



OUR TOWN

Where the High Desert Meets the Mountains

February 2017
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Visit us online at
www.haileycityhall.org

Message from the Mayor

Snow and Potential Flooding

The City of Hailey is preparing for more winter or spring flooding. An avalanche occurred on the face of Della Mountain on January 9th, sending an ice dam into the Big Wood River in the Della View neighborhood. Hailey crews diverted water away from homes and some of Hailey's volunteer firefighters helped residents with sandbagging efforts. This isolated-area flood occupied a significant volume of city resources for a full day.

Winter rains or a week of warm overnight temperatures could produce winter or spring flooding of a much larger scale across many areas of town. It is important that the entire community be prepared to address winter flooding until such time as the snow volumes decrease.



In the spring, City crews will work to clear street drains and unblock drywells, which are often located underneath snow piles causing more minor localized flooding. Some snow will melt into the ground, as the ground frost is not thick beneath the snow; however, with so much snow on the valley floor, the ground may become saturated, adding to puddles and flooding.

Watch for announcements about neighborhood preparedness meetings. Hailey City staff will help plan mitigation and preparedness with flood-prone neighborhoods. Most importantly, sign up for emergency information broadcasts from the Blaine County Sheriff dispatch office. Hailey uses that venue to communicate to impacted residents during all types of emergencies.

Learn From Every Storm (from www.ready.gov)

1. Restock your emergency supplies to be ready in case another storm hits.
2. Assess how well your supplies and family plan worked. What could you have done better?
3. Take a few minutes to improve your family plan and supplies before the next winter storm hits.
4. Talk to your neighbors and colleagues about their experiences and share tips with each other.

Utility Billing

April Deadline -- Property Tax Reduction Also Lowers City Utility Bills

Taxpayers who qualify for a property tax reduction with Blaine County, also known as "circuit breaker" will also benefit by a reduction in their City of Hailey utility bill.

April 18, 2017 is the deadline for filing Property Tax Reduction Applications with your County Assessor's office. Property tax reduction applications must be filed every year, and can save qualified homeowners up to \$1,320 in their annual property tax bill. In order to qualify, an applicant's adjusted gross income for 2016 cannot exceed \$29,640.

You may qualify for the program if as of January 1, 2017 you were 65 years of age or older, widow/widower of any age, recognized as disabled by certain government agencies, a former prisoner of war or hostage, or a motherless or fatherless child under 18 and had a 2016 adjusted gross income not exceeding \$29,640.

For more information, please call Blaine County Assessors office at 788-5535 or visit their website: <http://www.co.blaine.id.us>

The City of Hailey considers those approved by Blaine County as automatically eligible for city utility bills reduction. No further paperwork is required by the City.

Calendar



Important Dates

City Council.....	02/06/17 and 02/27/17
Arts & Historic Preservation Commission...	02/09/17
Hailey Public Library Board.....	02/15/17
Parks & Lands Board.....	02/21/17
Planning & Zoning....	02/13/17
Tree Committee	02/09/17
Urban Renewal Agency	02/07/17
* Presidents Day Holiday	02/20/17

* City Hall and Library Closed

Friends of the Hailey Public Library 30th Annual Book & Bake Sale



February 2nd, 9am - 6pm
February 3rd, 9am - 6pm
February 4th, 9am - 4pm
Hailey Community Campus
Queen of the Hills room.
For more information call 720-7395

February Tree Tip Winter Damage

There are many causes of damage to trees in the winter, including weather, de-icing materials, and animals. Ice and snow can weigh down the branches of trees causing them to break and animals will eat smaller twigs on trees, leaving the twig mangled. Pruning this damage out of the trees when it is noticed will be the best protection for the trees. Sun and wind can cause the evergreen needles to dry out or become discolored.



The appearance of damage due to de-icing materials can be similar to the appearance of weather damage. Some damage won't be noticeable until spring. You can always call your neighborhood arborist with questions. The City's arborist, Stephanie Cook, can be reached at 788-9830 x 31.

Wildlife Protection

East Hillides and Ridges Closed

The hills and canyons east of Cutters Park are closed to protect deer and elk. Deep snow and cold temperatures make winter a stressful time for wildlife, and this winter is more extreme than most. Recreationists and dogs cause animals to move, stop feeding or get up from their beds or away from thermal cover, using up precious energy in the form of vital fat stores. The area is closed each year from mid-December until mid-April. **KEEP OUT!**

Keep a safe distance from elk & moose in town or on the Wood River Trail. These wild animals can be dangerous.

Hailey Public Library February Events

HaileyPublicLibrary.org

Story Time: Wednesdays & Fridays 10:30 am

TNT Thursdays: Every Thursday 4-5 pm

Blind Date with a Book – Stop by the Hailey Public Library this February and pick up a mystery book via our Blind Date with a Book program.

Victory Gardening in the Wood River Valley – **February 2nd at 6pm.** Master Gardeners will give an introduction to Victory Gardening in the Wood River Valley, and give out information about the upcoming series of classes and hands-on sessions.

Pushing the Limits – **Thursday February 9th, at 4pm**—Pushing the Limits is an adult book discussion designed to bring together community members for programs that engage them in thought-provoking and fun discussions. This month's title is *When the Killing's Done* by T.C. Boyle.

Confidently Create Your Space- Thursday, February 9th, from 6pm – 7:30pm. Is your home the beautiful and supportive reflection of you that it could be? This is a free workshop with Tenaya Plowman Kolar of TPK Feng Shui & Design.

Lines Between the Wines – **Monday February 13th, at 6:30pm.** Lines Between the Wines brings together three of our favorite things: great books, food and wine. The book club is led by Judi Baxter. This month's title is *Thousand Pieces of Gold* by Ruthanne McCunn. There is a \$25 fee to cover the cost of the wine and food. ****Registration and event location at the Wood River Sustainability Center.**

Let's Talk About It! – **Tuesday February 21st, at 6pm** Let's Talk About It is a scholarly book club for adults. All are welcome to join in a discussion of Humor & Satire in literature. This month's title is *Green Grass, Running Water* by Thomas King

LIBRARY EVENTS

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WRHS Art Exhibit at Hailey Library

“*Political Prisoners*,” an exhibit of paintings created by art students from Wood River High School, will be on view at the Hailey Public Library for the month of February. A reception will open the exhibit February 2nd at 4:00. Come and talk with the artists while examining their work.



Inspiration for the “Political Prisoners” paintings came from observing art by Ai Weiwei, a Chinese Contemporary artist and activist. Ai Weiwei explored human rights and freedom of expression through a series of site-specific installations on Alcatraz Island in 2014.



Ai Weiwei himself was imprisoned by the Chinese government for 81 days in 2011. In fact, at the time of his opening on Alcatraz Ai Weiwei was held ‘prisoner’ in China with a revoked passport, unable to leave the country to attend his own art opening. The WRHS Studio Art class examined a body of work designed by Ai Weiwei entitled

“Trace”, in which Ai had constructed colorful portraits of 176 people from around the world who were imprisoned or exiled because of their belief or af-



filations. Motivated by the concept and style of Ai Weiwei’s work, students selected political prisoners they were curious about. They examined the lives of these prisoners and what events influenced them to become dissidents. Using photographs of political prisoners, students hand drew and colorfully painted portraits of prisoners they selected. The Lego construction of Ai’s artwork for “Trace” reminds us of the pixilation of poorly generated computer images. The images prompt us to think of work by Chuck Close with his gridded portraits, and of the bold, flat colors used by Andy Warhol.

SNOW REPORT (Through January 23, 2017)

2,696.....hours spent removing snow
173,537..dollars spent to remove snow (fuel, staff, contractor costs, equipment rental)
74.....inches of snow removed
15.....snow storms accumulating over 3 inches
4500.....ounces of coffee consumed
15.....nights spent removing snow and ice
(including Christmas Eve and Christmas night)

Winter Parking Restrictions

No parking is allowed along City streets during the night in winter, as that is when the majority of snow removal is done. To avoid damage to vehicles and facilitate snow removal, illegally parked cars will be towed without notice at the vehicle-owner’s expense.

There are three types of parking restrictions:

Streets With Curbs or Sidewalks

For any right-of-way with a paved street abutting an improved curb and gutter, it is unlawful for any person to park a motorized or non-motorized vehicle, trailer or camper within the right of way between the hours of twelve o'clock (12:00) midnight to seven o'clock (7:00) am., from November 1 to May 1.

Streets Without Curbs or Sidewalks

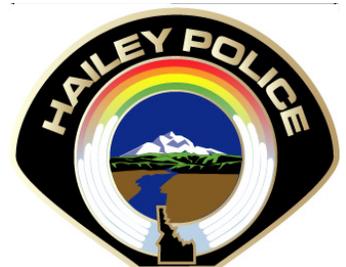
For any right-of-way without a paved street abutting an improved curb and gutter, it is unlawful for any person to park a motorized vehicle or non-motorized vehicle, trailer or camper within six feet (6') of the edge of asphalt constructed by or on behalf of the city of Hailey within the right of way between the hours of twelve o'clock (12:00) midnight to seven o'clock (7:00) am., from November 1 to May 1.

Alleys and other Rights-of-Way

It is unlawful for any person to park a motorized or non-motorized vehicle, trailer or camper on a right-of-way in such a manner as to interfere with the safe and proper plowing or removal of snow on the right-of-way.

**Hailey Police
Department
has a new location
311 E. Cedar Street**

The former Idaho National Guard Armory Building.



Emergency Preparedness

Hailey Residents Urged to Sign Up for Emergency Dispatch Alerts

On the home page of the Blaine County Sheriff's Office is a link to sign up for direct communications via phone call, text or email during emergencies or when highly critical information is distributed. That page is at <http://www.blainesherriff.com/> and the sign up area is on the right side of the page and looks like this:



[Sign up](#)

and be notified in the event of emergency situations or critical community alerts.

Why is this important? During the 2013 Beaver Creek Fire, residents were notified of pre-evacuation conditions and evacuation orders through this method. Last month, during a flooding event in the Della View neighborhood, specific West Hailey residents were notified of road closures and flooding conditions. Several communications went out during the day to keep residents informed about changing conditions. One such resident, Micah Austin, described his reaction to those alerts:

“I got three calls....They were very helpful but more than anything, the messages gave us a sense that the city was/ is totally on top of the issue. I don't think we will need any sandbags but it was good to know where to go to help others fill them and in case we do need some.”

The first call was sent near the beginning of the event to alert any neighborhood that might experience flood conditions, not just those that already had water in the street beside their homes. The second call was sent mid-day to notify residents of road closures and sandbagging points. The last call was sent late afternoon to alert residents who might be coming back to their homes from their jobs, so that they could take proper precautions as they approached closed roads and flooded areas.

The City of Hailey will use other communication methods as well during an emergency. Information boards, press releases, and the city's website will give information or direct people to correct information. The dispatch alerts are the most reliable method by which individuals can receive targeted information.

Public Works/Fire Department

Help Clearing Snow from Fire Hydrants

With a record snow year, the City has been challenged to keep on top of snow removal and storage operations. Unfortunately, another challenge that comes with fallen snow and is often compounded by snow removal operations: ensuring that fire hydrants remain clear and are accessible to fire fighters.



The City's Street and Water Divisions, as well as the Fire Department volunteers, work to help remove snow and keep the area around hydrants clear. With several hundred hydrants all over town, it can be impossible to keep all hydrants clear given the City's limited resources and continued snow storms.

The City encourages assistance from citizens in this effort. If you are able to assist the City, but find that:

- a hydrant is too buried or blocked to identify its location, or
- the snow surrounding the hydrant is too great or too icy to remove with a shovel,

please contact Public Works at 788-9830 to inform us. We will make every effort to either locate the hydrant or remove the excess snow with heavy equipment so shovel work can complete the job. We would love to help you help us!

Board Transitions

Ron Hayes Completes Volunteer Service to Hailey Library Board

Ron Hayes was appointed to the Hailey Public Library Board of Trustees in November, 2013. Within his first year on the board, he accepted the role of Board President. Hayes brought a depth of business knowledge to the library board through his considerate, thoughtful and practical style. He worked hard to improve wages and benefits for library staff, and to implement library policies within a changing community. We extend our sincere gratitude to him for his three and a half years of high quality service and wish him well in his expanded business ventures.