



# North End News

FALL 2011

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## Candidates Discuss Neighborhoods, Growth, and Boise's Future

NENA posed the following questions to this year's Boise Mayor and City Council candidates and asked them to respond in 500 words or less.

- 1) What role do you see neighborhoods and neighborhood associations playing in Boise's future?
- 2) What does "growth" mean to you? What impact do you see growth having on both Boise's geographic boundaries and established neighborhoods?
- 3) What do you see as Boise's biggest challenges in the coming years and how do you plan to address them?

Their verbatim responses follow.

### MAYOR

#### DAVID BIETER

1) Healthy neighborhoods are the cornerstones of a livable city. Boise is blessed with neighborhoods that are safe, clean, dynamic, and attractive, and those qualities are key to our city's success as a place people want to live, work, and raise families.

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## Get Your TRICA Wings

More than three years ago the Treasure Valley Institute for Children's Arts (TRICA) launched a campaign to renovate the Emmanuel Methodist Episcopal Church, at the corner of Eastman and 14th Streets, as the TRICA Center for Arts Education. Initially envisioning a multimillion dollar project that would house musical, visual, culinary, and performance arts, leaders of this project have responded to the current economy by parsing the project into phases. Just as most of the wear and damage to this landmark happened over decades, so too will the effort to restore its soul happen incrementally.

The more than \$2.1 million in donations of cash, pledges, services, and supplies to date has allowed TRICA to stabilize and remediate what had become a dilapidated former beauty: securing municipal permits, shoring up the walls, and gutting and decontaminating its interior. The next goal: \$600,000 to restore the former church sanctuary as classroom and performance space. The renovation of the various adjoining studios, dressing rooms, and offices will happen as funds allow.

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Garden Thrives in the North End

*NENA's looking for a few  
good neighbors.*

Get involved in the North End. Join a committee, attend one of our monthly board meetings, or email us at [board@northendboise.org](mailto:board@northendboise.org).



## Events

October 15 & 16  
**Boise Open Studios  
Cooperative (BOSCO)**  
Open Studios Event

Monday, October 24 • 7 pm  
**NENA Monthly Meeting  
Candidates Forum**  
Mennonite Fellowship  
12th & Eastman

Monday, November 28 • 7 pm  
**NENA Monthly Meeting**  
Mennonite Fellowship  
12th & Eastman

Thursday, December 15 • 6 pm  
**Candle Lantern Parade**  
Hyde Park Grill

### REGULAR MEETINGS OF INTEREST

**ACHD Commission**  
3775 Adams St, Garden City  
12 pm, first 3 Wednesdays  
6 pm, 4th Wednesday

**Boise Meetings**  
3rd floor, City Hall  
150 N. Capitol Blvd

**Boise City Council**  
12 pm, 4th Tuesday  
6 pm all other Tuesdays

**Boise Planning & Zoning**  
6 pm, 1st & 2nd Mondays

**Boise Historic Preservation**  
6 pm, 4th Monday

**Boise Design Review**  
6 pm, 2nd Wednesday



## BOSCO Open Studios Event

The Boise Open Studios Cooperative, or BOSCO, is opening its doors to the public on October 15 and 16.

BOSCO is a diverse group of artists whose goal it is to bridge the gap between artists and the community. To do this, BOSCO sponsors an annual

tour of local artists' studios, many of which are right here in our North End.

Look for the map and times of this year's open studios event at <http://www.boiseopenstudios.com> or in the special pull out section of the *Boise Weekly*.

## Get Your TRICA Wings *continued from page 1*

Currently TRICA is reaching out to passionate supporters to tell the story of this amazing project. NENA has pledged \$5,000 to repair the roof of the structure. TRICA is working to leverage this pledge and other gifts to meet its short-term goal and encourage the success of future phases. The theme for this effort, "The 'Get Your TRICA Wings'" Campaign, is based upon an anonymous quote:

"There are two things in life we will pass on to the children. One is roots and the other wings."

In September TRICA celebrated its 15th anniversary, having served more than 45,000 Treasure Valley children and filling a need for quality art education in financially pinched schools. The refurbishment of the church fills another need, restoring the spirit of a cherished landmark.

TRICA's executive director and founder, Jon Swarthout, is delighted to have TRICA be a part of such a vibrant community and urges his neighbors to join him in supporting the project.

"A neighborhood project like this benefits everyone: the quality of life that distinguishes the North End, its property values," Swarthout said, "but it can't happen without everyone doing their part."

You can do your part by hosting a brief tour of the improvements with a group of your friends, or making a gift of your own time, treasure, or talent. Call TRICA at 344-2220 or email [info@trica.org](mailto:info@trica.org).



## From the President

Happy fall, North Enders. I'd like to take a little space to thank outgoing Board Members Gary Reedy, Sheryl Gillogly, and Candy Beck for their service to the neighborhood on the NENA Board. Also, please welcome new

Board Members Rebecca DeMeritt and Derek Hurd and, student representative, Maddy Munson. It's going to be a great year. We'll see you all at the candidate forum!

— Cheers, Holli

# Candidates Discuss Neighborhoods, Growth, and Boise's Future

*continued from page 1*

As Mayor, I've met frequently with all 36 of our registered neighborhood associations and have worked closely with them on projects ranging from crime reduction to wildfire mitigation. I boosted the annual Neighborhood Reinvestment Grant program to allow more of the kinds of public improvements and amenities that our citizens want and need. Most important, I've committed the city to deliver municipal services at the neighborhood level. The result: three new neighborhood libraries (with a fourth on the way); three new school-based community centers and two new mobile youth recreation vans; and City Hall West, which gives West Boise residents a place to do city business without coming downtown. I even take my "Saturday Office Hours" program out to libraries and fire stations, giving residents a chance to share their ideas and concerns with me directly in their own neighborhoods.

I will continue to be accessible and responsive to Boise's neighborhoods. They are our most valuable partners in protecting and enhancing our city's quality of life.

2) To be prosperous, a city must grow. But growth isn't just about expanding city boundaries; Boise thrived through the mid-2000s while we grew geographically hardly at all.

The key is not to grow fast but to grow right. That means emphasizing redevelopment of existing areas that are underutilized or have fallen on hard times. Municipal services already exist in those places, so we can grow there without building new roads and schools or hiring more police officers and firefighters. Redevelopment also must be compatible with existing neighborhoods; that's why we have, for example, engaged the 30th

Street neighborhoods so extensively in planning for new investments in that area.

Boise's boundaries are eventually going to expand; that is inevitable. But my primary focus has been and will continue to be on making the Boise of today even better for tomorrow.

3) In a word: jobs. Even though Boise has fared generally better than the rest of the valley during this recession, too many of our residents remain unemployed and underemployed. Priority one for me as Mayor is to do all I can to support our local economy.

Our Greenhouse Incubator is helping new, local sustainable-technology companies get on their feet. Our fee deferral program and streamlined permit process have lowered the barriers to entry for new and expanding businesses. We've reinvested almost \$1 million in proceeds from lease of the city's rail line into economic development projects. We've aggressively pursued federal stimulus dollars to put people to work and improve our infrastructure through efforts like the LED streetlight project.

Cities in Idaho need better tools for economic development, such as local-option taxing authority. Getting that authority, with or without the Legislature's help, will be one of my primary economic development initiatives of the next four years.

## DAVID B. HALL

1) Boise's neighborhood associations should play an active role in development. Neighborhood associations are the forum for residents to voice their concerns and interests. Each of Boise's neighborhoods should be encouraged to form an association because this is a conducive way for neighborhoods and residents to not

only have a discussion about their neighborhood with one another but an excellent way to have those concerns and interests brought to the city leadership.

2) Growth is the ways and means to show the successes of good management and planning, but growth shouldn't be related to urban sprawl. Encroachment into the very areas that make Boise unique and beautiful does not serve anyone's interest, not even those that would hope to profit on those developments. It is more beneficial for the community and those developers to look at maximizing the land that we currently have to its fullest potential before looking into our other areas for development.

Growth shouldn't just be related to our housing market. It should be related to the dynamics of the businesses that we bring into our community. It should be related to our manufacturing capabilities, those designed to help solve not only the issues that face our community, but the issues that face our nation. There is no legitimate reason why Boise should not be the leader and community to develop those technologies that are needed to help us face our future energy concerns.

This may seem like a big task, but I have every confidence that we have every resource needed here in our community. Those resources are in our universities and colleges working with our business leaders and business leaders working with our city leaders, promoting these new technologies and industries, and creating sustainable growth that not only benefits our community locally but the needs of the nation as well. There are challenges out there and Boise should be on the forefront and a leader in meeting these new challenges.

*continued*

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## Candidates Discuss Neighborhoods, Growth, and Boise's Future *continued*

3) One of Boise's main concerns is transit. Many of the neighborhoods in Boise need to have direct access to our transit system; Boise's residential areas need to have affordable access from their homes to their places of work, the places where they shop, and the places where they recreate. I believe if Boise had this type of transit system, people would use it not only to get them where they need to go conveniently and affordably but also because it's easier to drink a cup of coffee while reading the morning text/e-mail riding the bus than when driving.

Over the last four years, by bicycling and using the buses, I have saved hundreds of dollars a month, money that I didn't have to spend on gas, car maintenance, or insurance. I believe many families could use that savings as well, and a modern transit system would help. I believe working with the neighborhood associations throughout our city, we can address this issue and find a way that really works to provide for our transit concerns and eliminate congestion.

### **CITY COUNCIL SEAT 1 LAUREN McLEAN**

As a North End resident for over 13 years, I understand the importance of vibrant neighborhoods to a city's future. I worked with many of you to protect our foothills open space — a success that has benefitted every citizen of Boise. My track record as a member of the Parks Commission, Planning and Zoning, and now as Boise City Councilwoman demonstrates my commitment — and ability — to balance protection of our city's neighborhoods while creating a path forward for sustainable growth.

My focus will remain on fostering smart and sustainable growth in Boise because it ultimately provides our city with vibrant neighborhoods and schools, stronger arts and cultural opportunities, and increased access to parks and open spaces for our residents to enjoy free of charge. I believe that if we are successful in encouraging sustainable growth, city government can ultimately help create economic opportunity for our residents.

As a Councilwoman, I'll leverage my experience and relationships to advance issues and policies that will shape this city's future. My track record speaks for

itself — I've worked to protect Boise's foothills and increase school funding. I've voted to establish new bus routes and encouraged sustainable growth, urban agriculture, and a strong arts community in the most recent Boise Comprehensive Plan. I am asking Boise residents to vote for me so that I can continue this work.

Boise's neighborhoods must be places where families can afford to live, children are safe to roam, and residents can easily connect with local businesses, schools, and jobs. Neighborhood associations have had, and should continue to have, an impact on Boise's plans for the future — sharing your vision and needs as we work toward creating a livable city. We need strong neighborhoods and engaged residents willing to help protect and improve them.

As Boise continues to grow, I'll seek ways to provide, or encourage, more economic, cultural, and recreational opportunity for our citizens. We must look to reinvest in areas of our city, seek ways to leverage public investment to encourage private investment, and encourage growth in areas where we can build sustainable neighborhoods with easy access to transportation and well-paying jobs. If we as a city take steps to invest in our neighborhoods, schools, and universities, we'll be more successful in encouraging private investment to bring the jobs, commercial services, and economic opportunity we need to grow.

In the next four years, my challenge — and my focus — will be to work with the Mayor, Council, and community leaders to agree on a vision for our city and take the necessary steps to make that vision Boise's reality. This requires the appropriate mix of government services to provide economic opportunity and public investment in strong schools, our universities, our downtown, and our neighborhoods.

I ask for your vote on November 8th so I can be a part of guiding Boise's future.

### **CITY COUNCIL SEAT 2 MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM**

1) I want to see neighborhoods and neighborhood associations continue



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their active role in improving the areas around Boise. This would include utilizing neighborhood grants, working to make our neighborhoods safe, and continuing active communication with city leaders. I believe that better communication between our neighborhood associations and the city council will improve our city as a whole, thereby attracting businesses to invest. If elected to office, I would like to implement open forums twice a month where citizens and community leaders can come discuss issues with me to see what solutions are needed.

I also believe neighborhood associations should play a role in traffic and road construction projects. This is essential to improving the safety of our streets. Neighborhood associations should also play a role in park improvement, such as building local swimming pools, playgrounds, and sidewalks and bike lanes for safety.

2) I am in favor of growth, but it needs to be controlled to avoid urban sprawl. We need to make sure we have projects that meet the neighborhoods' standards, make efficient use of space, and grow in environmentally safe ways. We need to make sure we have adequate space for parks and continue to protect the Boise Foothills from development. I also believe that before you can have significant growth you need to have the infrastructure to sustain it. We need to put ourselves ahead of the game and make sure our services continue to meet the high standards Boiseans have come to expect, while encouraging and supporting businesses.

3) I believe one of our biggest challenges is improving public transportation. As more people move to the valley and more cars are on the roads, we need to provide an efficient, environmentally-friendly alternative. I believe we need to improve the bus system that we have here in the valley so that it can serve more people throughout the city and become an attractive option for transportation. In working on this challenge I believe we address another challenge, air quality. We are all familiar with the inversion in the valley and it is time we take an active role in reducing our emissions.

We need to take these challenges and open up a dialogue. We need to have negotiations regarding improvements and investments. We need our

neighborhoods and the services they provide in both the public and private sector. We need to build a partnership together to reach the goals we all want.

### LAWRENCE (L.W.) JOHNSON

1) Neighborhood associations are the first responders on communicating whether or not policy was effective and how new policy can be improved. They are crucial to keeping local politicians grounded and focused on real issues.

Neighborhood associations should work closely with city council on designing, planning, and implementing public works projects that improve neighborhoods. These projects must be economically responsible and support proper city growth. Neighborhood associations should work with local business and local government on protecting open space, recreational areas, parks, and the general quality of life we Boiseans covet so much.

2) As a small business owner, I am excited about growth. It means hiring more people and doing my part. On the other hand, construction and development has taught me that without proper planning and framework even the most beautiful structure will fail.

Boise's geographic boundaries will eventually grow. This knowledge insures proper growth.

- Quality education for all of our kids.
- Quality roads and bridges that make sense in a long-term picture.
- Proper environmental controls to ensure safe growth.
- Adequate emergency services per population.
- Quality mass transit that benefits all.
- Plans for park and recreation space. No more cookie cutter neighborhoods that don't have space for parks, recreation, and open areas.

Established neighborhoods should work with local government on long-term growth. What works is best felt in the community.



3) Boise's biggest challenge today is unemployment. State and local government can work together to push public works construction projects averaging \$50,000. This will put 'D' and 'C' licensed public works companies back on public works jobs. These companies focusing on public works will free up private residential and commercial projects for smaller and disadvantaged construction companies. This could put hundreds more local companies into direct contact with multiple jobs. Thousands of people would go back to work, and the backflow of cash would spur local business to hire. Top to bottom, these companies will need equipment, tools, food, transportation, and a wide range of work-related items.

A trolley downtown will employ far less companies, mostly top heavy companies that won't provide the necessary backflow of money we need. It does not pencil out.

Keep property taxes to a minimum. Boise city raises the budget every year. Why? Food prices rising, gas prices high, mortgage companies unwilling to see past the paper, unemployment through the roof, and my homes worth half? They still raise my property taxes? The Boise city council has a duty to protect our interests. When will they start? When I win my city council race and create a synergy with other taxing districts to keep property taxes to a minimum.

Live Idaho, play Idaho, buy Idaho, but send our kids to better jobs in different states? We need to be better at developing an Idaho that encourages and supports healthy business. Businesses that provide our kids with the jobs they need to stay in Idaho.

# Candidates Discuss Neighborhoods, Growth, and Boise's Future *continued*

## BEN QUINTANA

1) Neighborhoods and associations play a vital role in Boise's future. Strong neighborhoods build strong communities and strong communities build strong economies. By working to create strong neighborhoods, citizens can ensure their community is safe, clean, and livable.

Workforce and economic development trends have shifted toward a "live first, work second" mindset. This means many of our citizens — especially knowledge workers and the creative class — are searching for a great place to live first then find a job. If neighborhoods and associations continue developing great places to live, Boise will be better positioned to keep talented workers and enhance its economic vitality.

2) Growth means getting better. The right type of growth can have a positive impact on the community. Smart, well-planned, organic, and sustainable growth will lead Boise to a better tomorrow. On the contrary, unplanned growth and urban sprawl will strain our

resources and weaken our community. Larger, bigger, or faster growth doesn't always translate to better growth.

The Boise Valley has become a sprawling metropolitan region that must work together as one interconnected system. We are one region and one community. What happens in North and Southeast Boise has an impact on the West and Central Bench areas and vice versa.

3) Boise's biggest challenges will include: 1) economic vitality, 2) transportation, and 3) education.

Challenge #1: The overall strength of our local economy is my greatest concern. Over the years, Boise has seen a dramatic decrease in corporate headquarters, and its largest employers have unfortunately shed thousands of high-wage jobs. Getting people back to work with high-paying jobs must be our primary focus. Boise's future will depend on our ability to create new jobs and build a stronger, more sustainable, local economy.

Opportunity: By working together, we can succeed. I will work to make Boise an even better place for businesses to start, grow, and succeed. I will continue to partner with local entrepreneurs, executives, and community leaders to find creative solutions to our unique challenges.

Challenge #2: As the Boise Valley continues to grow, moving people and goods will become increasingly important to the success of our economy and quality of life. Our transportation system must be comprehensive and future-ready through the integration of safe and accessible bicycle and walking paths, an improved bus system, light rail, and expanded air service.

Opportunity: Secure the option to provide community investment. We must allow our citizens the right to choose whether or not to tax themselves for infrastructure improvements. We must continue to collaborate with neighborhoods and the business community to create a comprehensive, future-ready transportation system.

Challenge #3: Our future workforce depends on an educated population. Decreased funding for schools and universities threatens our ability to educate our workforce.

Opportunity: I will continue to work in partnership with the business community and educational institutions to find creative solutions to better prepare, educate, train, and retrain our current and future workforce. Education is the key to building a stronger community for our future.

## CITY COUNCIL SEAT 3

### DAVID EBERLE

1) The mayor had it right shortly after his first election when he said "a city is a collection of neighborhoods." I believe neighborhood identity is one of the prime factors in our low crime rate and certainly a huge contributor to our cultural richness, making Boise one of the most livable cities in the country. Boise has worked to empower neighborhoods through neighborhood investment grants and incorporation of neighborhood plans into Boise's Comprehensive Plan. As a result, during my tenure, we have grown from just a handful of active neighborhoods to over 30 today. I am a strong advocate for giving neighborhoods control over their area when it does not conflict with the broader goals of the city. Looking towards the future, I anticipate neighborhoods and associations continuing to play an important role in how the city develops.

2) There is income growth, wealth growth, population growth, and city boundary growth that directly impact neighborhood livability. Not all are under the control of the city. If one believes the premiere demographer Chris Nelson's prediction for the next twenty years, we can expect a continued renaissance of our urban center. This will have both positive and negative consequences on the North End. Your home will be closer to better jobs and cultural opportunities. This will increase home values and bring more traffic into the core. We can mitigate these impacts by building public transit alternatives, creating transit corridors to direct traffic away from neighborhoods, and incentivizing workforce housing. This will take both cooperation from Ada County Highway District and a new revenue source, like a local-option tax. If Boise is successful in its vision, it will lower tax rates for Boiseans and help make Boise a more compact city. Growth to me means a better future for

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our children, a vibrant cultural city with a strong, local agricultural base, and recreational opportunities with open space for wildlife.

3) There are a number of challenges facing Boise. The most pressing challenge is to maintain the city services. The best way to achieve this is through stimulating the local economy with whatever tools the city has available. A larger, more systemic, challenge is to work with our partner agencies to create a land use pattern that is sustainable economically, socially, and environmentally. It is why we are rewriting the city's Comprehensive Plan to incorporate best land management practices for housing, commerce, transportation, and open space. Significant progress has been made. The agreement for county courthouse services will save Boise residents about \$250,000 annually with no additional cost to the county. The regional challenge will be curbing valley sprawl. We continue to challenge our partners at COMPASS to create a Boise urban corridor that is sustainable. It will require persistent focus and constant dialogue with our partner agencies. In my eight years in office I have learned how to work with other officials with widely divergent views. I would like the opportunity to continue this work and ask for your vote this November.

#### DAVID A. HONEY

No response.

#### CITY COUNCIL SEAT 5

#### ELAINE CLEGG

1) My roots are in neighborhoods; I will always use what I learned as the NENA President and Board Member to guide decisions. Recently I have been meeting with a group of neighborhood leaders to reenergize a neighborhood coalition and neighborhood educational opportunities. I hope that neighborhood leaders can become partners through a form of budgeting that allows citizens to help guide the expenditure of the funding budgeted for improvements in their neighborhood.

2) To remain vibrant Boise has two directions for growth: infill/redevelopment and expansion to the south.

Infill and redevelopment can be compatible and sustainable using transparent planning processes

such as for the 30th Street area. By involving neighborhoods early to plan for compatibility and neighborhood enhancement, we can all enjoy the benefits of reducing sprawl through encouraging higher density development on underutilized lands with good transportation access and public services. I support this same kind of process in other areas identified in the draft Comprehensive Plan for infill and redevelopment.

Expanding south can save farmland but needs to be done sustainably. I support development that meets LEED-ND standards including water reuse, developing activity nodes, preservation of riparian areas on intermittent creeks, and good transportation connections.

I expect incremental slow growth to continue in the foothills only in locations where the topography and our values support it.

3) The tough economy continues to make it challenging to build responsible, fiscally-conservative, efficient budgets concentrated on maintaining the service levels of the core services of the city while continuing to make strategic investments in the future, such as branch libraries, new parks, and foothills open space acquisitions. I have and will continue to support budgets that strive to keep service levels intact while finding budget savings through

efficiencies, such as downsizing the city fleet, centralizing IT services, finding energy savings in our buildings and street light system, and reviewing all equipment replacement schedules.

Boise needs to be prepared for growth to resume and to have plans and regulations in place that will protect our quality of life. I have supported the update of the city's Comprehensive Plan and the upcoming update of zoning and other codes and processes to support the new plan. This can provide certainty to neighborhoods and developers alike, and the updated zoning can be written to provide incentives toward the use of green building techniques to protect the environment for the future.

Finally, I understand the importance of updating the long-range transportation plan and implementing a strong multimodal transportation system with high quality transit and convenient, well-designed, and safe walking and biking conditions. I will support a ballot initiative or legislation to extend local-option taxing authority to the citizens of Boise — the right to vote for improvements to our transportation system. The future will belong to the metropolitan regions that have the resources to support and attract high quality jobs, and being able to build a high quality transit system is vital to that goal.

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## Garden Thrives in the North End

By Amy and Jonathan Krutz

Have you noticed a waterfall of ridiculously-long purple beans-like red licorice ropes-cascading from the tall trellis south of Brumback Street, just east of 10th Street? Or maybe the tomato thicket or the “Go-Grow” picture frames have caught your eye.

The 10th and Brumback Community Garden has been hard to miss this year. What was a weed-filled vacant lot two years ago and a small garden last year has exploded into such a bountiful feast of vegetables that in August the Idaho Horticulture Society recognized it as one of the top three community gardens in Boise.

Several factors combined to make the garden exceptional this year. Mike Vetter and Joe Jeffrey took the lead to incorporate a

load of chicken manure into the soil last fall. Meredith Swassing contributed a greenhouse to get seeds sprouting early — with a new door built by her son, Tanner, and Carl Krutz. Eric Schulman designed and installed a new soaker-hose irrigation system this spring — with a grant from NENA. And twenty different North End households, including a dozen kids, have been involved through the year in preparation, care, and harvesting activities.

Garden property owner Judy Gutierrez couldn't be more pleased. “I love that the space is being used productively,” she said. “And it's been a great activity to bring the neighborhood together.”

If you would like to join the effort this year or next, contact Jonathan or Kim Krutz at 841-1897 or jonkrutz@aol.com.



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