

**Neighborhood Watch**

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suspicious cars moving throughout the Mesa night and day, possibly canvassing for criminal follow-ups at a later opportunity. Reports of smashed motion detector lights and jiggling locks in the dark of night have come to our attention. These incidents must be faced head-on by all residents living in the Mesa. Locked doors and closed garages are key steps...

Boise city police have already responded to this situation with motorcycle officers increasing patrolling frequency, making numerous speeding citations along Windsong St. and promising that the area encompassing Draco and the new construction sites will be on their "radar screens" for some time to come. City officials have been notified on the disabled lights in El Paseo, an itinerant

living in the hills was removed by police, and increased reporting is flowing from the City Police to the Co-Captains of the Crime Watch Team.

In order to safeguard our neighborhood we need the cooperation of each resident. **Make the call to city police 911 if something is afoot or 377-6790 for non-emergency situations.** The Boise Police have an online report system [www.boisepolice.org](http://www.boisepolice.org). The officers stress that if no call is made then no crime has taken place. It is that simple yet profound. Make the Call to the authorities first and then follow up with a MNA Neighborhood Watch Captain. We are always looking for new volunteers to join the Crime Watch Team and invite calls to Richard 424-0653 or Tom 385-7254. Let's continue to live in the safest community in the metro area.

**Classifieds – Help Wanted**

**BOARD MEMBERS – 2 Openings.**

Participation on the MNA Board requires only a few hours a month and is an excellent opportunity to get to meet and serve some pretty great neighbors.

**WELCOME COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON** The Board is interested in establishing a Welcoming Program and is seeking a volunteer to head up the project.

**ANNUAL PICNIC COORDINATOR** – Each September the Board sponsors a free Community Picnic. The coordinator will be responsible for assisting the Board by organizing volunteers, arranging entertainment, activities, and food.

**NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH BLOCK CAPTAINS** See related article.

Please call Donna Burns at 385-7254, [burnridge@aol.com](mailto:burnridge@aol.com)



**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**Clip and Save**

All residents of Warm Springs Mesa, Boulder Heights and El Paseo invited to attend:

<b>Annual meeting</b>	<b>Adams Elementary School</b>	<b>April 19, 7pm</b>
<b>Spring Clean Up</b>	<b>Starcrest Entrance</b>	<b>May 12, 9 am</b>
<b>Annual Yard Sale</b>	<b>Individual homes</b>	<b>September 15, 8 am</b>
<b>Annual Picnic</b>	<b>Boulder Heights Park</b>	<b>September 16, TBA</b>

Watch for the Summer Newsletter/Boise Bark flyer for more details.

# MNA NEWS

**New Warm Springs Mesa Website Launched**

An updated version of the Warm Springs Mesa Neighborhood Association ([www.WarmSpringsMesa.org](http://www.WarmSpringsMesa.org)) website will be launching this month.

Despite my best efforts to complete the site before March 1<sup>st</sup>, I, along with my husband, got lost in a remodel, and are working our way out. At this point, I have re-discovered my computer which had been packed away behind boxes too numerous to count.

The site is complete and has been approved by our Association. I now await Qwest's assistance in 'fixing' a faulty dedicated DSL line into our house so that the file may fly to the server and be live for all to peruse.

The content currently on the website is similar to the last incarnation, and so I humbly request that anyone with news, photos, events etc pertaining to our glorious mountain retreat, send them to [Nancy@BoiseIdaho.net](mailto:Nancy@BoiseIdaho.net).

**From the President**

Board Updates by Donna Burns

Happy Spring. It's a sure sign that spring is here when the crocus and daffodils bloom and the new housing starts to pop up all over El Paseo.

Your Mesa Neighborhood Association has been very busy this winter monitoring several issues for you:

Boise City Planning and Zoning keeps the Board informed of any projects or requests that may impact the neighborhood. Board members frequently attend P & Z meetings addressing issues as necessary.

Keeping abreast of issues and plans of neighboring neighborhoods including Harris Ranch and the North End Neighborhood Association.

Meeting with Mayor Bieter, local police and other Boise City officials, keeping them informed of issues in our neighborhood.

Looking at ways to protect our children and keep them safe; talking with local school representatives about existing and potential programs.

Seeking ways to keep you updated and informed including an updated web site and newsletters.

Planning annual activities and events. Please see the calendar of events in this newsletter. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend all of the activities and projects.

We invite you to contact any of us with your concerns and ideas. And we hope to see you at all of the annual events.

**MNA Annual Meeting**

**Please plan to attend the annual meeting scheduled for April 19<sup>th</sup> at the Adams Elementary gym from 7-9 pm.**

Tentative agenda:

- Unveiling of your renovated website
- Meet your Community Support Officer
- Block Home program for children's' safety
- Home and Wildfire Fire Safety
- Comprehensive Neighborhood planning
- Open forum for comments and concerns

**Neighborhood Spring Cleanup**

For several years now, volunteers from all Mesa neighborhood areas have gathered together in "Spring cleaning" fashion to collect trash, prune bushes and shrubs, clean the 3 entrances' roadsides, and tidy up other public areas on the foothill.

At 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 12th we'll meet at the Starcrest entrance, sign in, pick out collection bags and vests, get a snack and beverage, direct and distribute ourselves by interest and/or need, leave the filled bags in place for ACHD pickup, and have the last of the collectors done by 12:00.

To enhance our roadside safety presence, ACHD provides warning signs, heavy duty orange collection bags, and bright orange vests. Please bring along a rake or pruners if you have them. And consider gloves, hat, protective clothing, sunglasses, and sunscreen.

Please contact Richard Carter at [sandrichboise@cableone.net](mailto:sandrichboise@cableone.net), 424-0653, or 2343 S. Ridge Point Way.

**MNA BOARD MEMBERS**

<b>President:</b>	<b>Donna Burns</b>
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>Richard Carter</b>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>Mike Lechner</b>
<b>Webmaster:</b>	<b>Nancy Barrera</b>

**Neighborhood Watch:**

**Tom Burns**  
**Richard Carter**

**Dan Arnhols**  
**Mike Chapton**  
**Becky Crum**  
**Doug Erdman**  
**Bill Morse**

## Neighborhood Watch Report

By Tom Burns

The following information has been assembled from MNA Neighborhood Watch Captains, neighbors, board members and 4 city police officials (Charlene Miller – Boise Neighborhood Watch Director, Officer Cameron Becker – Mesa Contact Officer, Gary Fost – Boise H.S. School Resource Officer and Steve Kincheloe – East J.H. Resource Officer), who took time to meet with us recently to discuss the perceptions that crime is on the rise here on the Mesa.

By all measurements, the Mesa is, and continues to be, one of the safest neighborhoods of all Police Reporting Districts. Crime statistics however are only one indicator of the well being of a neighborhood and all participants in our conversations quickly point out that the added entrance of El Paseo has greatly

increased access to the Mesa by outsiders and this reality has become, and will continue to be, a point of increased vulnerability for the area. All the personnel interviewed agreed that the tempo of the Mesa has



changed. It is imperative that each resident of the Mesa contact the police directly and immediately with any suspicion or evidence that something of a criminal nature is happening as it happens.

To illustrate this increase in vulnerability, a review of resolved crimes for the last quarter of 2006 shows that 1/3 of all incidents in the Mesa, took place on Draco St, a location that has, as of yet, no homes on it. Vandalism and simple mischief to housing construction in El Paseo has been mirrored by reports of broken city street lights along Draco, increased graffiti in the Mesa, motor vehicle use in the hillsides with trash dumping and abandoned cars, paintball and pellet gun incidents and

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## Home & Wildfire Fire Safety Begins With Us. Here are some ideas . . .

By Dan Arnolds

The great fires of 1910 burned over 3 million acres in Northern Idaho and Montana demonstrating how destructive a wildfire could be. We were reminded of this again in Boise during 1996 when the 8<sup>th</sup> Street fire burned over 15,000 acres in area foothills threatening our neighborhoods.

You only have to be involved in a fire once to understand how quickly this destructive force can get out of control. Whether inside or outside of a home, fire often moves at a rapid pace allowing little time for reaction. Once started, a fire can easily get out of control faster than your chances of extinguishing it. Preparing for this possible event both inside and outside of your home is a homeowner's best defense. Here are a few practical ideas:

### Inside

- Go out and buy a fire extinguisher today. If you can afford three, buy one for the garage, one for your kitchen, and one for your bedroom. (If the smoke detector goes off while you are sleeping, having the fire extinguisher readily available in your bedroom may help you get out of the house and/or rescue a loved one.)
- Place smoke detectors on each level strategically throughout the house.
- Know where the gas main shut-off and the main circuit-breaker switch are located.
- Develop a fire escape plan with your family. Schools do this . . . so should you.
- Take the time to develop a home fire prevention strategy. Websites such as [www.redcross.org/homefires](http://www.redcross.org/homefires), [www.usfa.dhs.gov](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov), and [www.firesafecouncil.org](http://www.firesafecouncil.org) are good places to start.

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### Due You?

#### Time for 2007 Dues –

by Mike Lechner

Just a reminder, if you have not paid your dues for 2007, now is a good time. The dues are used to pay for the newsletter, picnic, website, annual meeting, and other activities of your neighborhood association. The dues are only \$35.00 a year.

The dues are voluntary. We are not a homeowners association. We are a voluntary association of the people living in our neighborhood. If you live on The Mesa, (Boulder Heights, El Paseo, Warm Springs Mesa) you are a member of the Mesa Neighborhood Association even if you choose not pay dues. However, we need both your active participation in the activities of the association and your financial support.

Please use the enclosed envelop to mail or deliver your 2007 dues to MNA treasurer Mike Lechner, 2114 Rockridge Way

## Boise City Grants

Boulder Heights.

In order to qualify for funding, the project must be free and open to public use. With this in mind and pending approval, it is the intent of the Mesa Neighborhood Association to develop limited trailheads and appropriate signage connecting with Table Rock and Castle Rock Reserve. Access would consist of linking trails through existing open spaces and would solve the problem of accessing through private property and undeveloped properties.

Suggested sites being considered for development are the park area located adjacent to the

existing water tank at the northeast end of Boulder Heights Road; a second access point in the vicinity of Birdsong Road; and lastly, access in the vicinity of Windsong Road and the holding ponds to the east. All improvements and the restoration of damaged or fragile areas will be considered with both representatives of Warm Springs Mesa and the Boise Parks and Recreation Department.

Any suggestions or concerns regarding these points of access or other suggested sites can be directed to Doug Erdman at [herdman@bcidaho.com](mailto:herdman@bcidaho.com), 344-1066.

## Mesa Improvements

by Doug Erdman

Pursuant to a request for possible grant monies, the Mesa Neighborhood Association is presently considering a capital improvement project which would link the Mesa neighborhoods with the Ridge to Rivers trail system located just west of the Mesa.

The neighborhood reinvestment program is generally intended for capital improvement projects and like studies. An example can be seen in the construction of the identification sign located at the entrance to Warm Springs Mesa/

## Fire Safety

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### Outside

- Make sure that your garden hose is equipped with a sprayer nozzle and can reach any section of your house. Having a long hose both in the front and the rear of your home is essential.
- Incorporating FireWise landscaping to create a “survivable space” around your house will increase your odds of surviving a wildfire dramatically. A green lawn, good plant and tree selection, plant spacing, and maintenance are all elements that, when combined together, give your home a fighting chance. This may mean also removing landscaping material and trees/shrubs next to your home that would fuel a fire.
- Incorporating fire resistant materials to the exterior of your home. This is a combination of expensive and inexpensive measures. New building codes require fire resistant roofing and wall materials; non-combustible rain gutters, eaves, fascias, and soffits; as well as spark arrestors for chimneys, stove pipes, and heaters. You can start by changing the screening on your vents and eaves with low cost fire-resistant/non-combustible material.
- Keep tools handy to fight a fire. A ladder to reach the roof, a saw or axe, shovel, and bucket are just a few tools that you may need.
- Prepare an outside defense of your home by learning more at the following websites. [www.firefree.org](http://www.firefree.org), [www.nifc.gov/preved/protecthome.html](http://www.nifc.gov/preved/protecthome.html), and [www.redcross.org/services/disaster](http://www.redcross.org/services/disaster).

Many of our Idaho wildfires in 2005 were inadvertently or accidentally caused by carelessness. During our dry fire season, sparks from grills, cars, and other sources can easily ignite a fire that can spread rapidly. We all need to do our bit to prevent fires and to prepare our homes in the event of this possibility. A few precautionary measures around the house may end up not just saving our own home, but perhaps our neighbor's as well.

**Please TP our house!**

**It's never happened before.**

**We would like to have the experience.**

**Many times a year there are food drives for the poor but never once have you read or heard a request for toilet paper.**

**Will you help us provide this most needed item?**

**Any amount as often as you choose is ideal. If you are a COSTCO member you can purchase a case of TP for \$15.**

**Someone is always home so you can just leave it at the end of our drive way when it's not raining or snowing or on the porch. Eventually we may have a collection Container.**

**Mike & Joanne  
Lechner**

**2114  
Rockridge  
Way**

