



# Porch Talk

The Mayor's Neighborhood Newsletter

WINTER  
2010/2011



## Winter Safety Tips

Our Idaho winters can be beautiful, yet cold and snowy conditions can also present safety challenges. Here are some simple safety tips to keep you safe and warm this winter.

**Vehicle Safety**—Be prepared. Keep extra blankets, flashlight, ice scraper, warning devices (e.g. flares, reflectors), jumper cables, first aid kit, snow shovel, rock salt or sand, bottled water and snacks in your vehicle. If possible, always have a cell phone with you (but don't keep it in the car).

**Driving Safety**—If your car is parked outside, make sure the exhaust pipe and the area around

it is clear of snow before you start the car. In icy and snowy conditions, drive slowly, allow plenty of stopping time and pay attention to the road and other drivers. If you get stuck in the snow, light two flares and place one at each end of the car a safe distance away. Make sure snow isn't blocking the exhaust pipe and stay in the vehicle with a window open slightly to allow fresh air.

**Home Safety**—Be prepared. Have a week's worth of food, drinking water, medicine and prescription drugs, pet food and safety supplies on hand. Do not leave lit candles unattended.

Keep your sidewalks and driveway clear of snow each day. If you are unable to remove it, contact a willing neighbor or a snow removal business to do it for you. For those going away this season, snow on the driveway and sidewalk for a period of time can be a dead giveaway that you aren't home, so arrange for it to be cleared every day

Visit [www.accem.org](http://www.accem.org) for the December 2010 Emergency Preparedness Pointer provided by ACCEM (Ada City-County Emergency Management).



Mayor David Bieter

## The Mayor's Message

These are tough times, and more than ever our neighbors in need are turning to others to help them make it through.

For some, that might mean asking for help from strangers on the street. And Boiseans, compassionate as we are, often respond with some spare change or a few dollars.

Unfortunately, this kind of charity doesn't address the underlying issues—and can actually make the problems worse. While panhandling is often associated with homelessness, many panhandlers are not homeless; for some, panhandling is a profession, and at times a lucrative one. And cash given to panhandlers is often used to buy alcohol or drugs.

Our neighbors need help, not handouts—and our community offers a wide range of accessible,

beneficial services to assist those who could use a hand up.

That's the focus of a new educational program designed to provide caring Boise residents with information about ways to turn their charity to good use. Called "Have a Heart, Give Smart," the program uses posters, brochures and the GiveSmartBoise.org website to discourage donations to panhandlers while encouraging giving to local organizations that can offer real life change to people in need.

Although the City of Boise is not a social-service agency, we recognize that a livable city must be livable for all its residents – especially those facing challenges. That's why we've invested resources and leadership in such programs as Allumbaugh House, our new community sobering, detox and crisis mental health center; the



10-Year Plan to Reduce and Prevent Chronic Homelessness; and partnerships with many social service agencies.

As we enter the holiday season, I hope you'll join me in demonstrating an extra measure of charity and compassion to our neighbors in need by contributing in ways that make a real difference in their lives. Have a Heart, Give Smart.

Until next time ...



## Out and About in Boise

### December

**Dec. – Jan. – Trash Overflow Stickers:** 2011 recycling calendar and trash overflow stickers will be in the December and January trash bill.

**Dec. 31 – Skate into the New Year:** 8 p.m. - 1 a.m. Dec. 31, Idaho IceWorld, 7072 S. Eisenman Road. \$5 includes skate rental. (208) 331-0044; www.idahoiceworld.com.

### January

**Jan. 8 – Gardening with Native Plants:** 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Foothills Learning Center, 3188 Sunset Peak Road. All ages. (208) 493-2530; www.boiseenvironmentaleducation.org.

**January 15 – WaterShed Weekend, Fire and Ice:** Unearth the geologic mysteries of how our watershed was formed; 489-1284.

**Jan. 19 – Author Visit:** James L. Haley explores Jack London's life & work; Main Library, 7 p.m.

### February

**February 3 – Fettuccine Forum – Why the Grass is So Green at Shiloh:** Rose Room (Union Block, 718 W. Idaho Street), 5:30 p.m.

**Feb. 10 – Worst Journeys:** 50 Epic, Harrowing, Unforgettable Real Life Books of Desperation & Adventure! Main Library, 7 p.m.



## Holiday Residential Cleanup

December 27-January 7: Residents can dispose of larger amounts of trash generated during the holiday season. Set out as much trash as you want, but it all needs to be set out in 20- to 32-gallon trash cans. No overflow stickers are needed. You also can set out leaves in paper bags and Christmas trees. www.curbitboise.org



## Re-Art for Kids

Kids 5-10 years old are invited to explore and embrace art in new

contexts in this innovative monthly series offered by Boise's Arts & History Department, the Treasure Valley Institute for Children's Arts (TriCA), Boise Public Library and the OfficeMax Boise Community Fund. Visit www.boisepubliclibrary.org or call 384-4200 for times at your library.

**January 8 & 9:** Interior Design

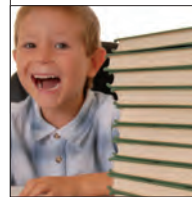
**February 12 & 13:** Culinary Arts



## Weekend Open Gyms

Hey kids! Get fit and have fun at free supervised Open Gym sessions at nine Boise schools Saturdays and Sundays.

Activities include pick-up basketball, indoor soccer, rope climbing and jump rope. Kids in grades 1-6 are invited to drop by the open gyms at Whitney, Liberty, Koelsch and Valley View elementary schools. For youth age 12 to 17 open gyms are available at Les Bois, Hillside, East, West and South junior high schools. Visit Parks & Recreation at www.cityofboise.org; (208) 384-4256.



## Get Your Child Ready to Read!

Boise Public Library invites parents to get their 4 and 5 year olds ready for kindergarten in these hands-on parent/child courses. Choose from four different five-week sessions. Main Library sessions are offered on Thursdays at 9 a.m., Jan. 13 - Feb. 10; Feb. 24 - Mar. 24; or Saturdays at 10 a.m., Jan. 15 - Feb. 12. Sessions at the Library at Cole & Ustick are offered Saturday at 11 a.m., Feb. 26 - Mar. 26. Call 384-4200 (Main Library) or 570-6900 (Cole & Ustick).

## Protect Yourself from Carbon Monoxide

Carbon Monoxide is a colorless, odorless deadly gas. The Consumer Product Safety Commission recommends installing at least one carbon monoxide detector per household, near the sleeping area in a home.

## 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: 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