

Porch Talk

The Mayor's Neighborhood Newsletter



Spring 2010



Education and action are cornerstones of Arbor Day.

All About Trees

Trees grace our lawns, shade our city parks and streets and add beauty to our community. They clean the air, ease global warming and are a key element of Boise's high livability.

Mayor Bieter will pay tribute to the city's urban forest by joining Morley Nelson Elementary School students Friday, April 30 for the city's annual Arbor Day celebration. The event, which is open to the public, begins at 2 p.m. at the school, 7701 W. Northview St. in West Boise.

Education and action are cornerstones of Arbor Day. During the week, city foresters will teach schoolchildren about trees, and volunteers will plant 110 trees in neighborhoods throughout the city.

Earlier this spring, more than 300 people attended tree care classes offered by Boise Community Forestry, a unit of Boise Parks & Recreation responsible for managing 44,000 public trees. On May 22, City Forester Brian Jorgenson will conclude the spring classes with a free tree walk at 9 a.m. starting at the east end of Julia Davis Park.

Given citizen interest and the city's investment in maintaining the health of our urban forest, it's no surprise that Boise has been named a Tree City USA by the National Arbor Day Foundation every year for 32 consecutive years -- more than any other city in Idaho.

Homeowners and neighborhood associations can help clean our air, save energy and beautify the city by educating themselves about how to properly plant and care for trees. The Boise Community Forestry Unit maintains a list of trees suited to our desert climate. They also offer expert advice, free classes and a "Tree Selection Guide" to answer your questions

The "Tree Selection Guide" is available online at www.cityofboise.org/parks/forestry. Printed copies are \$5 at the Boise Parks & Recreation Administration Office, 1104 Royal Blvd. or Community Forestry, 4969 Dorman St.

For more information, call Boise Community Forestry at (208) 384-4083 or email forestryinfo@cityofboise.org.

Message From the Mayor



Mayor Bieter

If you own a lawn, you are probably familiar with the annual spring ritual of checking your gas-powered lawn mower to see if it is ready for another season of work. What you may not know is that a conventional lawn mower has a significant negative impact on our valley's air quality. Fortunately, for the second year the City of Boise and its partners have another option that may save you money as well as help to preserve the quality of our air.

The Mow Down Air Pollution sales event is an opportunity for all Boise Valley residents to trade in their gas-powered mowers and purchase rechargeable cordless electric models at a discounted price. The event is a partnership between the City of Boise, Idaho Power, Barger Auto Parts, Treasure Valley Clean Cities Coalition, and Idaho Department of Environmental Quality.

Fifty lucky winners will be chosen in a drawing to receive cordless mowers at an extra discount. And one person will win a free mower. The trade-in

event is Saturday, May 1 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Barger Auto Parts, 5501 W. State St. For more information, call 388-4703 or visit www.cityofboise.org/PublicWorks and click on the Mow Down link to get more information and find out how to enter.

Idaho Power will be there to offer information on best practices for charging your mower, and DEQ will be available to answer questions about our air quality. Barger Auto Parts will recycle fluids and parts from the trade-in mowers. Participants who do not win a prize will still be able to purchase an electric mower at a reduced price.

Well manicured lawns are an important part of a beautiful neighborhood. With your help they can also contribute to a cleaner, more livable community.

Until next time...

Out & About in Boise...



APRIL

April 9, 10 & 11 Annual Spring Booksale
In the warehouse behind the Main Library, between 8th and 9th streets. Call 384-4076 or visit www.boisepubliclibrary.org

April 10 Awesome Owls
Foothills Learning Center, 3188 Sunset Peak Road. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Call 493-2530 or visit www.boiseenvironmentaleducation.org

MAY

May 8-9 Idaho Green Expo
Boise Centre on the Grove, Saturday, 10 - 7p.m. Sunday, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. www.idahogreenexpo.org

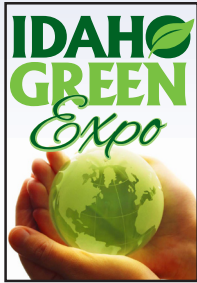
May 15 Watershed Weekend – "For the Birds"
Hike with the Golden Eagle Audubon Society at the Boise Watershed, 11818 W. Joplin Road, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

May 26 Foothills or Highlands?
Free bagpipe music at Foothills Learning Center, 3188 Sunset Peak Road. 7-8:30 p.m. Call 493-2530 or visit www.boiseenvironmentaleducation.org

JUNE

June 1 Make a Splash—Read!
Summer Reading Programs June 1 through July 31. www.boisepubliclibrary.org

June 19 Movies in the Park
The Princess Bride at Julia Davis Park, Gene Harris Band Shell, 7 p.m.



SAFETY TIP:

A leading cause of home clothes dryer fires is a failure to clean them. Be sure to keep your dryer and vents free from lint and always follow your manufacturer's operating instructions.



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
384-4240

Planning & Development Services
Building Permits/Inspections
Zoning Information
384-3830

Police
Emergency: 911
Non-Emergency: 377-6790
Neighborhood Contact
Officers: 331-3940 x221

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

Earth Day Event



As a thank you to the community for doing an incredible job with the new trash and recycling programs, the Public Works Department is hosting an Earth Day celebration at the Zoo. Admission price will be reduced. Along with the great animals there will be arts and crafts and games for the whole family. Saturday, April 24th, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. at ZooBoise.

Park Playcamps



Kids will have fun and stay active in our low-cost playcamps offered in five neighborhood parks throughout the city. Boise Parks & Recreation offers these weekly camps from June 7 - Aug. 20 for kids age 6-12 at Cassia, DeMeyer, Elm Grove, Ivywild and Winstead parks. All-day playcamps meet weekdays from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.; extended hours are 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. For information call 384-4486.

Outdoor Pools



Jump into summer June 4 for opening day at Boise's six outdoor pools. Children under age 9 must be accompanied by an adult. Boise Parks & Recreation offers swim lessons, swim team, teen pool parties and more!

- Borah Pool, 801 Aurora
- Fairmont Pool, 7929 Northview
- Lowell Pool, 1601 N. 28th
- South Pool, 921 Shoshone
- Natatorium & Hydrotube, 1811 Warm Springs Ave.
- Ivywild Pool, 2250 Leadville

For information call 384-4486.

The Pleasures and Perils of Reading



Get to know the pleasures and perils of a life of reading. The Library's Summer Reading program kicks off with a visit from nationally known author, commentator and librarian Nancy Pearl. Pearl will share her love of reading and libraries and how she came to write Book Lust and later titles. June 3, 7:00 p.m., Main Library Hayes Auditorium. For more information go to www.boise-publiclibrary.org or call 384-4076.