



Porch Talk

The Mayor's Neighborhood Newsletter

WINTER 2011-2012



Avoid The Winter Doldrums

If you are pinching pennies but looking for great family activities, consider some of the free or low-cost programs offered by the City of Boise this winter. Here are just a few programs:

PRESCHOOL OPEN GYM

If your toddler loves hula hoops, Boise Parks & Rec has a great program to let them twirl. The preschool open gym program has child-sized hula hoops, balls, plastic slides and other equipment at the Fort Boise Community Center, 9-11 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. Cost is \$1 per child. Visit www.cityofboise.org/parks.

RE-ART

Art is everywhere. Children ages 5-10 can explore and embrace art through free interactive classes that inspire creativity. Classes meet Saturdays or Sundays through May at the Main Library and three branch libraries.

Sponsored by Boise City Arts & History Department, Boise Public Library and TriCA, with support from Idaho Power. For details, call 433-5675 or see www.boisepubliclibrary.org.

NEIGHBORHOOD OPEN GYM

Kids in grades K-12 can shoot hoops and run off some energy at free supervised open gym sessions offered throughout the city on Saturdays and Sundays at four elementary schools and five junior highs. Times vary. Sponsored by Boise Parks & Recreation and the Boise School District. See www.cityofboise.org/parks.

SUNDAY POWERPLAYS

Practice your skating with special 2-for-1 pricing on Sunday afternoons from 12:30-3:30 p.m. at Idaho IceWorld. www.idahoiceworld.com or 331-0044.

STORY TRAIL

Take a stroll with your toddler and read pages from a book posted along a 1/4-mile trail on the grounds of the Foothills Learning Center. New books, posted each month, include *Owl Moon*, *Red Fox* and *The Wolf's Story*. Visit boiseenvironmentaleducation.org or call 493-2530.

WATERSHED WEEKENDS

Go with the flow every third Saturday for fun and activities from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Boise Watershed. Upcoming programs include Family Snow Day and World Water Day Celebration. Free wastewater treatment plant tours are offered too! Visit boiseenvironmentaleducation.org or call 608-7300.

For more information, see www.cityofboise.org.



Mayor David H. Bieter

The Mayor's Message

If you are interested in getting involved in your municipal government by visiting a city council meeting, you'll need to visit us at a new location. For the better part of the next year the Boise City Council will conduct all of its evening meetings at the State Capitol instead of City Hall.

Our Tuesday meetings are attended by everyone from developers with a new project on the agenda to Boy Scout troops looking to earn their local government merit badge. Regardless of the reason, we encourage you to attend our Tuesday evening meetings at 6 p.m. in our new temporary location, the Capitol Auditorium, located in the west underground wing off Eighth Street. Public parking will be available in the surface lot directly across Eighth Street.

Once per month, usually on the fourth Tuesday, the Council meets at noon instead of 6 p.m.; those gatherings will continue to be held at City Hall. Afternoon Council work sessions, which generally precede the evening Council meetings, will also remain at City Hall. But several city boards and commissions that conduct regular evening meetings - Planning and Zoning, Historic Preservation, and Design Review - will relocate to the Capitol. All of these moves are expected to last until Fall 2012.

These changes are necessary because of structural work being done at City Hall over the coming year. The work will mostly be invisible; the main section of City Hall is almost 40 years old, and the City Council and I have determined that it would be more cost-effective for taxpayers to make

structural improvements to keep City Hall operational for another 20 to 30 years.

One visible result of the project will be a new multi-purpose customer service center on the first floor that will be able to handle more types of citizen transactions. We'll also be opening a second public entrance to City Hall, on Main Street.

While this move may be somewhat inconvenient for visitors, it will save the City and its taxpayers the many millions of dollars it would have cost to construct a new city hall. In my book, that's good government - no matter what the location.

Until next time...



Out and About in Boise

DECEMBER

Dec. 17—Family Christmas Movie Matinee: Library! at Cole & Ustick, 2:00 p.m.

Dec. 22—Family Christmas Movie Double Feature: Library! at Cole & Ustick, 6:00 p.m.

JANUARY

Jan. 14—Fun Furry Flyers: Learn more about bats, the only mammal that can soar in the sky. Foothills Learning Center, 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. www.boiseenvironmentaleducation.org or 493-2530.

Jan. 19—Nonprofit Resource Thursday: Main Library, 4:00–6:00 p.m.

Jan. 26—Maximize Your Job Search: Main Library, 8:30–10:00 a.m.

FEBRUARY

Feb. 4—Chinese New Year Celebration: Library! at Hillcrest, 1:00 p.m.

Feb. 11—Cold Play: Learn how birds and game animals adapt to survive the winter. Foothills Learning Center, 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. www.boiseenvironmentaleducation.org. 493-2530.

Feb. 18—Our Home, Our History: Travel back in time for a historic look at our watershed. Boise WaterShed Environmental Education Center, 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m., www.boiseenvironmentaleducation.org or 608-7300.

Feb. 24—Literature for Lunch: Main Library, 12:00–1:00 p.m.

Help Preserve Our Foothills

Wet Trail Alert: Love hiking in the Foothills? If it is too wet outside, then you can do long-term damage to your favorite trail. For daily updates on Boise Foothills Trail conditions, visit the Boise Foothills Trails Conditions page on Facebook.

Important Contact Information

Ada County

General Info: 287-7070
Landfill: 577-4725

Animal Control

Humane Society
343-3166

Boise Public Library

384-4076

Code Enforcement

384-3845

Community Forestry

Street/Park Trees: 384-4083

Community Ombudsman

Public/Police Mediator
395-7859

Dept. of Arts & History

433-5670

Dept. of Motor Vehicles

Titles & Plates: 334-8663
Licenses: 577-3100

Fire

Emergency: 911
Non-Emergency: 377-7351

Garbage Collection

BFI/Allied Waste
345-1265

Graffiti Reports

377-6790

Licensing

Business/Child Care/Dog
City Clerk: 384-3710

Mayor's Hotline

384-4404

Parks & Recreation

608-7650

Planning & Development Services

Building Permits/Inspections
Zoning Information
384-3830

Police

Emergency: 911
Non-Emergency: 377-6790
Neighborhood Contact
Officers: 570-6410

Public Works

General Info: 384-3900
Utility Billing for Sewer/
Trash: 384-3735

Roadway & Traffic Concerns

Ada County Highway District
387-6190

School Districts

Boise: 854-4000
Meridian: 855-4500

ValleyRide

Bus schedules
345-7433

City of Boise Website

www.cityofboise.org



Residential Clean-up Week

Have extra waste from holiday parties that won't fit in the gray cart? If it can't be reused or recycled, please take advantage of winter "Residential Cleanup Week." The City of Boise offers free overflow trash collection on your regular collection day from December 26-30. Set out overflow trash in 20- to 32-gallon trash cans. No overflow stickers needed. No plastic or paper bags curbside.



Volunteers Are Great

Boise Parks & Recreation had another fantastic year of volunteer service in the last year. Volunteers dedicated a total of

62,506 hours to our programs – the equivalent to approximately 30 full-time employees and a savings of \$921,431. To learn more or to get involved, visit www.cityofboise.org/parks or contact Jerry Pugh at jpugh@cityofboise.org or 608-7617.



Family Snow Day

Join us January 21 for a flurry of activities from 10 a.m. to noon at the Boise WaterShed, followed by a trip to Bogus Basin for snowshoeing courtesy of Bogus Basin SnowSchool. The morning will include fun snow-related activities and crafts followed by a bus to Bogus Basin Nordic Lodge. SnowSchool leaders will guide on family-friendly trails. Beginners welcome. Pre-registration and \$2 per person is required by January 17. Call 608-7300 or email boisewatershed@cityofboise.org.



Read Me Treasure Valley

Join us in February for a month-long celebration of literature and life. This year's title is *The*

Adventures of Tom Sawyer. The program will include readings, lectures, interactive presentations, film screenings, exhibits, and more. This project, which replaces The Big Read, is offered by Ada Community Library, Boise Public Library, The Cabin, the Idaho Statesman and Boise State University. Visit www.boisepubliclibrary.org to learn about the program.