



# OUR TOWN

Where the desert meets the mountains.

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## The Year Ahead

### Working for Our Community

With the 2008 election behind us, our thoughts have turned to the year ahead. The City of Hailey looks forward to another year of working for our community, and will proactively seek ways to improve our services to – and our communications with – those we serve.

As the year wanes, elected officials and city staff will intensify their focus on key areas of public concern. First and foremost will be a concerted effort towards a win-win solution on emergency dispatch services.

The city will review the Development Impact Fee Study and Capital Improvement Plan, with an eye towards realistic planning and scheduling.

Business license programs will be enhanced as the new year begins. We will identify ways to improve the business license system to better serve the business community and the community at large. One such improvement will be a free fire extinguisher inspection program conducted by the Hailey Fire Department.

The city's various commissions are anticipating a busy 2009, as well. With significant efforts underway in historic preservation, parks and trails, and the arts, there is a great need for public involvement, support and volunteers to help with this important work.

Watch future issues for details.

## Public Art

### Council Approves Public Art Project

Mayor Rick Davis and the Hailey City Council approved the Hailey Arts Commission's request to develop and implement the city's first major public art project. The project is a 25' x 9' mural on the west wall of the public meeting room in Hailey City Hall. The mural will depict Hailey's history up to the modern day, emphasizing both the diversity and natural beauty of Hailey. Evoking a strong sense of place and engendering civic pride are key elements of the mural concept.

The mural will be completed off site, on movable panels, and then installed in the public meeting room. The commission chose this approach to minimize disruptions

in the meeting space, to allow for the flexibility to exhibit the work in other locations, or to move the work should City Hall ever relocate.

The Mayor and Hailey City Council made a strong statement for support of public art by approving the commission's request. City officials recognize that the arts and cultural tourism are important components of a diverse and strong local economy. The city allocated \$10,000 towards the \$20,000 project budget. The Hailey Arts Commission is pursuing in-kind donations, private donations, and an Idaho Commission on the Arts public art grant to fund the remaining \$10,000. This project will proceed in tandem with needed upgrades to the City Hall infrastructure.

The Call for Artists – Request for Qualifications is expected to be released in early July of 2009, when all funding is securely in place for the project. Two artists' workshops will be held for how to submit an application for the project; one in the spring and one after release of the Call for Artists.

For more information contact Tracy Anderson at City Hall, 788-4221, ext. 26, or any arts commissioner. They are: Pat Robinson Webb, Commission Chair; Joe Castle, Commission Vice Chair; Mark Johnstone, Elizabeth Zellers, Melissa Graves Brown, Jim Spinelli and Andrew Lewis.

## Calendar

### Important Dates

Arts Commission .....	12/04/08
City Council Meetings .....	12/04/08
.....	12/08/08
.....	12/22/08
Historic Preservation Commission .....	12/30/08
Parks & Lands Board .....	12/02/08
P&Z Meetings .....	12/01/08
.....	12/15/08
Sustainable Building & Planning	
Advisory Committee.....	12/03/08
Tree Committee .....	12/04/08
<b>Christmas Day *</b> .....	<b>12/25/08</b>
<b>New Year's Day *</b> .....	<b>01/01/08</b>

\* City offices closed December 25 and 26 and January 1.

## Winter Water & Sewer News

### Did you know that your sewer rate is dependent upon your winter water use?

The water you use from November through March determines your sewer rate for the following year that begins April 1 and ends March 31. The average of those five months of metered water usage is taken to calculate the rate to charge for sewer.

If five month average water use is:	The sewer rate will be:
1,000 gallons/month	\$15.16 per month
5,000 gallons/month	\$25.56 per month
10,000 gallons/month	\$38.56 per month

**NOTE:** If you run water to prevent freezing pipes this is likely to increase your sewer rate. A stream that is no more than the width of a pencil lead is usually sufficient to prevent freezing pipes. Another way to measure a drip or stream is to use a one gallon jug and time the fill at an hour exactly. One gal/hr would be approximately 720 gal/mo and cost just less than .45 cents/mo. This amount, while perhaps minimal, *would* affect your average sewer rate when new sewer rates are calculated in the spring. The city, after two years of working closely with homeowners on billing issues, will no longer adjust sewer rates for this circumstance. Please plan accordingly.

The *Water – Use It Wisely* website has over 100 tips to conserve water. <http://wateruseitwisely.com/100-ways-to-conserve/index.php>. Here are some of those tips:

- Monitor your water bill for unusually high use. Your bill and water meter are tools that can help you discover leaks.
- Listen for dripping faucets and running toilets.
- Winterize outdoor spigots before temps dip below freezing to prevent pipes from leaking or bursting.
- Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full.
- Turn off the water while you wash your hair to save up to 150 gal/mo.
- Turn off the water while brushing your teeth and save 25 gal/mo.
- Turn off the water while you shave and save up to 300 gal/mo.

## Hailey Celebrates Arbor Day

Hailey celebrated Arbor Day on November 12, 2008 with the planting of a Western Larch, a deciduous conifer, in Keefer Park. With that planting Hailey became eligible to apply for Tree City USA designation by the National Arbor Day Foundation. Candidate communities for TCUSA must meet four standards: establish a Tree Committee, adopt a Tree Ordinance, spend at least \$2 per capita on tree care, and hold an Arbor Day celebration. Hailey has now met all four standards.



The Tree Committee is already planning a spring 2009 Arbor Day for Hailey that will be the established community Arbor Day hence forth, reports committee chair, Jen Smith. The city of Hailey and the tree committee were very motivated to achieve TCUSA designation for 2008 and were able to have the opportunity to do so thanks to a willing city crew, supportive elected officials, and the generous donation of the larch from Big Wood Landscape.

Hailey will join its fellow Wood River Valley Tree Cities, Ketchum and Bellevue, when its application is submitted and approved by the regional community forestry assistant and the Idaho Department of Lands.

## Hailey Public Library

### Library News

The library will host a *Let's Talk About It* book discussion on December 16 at 6:30 p.m. The book is "The Solace of Open Spaces" by Gretel Ehrlich.

Also, watch for the library's holiday movie schedule; it will be posted at [www.haileypubliclibrary.org](http://www.haileypubliclibrary.org).

The library now offers a new database through its website. It is called *Global Road Warrior*, and is a great research tool for geography and travel. *Check it out!*

### Planning & Zoning Commission Vacancy

The city is seeking interested applicants to fill a vacancy on the Planning & Zoning Commission. Applicants must be full time residents of Hailey.

Letters of interest may be emailed to Beth Robrahn, Planning Director ([beth.robrahn@haileycityhall.org](mailto:beth.robrahn@haileycityhall.org)); mailed to 115 Main St. S., Ste H; faxed to 788-2924 or dropped off at City Hall.

## FRIENDS OF THE HAILEY PUBLIC LIBRARY

**We wish you and yours a wonderful holiday season and a happy and healthful New Year!**

The Friends of the Hailey Public Library is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charitable group. Our goal, with your help, is to supplement the library's limited budget for enhancing services, training, and content at the library. We realize that these are tough times to fundraise, but the need is still there.

**Won't you please consider a donation to the Friends in your holiday giving this year?**

Your gift will help us assist the library in moving and expanding the children's section into the old meeting room and to make room for a larger collection in the main library. This will require new shelving, a new circulation desk, and new chairs. Also on the library's wish list is more staff training and an automated internet check-in and log-in system.

**Happy holidays and we thank you for your support.**

Please make your tax-deductible checks out to **FHPL** (Friends of the Hailey Public Library).

Mail to PO Box 2142, Hailey, Idaho 83333 or drop them off at the library.

If you would be interested in becoming a Friend or to assist in our two fundraising events: Hailey Garden Tour in the spring, or our Book and Bake sale in the fall, please inquire at the Library.

### Fire Marshal's Corner

## **Holiday Season Safety**

Each year, hospital emergency rooms treat about 8,100 people for injuries, such as falls, cuts, and shocks related to holiday lights, decorations, and Christmas trees. In addition, Christmas trees are involved in more than 400 fires annually, resulting in 30 deaths, 90 injuries, and an average of more than \$17 million in property loss and damage.

### **TREES**

- When purchasing an artificial tree, look for the label "Fire Resistant." This label indicates the tree will resist burning and should extinguish quickly.
- When purchasing a live tree, check for freshness. Needles are hard to pull from branches and when bent between your fingers, needles do not break. The trunk butt of a fresh tree is sticky with resin, and when tapped on the ground, the tree should not lose many needles.
- When setting up a tree at home, place it away from fireplaces and radiators. Because heated rooms dry live trees out rapidly, be sure to keep the stand filled with water. Place the tree out of the way of traffic and do not block doorways.

### **LIGHTS**

- Indoors or outside, use only lights that have been tested for safety by a recognized testing laboratory, which

indicates conformance with safety standards.

- Check each set of lights, new or old, for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires, or loose connections, and throw out damaged sets.
- Use no more than three standard-size sets of lights per single extension cord.
- Never use electric lights on a metallic tree. The tree can become charged with electricity from faulty lights, and a person touching a branch could be electrocuted.
- Fasten outdoor lights securely to trees, house walls, or other firm supports to protect the lights from wind damage. Use only insulated staples, not nails or tacks, to hold strings in place. Or, run strings of lights through hooks (available at hardware stores).
- Turn off all lights when you go to bed or leave the house. The lights could short out and start a fire.
- For added electric-shock protection, plug outdoor electric lights and decorations into circuits protected by ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs). Portable outdoor GFCIs can be purchased where electrical supplies are sold. GFCIs can be installed permanently to household circuits by a qualified electrician.

### **FIREPLACES**

- Do not burn wrapping papers in the fireplace. A flash fire may result as wrappings ignite suddenly and burn intensely.
- Have your chimney cleaned and inspected regularly.