

It's Wild Fire Season, Time to Prepare

It's wild fire season again and it's time to prepare our homes for the possibility of such a threat on the Mesa. If you did not keep a copy of our last newsletter which provided details of what you can do to minimize your fire risk, the following websites will provide you with instructions: www.redcross.org, www.firefree.org, www.firesafety.gov, and/or www.nifcu.gov.

If the threat of fire isn't enough to motivate you to make your home fire-wise, your insurance company may soon provide an added incentive. According to an article in the Wall Street Journal recently published on 6/7/07, both State Farm and Allstate have begun issuing warnings to homeowners requiring them to remove flammable vegetation away from their homes and to install fire resistant roofs in western states where wildfires are a growing menace. Interestingly, the insurance companies are using Google Earth and

other satellite imaging services to target customers at risk. Insurance companies provide the homeowners with a defined period of time to fix the potential problems after which they face losing their insurance when the term is up. Conversely, some insurance companies are actually reducing the premiums of homeowners who made improvements to lessen their fire risk.

We really don't need our insurance companies to tell us what we already know. All of our homes on the Mesa are at risk in the event of a local wildfire according to a Boise Fire Department spokesperson. You can reduce the risk by taking a few simple precautions now. Start by creating a 30-50 foot safety zone around your home. The referenced web sites will provide you with instructions on what to do.



According to the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC), 769 wildfires have burned over 800,000 acres in Idaho already this year!

MNA BOARD MEMBERS

President: Donna Burns
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Treasurer: Mike Lechner
Webmaster: Nancy Barrera

Neighborhood Watch:
 Tom Burns
 Richard Carter

Dan Arnhols
 Mike Chaption
 Becky Crum
 Doug Erdman
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Mesa Spring Cleanup

May's Spring Cleanup was another positive event on the Mesa. Arriving early and staying to the end for three idyllic Saturday morning hours, 20+ enthusiastic grade school-to-senior neighbors provided their energies and attention to the three entrance roads, numerous internal streets, both parks, and the Warm Springs roadside to maintain our neighborhood's well-groomed neatness for our driving, biking, scootering, strolling, and jogging pleasures.

For our Autumn Cleanup, we'll gather as October weather cools, and hope you'll respond to the Mesa Newsletter's date notification and consider adding your efforts for the benefit of our most attractive Mesa.

MNA NEWS

From the President

Board Updates by Donna Burns

Since we last visited, your Mesa Neighborhood Association has been very active and involved in several projects.

The Annual MNA meeting was held in April at Adams School. Several guest speakers presented on topics related to our neighborhood.

Charlene Miller, "a civilian within the Boise Police Department for Community **Neighborhood Watch programs**" as she describes herself, informed the group of the services her office provides and the benefits of a fully functioning Neighborhood Watch program including lowered crime rates. See related article this edition.

Charlene identified Officer Cole Farmer as the contact person for Graffiti Issues and Cameron Becker as the Mesa's Community Support Officer. Charlene can be reached at 577-3851.

Stephanie Bennett is a Harris Ranch mom who has organized a **Block House Program** for the area. Children in the community are informed of the Block Houses in their neighborhoods and told that these houses are open to them any time they need assistance from these volunteering adults who have been carefully screened by the police department. Please call Stephanie at 3386-9269 for more information

Fire Battalion Chief Bruce Rankin described some of the things residents can do to protect their homes and neighborhood from wildfires. The Mesa, with all the dried vegetation surrounding it, is a prime target for wildfire and residents are strongly encouraged to take heed and be prepared before disaster strikes. His prediction has already come true with the fire at Table Rock on June 22nd. See the enclosed flyer and related articles in this edition. It truly does take a village to protect against fire danger.

Lance Evans, planner for Boise City, briefly presented information on Neighborhood Comprehensive Planning. Comprehensive plans give neighborhoods an opportunity to evaluate priorities and set up plans to manage growth, influence City decisions that relate to the neighborhood, and to have an active voice for capital budgeting, zoning, etc. The Board is now considering a plan for the MESA. Watch for opportunities to provide your input.

Spring Cleanup Richard Carter recruited for the spring clean up. Twice a year Mesa volunteers spread out around the community to collect trash and debris, trim weeds and branches, and spruce up the neighborhood. See related photo and article.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Clip and Save

Annual YARD SALE

September 15th, 8a.m.-3p.m.

REGISTER NOW

Call Donna or Tom Burns at 385-7254
 Or email president@warmspringmesa.org

Annual MNA PICNIC

Food, Fun, Music, Auction, Displays

Something for Everyone!

September 16th, 4-8 p.m.

Boulder Height Park

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

Attention All Artists

The Board is looking for a logo or graphic to be used on communications, letterhead, and website. The design should be a graphic representation of the Mesa that can be easily recognized as the Warm Springs Mesa. A panel from the MNA Board will select the winning design and present it at the annual picnic on September 16th. A cash prize will be given to the winning artist.

The logo must contain subject matter pertaining to the Warm Springs Mesa and be a unique, easily reproducible design. All rights to the chosen design will become exclusive property of the MNA.

We invite entries from all ages groups. Entries must be submitted to Richard Carter at secretarymna.org or 2343 S. Ridge Point Way by August 15th. Please include the name, address, phone, email and age of the artist.

Neighborhood Watch Report

By Tom Burns

Richard Carter and Tom Burns, our two Neighborhood Watch Coordinators, attended the April Treasure Valley Crime Prevention day-long summit. The summit brought together city and county police officials and 37 neighborhood associations from Boise to Nampa area to discuss "enhancing the quality of neighborhoods through community participation". Specifically the day was spent reinforcing the fact that it is neighbors who have the most power to stop crime from happening in the first place. Highlights/comments:

- Neighbors are most likely to be the first to spot a burglar or to see suspicious activities

- Neighbors can work with Contact Officers to report unusual and suspicious happenings
- Neighbors can trim overgrown shrubs, turn on porch lights, depriving criminals of potential hiding spots



- Neighbors will often be the first to see and report incidents of graffiti
- Neighbors notice unusual traffic at odd hours and locales
- Neighborhood Watch is predicated on the idea that when neighbors make the effort to get to know each other and focus on safety and quality of life efforts, they are rewarded with friendlier and safer places to live.

And it works. Crime Reports for the 2nd quarter of this year shows no crimes reported for the MESA! This is splendid news.

If you are interested in joining our Neighborhood Watch efforts call Tom at 385-7254 or Richard at 424-0653. Together we

Attention All Mesa Businesses, Trades, and Services

One of the best things any neighborhood can do is support it's local businesses. Since our neighborhood is residential without retail outlets, the MNA Board would like to support our small business owners by listing them in the newsletters.

We invite business owners and trade and service providers residing in Warm Springs Mesa, Boulder Heights and El Paseo to submit a brief description of the business, trade, or services offered.

To qualify, the business, trade, or service must be privately owned or provided by a resident of Warm Springs Mesa and must be free of political or religious affiliations.

Please submit all business descriptions to Donna Burns, president MNA.org or 2241 Ridgeview Way. Be sure to include the name and location of the business, phone numbers, email or website information, and hours of operation.

The Department of Health and Welfare Needs Foster Care Help

The Department of Health and Welfare sent a note the MNA Board seeking foster homes for children who have been abused, abandoned and neglected. H&W asks that interested families call Kim Hammond at 334-6846. Classes are held monthly at the Children's Home Society, 740 Warm Springs Avenue 2nd floor from 7-9 pm on 8/7, 9/12, 10/9 and 11/13. To register, email to info@fosteridaho.com or call 343-7813.

Recognition and Thanks

The Board would like to thank Teneale Chaption for volunteering her time and talents by laying out the newsletter for us. Although she says it is really easy, we recognize that editing a newsletter does take some time and effort. She is not a Board member which makes her efforts even more appreciated. Thank you Teneale.

Improving Our Appearance

Have you noticed anything different about the Starcrest entrance or the Red Rock Park? If not, go take a peek. The MNA Board members took on both projects this last month. After the spring cleanup (see related article this edition).

Aaron Hassemer took the lead with the help of Doug Erdman in placing lighting to illuminate the Warm Springs Mesa and Boulder Heights markers at the Starcrest entrance.

Although there is a light pole on the hill above the entrance, the markers were poorly illuminated. The new lighting now makes the markers clearly visible.



The MNA Board expresses disappointment in those who are abusing the park and the surrounding hillside and asks anyone who observes such negligence and disrespect to call the Boise Office of Code Enforcement at 377-6790 or go online through Cityofboise.org.

On a similar note, all contractors are required by code 8-17 to retain collection bins for all scrap construction materials. The MNA Board is reminding current contractors of this code. Violations may be called in to Aimee Hughes at Dept. of Planning and Development Services for the City of Boise at 794-8996.



Aaron and wife Kristen and board members Richard Carter, Tom Burns, Bill Morse and Doug Erdman took rakes, shovels, saws, and a front loader and spent several hours removing the trash, yard wastes and dog droppings from the lot next to Red Rock Park in Boulder Heights.

The small park set aside for children to play safely has sadly become a convenient place for dogs to roam unleashed and unpicked-up after and for nearby residents to dump trash.

Not a week after the park was cleaned, someone dumped a four-foot square mound of leftover concrete on the park grounds. This is both an insult to all Mesa residents as well as a violation of city code.

