



NORTH END NEWS

Welcome Back to the North End News by Erik Hagen, NENA President

The North End Neighborhood Association (NENA) has been serving the North End community since 1976. As a 501(c)4 non-profit organization, the mission of NENA is to represent, preserve, and protect the historic, social, cultural, and environmental character of Boise's historic North End neighborhood.

You may know of NENA as the proud owner and organizer of Boise's iconic annual community craft fair and music festival, the Hyde Park Street Fair. Started in 1979 on North 13th Street in Hyde Park, the fair has been providing the means for NENA to give back to the North End community through grants and sponsorships. The fair has occurred every year since 1979 with the exception of two years during the COVID pandemic. This past year, we doubled what we usually give to the public schools in the North End district to \$2,000 per school!

We also administer Funds to Improve the North End (FINE), granting up to \$500 to any North End member

to improve public areas and rights of way in the North End. Over the past few years, these funds have helped beautify the landscape island on North 15th Street as well as a couple of Community Alley projects, most recently the O'Thatchell Alley between North 4th and 5th Streets.

NENA also puts on several community events throughout the year. On August 5, we were excited to put on our first National Night Out event in Elm Grove Park. This event coincided with the Boise National Night Out and included a bouncy house and other children's activities, adult beverages, free ice-cream, food trucks and of course, Boise Police & Fire, along with our City representatives.

Every spring we organize and run the North End Garden Tour. Every December, we organize and run the Holiday Home Tour. Both of these events are fundraisers for the North End and are always a perennial favorite among the neighbors.

And now, we are once again back to producing our quarterly newsletter that is hand-delivered to all 5,000+ residences in the North End by our Newsies (volunteer distributors). Let us know if you would be interested in becoming a Newsie (board@northendboise.org). The NENA News ceased publication during the pandemic and was sorely missed. Thanks to some dedicated volunteers, we have returned!

NENA is a 100% volunteer run organization. We are not a tax-deductible organization, though. That is intentional in order that we may be able to represent and lobby the city and other jurisdictions in favor, support, and sometimes against developments and projects in the North End. We are not a decision making body, but we do have a voice in public hearings, projects, and the like.

For the first time since I've been active with NENA (since 2020), we have a full 11-person board! I would like to welcome our newest board members

INSIDE

- Open Spaces Levy on November Ballot • Page 3
- Every House Tells a Story • Page 4
- North End Holiday Home Tour • Page 5
- History and Future of Boise High School • Page 6
- National Night Out • Page 8
- Calendar of Events • Page 9

NORTH END NEWS

is a free quarterly publication of the North End Neighborhood Association. It is hand delivered to more than 5,000 households and businesses within the North End boundaries, between 4th and 28th Streets and State Street to Hill Road.

Editor:

Neysa Jensen
editornena@gmail.com

Ad Sales:

Garrett Lamm
newsletter@northendboise.org

Designer:

Meredith Messinger
meredithfern@gmail.com

Printed by: Treasure Valley Litho

Newsies Coordinator:

Donna Llewellyn
donnacllewellyn@gmail.com

Online Archive:

northendboise.org/news/
newsletters-archive

NENA OCTOBER BOARD ELECTIONS:

Board members serve two-year terms. Board elections are held each year at the annual meeting in October. NENA members vote on six board seats in even years and five board seats in odd years. Mid-term vacancies on the Board of Directors are filled by appointment and appointees serve for the remaining term.

who were approved by the current NENA Board in July: Garrett Lamm (E), Chris Wagener (E), Donna Llewellyn (E), & Dominique Naegele-Clifford (E). Rounding out the Board are Travis Campion (E), Cynthia Gibson (O), Sandy Herman (O), Autumn Street (E), Scott Graves (O), Kari Forney (O), and myself (O). (O designates term is up for reelection in odd numbered years; E designates even numbered years.)

Thank you for reading NENA News. After all, we do this for you!

If you have ideas for the North End News, contact editornena@gmail.com. We welcome articles about local businesses, anything happening at our schools, quips and quotes from around the 'hood, historical memories, letters of interest, and photos, drawings, or cartoons. We cannot guarantee publication, all items are subject to editing, and there is no payment offered.

NORTH END NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

North End Neighborhood Association (NENA) is a non-profit organization serving Boise's Historic North End since 1976. NENA represents, preserves, and protects the historic, social, cultural, and environmental character of Boise's North End neighborhood. Anyone over the age of 18 who lives, works, owns a business, or owns property in the North End Neighborhood is eligible to become a member of NENA. We engage neighbors in developing creative solutions for positive change. We have fun celebrating and embracing the diversity of our neighborhood that is essential to civic unity. We listen to, respond to, represent, and collaborate for our neighbors' interests.

NENA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Erik Hagen, President
Kari Forney, Vice President
Autumn Street, Secretary
Scott Graves, Treasurer
Sandy Herman
Cynthia Gibson
Travis Campion
Garrett Lamm
Donna Llewellyn
Chris Wagener
Dominique Naegele-Clifford

BOARD MEETINGS

All meetings are open to the public.

When: 7:00 p.m. on the last Tuesday of every month, except December

Location: 1520 North 12th Street, Mennonite Fellowship

CONTACT US

Email: board@northendboise.org

Website: www.northendboise.org

Facebook:
facebook.com/northendboise

Instagram:
@northendneighborhoodboise

Mail: PO Box 1235 Boise, ID 83701



OPEN SPACES LEVY ON NOVEMBER BALLOT

by Garrett Lamm

If you look up at the hills in most cities across America, private mega mansions loom overhead as far as the eye can see. But in Boise, we see open spaces to run, bike, hike, and recreate in. And across the city, pathways and waterways are abundant, making Boise one of the best places in the U.S. to live. From the Greenbelt to the Boise River, and everywhere in between, easy access to the foothills, parks, and bike paths is one of the reasons so many families stay in Boise. These are spaces where neighbors go to exercise, walk their dogs, clear their minds, or simply connect with friends and neighbors. The pathways also serve as critical avenues that connect commuters to the places we live, learn, work, and play.

This isn't by accident. This was by choice. In 2001 and 2015, Boise voters

overwhelmingly voted for open space levies that funded the preservation of thousands of acres of foothills and the expansion of public parks and pathways. Beyond opening up public lands for residents to enjoy, the levies also supported projects that mitigate wildfires and keep Boise waterways clean. Those forward-thinking investments mean that today, all our families can enjoy the benefits of these public lands, and we are now closer than ever to the city's goal of ensuring every kid in Boise can safely walk to a park within ten minutes.

Sadly, those levy funds are nearly dry. But when Boise residents go to the ballot box on November 4, 2025, you will have the opportunity to vote on a new Clean Water, Pathways, and Open Space Levy. If approved by a simple

majority of voters, the levy would cost property taxpayers just under \$10 per \$100,000 of taxable assessed value annually for two years.

The vote on the open spaces levy comes at a moment of intense debate about the value of our public lands. Earlier this year, Congress tried to allow the sale of hundreds of thousands of acres of public lands, but the provision was withdrawn due to fierce outcry. Opponents of the provision flooded the phones, mailboxes, and meeting rooms of our Representatives and Senators, insisting that public lands should remain in public hands. Despite the measure's demise, some members of Congress have made clear that they will not stop trying to sell public lands and plan to reintroduce new legislation soon to do just that.

Now is the time for residents and voters to reflect on what these public lands mean to us and whether we want to give our kids and grandkids what the previous generation of Boiseans gave us. To learn more from supporters of the initiative, go to yesforboise.org. To register to vote ahead of the election on November 4, 2025, visit voteidaho.gov/voter-registration.





EVERY HOUSE TELLS A STORY:

Why We're Redocumenting Boise's North End

by Jeffery Holley, MARH

There's a comfort in the way neighborhoods tell stories. Some whisper from behind leaded glass panes; others speak boldly through porch columns or rustling trees in a narrow setback. Boise's North End, with its lacework of bungalows and boxy foursquares, is one of those places that wears its history not as ornament, but as presence. And yet, even the most storied homes need to be reintroduced, with care and intention, to ensure their tales are properly told.

That recognition is formalized in the City of Boise's planning framework, which includes ten local districts to safeguard the city's archaeological, architectural, and cultural heritage. The North End Historic District — Boise's first "suburban" neighborhood — sprang to life during an intense building boom between 1891 and 1915, its grid of tree-lined streets, rear alleys, and diverse early-twentieth-century architecture giving the area its distinctive character. Current city policy requires new construction to reflect this diversity while preserving the modest scale, open spaces, and mature tree canopy that define each block.

But here's the thing: the information we rely on to guide preservation and planning is often outdated, inconsistent, or maddeningly vague.

Many North End survey forms are more than 30 years old. Some lack photographs altogether; others rely on flat descriptors, such as "pitch roof, wood siding." From the curb, that could mean a front-gable roof with clapboard siding on a modest Folk Victorian, a jerkinhead roof with board-and-batten cladding on a Tudor Revival, or a low-pitched hipped roof with beaded horizontal boards from the postwar Ranch era. These are distinct architectural forms with different histories—and they sit on parcels shaped by equally telling elements: setbacks, lot width, mature trees, and the rhythm of porches and paths. So we're adding to what's already here, by conducting an updated survey in 2025.

This resurvey, which integrates National Park Service preservation standards with NENA's local knowledge and engagement, brings clarity and consistency to the historic record. Each updated form includes current field photos, a written architectural description, and a section on "character-defining features"—the elements that anchor a building's identity. Is it the original lap siding? A gabled dormer with shingle flare? The steady rhythm of one-over-one sash windows? These details are the breadcrumbs of integrity, and we're following them, house by house. The revised format isn't just

comprehensive—it's practical. It helps homeowners plan wisely, supports designers and planners during reviews, and provides the neighborhood with a shared language for understanding its built heritage. We're also sharing this work with the NENA Board and community members throughout the summer and fall, inviting feedback as we move forward together. As more properties are documented, this survey may also inform future conversations—such as whether the district's current period of significance, which ends in 1940, should be extended to include postwar and mid-century resources. These are the kinds of questions updated data can help us ask—rooted in the past and reaching forward. When we document both architecture and setting with care, we don't just protect buildings—we give communities the tools to understand, steward, and celebrate the layered character of their neighborhood.

About Jeffery: I am a Boise native with a degree in architectural history from the University of Virginia. I explore domestic legacies and futures in the American West. My work is historic surveying, archival research, architectural and interior consulting, and narrative projects that explore identity, labor, and place. Reach me at jeff@characterhome.com or [@characterhome](#) on most socials.

NORTH END HOLIDAY HOME TOUR:

A Beloved Tradition Continues in 2025 by Dominique Naegele-Clifford

It started with a simple love of old houses, with their creaky floors, unique details, and the sense that if walls could talk, they'd tell incredible stories. Living in the North End means we're surrounded by history, character, and charm every day. A few years ago, that admiration turned into action and the North End Holiday Home Tour was born.

Since then, we've opened the doors to some of the most beautiful homes in the neighborhood. With festive decorations, warm docents, and a strong sense of community, this has quickly become one of the most anticipated events of the season.

We're looking ahead to the Holiday Home Tour 2025, and we need you

to help shape it. This year, let's show everyone the heart of the North End, the cozy cottages, stately grand homes, tiny homes, apartments, ADUs, and any creative space that makes our neighborhood unique and inviting. You don't need an extravagant home or elaborate décor, just a bit of seasonal spirit and a willingness to open your doors. Volunteer docents will be there to help share your story and keep things flowing smoothly.

We'd like to feature six to eight spaces, and the tour is planned for December 13th. If you've ever thought about participating or know someone whose home tells a story, now's the time. We're also seeking sponsors to help make the 2025 event our best one yet.

Thanks to the generosity of past sponsors and the many homeowners who've opened their doors to neighbors and visitors, the tour has grown into much more than a walk through beautiful homes. It's become a meaningful fundraiser for the NENA, supporting important programs like pedestrian safety, foothills and historic preservation, and more.

Let's make 2025 another unforgettable year for this cherished event.

Celebrate history. Celebrate community. Celebrate home.



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Want to share your space or sponsor the tour? Email board@northendboise.org or visit our web page at northendboise.org.

Tickets for the event will go on sale closer to the date. All proceeds benefit NENA and stay right here in the neighborhood.

NENA IS LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD NEIGHBORS.

Get involved in the North End. Join the board, attend our monthly meetings, sit on a committee, write newsletter articles, or deliver the newsletter to your neighbors.

Email us at board@northendboise.org.

PRESERVING HISTORY AND PREPARING FOR **THE FUTURE AND BEYOND** AT BOISE HIGH SCHOOL

by Boise School District Staff

If you've recently walked or driven past Boise High School, you've likely noticed the scaffolding and construction activity around the historic campus. These visible improvements are part of the Boise School District's broader effort to preserve our cherished historic schools while also preparing them for the needs of future generations. Two major efforts are currently taking place at Boise High:

Brick & Mortar Remediation / Building Envelope Project

Now in its second summer and continuing over several more, this work

is essential to restore deteriorating brick and mortar, protect the building from water intrusion, and remove damaging paint from the sandstone foundation and architectural features. It also includes important safety repairs to wall and parapet caps. These updates are funded through the District's school facilities account.

Storm Water Collection Improvements

During restoration work, drainage issues were identified in the south-facing alcoves. Engineers evaluated the roof and site drainage and designed a new storm water collection system



to better manage runoff. This phase is funded through the plant facilities account.

These improvements are more than just cosmetic—they're critical to preserving the structural integrity and safety of one of Boise's most iconic buildings.

Honoring History in Every Decision

The Boise School District works closely with the Boise City Preservation Office, the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), and Preservation Idaho to ensure that all updates to Boise High and other historic schools



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honor and reflect their architectural and cultural significance. Similar preservation efforts will be necessary at other North End schools such as Washington, Longfellow, and North Junior High—with Washington and Longfellow recently earning Orchid Awards from Preservation Idaho for their renovation and expansion projects. Collister Elementary will soon join that honored list. North Junior High is receiving updated flooring, new paint throughout the building, and structural improvements to the band room addition. Recent upgrades there have also included new HVAC systems and window replacements.

Planning for the Long-Term

These projects are guided by the Boise

School District's Long-Range Facilities Master Plan, a strategic process designed to align school infrastructure with educational goals, changing demographics, and community priorities. The plan includes assessing the condition and function of current facilities, analyzing enrollment and development trends, and planning for future sustainability and funding.

The District is in the process of completing its Year 9 Project List, and planning is underway for Year 10, with



many projects already moving into the design and pre-construction phases. The District recently launched a new long-range facilities master planning process to guide the development of our next ten-year facilities plan. To ensure transparency and strong community involvement, the District is partnering with a consultant to engage a broad group of stakeholders throughout the 2025–26 school year. The outcome of this planning effort will inform recommendations to the Board of Trustees.

Community Support is Key

As these projects demonstrate, maintaining and modernizing historic neighborhood schools requires foresight, financial planning, and strong community support. The District remains committed to preserving the unique character and architectural heritage of our historic school buildings while ensuring they meet the safety, accessibility, and instructional needs of today's students. By investing in these treasured community landmarks, we honor our past while building a strong foundation for generations to come. For more information, visit www.boiseschools.org or reach out to the District's Public Affairs office at 208-854-4064.

Boise High School is no stranger to renovations. The cornerstone for the original two-story red brick building was laid in 1902, and white-brick west and east wings were added in 1908 and 1912 respectively. A decade later, the poorly built red brick structure in the center was torn down and in its place was erected the white brick one we know and love today. The new entrance included a massive stairway and four sandstone columns, above which sits a bust of Plato with the inscription of four Greek words: Wisdom, Courage, Justice, and Moderation. A new gym was built in 1936, which was later expanded in 1957 to include a new music building. The football field and track were added in the early 1960s. As the main building began to show its age in the early 90s, the community debated tearing it down to accommodate a growing enrollment. However, due to the successful passage of bonds in 1995 and 2017, major renovation projects brought Boise High up to safe, modern standards.





NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

A New Neighborhood Tradition Is Born

Thank you to everyone who participated in the North End Neighborhood Association's first National Night Out celebration. National Night Out is a nation-wide event created to encourage neighbors to get out and connect with other neighbors and community leaders. NENA board members and volunteers rolled up their sleeves and organized this block party in August as a way to bring the neighborhood together, and North Enders showed up in droves to enjoy a drink, listen to live music, and spend time in the shade of Elm Grove Park on a gorgeous summer night.

While many neighborhood block parties popped up across the city, the North End celebration ended up being the largest in town, attracting more than 500 neighbors to the park. In many ways, it felt like the Hyde Park Street Fair just for North Enders. We look forward to making this an annual tradition.

NENA would like to thank the participating businesses: Audio Lab, Coned Pizza, Goody's, The Handlebar Boise, Hip Pop Hooray!, and Painting with a Twist. A special shout out to the incredible musicians:

Michael Britton and The Sundogs, Briar Boots, The Daley Family Band, and Lisa Stevenson. Thank you to the local leaders and public servants who joined the fun, including the Boise Police Department, the Boise Fire Department, State Representatives Chris Mathias and Monica Church, and City Councilmember Jimmy Hallyburton. Finally, we want to thank NENA Board Member Donna Llewellyn and NENA volunteer Levi Schoonover for their incredible work organizing this event.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Look for updates at www.northendboise.org and at Facebook.com/NorthEndBoise

NENA BOARD MEETINGS

7 p.m. last Tuesday of every month except December

Hyde Park Mennonite Fellowship

1520 North 12th Street

September 30

October 28

November 25

HYDE PARK STREET FAIR

Camel's Back Park
1200 West Heron Street

September 12 -14

NENA BOARD ELECTIONS

October 28

HALLOWEEN

October 31

VOTING DAY

November 4

HOLIDAY HOME TOUR

December 13

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6 p.m. fourth Mondays

ALL CITY OF BOISE MEETINGS

**150 North Capitol Boulevard
Third Floor, City Hall**



BRIEF HISTORY OF HARRISON BLVD.

Published by the North End Neighborhood Association in October 1977

Originally, the Boise City boundary extended to the alley east of the street now known as Harrison Boulevard. The

growing town's council planned to continue numbering the names of the streets as they were laid out to the west; but then interest in creating a fashionable street with a boulevard was stimulated in 1892, and on March 21st, the Brumback addition was deeded to the city. Nine other additions, some with familiar names such as Eastman, Lemp and McCarty, were deeded and platted within the next decade, the deeds worded in picturesque legal descriptions: "...dedicate all the streets and alleys and electric and telgraph lines to public use forever..."; "...construct street railways, whether they be operated by steam, electric, horse or other power, to run ditches, lay water, gas or other pipes and plant trees on, along and over all the street and boulevard and alleys...".

The name, Harrison Boulevard, was chosen in honor of President Benjamin Harrison who had visited Boise in 1891, and the first houses were started in the very early 1900s.

Street curbs were poured in 1909, and each home owner was responsible for the contracting of sidewalk paving in front of his property: consequently, there are many contractors' names and several different types of concrete in the walks, with dates varying from 1909 to 1913. The graceful light poles were erected in 1909 as well, and paving of the street from Hays to Bella was accomplished. In 1913, the paving was completed to Dora Street.

According to the July 17, 1904, issue of the *Idaho Statesman*, an association was being formed to consider plantings for the boulevard itself, with the suggestion of a combination of roses, ferns and ornamental trees.

By this time, several homes had been built, some costing as much

as \$6000, and trees, many of which still enhance the neighborhood, had been planted. Fruit orchards were thriving between and behind buildings. Some of the houses were made of sandstone from the Table Rock quarry. The oldest existing house on the boulevard is one of these; the Myer House, at 1304 Harrison, was built in 1902.

The foresight of seventy years ago is evident when one strolls the mile-long boulevard today. The various styles of lovely old houses, stained glass and leaded glass windows, glimpses of panelling, beams and winding staircases, an occasional lighted chandelier, turrets, large balconies and verandahs and stately old trees take one back to an era long gone - of horses and carriages, long dresses, house servants, lemonade and fans on the porch on a hot summer's evening, and an elegance of living.

- Polly Peterson

All North End News archives can be viewed at the Albertsons Library at BSU, either online or in person.

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HYDE PARK STREET FAIR

Camel's Back Park

Friday, September 12
4:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Saturday, September 13
10:00 a.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Sunday, September 14
10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

As Boise's most unique arts & music festival, Hyde Park Street Fair welcomes a variety of participants: non-profits, craft & commercial vendors, food & beverage vendors, and two stages packed with music and entertainment--all with a focus on local and always free to attend. Set against the stunning backdrop of Camel's Back Park in the historic North End neighborhood, the Fair is Boise's favorite tradition since 1979. We'll see you at the Fair!



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FOR MORE INFO, VISIT: NORTHEENDBOISE.ORG

