

Mesa Annual Meeting Review

Our annual Mesa Neighborhood Meeting was held at Adams school on April 17th with approximately 50 in attendance. Reports included fund raising projects for 2007 which included donations of \$125 each, raised at the annual picnic white elephant auction, to Adams and East Junior High. In addition to two boxes of canned goods collected for the Idaho Food Bank. The Idaho Youth Ranch and the ARC collected hundreds of items left from the annual yard sale.

Community Safety projects reported on included the Safe House Program, the Neighborhood Watch Program, and fire safety (Firewise) information. The Botanical Gardens has information and demonstrations for residents planning fire-wise landscaping. Charlene Miller of the Boise Neighborhood Program reminded attendees to remain connected and aware of neighborhood activity.

Mesa Spring Cleanup

By Richard Carter

As we'd recite from our nursery rhymes past, "Yes, sir. Yes, sir, 3 bags full." More than 3 but, happily, less than a dozen of the big orange bags were filled.

The consensus among the 15-20 of us Mesa neatness aficionados was how little trash there was to collect, how much care and attention is being given to the cleanliness of our roadways by bikers, drivers, strollers, joggers, and residents throughout the neighborhood.

We were finished and off to other weekend enjoyments by 11:00. Another successful cleanup. Thank you everyone. For our Autumn Cleanup, we'll gather as the weather cools, and hope you'll consider adding your efforts on October 11th for the benefit of our most attractive Mesa.

MNA BOARD MEMBERS

President:	Donna Burns
Secretary:	Richard Carter
Treasurer:	Mike Lechner
Webmaster:	Nancy Barrera
Newsletter Editor:	Teneale Chapton

Neighborhood Watch: LIST COORDINATOR NEEDED

Dan Arnhols Mike Chapton
Becky Crum Doug Erdman
Bill Morse Tom Burns
Jeff Enrico Greg Leber

Community Voice – Several Board members volunteer time representing the Mesa at ACHD, BluePrint Boise, Foothills Planning and other meetings where decisions made may have an impact on our future. A report on the progress of the Mesa Neighborhood Comprehensive Plan was also given.

Community Enhancement Projects reviewed were bi-annual neighborhood cleanup and Ridge to Rivers connectivity. Mesa residents Scott and Becky Crum reported on the housing market and Mesa home values.

Andrew Knowles presented very preliminary information about a possible community pool and poled those present for support, concerns, suggestions. For a full report see the meeting notes on the website, warmspringmesa.org

Get Involved!

Your Mesa Board is made up of residents who volunteer time and energy in order to assure that the Mesa is represented to the city and county in events that will shape our future. We also have a strong interest in community and volunteer in supporting the social events that build connectedness and thus safety for us all. Volunteers are needed for both the Board and for activity committees. Time commitments are minimal.

The Board has 3 openings. We meet on the 4th Thursday of the month from 7-9.

Several of you expressed interest in assisting with various projects and activities at our annual meeting. You will be contacted soon as planning for those events begins. More helpers are needed for the annual yard sale, the picnic, and the Neighborhood Watch program. There are many more projects we could do for our neighborhood with more volunteers.

Please contact any of the Board members or write to the president, secretary. Or treasurer@warmspringmesa.org

Neighborhood Watch

Aaron Hassemer is the Committee Chairperson for the Neighborhood Watch Program. There are many areas within the Mesa in need of a captain. The captain determines the territory they wish to manage. Neighborhood Watch packets are delivered to the homes within the chosen territory and a way of relaying Watch info established. When the rare need arises, the captain disseminates information. Please volunteer to Aaron through president@warmspringmesa.org

MNA NEWS

From the President

Board Updates by Donna Burns

www.president@warmspringmesa.org

Greeting Mesa neighbors. What a very interesting spring this is turning out to be. As I walk the streets of our neighborhood, it's delightful to see the spring flowers and trees alive with vibrant color. It's great to see so many of you working out in your yards trimming and painting and planting and renewing. I think the pride we take in our homes and yards is a large part of what makes this such a wonderful place to live.

As always happens in spring, thoughts turn warm-weather activities. Your Board is beginning to plan neighborhood events and we hope that you will plan to participate in as many as possible. This newsletter will give you details on our plans.

In our continuing effort to protect our neighborhood from its greatest danger, I refer you to the Firewise Program, www.firewise.org, with excellent suggestions on ways to reduce fuel for a wildfire. As

presenters at the Annual Mesa Meeting reported, the Bureau of Land Management, the Forest Service and the Boise Fire Department will do their best to save homes but they cannot guarantee that. They will quickly devise a plan for evacuation and for extinguishing the fire. Homes are seen as fuel for the fire and plants as accelerators. Planning ahead, minimizing accelerators and fuel will help the firefighters help you. They remind us that many of us may not even be home at the time of the fire or will have been evacuated. All the more reason to take steps now to protect your most valuable asset. For a list of fire resistant plants, evacuation to dos, and other valuable wildfire information, go to our website, www.warmspringmesa.org.

Lastly, your thoughts and opinions are needed in developing our Neighborhood Comprehensive Plan. Please read the related article and map on the four SWOT meetings coming up in the next couple of weeks and select the meeting you will attend.

Safeguarding Your Home

By Tom Burns

For the past 6 issues of the MNA newsletter, we have been promoting Firewise tips and information to safeguard our Mesa from fire danger. Forensic forecasters predict that Idaho will experience a normal fire season for the summer of 2008 which means 8 – 11 major outbreaks on average. Experts caution homeowners that fire safety preparation will probably determine if a home is secure or if it can not be saved. The onus is on each of us, according to fire officials, not on public safety units.

During the summer months, we should also be mindful of increases in the time away from our homes and the tendency to leave the premises unsecured while next door visiting or in the back yard working on the garden, etc. Your MNA Watch Captains want you to remember that burglary is really the only type of crime found on the Mesa and that it is typically a crime of opportunity. It is important to SEE AND BE SEEN. Keep your home visible to neighbors. You and your neighbors are the eyes and ears in deterring unwanted trespassers and crime.

- Keep your doors and windows free of shrubs and potential hiding places
- Light your property at night – installing motion detectors is a good idea
- Check to make sure that your garage door is closed. An open garage door creates instant access to your home and cars.
- Close your blinds at night. There is no need to display who is at home and what property you have.
- As Charlene Miller of the Boise Neighborhood Watch program mentioned to the folks at the annual meeting, "Leak and Peak!" That is, when you get up in the middle of the night, take a peak out your windows to assure all is well outside on your property and that of your neighbors and ask them to do the same for you.
- And most of all, know your neighbors, communicate with them and look out for each other. If you see suspicious activity, call the police immediately. Emergencies, please call 9-1-1. Non-emergency dispatch is 377-6790.

Let's have a safe and happy summer!

Comprehensive Planning

What is Comprehensive Planning?

The Comprehensive Planning division provides the City of Boise with long-range planning and policy analysis through the preparation, maintenance and administration of the Comprehensive Plan. Comp Planning also conducts special planning studies as requested by the City Council, and sits on a wide variety of boards and committees.

The Comp. Planning division participates with the Community Planning Association (COMPASS), Ada County Highway District, Idaho Transportation District, the Division of Environmental Quality, Chamber of Commerce, school districts and others in preparing demographic projections, traffic studies and other analysis.

policies provide a philosophy and framework for charting the future growth and function of the community.

- Public Services & Facilities
- Parks & Recreation
- Historic Preservation
- Neighborhoods
- Community Design
- Economic Development
- Hazards
- Environmental Quality
- Arts & Cultural Facilities
- Transportation
- Housing

The Mesa's Comprehensive Plan

Each neighborhood association in Boise is encouraged to develop its own Comprehensive Neighborhood Plan. Planning allows a neighborhood to be proactive rather than reactive. A

neighborhood plan expresses a common vision and lays out clear objectives that will allow the neighborhood to give a timely and well-supported response to projects and programs that are proposed by various entities impacting that neighborhood and a format for resolving neighborhood issues.

Gathering the varied thoughts and opinions of the members of the neighborhood is the first step in creating a plan. Beside the data gathered by surveys in 2007, this will be achieved through a facilitated process called SWOT Analysis. Participants brainstorm the current strengths and weaknesses of their neighborhood. Then they brainstorm future opportunities and threats. These data becomes the basis for the Neighborhood Plan.

Neighborhood Night Out

The Mesa Board is planning to participate in the National Night Out 2008, set for August 5. The event is part of the Neighborhood Watch Program with the intent of strengthening neighborhood spirit and police/community relations, heighten crime and drug awareness, and support local anti-crime programs.

Preliminary plans are to have a block party on Ridgeview Way. Grills and tables will be set out. Residents are invited to bring something to grill and a dish to pass. Games and other activities too. More info to come later in the year. Volunteers needed to help. Speak to any Board member please. And if you are interested in organizing a party for your area, please write to the MNA president. More info in the next newsletter.

Boise City Codes

Since being annexed into the city of Boise, the Mesa is subject to Boise city's codes. Some of the items included in these codes have come up as issues in the Mesa. Please note that dogs running at large are prohibited per section 6-07-17. Cut or uncut weeds, grass, vines and other vegetation over 10" in height are to be cut or removed per section 304.1.2.1. Cars, trucks, trailers, boats, boat trailers, and Recreational vehicles shall not be parked on: required yard areas, unimproved parking areas, the required side and rear yard setbacks, adjacent residential zoned streets for more than 48 hrs per section 11-10-04.02. For additional information on Boise's codes go to City of Boise.org/city codes

Blueprint Boise

Boise's existing Comprehensive Plan encompasses a broad range of detailed policies, objectives and strategies in accordance with Idaho State Statutes. Although many of the policies contained in the Plan remain valid, most communities revisit and update their comprehensive plan every five to seven years to ensure that it continues to meet the community's vision and goals for the future. The City's effort to update and modernize development regulations is called Blueprint Boise.

The Comprehensive Plan contains a wide range of policies, which cover the topics listed below. These various elements and



SWOT Meeting Schedule

Meetings are scheduled for June 10, 11, 17, and 19 from 7-9 pm. The Mesa has been divided into 4 segments as indicated on the map below. Residents are invited to attend the meeting in their segment or in another if unable to attend on the scheduled date.

Sherry Dyer, a trained facilitator, will lead the meetings. Snacks and water will be provided.

Section 1 • June 10
2185 Ridgeview Way

Section 2 • June 11
2241 Ridgeview Way

Section 3 • June 17
1991 Stone Ridge Way

Section 4 • June 19
1889 Toluka Way

The data will be collated and reported on our website and will be used to guide the Comprehensive Neighborhood Planning Team in development of the Mesa's Plan.

Questions can be sent to the President or Secretary at the following email addresses:
president@warmspringmesa.org
secretary@warmspringmesa.org.

