



Warm Springs Mesa Neighborhood Association

Newsletter August 2020

WarmSpringsMesa.org

Hello from Donna

President of Mesa Neighborhood Association Board

Well, when I last wrote to you all in March, your Mesa Volunteer Neighborhood Association Board was pumped to begin a new year. We developed a calendar rich with activities for all Mesa residents/ all age groups--and then Covid19 upended our lives. This necessitated changes in all our plans/projects, even requiring us to move to online Board meetings. Not to say that we have not been maintaining connectivity with the city and other agencies and initiating beautification and cleanup projects around the Mesa! That includes initiating a FACEBOOK group for Mesa residents. (See related article). This newsletter will catch you up on many topics related to living on the Mesa. To stay updated, we also refer you to our website, warmspringmesa.org, and the "contact us" option, our Facebook page, and Nextdoor.com

Mesa Yard Sale

For 20 years we have held an annual community yard sale which has become an event anticipated by the whole Boise area. Each household that wants to participate registers and pays a minimal fee to cover costs such as advertising.

Doing this as a community increases traffic tremendously. Given that this event is held outdoors and at individual locations, we WILL HOLD the sale this year, encouraging participants to follow all Covid19 guidelines.

We will create a map of participating addresses and a brief list of major items at each sale and post everywhere we can.

Please note: **There will not be a charity pick up of unsold items this year.**

DATE: September 19, 2020

TIME: 8 am- 2 pm

LOCATION: Individual Mesa residences

HOW TO PARTICIPATE: Register with Donna Burns at wwidahodonna@yahoo.com by September 12.

Respecting Our Neighbors

We are very fortunate to live in this beautiful and safe neighborhood where the residents are as diverse as the homes we live in. That means that our values and opinions are also different, and we respect that fact.



However, that respect should also be extended to personal property. Damaging or destroying personal property--whether it be a BLM banner or a political sign or an American flag or any other item because you disagree with the message is very disappointing. This has happened recently in our neighborhood, and we hope it will be the last time.

Speeding

This comes up all the time – speeding in the neighborhood. Neither speed bumps, speed limit signs, nor electronic postings will have a long-term impact in slowing traffic. The *only* thing that works is for all of us to commit to follow the **20-mph** limit throughout the Mesa.

There are many more pedestrians on our streets than ever before. There are more children on bikes and motorized scooters, people walking dogs, motorcycles (which are less visible than cars), and the occasional pet or wildlife critter. If local schools move to online learning this fall, there will be an even greater number of children on foot and on bikes throughout the Mesa.

We ask *all* drivers to please make the commitment to slow down to 20 mph and that you ask all your household members to do the same. Your neighbors will appreciate it!

Warm Springs Mesa Celebrates Two Community Milestones

This year the Mesa hits 50 years of participation in the Neighborhood Watch program which promotes residents “taking a bite out of crime” by assisting authorities with a “see something – say something” response when suspicious activities happen in the neighborhood.

Everyone is reminded that if you experience crime call it in to the Boise Police. For crime in progress, call 911. To make a report of a non-emergency situation, call 208-377-6790. The Mesa has two Neighborhood Contact Officers (NCO’s) who have geographical/historical insights into the Mesa: Officer Kincaid - (208)570-6422 or Officer Beaudoin - (208)570-6415. Both a part of Boise’s Neighborhood Policing Program.

The second celebration is that the Warm Springs Mesa Firewise Program has reached its 10th anniversary as a nationally recognized participating site in FIREWISE USA, Residents Reducing Wildfire Risks, a program through the National Fire Protection Agency.

Our thanks and congratulations to the many Mesa residents who have worked with these programs to make this community a safe place to live and play.

2020 Voluntary Dues

Because of Covid-19, the Mesa Board has decided to postpone most social events this year. As a result, we are NOT collecting voluntary dues for 2020.

For those of you who contributed earlier this year, we have applied your generous donations to our 2021 dues collection. If anyone has any questions, please contact Debbie at DebArnhols@msn.com.

As always, we thank the neighborhood for being so supportive of our activities, and we look forward to getting together with you at our events next year.

Mesa Neighborhood Chipping Program

Interested in having a woodchipper brought to your home or immediate area saving you big in time and dollars for taking out woody material at your homesite? Here is how the program works: Participants must first complete and send in an on-line application for a Wildfire Home Safety Evaluation <https://www.adafireadapted./homeowner/wildfire-home-safety-evaluation/org>.

The evaluation is conducted by the Boise Fire Dept. at no cost to you. Residents who have already had an evaluation completed will still need to file the application noted above for consideration. Participants who receive the initial home assessment or the updated evaluation will be eligible for the program.

A minimum of five addresses coming from the Mesa neighborhood is required for the chipper deployment on a mutually predetermined Friday. Share interest in the chipper program with your neighbors via Facebook or Next Door to ensure that you have enough addresses for a predetermined Friday.

Please go to the warmspringsmesa.org website for complete information on the chipper program. It is sponsored by Boise Parks and Recreation for wildfire mitigation efforts in neighborhoods prone to the risk of wildfire, such as the Mesa which is located within the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) zone.

Volunteer Roster

As mentioned earlier, the Neighborhood Association Board is made up of Mesa resident volunteers. All our events and projects are planned and carried out by volunteers.

We would like to establish a roster of residents who would be able to donate some time and energy to our efforts when they occur. You may be interested in specific activities such as clean up, Board membership, events or just be contacted when something comes up.

If so, please email your name and phone to Donna at wwidahodonna@yahoo or Dan at DArnhols@msn.com. Our events count on our neighbors’ willingness to donate a little of their time. Thank you!

Starcrest Road Beautification Project

We would like to extend a huge thank you to Master Gardener Rod Haars and to Scott Phillips for their generous volunteer work in improving the west side of Starcrest Drive, the middle entrance to the Mesa.

Funded a grant from the City obtained by the Mesa Board and with assistance from El Paseo HOA, Rod and Scott installed drip lines and many blooming plants, and laid rock mulch creating a more beautiful welcome to the Mesa. Thank you, Rod, Scott, and the other volunteers involved.

Additionally, we would like to thank Lindsay Barnes for her years of coordinating our children's' activities, Fred Hebert for his work on Vortex Drive and the drainage ponds for Boulder Point, Tom Burns for his continued work on Firewise/Neighborhood Watch, and Colleen Kelsey for newsletter editing.



Thanks to Scott Phillips and Rod Haars for their work on the middle entrance to the Mesa on Starcrest in June.

Community Matters!

Join Us on Facebook

Warm Springs Mesa Neighborhood
Association Group

*Please fill out the membership
questions to join

Volunteer Roster, con'td...

Here are a couple of our immediate volunteer needs:

HISTORY BUFF WANTED:

We are looking for someone knowledgeable or interested in our local history to research topics and write articles for our newsletter and website about the history of the Mesa. Contact – DArnhols@msn.com to volunteer your services. The Idaho Archives are just at the bottom of the hill, making historical research easy! Just sayin'....

WEBSITE MANAGER WANTED:

The Mesa Neighborhood needs a volunteer to help manage the content in our website by keeping it up to date with current events and by removing old content that is no longer applicable. Figure on an hour or two a week. Contact DArnhols@msn.com to volunteer your services.

Help Prevent Fire from Spreading

Warm Springs Mesa is a part of the high sage desert ecosystem where invasive grasses have largely choked off the natural plants.

The large number of evergreens/conifers on the Mesa today represent one of the most inappropriate additions to the hillsides. These trees are oil-loaded, fast burners, and fire conduits which can engulf homes where vulnerable spots exist.

Trimming these trees up a minimum of six feet and providing generous spacing between them is important. Ideally, they also should be 15 feet from any structure.

When overgrown or when the center of the tree or bush shows brown and dead, it is time to trim or cut the plant out. Leaving trees and bushes overgrown is simply fire fuel awaiting a spark.

Taking care of your overgrown trees and bushes is good for *your* property as well as our neighborhood.

Be fire wise!

Manage Your Trees, Please!

One of the biggest complaints heard on the Mesa pertains to tree or shrub growth that blocks views, encroaches on neighbor's yards, provides a potential fire fuel issue, becomes a safety hazard on our roads, and other legitimate reasons that give cause for concern. Although the Mesa board has no authority to address these issues, we can share with you why you may wish to manage your tree growth and what some neighbors are already doing to resolve their issues with neighbor's trees.

Ahhh, those cute little trees that you planted years ago which looked so elegant in your landscaping may have grown up and taken over your yard, your neighbor's yard, blocked the sidewalk, or are threatening to either take out power lines with either their massive height or network of tangled roots. Your neighbors have made not-so-gentle hints that you should do something about this, you may have already received notice from ACHD of being a road hazard, or Boise Fire Department has advised you that you have a significant fire fuel threat on your property. (This latter point being recently under scored when the older section of the Mesa with the large trees was evacuated by Boise Police during our last wildfire event whereas the newer Mesa sections without overgrown landscaping was not.) Oh, what to do about my overgrown trees? What to do?

Doing nothing is an option, but not the one that is going to make points with your neighbors. The homes in the Boulder Heights or El Paseo sections of the Mesa are protected by covenants regarding the management of landscaping and its enforcement. The older sections of the Mesa, however, do not have these covenants, but here are some important points you might want to consider:

Significant Fire Threat: Boise City Fire Department provides free audits to homeowners to reduce the threat of your home catching fire from your overgrown landscaping. In the process of this audit, you might just learn about their system of determining which homes will be saved during a neighborhood fire. Here is a strong hint: If you have overgrown trees and shrubs on your property, your house may not be one of the homes that gets attention, and if your overgrown landscaping causes your neighbor's house to catch fire during a fire event, you may find yourself legally responsible, or at the very least, with insurance liability.

Road/Sidewalk/Power Obstruction: Boise City, ACHD and the utility companies have specified rules regarding landscaping that interferes or obstructs sidewalks, roads, road views, signage, overhead lines, and underground utilities. Your landscaping needs to be compliant with these rules. You may be held accountable for any damages caused by your landscaping negligence, for example, a car accident due to the stop sign being visually obscured by your bush or tree.

Being A Good Neighbor: The main reason to manage your trees is not because there are rules or common sense that dictates that you should do this. It is because you are a good neighbor and wish that your neighbors are equally as reasonable as you are. The best way to address the issues of overgrown landscaping with your neighbor is not to wait for the next fire threat, or to ask Boise City to enforce a violation on them, but to knock on their door and ask for a time in which you can discuss a solution to the problem being caused by their landscaping growth with an equitable solution.

If you drove down the Boulder Heights section of Hard Rock & Toluka Way this summer, you would have noticed quite a bit of tree cutting on both sides of the street and behind the homes. A fair number of large trees were removed by homeowners working together or by hired contractors. Trees planted 15-20 years ago were blocking views, interfering with antenna reception, or encroaching on neighbor's property. In each instance, it was direct face-to-face discussions with each neighbor that resulted in a resolution. When the sawdust settled, the place looked better and people were happier. So, please, take care of your trees!