

**Dear Road Wizard: Please look into placing the Road Wizard column on-line. Sometimes my paper goes to curbside recycling too soon!** Anon, B.J., S.M., and others

I looked into it so hard that it happened. ACHD will post the column at its website. Go to [www.achd.ada.id.us](http://www.achd.ada.id.us) and hit the Road Wizard link.

Alas, don't look for the "Compleat Works" or "Greatest Hits." The service begins with January 12, 2003. ACHD won't be archiving previous columns, although I hope a summer intern will crave that task.

**Dear Road Wizard: The media has covered the enforcement of handicapped parking lately, but why don't police enforce other parking codes? In neighborhoods, cars park on sidewalks, block views at corners, face the wrong direction, and block fire hydrants. These laws have safety purposes, and because traffic has grown so much, these violations really are hazardous now. It's hard to teach kids what is safe and what isn't, especially when they see everyone else breaking rules -- and suffering no bad consequences. Can you follow up and see if there are any plans to enforce the laws someday?** Frustrated in SW Boise @

Here is the blunt fact: police patrol at locations of High Crime, High Accident, Big Traffic, and Many Kids, aka School Zones. Those are their priorities. If they spot a parking hazard on the way they will issue a ticket.

However, the typical neighborhood cul-de-sac isn't usually "on the way," so officers won't see that car blocking a hydrant. The old Bali Hai world where there was time for everything, where you knew "your" police officer by name, and where police kept all things in order is GONE (if it ever existed).

The enforcement of every-day parking laws comes under the category of "neighbor-driven" law enforcement. It obliges neighbors to call, report, follow up, and call again. It's a form of citizenship that we aren't used to, haven't been trained for, and don't like. It feels a lot like snitching, which most of us were taught not to do.

Still, why not try it? Other neighborhoods get attention using the "neighbor-driven" method. Why not yours? In fact, the enforcement of handicapped space violations has come about largely because private citizens decided to notify authorities when they see violations. A perfect example of "neighbor-driven" law enforcement at work.

**Dear Road Wizard: Why doesn't ACHD use reflective paint? Lighting on the roads is insufficient, and reflective paint would be such a benefit.** It's Night, and I Can't See the Lane

ALL the paint on Ada County roads is reflective paint. LOTS of

it has lost the reflectivity it had when it was freshly applied.

Paint machines have two nozzles. The first sprays the yellow or white paint. The second sprays glass beads into the paint. The beads collect light from your headlights and bounce it back to you.

When we were an environmentally naive society, we used lead-based paint. It was durable and gripped the beads rather well. We gave up lead and went to an oil-based paint. It was fairly durable and held onto the beads OK. About four years ago, we gave up volatile gases from oil-based paint. Now we use water-based paint. It produces less air pollution but has a poor reputation for durability and for clutching the beads.

Weather and tires simply abrade the paint and liberate the beads. ACHD refreshes lane lines once a year, some areas twice or more. Spring is the very worst season for reflectivity. The glass bead population is low, low, low.