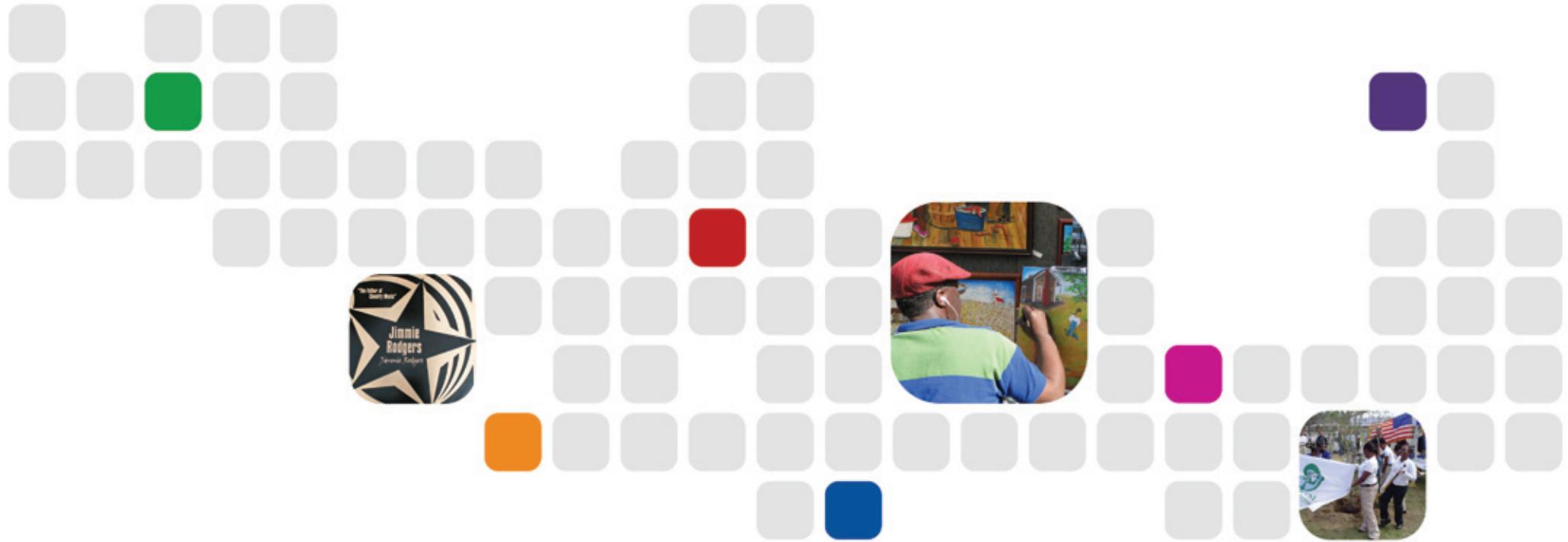


# back to basics

city of meridian



 2009  
annual report



A better longitude on life.



# back to basics

city of meridian

2009  
annual report



-  from the mayor pg. 2
-  city council pg. 4
-  finance and records pg. 5
-  community development pg. 6
-  parks and recreation pg. 8
-  fire pg. 10
-  homeland security pg. 12
-  police pg. 13
-  public works pg. 14
-  development projects pg. 16
-  municipal budget pg. 19
-  administration pg. 20



# from the mayor



Cheri Barry, Mayor

Taking on the job of mayor for the first time brought with it all the usual challenges— such as learning in detail how the city functions, getting to know all of our employees and what their jobs entail, and having a firm grip on what our top priorities for the next four years need to be.

But add to that taking office in the midst of one of the worst recessions in 80 years, and the performance bar had to be set higher than ever. Through November of 2009, our sales tax revenues were down more than 7 percent in what was already a very lean budget year. We had to make serious, sometimes painful decisions about how to craft the new budget, keeping in mind that the economy was still very fragile.

During my campaign, I said my top priority as mayor would be taking our city government back to basics—responding to our citizens in effective and meaningful ways, providing the necessary services that define a good community. My administration has taken the first of many steps to pare government down to the essentials, scrutinizing how we provide services and how we could perform even better.

A community's strength lies in building strong partnerships with its citizens and with other governments, local and state agencies, and our lawmakers on state and federal levels.



Mayor Cheri Barry, center, and Lt. Gov. Phil Bryant, in the red tie, are flanked by representatives of the Mississippi Arts and Entertainment Center and the B.B. King Museum at the unveiling of the B.B. King plaque at the MAEC Walk of Fame. The Walk of Fame, which starts in front of the MSU Riley Center, features bronze stars honoring Mississippi's world-renowned artists in a multitude of disciplines.

While running for mayor, I found that there are many citizens of Meridian who want to have a voice in their local government, who want to contribute to Meridian by serving on boards and commissions. Toward that end, we began a process of reviewing every board and commission in the city, starting with the Meridian School Board. I made new appointments to this critical board, underscoring my administration's belief that high-quality schools are absolutely essential to Meridian's future.

I've also brought new appointees onto a number of other boards and commissions, and will continue that process during the next year. Let the next four years be known as the time when Meridian's government was given back to the people.

The City of Meridian has been working diligently to develop an engaging partnership with the Lauderdale County Board of Supervisors and to seriously consider ways we can eliminate duplication of services and cooperate on projects of mutual benefit. Meridian is also building relationships with the Mississippi Municipal League, the East Mississippi Business Development Corporation, The Alliance for Downtown Meridian, and mayors in east Mississippi and west Alabama.

The first months of this administration have certainly been challenging but exhilarating as well. I believe without question that, by making the right decisions, we will weather the economic storm and set a course for

Meridian that involves listening to its citizens and responds to their needs, creating a better community for all of us.

Meridian is poised for greatness. It is time that we do what we know to be right. Let our future generations say of

this time that these were golden years —when Meridian's spirit of optimism and entrepreneurship was reborn. These were the years Meridian brushed aside her worst and reached her best.

These will be years when we restore the Queen City's confidence, culture and tradition of progress, when our values of faith, family, work and neighborhood are restated for a new Meridian.

*Cheri M. Barry*



# city council



**Bobby R. Smith, Ward 5, President**



**George M. Thomas, Ward 1**



**Mary A.B. Perry, Ward 2**



**Barbara Henson, Ward 3**



**Jesse E. Palmer, Sr., Ward 4**



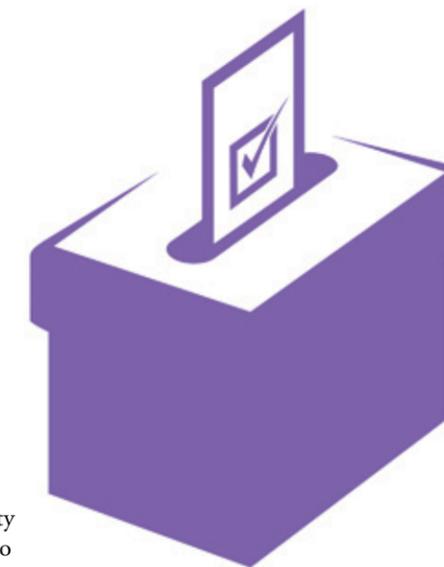
# finance and records



*With City Hall being restored in the background, a contractor demolishes the old Brown Printing and Trailways bus station building, creating a clear line of vision to the magnificent 1915 municipal building.*

Every four years, the Finance and Records staff is charged with one of its most important tasks—overseeing municipal elections and ensuring that they are fair and accurate. That was one of the big challenges in the spring and summer of 2009 as a new mayor and city council were nominated, first by their political parties in the primaries, then in the general election.

Voter registration generally increases in the months before an election, and the staff also handles the absentee-ballot process. Staff members also assist the Municipal Election Commission in hiring poll workers and training them in the voting process and procedures to follow. The staff determines what supplies will be needed at all the polling stations, makes those purchases and creates “blue boxes” that contain all necessary election materials for each precinct. The city clerk’s office is also the drop-off point for various reports candidates are required to submit. The city then forwards those reports to the Mississippi Secretary of State.



A major computer upgrade that our staff had hoped would be nearing completion by now is moving more slowly than anticipated and is now projected to take another year to 18 months. This complex process involves important fiscal functions such as cash collections, water bill processing and the use of remote deposit scanners that scan checks quickly and improve cash flow by getting the checks cleared at the bank sooner. We also hope to offer new and more convenient services to our residents and customers, such as the option to pay water bills by debit or credit card and on the Internet.

While working on this significant upgrade, the Information Systems Division staff continued normal upgrades to e-mail servers and network service, ensuring that information is available at all times to the Police and Fire departments for public safety and to all other departments for better in decision making. The division also provides support to the Lauderdale County E911 Center, including a backup system for use in the event of a system failure in the main emergency system.

The Business Affairs Division processed more than 8,200 purchase orders and 30 competitive-bid processes during the year. The staff also maintained more than 1,900 privilege licenses, provided assistance to the Taxicab Advisory Board, which oversees local taxi operations, and processed more than 17,000 cases through the Courts and Records office, located in municipal court.

To cap off a demanding year, Finance and Records was, for the 13th consecutive year, awarded the prestigious Certificate of Excellence for our Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). This national award recognizes those cities that produce the most thorough, meticulous and accurate financial reports in the country.



*Hauling mattresses from treehouse cabins at Girl Scout Camp Meridale was one of the ways city employees pitched in during the United Way’s Day of Caring.*



# community development



*Budding artists try their hands at some free-form painting during the annual Threefoot Arts Festival downtown.*

Meridian's expanding role as a state and regional arts center was cemented last year as the Mississippi Arts and Entertainment Center put in concrete around the MSU Riley Center the first two bronze plaques of the MAEC Walk of Fame. The first to be inducted were Meridian's own Jimmie Rodgers, the Father of Country Music, and legendary bluesman B.B. King.

More than 5,000 people tromped over those same sidewalks and all over downtown as the Cultural Affairs Division hosted the sixth annual Threefoot Arts Festival in conjunction with the Meridian Council for the Arts. The one-day festival featured a juried art competition, hands-on art experiences for children, a talent contest and a chili cooking competition. The State Games of Mississippi drew more than 10,000 people downtown for its opening night ceremony featuring the Parade of Athletes, torch lighting and spectacular fireworks show. Another big draw was the Sunfish Triathlon, held for the second time at Bonita Lakes. More than 350 participants swam, cycled and ran to complete the event.

One of the key missions of the Union Station Multi-Modal Transportation Center is to provide a safe and attractive destination for the Amtrak trains and Greyhound and Meridian Transit buses that travel in and out each day. Meeting that mission, the station moved more than 300,000 people through its doors last year. The station's other prime function is to serve as a community gathering place. Always a favorite venue, Union Station last year hosted more than 200 business meetings, training classes, banquets, parties, receptions and reunions. Our unique historic landmark continues to celebrate Meridian's railroad roots by adding more engraved brick pavers on outdoor walkways in honor of friends and families.

An updated web site has increased internet interest in our retiree recruitment program. Staff in the Retiree Recruitment Division received more than 4,200 inquiries and responded directly to 2,200 requests for specific information about Meridian. The program was marketed at the Florida Senior Expo, the American Association of Retirement Communities in Savannah, Georgia and locally at the Neshoba County Fair, the Lauderdale County Welcome Center and the Meridian Railroad Museum during National Train Day. Visitors to the States Games of Mississippi, the Meridianites Picnic and Convention and the Fourth of July celebration were all targeted to get retiree brochures at local motels, campgrounds and RV parks. Just as important as recruiting retirees is providing activities for retirees already living in our community. April's Spring Fling and the 11th Annual Retiree Celebration offered food, fellowship and music for our local retirees.



*Fireworks create dazzling designs in the downtown sky as thousands look on during the annual Opening Ceremonies and Parade of Athletes for the State Games of Mississippi.*



*Hardy athletes gather at Bonita Lakes where they prepare to swim, cycle and run during the test of skill and endurance called the Sunfish Triathlon.*

More than 10,550 volunteer hours were clocked as the Keep Meridian/Lauderdale County Beautiful Program worked to increase litter prevention awareness and spread the message of "reduce, reuse, recycle."

#### Among the programs were:

- Youth mini- grant awards to schools, community development clubs, garden clubs and churches to involve young people in environmental education projects.
- The Great American Cleanup that focused on tree planting at historic Highland Park.
- Earth Day at the Toomsba Welcome Center. Our KAB volunteers partnered with the Meridian Council of Garden Clubs to provide litter bags, literature and refreshments for visitors to the center.
- A Halloween litter bag project that provided 3,000 Halloween litter bags to elementary school students in the city and county schools.
- National Public Lands Day that involved more than 130 volunteers who picked up trash and planted flowers.



*The city's building inspector takes a close look at the forming of a new structure. Throughout the construction process, inspectors from various disciplines—from mechanical to plumbing—ensure that all buildings meet safety codes.*

A project costing just over \$2 million to repair the dam on the lower lake at Bonita Lakes was coordinated by the Planning Division. The bulk of the money--\$1.78 million—came from the Mississippi Development Authority while the city paid in \$250,000.

Downtown visitors now have an unobstructed view of our 1914 City Hall undergoing restoration, thanks to the demolition of two dilapidated buildings that stood in the way. While coordinating that project, the planning staff also researched and developed a new feature on the city web site. This informative package provides a photograph and narrative of each of the buildings

in the Meridian Historic Preservation District.

Meridian was designated a Tree City USA for the 19th consecutive year. Such projects as planting trees at Highland Park on both Arbor Day and Earth Day and planting still more trees at Q.V. Sykes Park with a \$20,000 Mississippi Forestry Commission grant are some of the reasons we continue to be a leader in the national Tree City USA family.

Along with processing applications for subdivision development, rezoning, variance requests and other development issues, our staff continued to implement the Community Rating System (CRS) at a CRS classification of 8—an important number because it means our residents get a 10 percent reduction in flood insurance premiums.

With the adoption and enforcement of the building, electrical, mechanical, plumbing and gas codes, the Inspection Division has been instrumental in lowering Meridian residents' insurance rates. During the year, the staff made more than 14,500 inspections and issued building permits with a construction value of more than \$19.7 million.



# parks and recreation



Local students mark Earth Day by plucking dead blossoms from bushes to encourage colorful new blooms to grow.

While not as exciting as hosting a tournament or sponsoring a big event, renovation and remodeling of parks facilities are critical to a vibrant parks and recreation program. A calendar loaded with games and activities can only reflect success when the facilities that host the events are clean, safe and efficient.

To achieve that level of continuing quality, the exterior of Sammie Davidson Complex building was repainted and the bathrooms were remodeled and significantly upgraded. At Northeast Park, the doors, shutters, wood trim and iron stair rails on the multi-purpose building were all repainted. The softball complex at the park was re-named in honor of Larry Stewart, one of the driving forces behind the extraordinary growth of girls' softball at the complex and of the development of the complex itself. At Highland Park, the Dentzel Carousel House exterior got a fresh coat of paint, as did the upper portions of the interior walls and the ceiling. A restoration professional spent some time sprucing up the carousel animals, a sort of "mini restoration" for the 28 hand-carved animals. Highland Park was also the focus of the 2009 Earth Day project, which involved the planting of 40 trees through an Urban Forestry grant program. These trees replace some of the 100-year-old trees that had died or were removed as part of the Gallagher Creek channelization project.



Historic Highland Park is home to some extremely old trees, some of which have died or have been cut down. More than 40 new trees are being planted so they can grow and provide shade in the park.



Serious bridge players from two different clubs play duplicate bridge nearly every day. They stay in touch with other bridge buffs throughout the country through postings on the internet.

Some new construction also improved our stock of recreational sites. At the Jaycee Soccer Complex, a new concession/restroom building was completed just in time for the 2009 State Games of Mississippi. The women's bathrooms have 10 stalls, compared with just three in the old building. The new concession stand has a commercial-grade exhaust system for cooking and is much larger than the old building. It also has a conference room where coaches and officials can meet during tournaments. The city and the Meridian Public Schools completed a land swap that allowed for construction of a new park, the John C. Harris Community Park just off 29th Avenue near Marion Park School. The Lauderdale County Board of Supervisors paved a basketball court and a walking track around the property to give area residents a safe and enjoyable place to get out and exercise.

As always, the Grounds Division was challenged to keep up all the baseball, softball and soccer fields, in addition to several hundred acres of park land. This same crew is responsible for most of the set-up, tear-down and clean-up for all festivals,



The Hutchersons is one of the musical groups that entertains the members of the Blue Yodelers Fan Club every second Friday at the Meridian Activities Center.

parades and special events throughout the year.

Some of those special events included the Moonlight Run, Kids Fishing Derby and the Easter Egg Hunt. Summer programs at Highland Park and Velma Young Park continue to be extremely popular. For example, more than 500 families took advantage of Red Cross-certified swimming lessons. Daily use of the pools has declined a bit, so we are promoting more group usage on targeted days. The Soule Live Steam Festival and Railroad Festival joined forces again last year to create a much larger and well-attended event. Several railroads provided equipment for display, and the night photo session was a big hit with rail buffs.

Youth soccer and softball saw increased participation in almost every age group. The Q.V. Sykes baseball fields are the nicest in the area, and we hope to expand the program there while giving some attention to facilities improvements at Phil Hardin Park and Crestwood.

Adults of all ages continue to flock to the Meridian Activity Center, where new and innovative classes ranging from yoga to stained-glass making attract participants with wide-ranging interests. At Lakeview Golf Course, play has declined somewhat due to the economy and the availability of more local courses. On the plus side, the abundance of rain has left the course lush and green. In the near future, we plan to work on the cart paths and make improvements to the clubhouse.



# fire



*Firefighters put on their personal safety gear during a speed drill. After the firefighters complete the process, supervisors check to make sure all equipment has been properly secured.*

The department's training division has built such a solid reputation for delivering high-quality courses that numerous outside agencies are requesting information about future classes. A basic core group of instructors teaches Mississippi Fire Academy courses at the Meridian Public Safety Training Facility, which is often less expensive for fire departments in our area of the state.

Our department was at the forefront of several key pieces of state legislation passed and signed into law in 2009. A new law mandates that only "fire safe" cigarettes be sold in Mississippi. These cigarettes are manufactured in such a way that they extinguish if not drawn on, decreasing the odds of someone falling asleep and setting a house on fire. A second bill mandates the reporting of burn injuries by law enforcement and medical personnel. Mandatory reporting is critical in determining how fires started and the severity of burns, among other things, and gives fire departments more information about how to improve fire safety. A third bill requires that buildings constructed with light-weight trusses be clearly identified on the exterior. These trusses are more dangerous when exposed to fire because they can more easily collapse, endangering firefighters.



*Pre-school students from Lamar School mark their tour of the Central Fire Station with a group photo. School children from throughout the community frequently tour the station, where they learn about fire prevention and safety.*



*Proud members of the Meridian Fire Department's first ever Honor Guard stand ready to represent the department at memorial services and other community events.*

Nine Meridian firefighters have been selected to comprise the department's first honor guard. The purpose of the honor guard is to pay tribute to fallen firefighters and their families and to add solemnity and tradition to important events, such as the September 11 Patriot Day ceremonies held annually at the Central Fire Station in memory of the firefighter heroes of 9/11. The honor guard was also scheduled to participate in the Mid-Winter Mississippi Fire Chiefs Conference here in Meridian.

During the year, firefighters responded to more than 1,600 calls, including 123 structural fires and 609 emergency service calls. Fire inspectors performed more than 2,800 commercial building inspections, helping to keep both lives and property safe from fire. Safety is always the goal of the Fire Prevention Bureau, which presented fire safety education programs to all city elementary schools, various day care facilities and senior



*Meridian firefighters take time out from basic training to pay their respects at the monument to fallen firefighters located at the Mississippi State Fire Academy in Pearl.*

Keeping firefighters safe is the goal of a new piece of equipment known as the SEMS II system. These devices have been purchased with a grant and will be retrofitted onto all firefighter breathing units. During a fire, the incident commander has a base unit that identifies each firefighter using oxygen, how much oxygen remains in each air pack and whether the officer is moving. If the commander feels the structure may be in danger of collapsing, he can also send a signal to all the firefighters alerting them to evacuate the building.

citizens groups during Fire Prevention Week. Fire safety programs were also presented throughout the year at various health fairs, including Safety Days at Lowe's.

The department's role in the Mississippi Department of Homeland Security's Regional Response Team has been more carefully honed. For actual activations and scheduled drills, firefighters are now assigned to specific four-man teams, which allows for better scheduling of firefighters and results in more accountability.



# homeland security



Reserve and part-time police officer candidates are taking advantage of the fact that the Public Safety Training Facility is now recognized as a Level 2 law enforcement academy by the Mississippi Police Board of Standards and Training. That means the facility is able to offer academies for those interested in becoming reserve or part-time officers. Last year, two academies were offered, with each officer logging more than 250 hours of classroom and field training.



Emergency responders from around the Meridian area learn the basics of swift water rescue in a class hosted by the Public Safety Training Facility at Bonita Lakes.

Overall, the training facility offered an impressive array of classes—164 different courses spanning 295 calendar days.

### They included:

- The basic Firefighter 1001 class
- Three water rescue classes
- One rope technician specialty course
- The teen driving program attended by nearly 100 students
- Community emergency response team training for Meridian police cadets
- Force Protection Instructor training
- Arms training in the shoot house
- Additional arms training on the ranges, which were used by 36 different agencies
- Passenger rail emergency response classes, funded by the Federal Railroad Administration

The City of Meridian now serves as the lead for one of the task forces developed by the Mississippi Department of Homeland Security. The task force is a combination of three, nine-county regional response teams, for a total task force size of 27 counties. To further the work of the task force, our Homeland Security Department got two grants totaling about \$275,000. One of them allowed the department to hire two employees—a task force coordinator and a search and rescue coordinator, plus pay for equipment and training. The other grant was used for the purchase of computer equipment, radios, hazardous materials suits and a motor for the department's rescue boat.

To bolster efforts to clean up and beautify the community, we hired a solid waste enforcement officer through a \$50,000 grant for the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality. Part of that grant money was also used to sponsor the hazardous waste clean-up days. Homeland Security, which serves as the lead agency for all the city's Green Team initiatives, also got a \$10,000 grant from Keep American Beautiful for a recycling campaign and a \$182,000 stimulus grant from the Department of Energy for energy efficiency initiatives at historic city hall, now undergoing restoration.



Rappelling down the side of the Arts District Parking Garage downtown is part of the rigorous training involved in the high-rise rescue class, also hosted by the Public Safety Training Facility.



# police



A "suspect," carefully shrouded in padded gear, is attacked by a K-9 patrol dog as part of his continuous training

For many people, the work of the Criminal Investigations Division (CID) embodies what police work is all about. And the division's 4,000-case load last year—with 2,000 of those being felonies—certainly reflects the serious and painstaking work of investigating crimes and arresting perpetrators. Aiding in that work were the additions of two new laptop computers with a portable printer, four digital crime-scene cameras and specialized fingerprint-lifting tape.

But the CID officers reach beyond crime scenes and evidence gathering as they work closely with local agencies dedicated to helping victims. To make sure that both adults and juveniles receive the best possible assistance, CID works closely with Hope Village, which provides a home for neglected and abandoned children; the Wesley House, which offers a variety of services to those in need; and Care Lodge, a temporary shelter for battered women and their children. To help keep our children safe, the CID Juvenile Division, with help from area businesses, conducted a Child ID program that resulted in hundreds of school children being fingerprinted. That program was conducted in cooperation with the Police Department's long-standing Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) program in city schools.

In the Patrol Division, officers responded to nearly 54,000 calls for service during the year. To put that in perspective, that figure would translate to nearly 150 calls a day. The DUI Unit, along with regular patrol units, made nearly 400 DUI arrests and, working with the Training Division, 119 patrol officers each received 24 hours of mandatory, in-service training.

**Examples of officer training included:** *The Hathcock Sniper School*, *The North American Sniper Competition*, *The Force Protection Train-the-Trainer program* and *The Complete Traffic Stop Course*.

Several of our officers served as instructors at the Public Safety Training Facility for the teen driving school, a very popular course that gives teens real-world experience in safe and defensive driving. The work of the Meridian Police Underwater Rescue and Recovery Unit, better known as the Dive Team, was enhanced with the purchase of new equipment through grants from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

In addition to fighting crime and working with victims and their families, our police officers, through the Administration Division, also provide security and promote safety for a wide array of community events. Last year, the officers assisted more than 150 citizens and organizations with events such as charity walks and other fund-raising events, parades, the Soap Box Derby and even weddings with horse-drawn carriages. Officers were also partners with other city staff in organizing and staging city-sponsored or co-sponsored events like the Threefoot Arts Festival and the Christmas tree lighting ceremony at Dumont Plaza.



SWAT team officers learn to work together, covering all angles and anticipating varied scenarios, as they intervene in dangerous situations.



# public works



*Whenever new businesses are added to the community, employees from the Water Lines Division get busy installing new lines. Here, crews dig trenches for lines on Highway 19 South.*

From complex engineering projects to sweeping streets, the Public Works Department is in the business of meeting residents' needs every day of the year.

Crews in the Street Division continued to work on the Hope VI public housing project by building storm drain inlets, curbs and gutters. An unusually rainy year caused flooding problems several times, most notably in the Threefoot Building area downtown. Street crews hauled sandbags to protect property, as we continue to research long-term solutions to the problem. Under an interlocal agreement with Lauderdale County, sections of six city streets were resurfaced.

Prior to the beginning of the school year, to ensure the safety of Meridian's school children, the sign shop crew repainted all school area street markings and checked speed limit and school crossing signs for correct placement. Our electricians also checked traffic signals in all school areas.

**Some of the more than 1,000 work orders handled by the staff included:**

- Asphalt work ranging from repairing potholes, repairing utility cuts and repairing eroding street shoulders.
- Repairing drainage problems such as blocked culverts, inlets, storm drains and ditches.
- Installing and repairing traffic signals.
- Installing street signs and markers.
- Cleaning alleys, removing debris and cutting grass on rights-of-way.
- Removing and pruning trees.
- Cleaning ditches by removing overgrowth and debris people have thrown away.



*Whether it's digging trenches, installing water and sewer lines or a host of other basic jobs, being a part of a Public Works crew is often a demanding and muddy job.*

The Sanitation Division coordinates the city's contract with Waste Management, resulting in the collection and hauling of almost 15,000 tons of household garbage, bulky waste and compostable waste. About 2,800 tons of waste did not go to a landfill, thanks to the recycling component of the program. Our two Household Hazardous Waste Days, during which residents can dispose of items that have to be kept separate from regular household waste, were big hits with the public.

The mechanics in our Fleet Maintenance Division maintain about 350 pieces of rolling stock and another 650 other items, including heavy equipment, trailers, ATVs, motorcycles and small engines. The staff also maintains about 500 pieces of communications equipment, including hand-held units, mobile units, fire station radios and storm warning sirens. Keeping all that equipment in good working order required thousands of fluid checks and truck and car repairs. More than 3,200 other tasks were performed for either maintenance or repair.

The Engineering Division staff provides a broad array of services such as design work and surveying for capital improvement projects like construction of streets and water and sewer lines. The staff also reviews plans for major developments and subdivisions, while maintaining accurate city maps and updating the GIS system.



*Public Works crews answer a call at Rush Hospital after a concrete retaining wall collapsed. City workers assisted a private contractor to make the needed repairs.*

Providing 2.1 billion gallons of water to our residents, the Freshwater Division conducted more than 28,000 tests and, once again, achieved a perfect score on Mississippi Department of Health's capacity assessment inspection. The bulk water storage tank at Cobb Hill is undergoing repairs and repainting and was expected to be back in service in late 2009. A new system to assist freshwater plant operators will be installed in 2010. It will allow operators to monitor and control most devices located in the water system, such as pumps, chemicals and tank levels.

In the Wastewater Division, the main plant discharged more than two billion gallons of water, while the east Meridian plant discharged nearly 90 million gallons. Due to the aging of the main plant, maintenance and replacement are increasingly critical, but operators are continually producing effluent water that meets the requirements of what can be discharged into Sowashee Creek.

Both water divisions depend on the efficiency of the Lines Maintenance Division, which maintains 428 miles of water lines and 442 miles of sewer lines. The crews there provided water and sewer to the NEW call center and Fire Station No. 8 on Highway 19 South, installed water and sewer taps in the Hope VI public housing development and moved water lines for the new

**Major projects in 2009 included:**

- Utility relocation surveying for the interchange for the new industrial park.
- Research for the restoration of City Hall.
- The 22nd Avenue bridge renovation.
- Preliminary work for the 26th Avenue underpass renovation and the 29th Avenue bridge replacement.
- Working with Mississippi Power Company to provide treated wastewater for the utility's proposed lignite plant in Kemper County.
- Work on the North Hills Street widening project.

industrial park interchange off Interstates 20-59.

The Utility Billing Division billed more than \$12.4 million in water, sewer and garbage fees during the year. More than 1,200 of the touch-read meters were installed in the ongoing program to replace all old meters. So far, 5,000 of the new meters have been installed, with just over 12,000 still needing to be changed. The division also retrofitted almost 500 meters with transmitters that allow the meter to be read from a distance. This feature is handy for meter readers when meters are behind locked gates, in deep pits or at locations with dangerous dogs or with cars parked over the meters.



# development projects

## Project Stages:



Proposed



In Design



Under Construction



Completed



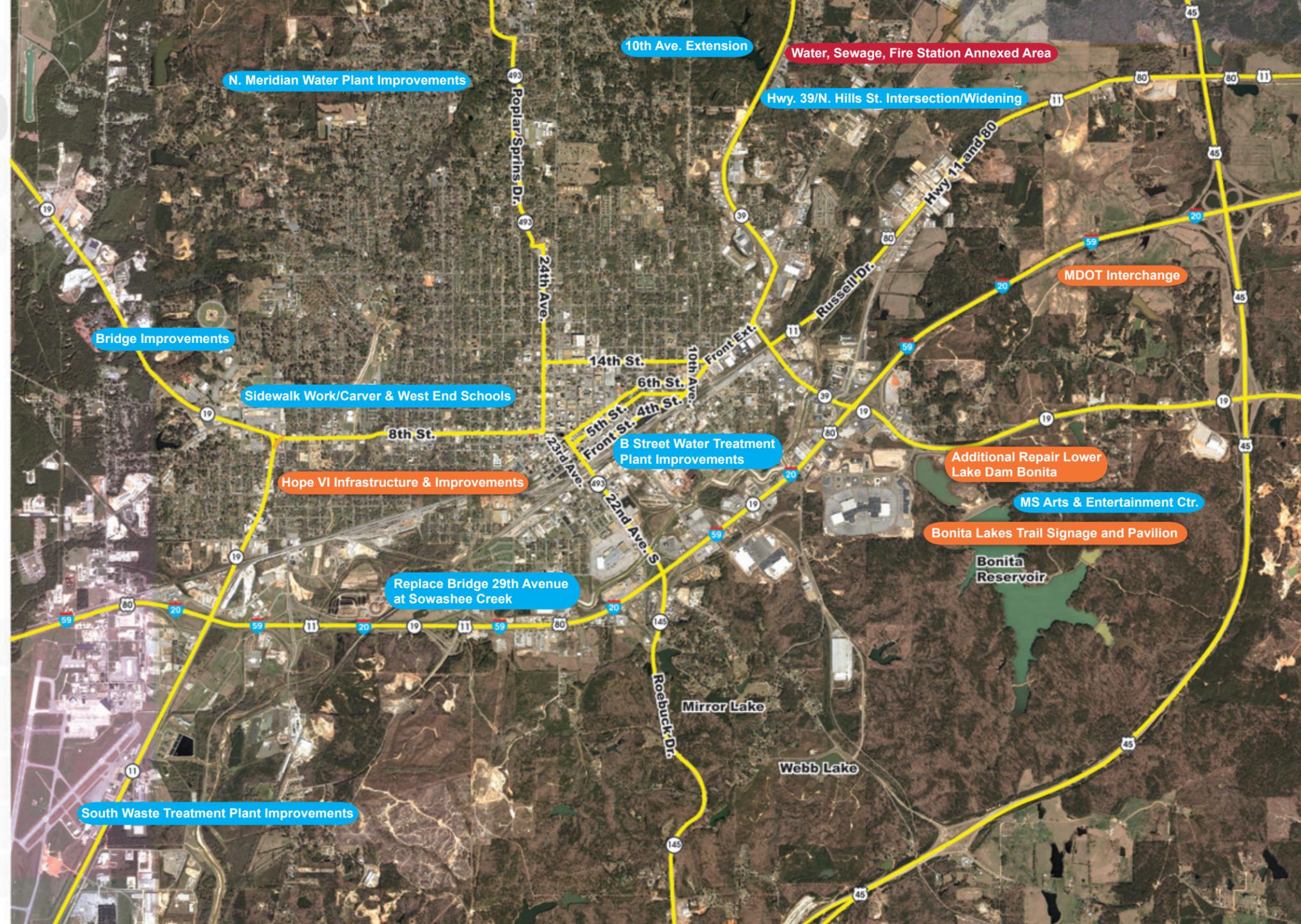
### Proposed Projects

- Water, Sewage, Fire Station/ Annexed Area
- Threefoot Hotel
- City Plaza/ Public Park
- African-American Business District: 5th Street
- Freedom Park (Downtown)
- Medical District Area Improvements Plan (not on map)
- One-Way to Two-Way Street Conversion (not on map)

### In Design

- Highway 39/ North Hills Street Intersection & North Hills Street Widening
- Bridge Improvements
  - 34th Street Gallagher Creek
  - 35th Avenue at Gallagher Creek
  - 40th Street at Gallagher Creek
  - Russell Drive at Sowashee Creek

- Replace Bridge 29th Avenue at Sowashee Creek
- Mississippi Arts & Entertainment Center (Bonita)
- Mississippi Arts Hall of Fame ( Downtown)
- 10th Avenue Extension from Windmill Drive South & East to Highway 39
- B Street Water Treatment Plant/ New Sludge Handling Facility





- Safety Improvements to 26th Avenue Subway
- North Meridian Water Plant/Hardware & Software for New Operating System
- South Waste Treatment Plant/ Improvements to Initial Treatment Process
- New Police Facility (T.B.A.)
- Sidewalk Work/Carver Junior High School/Harris/West End Elementary School

**Projects Under Construction**

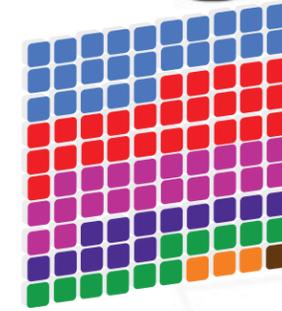
- Monument Park
- MDOT Interchange to New Industrial Park
- 22nd Avenue Bridge Renovation
- Additional Repair to Lower Lake Dam at Bonita
- City Hall Restoration
- Hope VI Street Infrastructure & Improvements at Victory Village
- Bonita Lakes Trail Signage and Pavilion

**Completed Projects**

- Sewer Rehabilitation Analysis (not on map)
- Historic Resources Plaques on Private Buildings Downtown (not on map)

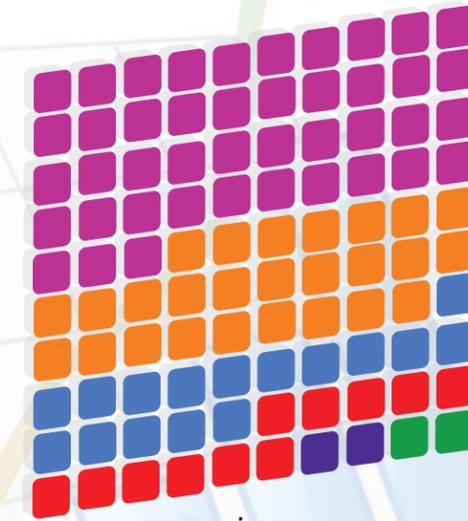


# municipal budget



**2009 Funds From All Sources**

- Sales Tax 25%
- Property Tax 26%
- Water & Sewer 21%
- Cash Carry Forward 13%
- Fines, Fees & Rebates 11%
- Other 3%
- Concessions 1%



**2009 Use Of Funds By Budget Type**

- Payroll 43%
- Supplies 26%
- Debt Service 16%
- Cash Carry Forward 11%
- Capital Outlay 2%
- Transfers & Others 2%

**2010 Municipal Budget** *Year Ending September 30, 2010*

**Revenues**

Licenses & Permits: \$2,910,000  
 Inter-Governmental: \$14,286,000  
 Charge for Services: \$2,590,500  
 Fines & Forfeits: \$1,180,000  
 Miscellaneous: \$480,000  
 Balance End of Prior Year: \$2,600,000  
 Tax Levy Required to Support General Fund: \$9,982,500

Total General Fund Available Cash & Anticipated Revenues: \$34,029,000

Water Fund: \$12,764,000  
 Lakeview Golf Course: \$476,700  
 Concessions: \$39,550  
 Union Station: \$479,800  
 Waste Collection & Disposal: \$2,603,250

Homeland Security: \$569,775  
 Arts District Parking Garage: \$218,450  
 Total enterprise funds: \$17,151,525  
 Debt service: \$4,870,000  
 Total revenues for all city funds: \$56,050,525

**Expenditures**

General Government: \$3,546,000  
 Finance & Records: \$3,233,175  
 Community Development: \$1,776,135  
 Parks & Recreation: \$2,534,140  
 Public Works: \$7,559,460  
 Police Department: \$7,824,908  
 Fire Department: \$6,805,182

Cash Reserve for FY 10 Operations: \$750,000  
 Total General Fund Expenditures: \$34,029,000  
 Water Fund: \$12,764,000  
 Lakeview Golf Course: \$476,700  
 Concessions: \$39,550  
 Union Station: \$479,800

Waste Collection & Disposal: \$2,603,250  
 Homeland Security: \$569,775  
 Arts District Parking Garage: \$218,450  
 Total enterprise funds: \$17,151,525  
 Debt service: \$4,870,000  
 Total revenues for all city funds: \$56,050,525



# administration

## **Temporary City Hall Offices** 2412 7th Street

**Mayor**  
601-485-1927 · 601-485-1911 fax  
www.meridianms.org

**Executive Staff**  
Chief Administrative Officer  
601-485-1929

**Equal Opportunity Officer**  
601-485-1962

**Human Resources Director**  
601-485-1934 · 601-485-2585 fax

**Assistant for Governmental Affairs**  
601-485-1819

**Risk Manager**  
601-485-1887

**City Council**  
Clerk of Council  
601-485-1959 · 601-485-1913

**City Attorney**  
P.O. Box 927  
601-693-6678

**Finance & Records**  
601-485-1946 · 601-485-1979 fax  
Divisions: Administrative, Business Affairs,  
Collection, Finance,  
Information Systems, Utility Collection

**Community Development**  
723 23rd Avenue  
601-485-1910 · 601-484-6813 fax  
Retiree Recruitment: 800-585-3722  
Divisions: Administrative, Cultural Affairs,  
Inspection, Keep Meridian/Lauderdale County  
Beautiful, Planning, Union Station

**Union Station**  
1901 Front Street  
601-484-6841 · 601-484-6849 fax

**Homeland Security**  
1180 Sandflat Road  
601-484-6890 · 601-484-6895 fax

**Fire**  
2500 14th Street  
601-485-1822 · 601-484-6832 fax  
Emergency 911  
Divisions: Administrative, Prevention,  
Suppression, Investigation

**Police**  
2415 6th Street  
601-485-1893 · 601-484-6832 fax  
Divisions: Administration, Animal Control,  
D.A.R.E., Investigation, Patrol, Training

**Parks & Recreation**  
1720 Jimmie Rodgers Drive  
Highland Park  
601-485-1802 · 601-485-1851 fax  
Divisions: Administration, Concessions,  
Lakeview Golf Course, Grounds  
Maintenance, Programs

**Public Works**  
311 27th Avenue  
601-485-1920 · 601-485-1864 fax  
Divisions: Administration, Engineering,  
Freshwater Treatment, Fleet Maintenance,  
Sewer Collection, Solid Waste Contract  
Coordinator, Street Maintenance, Utility  
Billing, Wastewater Treatment, Water  
Distribution Lines, Traffic Control Devices

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## The City of Meridian

2412 7th Street • P.O. Box 1430 • Meridian, MS 39302

601-485-1927 • [www.meridianms.org](http://www.meridianms.org)