



2010 STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS

Good afternoon, and welcome to a new decade. This is the ninth opportunity I've had the privilege to stand before you and do one of my favorite things: talk about Nampa. I want to thank the Chamber for providing this forum.

It seems nearly impossible that a year has flown by since the last State of the City Address. A lot has happened in those 12 months. We've wrestled with budget figures and service levels in a down economy; we've completed major infrastructure improvements; we helped record numbers of people during the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons with food and gifts, and we held an election in which the people of the City of Nampa expressed confidence in the direction the city is moving.

Speaking for City Council Members **Pam White** and **Martin Thorne**, and for myself, we are grateful you have retained us to serve, and are humbled by the responsibility you have given us. Would all the Council members please stand and be acknowledged.... **Curtis Homer, Stephen Kren, Martin Thorne, and Pam White**. Thank you for your dedication and hard work.....The accomplishments we will review today couldn't have been possible without your support.

Our City **Department Heads** and all city employees deserve tremendous thanks from all of us. These are the people who get the job done. Would all city employees please stand.

Recognize Commissions and Boards

The Nampa Mayor's Teen Council has been actively making a difference in our community. One of the most rewarding activities they have been involved in this year was adopting a family for Christmas. They bought and wrapped a boat-load of presents for the whole family, and in partnership with Sam D'Orazio and Centennial Job Corps threw a party for them. We have a good representation of Teen Council members here today. Every year we take a delegation of youth to the National League of Cities conference in Washington D.C. where they participate in leadership building activities, forums, and lobbying activities on Capitol Hill. This is made possible by generous grants and donations from: J-U-B Engineering, Paragon Consulting, Project Engineering Consultants, TransCivil, H.W. Lochner , Allied

Waste, Inc., RBCI-Rosemary Curtin, and Amalgamated Sugar.
Thanks to all of you for investing in our youth.

Teen Council members and any representatives of these gracious donors, please stand.

The partnerships between Treasure Valley cities, counties, and state government continue to be strong. (*ACKNOWLEDGE ANY MAYORS, County Commissioners, CONGRESSMEN, JUDGES, ETC.*)

And Garret – this year you finally took me fishing and taught me how to catch a steelhead! Thank you!

As you might expect, the report on last year's activities and our plans for the future have been greatly influenced by the state of the economy. In our attempts to understand what's going on in the economy to help us plan for tomorrow, we have all studied many economists predictions, been to seminars, read many articles. Some help, most don't - I'm reminded of a comment former Federal Reserve chairman Alan Greenspan made to the Economic Club of New York:

"I guess I should warn you, if I turn out to be particularly clear, you've probably misunderstood what I've said."

With that in mind, I am not going to attempt an in-depth analysis of the economy. Rather, our time will be spent looking at what we have accomplished and can do in the future. Our goals must be **ATTAINABLE**, and **SUSTAINABLE** for the long term.

I am here to tell you the state of the City of Nampa is sound and solid. Last year I introduced you to our new finance director, Vikki Chandler. I am happy to report she has made it through her first year with the city, and is still here. Her counsel in these challenging economic times has been vital.

This year the City Council has made some of the most difficult decisions they've had to make; belt tightening in every department, and the decision to lay off city employees in the face of revenue shortfalls. We made cuts in operational budgets, postponed purchases, delayed capital projects, eliminated positions, and have delayed hiring new employees. Key in those decisions was the need to ensure any adjustments made were **sustainable** for the long term.

There are some who are filled with dismay when they think of the economy, thinking we might as well just call it quits and go fish. Reminds me of some folks riding in a four engine airplane I heard about. Without warning, three of the engines quit. Immediately the

cockpit door opened and the pilot appeared with a parachute on his back. He said, "Keep calm folks, and don't panic. I'm going for help."

Well, this pilot is not bailing out.

Many of you know I am an incurable optimist, which can tend to bug some people, especially pessimists. That's only fair: pessimists bug me, too. Just one more story.

An avid hunter needed a new bird dog, and after searching high and low found one breeder with a dog he claimed could actually walk on water. He bought the dog, and trying to impress his pessimistic friend, he took him hunting with the new dog. Sure enough, the first duck shot - that dog took off like a shot; running over the water and retrieved the duck, only getting his paws wet. This went on all day, with the friend watching but never saying a word. As they were packing up to go home, he finally asked his friend if he noticed anything unusual about his new dog. "I sure did - he can't swim."

We live in a land of abundance – even with a down economy, abundance is all around us. We have an abundance of freedom, friends, and fun things to do; we have abundant love and goodwill in our community. Bronco Nation had an abundance of things to cheer about! And even the Vandals had a good year. There is also an abundance of news that is negative and so well documented by media outlets I don't need to address it. If you came today expecting to hear a dissertation on how bad things are, you will be disappointed. I want to focus on the abundance of opportunity.

In the opinion of economists brave enough to make predictions, we may well be looking at the bottom of the recession, but we're not looking at recovery -- yet. Recovery, true recovery, begins when we start to see job creation rather than job losses.

We continue to work hard to bring jobs to our community and improve Nampa's reputation as a business friendly community.

We have made improvements in our building permitting process, and have updated our Impact Fee, Capital Improvement Plan and are working on the implementation of a Point of Sale collection option of impact fees for builders.

We are all looking for **good news**. I have some for you. Included in the slide show you've been watching are pictures of new businesses that have opened in Nampa in the past year. **More than 40**

businesses either opened or expanded here in Nampa. Many of you are chamber members. Thank you for investing in Nampa!

Also on that front, we received more **good news** from last week's Micron announcement. We are excited about their partnership with **Origin Energy** of Australia, bringing the renewable energy industry to Treasure Valley. We are optimistic this partnership will bring new life to Micron's assets here in Nampa. **Thank you Micron, and thank you Cliff Long and the Nampa Economic Development team!**

The Nampa Airport continues to be a source of sustainable **good news**. According to a statewide study of the economic impact of airports in Idaho, our airport supports 342 private sector jobs, and adds more than \$43 million to our local economy. On February 3rd, we will be activating an Automatic Weather Observing System – AWOS – which will greatly enhance our ability to attract corporate aviation business. For those pilots in the crowd interested in such things, the radio frequency will be 118.325 and the phone number is 318-0040.

We have also taken advantage of numerous grant opportunities to strengthen the city budget, totaling more than **7.2 million dollars**. Over **two** million dollars of that are in one-time "**Recovery Act**" dollars. We received over \$900,000 in **Energy Efficiency** grants we will be using to make long term **sustainable** improvements that will save taxpayers thousands and thousands of dollars in energy costs.

Speaking of saving taxpayers money, let's talk about FEMA, and some more **good news**.

The value of the relationship that exists between the City of Caldwell and the City of Nampa can clearly be seen in our recent conflict with **FEMA**. In partnership with the City of Caldwell, we challenged the new flood plain maps they wanted to impose on us, and won significant concessions, saving **over 1,000** of our citizens from having to pay flood insurance to FEMA *for floods that would never occur*.

Mayor Garret – thank you for your leadership and partnership in this struggle. And special thanks to Michael Fuss, public works director, and Leonard Grady, city engineer, for your dedication to make this happen.

We are also working together on **EPA issues**, both in the air and water regulations. We are building a statewide coalition to find a way for Idaho to take on the primacy role in waste-water discharge permitting, potentially saving cities like Nampa and Caldwell literally

millions of dollars in phosphorus removal costs. If you want more information on this, talk to me later.

Several years ago the city council reaffirmed that **safety and security** of the city was the primary task of city government. The result of that commitment has been the highest fire insurance rating in the state, thanks to our **Fire Department**, and a steadily decreasing crime rate within our community, thanks to our **Police Department**. That trend continued this year, with preliminary numbers showing a **14% decrease** in total crimes. I am also happy to announce we have now gone more than **two years** without a murder in the City of Nampa! Here's some more good news. Just last week, after an eight month investigation, the **Metro Violent Crimes Task Force** arrested 9 gang leaders and are looking for two more. Six of these will be prosecuted under Federal indictment by the **Special Assistant to the U. S. Attorney**, funded by the **Treasure Valley Partnership** and the state. We anticipate these people will be convicted and sent away for lengthy stays in federal prisons.

On the prevention side of our department, the Police Activity League is serving over 1,300 kids in its programs which include football, boxing, an equestrian club, the reading challenge club, outdoor adventure club, and the girls running club. PAL just keeps getting bigger and better. This December many of our cops spent a morning at Burlington Coat Factory in the **Coats for Kids** program.

We have taken advantage of the extremely competitive bidding climate to complete some major infrastructure improvements. Most notably, we completed the construction of a three million gallon water reservoir on the south side of town. We also completed upgrading the main water lines serving downtown Nampa. Both of these ensure adequate pressure and fire flow for critical areas of the city for years to come.

Many of you may have noticed a change in the way we do chip sealing for our road maintenance program, resulting in a much smoother surface, as well as much less loose gravel flying around to chip people's windshields. As a result, we had ZERO complaints or insurance claims this year. That's a first. And this is interesting; the new chip recycler we bought this year saved us over \$37,000, almost paying for its cost in the first year of use. For their leadership in this and other areas, the Street Department received the city's 2009 "Above and Beyond" award for excellent performance.

While we're on the subject of roads, let me share some information on intersections. As traffic levels increase, intersections controlled by

four-way stop signs become highly inefficient. There are basically two choices to improve them; traditional traffic signals, and round-a-bouts.

Our first **round-a-bout** at Amity and Happy Valley Road has been a tremendous success since its opening 3 1/2 years ago. Based on that success, we have evaluated several other intersections around town and are moving ahead with plans for a second round-a-bout at Happy Valley and Greenhurst. There are other intersections that are under consideration for round-a-bouts, and we will be reaching out to the public in coming weeks for your input.

This year we opened Nampa's first **Dog Park**. It has been a **howling success** for our parks department, being used and loved by many people, and dogs, every day. This park was made possible by a great deal of donated labor and materials and fund raising efforts by dog lovers in Nampa. **Thank you** to all who helped make this happen, and remember – **pick up the poop!** And for you cat lovers expecting equal treatment; don't hold your breath for a **Nampa Cat House**.

We continue to see improvements in **educational opportunities** in Nampa at every level. We have a great relationship with the Nampa and Valivue School Districts, and work together on many issues. NNU is a great community partner, this year providing great interns who have made a difference in many city departments. And the College of Western Idaho – CWI – continues to expand to serve Treasure Valley. After opening last January with around 1500 students, CWI will have more than 4,500 students taking classes this next semester. Phenomenal growth! Phenomenal service.

We are in the early stages of the **Nampa Comprehensive Plan** update, and want to hear from you. This is the guide we use for helping make decisions on how our city will grow in the next 25 years, and involves all aspects of city services. There was a town hall meeting last night, and there is another one tomorrow night at the Civic Center at 7:00, where you will have the opportunity to give input to our city planning department.

Local candidate elections in America are great indicators of a community's opinions. They give elected officials a good benchmark for their decisions. In this year's election, the subject of Nampa's **Downtown Revitalization Plan** was front and center. The Nampa **Urban Renewal District** is the funding tool for the plan. What did we learn from this discussion? The candidates who supported the Urban Renewal Plan received overwhelming voter support.

The entire plan came out of extensive meetings with community members in 2003 and 2004. From this process, the Downtown Redevelopment Blueprint was created, which was reviewed in public hearings and adopted by the City Council. A citizen board, the Central Nampa Development Commission, was created, and other input has come from the Nampa Public Library Board of Trustees. Hundreds of public meetings and hearings have taken the project this far, and more will come.

The City of Nampa has taken several progressive steps to plan and implement a major downtown revitalization program. Beginning with heavy community involvement in 2004, the basic framework for the vision of a new downtown was created with the completion of the Central Nampa Revitalization Blueprint. This document still serves as the primary guiding document for downtown revitalization.

Let me remind you of that plan and the progress we've made.

Three main action items resulted from this visioning process:

- Construct a new public safety building to allow for needed capacity and open up the current site for private development.
- Construct a new library that will meet the needs of a growing City and create a catalyst for downtown development.
- Facilitate the creation of new professional office, residential, and retail opportunities in downtown Nampa.

Since the introduction of this vision, we have completed purchase and preliminary preparation of the old Desert Inn block for the Public Safety Building. We have also purchased land in the downtown area for additional parking lots, the new library, and secured land for a permanent location for our vibrant Farmers Market. We're excited about the potential of the old Lloyd Lumber storage property. Here is a sketch of what this will become.

To date, the NDC and the City of Nampa have invested more than **\$8 million** in downtown since 2006. We are committed to downtown, and because of that demonstrated commitment, private sector developers remain highly interested in investing in Nampa. On the screen is a listing of those investments. I'll highlight one.

We have invested over \$400,000 of Community Development Block Grant money to help downtown businesses renovate their buildings. Seven buildings have been completed, and four more are scheduled for construction this summer. **What else can we expect in 2010?**

- Construction of the Lloyd Lumber lot for the Farmers Market and parking.
- Construction of the old Tiger Mart parking lot to serve the existing library
- Final site preparation for the Public Safety Building and possible construction.

The Public Safety Building is the next major building block in the downtown revitalization plan. It has been scaled back from four stories to three, eliminating a floor proposed for possible Courtroom space. The parking garage was also reduced from 400 spaces to 200.

In February of 2008 we filed for judicial confirmation of our bonding plan for this Building. Here we are, two years later, and we are optimistic the legal questions will soon be resolved. When they are resolved, the question before the Nampa Development Corporation board will be whether to bond now and get this building moving, or wait for better economic times.

If we decide to pay cash for the Public Safety Building, construction could not begin until 2014, with redevelopment of the pivot block beginning in 2016 and the Library in 2020, assuming no further growth in the district and no increases in construction costs.

There are a number of compelling reasons to move ahead as soon as possible.

First and foremost; this building is needed now. Our police department is housed in a building more than 30 years old, which has been remodeled at least 4 times, and has some significant maintenance issues. It was built to house maybe 50 people. Today we have over 140 people working through that building.

Second, the bidding climate today is ideal for getting the most bang for your buck. Construction costs for labor and materials are at their lowest levels in years. We could wait to build until the economy is truly in recovery, but that will result in higher costs. Based on our architect's estimates, by building this year, we stand to save at least **two million** dollars over their estimates of two years ago. We will also be able to save taxpayers over a million dollars by using low interest bonds available through the Recovery Zone Act.

Third, true recovery from a recession happens by putting people to work. This project will put from 150 to 200 people to work. The

dollars they earn and spend will be spread all over Nampa in purchasing food and services and goods from our businesses. That's you folks! **Can you get excited about that?**

Lastly, professional architectural and construction industry journals and economic forecasters are all pointing to real recovery in the 2012 time frame. If we build this year, guess when we'll be able to move the police station and other city services from the pivot block and offer it up for development? **2012**. Works out rather nicely. We will be holding town hall meetings to reacquaint the people of Nampa with the overall plan for revitalization and how the bonding plan works.

The GOOD NEWS is, because of careful management, we have sufficient funds available to bond and get this project moving, and it will have absolutely no affect on your property taxes.

F-35

There is a new top gun in the world of jet fighters. It is the **F-35 Lightning II**, developed and built by Lockheed Martin for use by the Air Force, the Navy, and the Marine Corps. This is a super-sonic fighter with stealth characteristics that comes fully loaded with all the whiz-bang high-technology stuff you would expect, and some you've never even imagined. Stuff that was science fiction when the F-15's and F-16's were developed is on the F-35. Many of you know I am a pilot, and love anything to do with aviation, but I'm telling you about the F-35 from more than personal interest.

Mountain Home AFB and Gowen Field have made the short list of locations for major training and operations missions for this new fighter. If Idaho is named the home base for these missions, it would be a tremendous economic boost to the state, in the range of 2 billion **(BILLION)** dollars each year. It could create countless opportunities for businesses supporting these missions in the area. We here in Nampa would benefit from this, as well.

Governor Otter in his State of the State address last week called on cities, counties, businesses, and individuals to do their part in convincing the Air Force Idaho is the ideal location to bed down these F-35's. So what can we here in Nampa do to help?

One of the key factors considered in a decision of this sort is the level of community and citizen support. We are an intensely patriotic community, with a track record of supporting our soldiers and warriors. **Col. James McGovern**, Commander of the 366th Operations

Group, **and his wife Lisa** are here representing Mountain Home Air Force Base. (*Picture of F-15, Pilot and Co-pilot*)

We'd like to thank you and all our service men and women for your service to our nation, and for protecting our freedom.

Jim & Lisa, please stand.

Every May people line the streets of Nampa for Parade America, and in July flock to the Idaho Center for the God and Country Family Festival. Over the past nine years Operation Warmheart, led by the folks at Silvercrest 2, has donated more than \$60,000 in cash and 40 tons of food, plus hundreds of toys, blankets and other items to the enlisted families at Mountain Home AFB. The Air Force needs to hear our story.

Last night the Nampa City Council adopted a resolution in support of the F-35 Project Lightning. As President of the Association of Idaho Cities, I will be asking all cities in Idaho to adopt similar resolutions. There will be a web site fired up on Feb. 5 where you can go to register your support. There are post cards on your tables today for you to sign and mail in to show your support. Please don't take one and keep it for the neat picture. **MAIL IT IN!**

The great philosopher, Groucho Marx, once said;

"The art of politics is looking for trouble, finding it everywhere, diagnosing it incorrectly, and applying the wrong remedies."

While that may be true on the national level at times, it doesn't describe our local system. The art of local politics is staying in touch with the heart and soul and strengths of the people we represent and for whom we work.

The greatest wealth of our community is our people. You are who sustains our community in good times and bad. You are where new ideas come from for improving our quality of life. It is you who attain the goals we set and make us great. In this year of daunting economic challenges, the people of Nampa have once again stepped up to make a difference in the lives of people needing help.

Together, the Nampa Homeless Shelter, managed by the Salvation Army, the Lighthouse Rescue Mission, First Church of the Nazarene, and all city churches, and Valley Crisis center have served more than 6,000 people with shelter, meals, clothing, toys at Christmas for Nampa's kids, and many other needs. We saw the largest group of

volunteers ever for Brush-Up and Rake-Up Nampa, with more than 430 painters and over 1200 rakers. Thank you for giving!

Our community has become a truly international community. We've all been horrified and moved by the devastation we are seeing every day in Haiti. **Mission Aviation Fellowship**, based here in Nampa, is our most direct connection to Haiti, having a base of operations there since the 1980's. There are many ways to donate funds to help Haiti, and I encourage to you get involved as you are able. On the front page of this morning's **Idaho Press Tribune** was an article urging people to be careful about whom they give their money to in trying to help Haiti. MAF is one organization with Nampa natives on the ground in Haiti. They know the people; they know the country, and will make sure your donations are used for the greatest impact to make a difference in Haiti.

Just before Christmas, on December 22, we lost a great man in our community who was one of those always ready to help. **Bill Angle**. Many of you might not have known Bill by name, but it's likely you know him by sight. He was an active volunteer, loved life, and gave and gave and gave. Let me tell you just a few of the ways Bill invested his life. He was involved in several disaster relief efforts through the Red Cross. He worked with the Salvation Army's programs, and in 2001 spent six weeks providing meals and counseling to families and first responders affected by the 9-11 attack on America. He worked with the KAIROS ministry at the Idaho State Prison, where he earned the name of "Mad Dog," and volunteered with the Nampa Police TRIAD program. In spite of the pain of debilitating rheumatoid arthritis and other physical challenges, Bill always had smile for folks and was always willing to help any way he could.

Bill Angle personified the spirit of the people of our community who see a need and, without hesitation, work to supply it. **He will be missed**. His wife Evelyn and their grand kids are here. **Chief Augsburg** has a presentation he'd like to make at this time.

In closing, I leave you with these words from Sir Winston Churchill:

We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give.

Thank you, God bless you, and may God Bless Nampa.