



NEWS RELEASE

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Meridian Works With Teenagers and Parents to Keep Children Safe

Meridian, ID - (April 22, 2013) – Traffic accidents are the leading cause of death for Idaho teenagers. The Meridian Mayor's Youth Advisory Council and the City of Meridian are both hosting events on April 25th aimed at reducing the number of car crashes involving teenagers.

The Mayor's Youth Advisory Council (MYAC) has invited 200 high school students to Wahooz Family Fun Zone for the second annual Treasure Valley Youth Summit. The all-day event is designed to put students in real-life situations so they can understand the risks associated with some behaviors. The teenagers will learn about texting while driving and other distractions to avoid on the road, as well as bullying and dangers drugs and alcohol can have on decision making.

"The youth are so important to Meridian's future," said Mayor Tammy de Weerd. "We are honored to host the Treasure Valley Youth Summit so we can help identify issues teenagers are facing and work together with them to find solutions to those problems. I am very proud of all the work the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council has done this year. The students are not only concerned about making an impact in their community but with their peers across the Treasure Valley."

Student leaders from Meridian, Boise, Kuna, Eagle, Nampa, Caldwell and Mountain Home have been invited to the Youth Summit.

On Thursday night at 6:30 p.m., a Town Hall meeting will be held at Meridian City Hall to discuss how the community can reduce the number of teenagers killed in car crashes. The Town Hall will feature a panel of four Treasure Valley families who have each recently lost a child in a car crash. Some members of the panel had children in the deadly crash on Curtis Road in March of 2012, others lost children in the crash out near Table Rock in September.

In addition to the parents sharing their stories and lessons learned through their tragedies, the Meridian Police Department will be on hand to register individuals for its Alive at 25 classes. This popular safety training class is for drivers age 15 to 24 – the age group at the greatest risk on the road.

According to Meridian Chief of Police Jeff Lavey, "With summer coming up this is a great reminder for parents and youth alike on the importance of being responsible

behind the wheel. We hope that through educating younger drivers and their parents everyone will think twice before they take a chance behind the wheel that could change their life forever.”

Everyone is welcome to attend the Town Hall. For more information on the Town Hall please visit www.meridiancity.org.

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The City of Meridian is located at the center of the Treasure Valley in southwest Idaho, minutes from the State Capitol. Founded in 1893 and incorporated as a city in 1903, Meridian is now one of Idaho's largest and fastest growing communities. As the home to many young families, Meridian is a vibrant community whose mission is to be a premier city to live, work and raise a family. Family Circle Magazine has selected Meridian as one of their Top 10 Best Cities for Families, Money Magazine's named it one of the 100 Best Places to Live, and America's Promise Alliance and ING have named Meridian one of the nation's 100 Best Communities for Young People five times. For more information about Meridian, visit www.meridiancity.org.