



# OUR TOWN

Where the desert meets the mountains.

October 2009  
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[www.haileycityhall.org](http://www.haileycityhall.org)

## Election 2009

### Local Option Tax Election

A new Local Option Tax measure will be put before Hailey voters on November 3, 2009. The ballot measure will ask whether voters want to adopt the tax in exactly the same form as it has been established in its first four years, but now for a 20-year term.

#### WHY THE INITIAL FOUR-YEAR PERIOD?

Hailey's Local Option Tax was adopted by voters in 2006 for a 4-year term. That time period was carefully selected by an ad hoc advisory committee and the Hailey City Council as a period long enough to assess any benefits or disadvantages of the tax, but short enough that the city could bring the question of an extended term to voters before the 2010 census. (Idaho law states that cities cannot put a local option tax measure before voters if the city's population was 10,000 or greater at the last census.)

With the tax being new to the City of Hailey, citizens had questions about how the tax would affect not only tourists and visitors, but local residents and businesses as well. There were also questions about how Hailey would use the tax, and if the volume of revenue would be significant enough to make a difference to the community.

The answers to those questions are now in the history of the city's tax revenue and expenses since 2006, as well as in the experience of visitors, residents and businesses in taxing and being taxed when they conduct a transaction to rent a vehicle, book a hotel, or dine and drink in a Hailey establishment. The August *Our Town*, posted at [www.haileycityhall.org](http://www.haileycityhall.org) shows a complete list of how Hailey has used \$1.5 million of LOT funds in 4 years.

#### WHY IS THE PROPOSED NEW TERM 20 YEARS?

It is questionable whether Hailey will reach the 10,000 population limit in the 2010 census. It is highly likely that our population *will* exceed that limit in the 2020 census. The proposed 20-year term, if passed, would stay in place until the term expires (2030), whether the population exceeds 10,000 or not. Voters or the City Council could choose to repeal it any time within its term.

Effective budgeting and planning is an important factor in proposing a 20-year term. City master planning is generally conducted under a 20-year time horizon. Often, the 20-year period is further broken down into 5-year details, such as in the Capital Improvement Plan. Hailey would be more effective in its use of the tax with a 20-year window within which to budget and plan.

Financial strength and flexibility is another factor in the 20-year term. For example, bond measures are generally set to be paid back over 15 or 20 years. Knowing that an LOT ordinance is in place for 20 years allows city officials to assign LOT funds where a bond measure might instead be applied. For example, if Hailey

continues to apply \$45,000 per year from LOT revenues to sidewalk development, doing one block per year in the manner that the West Bullion Street sidewalk was done this summer, the term would allow the planning of 20 blocks of sidewalk installation, and divert nearly \$1 million from property taxes (bond) to local option tax. A bond measure for the described sidewalk development would cost property owners \$60/year in increased property taxes.

#### DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!

No matter your opinion on this or other ballot issues, remember to cast your ballot on November 3! The polls will be open from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm upstairs at Hailey City Hall Council Chambers. The General Election for Hailey City Council Seats 1 & 2 as well as this Local Option Tax measure are the subjects of Hailey's ballot.

**ELECTION FORUM**  
**Monday, October 12, 2009**  
**7:30 p.m.**  
**Hailey City Hall**  
**Council Chambers**  
Learn full details about the Local Option Tax measure and get all questions answered. Also present will be Blaine Co. School District Officials to inform and answer questions about the School Levy.

## Calendar

### Important Dates

Arts Commission .....	10/01/09
City Council.....	10/12/09, 10/26/09
Community Oversight Committee.....	10/19/09
Historic Preservation Commission .....	10/27/09
Parks & Lands Board .....	10/06/09
P&Z Meetings .....	10/05/09, 10/19/09
Sustainable Building & Planning	
Advisory Committee.....	10/07/09, 10/21/09
Tree Committee .....	10/08/09

## The Friends of the Hailey Public Library Gear Up for Annual Book & Bake Sale!

The 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Used Book and Bake Sale will take place from Wednesday, October 14<sup>th</sup> through Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup>. The location and times will be announced in October.

Books of all sorts – hardback, paperback, books on tape and CD, DVD’s and the like – will be on sale. So will fresh goodies, K&K Coffee and other tempting treats.

The book and bake sale benefits the Hailey Public Library and is used to augment its services to the community.

Anyone wishing to donate to the sale, please drop off your books, etc., at the library. Tax receipts are available. This event is a great way to help support your library.

Volunteers are still needed to load or sort books, to work during the sale or to bake a favorite sweet. There is a sign up sheet in the library or call 720-7395.

Don’t miss the valley’s best book and bake sale!

## Public Works

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### Woodside Treatment Plant Permit Renewal Process Moves Forward

In August the City of Hailey hired the engineering firm of HDR Engineering to assist with the renewal of our Wastewater Treatment Plant discharge permit. EPA is expected to begin the permit renewal process this winter. HDR met with city staff in September to discuss the process with emphasis on the requirements from a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) study completed by DEQ in 2002. This study has placed strict limits on discharge allowances and has the potential to impact costs at the treatment plant. HDR engineers have reviewed the DEQ TMDL study and have questions regarding the process used in the study.

The September meeting included a tour of the treatment plant where HDR stated we had one of the best facilities in the state. Our treatment process already achieves extremely low phosphorus, nitrogen and suspended solid levels; well below our current discharge permit limits.

In order to determine the best possible outcome with our permit renewal we are studying the options available including requesting a review of the TMDL, the cost of treatment plant upgrades, changes in our treatment process or the installation of a reclaimed water line using the effluent for irrigation purposes.

## City Prepares to Submit Grant for Downtown Revitalization Project

Over the next two months, city staff will work with the Region IV Development Association to prepare a Community Development Block Grant application. If the application results in a grant award, the project would involve providing a number of missing sidewalk connections and replacing a number of deteriorating sidewalks along River Street from Walnut to Empty Saddle Trail and also along side streets from River St. east to the alley. Correcting drainage problems, ensuring adequate fire hydrant placement, and adding street lighting are also part of the project.

An important component of the application is a Downtown Revitalization Plan. A small working group will be formed of downtown representatives to begin the process of creating this plan.

Community support of the project is vital to a successful grant application. Any citizen desiring further information or wishing to express support in a letter is encouraged to contact Heather Dawson, Tom Hellen or Tracy Anderson at City Hall. A public hearing will be held on the application in mid-November.

### Fall Has Arrived!

The leaves are beginning to collect on yards throughout town. Please remember to take advantage of the once weekly free yard debris dumping at Ohio Gulch Transfer Station. Questions? 788-2351.



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### Thank You

The Hailey Public Library and the Friends of the Hailey Public Library would like to thank the following organizations for their donations/grants to the library:

**The Ireene Barnett Foundation**  
**Wood River Women’s Charitable Foundation Member’s Fund in the Idaho Community Foundation**

Nancy Gurney  
Director Hailey Public Library  
Bob Macleod  
President Friends of the Hailey Public Library

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## Hailey Seeks Commissioners

### Historic Preservation Commission

The Hailey Historic Preservation Commission is a 10-member commission which focuses its efforts on the documentation and preservation of historic Hailey.

### Blaine County Housing Authority

The Blaine County Housing Authority is a 7-member commission with one Hailey appointee. This committee works to secure community housing opportunities within Blaine County.

Parties interested in joining either of these commissions should submit a letter of interest to Mayor Rick Davis.

### Airport Relocation Advisory Committee

Nominees are being sought from Hailey to work on the Freidman Memorial Airport relocation process through a new committee called the Blaine County Airport Advisory Committee. Interested parties should explore the application details and information at Blaine County's website [www.co.blaine.id.us](http://www.co.blaine.id.us). Hailey-area applicants will be reviewed by Hailey's nominating team, who will make recommendations to the Blaine County Commissioners for final selection.

## Upcoming Special Events

### SKATE JAM AT THE HAILEY SKATE PARK

Saturdays, September 19 – October 31

11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Details: 727-8735

### HAILEY AUTOCROSS

Saturday, October 3, 6:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Hailey Airport / Atlantic Aviation

Details: 788-1414

### 13TH ANNUAL TRAILING OF THE SHEEP FESTIVAL

Saturday, October 10, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Roberta McKercher Park

Details: 720-0585

### WOOD RIVER HIGH SCHOOL HOMECOMING PARADE

Wednesday, October 14, 2:30 – 3:15 p.m.

Main Street

Details: 578-5020

### HAILEY HALLOWEEN HOOPLA

Saturday, October 31, 3:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Details: 788-3484

*Listed events have applied for a City of Hailey Special Event Permit.*



## Thank You!

The City of Hailey thanks all who helped with the painting and maintenance work at Hop Porter Park at the end of September.

## Thank You!