



Porch Talk

The Mayor's Neighborhood Newsletter

SPRING 2012



Boise Reaches Recycling Milestone

When the City introduced the Curb It trash and recycling program in 2009, it entered a new and improved world of solid-waste collection. For many customers, Curb It was their first introduction to the benefits of recycling, but that critical step was far from the beginning of Boise's recycling collection history. Did you know Boise has the oldest residential curbside recycling collection in Idaho? In fact, this April marks the 20th anniversary of this important program.

On April 1, 1992, Boise residents began setting out their recycling in small blue bins. Twenty years later, 95-gallon blue wheeled carts have

replaced the 20-gallon blue bins, and residents are no longer forced to sort their recyclables. Currently, nearly 67,000 households set out their blue carts every month, with about 30 pounds of recycling collected from every home. In 1992, residents recycled about 7.8 million pounds; in 2011 we recycled almost 24.8 million pounds. In the 20-year history of the program, Boise residents have recycled nearly 282 million pounds of materials.

It's clear Boise has embraced recycling in a significant way. Whether it's composting yard waste, properly disposing of household hazardous waste at

collection sites, participating in the city's new glass recycling program or donating gently used items to second-hand stores, Boise's many recyclers have had a major positive impact on our community.

Boise residents will have opportunities to celebrate our recycling success and learn how to do more to reduce, reuse and recycle in the coming months. We challenge you to think about how you can reduce waste, reuse materials and recycle more items during this 20-year celebration. Visit CurbItBoise.org for more information.



Mayor David H. Bieter

The Mayor's Message

Parents have many obligations to their children: to keep them safe, to provide them with an education and to prepare them for their future, to name a few. But no responsibility is more pressing than to keep them well nourished. Sadly, in Idaho too many children aren't getting the meals they need to grow healthy and strong.

In fact, hunger is increasing in our region. In Idaho, one in six residents is food insecure, and 95,150 of those residents are children. While many food pantries are working hard to combat this issue, many families still don't have sufficient access to fresh fruits and vegetables.

To help combat this serious problem, the City of Boise and its many partners have launched a new program aimed at giving families the tools they need to provide healthy produce for themselves

and others. Grow a Row, a new program launched by Let's Move Boise and the Boise Urban Garden School (BUGS), seeks to make more fresh produce available by helping residents learn to garden and encouraging them to distribute fresh fruits and vegetables to local food pantries.

All Grow a Row participants receive a packets of tools including seeds, how-to information, access to local gardening classes and a distribution list for local food pantries and community centers in their area. For more information on the program, or to get involved, visit LetsMoveBoise.org.

Grow a Row partners also include the Idaho Botanical Garden, Idaho Foodbank's Idaho Community Gardens program, Global Gardens, University of Idaho Ada County Extension office and Boise Parks &

Recreation with the Blue Cross of Idaho Foundation for Health.

Let's Move Boise is part of First Lady Michelle Obama's initiative to address the problem of childhood obesity in our nation. The four pillars of Let's Move are to reduce childhood obesity, make healthy food more accessible, provide healthy food in schools and increase physical activity.

The Grow a Row program is a perfect addition to the Let's Move effort and another important resource to help parents help their children grow strong. They deserve nothing less.

Until next time...



Out and About in Boise

MARCH

March 22 – 2012 Neighborhood Reinvest Grants Announcement

Event: Boise Hills Park, 651 Clubview Ct., 11:00 a.m.

March 23-24 – ChairHoops wheelchair basketball tournament:

Timberline High School, 701 E. Boise Ave., (208) 608-7680.

March 31 – Easter Eggstravaganza: Zoo Boise, 10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

www.zooboise.org. (208) 384-4260

APRIL

APRIL 14 – It's a Hoot: Free family program and birding hike.

Foothills Learning Center, 3188 Sunset Peak Road, 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. (208) 493-2530.

April 19 – Film Noir Movie Discussion: Library! at Cole & Ustick, 6:30 p.m.

April 21 – Earth Day Celebration: Combat "Nature Deficit Disorder" starting at 8:00 a.m. with a one-mile birding walk. Boise WaterShed.

MAY

May 5 – Percy Jackson: Welcome to Camp Half-Blood, Library! at Hillcrest, 1:00 p.m.

May 12 – The Social Network: Free family program about insects.

Foothills Learning Center, 3188 Sunset Peak Road. 10:00 a.m.–200 p.m. (208) 493-2530.

May 19 – Water Awareness Week Celebration: Boise WaterShed, 10 :00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Get a Wildfire Hazard Reduction Certificate

Boise Fire Department offers homeowners a "Wildfire Hazard Reduction Certificate" upon completion of several important steps to make their homes safer from wildfire. Visit BoiseFire.org for more information.

Important Contact Information

Ada County

General Info: 287-7070
Landfill: 577-4725

Animal Control

Humane Society
343-3166

Boise Public Library

384-4076

Code Enforcement

384-3845

Community Forestry

Street/Park Trees: 384-4083

Community Ombudsman

Public/Police Mediator
395-7859

Dept. of Arts & History

433-5670

Dept. of Motor Vehicles

Titles & Plates: 334-8663
Licenses: 577-3100

Fire

Emergency: 911
Non-Emergency: 377-7351

Garbage Collection

BFI/Allied Waste
345-1265

Graffiti Reports

377-6790

Licensing

Business/Child Care/Dog
City Clerk: 384-3710

Mayor's Hotline

384-4404

Parks & Recreation

608-7650

Planning &

Development Services
Building Permits/Inspections
Zoning Information
384-3830

Police

Emergency: 911
Non-Emergency: 377-6790
Neighborhood Contact
Officers: 570-6410

Public Works

General Info: 384-3900
Utility Billing for Sewer/
Trash: 384-3735

Roadway & Traffic Concerns

Ada County Highway District
387-6190

School Districts

Boise: 854-4000
Meridian: 855-4500

ValleyRide

Bus schedules
345-7433

City of Boise Website

www.cityofboise.org

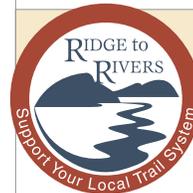


Spring Cleanup

It's time again to get outside and clean up your lawns, gardens and garages. Unlimited spring residential cleanup is April 2

to April 13. Residents can set out extra trash and yard waste in 20 to 32 gallon trash containers or paper leaf bags (yard waste only) on their regular collection day. No overflow stickers are needed.

Please note: Plastic bags will not be collected and yard wastes will not be composted by Ada County.



Ridge to Rivers Sticker

A new bumper sticker is available to Foothills trail users interested in supporting improvements in the Ridge to

Rivers system. The multi-colored stickers are on sale for \$4 at local bike shops, outdoor stores and the Ridge to Rivers office at the Foothills Learning Center, 3188 Sunset Peak Road. Proceeds will benefit the management and construction of new trails in the 136-mile Ridge to Rivers system. www.ridgetorivers.org.



Spring Booksale

Find great deals, including by-the-bag pricing at this annual event held by the Friends of Boise Public Library to benefit the

Library, on April 12–15. Note that the sale is in a new location this year, at 762 River Street in the warehouse north of the Main Library. For times and details, see www.boisepubliclibrary.org.



Tired of Hauling Glass?

Curbside voluntary glass recycling service is now cheaper and easier than ever. It's \$5.50

per month for residential curbside or commercial cart service for one extra 65-gallon glass-only gray cart. (No glass is allowed in blue no-sort recycling carts.) Service begins the month after a customer signs up. Call 384-3735 or sign up at www.curbitboise.org.