

# ENERGIZE OUR NEIGHBORHOODS



## BOISE'S GOOD NEIGHBOR AWARDS

## 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

### ENERGIZE OUR NEIGHBORHOODS

**Energize Our Neighborhoods** is a collaboration between Boise's residents, public and private partners, and the city to keep our neighborhoods unique and desirable. It focuses on aligning community resources to improve livability and make measurable change. By focusing on individual neighborhoods and using data as a road map, the program increases economic activity, improves safety, provides additional services and creates more vibrant and connected neighborhoods.

### ENERGIZE BOISE CELEBRATION

Boise residents gathered at the **Energize Boise Celebration** held at city hall in September to recognize neighbors who make connections that strengthen Boise's neighborhoods. Mayor David Bieter awarded **Boise Good Neighbor Awards** to 45 individuals, three neighborhood-based organizations and one business. A list of recipients is available at [EnergizeOurNeighborhoods.org](http://EnergizeOurNeighborhoods.org).

Attendees learned about the events, activities and projects led by the Vista Energize Committees. There was also information on the Neighborhood Toolkit which is available to support community engagement in any neighborhood.

### SMOKE ALARM INSTALLATION EVENT

In Spring 2016, the **American Red Cross of Greater Idaho** partnered with the **United Way of Treasure Valley** to recruit and train volunteers to install free smoke alarms and provide safety information for any household in need. A group of 150 volunteers gathered at South Junior High, brushed up on their home fire safety knowledge, then hit the streets to help ensure Vista neighbors are protected from deadly home fires. They installed over 260 smoke alarms in the Vista Neighborhood. Albertsons generously provided a free lunch for everyone.



#### Recognizing Good Neighbors

*Mayor Bieter presents a Good Neighbor Award to Melody Lynch.*



#### Volunteers Installed Smoke Alarms

*The American Red Cross and the United Way of Treasure Valley partnered with volunteers to install free smoke alarms in the Vista Neighborhood.*

**ENERGIZEOURNEIGHBORHOODS.ORG**

## RESOURCES

### ENERGIZE HOUR WORKSHOPS

- **Energize Hour Workshops** offer Boise residents an opportunity to learn about a variety of topics. Past workshops included hands-on education about home repairs, emergency preparedness, personal safety and self-defense, as well as the history of the Vista Neighborhood.
- Topics for 2017 include neighborhood branding, community leadership, block party and National Night Out planning, Neighborhood Watch, emergency communications, traffic calming and more. Want to suggest a topic? Send an email to [energize@cityofboise.org](mailto:energize@cityofboise.org).

### ENERGIZE TOOL KIT

- The **Energize Tool Kit** is designed to facilitate community engagement, provide easy access to available resources, and offer opportunities to learn more about workshops, neighborhood events, leadership development, and improving livability in Boise.

### NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING

- **Neighborhood Planning** is a collaboration between the city and neighborhood associations to guide the future of Boise's neighborhoods. The city assigns planners to specific neighborhoods so they are familiar with the area's unique issues.
- Planners help neighborhoods understand development applications, interpret Blueprint Boise (the city's comprehensive plan), develop neighborhood plans and prepare Neighborhood Reinvestment Grant applications. They also participate in National Night Out, annual meetings and other neighborhood events.

### WEBSITE

- Learn more about these resources at **[EnergizeOurNeighborhoods.org](http://EnergizeOurNeighborhoods.org)**.



Ustick Mercantile c. 1918

Photo courtesy of June Fitzgerald.

## WEST VALLEY NEIGHBORHOOD

### NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING

Residents from the **West Valley Neighborhood Association** gathered at Comba Park this summer to learn about the proposed project to beautify the **Ustick Townsite**.

More than 75 attendees provided feedback on the project design, shared historic memorabilia from the area and visited with friends and neighbors. The Parks and Recreation Mobile Rec team provided games for kids, while adults signed up to share their oral histories and photographs with the City of Boise's Arts and History department. Feedback from the neighbors was used in the West Valley Neighborhood Association's application for a Neighborhood Reinvestment Grant.

### USTICK TOWNSITE BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT

The [UstickTownsite.org](http://UstickTownsite.org) website says: "Our vision for the **Ustick Townsite Beautification Project** is to awaken the collective memory of the historic agricultural community in West Boise - Ustick Village. At its prime, Ustick was a bustling agricultural town surrounded by orchards and energized by a small farming community. The townsite was complete with a bank, a creamery, a school, and its own **Mercantile**... These buildings have withstood the test of time and still stand in the townsite and continue to be utilized as business ventures."

"Our vision includes a re-birth of this once thriving community by working with Boise City and community partners to re-create a pedestrian friendly neighborhood in which West Boise residents can once again connect and commune."

For more information, go to [www.UstickTownsite.org](http://www.UstickTownsite.org).



# VISTA NEIGHBORHOOD

## VISTA BENCH BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

The businesses participating in the Economic Development Committee formally joined forces as the **Vista Bench Business Association (VBBA)**. The VBBA launched “**First Fridays on the Bench**” to help local business owners connect with neighbors, showcase services and merchandise, as well as develop a sense of community on the Bench. They sponsored the first Vista Bench Business Scavenger Hunt in October 2016, and plan to host large community events bi-annually.

To learn more about upcoming events, visit the Vista Bench First Friday Facebook page or follow #VistaBenchFirstFriday on social media.



First Fridays on the Bench

## HAWTHORNE ELEMENTARY PROGRAMS

Boise's **Parks and Recreation** department led an effort to bring community partners together to support additional programming for Hawthorne Elementary students. Parks and Recreation partnered with the **Treasure Valley YMCA** and the **Boys and Girls Clubs of Ada County** to ensure students have programming both before and after school, and throughout the summer months. All three programs operate at capacity.

The organizations have also discovered new opportunities to share resources, which will lead to improved programming options for students all across the Boise community.



Programs at Hawthorne Elementary

## 25 HAWTHORNE COMMUNITY

**NeighborWorks Boise** has identified a location for a new 'pocket neighborhood' within the Vista Neighborhood. Made possible through a generous grant from **Wells Fargo**, the 25 Hawthorne community (located on Ormond Street) will feature 12 homes, ranging from 1-3 bedrooms, with affordable prices. A volunteer team from Wells Fargo helped prepare the parcel for development following a celebration hosted by NeighborWorks Boise and Wells Fargo.

Programs are available to help income-qualified families become homeowners. For information about NeighborWorks Boise and their pocket neighborhoods, go to [neighborhoodhomes.org/pocketneighborhoods](http://neighborhoodhomes.org/pocketneighborhoods).



Wells Fargo Volunteers

## VISTA AVENUE ART

Increasing public art in the Vista area is a priority for the Placemaking, Arts & History Committee. The group partnered with graphic design and technical communications students from **Boise State University** to bring art, color and interest to the Vista corridor. Students designed a series of art and large wooden displays. Several businesses along Vista Avenue host the art signs, which will rotate every 6-9 months.

Small yard signs are available for Vista residents interested in showcasing art in their yards. To view available designs and request a sign, please go to [EnergizeOurNeighborhoods.org/StudentArt](http://EnergizeOurNeighborhoods.org/StudentArt).



Student Art





Neighborhood associations participate in community events like National Night Out

## BOISE'S NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS

### NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS

Boise's neighborhood associations are an integral component of the city's goal of becoming the "most livable city in the country."

Boise has **33 registered neighborhood associations**. There are nearly 300 volunteers who serve as board members, with hundreds more involved in neighborhood activities and outreach.

Associations work to strengthen neighborhoods and to promote community. They organize and advocate for their residents, work to increase membership and conduct community events.

- Associations sponsor events such as ice cream socials, summer picnics, Halloween safety events, movies under the stars, holiday light events, clean up days and **National Night Out** events.
- Neighborhood associations maintain websites and use social media to connect neighbors and share information about their neighborhood and city initiatives and activities.
- Neighborhood associations provide testimony at City of Boise or Ada County Highway District public hearings on relevant development proposals and projects.

### YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Learn about your neighborhood association at [EnergizeOurNeighborhoods.org](http://EnergizeOurNeighborhoods.org).

Two new neighborhood associations were formed in 2016: **Liberty Park** and **South Cole**.

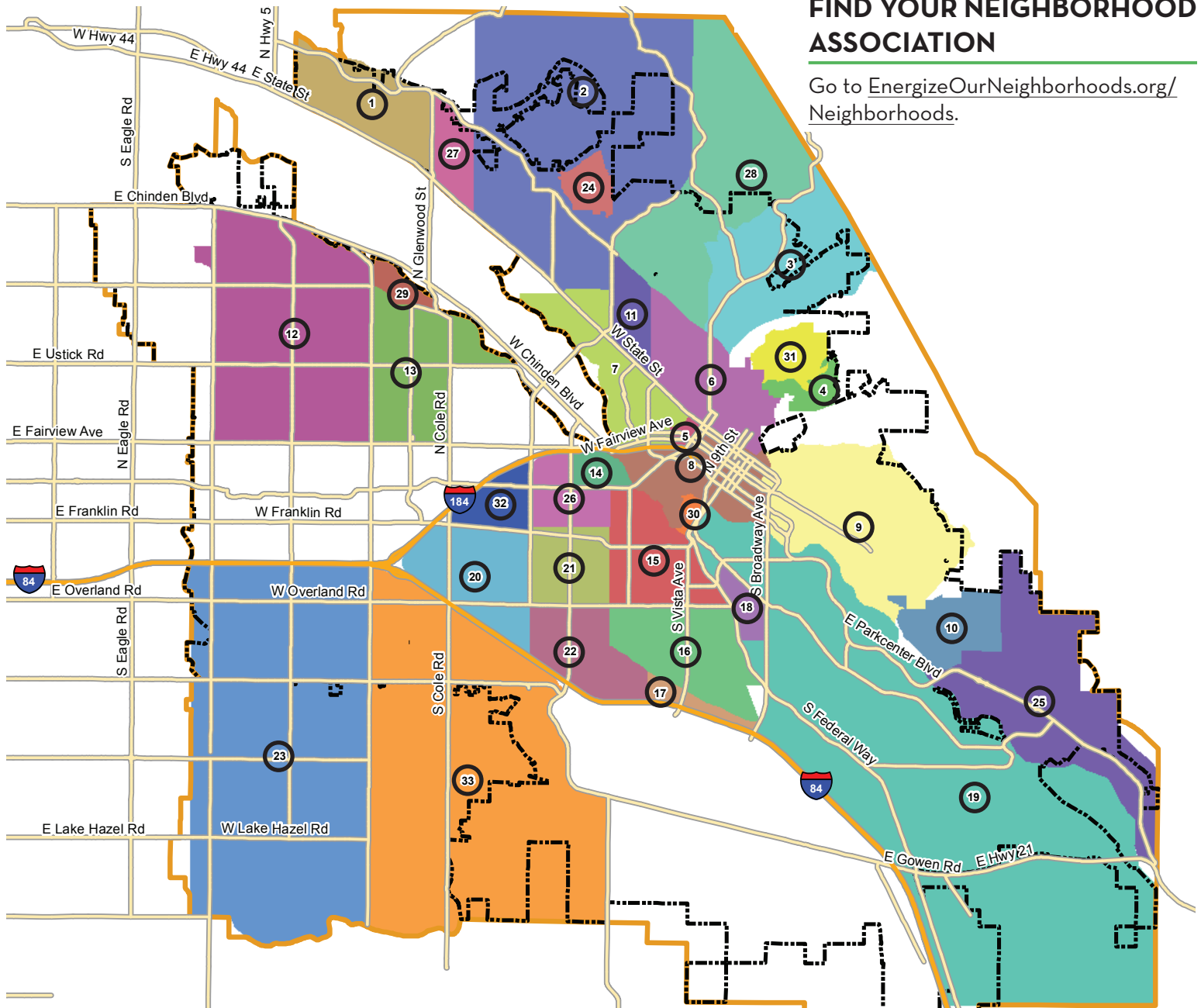
### NEIGHBORHOOD INVESTMENT

Boise's **Neighborhood Reinvestment Grants** (NRG) began in 1993 as a way to fund capital projects prioritized by the neighborhood associations. Initially funded at \$150,000, the annual allocation has increased to \$600,000. The city also offers "mini grants" to help neighborhood associations fund their communication efforts.

In the past ten years, the grants have funded almost \$4.4 million for diverse projects. Projects include playground equipment, traffic box art, historical research, walking paths, park shelters, community gardens and improvements to foothills trails.

## FIND YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Go to [EnergizeOurNeighborhoods.org/Neighborhoods](http://EnergizeOurNeighborhoods.org/Neighborhoods).



## NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS

- |                  |                       |                         |                                   |                       |
|------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. North West    | 8. Downtown Boise     | 14. Central Rim         | 21. Central Bench                 | 27. Pierce Park       |
| 2. Collister     | 9. East End           | 15. Depot Bench         | 22. Hillcrest                     | 28. Central Foothills |
| 3. Highlands     | 10. Warm Springs Mesa | 16. Vista               | 23. Southwest Ada County Alliance | 29. Glenwood Rim      |
| 4. Boise Heights | 11. Sunset            | 17. Sunrise Rim         | 24. Quail Ridge                   | 30. Lusk District     |
| 5. West Downtown | 12. West Valley       | 18. South Boise Village | 25. Barber Valley                 | 31. Somerset          |
| 6. North End     | 13. West Bench        | 19. Southeast Boise     | 26. Morris Hill                   | 32. Liberty Park      |
| 7. Veterans Park |                       | 20. Borah               |                                   | 33. South Cole        |

# ENERGIZE OUR NEIGHBORHOODS

## COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Ada County Highway District	Boys & Girls Clubs of Ada County	Goliath Gaming	Moxie Java	United Way of Treasure Valley
Albertsons	Brewer's Haven	Hardwoods Hardware Hobbies	Musgrove Engineering	Urban Land Institute
American Planning Association - Idaho Chapter	Canine Design	Hawthorne Elementary PTO	NeighborWorks Boise	USGBC - Idaho Chapter
American Red Cross of Idaho & Montana	City of Boise	Hellmann Construction Company	New Beginnings Housing, LLC	Valley Glass
Autometric	CSHQA	Idaho Dept. of Health & Welfare	OnPoint Advantage, LLC	Valley Regional Transit
Autumn Gold	CTA Group	Idaho Power	Oppenheimer Companies	Veronica Scooters
Bark n' Purr	Day Realty Co., LLC	Idaho Public Health Authority	Paige Mechanical Group	Vista Neighborhood Association
Becki & Friends	Divine Lotus Tea Company	Idaho Statesman	Quinn's Restaurant & Lounge	Vista Village
Beford Flooring	D.L. Evans Bank	Idaho Youth Ranch	Republic Services	Vita Novu
Blimpie Sub Shop	Downtown Boise Association	Integrated Design Lab	Retail West Properties	Wells Fargo
Blue Cross of Idaho	El-Ada Community Action Partnership	Integrity Hardwood Floors	Saint Alphonsus Health System	West Valley Neighborhood Association
Foundation for Health	EMC Sugar	Interior Systems, Inc.	St. Luke's Health System	Whitney Baptist Church
Boise Office Moving & Storage	Flagship Motors	Ironside Roasting Co.	St. Vincent de Paul	Whitney Elementary PTO
Boise School District	Flowers at Will	Love INC.	SoJourn Church	Whitney United Methodist Church
Boise State University	Foerstel Design	Mesa Moving & Storage	South Junior High	Whole Foods Market
Boise Weekly	Foerstel Design	Micron Foundation	Partnership Action Team	Willowcreek Grill
	George & Bev Harad		the BENCH Salon & Gifts	Zen Riot
	Go Green Insulation		Treasure Valley YMCA	

## FOCUS AREAS



### CHILDREN & YOUTH

Data tracked: Child nutrition program participation (CNP - CEP); IRI (Fall Kindergarten, Spring 3rd grade)



### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Data tracked: Number of businesses; type of business (by category)



### ENVIRONMENT

Data tracked: Percent tree canopy cover; percent impervious surface



### HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Data tracked: Park access points; park walkable service area



### HOUSING

Data tracked: Occupancy; house age; average residential value



### PLACEMAKING, ARTS & HISTORY

Data tracked: Culture score (number of assets); public art; Boise historic landmarks; cultural facilities



### PUBLIC SAFETY

Data tracked: Crime rate (person, property, society, other); code enforcement



### TRANSPORTATION

Data tracked: Existing/missing sidewalk; sidewalk coverage; bicycle level of service (rating); bus stops; bus service area



## GET INVOLVED

Find out how to make a difference in your neighborhood:

[ENERGIZEOURNEIGHBORHOODS.ORG](https://energizeourneighborhoods.org)

Follow us to learn more:



@City\_of\_Boise



Facebook.com/BoiseCity



@CityofBoise



Energize Our Neighborhoods is a LIV initiative. Learn more about other City of Boise initiatives at: [LIVBOISE.ORG](https://livboise.org)

