



2008 State of the City Address

The State of the City: **POISED!**

I thought I'd begin today by offering an Irish prayer to set the tone for 2008.

*May those who love us - love us more in the new year,
and those who do not love us, may God turn their hearts;
and if He cannot turn their hearts may He turn their ankles
that we may know them by their limping.*

It has been another good year for the City of Nampa; old friendships have been strengthened, new friendships begun, and progress continued across our community. This year has again confirmed my belief that **people are the real gold in our city**. There are many who deserve praise for making 2007 a great year for Nampa.

Thanks to the **City Council** for their hard work. **Stephen Kren, Martin Thorne, Bob Schmidt, and Lynda Clark**. This year **Pam White** picked up the baton from **Lynda Clark**, who left the Council to work full time for the City as our first dedicated grant writer. And we welcome **Curtis Homer**, who left full time employment with the city to become our newest Council Member.

There are other elected officials here today. Would you please stand and be recognized. **Thank you for being here.** We are all in this adventure of life and government together; we serve the same people, have the same goals, and are subject to the same challenges. I appreciate the spirit of cooperation that exists between the State and the cities and counties of Treasure Valley, and look forward to strengthening those ties in the future.

It continues to be a joy and a privilege to work with some of the best people in the world – the city employees of Nampa. Would all the **City employees** stand and be recognized....

These people make it happen, but as effective as they are, there is much that would remain undone if not for the hundreds of citizens that volunteer – the commissions and boards, the auxiliary organizations, the service clubs, the mentors in youth programs.

If you have been involved as a volunteer in Nampa during the past year, please stand...

- ***THANK YOU for making our community what it is today.***

And speaking of partners in success, I want to thank the **Nampa Chamber** for providing the forum for this address every year, and for bringing so much energy to our business community.

Northwest Nazarene University continues to be an educational leader in the state and a close partner in Nampa's success. We will be seeing a change in leadership at the University, as **Dr. Richard Hagood**, with NNU for 22 years, the last 15 as President, moves from that position into retirement. Rich – we'll miss you! Thank you for the years you have given to NNU and to Nampa.

Last year saw the creation of the **College of Western Idaho**. President Dennis Griffin and the Board of Trustees have been hard at work to get it up and running. **I am happy to announce to you CWI** is ready - NOW – with a wide selection of Workforce Training classes. On each of your tables are flyers outlining the courses available. Good Job!!

We have an outstanding group of High School students that meet regularly as **The Mayor's Teen Council. (PLEASE STAND.)** They are making a difference by giving of their time and imagination and energy. Among many activities, last year they reached 2500 Kindergarten - 12th grade students with their seatbelt education program. The Teen Council was recognized by State Farm Insurance for this program, receiving a \$3000 grant.

With the new curbside recycling program in Nampa, the Teen Council decided it was important to help educate the community about recycling. They wrote and presented a recycling education program to 3000 Kindergarten - 6th grade students in Nampa schools. I'm sure it is in part thanks to their efforts, that **Central Services** reports 75% participation in the program in less than one year.

Because of the Council's activities and the many agencies providing opportunities for youth, Nampa was recognized as one of the **100**

Best Places for Youth by America's Promise for the second year in a row. Thanks to the Nampa and Vallivue School districts, the Boys & Girls Club, Healthy Nampa Healthy Youth, OGSBAD, Nampa Rec Department, our churches, Healthy Families Nampa, and many others for all you do for youth in Nampa.

And finally, **KTVB TV, Channel 7**; thank you for your commitment to bringing the people of Treasure Valley face to face with their elected representatives. Thank you for all you give to our community. Last year Channel 7 partnered with our Teen Council, and other youth councils in the valley, to focus attention on the problem of Meth, with the **March Against Meth**. They brought Milton Creagh back to Idaho, concluding in a valley-wide rally at the Idaho Center with thousands of people in attendance and thousands more watching on TV. Out of this effort has grown **Idaho's Meth Project**, led by the Governor's office, which officially kicked off a long-term campaign just last week. This year they have plans for another valley-wide event called **March for Youth**, featuring **Rachel's Challenge**. Watch for more on this important opportunity.

If asked to choose a descriptive word for the state of the city this year, I would choose **"Poised."**

Like a runner at the starting gate, waiting for the sound of the starter's gun; like a NASCAR driver on the pole position awaiting the drop of the flag; like a hungry child waiting for the "AMEN" of the blessing for Christmas dinner, Nampa is *POISED* for the race. It is not a sprint we are engaged in; we have laid the foundation for a long distance race that will test the resolve and determination of all of us. We've done much training, laid much groundwork for this race; visioning, planning, setting up funding mechanisms, meeting with consultants ---- preparing ourselves so we'll be ready to go the distance.

We are poised for new job creation; poised to serve our youth even better; poised for improved safety in the city; and poised for Downtown Revitalization.

There will be obstacles to overcome; some we already know about; others we can not foresee. Success will come as we pull together, sharing ideas, resources, talents, and always keep our **eyes on the prize**. There will be attempts to sidetrack us. There will be opportunities along the way to settle for less than the goal we have set. **This we can not allow**, for what we do here will define the personality of Nampa for decades to come. There's an old saying -

"The bitterness of low quality is remembered long after the sweetness of low price is forgotten." We must be patient, for the race before us is a long one.

Meanwhile, the city faces the task of keeping up on all other areas of service as we make preparations for the downtown projects. It is a pleasure to report to you we are fully engaged in this task, and are doing it very well.

One of the questions on everyone's mind at this time always seems to be **"What's happening with growth?"**

We are still growing, but we grew in different proportions than we have in past years.

(Kind of like people when we hit the different phases of life.)

Residential growth is continuing, but at a slower rate than in the past few years. At the same time we have seen very healthy growth in commercial and industrial construction.

The Planning Department reports a total of **19** residential subdivision final plats recorded during 2007 providing an additional **581** lots for new home construction. At the end of the year more than **1,700** residential lots were vacant and available for new home construction. The total area of land annexed into the City last year was **825** acres.

In order to streamline services, the **Building Department**, along with the **IS Department**, will soon implement an **online inspection** system that will allow those with active permits to request inspections and track the progress of those inspections. This will put Nampa at the forefront of web-based real-time information systems for our contractors and developers.

We processed and permitted around **\$186 million of construction** in 2007, including more than **1.2 million square feet** of commercial and industrial space. How does this compare to previous years? 44% of last year's record construction was non-residential, which was up from previous years. This year, nearly **70%** of all construction was non-residential, income producing, job creating projects.

What does this mean for Nampa?

Our **Economic Development strategy is working** - 2007 has been a banner year, and it all adds up to a very healthy outlook for Nampa's job base. The latest Employment report for Nampa shows nearly 35,000 people employed, which reflects an increase of more than **3900** jobs over last year. What is the impact on our **people**?

Work close to home is available. That's 3900 people who don't have to drive to Ada County and back every day for work; 3900 people who can spend more time at home with their families instead of burning up 1 to 2 hours every day driving – *sometimes parking* – on I-84. That means less money spent on gas, less pollution created, less congestion on the freeway, less aggravation and stress. These are all quality of life issues that have been improved by the creation of new jobs in Nampa.

We've seen new companies investing in Nampa.

Image National Sign, XL Four Star Beef, Professional Hospital Supply, RxElite.

*** I need to pause here and say a big "Thank You" to the **Canyon County Development Services Department** for going above and beyond in working with Nampa staff and RxElite folks to keep this project on track.***

With all the new businesses opening in Nampa in 2007, we could call this "**The Year of the Scissors.**" The ceremonial scissors have been very busy cutting ribbons, and look to be equally busy in the months ahead. Some of the new businesses include:

- JC Penney, Sportsman's Warehouse, Best Buy, Office Max, Kohl's, Tulley's Coffee, Starbucks, Sonic, Market Limone, Classy Casuals, Banner Bank, Zion's Bank, DL Evans and many others.

We've welcomed new dining opportunities, including:

- The Olive Garden, Krung Thai, Brick 29 Bistro, with TGIF Friday's soon to open, among others.

And several existing employers have expanded;

- MPC, Sorrento Lactalis, Great American Appetizer, and Building Components of Idaho, BCI, is expanding in Nampa and will create 150 new jobs in the near future.

It all adds up to nearly **4,000 new jobs for Nampa.**

After the growth question, people want to know about safety in the city. We are committed to providing the support and manpower our **Police Department** needs to protect our citizens. We saw a change in the Chief position, with Curtis Homer retiring and Bill Augsburger

stepping up to become Chief. This year the City Council authorized hiring 7 new officers, 4 new 9-1-1 dispatchers, and an additional Child Crime investigator.

Washington State University completed a survey of the people of Nampa and found:

- The Nampa Police Department has a 93% trust rating among the people they serve!
- Overall, people expressed a high level of support and resolve for the difficult job of policing in our City.

Our Police Department is doing an excellent job of protecting us, and the people of Nampa realize and appreciate it. Here are a few highlights:

- We wrapped up a year long meth investigation (**Operation Mountain Lion**) which netted about 40 pounds of drugs, hundreds of thousands of dollars in cash, several cars seized and dozens of arrests. It was the largest drug distribution investigation ever in Nampa.
- **Overall, crimes against society are down 9.8%!!!**

We added staff in police records, allowing that office to remain open 24-7, giving people the ability to come to the police station any time of day or night, speak with someone and get help.

Our Department continues to work with Local, State, and Federal agencies in daily operations, including "**Operation Street Sweeper;**" activities designed to reduce gang crime.

Last year I told you about **Treasure Valley Partnership's** commitment to hire a Special Assistant to the U.S. Attorney, to prosecute Gang and Gun crimes in Treasure Valley on a Federal level. That SAUSA has been on board since the summer, and has been successful beyond our expectations. Gang leaders have been convicted and sent to do hard time in Federal pens far from Idaho. I can tell you with utter confidence that the streets and neighborhoods of Nampa are safer today because of these efforts.

The Fire Department had a great year in 2007. A new training facility was built with four offices, restrooms and showers, and two large classrooms; one which can hold a Fire Truck so apparatus

training can take place in all types of weather. This facility was built with funds from the Fire Protection District, and then given to the City. The Fire District also bought a new Fire Engine for Station 2. Including the Fire District, our Fire Department now serves over 99,000 people. The relationship between the City and the Fire District is an example of intergovernmental cooperation that serves as a model for the entire state.

Our fire fighters responded to over 6,700 calls for service in 2007, the majority of which are related to Emergency Medical Care. Fire Department medics continue to work closely with Canyon County Paramedics, with a paramedic on every engine providing the best EMS care in the valley.

We have seen an improvement in response times on the East side with the opening of Fire Station 5 on Happy Valley Road. Already reductions of 2 to 3 minutes in the first few weeks of the station's opening have been recorded. One more item of interest; this year crews from our department helped protect homes during the forest fires in Cascade, and also traveled to San Diego to help in the devastating fires there.

Let me brag about our **Vehicle Maintenance department**. Because of the excellent job Mike and his team do in taking care of our city's vehicles, the fire engine we sent to California was one of the only ones on site that didn't break down while it was there!

Closely related to Public Safety is **Public Works**. These folks are responsible for keeping the streets in good condition, keeping the water flowing for fire hoses, houses, and jalapeños – (in gardens...) They are also responsible for making sure the water flowing from the houses to Indian Creek is first cleaned up at the wastewater plant, (*for which I'm sure Mayor Nancolas is grateful,*) and for keeping traffic flowing throughout the city.

Let me highlight a few Public Works' milestones this year.

In the **Street Department**, we said goodbye to **John Fickel**, who retired after **investing 43 years** of his life taking care of Nampa's streets. **Thank you, John!** (Please stand.)

Perhaps the most visible project completed this year was the curb, gutter, and sidewalk project on Nampa-Caldwell Blvd. In addition, a consultant has been selected to get the Amity Street Project moving,

and the 16th Avenue Bridge Rehabilitation is underway, along with new street lights on 16th Ave. North, which are nearly finished.

We created a new, independent **Traffic Division**. Along with keeping our signs in order and the traffic signals working, they have implemented a strategy to fund flashing yellow school zone signals through an agreement between the City of Nampa, Nampa School District and Nampa Highway District, and have begun work on a state of the art lighted Pedestrian crosswalk for 11th Avenue North, near Paul's Market.

The **Engineering Department** is working on updating our master plans for water, irrigation, and wastewater in the city, and developing a pavement management plan to better maintain our city streets.

The **Wastewater division** completed the Mason Creek lift station, partnered with developers to build the Birch lift station, and completed 3.7 million dollars in improvements at the plant.

In the **Waterworks** division, they've been busy keeping pace with growing demand. We're currently drilling two wells, and are completing design on a 3 million gallon water reservoir to be built this year.

In addition to keeping the water and the traffic flowing, we've kept the airplanes flying at the **Nampa Municipal Airport**. The airport hosted a spectacular air show featuring Greg Poe, who hangs his airplanes on our field. This air show was a fund raising event called "*Flight Against Meth,*" to help raise money for the **Idaho Meth Project**. We will be bringing back "**Thunder Over Nampa**" this June for an exciting full air show, with proceeds going to again benefit the Idaho Meth Project.

Improvements at the airport included reconstruction of the west taxi lanes, and building a new office for airport staff. Our airport is quickly becoming a "Destination Airport," and is now home to the largest number of aircraft in the state, with more than 330 aircraft verified based on the field.

The **Nampa Recreation Center, and home of the best Senior Center in the state**, continues to be a focal point of activity for people of all ages. In 2007 more than 422,000 admittances were recorded from people coming to burn up calories, stay in shape, and have fun. (If we could convert all those calories to electricity --- ???)

This year we improved the cardio machines selection, increased the number of Cardio Theaters available, totally remodeled the Steam Room, and added an LED reader-board sign out front. We can now announce Rec Center programs to thousands of people who drive by every day.

The Rec Center continues to give back to the community through two great programs. Last year we gave more than \$7,000 worth of memberships to families of deployed soldiers. This program is a tangible way we can say "**Thanks**" for the sacrifices our military families make for us. The Rec Center also granted scholarships to more than 100 people with special needs, giving them full access to the Rec Center and its programs.

The City of Nampa is proud to be the home of **Centennial Golf Course and Ridgecrest Golf Club**.

- Centennial remains one of the valley's busiest and favorite courses.
- Ridgecrest is again rated in the top ten for all golf courses in the State of Idaho.
- *Golf Digest* rated Ridgecrest Golf Club Four Stars for the past 8 consecutive years.

Between these two facilities we provide 45 holes of Championship golf to the citizens of Nampa. In 2007 rounds of golf increased 12% at both facilities. We also provided an increase in Junior Golf Opportunities at both courses, partnering with Nampa Youth Golf and the P.A.L program to promote golf to the kids of Nampa.

Our Golf courses also give back to the city in a big way. Thousands upon thousands of dollars have been raised by hosting major fund raising tournaments every year, such as Rotary Golf for Hope, Mercy Hospice Tournament, the Mayor's Scholarship tournament, Nampa Education Foundation, and many others.

The **Parks Department** opened three new parks this year; **Starr Park**; **Osborne Park**, an 11 acre park near Reagan Elementary school; and **McDonagh Park**, with 15 acres of land donated by the McDonagh family. Special thanks to the **Nampa West Stake of the LDS Church** who **gave of their time** to install the sprinklers.

The **Parks Department** also purchased 52 Acres of land located in west Nampa that will be developed into a city park and youth sports

complex. Throughout the year our parks personnel planted 159 trees around the city, adding to our urban forest.

Working to clean up Nampa, and help foster good neighborly relations, our **Code Enforcement** folks organized many teams across the city in the **Brush Up Nampa** and **Rake Up Nampa** programs. They are doing a great job with a tough assignment.

The **Department of Information Systems**, supporting nearly 750 full and part-time employees and an estimated 82,000 citizens, are handling some 750 cases and 875 phone calls per month. They are continually working to streamline our support structure and generate significant recurring cost savings. Over the last two years, the IS Department has saved the city taxpayers more than **\$74,000 in ongoing yearly costs**. In a day when everything seems to be INCREASING in cost, **this is phenomenal!**

They also found time to implement an online Job Application system, and helped in selection of a new utility billing system that will allow the citizens of Nampa to make payments online.

The **Nampa Public Library** had a busy year, with **over 303,000** visits to the library - an average of about 1100 per day. While there, people checked out more than 582,000 items - An average of 213 check-outs per hour.

- Summer Reading had over 2,600 participants, and a bilingual story-time was added to the schedule one evening per week.
- Wireless access is now available in the library for those who bring their own laptops with wireless capabilities.

Just a week or so ago more than 1500 people visited the library in one day. You might ask "HOW IN THE WORLD??" "Where do they park?" Good questions!

We are all eagerly looking forward to the day when we have a library with adequate facilities for a city of our size. That day is still a couple of years out, but we are aggressively working to make it a reality. We are near agreement on the properties we need to acquire before making an announcement as to where it will be built.

In 2007 the **Civic Center**, the **BEST** of its type in the state, served over 188,000 people and hosted over 935 Events, an increase of 8%. We are nearing completion of a 5500 sq. foot expansion which will

allow for more space for our community artists and add a complete set of restrooms on this side of the building.

The **Idaho Center** just keeps getting better and better, celebrating its 10 year anniversary this past year. Not only has it been a perfect home for the Snake River Stampede, (the best Rodeo in the state,) and large community and regional events, the Idaho Center has become the preferred large event/concert house in the Treasure Valley. The Idaho Horse Park started by hosting mostly local horse events, and now is hosting major regional, national, and even international shows.

As SMG and the Idaho Center/ Idaho Horse Park continue to improve the budget each year, there is a conscience effort to increase the use of the facility as an economic impact engine. In 2003, the direct and indirect economic impact of the Idaho Center was less than \$9 million. A recent study soon to be released shows direct and indirect impacts at more than \$20 million for 2006, and more than **\$79 million over the last 7 years.**

In 2007 the **Family Justice Center** served more than 1300 victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse. Of these, 46% were new clients seeking services for the first time. With this increase in victim services, it is apparent that the Nampa Family Justice Center **is** making a difference in our City. The cooperation and collaboration between all the local, state and non-profit agencies partnering at the FJC is making a difference in the lives of abused women and children.

The City of Nampa and the Family Justice Center has received increased national exposure because of its commitment to ending family violence. The Nampa FJC has been featured as a "Best Practice" Family Justice Center with spotlight presentations at the International Family Justice Center Conference in San Diego and at the St. Louis School of Law's Urban Family Symposium. Our Justice Center has been hailed as "One of the most successful FJC's in the Country."

In November we celebrated the second anniversary of the Center with the opening of the Ellen Marie Pediatric Unit. In collaboration with the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, BSU, Mercy Medical Center and Saltzer Medical Group, this Pediatric Unit, the only clinic of this type in Region III, will provide physical assessments for children placed in foster care; health education; and health related case management services.

Mercy Hospital continues to raise their level of service to Nampa, and has been recognized nationally for their efforts. Among other awards; USA Today – **Top cardiac care hospital**; Thomson Healthcare – **Most improved hospital**; and Blue Cross of Idaho rated Mercy as **the Top Performing Urban Hospital in the entire state!**

To quote my good friend Garrett Nancolas of our neighboring city to the west:

A vision without a plan is only a dream.

A vision without a funding mechanism is a hallucination.

People in Nampa have long dreamed about a revitalized downtown. The vision you helped us develop includes a new library, a new public safety building, and a downtown city park where people can meet, where concerts can take place, where the Farmers ' Market can thrive. We stand poised to accomplish these dreams, because we now have a funding mechanism in place. This funding mechanism is the Urban Renewal District. Working closely with Nampa and Vallivue school districts, we have crafted a financial tool that allows the school districts to meet their future needs, and still generates funds needed to move ahead with Nampa's vision. Our commitment is to leverage these funds to accomplish the vision. The first project, the new Public Safety Building, is set to begin construction this summer.

This administration has built a track record of keeping promises and of sound fiscal practices.

On May 25, 2004, the citizens of Nampa committed **\$38 million** dollars to bring the vision of a rebuilt Garrity Blvd and bridges over the railroad at Kings Corner out of the dream phase into reality. Of the GO Bond projects, only the Midland-Cherry Project awaits completion and it is now underway. **I am happy to report these projects are all on-budget,** though at times we wondered how we could do it. We had a great group of engineers and contractors that treated us fairly and found ways to save money and made it work. Thank you all.

Last year when the Urban Renewal District was established, we told you our projections showed property tax levy decreases, even with the Urban Renewal District in place. For the 2008 budget year, the city levy **dropped 17%**. We have kept our promises to you, and we will

continue to handle your money with great care during these upcoming projects.

I've talked today about how City departments are giving back to the community. Many other organizations also help create this **community of giving** we call Nampa; the service clubs, youth sports organizations, the Boys & Girls Club, the Salvation Army, the Nampa Shelter Foundation and many others too numerous to name.

The churches in Nampa continually find new ways to give to the community. Nampa's **Christian Faith Center** this year gave away **208 new bicycles** to low income kids.

First Church of the Nazarene put together over **1,700 shoe boxes** full of Christmas gifts and made a box available to every student in Central, Snake River, Lincoln, and Sherman elementary schools.

Many individual citizens and businesses have given of their finances to help in numerous projects. **Don Hubble** is a good example, giving \$50,000 for the Civic Center project, and \$50,000 for the new Library. And I am pleased to announce today that Russ Keithly has recently committed \$50,000 to the Civic Center project in honor of his mom & dad. To date, more than \$330,000 has been given towards this project.

Others have given of their talents and skills. **Nick Treinen** is an example of this, giving of his expertise at building contracting to get the addition to the Boys & Girls Club built.

Others have given of their energy and organizational skills. **Rita and Bud Albers** for many years have organized the folks at Silvercrest II in giving "**Operation Warmheart**" to the enlisted airmen at Mountain Home Air Force Base, providing their families with blankets, toys, and food at Christmas and throughout the year.

And some have given of their hearts and their compassion. **Colleen Brewer** found herself trapped in an abusive marriage. Fearful for her life and the lives of her children, she found help through the Valley Crisis Center, a caring church, and many friends. Colleen found freedom for her family and today is a survivor. This last year she began a program called "**Quest for Freedom,**" with the mission of giving tangible help and encouragement to others in destructive relationships, and leading them to freedom.

I could go on and on, but you have schedules to keep. The point is, not everyone can give in the same manner, but we all have something we can offer to make a difference in our community. Some gifts have an impact on large numbers of people. Others make a difference one person at a time.

I would like to ask Don Hubble, Nick Treinen, Rita & Bud Albers, and Colleen Brewer and her family to come up here so you can meet these people who are making a difference in Nampa.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow once said:

"Give what you have. To someone, it may be better than you dare to think."

I want to present to you all a special plaque that simply says – *Thank you for making a difference.*

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 for giving me the honor of serving as your mayor,

God Bless you all.