



THE BOISE SENTINEL

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER

2011 SPRING

MICHAEL MASTERSON, CHIEF OF POLICE



BOISE POLICE DEPARTMENT CRIME PREVENTION UNIT

The Boise Bark Newsletter has been given a new name!

The Bark (as it is affectionately called) has been providing crime prevention tips and information since January 1986. So, 25 years after it started I decided it is time for a change in the name and the look of our newsletter.

I asked my Neighborhood Watch Chairmen for new names, and Julie Bennison sent in the winning name, **The Boise Sentinel**. The word, "sentinel" means "sentry" or "guard", as in "to guard something or a group of people."

The newsletter has gone from paper copies only, to 2,000 paper copies and available online. Maybe we will keep this name for another 25 years.

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PLANNING A BLOCK PARTY

What better way to kick off our warm weather months than a block party for your entire neighborhood!

Why? To have fun and meet your neighbors; increase the sense of belonging in your neighborhood; meet old time residents and learn the neighborhood's history; build positive relationships between adults and kids; make connections and perhaps organize a book club, baby-sitting co-op, walk or jog with a neighbor, or find new friends for your children.

How? Gather a few neighbors and find out if there is interest in planning a block party. With a small group of neighbors, decide on a possible theme, activities, food, date and time. Divide the duties: creating, printing & distribution of invitations; food arrangements; decorations; tables and chairs needed; activities for the kids; ice-breaker activity to encourage neighbors to meet each other; set-up and clean-up duties; photographer for the event.

Block Party Ideas: Consider inviting a Police Officer, Fire fighter, Mayor, School Principal, etc., to your block party. Have a sign-in sheet with the names of all who attend, and have name tags available. Identify special talents—you may be living next to a magician, radio host or a chef. Organize a talent show or parade (kids, pets, anything on wheels, etc). Rent a popcorn or snow cone machine. Post signs the day before reminding everyone of the event. Publicly thank each one involved in the planning of the party. Photograph the event and share the photos on your neighborhood website, through email, or in a scrapbook with the neighbors.

Hopefully these ideas will help you and your neighbors plan the best block party ever!! For more detailed information and ideas, check on-line sources or contact Charlene at 570-6070.



BEING SAFE

WHILE ENJOYING OUR OUTDOORS

When the weather is nice I look forward to being outdoors, and I start planning our camping trips early. Planning our trips, preparing for the weather, and bringing the appropriate equipment and clothing, are vital to a successful adventure in the outdoors. Planning also includes using our instincts to avoid dangerous situations and stolen gear.

Safety in the outdoors includes notifying friends and family of our destination, our plans and when we will return. A word of caution: do not share your plans on your social networking internet site. You don't want others knowing your home will be left unattended.

Awareness:

We need to be aware and alert and trust our instinct in all situations, and our outdoor travels are no exception. Michael Bane, the author of "Trail Safe: Averting Threatening Human Behavior in the Outdoors," suggests increasing your awareness when you're outdoors to avoid potentially dangerous situations. Be observant of who is near you and what is going on around you, in case you need to react. Plan your actions based on what-if scenarios.

Intuition:

Bane emphasizes listening to your intuition, that little voice we often ignore when we should pay attention to it.

Barb Crevelt, of Cascade, is a marathon runner, Nordic skier and backpacker. She has years of experience leading wilderness backpacking and forest service projects in Idaho, and has been to her share of remote trailheads and mountain trails. "If you have an intuition that something is wrong or that you are uncomfortable with someone, listen to it. Do not rationalize it," Crevelt said. When she was solo backpacking in her 20s, she felt uneasy and moved her tent next to other campers for safety.



Safety Tips:

- Assess the risks in advance and plan accordingly
- Leave the area if things look or feel suspicious
- Efficiently get on the trail from the trailhead
- Keep vehicle keys where you can get to them quickly
- Camp unobtrusively
- Consider temporarily blending in with another group for safety

Source: "Trail Safe: Averting Threatening Human Behavior in the Outdoors" by Michael Bane

Enjoying the outdoors is more enjoyable when we share it with someone. There is safety in numbers, just like when we learned the 'buddy system' as children. Go with a friend you trust and your experience will be more rewarding.

For more information on outdoor safety check the following link: <http://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/safety/safety.shtml>

Much of this information was gleaned from Natalie Bartley's article, "Awareness and intuition can add to your safety" from August 8, 2009, Idaho Statesman.

STORIES FROM OUR NEIGHBORHOODS:



Uniting Our Neighborhoods for a Worthy Cause:

Two of our neighborhoods recently held donation drives to show support for the Idaho Humane Society.

The Hansen's celebrated their Schnauzer, LuciLu's 6th birthday by having cake and punch for the 2-legged attendees, and collecting pet food, dog treats, and needed supplies for the Shelter.

Residents living in the Morris Hill neighborhood also held a donation drive and received an assortment pet food, dog treats, blankets, pet carriers, vitamins and a dog sweater.

Things Are Not Always What They Seem:

One early morning a couple awoke to a loud noise in their backyard. After investigating, they found the gate that separates their yard from the canal was partially off its hinges and lying on the ground. The gate and pole were damaged, but the odd thing is, the gate was already unlocked. They called Boise Police, and the responding officer could not find evidence of prying on the gate or any footprints, but said it had to be someone large to apply the force necessary to move the hinge and deform the pole. Fearing that a criminal (a large one) was in their neighborhood, the resident alerted his neighbors.

He soon received an email reply from a neighbor. She had also gotten up early and heard weird sounds from her backyard. She switched on the light and saw a huge deer bound out of her backyard toward the neighbor's yard. It looked like a big buck. He had tangled with the swing in her yard making the weird sounds she heard, was startled by the light and then ran off toward the gate. Mystery solved!

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS TIP courtesy of the Red Cross.

"Start saving for a rainy day. Stash away a little cash for a true emergency—keep it in your disaster supplies kit. Again, this doesn't need to be overwhelming task. We pay bills every month, consider your emergency funds among your debts and put a few dollars away for the future.

Remember, this isn't a savings account that you can dip into and you'll want to keep it safe and secure at home so it is easy for you to access when you need it."



“Neighborliness is looking out for one another. It’s sitting on the front porch—not the back porch. It’s waving hello and asking the teenager next door about their day. It’s welcoming a new neighbor. It’s working with one another to plan a new playground. It’s the sum of all of the everyday things we do that make our neighborhoods a good place to live and raise children.”

www.neighborhoodmatters.net

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH CAT



WELCOME to Chairmen who started a new Watch group or took over as Chairman for an existing group:

Russell Webb—Grover St
Katie Keller—The Orchards

Peggy Jones—Rookery Sub
Terry Stites—Sunrise Rim

Dianne Hart—Glenbriar MHP
Ray Forshey—Paradise Estates

Staci Kidder—Austin Creek Sub

Boise Neighborhood Watch groups as of Feb. 14, 2011:
316 groups comprised of
26,476 homes

ON-LINE REPORTING to the Boise Police Department

To file police reports on-line, go to, <http://www.boisepolice.org>

There are 3 criteria:

1. It is not an emergency
2. It occurred in Boise City limits
3. There are no known suspects

On-line Report Types:

1. Abandoned vehicles
2. Graffiti
3. Telephone harassment
4. Lost Property
5. Theft
6. Traffic concerns
7. Vandalism
8. Vehicle Burglary

CRIME PREVENTION TIPS

As we know, anyone can become a victim of a crime, but there are some basic things you can do to deter criminals from choosing you. One of the best ways to ensure that a burglar does not target your house is to make your whole block a secure area. This involves working with your neighbors so everyone watches out for each other. Your block is a small community, and you can rely on your neighbors as they rely on you.

1. Get to know your neighbors—their names, the cars they drive, and exchange phone or cell numbers.
2. Warn a neighbor if you see someone looking at their home, and don't hesitate to call police dispatch (377-6790) to report suspicious behavior.
3. Turn on outside lights at night, using motion sensor or photo cell (dusk-to-dawn) lighting.
4. Make sure your Neighborhood Watch sign is in good condition and visible to those coming into your neighborhood.
5. Remove property from your vehicle before locking it.
6. Trim shrubbery near the windows and doors.
7. Install and use good quality deadbolt locks on entry doors.
8. Ask a trusted neighbor to watch over your home when you go on vacation, and do the same for them.

For more vacation tips, click on:
<http://www.cityofboise.org/Departments/Police/CrimePreventionNeighborhoodWatch/CrimePrevention/page5791.aspx>

Criminals will look for the easiest possible targets. If everyone in the neighborhood uses these simple and basic tips, your neighborhood will be a difficult target for criminals.

ON-LINE SERVICES AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC:

On-line Reporting

to the Boise Police Department
<http://www.boisepolice.org>

List and Map of Sex Offenders in Ada County

<http://www.adasheriff.org/RecordsReports/RegisteredSexOffenders.aspx>

National Sex Offender Mapping Site

<http://www.familywatchdog.us/>

Crime Mapping in Ada County

<http://www.adaweb.net/mapping>

Boise Police Neighborhood Crime Bulletins

<http://www.cityofboise.org/Departments/Police/NeighborhoodServices/Neighborhood-CrimeStats/index.aspx>

Civil and Criminal Court Case information

on individuals and businesses
<https://www.idcourts.us/repository>

Anonymous Crime Tip Submission

<http://boiseareacrimestoppers.org/>

Better Business Bureau

<http://snake-river.bbb.org/>

Boise City Codes

http://www.cityofboise.org/Departments/City_Clerk/CityCode/

Boise Police Crime Prevention Unit.

Provides prevention information or arrange a speaker for your neighborhood, business, organization, or church group.
<http://www.cityofboise.org/Departments/Police/CrimePreventionNeighborhoodWatch/CrimePrevention/index.aspx>

Obtain a Citizen's Use Permit to block off your street for an event

http://www.cityofboise.org/Departments/City_Clerk/PDF/BusinessLicenses/secup.pdf

Submit a Complaint with Boise City Code (Zoning) Enforcement

<http://pdsonline.cityofboise.org/pdsonline/CodeForm.aspx>