SUMMER'S COMING

ARE YOU READY?

Walk It, Bike It

Live it!

TV SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

1177 W State St Boise ID 83702

Spring 2018

Walkitbikeit.org

WALKING, BIKING, SCOOTERING, SKATING, IT'S ALL GOOD FOR YOU!

BEST YEAR EVER!

Kristin, Lisa, and Colby, missing Alex

Whew! What a year it has been. With near 100% participation from West Ada and Boise Districts, and a huge increase in the Nampa, Vallivue and Caldwell Districts, we're excited for the next school year. Bike Rodeos, in class presentations, fire drills, rain, snow, sun, new teachers and old, we had fun and put a lot of miles on our bikes and cars!

We've had a few changes in the team in the last 12 months, but we're as solid as ever and we're moving ahead quickly! We get asked a lot what we'll be doing in the summer; you can check out on the last page of the newsletter for some of the events where you'll find us.

Here are a few stats from this past year:

- **500** Number of helmets we've been able to give away with the support of the Idaho Ford Stores
- **14,425** Number of students we've seen so far this year
- **5,500** number of reflectors we've assembled and given away
- **3X** as many students walk home from school than to school, by informal polling in class.

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ENJOY THIS ISSUE?

Feel free to share this newsletter with anyone who you think may find it useful.

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, IDEAS?

Contact us at

saferoutes@ymcatvidaho.org

STUDENT TALLY!!

14,425

LET'S MOVE OUTSIDE & BIKE CAMP

One special event we look forward to every year is the YMCA Let's Move Outside & Bike Camp. This camp is all about getting outside and using a bike to get places. We help teach the bike safety part of this camp and really love working with campers as they negotiate maps and roads while heading to fun destinations. You can get more info here!

GREEN PAINT-WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Green paint is showing up on roads all over the Treasure Valley. For those who haven't taken drivers education or read the drivers manual recently, you may not know what the green paint means.

Green paint is placed in bike lanes where cars and bikes may be crossing paths; primarily at or near intersections or conflict zones. The paint increases the visibility of the cyclist and heightens the awareness for all.

For a person riding a bike, they should be very aware that car traffic may be merging or turning right, and for drivers, they also need to be aware that bike traffic may be riding by on the right.

Idaho currently has just one "green box", like the one in the picture below, which is on Myrtle Street and Capital Boulevard. This is designed to encourage people on bikes to move to the front of the line at a red light, then move through with traffic when the light turns green. For a driver, you must stop before the green box and are not allowed to turn right on red. Always, always, look to the right before making any movements.

If you would like more information click here.

Photo Credit: NACTO

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Rachele Klein

At Safe Routes to School we are often given the opportunity to work with some amazing people who are doing great things for our valley. Such is the case with Rachele Klein.

Rachele is the Business Development Manager at Republic Services and has been passionate about saving and upcycling the bicycles that arrive at the West Ada facility of Republic Services. Last summer Rachele reached out, asking us if we were in need of some bikes. We gave a hearty yes! The bikes we took home, with a little bit of love, have become the bikes we take to school to teach students safety lessons and do Bike Rodeos. Without Rachele and the work she has done, our program would not be as successful as it has been this past year.

One of the bikes is now owned by a young man who showed up to a rodeo with his bike that had no brakes. We saw his need and switched one of our rehabbed bikes with his bike and made his trip to school so much safer. We could not have done this without Rachele.

Thank you again, Rachele!

Photo Credit: COMPASS

GOATHEAD SEASON

If you've ever found yourself with a flat tire, odds are a "Goathead" or Puncture vine, gave you the flat. Puncture vine is the bane of bicycle riders across the Treasure Valley.

It doesn't take long for the pretty yellow flower of the plant to turn into a seed that splits into multiple parts. The manifestation of that is a horrible pointed seed that has popped tubes, gotten stuck in your dogs paw or on the bottom of your shoe, and even prevents some students from riding to school!

Here are some tips to help save the pain of a Goathead.

- Pull these plants before they dry or drop the seeds, and get the taproot!
- Put in tube sealant and tire liners for a little extra protection.
- Check your sidewalks; we see lots of these plants along them and if a person walks through, the weed continues to spread.
- DO NOT PUT THEM IN COMPOST BINS. The seeds will

germinate.

SAFE CROSSING

Walkability and accessibility are becoming increasingly important topics across the nation. The number of people who feel safe walking in their communities is growing, as crossing and sidewalk conditions improve. Additionally, people are choosing not to drive. With more people walking there has been an uptick in pedestrian and driver incidents. Here are a few safety tips to help keep you safe.

For Pedestrians

- Make eye contact with drivers before crossing
- Never assume someone sees you
- Look all directions, not just left right left
- If it's dark, turn on your phone's flash light
- Only cross at an uncontrolled intersection if the driver has a reasonable amount of time to stop

For Drivers

- Follow the posted speed limit, especially in school zones
- Err on the side of caution; remember most students can't drive and don't understand how long it takes for you to stop your car
- On two lane roads, if one cars slows or stops, assume a pedestrian is in the crosswalk
- If you hit someone with your car, stay at the scene. It is YOUR responsibility to report it.

Reminder

The Safe Routes to School program has access to nearly all Elementary and Middle Schools across the Treasure Valley. We've heard too many stories from students who've been hit on their way to and from school by cars. Fortunately, none of these crashes have been life threating, but getting hit by a car is a big deal. If you hear of a student getting hit, please report it to the authorities and the school. Often students are stunned and can't tell you much about the incident, but if the police don't know what's happening, we won't be able to make changes to prevent it.

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED:

Q: If I'm on my bike and come up to a pedestrian in the crosswalk, am I required to stop?

A: Yes, you must yield to a pedestrian in a crosswalk, marked or unmarked because you are considered a vehicle in Idaho.

Have a question for Safety Officer Brady? Email us today!

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Would you like to get involved or just see what we are all about? Come join us at a community event, we'd love to have you!

IDAHO FOODBANK PICNIC IN THE PARK KICKOFF

Date: June 4, 2018
Time: 11:30-1:15p
Place: Ivy Wild Park

TREK LADIES NIGHT

Date: June 5, 2018
Time: 7:00-9:00pm
Place: Trek Boise Store, Milwaukee street

ROAD TO X-GAMES BOISE PARK QUALIFIER

Date: June 15-16
Time: All day
Place: Rhodes Skate Park, Boise

HIDDEN SPRINGS LIBRARY BIKE RODEO

Date: July 2nd
Time: 11:00-12:00
Place: Hidden Springs Elementary School

MERIDIAN BOOKMOBILE

Date: August 7
Time: 5:15-6:15pm
Place: Foothills Apartments (Meridian)

Date: August 13
Time: 5:15-6:15pm
Place: Meridian Park Apartments
Check Meridian Library page for more info

NEED LIGHTS?

Thanks to generous support from the Idaho Ford Stores and Ada County Highway District, we are able to provide students with lights. Need some? Send us a note today!

Saferoutes@ymcatvidaho.

WANT TO SCHEDULE YOUR SCHOOL?

Please email us at the Following

Lisa Brady: Director
Lisa.brady@ymcatvidaho.org
Kristin Little: Coordinator
Kristin.little@ymcatvidaho.org
Colby Spath: Coordinator
Colby.Spath@ycmatvidaho.org
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