



# OUR TOWN

Where the desert meets the mountains.

August 2009  
Issue No. 74

Visit us online at  
[www.haileycityhall.org](http://www.haileycityhall.org)

## City Administration

### Hailey's Budget Adds Services, Protects Citizens' Wallets

The Hailey City Council set a 2009/10 budget of \$10 million for public discussion on August 10, 2009. Down 11% from last year's \$11.3 million budget, the proposed budget strives to reduce the cost of government to Hailey residents and businesses while still increasing services.

### Water Rates Reduced for Majority of Users

A new water and sewer rate schedule is proposed which will reduce water rates for the majority of users, those using less than 60,000 gallons per month. Less than 100 accounts exceed 60,000 gpm in winter, and in the summer, only about 28%. Those using more will pay a higher rate, but rates will drop up to \$60 per year for those using less. As citizens and businesses use less water each year, Hailey's costs for water operations are decreasing, and we are passing those savings on to the water and sewer users themselves.

An increase in service results because conservation efforts protect the water supply, require less water to be pumped, and thereby extend the life of our water system.

### Property Taxes Lower, No Bonded Indebtedness

Hailey paid off its General Obligation bonds a year ago. The mayor and council chose not to bring a new bond measure before Hailey voters until after the economy has improved. The savings in property tax, during the past year and until a new bond is approved, is \$13.27 per

\$100,000 in valuation, or approximately \$60/year for residents owning an average \$450,000 Hailey home. An increase in service results as Hailey officials work on best-practices planning of infrastructure improvements which may require future tax-increase measures or be applicable to grant opportunities.

### Grants Sought to Leverage Capital Funds

Hailey staff implemented an aggressive grant-writing program at the beginning of 2009, through which it has applied for 20 grants valued at over \$3 million. The program seeks to leverage \$2.7 million in Hailey's Capital Fund to its maximum capacity. The grant applications filed to date require city-paid grant matches of less than

\$1 million, thus leveraging the Capital Fund to three times its current value. An additional 8 grants have been identified and will be applied for within the next year.

With a Capital Improvement Plan identifying over \$35 million in capital needs, and a reluctance to ask voters to bond, infrastructure development grants are a high priority. Hailey has increased its service to taxpayers by potentially reducing

the dollar amount of bonding needed for infrastructure improvements by seeking and securing these grants.

### Grants Sought to Supplement Operations

Hailey received its first grant award last week through a federal COPS Hiring Recovery Program (CHRP). The grant award of \$193,000 will supplement Hailey Police Department operations by replacing a police officer position which was eliminated last fall.

*(see Hailey Budget, page 2)*



*A Month of Art featured the work of Kyle Kimball, Mark Stasz, Robert Kantor, and Joe Castle (left to right). The Village at Hailey Center and the Hailey Chamber donated the space.*

## Hailey Budget *(continued from page 1)*

The replacement officer will be funded for four years, thereby increasing law-enforcement service for that time period. The grant also enables Hailey to utilize Local Option Tax funds previously used to add police officers to staff for purposes of reducing traffic enforcement needs (see articles on Mountain Rides in this issue, regarding planned increases in public transportation service).

Another grant application in progress will seek to fund an assistant city engineer, a position eliminated two years ago when development declined in Hailey. By funding the position through a grant, inspection and engineering service to new development will increase in advance of the need, rather than behind it after development fees are collected and budgeted in a subsequent year.

### Leveraging Community Assets into Local Option Tax Revenue

Hailey's charming businesses, beautiful setting, and friendly residents bring many visitors to our community. Three years ago, Hailey voters adopted a Local Option Tax which has brought approximately \$1.5 million to Hailey government. This revenue is generated largely by visitors, and is spent to increase community quality and safety and to offset the impact of visitors to our town and draw them back again. The tax was adopted for a four-year term, which will expire at the end of June 2010. With the income of approximately \$360,000 per year the City of Hailey has been able to increase the following specific services:

- \$ 2,500 Improved restroom in the Hailey Public Library, often used by tourists as well as patrons
- \$ 3,000 Grant matches for Arts Commission projects and Tree Committee's urban forest inventory
- \$ 6,000 Radar trailer to curtail speeding and collect traffic data for enhanced traffic enforcement
- \$ 6,000 Surveillance camera and equipment for parks' protection and other police work
- \$ 6,000 Economic development efforts of Sustain Blaine
- \$14,000 Sidewalk maintenance planned for next summer
- \$22,480 Striping of Woodside Boulevard
- \$25,000 Police vehicle purchase, potentially a hybrid
- \$27,000 Fire truck with urban-wildland firefighting tools
- \$30,000 Increased maintenance in all city parks

- \$ 92,085 Strobe-lighted crosswalks for pedestrian safety
- \$220,000 Added two police officers to staff
- \$205,500 Funded economic development activities and downtown beautification through the Hailey Chamber of Commerce
- \$203,000 Funded Mountain Rides transportation service down-valley rides for 4 years, which added routes for Hailey commuters, allowed free rides within town, and will soon add a stand-alone circulator bus to service all areas of Hailey, including St. Luke's new facility and all city parks and subdivision areas
- \$600,000 Purchased a new snow blower and loader for snow removal, which has increased the speed and efficiency of removing snow from Main Street, an added service to business and a traffic safety enhancement for residents

The Hailey City Council will determine, at its August 24th meeting, what length of term to set in a new Local Option Tax ordinance to be voted on by Hailey voters, and whether to change any of the items taxed, rates of tax, or purposes of the tax.



## Calendar

---

### Important Dates

- Arts Commission ..... 08/06/09
- City Council (**Regular**) ..... 08/10/09, 08/24/09
- City Council (**Quigley**) ..... 08/31/09
- Historic Preservation Commission ..... 08/25/09
- Parks & Lands Board ..... 08/04/09
- P&Z Meetings ..... 08/03/09, 08/17/09
- Sustainable Building & Planning Advisory Committee..... 08/05/09, 08/19/09
- Tree Committee ..... 08/13/09

## Keefer Park

Keefer Park, Hailey's newest park located in central Woodside, has a pavilion, play structure and restroom facilities, making this park suitable for birthday parties, family picnics, etc. Hop Porter and Heagle are the two other city parks offering these amenities. Call City Hall at 788-4221, ext. 0 to make a reservation.



## Street Department Makes Progress

The Hailey Street Department has completed Fog Seal projects in the Northridge, Foxmoor, Hiawatha and Mother Lode subdivisions. Fog Seal (GSB-88) water proofs the surface of the road and extends the life of the chip seal. It costs about 1/3 of what a chip seal project costs and has a life of 2-5 years depending on the traffic load.

Chip seal nevertheless continues to be an essential street maintenance element, especially on highly used streets. Hailey's proposed 2009/10 budget adds \$70,000 for next summer's chip seal project, in which 4-miles of city collector streets will be resurfaced.

The department also began using a new crosswalk technique in 2008 called Thermoplastic. A paint replacement, this plastic with retro reflective properties is used in high traffic areas to extend the striping life up to 400% longer than paint. The Thermoplastic is heated along with the road and in turn bonds to the roadway. Although upfront costs of this Thermoplastic technique are greater than the cost of paint, its durable life is a savings to Hailey tax payers over a four year period.

Citizens may have noticed several street crewmen working these projects this year. Staffing levels in the field must meet safety requirements mandated by state law and some crewmen were in training to learn the proper techniques to apply the new product. The Street Department continues its part to build community quality.

## 2010 Census Factors in State Funding

Did you know that there are \$3 trillion in federal funds distributed over a 10 year period in part due to the Census count? The Census count reapportions the seats in the House of Representatives – one reason why counting every person is very important. The Census funds also go towards medical research, spotting economic trends, planning land use, providing genealogical research and planning budgets for governments at all levels.

It's easy. It's safe. It's important.

- The 2010 Census questionnaire asks only a few simple questions.
- The simple, short questionnaire takes just a few minutes to complete.
- Your answers are protected by law and strictly confidential.
- Your social security number is not requested.
- It is illegal for the Census Bureau to share personal information with any other government agency.
- No court of law, not even the President, can access the individual responses.
- \$300 billion a year in federal funds are distributed based on Census figures.

April 1, 2010 is Census Day. The U.S. Constitution requires a national Census every 10 years for apportionment. The Census is a count of everyone, citizen and non-citizen, residing in the United States – all 50 states and U.S. territories. As of the 2000 Census there were 8,253 people living in the City of Hailey.

Census takers with GPS technology began visiting households in February 2009 to update maps and ensure accurate address information for the delivery of the 2010 Census questionnaires. Partnership Recruitment began in May 2009 with non-profit and for-profit organizations and government entities. These partnerships are vital to raising the awareness of and increasing the participation in the Census. In fall of 2009 recruitment begins for Census takers needed to cover the peak workload in 2010. For more information about these temporary Census jobs go to: <http://2010.census.gov/2010censusjobs/>. April through July 2010 Census takers will visit households that did not return questionnaires by April 1, 2010. And by December 2010 the Census Bureau will deliver the population counts to the President for apportionment.

For questions, the Partnership Specialist for Idaho, Zee Quintana, may be reached at 208-412-6117 or [zeralda.s.quintana@census.gov](mailto:zeralda.s.quintana@census.gov). A Complete Count Committee has been formed for the Wood River Valley comprised of representatives from area city governments and Blaine County.