Russell Wright
Code Enforcement Manager
City of Meridian

Improving a city starts one property, one neighborhood and one conversation at a time. As code enforcement manager for the City of Meridian, Russell Wright helps lead efforts to keep neighborhoods clean, safe and welcoming for the people who live there. Whether addressing overgrown lots, abandoned vehicles or unsafe structures, he sees the work as more than enforcement. He sees it as community investment.

“When you look at your city, you don’t want it to look bad,” Wright said. “Working in code enforcement allowed me to actually see a difference taking place here.”

Wright has spent nearly 35 years serving the City of Meridian. Over the decades, he has worked in multiple areas within the city, including the street department, line maintenance and utility billing, before moving into code enforcement nearly five years ago.

What began as a job eventually became something much more personal. Through his work in code enforcement, Wright found an opportunity to directly impact the appearance and quality of life of the community he has called home since childhood.

Originally from a military family, Wright moved to Meridian when his father was stationed at Naval Air Station Meridian during his final duty assignment in the Navy. His family fell in love with the area and decided to make Meridian home permanently.

Today, Wright still believes deeply in the city and its future. Part of that future, he says, comes through education and partnership. Rather than simply issuing citations, Wright and his team focus on helping property owners understand how maintaining their property benefits both their neighborhood and the city as a whole.

“We do enforcement through education,” he said.

That philosophy extends into community cleanup efforts as well. Working alongside volunteers and partner organizations, code enforcement helps coordinate cleanup days across Meridian, targeting areas most affected by litter, illegal dumping and neglected properties.

Wright believes those efforts are helping change both the appearance of the city and the mindset of residents.

“When people see you out there doing the work, they want to help, too,” he said.

Outside of work, Wright enjoys woodworking, hiking and spending time with family. One of his favorite hobbies is restoring and repurposing old furniture, turning worn pieces into something useful and meaningful again.

In many ways, that mirrors how he sees Meridian itself. From downtown events and beautification projects to growing community partnerships and investments throughout the city, Wright believes Meridian is experiencing real progress and renewed pride.

“We have always said Meridian has people who care about it,” he said.

Through decades of service and a commitment to helping neighborhoods thrive, Russell Wright continues to play a meaningful role in shaping the city’s future.