



Postscript

“Faith Riding Hope”

A group of elected officials and community leaders from another Mississippi city recently spent a day in Meridian meeting with our community leaders. Why? Because they view Meridian as a model of a progressive city and one they want to emulate.

In the day-to-day challenge to provide services and promote development, we often don't see our assets and strengths as clearly as those outsiders did. Our vision can be clouded by setbacks, delays, frustrations, failures and negativism. Our visitors faced no such constraints. They could, for example, marvel at the extraordinary Grand Opera House and see the plans for development of the Riley Education and Performing Arts Center without any knowledge of the hundreds of people and the many, many years of restoration hopes and struggles that finally resulted in solid plans and required funding.

Perhaps the value of an annual report is not only to chronicle the projects and programs of the past year but also to focus on the assets that make the community unique and that, when properly and carefully nurtured, provide tremendous leverage for development.

This community has many jewels—from the Dentzel Carousel to Bonita Lakes, from historic downtown buildings to strong medical and retail communities. Each has intrinsic value. Each is being polished to ensure maximum value. And together, they are the gems in the crown of the Queen City.

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