

finance and records

For five consecutive years, the Government Finance Officers Association has awarded the city its prestigious Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting—clear evidence of our finance staff's commitment to accountability and the wise use of taxpayer dollars.



In a lean budget year, in which earnings projections were not reached for the first time in many years because of falling interest rates, fiscal accountability was especially important. Our staff ensured that all monies were invested in funds that protected the principal and met the criteria for legal municipal investment.

Using every dollar wisely was also the

focus of a new and ongoing energy savings program coordinated by the Business Affairs Division. Lighting that uses less energy was installed in Public Works buildings, fire stations, the Police Department and Parks and Recreation buildings. At the Wastewater Treatment Plant, new motors cut down on energy consumption, and the project to convert all traffic signals to low-energy lights was completed. The savings from these measures will pay for a portion of the improvements.

Our Business Affairs staff also handled more than 12,000 cases through Municipal Court, processed 8,440 purchase orders and 56 competitive bids and issued almost 2,000 business licenses.



Top: Kittra Hudnall waits on a customer paying his water bill at City Hall. Right: Acting Court Clerk Donna Foreman reviews the court schedule with Municipal Judge Lester Williamson, Jr.

Shirley Lyttle was among the members of 31st Ave. Missionary Baptist Church who donated money for relief efforts. Frank and Linda Besecke contributed medical supplies. Rush Foundation Hospital employees, including Glen Turner and Gladys Chess, prepared meals for local volunteers.



Shirley Lyttle



Oakland Heights Elementary



Frank Besecke



Linda Besecke



Glen Turner and Gladys Chess



Above: Getting the mail ready for delivery is one of the duties of Jo Ann Clark of the Business Affairs Division. Below: Purchasing Supervisor Wallace Heggie goes on-line to keep up with the latest trends in products and services.

Since 2001 was a municipal election year, our Finance and Records staff coordinated the election process and stayed busy handling the sale of two bond issues—a \$500,000 issue for improvements to a proposed new subdivision north of 10th Avenue and a \$1.1 million Tax Increment Financing bond issue for infrastructure to a new commercial development at Meridian Town Center, including Super Wal-Mart, Super Lowes and Office Depot.



Keeping pace with new technology is a constant challenge for our staff in the Information Systems Division. A primary focus in the last year was interfacing existing programs to newer programs, then training city employees in all departments in the use of the new software.

Our Web site is continually being expanded and updated, providing valuable information to both local residents and those interested in visiting or moving into the community. This popular Web site (www.meridianms.org) averages about 25,000 visitors a year.

Linda Riddle was among the BellSouth Pioneers who gave Hug-a-Bears to comfort children in New York. Also focusing on children, Kaisha Fairley joined her classmates in sending money for children in Afghanistan. Recognizing the hard work to be done, Merritt Beard contributed steel-toed work boots. Portia Dooley is a trained volunteer for a local emergency shelter. The Rev. Charlie Jackson and members of First Union Baptist Church donated money for disaster relief.



Witherspoon Elementary



Linda Riddle



Kaisha Fairley



Merritt Beard



Portia Dooley



Rev. Charlie Jackson