



CITY OF MERIDIAN

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CHRISTMAS IN MERIDIAN INCLUDES NEW SURPRISES AND KICKS OFF NEXT WEEK

MERIDIAN – The City of Meridian’s annual Christmas in Meridian begins next week with numerous family events planned throughout the month. One new addition this year is the showing of *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, prior to the Winter Lights Parade on Friday, Dec. 2 at 5:30 pm, 6pm and once more immediately following the tree lighting. Here are some more highlights:

Santa’s Mailbox (Nov. 23 – Dec. 18)

Drop off a letter to Santa at Santa’s Mailbox, set up outside Meridian City Hall. Every letter delivered to the mailbox by December 18 will receive a personalized response.

Downtown Business Decorating Contest (Dec. 2 - Dec. 24)

Meridian's downtown businesses compete for best indoor display, best outside lights and the People’s Choice awards in the annual Meridian Downtown Business Decorating Contest. Christmas revelers can visit each business at their convenience and vote for your favorite. Maps listing the business locations will be available during the tree lighting. Downloadable maps can be found at www.meridiancity.org/christmas. The People’s Choice winner will be announced Christmas Eve.

City of Meridian Christmas Bazaar (Thursday, Dec. 1, 9am – 3pm)

The public is invited to Meridian City Hall to peruse the handiwork of local crafters. Approximately 30 artisans participate in this exclusive event featuring only hand-crafted arts.

Winter Lights Fun Run (Friday, Dec. 2, 6:15pm)

Start a new holiday tradition that is both fun and fit. The Winter Lights Fun Run, produced by The Pulse Running and Fitness, will lead the parade and run the route ending at Generations Plaza. The distance is a 1/2 mile so even the youngest ones can participate. Registration fees are just \$5 and the deadline for online sign up is Wednesday, Nov. 30.

Winter Lights Parade and Tree Lighting (Friday, Dec. 2, 6:30pm – 8pm – *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* begins at 5:30 pm, 6pm and immediately following the tree lighting.)

Join KTVB’s Morgan Boydston for a magical evening presented by Borton Lakey Law & Policy. The parade route is down Main Street, from Storey Park to Pine Avenue, however Santa will conclude at Main and Idaho Avenue. Look for Buddy the Elf and his friend, Jovie. They will be at the event to help Santa light the Meridian Christmas Tree and set off fireworks to celebrate



the season.

There will be warming stations with hot cocoa throughout the parade route. Watch for *Grand Marshals Marty Hill and Dixie Cook* in a horse-drawn carriage. Marty and Dixie donated the property in South Meridian, dubbed “The Hill”, that includes Hillsdale Elementary and will soon be the site of a Treasure Valley Family YMCA, a 10 acre park City of Meridian Park, and a St. Luke’s Healthy Living Center.

Be sure to arrive at the parade in time to view *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*. It will play outside at the corner of Idaho and Main Street (5:30pm, 6pm and immediately following the parade). Stick around after the tree lighting for free horse-drawn carriage rides.

Also new this year – one local 5th grader who was nominated by school officials will be chosen to “flip the switch” and light the Christmas Tree.

Children’s Winterland Festival (Saturday, Dec. 3, 10am – 3pm)

Bring your kids to the Children’s Winterland Festival at the Meridian Boys and Girls Club on Meridian Road for pictures with Santa, cookie decorating, and Christmas crafts. New this year, the Boise Camera Club will offer free family portraits. The entry fee is food or a cash donation benefiting the Meridian Food Bank. For a list of suggested holiday food donation needs, visit www.meridianfoodbank.org/

The 2016 sponsors include Borton Lakey Law & Policy, Mountain America Credit Union, All American Insurance, Idaho Independent Bank, Les Schwab and Idaho Properties. Check out the full Christmas in Meridian schedule at www.meridiantcity.org/christmas.

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The City of Meridian is located in the center of the Treasure Valley in southwest Idaho. Founded in 1893 and incorporated as a city in 1903, Meridian is now one of Idaho's largest and fastest growing communities. Meridian is cited by Money Magazine as one of its Top 50 Best Places to Live, and by America's Promise Alliance and ING as one of the nation's 100 Best Communities for Young People. For more information, visit www.meridiantcity.org.