



City of Meridian

2003 Annual Report



Contents

From the Mayor	2
Meridian City Council	3
Community Development	4
Public Works	6
Police	8
Map of Development Projects	10
Fire	12
Parks & Recreation	14
Finance & Records	16
2003 Fiscal Year	18
Millage Comparisons	19
Postscript	20

Meridian, Mississippi



KIDS MAKE THEIR FUN IN CREATIVE WAYS, ABOVE, EVEN AFTER DEVASTATING APRIL FLOODS. BELOW, A BIG BANNER ON THE CONSTRUCTION WALL HERALDS THE RESTORATION GOING ON INSIDE THE RILEY EDUCATION AND PERFORMING ARTS CENTER DOWNTOWN.



*Come together
as a community . . .*



To the City Council...

Every year brings its share of triumphs and challenges, but in 2003 the very core of our community was shaken. We not only survived but also learned that our core is solid and strong. We learned what community really means.

In April, torrential rains caused not one but two so-called 100-year floods. Many of the same people whose homes and businesses were damaged by the first flood found themselves battling water damage after the second flood a couple of weeks later.

Then, in July, what every community believes “could not happen here” happened. An employee at Lockheed Martin opened fire on co-workers, killing six and wounding eight others before taking his own life. We were in shock, numbed with grief and nearly blinded by a relentless national spotlight. Again, we were called upon to test the bonds of community, and we found that they were strong and supporting. Bolstered by a renewed belief in ourselves, we moved forward on projects and programs that are helping us reach our goal of increased economic development.

Thanks to the efforts of the Meridian Airport Authority and staff, long-awaited jet service came to Meridian but with it came a new schedule not conducive to one-day travel. Following an aggressive marketing campaign, Delta ASA adjusted the schedule and our flights are now very convenient.



MAYOR JOHN ROBERT SMITH



healing and inspiration...

MERIDIAN CITY COUNCIL FROM LEFT: PRESIDENT BARBARA HENSON, WARD 3; JESSE PALMER, WARD 4



THE DISPLAY OF THE MOVING WALL
VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL GAVE OUR
COMMUNITY THE OPPORTUNITY TO HONOR THOSE WHO DIED
IN THE VIETNAM WAR.



Restoration work continued on the Riley Education and Performing Arts Center, with completion of the center—including the re-opening of the Grand Opera House of Mississippi—scheduled for the fall of 2005. The Arts District Parking Garage, the city’s commitment to the Riley project, is under construction and should be open for business in the fall of 2004. Our companion arts project, the Mississippi Arts and Entertainment Center at Bonita Lakes, is acquiring seed money from state and local government for preliminary site work, and the board of directors is in the process of hiring an executive director.

The Meridian Naval Air Station sewage treatment project was finally completed, we are in the final stages of acquiring rights-of-way for the county’s new industrial park off Interstates 20/59, and we have issued nearly \$6 million in bonds for an extensive street resurfacing project. Finally, as Fiscal Year 2004 began, we created a new Department of Homeland Security to take the lead in training for any emergencies that could threaten our community and people.

The year 2003 was surely marked by tragedy but it should also be remembered as the year we showed the best of ourselves and marched forward without hesitation.

John Robert Smith
Mayor John Robert Smith

FROM TOP:
MARY PERRY, WARD 2,
GEORGE THOMAS, WARD 1, AND
BOBBY SMITH, WARD 5.

...and the People of Meridian

Community

Private sector investment of more than \$67 million in the last 10 years is being further leveraged by two major projects under construction—the Riley Education and Performing Arts Center and the Arts District Parking Garage. These two projects are expected to be the catalysts for other developments, including an up-scale hotel and other support businesses.

The Main Street program is also focusing its efforts on restoration of the African American Historic Business District, a project kicked off by the first ever Juneteenth Heritage Festival. The festival celebrates the time when southern states received word that the Emancipation Proclamation had been enacted. Restoration of the once-thriving business district is being coordinated with the help of property owners and Mississippi State University's John C. Stennis Institute of Government. The Stennis Institute also helped host several workshop and seminars for business owners, developers and realtors to learn more about available tax credits and restoration funding sources for downtown properties.



Grants totaling \$346,800 from various agencies allowed the Planning Division staff to complete several valuable projects including construction of a wastewater collection and transport system for homes in the annexed area, a re-survey of properties in the Urban Center and Union Station Historic Districts and preservation efforts for a photo collection consisting of more than 50,000 negatives.

A \$20,000 matching grant was awarded for the planting of more than 300 trees at the intersection of I-20/59 and 22nd Avenue and a second \$20,000 grant has been approved to plant 300 trees at the intersection of the interstates and Highway 19 South. The city was also able to



A LARGE DISPLAY BOARD, ABOVE, GIVES RESIDENTS A CLEAR LOOK AT WHAT THE NEW DOWNTOWN PARKING GARAGE WILL LOOK LIKE WHEN IT'S COMPLETED. A MORE CASUAL DOWNTOWN ATMOSPHERE IS AT THE FARMER'S MARKET AT UNION STATION, WHERE SHOPPERS CAN BUY FRESH PRODUCE AND VISIT WITH FRIENDS.



MERIDIAN HAS ALWAYS LOVED ITS FESTIVALS TO BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER. THE NEWEST IS THE JUNETEENTH FESTIVAL THAT FEATURED LOTS OF ACTIVITIES LIKE FACE PAINTING FOR CHILDREN.

site was officially dedicated, and aggressive fund-raising and marketing initiatives have been launched.

The ever-popular Fourth of July pops concert and fireworks display featured an additional, patriotic bonus—a tribute to retired Congressman G.V. “Sonny” Montgomery. As always, the Cultural Affairs staff spearheaded the planning for Arts in the Park, the gallery and artists tour, the City Hall Christmas tree lighting and Meridian Day at the Neshoba County Fair. Meridian’s many innovative projects were showcased for Mississippi legislators during the community’ second Legislative Weekend.

Development

Our public arts program, Around Town Carousels Abound, has been turned over to Hope Village for Children, which has already installed five new horses and has an agreement with a local department store to sell carousel items to raise money for the village.

Our Retiree Recruitment program answered 3,600 inquiries about Meridian’s assets as a retirement community and welcomed 15 new retiree households into the area. The Sixth Annual Retiree Celebration, held at the Frank Cochran Center, set a new attendance record of more than 400.

Keep Meridian/Lauderdale County Beautiful’s mini grant program, in its fourth year, continued to encourage planting and maintenance by awarding grants to schools, neighborhoods and civic groups for beautification projects. Since the program’s inception, \$25,000 worth of grants have been awarded to local organizations.

As always, our Inspections Division staff supported development by making more than 10,500 inspections and issuing 2,176 building permits with a construction value of more than \$29 million.

best city in the country...

help the Meridian Restorations Foundation acquire funding for a new roof on the F.W. Williams home through a Certified Local Government Grant.

The Planning staff completed a new Comprehensive Plan and, using reprogrammed funds from the 1990 Rental Rehabilitation project, has acquired three properties that will be donated to Habitat for Humanity after the vacant, dilapidated structures are demolished.

The Cultural Affairs office was extremely instrumental in securing a \$36,000 Tribal-State Compact Grant for the Mississippi Arts and Entertainment Center proposed for Bonita Lakes. The center’s 175-acre

site was officially dedicated, and aggressive fund-raising and marketing initiatives have been launched.

The ever-popular Fourth of July pops concert and fireworks display featured an additional, patriotic bonus—a tribute to retired Congressman G.V. “Sonny” Montgomery. As always, the Cultural Affairs staff spearheaded the planning for Arts in the Park, the gallery and artists tour, the City Hall Christmas tree lighting and Meridian Day at the Neshoba County Fair. Meridian’s many innovative projects were showcased for Mississippi legislators during the community’ second Legislative Weekend.

Our public arts program, Around Town Carousels Abound, has been turned over to Hope Village for Children, which has already installed five new horses and has an agreement with a local department store to sell carousel items to raise money for the village.

Our Retiree Recruitment program answered 3,600 inquiries about Meridian’s assets as a retirement community and welcomed 15 new retiree households into the area. The Sixth Annual Retiree Celebration, held at the Frank Cochran Center, set a new attendance record of more than 400.

Keep Meridian/Lauderdale County Beautiful’s mini grant program, in its fourth year, continued to encourage planting and maintenance by awarding grants to schools, neighborhoods and civic groups for beautification projects. Since the program’s inception, \$25,000 worth of grants have been awarded to local organizations.

As always, our Inspections Division staff supported development by making more than 10,500 inspections and issuing 2,176 building permits with a construction value of more than \$29 million.

A LARGE POSTER FEATURES THE 11 CELEBRITIES WHO MAKE UP THE HONORARY COMMITTEE OF THE MISSISSIPPI ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT CENTER.

Public Works

Responding to community needs after the April floods, the Engineering Division completed design work for a cave-in on North Hills Street, a ditch rehabilitation on 33rd Avenue and a flood damage project on Old Highway 45 North.

Crews performed survey work for design and right-of-way acquisition for water and sewer lines to the new I20-59 industrial park, preparing 33 easements and assisting in acquisition of those easements. The division also made major strides in our global information system (GIS) project, locating about 85 percent of the sanitary sewer manholes in the city and completing a GIS version of the city's zoning map. Copies of the map are now available.

The two April floods, which dumped 10.25 inches of rain each time, also kept the Street Division and Lines Maintenance Division crews busier than ever as they worked to repair major damage in more than 40 locations. Both the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency assisted us in assessing damages and providing financial assistance for repairs at major damage sites.

grieve and heal...

During the rest of the year, Street Division crews responded to more than 1,200 calls from the public for asphalt work, drainage system repairs, tree removal, grass cutting and mosquito spraying.

The Sanitation Division completed an important project, using a \$100,000 grant from the Department of Environmental Quality to clean up illegal dumpsites throughout the city. The staff continued to work with Waste Management under a contract that resulted in the disposal of 13,500 tons of garbage, bulky waste and compostable waste.



ROUTINE MAINTENANCE LIKE STREET STRIPING, ABOVE, AND LINE REPAIRS, RIGHT, KEEP THE COMMUNITY WORKING EFFICIENTLY.



NOT ROUTINE AT ALL WERE THE APRIL FLOODS THAT REQUIRED LONG HOURS AND HARD WORK BY PUBLIC WORKS CREWS INVOLVED IN THE CLEAN-UP.

In addition, thanks to curbside recycling and composting, 20 percent of the residential waste was removed from the waste stream and not disposed of in the landfill.

Our Freshwater Treatment employees tested, treated and provided more than two billion gallons of excellent water to our residents. Our water system is so good that the Mississippi Department of Health's Capacity Assessment Program has given Meridian the highest possible score in each of the three years the program has been in place. Only five other systems in the state have achieved this standing and no other municipality of our size or larger has met this goal.

The city's drinking water once again meets or exceeds all federal and state requirements. The EPA's Consumer Confidence Report completed by the Utility Billing staff reflects testing for 154 constituents in the drinking water supply. The staff also completed the fourth year of the meter change-out program, billed in excess of \$9.8 million in water services and boasted a collection rate of more than 99.99 percent.

A new, 30-ton lime silo was put in service at the B Street plant. Repairs to eroding slopes on the dam at Bonita Lakes were completed, curing a lignite problem that prevented grass from growing. Bonita was also popular for pavilion rentals, with about 100 rentals during the year, bringing the total to 600 since we began renting pavilions in 1998.

Completion of the East Meridian Wastewater Treatment Plant to serve NAS Meridian capped the year for the Wastewater Treatment Division. Other improvements included installation of the first of three influent screw pumps, a water conservation project and the purchase of a filter belt pump and a submersible waste pump to improve the volume of wastewater we are able to treat.

Making sure that freshwater and wastewater systems perform as they should for our residents is the job of the Lines Maintenance Division. During the year, our crews helped the Street Division clear storm drains and culverts, adjusted manholes and valve boxes for street overlays, repaired or replaced lift station pumps and installed a new lift station on 10th Avenue Extension. In addition, the NAS sewer line includes three new lift stations.

Crews also repaired more than 1,100 water or valve leaks, repaired curb stops, made new water and sewer taps, installed 13 new fire hydrants and replaced or repaired nearly 100 hydrants.

The mission of the staff at the Municipal Garage is to keep the city's 305 items of rolling stock and 415 items of other equipment in optimum operating condition with a minimum of downtime. To meet that goal, they made more than 2,800 engine repairs, 2,200 system repairs and a host of other needed repairs.



AN ALMOST CONSTANT TASK IS KEEPING RIGHTS-OF-WAY, LIKE HERE ON THE BANKS OF SOWASHEE CREEK, MOWED AND TRIMMED.



MORE THAN 300 VEHICLES GET HOISTED ON THE RACK, REPAIRED AND SERVICED AS PART OF THE JOB OF THE STAFF AT THE MUNICIPAL GARAGE.

Police Department



For more than 10 years, the Meridian Police Department has boasted the lowest crime statistics of any city in the state with a population over 30,000. This past year was no exception. According to the 2002 Uniform Crime Report, Meridian once again has the lowest crime rate in Mississippi and has the lowest crime rate in comparison with comparable cities in Alabama and Louisiana.

One of the key factors in providing our people with such a safe community is an excellent training program. Our recruits consistently finish at the top of the class, both academically and physically, at the state academy. Continuing training at the Public Safety Training Center sharpens acquired skills and adds new ones.

The department's Patrol Division recently changed from 8-hour shifts to 12-hour shifts, allowing for greater coverage on patrol, safer conditions for officers and higher visibility in the community. The change allowed for a reduction in manpower from 115 sworn officers to 95 with no negative effect on coverage or safety.

An additional K-9 has been added, bringing the total of K-9 officers to four. Our K-9 officers have been very active in drug interdiction, especially on the interstate highways, where our officers have seized thousands of dollars worth of cash, vehicles and drugs destined for communities like ours.



Thanks to grants totaling nearly \$159,000 from the U.S. Department of Justice, Mississippi Department of Public Safety, Wal-Mart and the Riley Foundation, we have been

OFFICERS ABOVE EXAMINE THE REMAINS OF A WINDSHIELD FOLLOWING A FATAL HIT-AND-RUN ACCIDENT. AT LEFT, OFFICERS OF THE MERIDIAN POLICE DEPARTMENT AND THE MISSISSIPPI BUREAU OF NARCOTICS DISPLAY MORE THAN 1,000 POUNDS OF MARIJUANA SEIZED ON INTERSTATE 20/59.

OUR POLICE RESERVE UNIT AND EXPLORER UNIT PROVIDE A VALUABLE SERVICE IN HELPING WITH TRAFFIC AND CROWD CONTROL DURING THE COMMUNITY'S MANY FESTIVALS AND CONCERTS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. BELOW, WITH ASSISTANCE FROM MERIDIAN'S K-9 UNIT, OFFICERS FROM THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SEIZED MORE THAN \$1.7 MILLION IN ILLEGAL DRUG MONEY BEING TRANSPORTED THROUGH THE CITY ON INTERSTATE 20/59.



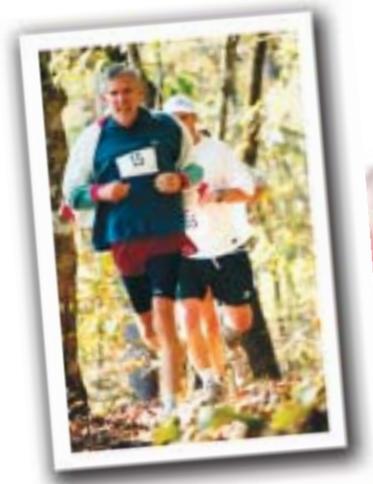
able to purchase video cameras for patrol vehicles, a state-of-the-art camera system for police station security, crash reconstruction computer and software, mini-cassette recorders for patrol officers and other equipment to help in patrol and investigative functions. The grants also funded overtime for the Directed Action Response Team (DART), paid the salaries of a DUI officer and a domestic violence investigator for one year and made possible the purchase of a fully equipped K-9 vehicle.

Our department aggressively combated impaired drivers by reinstating the DUI units. Two officers were assigned full time to address the problem of impaired drivers and, as a result, 676 DUI arrests were made, almost doubling the previous year's arrests of 354.

tragedy . . . is not understood



Meridian Development Projects



RUNNERS COMPETE ON THE WOODED TRAILS AT BONITA LAKES, FUTURE HOME OF THE MISSISSIPPI ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT CENTER; CENTER, THE NEWBERRY BUILDING WILL SERVE AS SUPPORT SPACE FOR THE RESTORED GRAND

OPERA HOUSE OF MISSISSIPPI; AND BELOW, HISTORIC CITY HALL, SITE OF THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING, WILL GET MUCH-NEEDED RENOVATIONS THANKS TO A STATE MATCHING GRANT.

I still have joy. I will not lose it.

Fire Department

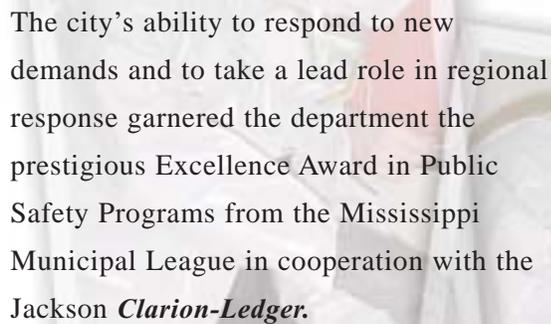


Responding to a national emphasis on homeland security, the Fire Department is focusing its training on anti-terrorism in addition to regular, comprehensive training. Our department was named team leader for a seven-county regional response team that includes Lauderdale, Clarke, Jones, Jasper, Smith, Scott and Newton counties. Aiding that effort was a \$252,000 Department of Homeland Security (DHS) grant that allowed the regional team to purchase needed equipment.



In addition, two other DHS grants totaling \$135,000 were used to make security upgrades to the city's water plants and to purchase additional equipment to better prepare for a wide range of potential emergencies. Another grant, this one from the Riley Foundation, enabled the department to build a four-story combination drill tower and heat house at the Public Safety Training Center.





The city's ability to respond to new demands and to take a lead role in regional response garnered the department the prestigious Excellence Award in Public Safety Programs from the Mississippi Municipal League in cooperation with the Jackson *Clarion-Ledger*.

The basics of fire control and prevention are still critical in ensuring a safe community. During the year, firefighters provided 150 homes of the elderly or disabled with carbon monoxide and/or smoke detectors. Some of these homes also received fire extinguishers, thanks to a donation from Lowe's.

A grant from the Riley Foundation provided the funds for purchase of a new vehicle for the arson investigator and his K-9s, new fire hose was purchased for three stations and the department issued specifications for bids for a new pumper truck to replace the 20-year old model currently in use.

Our firefighters responded to more than 2,800 calls for service, with half of those being for medical emergencies in which the skills of our emergency medical technicians were indispensable. Firefighters completed 45,000 hours of in-house training, while five firefighters completed the grueling smoke diver program through the Mississippi Fire Academy.

The department was called on to perform 75 arson and bomb threat investigations, while the Fire Prevention Bureau completed more than 2,800 inspections of local businesses, almost double the average number of inspections over the last five years.

comfort and strength



OPPOSITE PAGE, ABOVE, FIREFIGHTERS RELAX AFTER COMPLETING REQUIRED SMOKE DIVER TRAINING AT THE MISSISSIPPI FIRE ACADEMY; LEFT, FIRE DOG ROXANNE IS READY FOR ACTION. THIS PAGE, TOP, A FIREFIGHTER WEARS PLENTY OF PROTECTIVE GEAR DURING TRAINING TO HANDLE WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION AND, LEFT, A PROPANE TRAINING CLASS IS CONDUCTED BY THE MISSISSIPPI FIRE ACADEMY AT OUR TRAINING FACILITY.



Parks and Recreation

Building a sense of community motivates the Parks and Recreation Department staff to continually expand and improve programs, create special events and assist with sports leagues and all major festivals.

The newest venue, Sykes Park, was completed by Lauderdale County during the summer. The transfer of ownership, maintenance and programming to the city will become official with the upcoming baseball season. At the same time, the baseball leagues at Highland Park and John Moss Field will move to Sykes Park, where a new board will oversee the entire baseball league, with guidance from our staff.

Hard-working parents led a number of our athletic leagues to prominence as some of the best in the state. To ensure high-quality athletics, our staff is working on a master plan to upgrade many of the older sports fields and facilities.

With the enthusiastic cooperation of our sponsors and volunteers, our three biggest annual events were huge successes. The Easter Egg Hunt delighted more than 600 children; participation in the Moonlight Run swelled to 178 runners; and interest in the Kids All-American

forgiveness, mercy...

THE HIGHLAND PARK POOL, ABOVE, IS A GREAT PLACE TO LEARN TO SWIM OR JUST SPLASH AROUND ON HOT DAYS. AT LEFT, LAKEVIEW GOLF COURSE MANAGER RICHIE CAMP CHECKS OUT SOME NEW CLUBS WITH AN AVID GOLFER.





A YOUNG TENNIS PLAYER, ABOVE, PRACTICES HIS SERVE AT NORTHEAST PARK TENNIS CENTER, WHILE THE LADIES AT RIGHT ENJOY THE BEAUTY OF LONG CREEK RESERVOIR DURING THEIR ROUND OF GOLF AT LAKEVIEW.



Fishing Derby was so great, we moved it from Highland Park to the Meridian Fish Hatchery.

During the year, 1,500 people participated in hobbies, crafts and cultural arts at the Senior Citizens Center and Velma Young Community Center. About 2,000 seniors enjoyed the annual May Month activities including golf, bingo, bowling, health fairs and a delicious fish fry at the Frank Cochran Center.

The “Super Summer Shenanigans” at Velma Young Park treated 100 children to an eight-week program packed with fun like arts and crafts, skating, bowling and swimming, capped off with a field trip to Jazz Land in New Orleans. Highland Park was just as busy, with dance, gymnastics and tennis, plus swimming lessons for adults to infants. Special needs children enjoyed our adaptive swimming class and also the annual Camp High Hopes, with programs and activities tailored to the needs of these very special children.

Lakeview Golf Course continues to have the most rounds of golf played in a year than any other course in our area. We’re assessing the need for some major capital improvements to the clubhouse, cart shed and other amenities to keep Lakeview’s popularity growing.

... hope and faith



Finance and Records

Bringing the community together to learn how their city government operates was the goal of the Business After Hours reception hosted at City Hall by the East Mississippi Business Development Corporation. Our Information Systems Division put together a fact-filled visual presentation to give visitors a quick look at the many ways in which the city impacts their lives.

Helping customers get their water bills faster was the goal of a project to create new water bills, a move that also saves money on postage. Our computer staff also developed several department Web sites, completed a data conversion for police software and began the process of upgrading the operating systems of all computers and the software packages for personal computers. The Meridian Municipal Code is now on-line through a link from our Web site at www.meridianms.org.

The cashiers in the Collections Division are on the front lines of customer service, as they take payments for nearly 14,000 water accounts a month, plus payments for privilege licenses, inspection permits and facility rentals. This division also issues invoices for purchase orders so vendors can be paid for the goods and services they provide. During the year, more than 5,000 checks were printed and distributed.



A major responsibility of this division and the entire Finance and Records Department is the annual audit. As a result of outstanding fiscal management and precise reporting, the Government Finance Officers Association awarded the City of Meridian the prestigious Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting for the seventh consecutive year.

Paperwork flows continuously through the Business Affairs Division, as our staff handles municipal courts and records, the central purchasing function, the billing and fee collecting for business licenses and the oversight of the taxicab industry. During the year, more than 12,000 cases were processed through municipal court and nearly 8,600 purchase orders were processed.

The staff also continually analyzes purchasing performance and the prices paid for materials, equipment and services, with the goal of ensuring that the people of Meridian get the best goods and services at the lowest possible price.

PART OF THE ROLE OF THE FINANCE AND RECORDS STAFF IS ISSUING BUSINESS LICENSES, LIKE ONE TO THE NEW JARED'S RESTAURANT DOWNTOWN, FAR LEFT.

RIGHT, A RECORD BUSINESS AFTER HOURS CROWD FLOCKED TO CITY HALL TO FIND OUT HOW THEIR CITY OPERATES AND TO MEET THE EMPLOYEES WHO SERVE THE PUBLIC.

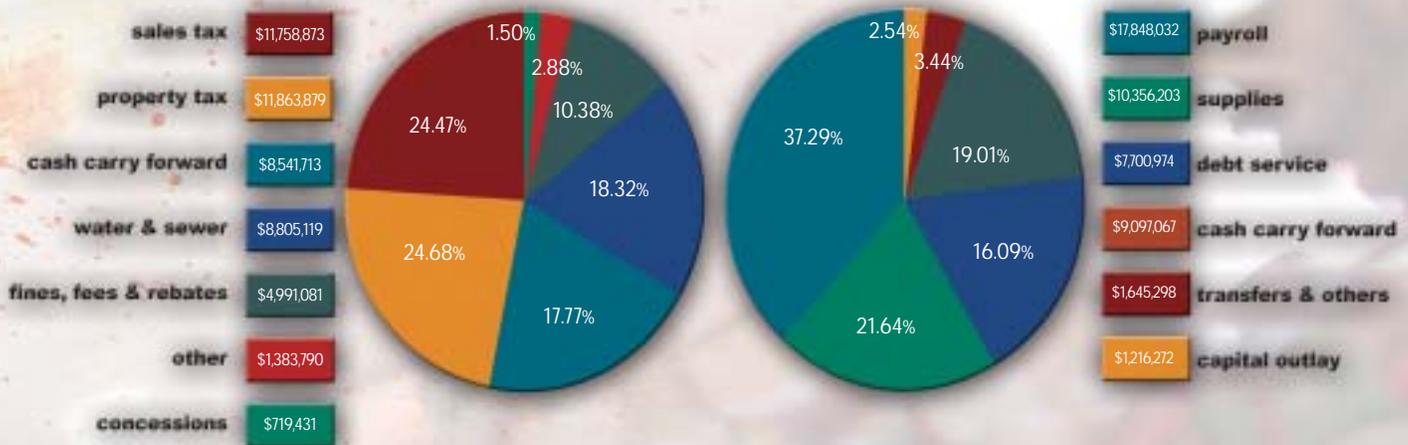
a great place to live



Fiscal Year 2003

Funds From All Sources

Use of Funds by Budget Type



Municipal Budget 2004

Year Ending September 30, 2004

REVENUES

Licenses & Permits	\$ 1,982,000
Inter-Governmental	12,381,000
Charges for Services	2,311,500
Fines & Forfeits	850,000
Miscellaneous	440,000
Balance End of Prior Year	2,300,000
Tax Levy Required to Support General Fund	7,250,000

TOTAL GENERAL FUND

AVAILABLE CASH &

ANTICIPATED REVENUES	\$ 27,462,500
Water Fund	10,592,500
Lakeview Golf Course	452,300
Concessions	52,700
Union Station	372,450
Waste Collection & Disposal	2,721,100
Homeland Security	450,000
TOTAL ENTERPRISE FUNDS	14,640,550
DEBT SERVICE	4,650,000
TOTAL REVENUES FOR ALL CITY FUNDS	\$ 46,753,050

EXPENDITURES

General Government	\$ 2,521,440
Finance & Records	2,620,660
Community Development	1,512,900
Parks & Recreation	1,978,950
Public Works	6,662,700
Police Department	6,190,800
Fire Department	5,225,550
Cash Reserve for FY 03 Operations	750,000

TOTAL GENERAL FUND

EXPENDITURES	\$ 27,462,500
Water Fund	10,592,500
Lakeview Golf Course	452,300
Concessions	52,200
Union Station	372,450
Waste Collection & Disposal	2,721,100
Homeland Security	450,000
TOTAL ENTERPRISE FUNDS	14,640,550
DEBT SERVICE	4,650,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES FROM ALL CITY FUNDS	\$ 46,753,050

Comparison of Millage for Various Budgets

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
GOVERNMENT SERVICES										
General Fund (Incl. Parks & Recreation)	21.34	21.32	21.17	21.17	21.48	23.44	25.86	28.69	30.39	30.39
Fire/Police	7.00	7.50	8.00	7.35	7.35	7.45	5.28	4.79	4.60	4.49
General Municipal Retirement	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
Total (Excluding Bond & Interest)	31.34	31.82	32.17	31.52	31.83	33.89	34.14	36.48	37.99	37.88
Bond & Interest	16.78	18.39	19.07	17.62	17.31	15.25	15.00	15.01	12.09	12.20
TOTAL										
(City, Government & Service)										
Receiving Ad Valorem Tax)	48.12	50.21	51.24	49.14	49.14	49.14	49.14	51.49	50.08	50.08
	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
CITY SCHOOLS										
Sep. School District (MP & DM)	45.09	49.77	46.72	49.42	50.66	54.24	52.91	52.68	52.50	54.38
MCC (Support & Enlarge)	5.97	5.97	6.19	6.28	5.83	6.16	6.57	7.00	7.00	7.00
Bond & Interest	5.36	5.52	5.24	2.91	2.21	2.95	3.77	4.70	2.87	0.92
TOTAL										
(For Schools Receiving										
Ad Valorem Tax)	56.42	61.26	58.15	58.61	58.70	63.35	63.25	64.38	62.37	62.30
TOTAL										
(All Operations Receiving										
Ad Valorem Tax)	104.54	111.47	109.39	107.75	107.84	112.49	112.39	115.87	112.45	112.38
County	42.70	42.26	42.26	42.26	42.26	42.26	43.11	43.11	43.06	42.50
Grand Total	147.24	153.73	151.65	150.01	150.10	154.75	155.50	158.98	155.51	154.88

OUR RESIDENTS DIDN'T HAVE TO BE ASKED TO HELP AFTER THE LOCKHEED TRAGEDY. HUNDREDS SHOWED UP AT UNITED BLOOD SERVICES WITHIN HOURS, OFTEN WAITING IN LONG LINES TO DONATE BLOOD.



Postscript

lay aside all hatred...



... all racism and all vengeance

Tinterspersed throughout this report are words of hope and inspiration from the Rev. Bill Harper, who delivered the moving sermon at the Lockheed memorial service, and Mrs. Jinnell Miller, who lost her beloved husband, the Rev. Charles Miller, on that tragic day in July. Just three months earlier, a number of our residents watched helplessly as flood waters damaged or destroyed their homes and businesses.

Communities are often compared to families. We share memories of important occasions, mark special events with mementos and photographs and laugh and cry together. We sometimes fight and bicker but, when we are threatened, we join hands and hearts to fiercely protect and support each other. In 2003, the people of Meridian demonstrated that a community is much more than just a place to live. This community is a family that has weathered storms, celebrated successes and is moving confidently into the future.

Maureen Lofton

Maureen Lofton, editor

Administration

MAYOR

City Hall
601-485-1927 • Fax: 601-485-1911
Web site: www.meridianms.org

EXECUTIVE STAFF

Chief Administrative Officer
City Hall
601-485-1929

City Attorney
505 Constitution Avenue
601-693-2393

Assistant Administrative Officer
City Hall
601-485-1962

Human Resources Director
City Hall
601-485-1934 • Fax: 601-485-2585

Assistant for Governmental Affairs
City Hall
601-485-1819

Risk Manager
City Hall
601-485-1887

CITY COUNCIL

Clerk of Council
City Hall
601-485-1959 • Fax: 601-485-1913

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Divisions: Administration, Planning,
Inspection, Main Street, Union Station,
Keep Meridian/Lauderdale County Beautiful,
Cultural Affairs
City Hall
601-485-1910 • Fax: 601-484-6813
Union Station
1901 Front Street
601-484-6841 • Fax: 601-484-6849

FINANCE & RECORDS

Divisions: Finance, Business Affairs,
Information Systems, Collections
City Hall
601-485-1946 • Fax: 601-485-1979

FIRE

Divisions: Administration, Operations,
Fire Prevention, Training
2500 14th Street
601-485-1822 • Fax: 601-485-1878
Emergency: 911

HOMELAND SECURITY

1180 Sandflat Road
601-484-6890 • Fax: 601-484-6895

PARKS & RECREATION

Divisions: Programs, Concessions,
Maintenance/Grounds, Municipal Golf Course
1720 Jimmie Rodgers Drive
Highland Park
601-485-1802 • Fax: 601-485-1851

POLICE

Divisions: Administration, Investigation, Patrol,
Training, D.A.R.E.
2415 6th Street
601-485-1893 • Fax: 601-484-6832
Emergency: 911

PUBLIC WORKS

Divisions: Administration, Municipal Garage,
Engineering, Street Maintenance, Solid Waste
Contract Coordinator, Freshwater Treatment,
Wastewater Treatment, Utility Billing,
Water Distribution Lines, Sewer Collection Lines
311 27th Avenue
601-485-1920 • Fax: 601-485-1864

Individual e-mail addresses are available on our website at www.meridianms.org

Editor: Maureen Lofton, Assistant for Governmental Affairs, City of Meridian

Design: Cooke Communications and Design, LLC, Meridian, Mississippi

Designers: Pace Cooke Emmons, Paula Robertson, Connie Agent

Printing: Service Printers, Jackson, Mississippi

Photography: City of Meridian Staff; Marianne Todd; Paula Merritt, *The Meridian Star*; *The East Mississippi Business Journal*; Connie Agent



City of Meridian
601 24th Avenue • P.O. Box 1430
Meridian, Mississippi 39302
(601) 485-1927 • www.meridianms.org