

We welcome these Chairmen who started a new Watch group, are a new Co-Chair, or are taking over as Chairman for an existing group:

Kym Martin The Park Apts	Marilee Fuller Roanoke Dr
Marcene Stocks N. Ashtree Way	Kevin/Angela Banning . W. 23rd St
Shelagh Jenkins Eagle Pointe Apts	Dottie Poulson Cornwall
Robert Cooperstein . . . Oakpark Apts	Cathie Havlina Crescent Rim
Angie Voss Rookery Sub	Jayne Walker Pier Pointe Sub
Steve Hill Walden Pond Sub	Linda Shirley Sunshine Dr
Martin DeRow The Legends Sub	Cathy Hardy Quail Ridge Sub
Roxanne Tensen Greenfield Apts	Vilate Gee Coventry Manor Sub
Marie Dewey W. Albion	Sharon Hastings W. Silver City Ct
Susan VanEyll Alpine Estates	

**Boise Neighborhood Watch groups as of September 23, 2010:
320 groups comprised of 26,187 homes**



Making Old Neighborhood Watch Signs Look New

By Sue Jones, Buckboard St. Neighborhood Watch

Is your neighborhood sign faded a lot, or even a little? Well - good news! There is now an inexpensive outdoor paint that is water base and very easy to use, called Patio Paint. It is available at Hobby Lobby and possibly other stores in the area too.

My experience with it was just this summer so I am not sure yet how it will hold up in our very hot summers and the cold winters. But the price of it is very reasonable so even if I have to do it again next year I feel it is worth it.

The colors I used were Pumpkin; I then added in some Tuscan Red to get the nice bright orange to match the sign. Using very small brushes (1/8" & 1/4") it took about an hour.

For any further information feel free to contact me through Charlene Miller at 570-6070.



Old



New

TAKE A BITE OUT OF CRIME



Everyday Heroes By Charlene Miller

In preparation for National Night Out this year, I asked Boise residents, especially those involved in Neighborhood Watch, to 'nominate your neighbor' - those good neighbors who have gone above and beyond in their neighborhoods - and to submit their name(s) and explanation of what they've done to me.

I received 40 nominations, and after reading them I realized this should be an annual recognition. The explanations were inspiring, sometimes humorous, a few were heart-wrenching, and all were motivational.



Recognizing Cathy Barney (striped shirt), truly a Good Neighbor!

These are residents who take extra time for the elderly neighbors and do home repair projects for them without pay; some thwarted crime due to Neighborhood Watch efforts; one began CPR on a heart attack victim and continued until paramedics arrived; one uses his four-wheeler as a snowplow in the winter and removes snow off the sidewalks; several consistently patrol their neighborhood; one acted bravely in trying to save a woman when a house was on fire; one sends birthday cards with gift cards to all the children

in the neighborhood and organizes ice cream socials and other events. The list goes on and on. These are our everyday heroes and truly worthy of Good Neighbor awards.

I thought about what makes a hero. I looked up the definition in the dictionary, and the root word is "one who watches over or protects." I came up with three characteristics of a hero.

A hero is a person who:

1. Recognizes the need. Living with our eyes open, aware of others around us so we will easily recognize true needs.
2. Willing to be inconvenienced. Heroism always requires sacrifice! It is thinking of others more than our selves at that time.
3. Acts on the need. These neighbors saw needs and met them, usually on more than one occasion. On September 11th, Tom Burnett on United Flight 93 told his wife, "We've got to do something." He and others acted on the need.

Sometimes there isn't much difference between acts of kindness and some heroic deeds. Maybe it is the acts of kindness and smaller heroic deeds that prepare us for the large heroic acts.

From the everyday heroes like these good neighbors, to Todd Beamer, Jeremy Glick, Mark Bingham, and Tom Burnett on United Flight 93, there are all kinds of heroes. We have to start somewhere.

The goal is not to be held in high honor as a hero and to think how special we are to have done something great or heroic, but to simply do what is needed for someone else. Recognize the need. Be willing to sacrifice. Act on the need. Kudos to all of those in our neighborhoods who are truly good neighbors!

Decrease in Boise Crime:

Boise Police have just released the city's first-half 2010 crime statistics. Overall the stats show a 4.3% decrease in major crimes (Group A top eight IBR crimes), and a 6.8% decrease in other crimes (Part 2/Group A IBR and Group B crimes).

"I'm pleased with the report overall, but it does still show areas where we can work with community partners, including business and neighborhood groups, to decrease opportunities for crime and make people safer," said Boise Chief of Police Michael Masterson.

"When we look at the trends over the past five years, we're seeing the decrease in crime is indeed a long term trend. Decreasing crime is also a national trend. But what we see in Boise is citizens taking responsibility for their neighborhood safety, working together as a business or residential community, and working with their police department to keep and even improve this tremendous quality of life we all enjoy in Boise, and throughout the Treasure Valley."

Trends:

Burglary: Both business and residential burglaries have decreased significantly in 2010, continuing a downward trend.

Robbery: Robberies are down 22% in 2010 over the same time last year. A decrease in business robberies leads the trend which has stayed steadily lower since a spike in 2006.

Rape: Reported rape cases are up so far in 2010 compared to the same time in 2009, although reports are consistent and somewhat lower than trends over the past five years. The 2010 reports have been analyzed and no patterns are occurring. Most of the reported incidents involve a suspect who is known to the victim.

Motor Vehicle Thefts (theft of the entire vehicle): Motor vehicle theft continues a downward slide, reflecting a national trend that in Boise has meant a significant decrease in vehicle thefts in recent years.

Graffiti: Reports of graffiti are showing a decrease throughout the city after several years of increasing numbers. A process implemented in October 2008 has greatly improved the tracking, investigations and follow up on reported graffiti cases. However, graffiti continues to be a frequent complaint of citizens as incidents affect property values and perceptions of safety.

Thefts from Vehicles (theft of items from inside the vehicle): Vehicle burglaries are up and reflect a pattern being seen in all areas of the city and elsewhere in the valley. Boise PD crime analysts and detectives are working together to identify patterns and suspects.

Crime Prevention:

Preventing Theft from Vehicles: Officers want to stress the old adage, "Lock it or lose it!" Detectives say the vast majority of items stolen are taken from unlocked vehicles, or the suspect forced entry into the vehicle to steal an item of value, like a lap top or purse, that was left in plain sight.

One detective who recently interviewed a suspect in several car burglaries says the young man reports walking down the street and trying car door handles; the ones that opened he would steal from.

Other suspects are targeting cars left in large parking lots, like theatres or retail outlets. Again, car burglary suspects when caught, tell officers they look for "easy pickings", or vehicles that are left unlocked or items left visible and unsecured inside.

Neighborhood Watch: Neighbors watching out for neighbors is often the best way to prevent crimes. Alert neighbors are also often responsible for calling police when they see something suspicious, resulting in the arrest of criminal suspects. Many crimes are solved by alert citizens calling dispatch about suspicious and/or criminal activity in their neighborhoods.

To learn more about Neighborhood watch, or to start a program in your neighborhood, contact cmiller@cityofboise.org

To learn more about crime prevention and other services offered through the Boise Police Department, log onto www.boisepolice.org or follow us on Twitter, YouTube and Facebook!

When Do I Call Police Dispatch?

No police department can function effectively without the concerned assistance of responsible citizens. We are depending on you to call when you observe suspicious activity, are victimized, or have an emergency.

Call 911 when there is an emergency, such as a crime in progress, you fear for your life, or experience a medical emergency or fire.

Call 377-6790 when you want to contact an officer, report suspicious activity, report a crime (not in progress), report an abandoned vehicle or graffiti.



National Night Out

Here are photos from National Night Out 2010 – neighbors getting together for block parties on the 1st Tuesday in August, and inviting police and fire personnel!



A "News of the Weird" Classic:

From 8/13/2010 Idaho Statesman - Scene Magazine

Denise and Jeffrey Lagrimas, who were hosting a neighborhood watch meeting in their Oroville, Calif., home in December (1989) to discuss rising concerns about local crime, were arrested during the meeting after a neighbor spotted her recently stolen TV set in the house and then realized that Denise was wearing her stolen dress. Police officers were already on hand at the meeting to give a presentation and subsequently found \$9,000 worth of stolen goods.

Door-to-Door Solicitors

How do we handle door-to-door solicitors when we are home minding our own business? Are they honest sales people for legitimate businesses? Do they 'case' our neighborhoods to burglarize our homes? Do they scam us?

I don't have the answers to those questions except to say, we don't always know who they are or their intentions. We do know that when a group of solicitors leaves an area, there can be a wave of crime that follows. Often they are aggressive or they ask to come into the home. Some have asked to use the bathroom and when they've left, medication is missing from the medicine cabinet.

Solicitors usually travel in groups that go from one state to another selling a variety of products. Some may be legitimate, some are scammers, and some are thieves. You really don't know where your money is going once you give it to them. Be aware, alert, and wise in these situations.

Here are some crime prevention tips to save you from being victimized:

1. Remember, you don't need to open your door to someone you don't know and are not expecting. However, IF you do open your door to a solicitor, ask if they are licensed with Boise City. Each solicitor needs to possess a license to sell from the Boise City Clerk's Office on his/her person.
2. We suggest you do not allow them into your home.
3. If you feel uncomfortable with the person (trust your instincts) or they act aggressive, shut your door and call police dispatch immediately (377-6790 or 911). Provide the dispatcher with the description of the solicitor, what occurred to make you feel uncomfortable, and what direction they are heading.