

WELCOME TO **MERRIAM** *Kansas*



BUSINESS WELCOME GUIDE
TOURISM & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



THANK YOU

FOR CHOOSING TO DO BUSINESS IN MERRIAM!

Welcome to Merriam, Kansas — we're excited that you're here. You're joining a healthy business community of 530+ companies employing nearly 11,000 people from across the Kansas City metropolitan region. From small local merchants to award-winning healthcare facilities, corporate headquarters, and everything in between, Merriam is Just Right for you and your business!

This guide includes helpful information about our community and supportive resources to assist you as a Merriam business owner. If you have any questions, please reach out — we're here to help your business succeed!

- Economic Development Team

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COMMUNITY PROFILE

Merriam is proud of our diverse economy of more than 530 businesses, award-winning healthcare facilities, top-ranked schools, outstanding parks and trails, plus convenience and accessibility to major interstates and the airport. One of the most favorable cities in the Kansas City metro region, Merriam is a welcoming, inclusive, and tight-knit city that is small in size, but big at heart!

Our community appreciates the City's approach to services. In fact, the most recent community survey, conducted in 2021 by the ETC Institute, indicates that 88% of respondents are very satisfied/satisfied with the overall quality of City services. Additionally, 73% of respondents felt they received value for their tax dollars and fees, 87% feel satisfied with the quality of local police and fire protection, and 93% felt they were dealt with in a courteous and polite manner by City employees.

Merriam is no stranger to award-winning achievements and accolades! We're proud of our community and we want you to be proud to be a part of it. Some of our past trophies include *"Best City to Start a Business," "Top Tourist-friendly City,"* and *"Best Place to Retire in Kansas!"*



Merriam-based Seaboard, a global agriculture and transportation company, was the only Kansas City business on the 2023 Fortune 500 list.

MERRIAM BY THE NUMBERS

Size:

4.3 square miles

Population:

10,996 (2020 U.S. Census)

Median Age:

37

Median Household Income:

\$64,703

Median Home Value:

\$196,100

Number of Businesses:

530+

Number of Employees:

11,000

BUSINESS CHECKLIST



Planning to join the Merriam business community? Start here...

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT | 913-322-5520 | merriam.org/business

- ▶ An occupational license is required if your business is located in Merriam or you're doing business within City limits.
- ▶ Before signing a lease or purchasing a building, call to confirm that your business is compatible with building and zoning codes for your proposed location.
- ▶ New or modified commercial signage requires a Merriam signage permit.
- ▶ Building permits are required for new construction, parking lot installation/modification, building repair or modification (electrical, mechanical or plumbing), roof repair/installation, and/or changing the occupancy or intensity of your building space. **Contact Community Development before starting your project.**
- ▶ Learn more and complete forms online at merriam.org/business.

POLICE DEPARTMENT | 913-322-5560 | merriam.org/police

- ▶ Set up a consultation to review crime prevention techniques to help improve the safety of your business. Contact Officer David Vincent at dvincent@merriam.org.
- ▶ Register your business alarm so police and fire can provide service to you during an emergency. There is no fee to register your alarm. Contact Officer Gerry Eickhoff at geickhoff@merriam.org.
- ▶ The Community Video Partnership Program invites residents and businesses to work with police to create a list of active security cameras across the City. Contact Crime Analyst Seth Potts at spotts@merriam.org.

FIRE DEPARTMENT | 913-888-6066 non-emergency | merriam.org/fire

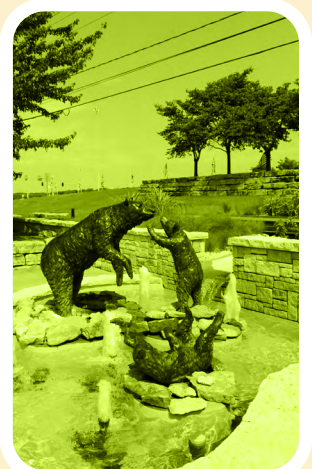
Businesses are inspected upon coming to Merriam and annually thereafter to make sure they are in compliance with life-safety issues. Contact Inspector Suzanne Coleman at suzanne.coleman@opkansas.org.

COMMUNICATIONS | 913-322-5507 | Jenna Gant | jgant@merriam.org

- ▶ Find recent news articles and sign up for Merriam's weekly e-newsletter at merriam.org/emmerriam.
- ▶ Look for our award-winning Merriam Highlights magazine! Published three times per year, it will come straight to your mailbox.
- ▶ Follow Merriam on social media! **We're on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, Youtube, and Nextdoor!**

TOURISM & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT | 913-322-5534 | Karen Crane | kcrane@merriam.org

- ▶ Attend the annual Business Appreciation event in June!
- ▶ Submit a special offer/coupon at exploremerriam.com/specialoffers to help promote your business to Merriam residents and visitors.
- ▶ Sign up to receive the Business & Development Digest, a quarterly e-newsletter featuring events, news, business spotlights, project updates, commercial real estate listings, and more at merriam.org/ecodevo. **More information on page 5.** →



BUSINESS & DEVELOPMENT *Digest*



LOCAL PROJECTS

EVENTS & RESOURCES



BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

COMMERCIAL LISTINGS



MERRIAM NEWS

HELPFUL LINKS



SCAN TO
Subscribe!

MERRIAM HIGHLIGHTS & ACCOLADES



**ALEX PATEL, OWNER
QUALITY INN**

“As a business owner in Merriam, I cannot speak highly enough of the city’s exceptional support and commitment to fostering entrepreneurial growth. From securing a grant to navigating business opportunities, Merriam’s dedicated staff has consistently provided invaluable assistance. Additionally, their focus on ensuring police safety has not only created a conducive environment for business but also instilled a sense of security within the community, making Merriam an ideal place to thrive professionally.”

2023 PROJECTS & INVESTMENTS

There were **23 building permits** totaling more than **\$115 million** in investments from projects in the Merriam Community.



Merriam welcomed **44 new businesses**, creating job opportunities for **243 individuals!**

MINORITY-OWNED MANUFACTURING FIRM OF THE YEAR AWARD DEBRA ROARK, SPIRIT LIFE APPAREL

The Kansas Department of Commerce Office of Minority and Women Business Development awarded Debra Roark, owner of Spirit Life Apparel & Screen Printing in Merriam, with the Kansas Minority-Owned Manufacturing Firm of the Year Award in 2022.



Scan the code to view Debra Roark’s debut on our video series, “People of Merriam.”

ANNUAL EVENTS

MCC = Merriam Community Center // MMP = Merriam Marketplace // Learn more at: merriam.org/events



ART GALLERY EXHIBITS

Year-Round | MCC

The Tim Murphy Art Gallery opened in 1996. Our gallery space features monthly exhibits by local and regional artists. All exhibits are free to the public and many artists will have originals and prints for sale. View the schedule at merriam.org/TMAG.



FARMERS' MARKET

**Saturdays | May - September
7 a.m.-1 p.m. | MMP**

Support local growers, bakers, and makers by shopping at the Merriam Farmers' Market! Enjoy fresh fruits, vegetables, and baked goods, and discover homemade products.



TURKEY CREEK FESTIVAL

**Third Saturday in May
10 a.m.-4 p.m. | Antioch Park**

Start your day with the Turkey Creek 5K run/walk in downtown Merriam before heading over to the festival. At the festival, you can enjoy kids' activities, carnival style treats, artisanal crafts, live music, and numerous other attractions.



TURKEY CREEK CAR & MOTORCYCLE SHOW

**Second Saturday in September
10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. | MMP**

This annual event, held rain or shine, draws thousands of spectators as well as over 250 classic cars, hot rods, street rods, antique cars, trucks, and custom motorcycles.



MERRIAM DRIVE LIVE

**First Saturday in October
2-8 p.m. | MMP**

Enjoy the sounds of classic rock music by local tribute bands whose music they play influenced generations of musicians.

We turn downtown Merriam into a party full of food trucks, adult beverages, face painting, balloon artists, and live music on two stages.

SAVE THE DATE!

BUSINESS APPRECIATION HAPPY HOUR

June 20 | 4-6 p.m. | MCC

Network with other area businesses and learn about the 2024 Merriam business survey results conducted by the ETC Institute.

CITY DEPARTMENTS

Administration	913-322-5500
Community Development	913-322-5520
Finance	913-322-5504
Fire	913-888-6066
Municipal Court	913-322-5540
Parks & Recreation	913-322-5550
Police	913-322-5560
Public Works	913-322-5570

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The City of Merriam Tourism & Economic Development team champions a thriving and prosperous business environment within our community. Committed to fostering sustainable growth, we're dedicated to creating a dynamic economic landscape that benefits businesses, residents, and the entire community. Our focus is on attracting, retaining, and supporting businesses that contribute to Merriam's overall prosperity. Through strategic initiatives and partnerships, we aim to foster innovation, job creation, and long-term economic success.



Tourism & Economic Development Manager

 913-322-5534  kcrane@merriam.org  merriam.org/business

PARTNER RESOURCES



Better Business Bureau
of Kansas City

bbb.org



Johnson County Economic
Research Institute

cerionline.org



Downtown Merriam
Partnership

bit.ly/494cga8



Kansas Department
of Commerce

kansascommerce.gov



Northeast Johnson County Chamber of
Commerce

nejcchamber.com



Small Business
Development Center

jcccsbdc.com



SCORE Kansas City Chapter

score.org/kansascity



KC SourceLink

kcsourcelink.com



Workforce Partnership

workforcepartnership.com

REPORT A PROBLEM

Businesses and residents can report problems online through our website, merriam.org. Take a picture, describe your concern & submit a service request.

Issues can range from:

- ▶ Potholes
- ▶ Illegal dumping
- ▶ Tree problem
- ▶ Traffic sign/light problem
- ▶ Graffiti, trash, junk, and debris
- ▶ Abandoned shopping cart
- ▶ Homeless encampment
- ▶ Sidewalk problem
- ▶ Open and vacant property
- ▶ Inoperable vehicle on private property

Scan Me!



Report an issue online,
and it will be sent to
the corresponding
department.



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merriam.org/business

