



CITY OF MERIDIAN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 9, 2015

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MERIDIAN TO CELEBRATE *GENE KLEINER DAY* ON JUNE 13

Meridian, ID – The City of Meridian will celebrate Gene Kleiner Day on Saturday, June 13, 2015, at Julius M. Kleiner Memorial Park. Gene Kleiner Day is celebrated annually in the City of Meridian on the second Saturday in June, as a way to honor the generosity of Gene Kleiner. Gene donated the 60-acre, \$25 million Julius M. Kleiner Memorial Park to the City of Meridian and its residents. He made the donation in honor of his late father Julius who once farmed the land on which the park now sits. Gene Kleiner, along with several of his family members, is expected to be present at the event.

This year's expanded Gene Kleiner Day Celebration will kick off at 5:00 pm with free inflatables, face painting, and a balloon artist near the bandshell. At 6:00 pm, a new bronze statue of Ben Kleiner, the grandson of the park's benefactor Gene Kleiner, will be unveiled near the playground. At 6:30 pm, members of the Treasure Valley Children's Theater will perform their play *Superhero Social Skills* at the base of the bandshell stairs. The event's signature activity will be a free concert in the Kleiner Park Bandshell by the Meridian Symphony Orchestra beginning at 7:00 pm. The concert, which will last for approximately one hour, will include several popular pieces sure to be enjoyed by audience members of all ages.

The Kleiner Park Trust will treat attendees to ice cream from Whole Food (while supplies last). The park's concession stand will also be open for business during Gene Kleiner Day festivities. Attendees can bring folding chairs or lawn blankets for seating options during the performances at the bandshell.

Meridian Mayor Tammy de Weerd explains, "It's important that we continue to celebrate the philanthropy demonstrated by Gene Kleiner; he inspires us all by his generosity. His incredible donation has created a lasting legacy each of us can enjoy and challenges us to pay it forward in countless new acts of service, either large or small, across the community and beyond."

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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.meridiancity.org.