

## Neighborhood Watch Update

- A coyote living in on the Mesa has attacked and killed one small dog in its driveway! Please be cautious and aware of your surroundings. Please keep your pets safe.
- Summer is here and people are out with their animals. We have two reported cases of dogs off leashes getting in fights to the point of blood being drawn.
- In Boulder Heights there have been many complaints about dog owners not picking up after their animals in our parks, streets and foothills. We all need to be respectful to our Mesa neighbors and visiting friends. There are laws we need to follow regarding our pets.

### **DOG LEASH & PICKUP ORDINANCE CHANGE**

Boise Parks & Recreation Department and the Boise Police Department have recognized the need for change in the current ordinance regarding dogs in Boise Parks. Changes are being made to increase the safety and comfort of park patrons. Working together, the Parks & Recreation Department and Police Department have reviewed the existing Boise City Code and determined that the fine for having your dog off leash in a park was excessive. If you were cited for having a dog off leash, the fine could be up to \$300.00, was recorded on your record as a misdemeanor, and could also require jail time.

Therefore, the worked together to amend the ordinance to lessen the penalty to an infraction, with a fine of \$25.00 (plus court costs and fees.) Citizens now charged under this ordinance will not be required to schedule a court appearance before a judge and will have an option to either admit guilt and pay the set fine, or contest the charges before a judge at a court trial.

#### **Pick Up Ordinance**

In addition to the penalty for having your dog off leash, the ordinance now requires that dog owners remove fecal matter that their dogs deposit in public parks and to carry equipment to do so. Violations of this can also be cited as an infraction with the same penalty for having a dog off leash.

#### **Retractable Leashes**

At the City Council Meeting, another amendment to the Ordinance was made to allow the use of retractable leashes of any length. However, on the Greenbelt or within 250 feet of the Greenbelt, the leash length shall not exceed eight (8) feet in length.