



## State the City 2011

Good afternoon, and welcome to the 2011 edition of the State of the City address. I continue to be humbled and overwhelmed with wonder by the privilege of working for you, with our amazing city workers. Thank you, Chamber of Commerce, for hosting this event each year.

2010 was one of those “Interesting times” we’ve heard people talk about. It was economically daunting, and yet at the year’s end, we saw a glimmer of hope shining through. Better days *are* ahead, because the state of the city is solid.

It was a challenging year – yes. Unusual? Not so much. We lost some wonderful members of our community, but some wonderful new people moved here and some precious new lives were born. We lost some great long time businesses - new businesses opened their doors. Some costs rose - some fell. We fixed some potholes – new ones appeared. Snow fell - snow melted. The Broncos won a lot of games - and lost one – by inches... Kind of normal in the ebb and flow of life.

It was a Census year – They have concluded the State of Idaho grew 21.1% in population in the past 10 years. Nampa more than doubled that rate, with a growth rate of 58% over the past ten years.

Like every year before this, we experienced change. Population growth is part of that change, requiring services and infrastructure, and your City Council members and City Staff have worked hard to keep ahead of the changes; to keep this living organism we know as the City of Nampa fluid and alive.

Your City Council members are here; Stephan Kren, and Martin Thorne. And Curtis Homer is here, after heart surgery just three weeks ago. We are grateful to God, and the hands of the skilled surgeon for sparing his life. Pam White is in Florida at a conference for St. Alphonsis Hospital, Nampa. **(Please stand)** *Thank you*

There are also a number of your dedicated city staff members here, who are really the ones keeping the city working. Would City staff members **please stand and be recognized**. *Thank you.*

There are a number of other elected officials here today, who are working hard to keep ahead of the changes in their communities. **Would you please stand and be recognized**. Thank you.

I would also like to welcome Ricardo Pineda from the Consulate of Mexico. We have presidents here today, Dr. David Alexander from Northwest Nazarene University, and Dr. Bert Glandon from the College of Western Idaho. **(Please stand)** Thank you.

I've been reading George Bush's book "Decision Points," and have been struck with how decisions made in the past determine who we are today, and decisions made today define who we will be in the future. Some decisions are easy; no-brainers for which there is only one reasonable way to go and are arrived at quickly and with little angst. Others involve conflicting ideas, and are only arrived at after much vigorous debate and agonizing soul-searching. But sooner or later the debate stops and a decision must be made. Without a decision point, you end up in the "Ready, Aim, Aim, Aim" syndrome. In years past, city leaders and citizens have made big decisions; the decision to build:

- This wonderful Civic Center,
- Our beautiful golf courses,

- The Nampa Rec Center,
- The Idaho Center
- The Boys and Girls Club,
- West Park and Skyview Park and the Dog Park
- Kings Corner bridges and Garrity Blvd expansion.

Can you imagine our community today without these amenities? All are great additions to the quality of life we enjoy here in Nampa, yet all of these involved debate and conflict; some experienced vigorous opposition when they were proposed and finally built.

Conflict is not necessarily bad. However, dealing with conflict in a respectful, constructive manner is key to moving forward to a productive conclusion. In fact, it is through struggle; through debate and wrestling with differing, sometimes opposing ideas, we arrive at the best decisions.

**Thomas Paine**, one of our Founding Fathers said:

*"The harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph. What we obtain too cheap, we esteem too lightly. 'Tis dearness only that gives everything its value."*

So we acknowledge the changing world around us, understanding there will be conflict; we work to anticipate what's coming, and come together to forge a pathway into the future. Thomas Paine was also the first to have said:

*"Lead, follow, or get out of the way."*

We here in Nampa have benefited from creative leaders in the past as well as energetic and willing followers with selfless attitudes that get things done. People who when handed lemons; make lemonade.

Attitude is everything.

*I like the story of a young hillbilly named Kenny, who moved to Texas, wanting to start his own farm, bought a donkey from a farmer for \$100.00. The farmer agreed to deliver the donkey the next day.*

*The next day he showed up at Kenny's place and said, "Sorry son, I have some bad news; the donkey died."*

*Kenny replied, "Well then, just give me my \$100 back.*

*Farmer said, "Can't do that. I already spent the money.*

*Kenny said, "OK, then, just bring me the dead donkey."*

*The farmer asked, "What you gonna do with him?"*

*"I'm going to raffle him off."*

*The farmer said, "You can't raffle off a dead donkey!"*

*Kenny replied; "Sure I can. Watch me. I just won't tell anyone he's dead."*

*A month later the farmer met up with Kenny and asked; "What happened with that dead donkey?"*

*Kenny said; "I raffled him off. I sold 500 tickets at 2 dollars a piece and made a profit of \$998.00."*

*The farmer asked; "Didn't anyone complain?"*

*Kenny said, "Just the guy who won. So I gave him his 2 dollars back."*

*Kenny grew up and eventually became the chairman of Enron.*

*Attitude is everything.*

We have people with great attitudes serving on our ***commissions and boards***. If you're here today and serve on one of our boards **please stand** so we can thank you for your hours of service.

### **I am so proud of The Nampa Mayor's Teen Council**

With around 70 active members, this is an exciting group to be a part of. At *Rake Up Nampa* this year we had 43 students take part – a record. The council filled 12 shoeboxes for children through Operation Christmas Child, tied quilts for Warm Up Nampa, went Christmas Caroling at two nursing homes, and rang bells for the Salvation Army. They also adopted a family of seven for Christmas; a family that had never needed help before and was hesitant to ask. The Teen Council provided gifts, stockings and Christmas Dinner for the family. Centennial Job Corps again partnered with us, providing a gift card and allowing Sam D'Orazio to prepare a special dinner where we could meet and spend time with the family.

Twenty-six Teen Council members and chaperones volunteered at the Idaho Special Olympic Winter Games in McCall. Because of their years of volunteering for Special Olympics, a Teen Council member was asked to be one of four youth representing Idaho at the National Special Olympics Youth Summit in Nebraska during the National Games last summer.

*Jacob Thorne* represented us well there.

Four Teen Council members attended the National League of Cities Conference in Washington D.C. in March. They learned about city government, attended leadership seminars, and spent time lobbying our Congressional leaders. They wrote and presented a white paper asking our congressmen to take a broader look at the health care system and recommended voting against Obama Care.

One of the young men on this trip was in the paper last week for his work in solving a mystery for Intermountain Gas. *Kenrick Goetsche* - **WOW!**

This trip was made possible by generous grants and donations from many community partners:

*J-U-B Engineering, Paragon Consulting, Project Engineering Consultants, TransCivil, H.W. Lochner, Allied Waste, Idaho Press Tribune, and Amalgamated Sugar.* **Thanks to all of you for investing in our youth.**

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

It seems a lion's share of State and local officials' time is spent dealing, in some form, with MONEY. How much did we spend last year; what did we do with it; and how much will we need next year? Where can we spend less?

As elected officials we try to keep the big picture in focus. What are the basic services we provide and what is the true cost of providing those services? If we have to cut basic services what will it mean to our residents? What will it mean to our residents if we raise fees or taxes to keep those services where they should be?

Your City Council wrestled with these questions and more as they carefully crafted the budget last year. They reached numerous decision points along the path to a balanced, responsible budget. Cuts were made, efficiencies implemented, goals set. Through it all, the focus remained positive. The attitude wasn't "What a mess – look at all we can't do." The focus was consistently on effectively and efficiently using available resources to accomplish the most good for the most people.

**We live in a very unique city.** We are the second largest city in Idaho, with the largest municipal street system in the state – resulting in more responsibility for our traffic division than any other in Idaho.

We have the largest municipal water system in the state; the largest, most comprehensive irrigation system in the Northwest, and our engineering division has the most varied responsibility of any in Idaho. All of this works together to provide a quality of life people move here for, and enjoy and expect.

Where Nampa is NOT at the top of the list is in our fees, tax rates, and overall cost of living. When you account for all factors, we are about in the middle of comparable cities in Idaho.

In our ongoing commitment to efficiency, the **Building Safety** department continues to work with Idaho Power in upgrading lights in city buildings. This year we upgraded systems in the Rec Center, City Hall, the library, and other city buildings to realize savings of \$55,000 – annually – each and every year – **year after year!.....!!** In addition, the city will be reaping savings from upgrades to heating/cooling systems in the library, Civic Center, and other buildings.

Our **Finance Department** has been central in helping reduce costs. No matter what the economy is, citizens want responsible and responsive government. In this, tough economic times are no different than good times. Citizens need to have confidence their tax dollars are being used wisely and the City is moving in the right direction.

For the 29<sup>th</sup> consecutive year the GFOA awarded the City of Nampa the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for full and transparent reporting. This reflects a tradition of excellence.

It is also important to have projections for the future that accurately guide current decisions. It is reassuring to know projections for revenues in 2010 were within 1% of actual receipts and expenditures were less than budgeted by 2.5%. Expenditures are constantly monitored and adjustments made regularly to preserve limited reserves. The City of Nampa is being fiscally conservative while practicing integrity, responsibility, and transparency.

You can find our annual audits, as well as our weekly check register on-line.

**We saw signs of recovery in building construction in 2010.** Construction values were close to \$65 million; a 30% increase from 2009. Single family dwelling construction went from 73 units to 130; a 78% increase. *Good positive trends.*

In order to be ready for the future, our **Planning Department** has been busy with the 2035 Nampa Comprehensive Plan and Financial Analysis. A year ago, city planners began gathering public input on major concerns and community vision to be included in the Comp Plan update. They met with local and state agencies, neighboring cities, Canyon County, non-profit organizations, and utility providers. We held 3 public meetings and a workshop attended by more than 90 residents and stakeholders. Participants reviewed area maps, recommended projects and needs, and asked questions.

A committee made of residents, business owners, the development community, and educators was appointed to guide the construction of the comp plan. This group has been meeting twice a month for the past year to explore

issues and craft the plan. The draft should be ready for review and approval by the city in April.

We're also using public input to create a new Strategic Plan for the city. This plan will help us invest limited resources on the things that matter most to the people of Nampa, and help us plan for ongoing costs of services and long term capital needs.

The **Public Works Department** has been keeping our city working on many fronts. Public works includes:

- Streets
- Traffic
- Water
- Wastewater
- Engineering
- Airport
- Vehicle Maintenance
- And the newest division - Storm water.

One of the key projects this year was an in-depth study of how our residents prefer to be informed of Public Works issues. You will see new methods implemented this year as a result. This has already been seen in our public involvement process with creation of the Storm Water utility in response to new EPA requirements. This is a big deal, and will financially impact everyone in the city in some fashion. We're depending on citizen input to make sure fees related to this federal mandate are implemented fairly.

We completed construction of our second major roundabout at Happy Valley and Greenhurst, and it has experienced the same success in moving traffic safely as the first roundabout. Building on these successes, we plan to construct the third roundabout at Lake Lowell and Midland this summer, with a fourth project planned for next year at Star and Franklin. We're making progress on the Amity

Avenue rebuild, with right-of-way acquisition underway, and construction planned for next year.

Everyone knows the intersection at Karcher and Middleton is awful. The good news is, we were successful in securing funding to rebuild it, but it's still a couple years off.

*And, by the way, to quash all rumors to the contrary, we are going to fix Midland and Karcher – ASAP.*

A few years ago a decision was made to install flashing yellow school zone signs at all Nampa schools. It has taken several years to complete, and I am happy to report every school now has these lights installed!

The city's first LED street lights, paid for with funds from the electric franchise fee, were installed on the 16<sup>th</sup> Ave. overpass, providing superior lighting and greatly reduced power consumption.

We continue to work with EPA and DEQ to find ways of meeting EPA's new phosphorus limits, as well as new water temperature restrictions they are considering. We completed construction of Primary Digester #3; an 8 million dollar project that brings us up to EPA's requirements for handling solids. This was a great team effort that brought the project in with less than 2% change orders. Phenomenal!

An outstanding individual performer at the wastewater plant was honored this year. **Izzy Pina** received the Southwest Idaho Collection System Operator of the Year award. (He's here...)

The **Nampa Municipal Airport** was identified by Idaho Aeronautics Division as one of two, top best-maintained airports in the State. A major improvement this year was installation of an Automated Weather Observing System (AWOS). This allows inbound aircraft to use local weather to determine minimum visibility and ceiling heights to land at the Airport.

Looking to the future to provide services for the 293 aircraft based on the field, we completed a 20 year Airport Master Plan.

We are very proud of our **Police and Fire departments.**

After an intense evaluation, the Nampa Police Department was re-accredited by the Idaho Chiefs of Police Association. This accreditation confirms that we are using best practices in our Department. One of the reviewers made this comment:

***“I have been doing site visits for over ten years and Nampa PD was the best and most professional agency I have ever seen.” Great team effort.***

Outstanding individual performance was recognized by the American Legion when they selected Nampa Officer Kari Seibel as the Idaho State Police Officer of the Year for 2010. Congratulations Kari. (*She's here today.*)

There are just too many good things our Police are involved in to report on them all, but I do want to report this year our Special Investigative Unit narcotics section seized 15 pounds of Meth and 17 pounds of Marijuana. That's nearly \$400,000 worth of drugs; up to 13,000 hits of meth taken off the streets of Nampa. And just last week a joint operation called *Flame Thrower*, the sixth such operation in the past

four years, resulted in the arrests of 35 drug dealers, and seizure of 5 more pounds of meth, 28 guns, 10 cars, and \$30,000 in cash. Good job – great results.

We want to thank The TRIAD and the Nampa Citizens' Patrol who together provided nearly **5000 hours** of volunteer service to our community in 2010.

One of the great organizations that makes Nampa unique is the **Family Justice Center**. This dedicated group continues to expand its services to victims of domestic violence. In their 5<sup>th</sup> year of existence, they helped more than 2100 women and children who needed their services. The FJC was awarded a CDBG grant to renovate an additional 2500 sq. ft and expand the children's center so they can offer more services to abused children. Rebecca Lovelace, the FJC Director, says:

*"Thank you Nampa for caring so much about victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse. We are making a difference and saving lives!"*

The **Nampa Fire Department** responded to over 7,000 calls for service last year. Good news is structure fires were down over 20% from 2009, and great news is there were ZERO fire deaths in 2010! Our Fire Prevention efforts are paying off. Emergency medical calls make up over 67% of the call volume. Chief Karl Malott is working with other EMS agencies and Canyon County Paramedics to establish a unified EMS system countywide, and we should see that finalized this year.

In partnership with the Nampa Rural Fire District, we purchased a new 100 foot ladder truck which was dedicated in July of last year. The 100 foot platform replaces a 20 year old 75 foot ladder truck, and gives us access and rescue capabilities that we did not possess before.

Cooperation with the Nampa Rural Fire District also allowed us to replace our 1982 Pierce Engine with a new Rosenbauer Engine which is now in service at Station 4.

Six years ago the City Council reached a decision point regarding public safety. Councilman Thorne defined the moment when he said *the primary function of city government is to make sure people are safe*. At that time they decided to make the necessary investment to bring service levels up to nationally recommended ratios. The result of that decision has been steady reductions in criminal gang activities and overall crime rates, more drugs off the street and more bad guys in prison, and increased service levels from our fire department.

***I ask you, was the decision to invest in Public Safety a good one?***

Nampa's **Ridgecrest and Centennial** golf courses continue to set the standard for municipal courses in Idaho. Between them, they hosted 111 events, increased Junior Golf opportunities with Family Fun Nights, Junior Clinics and Leagues, and recorded over 67,000 rounds played. We had another successful Mayor's Golf Tournament, and were able to award \$7,000 in college scholarships to local students.

The **Nampa Recreation Center** worked hard this year to serve our families, recording nearly 425,000 visits. They offer a wide array of diverse activities to kids and adults. Last year total registrations for special programs were nearly 38,000.

The Rec Center Scholarship Program continues to help individuals and families who need extra support. This year the Scholarship Committee awarded 362 scholarships totaling more than \$21,000 in assistance.

This past September a large number of our friends and family who are part of the **National Guard 116<sup>th</sup>** left home for a 12 month deployment. They are now in Iraq, and will be there until next September. Since the first major deployment 5 years ago, we have offered Rec Center memberships to service families in all branches of the military who are deployed to war regions. This past year military memberships were awarded to Nampa families worth over \$24,000.00 in services. This is just a small way we can say ***Thank You*** to our service men and women for *standing on the front line for our freedom.*

Please remember to pray for all our troops at war, and stay close to their families here at home. The Rec Center gives us the ability to help out in a tangible way.

***Was the decision in 1993 to build the Nampa Recreation Center a good one?***

Our Recreation program works closely with the Rec Center, and saw an increase of 33% in Youth baseball, and once again hosted the Junior Olympic Idaho State Softball Championship. We also held the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Pooch Pool Party and Dog walk and raised over \$8,000 for the Nampa Dog Park.

This year our **Parks Department** was given the city's **Above and Beyond Award** for great service. In addition to everything else they do, they worked with other departments to install sprinklers and landscaping for the new Library parking lot, the Lloyd Square/Farmers' Market lot, and the new Roundabout. They also installed new playground equipment in Lakeview Park in partnership with Healthy Nampa Healthy Youth, coordinated volunteers in construction of the BMX track at Lakeview Park, made improvements to the ever popular Dog Park, used a \$91,000 grant from the Department of Lands to remove or prune

hazardous trees, and planted more than 270 new trees around town. Great job!

The **IT Department** has been working to keep up with technology to make our lives easier, and help us work faster. Along with just keeping the computers running, they have installed new Asset Management software, new HR software, updated the city's email system, and saved the city another \$15,000 per year in a cell phone audit.

After 20 years of service, the **Nampa Civic Center** remains the standard of excellence for gatherings of all kinds in Treasure Valley. They hosted over 1,000 events, with more than 182,000 people in attendance. The Nampa Performing Art Series brings people from the entire Valley to Nampa to enjoy a great variety of entertainment. An interesting fact is only 36% of ticket buyers for this series are from Nampa. The rest come from Caldwell, Meridian, Eagle, Kuna, Boise, and even Ontario, Oregon. Events at the Civic Center generated nearly 850 Hotel room nights, hundreds of meals in local restaurants, and many other purchases from local businesses. *Sounds like an economic engine for the entire community.*

### **Was it a Good decision to build the Nampa Civic Center?**

Since we're on the subject, let's look at what's happening with Economic Development in Nampa. In this time filled with many negative headlines, there is much to celebrate.

- Sorrento Lactalis completed its \$50 million whey dryer expansion project – 50 new permanent jobs.
- Transform Solar began its pilot production in Nampa and is gearing up for full production – 150 jobs today, and ultimately several hundred new jobs are possible.
- Stevens-Henager College opened its Nampa location.
- Regal Theaters opened the new Edwards Stadium 12 cinemas at Nampa Gateway. At their grand opening they donated nearly \$40,000 to local non-profits. Incredible!

- Winco Foods began a major expansion; new Hastings Books and Video stores are on the way.
- Many new shops and restaurants opened in downtown, Karcher Mall, and Nampa Gateway Center.
- And most recently, the **Nampa Development Corporation** is using their newly adopted incentive policy to work with several employers on bringing hundreds of new jobs to Nampa. This is only made possible using funds generated by the **Urban Renewal District**.

What else is the **Nampa Urban Renewal District** doing for Nampa? Following the plan developed by Nampa citizens, the NDC has purchased land for the projects identified in the plan, including a half block from the Lloyd Lumber Company. Using funds from the electric franchise fee, two historic buildings were rehabbed, and the lot is now the home of the Nampa Farmers' Market and will be a gathering place for many future concerts and events in Downtown Nampa.

The **Public Safety Building** is rising on the old Desert Inn site, and will serve our police and fire departments for many years.

A major goal of the plan we are following is the construction of a new **Library** in Downtown. The need for this facility continues to grow.

After 30 years of service, our Library Director, Karen Ganske, retired this year, and we hired Mark Rose to lead us into the future. He is fully engaged and doing a great job.

Here are some of this year's numbers. The Library averaged more than 21,000 visits each month, with more than 687,000 items checked out for the year. The staff held 326 programs with over 23,000 attendees. Yes folks, we need a new, updated, larger library, and the Urban Renewal District

is the mechanism that will make this a reality.

These projects are needs that have been identified by you as important to Nampa; projects that add quality to our lives, jobs in our community, and value to our city. The funding tool you helped select to accomplish these goals is the Urban Renewal District. The decision to adopt this development plan and this funding tool was made in 2006, and has been overwhelmingly ratified by the voters of Nampa in two subsequent city elections. This decision was entered into after much debate, addressing conflicting ideas, and with thoughtful collaboration. Thomas Paine would be proud. The plan is moving ahead successfully; the funding mechanism is working as outlined.

I'm nearing the close, but before we get there I want to talk about our colleges. My Alma Mater, Northwest Nazarene University has been a great partner this past year, and we are looking to expand that partnership in a number of areas in the coming months. We are so blessed by NNU's involvement and commitment to Nampa.

Here's some good news; you know how when you get on 16<sup>th</sup> at Lakeview Park and head south? You travel on 16<sup>th</sup>, then Holly, then Sheridan, then Fern, then Bird, then Holly again, then Sunnyridge all without changing roads? Neighborhood meetings are taking place right now, and a plan will soon come forward to rename this entire roadway University Blvd, St, and Ave., pointing all travelers to NNU.

**Throughout its history** Nampa has been blessed with people who have identified needs, then decided to give of their time, their talents, and their money to meet them. They don't just sit back and expect someone else to do it, or say "That's government's job." They get it done themselves. An example of this is the nearly 100 homes that were brushed up and raked up last year by an army of more than

1400 volunteers.

Another example; in 2006, a group of people, led by Nampa Chamber of Commerce, saw the need for a **Community College** in our area. They joined forces with visionary folks from Ada and Canyon Counties, worked hard on a campaign educating voters, which in May, 2007, culminated in a decision point to create the **College of Western Idaho**. Classes at the nation's newest community college began in January of 2008. Here we are, three years later, and enrollment for credit classes this semester is over 7,000 students.

*Incredible growth demonstrating incredible need.*

***Was it a good decision to create CWI??***

It's happening again.

A year ago, a group of Nampans formed an organization called the Nampa Tourism and Development Council. Their goal: to promote tourism in Nampa through establishing a funding tool that could be used to help with capital needs of our facilities as well as bring more people to events in Nampa. You may have encountered some of these people this past year out collecting signatures on a petition to create the ***Nampa Auditorium District***. They were everywhere; service clubs, outdoor events, indoor events, concerts, plays, games, and they even went door to door. *(Did you all meet one?)*

Under the leadership of "Temporary Chairman" Ken King, they reached the goal of collecting 4,000 signatures, and the petition is now before a judge awaiting approval to be placed on the May ballot for a vote of the people. Bottom line, this is a funding tool that will not raise taxes on the residents of Nampa, and will ultimately reduce the level of dependence on General Fund dollars needed for support of the Nampa

Civic Center and the Idaho Center.

These buildings are tremendous economic generators for Nampa. You've heard what the Civic Center is doing for our local economy; an independent study last year showed the Idaho Center returns around **\$20 million** every year to our community. The Auditorium District will provide much more stable funding for Nampa's tourist facilities into the future. The decision point for us will be May 17, and I urge you to support this measure.

Would all the members of this council please stand and come up front. I want you to see these people. This is a dedicated group of people who have gone above and beyond to meet a need in our community. If you have questions about this effort, please get to know these folks and go to them for answers.

Well, that's a quick look at what we've been doing.

In closing, **WHAT** we've been doing is not as important as **WHY** we do it. *Why do we do all these things?*

We do all this to provide a safe, stable, predictable foundation upon which you can do the things you do to make this a great city. There are people throughout Nampa who continually give of themselves to change lives at the deepest level. We can put police on the streets to ensure criminal behavior is punished; we can keep the water flowing – in and out; we can fix the potholes and broken bridges.

But it's people like these on stage; people like Donna Shines, Derrick Boles, Sus Helpenstell, Steve Torrano, Rebecca Lovelace, Mitch Minnette, and many others; it's the teachers in our schools and the churches in our community, it's the Nampa Shelter Foundation and Lighthouse Rescue Mission who are reaching into hearts of kids and adults to

bring about change on a level government can never touch. It's organizations like Mission Aviation Fellowship and Hands of Hope who extend the love in our community beyond our boundaries to the far corners of the world.

Thank you for all you are doing.

It's been a good year with many blessings to celebrate, and the future is bright because of you.