

***CITY OF CHUBBUCK  
STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS  
MAYOR STEVEN M. ENGLAND  
January 8<sup>th</sup> 2013***

With the beginning of another year, I am again reminded of the honor and responsibility that it is to serve as your Mayor. The friendship, encouragement, and support that I regularly receive from those I have association with are gratifying. I continue to be grateful for the sense of community that I feel here. Each day presents new challenges and learning experiences and I appreciate the input and sincere efforts made to improve situations in the city.

I again feel it is important to recognize and express appreciation for our dedicated city employees and those who serve the city in any way, from the Department Heads to each employee and from the City Council Members to each volunteer. As I have mentioned before, I am especially appreciative of those who are responsible for developing the budgets that ultimately become the city budget. As we still deal with scarce revenue and increased costs and needs, their knowledge and hard work are noted and appreciated.

Even though residential growth has not been what we would have liked it to be last year and certainly not what it was a few years ago, there are encouraging signs of improvement. Residential building permits were up from 22 in 2011 to 42 in 2012 and we have issued 5 already this month to get 2013 off to a good start. Hawthorne Garden Apartments, a high end apartment complex, appears to be poised to start construction just south of the new Allstate building in the first part of 2013 as well.

We continue to be optimistic about the complete reoccupation of the Pine Ridge Mall. With the building and opening of the Panda Express and then the remodeling of the former Dillard's building to house the introduction of Herbergers Department Stores into Idaho has also come

renewed interest on other mall stores, as we have a couple of the vacant sites near Herbergers that will build and open in the near future. In speaking with mall management, they are now actively marketing the rest of the facility.

The first phase of Knudsen Boulevard was completed this summer followed by Sherwin-Williams paint store opening in the first section of a commercial complex that was completed on the north corner of entrance off Yellowstone and Idaho Central Credit Union finished their new branch office on the south side of the entrance in late fall. The second phase of Knudsen Boulevard was contracted and started in late summer with a completion date anticipated in the spring of this year. With a signalized intersection at both Yellowstone and Hawthorne, this will not only provide for better traffic circulation through the city, but will open desirable interstate exposure commercial development sites for new businesses. The state has also contracted for the replacement of the I-86 interchange at Yellowstone with a scheduled completion date of November 2013. We had originally anticipated that this project would take 2 construction seasons to complete and were pleasantly surprised with the change. The south end of the city will definitely take on a new and progressive look with these improvements as well as others that we are not presently sure of.

Allstate continues to be a tremendous addition to the economic wellbeing of Chubbuck as well as a significant impact on our entire community. In addition to the anticipated projects that this center provides to their parent company, they are currently preparing to house a road side assistance division in the service center. It bears repeating that Allstate making the decision to locate here was exemplary of the cooperation between the cities of Pocatello and Chubbuck and Bannock County. We were aided in this effort by Bannock Development Corporation, Idaho State University, The Chamber of Commerce, and many other business and civic leaders locally as well as Governor Otter and multiple state agencies. It was definitely a team effort.

We continue to see change and progress on both East and West Chubbuck Road. Afton Meadows the commercial subdivision that includes Wilks Funeral Home anticipates being completed in 2013. We are pleased to see as part of that completion, the move of Insurance Designers into one of the buildings around the 1<sup>st</sup> of May. The Nield families have been longtime supporters of Chubbuck and we welcome their business in this new location. As this development nears completion, I would like to recognize Rodney Burch as an investor in our city that has made a significant impact on its future. He has been involved in several projects over the years that have provided infill in the city's core. On West Chubbuck Road, we are pleased that the Mystique Theatre will continue to provide a unique theatrical experience to our area as well as resources for other kinds of events. Larry and Debbie Fisher have purchased the property and want to continue and improve the asset that this facility has meant to our area. We encourage the entire community to watch for coming events and expect a quality experience.

We are pleased with the relationship that the city has with the Chubbuck/Pocatello Hockey Association. We thank them for the unique opportunity they provide for our community. They not only facilitate inline hockey competition during the summer but provide for a full range of ice hockey opportunities in the winter. We continue to partner together in funding the facility. With a grant recently provided by the Portneuf Medical Foundation to purchase a compressor and piping that was purchased last year, refrigeration will be installed this fall to provide a consistent ice sheet. Predictable ice will allow for a longer season, regular league play, and tournaments that can have a significant economic impact. The facility is open to the public when not being used by the league. Initially, public skating will be available most weekends to include Friday, again this year weather permitting. It is our desire to work together with them to create and accomplish a vision for this program and will strive to do our part to grow and promote this activity for our area.

I think it is important to emphasize the unique opportunity it is to have ISU located in our community. They are not only a valuable resource in our economic development, but under the able leadership of President Arthur Vailas, vision for the future of the university and the educational opportunities are exceptional. Idaho State University is truly the crown jewel of our region.

I continue to be involved in discussions and efforts to coordinate and support a unified and cooperative direction for the communities all along the I-15 corridor in Southeast Idaho in particular, as well as work with the Association of Idaho Cities in efforts that benefit the entire state. As we look to the future it is important that we support each other in maintaining and promoting the “quality of life” that we enjoy and work together to encourage that type of growth and development.

I need to give an update of the completion of the recent sewer project and its related funding. When the fee for the construction was originally established we said that we would try to create ways and look for funding sources that would allow us to reduce the fee. As you know we were able to reduce the fee last year and it now appears that we will be able to make an additional reduction this year. We hope to be make this adjustment sometime midyear.

Once again I believe that I can report that the “State Of The City” is good. Even though we have made significant progress in many areas in this down economy, we continue to set goals to help facilitate steady progress in others. Indications are that we will still confront economic difficulties for a while. Many of our citizens are dealing as families and individuals with struggles and challenges. Even small changes and efforts when accomplished as a community can make a difference as we look to continue our progress.

There is much volunteerism and neighbor to neighbor service that is done regularly without a lot of recognition or fanfare. I believe as we

strive to maintain and perpetuate this attitude and activity it will not only provide the intended outcome but will assist us in finding solutions to our economic struggles. Our collective character will be defined as much by who we are and are striving to become as it is by what we do. As city leaders we appreciate the support and positive input that we receive. I believe the future of Chubbuck is bright and pledge my best efforts to continue to move us forward in 2013.

Thank You.