

**January 2023 Chamber Newsletter**  
**Happy New Year**

The Meridian Chamber and its businesses bring value to our community, allowing our residents to live and work, eat, shop and play together as family and friends. For one another, the Meridian Chamber is there to support the collective needs of the business community, to enhance workforce, champion favorable state and local policy which support the needs of our local businesses, and provide opportunity for growth and development of employees. There is something for everyone if you get involved.

Since I started working for the City in 2007, I have been actively engaged with the Meridian Chamber of Commerce. Over the last three years as Mayor, I make attending ribbon cuttings and other Chamber events such as the luncheon a priority. This involvement has allowed me to meet many in our business community. Nonetheless, I've been looking for more ways to connect with the business community who may not make it out to events and activities so we worked with Sean to be included in the Chamber newsletter.

Every other month, I look forward to touching base with more of you about the topics related to the City and business-related activity. These updates will cover a wide range of issues pertaining to economic and community development, City policies and my vision for Meridian and the business community. You can expect to hear about our targeted industries, overall growth in the City, workforce development and more.

This fall, the City hired Dan Torres to fill our Economic Development Administrator position. Dan comes to the City of Meridian with over eleven years' experience in economic development in eastern Idaho. He has considerable experience in working with business, site selectors and in communications and community development. Dan will work with the Chamber, community partners and businesses to grow the economic base and vitality of the City, retain existing businesses, attract new businesses, and develop tools and strategies with the City and community partners to serve and attract a varied commercial base and sustainable employment opportunities to the City.

If you or someone you know is interested in being part of our Economic Development team, we are currently advertising the position of Business Liaison. The Business Liaison is newly created and will work with Daniel. The position will interact directly with our city's business community, providing assistance to businesses and facilitate discussions between businesses and the City. You can learn more or apply by clicking [here](#).

As 2023 begins, I see opportunities for Meridian to continue to distinguish itself as a premier community, powered by our business base. The Chamber is a tremendous resource, and the City of Meridian recognizes the importance of effective collaboration between local government and the business community. I am confident that by continuing our strong partnership we can continue to thrive and show Idaho and the Treasure Valley that the energy is in Meridian!

Mayor Robert Simison