

**TAKE A
BITE OUT
OF CRIME**



BPD's Neighborhood Contact Officers

By Cameron Becker, NCO for Southeast Boise

A Neighborhood Contact Officer (NCO) is a sworn officer of the Boise Police Department assigned to the Community Outreach Division. There are currently (12) Neighborhood Contact Officers and their primary duties involve Community Policing.

For staffing purposes, the City of Boise has been divided into (10) distinct geographical areas numbered Bench 1-5 and Valley 1-5. There is an NCO assigned to each of these areas. There is also an NCO assigned to work closely with the refugee community and another whose primary duty is to impact the growing graffiti problem within our city.

Your area NCO works closely with residents, neighborhood groups, businesses, and City/County agencies to positively impact ongoing neighborhood problems which are criminal in nature or may have a negative affect on your quality of life. Examples of situations NCOs deal with on a regular basis are:

- Party Houses (Noise Ordinance violations, underage drinking, and an assortment of related crimes associated with such activity)
- Drug Houses (homes in your neighborhood where drug activity such as buying/selling/using/manufacturing illegal drugs is suspected)
- Traffic issues (including Speeding, Stop sign violations, School zones, etc)
- Neighborhood Feuds (mediating situations where neighbors, for whatever reason, are not getting along)
- Code Enforcement issues (NCOs work closely with Boise City Code Enforcement Officers to resolve ongoing code enforcement issues)
- Directed Patrols (extra neighborhood patrols designed to address a specific ongoing criminal issue such as a serial Peeping Tom or a surge in residential burglaries in an effort to identify and apprehend the suspects involved)
- Injury by Graffiti (there is a NCO tasked with monitoring the graffiti problem within the City of Boise, identifying the suspects involved, and prosecuting them so they are held accountable for the damage they inflict on our community).
- Search Warrants (criminal investigations by NCOs often result in search warrants being issued for problem residences. The NCO team serves such search warrants on an ongoing basis in their efforts to eradicate these neighborhood problems)

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You can find out who your NCO is and how to contact him/her by going to the City of Boise website at: <http://www.cityofboise.org> and following the Police link to Community Outreach Division and Neighborhood Contact Officers.

If you are experiencing an ongoing situation in your neighborhood which is having a negative affect on you, your family, or the neighborhood in general, you should contact your NCO to discuss the situation. Your NCO will work closely with you and others who may have a stake in finding a positive resolution to the issue. However, if you have an immediate need for police assistance, please contact Police Dispatch at 377-6790 for non-emergencies, or 911 if it is an emergency and a Patrol officer will respond.

Neighborhood Pets



Most people like animals and want to see them treated well. But, every now and then a resident experiences the negative side of neighborhood cats or dogs marking their territory and using the yard as a litter box. For the 'victimized' neighbor, this can be frustrating. What can be done to deter these pets from using your property?

Well, for us pet owners, we can reign in our dogs so they aren't running loose, take a pooper scooper on our walks, and be extra considerate of our neighbor's yards. Cats that are allowed outside are not as easy to maintain. They are wandering little animals and won't stay in their owner's backyard.

I did some research and found a variety of helpful tips to deter the neighborhood pets from leaving their deposits in our yards:

- Repellent pump sprays – applied to the area you want protected
- Repellent granules – note: granules, sprays and powders will wash off when the sprinkler comes on or it rains

- Motion-activated system producing bursts of ultrasonic sound
- Motion detector sprinkler system. You might want to disconnect this one when company comes over
- Coffee grounds sprinkled in your flower beds
- Ground Ginger sprinkled in your flower beds
- Ground Cayenne Pepper sprinkled in your flower beds
- "Shake-away" powder that uses fear; it contains the smell (dried urine) of coyote and foxes
- Plant Rosemary (the herb) and/or Marigolds in your garden
- Cat Traps are a safe way to contain the offending cat. The traps can be rented at the Animal Shelter, Brown's Rental, and Tates Rental. The Cat Trap must be placed in your own yard. Once the cat is trapped you can let the cat's owner know, and hopefully they will deal with the situation, or you can take the Trap to the Animal Shelter. By the way, the cat is not harmed in these traps, simply contained.

Being Prepared by Paul "Crash" Marusich, ACCEM

In a major disaster, communities or individuals may be isolated for 72 hours or more before they can be reached by emergency responders. The Disaster Preparedness Program is a nationwide effort to help Americans respond quickly and effectively in times of disaster. The program was launched by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to encourage people to prepare for disaster

because the government and voluntary emergency response agencies can't be everywhere helping everyone immediately following a disaster. By taking a few simple steps, people can significantly increase their chances of survival and ability to cope with disaster. Ada City-County Emergency Management's (ACC-EM) website is loaded with information to help people better prepare by develop-

ing a family disaster plan and a 72 hour kit. ACCEM's Public Education Specialist is also available to come speak to neighborhood, business or church groups on the topic of individual preparedness.

For more information please go to: www.accem.org

Hubert Humphrey once said, "The impersonal hand of government can never replace the helping hand of a neighbor."

Bicycle Safety and Education

Boise has seen the need for more bike safety education and enforcement due to a significant increase in bicycle accidents this year. Both motorists and cyclists need to act responsibly and with consideration so the streets can be safe for everyone.

City and State Laws:

The Cyclist:

When on a sidewalk, a cyclist (or jogger, or skateboarder) has the rights and responsibilities of a pedestrian. The law states a pedestrian on a sidewalk, when about to enter the intersection, must enter the crosswalk in the roadway only when safe to proceed.

Idaho State Code 49-702(2) No pedestrian shall suddenly leave a curb or other place of safety and walk or run into the path of a vehicle which is so close as to constitute an immediate hazard, and

Boise City Code 10-06-3C No pedestrian shall suddenly leave a curb or other place of safety and walk or run into the path of a vehicle which is so close that it is impossible for the driver to yield. Fine- \$46.50

The Motorist:

Under State law, a motorist making a right or left turn has the responsibility to make the turn when safe to do so, and to always drive exercising due caution. Depending on circumstances, a motorist colliding with a cyclist while making the turn may be cited for violation of:

ISC 49-808 No person shall turn a vehicle onto a highway or move a vehicle right or left upon a highway or merge onto or exit from a highway unless and until the movement can be made with reasonable safety nor without giving an appropriate signal. Fine: \$75.

ISC 49-615 Drivers to exercise due care. Notwithstanding other provisions of this title or the provisions of any local ordinance, every driver of a vehicle shall exercise due care to avoid colliding with any pedestrian or any person propelling a human-powered vehicle and shall give an audible signal when necessary. Fine: \$75.

Bicycle Registration Form

To register your bicycle with Boise Police, go online to the following:
<http://www.cityofboise.org/forms/police/BicycleRegistration/>

Web Resources:

www.clearchoices.org ClearChoices is a program designed by teens for teens who want to make positive life choices. This website has real-life stories and information on drugs, alcohol, and dating for parents and teens. It is affiliated with www.notmykid.org

College Scam Tricks - Do you have kids going to college? If so, check out the information on www.snopes.com : <http://www.scambusters.org/collegescam.html>



Most Common Cycling Violations Observed by Boise P.D. Bike Officers:

1. Riding against traffic

Position on Roadway (by far, say officers, the most frequently observed violation) - Boise City Code 10-14-06 (A), Idaho State Code 49-717 (1).
 Fine = \$46.50

2. Going through "Stop" sign without slowing for traffic

ISC 49-720 (1). Though a cyclist can go through a stop sign without completely stopping, they are required by state law to stop for traffic that is close enough to be an "immediate hazard". Many cyclists are seen by officers not slowing at all
 Fine = \$46.50

3. No headlight at night

BCC 10-14-03 (D), ISC 49-723.
 Headlights are not only for the vision of the cyclist, but so the cyclist can be seen by others! Fine = \$46.50

4. Riding through "Don't Walk" signal at crosswalk

BCC 10-14-08, ISC 49-721 C.
 Cyclists have the same rights and responsibilities as pedestrians when riding on sidewalks and in crosswalks. When cyclists ride off the sidewalk into the road, they must observe motorist traffic laws. Fine = \$46.50

Boise BARK

New Groups & Faces

We welcome these Chairmen who started a new Watch group, are a new Co-Chair, or are taking over as Chairman for an existing group:

Karan Lockhart – Tulara Dr.
Sue Jones & Cynthia Pellant – Buckboard
TJ Thomson – Dawson Meadows Sub
Cynthia Molis – Pepperwood/Pepperhill Subs
Julia Bennison – Campton Wy
Tamara Cates & Bonnie Irizarry – Cornwall & Rugby
Joan Nicholson – Mesa Vista
Roslyn Muller – Fallingbrook Sub
Lynn Wade – Landmark Ct

Carol Galka – W. Glen Ellyn
Andrew Hyman – W. Richmond
Linda Claiborne – W. Sites Dr
Dave Taylor – Promontory Ridge Sub
Richard Mealey-Ozawa – The Orchards Townhomes
Kent Kerstetter – Glenbrier Mobile Home Park
Lynette Claypool & Judy Wahl – North Point Sub
Kathleen Wolff – Clark St
Joan English – Dalton Ave

Boise Neighborhood Watch Groups as of March 15, 2009:
322 groups comprised of 26,650 homes



In Memoriam

Bill Heath, Neighborhood Watch Chairman in Lakewood #4, passed away on August 14, at the age of 90. Bill served in WW II, assigned to the 1st Battalion, 148th Field Artillery, an Idaho National Guard unit on active duty. Many years later, he contacted the survivors of the 148th and wrote their WWII history. Bill enjoyed 52 years of marriage to the love of his life, Barbara. He was very active in our community, writing the Idaho Update (an email newsletter), volunteering on numerous boards and councils, and he loved to play tennis and ride dirt bikes.

I had the privilege of knowing Bill through Boise's Neighborhood Watch program. He served as Chairman from November 1997 until July 2009. I will remember Bill best for his sense of humor, positive attitude, concern for his neighborhood, and amazing intellect. Bill, I am honored to have known you.



Boise's 2009 National Night Out

This last August 4th, over 60 neighborhoods in Boise hosted block parties.

National Night Out is a unique event where the whole community – law enforcement, city leaders, businesses, residents, fire and paramedic personnel - come together for a common cause. We eat together and talk and play with the kids and have a great time. As one party planner shared about her event, "The food was great and people really enjoyed renewing old acquaintances and striking up new ones. We are already talking about next year's party." Another one invited special guests, "... eight veterans and two volunteers from the Idaho State Veterans' Home, for whom we had a special cake made. The boy scouts presented the colors and led us in the Pledge of Allegiance to kick things off. We schmoozed, ate, played bocce, and all was enjoyed."

I find it interesting that something so old fashioned and simple as a neighborhood get-together can be such an important element in preventing and reducing crime. This speaks to neighborhood crime reduction because neighbors know each other and will watch over each other's property. It speaks to the teens and children as well, because they have adults (neighbors) who truly care about them, want to see them succeed, and will hold them accountable for their actions in the neighborhood. It also speaks to the elderly resident who may need a neighbor to check on them now and then. There is something special about a simple block party!



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