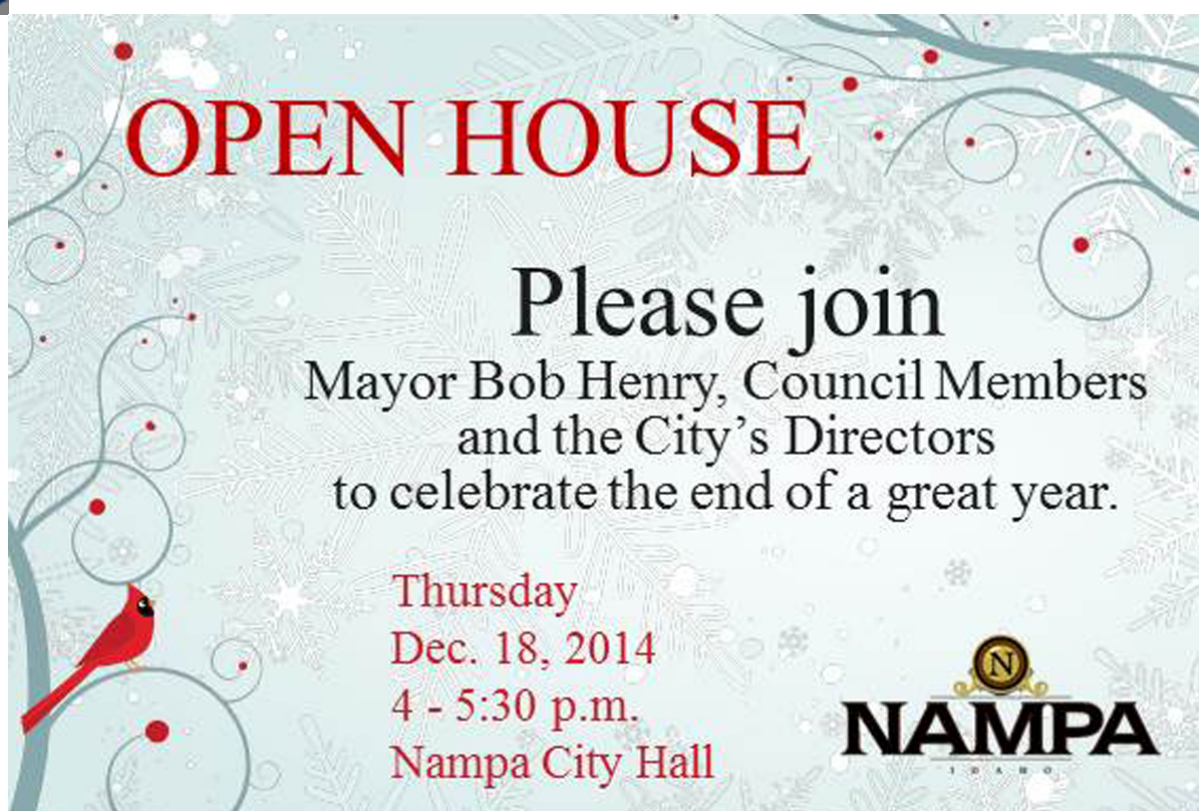


# Newsletter 8: Merry Christmas And Happy New Year

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## Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! I'm looking forward to an exciting 2015

Wow, what a difference a year makes. Last December, I was getting ready for a new job and new responsibilities. Looking back, the holidays seem like a blur. There was so much to do in

so little time.

Now, more than 11 months down the road, I am looking forward to Christmas and the New Year. The year 2014 has been an interesting, educational and productive year for the my office, the

City Council, city departments and employees.

I can not wait to give an update at the State of the City Address slated for Jan. 21 at the Nampa Chamber of Commerce Luncheon. I hope you will be there. We will have much to celebrate. But the purpose of this newsletter is to mark the end of a great year for Nampa and its citizens, and to thank you for your support.

I also need to thank the City Council members. They have logged long hours as we have examined new ideas or approaches.

And nothing would be possible without the much appreciated efforts of city departmental directors and their dedicated employees.

We have a multitude of reasons to be thankful this season in Nampa. The economy is truly turning around. We see bright spots everywhere and there is more on the horizon. And I am proud to say the city levy rate goes down 14 percent in this budget cycle.

A year ago, I did not think we could give pay raises to our employees. We did not have the funds to do that in August when we adopted the 2015 Fiscal Year Budget. But expenses decreased, thanks to some major changes in the firefighters retirement fund. That means we will give all employees a 2 percent salary increase, effective Jan. 1. If you have any questions about that, [here is a guest opinion I submitted to the Idaho Press-Tribune.](#)

We are going to wrap up 2014 at City Hall with an Open House between 4 and 5:30 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 18. It is an opportunity for you to drop by, say hello to my staff, City Council members and departmental directors.

I hope your holiday season is safe and memorable.



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