

*Willie Griggs and fellow lines maintenance workers have to do some digging to reach a water line.*



# public works department



*Some landscaping work will add grass, shrubs and flowers to complement the new pavilion at Bonita Lakes.*

***Our Freshwater Treatment Plant*** not only provided Meridian residents with nearly 2 billion gallons of safe drinking water, it also got top marks from the Mississippi State Department of Health Capacity Development program for excellence in technical, managerial and financial competence.

***At beautiful Bonita Lakes***, a new, 3,100-foot trail gives hikers and walkers another scenic path. The trail will only be open to vehicles during concerts and other special events to provide an additional entrance and exit. The \$109,000 project was funded with a matching grant from the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks.

***Perched on top*** of the dam with a view of both lakes is Coots' Crossing, the Street Division's second pavilion at Bonita Lakes. Crews were also busy all over

the city, preparing 57 streets for resurfacing, working with Lauderdale County to build a new road to a plant on Grand Avenue and replacing sidewalks around the new downtown apartments on Front Street. Responding to more than 1,300 work orders, our Street Division crews also fixed potholes and utility cuts, removed trees and stumps, maintained rights-of-way and eliminated drainage problems.

***Our employees*** at the Wastewater Treatment Plant treated 2.7 billion gallons of wastewater, aided by the installation of a new belt filter press as part of the energy savings program. Construction began in March on a new East Meridian Wastewater Treatment Plant and the work is proceeding on schedule. The plant will serve Naval Air Station Meridian, the new industrial park and possibly some residential areas in the northeast area.

***With a \$100,000 grant*** from the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, the Sanitation Division has begun a campaign to clean up illegal dumpsites throughout the city. The staff continues to monitor our contract with Waste Management, Inc., which last year hauled more than 12,000 tons of garbage, 10,500 tons of bulky waste and 1,400 tons of compostable materials. By recycling, our residents kept 20 percent of the collected waste out of the landfill.

*Stacy Evans collected money for the Red Cross. John Thomke is a volunteer for the local Red Cross. The Rev. Kevin A. Carter's United Methodist Church, donated medical supplies. Sally Reeves, second grade teacher at West Hills, delivered items donated by her class to the Red Cross. Taylor Williams, a West Hills student, contributed ventilator masks, Band-aids and powder.*



Stacy Evans



Patriotism across  
Meridian



John Thomke



Rev. Kevin A.  
Carter



Sally Reeves



Taylor Williams

# a community that works

**Our residents' drinking** water meets or exceeds all federal and state standards, according to the Consumer Confidence Report mandated by the EPA. The report was compiled by the staff in the Utility Billing Division following testing of 154 different elements in the drinking water supply. The division is in the second year of a program to replace meters so all of them can be read with a "touch and read" system that gives more accurate readings, eliminates human error and saves valuable time on routes.



*Employees at the Freshwater Treatment Plant check the chlorine tanks vital to the process of providing residents with safe drinking water.*

**More than 5,000 feet** of water line and 4,000 feet of sewer line were installed during the year by the Lines Maintenance Division. Our crews also repaired 1,500 water leaks, added more than 100 water and sewer taps, replaced and repaired fire hydrants, installed one new lift station and did repair work on a number of others. This division is also responsible for certifying the backflow preventers required by certain industries.

**Mechanics at the** Municipal Garage made thousands of repairs in fulfilling their mission of maintaining 305 pieces of rolling stock, 415 pieces of other equipment and the buses operated by the Meridian Transit System. The "Fuelman" card gas system instituted the previous year has reduced fuel costs and saves time because drivers can get gasoline at any Fuelman location inside the city and on business trips outside the city.

**Coordinating the wide** variety of tasks performed by all its divisions, Public Works Administration issued more than 3,400 work orders for jobs completed during the year.

*Hundreds of school children, including Pearson Kelly from Poplar Springs and Eddie Pickett from Oakland Heights donated money. C. A. and Frances Page contributed welder and work gloves as well as money.*



Pearson Kelly



Eddie Pickett



Veterans Day Parade



C. A. Page



Frances C. Page