Recognizing Good Neighbors

Mayor Bieter presents a Good Neighbor Award to Melody Lynch.

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.

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.

EnergizeOurNeighborhoods.org
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 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.
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.

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.

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.

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.
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.

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

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.

Learn about your neighborhood association at EnergizeOurNeighborhoods.org.
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS

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

FIND YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
Go to EnergizeOurNeighborhoods.org/Neighborhoods.
COMMUNITY PARTNERS

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

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

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