



Finance & Records

Our city's Web site (www.meridianms.org) is more popular and informative than ever, with more than 35,000 users a year logging on to check out the community. This past year, they were treated to a completely redesigned Web site, expanded Web pages for several departments and a delightful visual tour of Meridian, featuring a family taking in the sights.

The Information Systems staff completed the set-up and installation of laptops for department heads and members of the Meridian City Council, processed about 520 user requests for new programs or modifications and merged old data into files for new programs in the Police and Fire departments. The programmers also converted federal tax forms, privilege license applications and checks to new forms to fit the folding and sealing machine.

The Business Affairs Division staff plans to take full advantage of the Web site. The staff is working with programmers to add a purchasing section that will list all requests for bids, proposals and qualifications and experience requests. The section will also include vendor application forms and bid results.

During the year, our staff issued 1,960 business licenses, including 235 for new businesses in the city. More than 8,000 purchase orders were processed, and 40 competitive bids procedures were completed. As part of this function, our employees also establish and administer



purchasing policies, analyze purchasing performance, consolidate purchases of like items and analyze prices paid for materials, equipment and services.

The Business Affairs staff also manages records for municipal court, receives from the county and reconciles ad valorem taxes and regulates Meridian's taxicab industry.

For the sixth consecutive year, our Finance Division has been awarded the prestigious Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association. This designation reflects our staff's commitment to maximizing the city's revenue through careful analysis, planning and adherence to budget requirements.

The Finance Division also coordinated the borrowing of \$3.1 million through a special obligation bond from the Mississippi Development Bank. Of that, \$1.5 million was earmarked for the NAS Meridian sewer project and \$1.6 million was set aside for the extension of water and sewer service to the new industrial park.

Opposite page: Barbara Medellin, Helen Follis and Sherry Gunn are among the department's employees who provide a wide range of services to the people of Meridian.

