tree Lighting  
National Night Out  
Hometown Hero Presentations





**MERIDIAN,  
IDAHO...  
A FOUR TIME  
WINNER!**

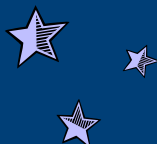


## MERIDIAN'S 2011 GOVERNOR'S IDAHO'S BRIGHTEST STARS AWARDS

Five Meridian residents were recognized by the Governor and First Lady for their community volunteerism.

### Congratulations to:

Duane Satterlee  
Teresa Brown  
Clanna Franklin  
Mandy Wood  
Robert J. Straugh  
Corey Smith



## CITY EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR



### Employees of the Year

Barb Hohler, Finance & John Sweeney, Public Works

### Employee of the Year — Community Service

Reta Cunningham, Finance

### Supervisors of the Year

Crystal Richie, HR & Robert Simison, Mayor's Office

### Directors of the Year *(pictured above)*

Chief Jeff Lavey, Police & Chief Mark Niemeyer, Fire

### Volunteers of the Year

Dwight Williams, Meridian Arts Commission

## NEIGHBORHOOD STARS HONORED

In October, five individuals and groups were presented with Meridian's first-ever Neighborhood Star Awards recognizing their exceptional commitment to maintaining and improving the quality of life and safety in their neighborhoods. Congratulations to:

Domino's Pizza – Cherry Lane  
Jan Zickefoose  
Diane de la Hunt  
Dave and Susanne Thames  
Meadow Lake Village Emergency Support Team

## MERIDIAN RANKED IN FDI MAGAZINE'S 2010/11 AMERICAN CITIES OF THE FUTURE

Top 10 Micro Cities—Quality of Life  
#2 Meridian, Idaho

Top 10 Micro Cities—Economic Potential  
#7 Meridian, Idaho

Top 10 Micro Cities—Business Friendliness  
#8 Meridian Idaho

## AIC CITY ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

The Association of Idaho Cities' City Achievement Award program recognizes Idaho cities for programs or projects created and implemented to improve quality of life, solve community problems, reduce costs of government, and increase municipal services.

### Meridian's Winning Programs



**Meridian Business Day** is a free day of education, networking, and exhibits designed to enrich Meridian's business community.

**Public Works Week** (photo above) annually enhances the public's understanding of the city's infrastructure and operations.

**Heroes Park Reclaimed Water Project** has made reclaimed water available for irrigation and toilets, reducing the City's environmental footprint.

## Pathway Dedicated to Loyal Couple

In May, a public pathway was dedicated to longtime Meridian developer Winston Moore and his late wife, Diane, for their role in promoting economic development and creating high-quality commercial developments in the community. A new sign was designed and installed at the junction of each leg of the one-mile pathway, which runs from Eagle Road west to Gordon Harris Park and then north to Overland. The Meridian Parks & Recreation Department also completed several other pathway projects in 2011, including Heroes Park East Sidewalk Expansion, Heroes Park Northwest Grading, the Jackson Drain Connection, and Fothergill Pathway Enhancement.



## SOTO Database Helps Field Personnel

Twice a month, Water Department personnel are faced with the task of turning off water service at the properties of delinquent account holders. Once a customer has paid the amount owed, along with a required turn-on fee, field personnel can re-visit the property and restore service. In these instances, communication between the City's utility billing staff and field personnel is critical. Therefore, the City's Information Technology and Utility Billing Departments collaborated to create SOTO (Shut Off, Turn On) — a real-time database that eliminates communication delays regarding payment, helping Water Department staff work more efficiently, and minimizing the length of time a household is without water.

## Fire Department Creates Five Year Strategic Plan

Over a three-day period in April, members of the public joined with Fire Department personnel to develop a Five Year Strategic Plan. The plan includes a revised Mission and Vision Statement, as well as new Guiding Principles designed to move the department toward improved efficiencies, effectiveness, and overall teamwork. The department's goal is to become a premier department within the State of Idaho and the Northwest.

## First Public Safety Day is a Hit with Families

More than 600 adults and children attended Meridian's 1st Annual Public Safety Day, a Saturday event held at Fire Station #1 in October. Firefighters, police officers, the Mayor's Anti-Drug Coalition, and other community partners utilized demonstrations, displays, and learning activities to educate attendees about various aspects of public safety, crime fighting, and fire prevention.



## New Warranty/Surety Programs Ensure Accountability

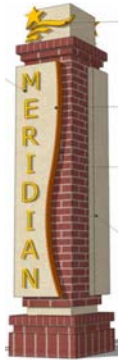
For more than two years, the City of Meridian has been evaluating its warranty process for development of new infrastructure, such as water and sewer lines. In some past instances, the City has been required to repair defects at its own expense on new developer-donated projects during the warranty period. As a result, important changes have been made to the development process in the City of Meridian. As of January 1, 2012, all new land development projects must comply with new performance and warranty surety requirements, and contractors and developers will be held more accountable for their infrastructure installations.

## Energy Efficient Projects Completed

During 2009, the City of Meridian received \$608,000 in grant funds for energy efficiency projects. A multi-year energy efficiency strategy was created which identified a number of specific projects to be funded by the grant. In FY2011 the following projects were completed: Lighting fixtures in three buildings at the Wastewater Treatment Plant were replaced with more efficient fixtures; Light switches with motion sensors were installed in five fire stations and the Safety Training Center to reduce the unnecessary use of electricity; and an unpaved portion of the Fothergill Pathway was completed.



### New Signs Mark Meridian's Gateways



Drivers entering Meridian's city limits from 24 of the city's most widely used corridors are now welcomed by new blue and gold signs bearing the City logo and incorporation date. These signs will help drivers know they have "arrived in Meridian" and will replace the traditional green population signs. Each year the signs will be adjusted to reflect any changes in the city limit boundaries. Designs have also been created for two sizes of permanent brick-trimmed entryway monuments which will be placed in approximately 20 locations throughout the city.

### City Council Meeting Streamed Live on the Web

In an effort to increase transparency and make its activities available to a wider audience, the City began live streaming its City Council meetings on the City website. This allows viewers to watch Meridian's local government at work as City leaders discuss and vote on issues and policies impacting the community. Webcasts begin 5 minutes prior to regularly scheduled City Council meeting, which are at 7:00 p.m. on the first, third and fourth Tuesday of each month, and at 3:00 p.m. on the second Tuesday. Videos of City Council meetings from the past 90 days can also be accessed online.

### Police Impact Team Targets Neighborhood Crime

In October 2010, the Meridian Police Department received a Federal COPS grant to establish the IMPACT Team — a proactive team of officers specifically directed to help neighborhoods with quality of life issues. Since that time, the IMPACT Team has worked hard to establish itself and put the grant funding to good use thwarting and pursuing criminals involved in property and drug related crimes. The team has served numerous search warrants and made several arrests for burglaries, vandalism, and drug crimes since its formation.



### Ignite Youth Competition Sparks Creativity

What would you share with an audience if you only had five minutes and 20 automatically advancing slides in which to convey a message? That was the challenge at the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Ignite Youth event held last February at Rocky Mountain High School. Local teens engaged the audience with their passion, wit, and creativity, rising to meet the challenge in what will undoubtedly become a popular annual competition.



### Precious Metals Ordinance

In September, the Meridian City Council passed a new ordinance relating to precious metals. The ordinance extends the city's pawnbroker-licensing requirement to precious metals dealers, with the intent of reducing a rising number of thefts of coins and other precious metals. The Meridian Police Department advocated the ordinance as a way to prevent the city from becoming a place where thieves can sell stolen property. Statistics compiled by the department reveal that the number of thefts in Meridian involving precious metals had increased for three consecutive years, to 109 thefts valued at \$168,734 during 2010. The ordinance went into effect November 1, 2011.

### Parks System Adds New Amenities



The Leighton Family Baseball Complex in Settlers Park received two new amenities. With funds generated from the league and numerous in-kind donations, Meridian Youth Baseball has

added two batting cages that can accommodate up to six hitters each at one time and two remote-control scoreboards. These improvements were completed at no cost to the City and will be a great asset for years to come. Settlers Park also received new benches and donated boulders surrounding the fishing pond. In addition, the City partnered with the Meridian Police Activities League to add wrought iron fencing around the Heroes Park reclaimed water feature and to convert the inline hockey pad to three full-sized basketball courts.

## Ten Mile Interchange Opens

On May 17, 2011, decades of advocacy, persistence, and partnerships paid off as the community celebrated the dedication of the Ten Mile Interchange on I-84. In addition to expanding freeway access and enhancing traffic flow across the valley, the new interchange provides a greatly needed public safety access point and promises to be the catalyst for exciting new development in the surrounding area, bringing with it new opportunities and economic growth.



## Well Rehabilitation and Construction

In order to create a more efficient water supply system and a more reliable well field, the Public Works Department rehabilitated three wells (Wells #16, 19, and 22) during 2011. They also constructed two new wells – a test and monitoring well, and a production well (#10B) that is 650 feet deep and produces 2,000 gallons of water per minute. The new production well, located at Willowbrook and Jericho, was needed to replace a well that had become contaminated with uranium.

## A New Smoke-Free Parks Policy



In February, the Meridian City Council unanimously voted to limit smoking to only the parking lots in Meridian's City parks. Prior to the decision, Meridian City officials researched the issue of smoking in public parks after receiving citizens' comments on the topic. Several park site surveys showed overwhelming support

for the partial ban, and a citywide survey showed that 62% of respondents favored it, as well. "No Smoking" signs are now clearly posted in all City parks.

## Fire Department Creates 5-Year Strategic Plan

Over a three-day period in April, members of the public joined Fire personnel to develop a Five Year Strategic Plan. The plan includes a revised Mission and Vision Statement, as well as new Guiding Principles designed to move the department toward improved efficiencies, effectiveness, and overall teamwork. The goal of the department is to become a premier department, not only within the State of Idaho, but also the Northwest.

## Alive at 25 Safe Driving Program



In an effort to instill safe driving practices in the community's young people, the Meridian Police Department began facilitating "Alive at 25" courses for drivers ages 15-24. Alive at 25 is a free 4 ½ hour driver awareness course, developed by

the National Safety Council and taught by local law enforcement, which teaches decision-making and responsibility-taking through interactive media, workbook exercises, role-playing, and class discussions.

## Water Meter Conversions Completed

Meridian's Public Works Department has successfully phased in new technology that makes the reading of Meridian's water meters easier, faster and more accurate. The "radio read" system that 100% of all Meridian water meters have now been retrofitted with uses radio waves and enables a meter reader to collect water meter data through a portable receiver in his or her vehicle, eliminating the need to enter backyards and businesses along their route.



## Planning Tools Advanced

The Planning Department has continued to build on its availability of online interactive tools, forms, and other web-based materials designed to facilitate greater transparency, provide applicants with increased services, and educate new and returning customers in application processes. New planning tools include an interactive Certificate of Zoning Compliance Flowchart, an interactive Temporary Use Flowchart, a First-Time Customer PDF, improved Site Review Checklist, Future Land Use Designation Cut Sheets, and Ten Mile Specific Area Plan Land Use Designation and Design Element Cut Sheets. Additionally, a number of internal tools have been developed to allow staff to more thoroughly and efficiently process applications.

### Impact Coaching Expanded to High Schools

The Mayor's Anti-Drug Coalition, in partnership with Leadership 1st, has expanded its award-winning Impact Coaching program to include Meridian's public high schools. Designed to be a powerful leadership and anti-substance abuse program, it gives coaches the tools and information they need to communicate to their players the negative effects of drug and alcohol use, and the importance of making good choices both on and off the playing field.



### Mutual Aid Intensive Drill Tested Skills

In January, the Meridian Fire, Police, and the 101<sup>st</sup> Civil Support Team joined for a drill to practice dealing with incidents involving hazardous materials and chemical, biological, and nuclear threats. Crews were tested on their ability to recognize and respond to a hazard, do a risk analysis, and develop an action plan. Crews were also asked to perform in situations ranging from basic incident response to incident command spanning multiple operational periods. Through this process, Meridian's Police and Fire Departments were found to be capable of working seamlessly with other agencies and to work closely with strategic partners.



### Comprehensive Plan Updated and Reformatted

The City's Comprehensive Plan was revamped in order to update and realign City focus areas, policies, and initiatives to better reflect Meridian today, and into the future, and to compose a more streamlined and user-friendly document. Since the last Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 2002, Meridian has doubled in size, and it was critical for future planning to reflect changes in the community. While the new Comprehensive Plan is more concise, the City did not shy away from creating new goals, objectives, and action items that are intended to improve the community. Included in the update is a chapter on stewardship and significant updates to economic development, housing, and the transportation elements contained in the plan.

### DDACTS Policing Strategy Adopted

On October 1, the Meridian Police Department added another tool to its wide array of crime fighting strategies. It's called DDACTS (pronounced dee-dax) and the acronym stands for Data Driven Approach to Crime and Traffic Safety. By using crime and traffic safety analysis in tandem with highly visible law enforcement, the Meridian Police Department can significantly affect both crime and traffic issues using existing resources and partnerships in the community. This data-driven approach uses geomapping to identify areas that have high incidences of crime and crashes and allows the Meridian Police Department to allocate its resources accordingly.



### Reuse Pipeline Installed in Ten Mile Interchange Area

A 16-inch main water line now delivers Class A reclaimed water to the 17-acre area surrounding the new Ten Mile Interchange. Reclaimed water is wastewater that is treated to such a high level that it can be used safely for many non-drinking purposes. The immediate availability of this water will be helpful in attracting new businesses and industry to this developing area of Meridian. Potential uses for the reclaimed water may include irrigation, commercial processes, decorative ponds and fountains, cooling towers, pressure washing, dust control, and toilet flushing.

## Educating the Public About Backflow Prevention

The City of Meridian is dedicated to providing safe, clean drinking water by protecting our distribution system from outside water sources, such as pressurized irrigation, which could potentially enter our distribution system through interconnections or "dual-connections". To help identify and eliminate these dual connections, the City Water Division recently instituted a Backflow Prevention Program which requires the removal of these high risk dual connections. The City is currently offering customers financial assistance with the removal these unique connections.



*Do you have one of these in your yard? Can you water your yard with both canal and City water?*

*If so, call the Water Department at 888-4252 for guidance.*

## Interns Get a Feel for City Government

Fifteen local high school students got an insider's view of local government during the summer, as well as the opportunity to explore potential career options in the public sector, by participating in the City's new Youth Work Life Skills Program. The interns, who applied and were interviewed for the program, each worked between 12 and 30 hours per week in City departments, including the Mayor's Office, Human Resources, Information Technology, Parks and Recreation, Fire, Public Works, Building Services, Water, and Wastewater.

## Exploring a New Biosolids Processing Method

In the fall, the City's Wastewater Treatment Facility tested a new system which processes biosolids through a patented lime stabilization process. Using mobile equipment on loan from Schwing BioSet, Inc., this pilot project introduced grass clippings and leaves into the treatment process for the first time in an effort to



determine the viability of using this process to address the full composting needs of the community. The Wastewater Treatment Facility hopes to eventually become self-sustaining and will continue to explore innovative approaches to resource management.

## Incident Tracking System Allows for Paperless Police Reports

Thanks to an enhancement to the Incident Tracking System developed by the City of Meridian's Information Technology Department, Meridian Police Officers now have an entirely paperless way to create, submit, and share police reports and associated documents with other officers, administrative staff, and local prosecutors. Citations, arrest reports, subpoenas, and other case management documents are now all stored digitally and can be quickly and easily accessed, eliminating much of the time, cost, and storage space once devoted to physically copying and storing them.



## CityNews Gets New Look and Schedule

The City of Meridian's online newsletter – *CityNews* – is now a monthly publication. Beginning in July, *CityNews* switched from quarterly issues to monthly issues, allowing for more timely content. Readers will also notice its new flip-page format which gives it the movement of a digital magazine. Video clips now also accompany several of the articles in each issue. *CityNews* comes out on the first of each month and can be accessed from the home page of the website. Past issues are also archived there, under the News & Events tab.



## City Establishes Day Camps for Tweens and Teens

Inspired by the success of its Camp Mer-Ida-Moo day camps, the Parks and Recreation Department has added a Camp Mer-Ida-Teen camp schedule just for kids ages 12-14. Both the summer and holiday break camps include leadership activities, field trips, craft and science projects, games, and more. Details can be found online or in the seasonal Park & Recreation Department Activity Guides.

## MYAC Hosts Candidate Forum

Eager to engage in the political process even though some were too young to vote, teen members of the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council (MYAC) organized a successful Candidates Forum featuring Meridian's mayoral and city council candidates on the eve of the November elections. The event, held November 7<sup>th</sup> at Mountain View High School and moderated by Nate Shelman of KBOI Radio, allowed citizens the opportunity to submit questions which were asked of the candidates during the forum.



## Confined Space Training Facility

The City of Meridian has created a joint-use confined space training facility which can be used by both Public Works employees and firefighters, as well as personnel from outside agencies, to develop and practice skills needed to perform confined space activities. The facility, which was designed and built in-house, is located at the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant. Public Works employees make more than 250 confined space entries each year.

## Engine 32 Refurbishment



In 2011, Engine 32 was refurbished at the Pierce manufacturing plant in Wisconsin. The process allowed safety standards to be updated and for an inspection and re-build of the pump and other firefighting components. The refurbishment project was highly successful and this

apparatus should now be able to remain in the City's fleet for many years to come. The refurbishment process is also consistent with our long term Capital Improvement Plan, saving taxpayer dollars where we can without compromising the safety of our firefighters and citizens.

## Patriot Day Observances and Bell Dedication

Meridian's public safety providers joined together for an emotion-packed Patriot Day Ceremony to commemorate the tragic events of September 11, 2001. The early-morning presentation included a performance by the Meridian Pipes and Drums, a flag raising by the Meridian Police Color Guard, an invocation by the Meridian Fire Department Chaplain, addresses by Police Chief Jeff Lavey and Fire Chief Mark Niemeyer, and a proclamation read by Mayor De Weerd. An early 1900's Meridian fire bell was also unveiled and dedicated as part of the ceremony. Now restored, the 600-pound bell is now permanently displayed in front of Fire Station #1.



## City Honors Neighbors and Neighborhoods

In October, the City held its first ever Meridian Neighbor Night — a town hall meeting and awards ceremony celebrating neighbors and neighborhoods. The event featured an informative presentation called "12 Way to Energize Your Neighborhood," followed by an interactive discussion with Q&A and idea sharing. Topics discussed included crime prevention, code enforcement, roads and traffic, conflict resolution, homeowners associations, and social media. Mayor De Weerd and Councilmen Zaremba, Rountree, and Hoaglund also presented a number of individuals and businesses with Neighborhood Star Awards for being exceptionally committed to the quality and safety of their neighborhoods.





PKG



Rosauers



Les Schwab

## Business Opportunities Abound in Meridian

Strategically located in the heart of the Boise Valley, Meridian continues to be a thriving, commerce-driven community ripe with opportunities for entrepreneurs, start-ups, and established business enterprises. Here's just a sampling:

Two new **Fast Eddy's** opened recently. You'll find a convenience store, quick lube, and car wash at Overland & Locust Grove, and a 45,800 square foot convenience store, plus car wash, at Ten Mile & Pine. Two additional Fast Eddy's are planned near Eagle & Ustick and near Ten Mile & McMillan.

**PKG's** newly constructed 38,000 square foot corporate and manufacturing center is now open on Pine Street, creating a number of new engineering and technical jobs. During 2011, PKG hired 20 new employees in Meridian.

Meridian's **Scentsy** campus continues to develop. It now has 158,976 square foot distribution center with a 30,765 square foot office, and a 5-story office tower is planned, as well.

Building foot prints and parking layouts have been approved for **Meridian Town Center** — the lifestyle center planned for the intersection of Fairview Avenue and Eagle Road. Construction is well under way on **Big Al's**, which will feature 42 lanes of bowling, a sports bar and grill, and video arcade in Meridian Town Center. **Marshall's** and five other retail businesses have recently received zoning approvals to build in Meridian Town Center, as well.

**Rosauers Supermarket** will open a 60,000 square foot store employing 120 people this spring near Ustick & Eagle. It's located near the Treasure Valley's newest **Les Schwab Tire Center** which opened in January 2012. **Walmart** plans to open its second Meridian location at Overland & Stoddard.

Three 15,852 square foot buildings will house the 265-unit **Gramercy Apartments**, off Overland between Eagle & Locust Grove. Other multi-family developments in the planning stages include the **Regency at River Valley** with 240 units, and the 400-unit **Southridge Apartments**.

And **Meadow Lake Village** plans to enhance its senior living community with an 86-unit retirement apartment building called Targhee Lodge, and a 48-bed Memory Care nursing facility.

## Did You Know?

There are currently  
**31,471 Jobs** in Meridian

*Source: Idaho Department of Labor  
as of 1/25/12*

## Among Meridian's Largest Employers...

- Joint School District No. 2
- Citi Cards
- T-Mobile
- St. Luke's Meridian Medical Center
- Blue Cross of Idaho
- Western States Equipment
- Albertsons/SuperValu
- Walmart
- Western Electronics
- R.C. Willey Home Furnishings
- Crucial Technology
- Idaho Dept. of Law Enforcement
- Food Services of America
- Fred Meyer
- City of Meridian
- Swire Coca-Cola
- United Heritage Life Insurance
- Multi-Care Staffing Services
- Lowe's
- Power Engineers
- Jackson's Food Stores
- Idaho Elks Rehabilitation
- Micro 100 Tool Corporation
- Complex Care Hospital of Idaho



## Kleiner Park Moves Closer to Completion

An incredible amount of progress has been made on the construction of Meridian's Julius M. Kleiner Park since ground was broken on the project on July 6, 2010.

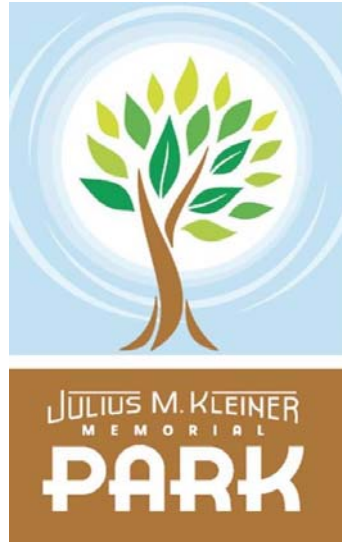
The 60-acre urban park, near the northeast corner of the Fairview and Eagle Road intersection, is a \$25 million memorial gift to the City of Meridian from the family of a man who once farmed the land on which the park sits. The park is projected to celebrate its grand opening and begin welcoming guests just in time for summer.



On Veteran's Day, the Rock of Honor Veteran's memorial was dedicated at its new site within the park, and other structures and design elements are now clearly visible in the developing park.



Exterior construction is also nearly complete on the 13,800 square foot Centre on the Park — future home of the Meridian Senior Center. The new facility, with a waterfront view, is projected to include state-of-the-art commercial kitchens; divided rooms for exercise, billiards, arts and crafts, cards and board games; a technology and learning center; senior resource room; thrift shop; and space which can be rented out by the public for meetings or special events.



A bronze statue of Mr. Kleiner will be located in the center of the Grand Promenade on the Grand Plaza, one of the new park's most distinctive landmarks. The sculpture was created by Oregon sculptor Thomas Jay Warren.



Among the public art pieces in Kleiner Park will be a series of three 50' tall steel sculptures by Treasure Valley artist Amber Conger. Each sculpture will be topped with a wind turbine to power the lights that illuminate it at night.

The park will also include two large water features, rolling terrain, bicycle and pedestrian trails, and a band shell with amphitheater for live music and festivals. Other park amenities will include an arboretum, splash pad, sand volleyball and bocce ball courts, and a nine-hole disc golf course.

## Upcoming Meridian-Area Transportation Improvements



The following projects are included in ACHD's Five-Year Work Plan:

### Pathways & Sidewalks

- 2013 Broadway Avenue, W. 4th St. / Meridian Rd.
- 2013 Carlton Avenue, W. 1st St. / Main St.
- 2013 Carlton Avenue, W. 8th St. / W. 4th St.
- 2013 W. 8th Street, Pine Ave. / Carlton Ave.
- 2013 Washington Avenue, N. West 4th St. / Main

### Roadways & Intersections

- 2012 Amity & Eagle Intersection
- 2012 Pine & Linder Intersection

- 2012 Ustick, Cloverdale to Eagle
- 2012 Ustick & Ten Mile Intersection
- 2013 Franklin Road, Ten Mile to Linder
- 2013 Split Corridor Phase II (see article below)
- 2014 Ustick & Locust Grove Intersection
- 2015 Ten Mile Road, Cherry Lane to Ustick
- 2015 Black Cat & Franklin Intersection
- 2015 Black Cat & Cherry Lane Intersection
- 2016 Franklin Road, Ten Mile to Black Cat
- 2017 Ustick Road, Locust Grove to Leslie Way

## Preparing for Phase II of the Split Corridor Project

Within the year, work will begin on Phase II of one of Meridian's most significant roadway projects — the Meridian Road and Main Street Split Corridor, which ACHD will construct in tandem with necessary City of Meridian sewer and water projects.

Beginning in Fall of 2012, Meridian Road will be closed to all modes of traffic south of Cherry Lane to the railroad tracks for approximately one year. Full closure was deemed the fastest, lowest cost, and safest construction scenario of several considered.

To help mitigate the temporary access impacts to nearby businesses and residents during construction, ACHD and the City have identified alternate access routes. Flyers, signs, and information regarding these routes will be made available to impacted homes and businesses.

Also, in early summer 2012, an 8-week pavement rehabilitation project will take place on Main Street between Franklin Road and Fairview. Construction will include removing existing asphalt, improvements to the roadbed, and a new layer of asphalt. Pedestrian ramps will be upgraded to current Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements. Sewer and water improvements will also be done in conjunction with this project.

### Stay Informed on Road Projects!

Subscribe to road project updates at [www.achdidaho.org/projects](http://www.achdidaho.org/projects)



"Like" Ada County Highway District (ACHD) on Facebook or 'Follow' @ACHD on Twitter

Watch for updates in the newspaper, on local TV news, and on the City of Meridian website

E-mail your questions to: [projects@achdidaho.org](mailto:projects@achdidaho.org)

## Meridian's Next Big Transportation Priority

Constructed in 1965 to serve a rural community, the Meridian Road Interchange was built with 50-foot spans across Interstate 84, with no bike lanes, sidewalks or security railings.

While acceptable for a time when Meridian's population was less than 2,000, today's population of approximately 76,000 greatly exceeds what this aging structure was ever intended to handle.

Today, the Meridian Interchange is the 2nd busiest in Idaho, with more than 40,000 vehicles using it daily.



Reconstruction of the Meridian Interchange as an urban interchange would:

- 1) Remove the "choke-point" which causes bottlenecks on I-84;
- 2) Replace a structurally deficient bridge;
- 3) Reduce traffic congestion on Meridian Road, as well as the on/off ramps at I-84;
- 4) Improve air quality by reducing pollution from idling vehicles;
- 5) Replace deteriorating pavement and bridge deck;
- 6) Improve safety for motorists as well as pedestrians and bicycles by providing facilities on the structure so that different modes of transportation can traverse across the Interstate; and,
- 7) Foster economic development in the region.

## CITY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Citizen involvement is an essential ingredient for strong local government. The City of Meridian promotes citizen involvement by inviting residents to serve on a variety of boards, commissions, committees, and councils designed to assist City leaders in information gathering and deliberative processes. To learn more, call 888-4433.



### Parks & Recreation Commission

Focuses its efforts on park planning, capital improvements, policies, recreation programs, and budget. *Serving: John Nesmith, Matt Stoll, Creg Steele, Tom LeClaire, Phillip Liddell, Shawn Testin, Michael Martin, Treg Bernt*



### Planning & Zoning Commission

Advises on planning policies and goals, major projects issues related to land use, zoning, transportation, and housing issues, as framed by Meridian's Comprehensive Plan. *Serving: Scott Freeman, Steven Yearsley, Michael Rohm, Tom O'Brien, Joe Marshall*



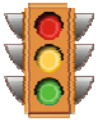
### Meridian Arts Commission

Works on arts/cultural policy and promotes public awareness and participation in the arts. *Serving: Meg Glasgow, Nancy Rountree, David Stolhand, Dwight Williams, Mary Jensen, Leslie Mauldin, Megan Murphy*



### Historical Preservation Commission

Helps to preserve the character and fabric of historically significant areas and structures within the city of Meridian to honor and preserve its rich heritage for future generations. *Serving: Blaine Johnston, Dr. Tom Hammond, Steve Turney, Dr. Frank Thomason, Carol Harms, Matt Zeller*



### Traffic Safety Commission

Researches and recommends city traffic safety issues, actions, and priorities. *Serving: John Wasson, Bill Nary, Tim Curns, John Gonzales, Faye Gabriel, M. Blaine Tewell Jr., Ryan Lancaster, Steven Yearsley, Devon Pogue*



### Meridian Transportation Task Force

Researches, identifies and prioritizes Meridian's transportation issues and priorities and presents findings to the City Council. *Serving: David Wynkoop, David Zaremba, Scott Colianni, Keith Bird, Kenny Bowers, Rich Allison, Mayor Tammy de Weerd, Joe Marshall, Miguel Lagarreta, Bob Bruce, Steve Sedlacek, Toni Tisdale, Larry Gardner, Shawn Martin, Don Nesbitt, Caleb Hood*



### Impact Fee Committee

Reviews and makes recommendations to the City Council regarding existing and proposed impact fees and fee structures to help ensure that growth pays its own way. *Serving: Tom LeClaire, Gene Strate, David Fulkerson, Mark Bennett, Steve Elliott, Kent Mortensen, Matt Adams*



### Solid Waste Advisory Commission

Addresses issues related to solid waste management and community recycling programs. *Serving: Jeff Townsend, Robert Corrie, Todd Carlson, Steven Cory, Nancy Mann, Karie Glen, Mollie Mangerich, Andrea Pogue*

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City of Meridian  
Meridian Economic Excellence  
Meridian Parks and Recreation  
Meridian Police Department

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