

The REXBURG ROUNDUP

A MESSAGE FROM MAYOR MERRILL

On January 21, Mayor Jerry Merrill presented the 2026 State of the City address at a breakfast event hosted by the Rexburg Area Chamber of Commerce. There, he discussed past and present statistics for the City as well as projects and initiatives planned for the coming year.

“As your Mayor, I’m proud to stand here and say that we’ve finally solved the Rexburg pothole problem... We’ve replaced them all with construction cones! You’re welcome! In all seriousness, it’s great to share this update with you. We couldn’t run this city so smoothly without our dedicated department heads and our incredible staff. But most importantly, our community is defined by you. You are the ones making an impact, growing our university, our local businesses, and our neighborhoods.

GROWTH AND SAFETY

Rexburg has changed a lot in the last century. **Today, our population has surpassed 40,000, with internal projections putting us closer to 46,000.** We are a young, vibrant city; **85% of our residents are under the age of 30.** As any CEO will tell you, rapid growth is only successful if you maintain safety. As we grow, our top priority is keeping Rexburg the safest city in Idaho. With the help of our great **Rexburg Police Department**, we are not only the safest city in Idaho, but we are also the 10th safest city in the United States. Our police are the backbone of our stability. We are committed to giving our first responders the tools they need to ensure that as we grow 'up,' we don't lose the 'peace' that we value so highly.

INFRASTRUCTURE: MANAGING THE LOAD

- **2.4 billion gallons of clean water** was churned
- **24 million pounds of trash** were collected
- **83 miles of streets** were maintained

Such rapid growth puts massive demand on our "bones." My job as Mayor is to ensure these services run efficiently without becoming a financial burden on you. Our challenge and desire is to find creative ways to provide needed and wanted amenities with the smallest financial impact possible.

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“THE STATE OF OUR CITY IS STRONG AND GETTING STRONGER EVERY DAY!”

Jerry Merrill, Mayor

TOPICS

STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS

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JOHN SCHMIDT BENEFIT CONCERT

.....

TABERNACLE LEGACY

.....

REXBURG GIFTED NEW ICE RINK

.....

RPD BOND SURVEY RESULTS

.....

MEETINGS

City Council
4th & 18th

Planning & Zoning
5th & 19th



SATURDAY,
FEBRUARY 21
7:30 PM - 9:30 PM
BYU-Idaho Center

[Tickets](#)



Jon Schmidt of The Piano Guys to Perform Benefit Concert for Rexburg Tabernacle Restoration

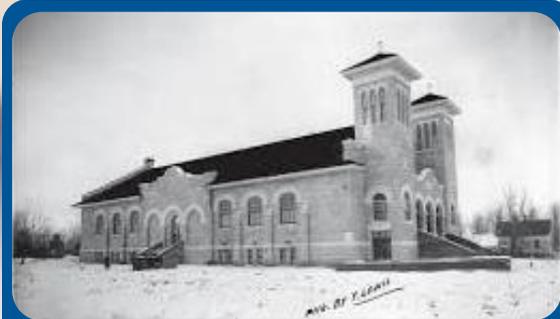
The City of Rexburg is excited for this month’s benefit concert featuring Jon Schmidt of The Piano Guys! It will be at the BYU-Idaho Center on February 21st, and all proceeds will go to the Rexburg Tabernacle Legacy Campaign.

We’re incredibly thankful to Beehive Credit Union for their generous sponsorship of this event. In addition, BYU-Idaho has waived the venue and staffing fees, allowing 100% of ticket proceeds to go directly toward restoring the historic Rexburg Tabernacle. Additional support from Pepsi, Hampton Inn, and Marriott is helping make this special event possible.

Jon Schmidt is an American pianist and composer best known for his work with The Piano Guys. Classically trained, his signature style blends classical, contemporary, and rock influences. He has released eight solo albums and seven piano books and performs to sold-out audiences around the world.

We are honored to welcome Jon Schmidt to Rexburg and invite the entire community to join us in supporting this important cause.

Come enjoy an unforgettable evening of music! Doing so not only will provide an incredible experience, but it will also help ensure the Rexburg Tabernacle continues to serve and inspire our community for generations to come.



The Foundation of Rexburg Lies in the Tabernacle Civic Center

For more than a century, the Rexburg Tabernacle has stood at the heart of our community. Neighbors raised funds for the building in 1911, and construction took just eight months! Since then, it has served as a place of worship, musical reverie, remembrance, and gathering. Generations have shared milestones and memories within its walls.

When the Teton Dam Flood struck in 1976, the Tabernacle survived because the Rexburg community came together. That same spirit of resilience has shaped our town into what it is today. The Tabernacle boasts “near perfect” acoustics, rich history, and a prominent role as our cultural anchor. It’s more than a building; it is a symbol of who we are.

After a century of use, now it’s our turn to care for it, so it can continue inspiring and bringing people together for generations to come.

SAVE THE DATE!

REXBURG’S FUTURE AND FOUNDERS DAY

The Rexburg/Madison County Historical Society is hosting an event to honor and learn about the courageous men and women who helped establish Rexburg and the surrounding areas!



March 14th

TRASH PICK-UP FOR FEBRUARY HOLIDAYS

President’s Day, February 16:

Mon. trash will be picked up
Tues. Feb. 17th





State of the City Address 2026 (cont.)



ECONOMIC VISION & INNOVATION

For example, our partnership with **Silver Star Communications**, unlike other cities that raised property taxes to build fiber networks, we partnered with a private company to build a high-quality network to every resident, **at no cost to the taxpayer**. Why focus so much on high-speed fiber? **Talent Retention**. We want our children and our BYU-Idaho graduates to stay here to launch startups and buy homes rather than moving to Boise or Salt Lake.

We are transitioning Rexburg from a town you "pass through" to an economic hub where you "put down roots." You see this same innovation at **The Neutral Zone**, Rexburg's new ice rink. Also built through a public-private partnership with the Rennaker family, this facility came at almost no capital cost to the City. We will officially assume operations on February 1st. We are also working to unlock our greatest natural gem: the Teton River. Our Parks and Trails committee and staff will oversee construction this year on a new park that borders the river, providing easier river access for all families.

GROWING THE TAX BASE, NOT THE TAX BILL.

One of our biggest challenges is that **25% of the property in City boundaries is off the tax rolls**. My goal is to increase our total revenue by growing the "pie," not by taking a larger slice of yours. I want to acknowledge the **Madison County Commissioners**. Our partnership, along with the Urban Renewal Agency, is what allows us to purchase and demolish the old school district building on Main Street. By working together, we are getting that site ready for private redevelopment that will return it to the tax rolls. We are doing the same with the underutilized city-owned property near Center St. and Carlson Ave.



Teton River Park Rendering



Urban Renewal Purchase of
MSD #321 Admin Property



Downtown Redevelopment Plots
redesigned for new purposes



State of the City Address 2026 (cont.)

HERITAGE: THE TETON DAM AND THE TABERNACLE

*This year marks the **50th Anniversary of the Teton Dam Flood**. We have grown so much in 50 years, but we must never forget the spirit of resilience and neighborly love that defined our recovery. As we lead up to this anniversary, I invite you to attend Rexburg’s Future and Founders Day event on March 14th, hosted by the City of Rexburg and the Rexburg-Madison County Historical Society. This event celebrates Rexburg’s birthday. We will have the chance to learn about the courageous men and women who helped establish Rexburg and how Community organization who continue to make it a “great place.” In that same spirit, we are working to preserve our heritage at the **Rexburg Tabernacle**. We’ve secured grants for a new HVAC system, but we need your help with the full restoration shown on these slides. On **February 21st**, we are hosting a **fundraising concert featuring Jon Schmidt of The Piano Guys**. Please support us in this endeavor and encourage family and friends to attend. It will be a great evening. **Thanks to Beehive Credit Union and BYU-Idaho, 100% of the proceeds go directly to the Tabernacle.** It’s an investment in our downtown history.*

*In addition to the 50th anniversary of the flood, it is also the 250th anniversary of the United States. We will be holding an **America 250 celebration at Bobcat Stadium** (Madison High School) on July 3rd with family activities, vendors, a concert, drone show, and fireworks, in addition to fireworks the following day on the 4th of July. We wouldn’t be able to make this anniversary year special without the help of donors and the Madison School District.*

Rexburg is “America’s Family Community,” and as I begin my final two years as your Mayor, I will continue to help Rexburg grow responsibly. I want to ensure our families can live and grow here, our infrastructure is strong and ready, and our values remain intact.

Thank you, Mayor Merrill



REXBURG GIFTED THE NEUTRAL ZONE!

The City of Rexburg is thrilled to add The Neutral Zone to our roster of community assets. Initially a public/private partnership, the facility was gifted to the City in full, and the transition becomes official on February 1st!

In celebration of this new opportunity, we are hosting an official Grand Opening Ceremony, and we’re inviting the whole community to join us as we kick off this endeavor with a bang...or a slap, as it were.

We have an exciting lineup of events scheduled for **Monday, February 16th, from 2-6 pm, followed by open public skating with admission costs waived for the evening from 6-10 pm.** Follow us on social media or the City’s app as we finalize the schedule and release more information. We can’t wait to see you all on the ice!

Event followed by Public Skate from 6-10 pm

Happening this Month

- 2/6
February Art Stoll 5-8 pm
 "Words We See"
Romance Theater
- 2/16
President's Day all day
 City offices closed
- 2/16
Grand Opening! 2-6 pm
 The Neutral Zone
Riverside Park Free Skate
6-10 pm
- 2/21
Jon Schmidt of 7:30 pm
the Piano Guys
 Tabernacle Benefit Concert
BYU-I Center



RPD Bond Survey Results

City Council recently reviewed results from the Rexburg Police Bond Survey conducted by The Square Group. The survey gathered feedback from voters following the November bond election. It saw results from over 500 respondents, the majority reporting they voted against the bond or abstained from the election altogether. This proved helpful for the City to guide future decisions surrounding the initiative. Results show strong recognition of the need for a new police facility, with about 75% of respondents recognizing the need for a new or updated Rexburg police station. The Rexburg Police Department also received high marks, with over 80% of respondents expressing positive support for the department. The primary concern identified was property taxes, with the large majority of respondents saying they are at least "somewhat concerned" about their overall property tax burden, and that taxes "strongly influence" how residents vote. Other concerns included the City budget and a misunderstanding or concern for the overall scope of the project. Given the survey responses, our City Council will meet in February and beyond to discuss options for future police station proposals. The City is hopeful that with that additional information, clear communication, and consideration of a scaled or phased project could increase support.

SAFETY TIP

WHEN IN DOUBT, CHECK IT OUT!

If something doesn't look right, stop and check. Taking a moment to assess the problem can prevent injuries, damage, and bigger problems for yourself and those around you.



Stay Informed with the Rexburg App!



Learn More

rexburg.org

Contact Us

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America's Family Community.



City Council Members

- Bill Riggins
- Alisha Tietjen
- Colin Erickson
- David Reeser
- Bryanna Johnson
- Eric Erickson

January Meetings

City Council: 4th & 18th
Planning & Zoning: 5th & 19th