

## **Channel 6 Statement on Caldwell Livability**

The City of Caldwell has grown tremendously over the last several years. With a population now over 57,000, we are continually striving to achieve the best possible quality of life for each of our residents and there are a plethora of exciting projects in progress.

### Economic Development and Business:

Beginning with economic development, the City of Caldwell is working to bring new jobs with a livable wage to the city by providing business incentive grants and programs. Sky Ranch Business Park is a prime example of the utilization of these programs and is estimated to bring in hundreds of jobs by the end of 2019. Downtown Caldwell has also been reenergized to include the Indian Creek Plaza, which hosts public events throughout the year, includes a splash pad and ice skating ribbon, and orchestrates an atmosphere of family and inclusion. Other downtown businesses have moved in as well, including coffee shops, restaurants and a movie theater.

### Housing:

Caldwell has several workforce housing development projects in the works. We were able to partner with the Urban Renewal Agency and the Community Development Block Grant program in order to obtain three grants to begin work on these developments. Overall, the city's comprehensive planning and zoning policies encourage walkability, neighborhood parks and open space. Many of the city's parks have been improved over the last few years in order to encourage community use.

### Education and Children:

The City of Caldwell has partnered with school districts and the Urban Renewal Agency in order to insure schools are located optimally for families. The URA has given schools property in some cases, and the city has worked to provide sidewalks and crosswalks for communities surrounding schools.

Additionally, Elevate Academy opened this year in Downtown Caldwell. The charter school works with each school district to provide quality education and practical skill sets to at-risk students, specializing in the areas of culinary arts, construction and welding, nursing and graphic design. The academy also provides mental health services to students.

Overall, diversion programs set in place by the Caldwell Police Department and the community have seen an approximate 79% decrease in the Canyon County juvenile detention center over the last ten years.

### Police and Safety:

Despite Caldwell's rapidly growing population, the crime rate has decreased by more than half since 2002, including in violent crimes. Caldwell is determined to provide a safe community and is adding more police officers to the staff this year. In addition, each school is provided with a community resource officer, and neighborhood watches have been organized by the police department.

### Infrastructure, Transportation and Other Projects:

Finally, the city has several other projects underway including the ITD project of widening Highway 20/26 to Middleton road, other road and public infrastructure improvements, construction of a new fire station, and a new and improved bridge on 10<sup>th</sup> avenue, just to name a few.

The City of Caldwell has made significant strides in keeping up with the population growth. Our focus remains on creating a family friendly environment for our residents with affordable housing, livable wages, community presence and improving education. We are excited both with how far we have come and where we are going. Come see us in Caldwell!