



# OUR TOWN

*Where the High Desert Meets the Mountains*

April 2019  
Issue No. 185

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

## Message from the Mayor

### **May 21 Election Called to Consider Electric Utility Franchise Fee Increase**

The Hailey City Council voted to call a special election for Tuesday, May 21, 2019. The purpose of the election is to put a ballot question before voters about whether or not to increase electric utility franchise fees within the City of Hailey. Please see the special election edition within this mailing. We appreciate you becoming informed on this matter and exercising your right to vote!

### **City Council to Consider Changes to Water Fees for City Parks Irrigation**

The Hailey City Council will review a proposed water rate change on April 8, 2019 that, if adopted, could change the cost of irrigating City Parks. Currently, the water user fee structure is tiered based on volume, in order to encourage conservation. The City Council will consider whether to amend the tier within which City Parks fall, to be based on rate of usage rather than volume of usage. Because of the size of our parks, the water volume is high even though the application rate of water per square foot may be conservative. In fact, the application rate of water to city parks is the same as the application rate of water to multi-family common space. Because of the large size of city parks, the cost to irrigate parks, per gallon, is more than 2.5 times that of irrigating townhome common space. Under our current ordinance, parks are billed in a rate tier as a single user, whereas the townhome rate is divided among the number of residents within the housing complex.



## Employment

### **Seasonal and Full-Time Positions—Hiring Now!**

The City Clerk's office is hiring a deputy city clerk, who will perform utility billing and payroll functions for the City of Hailey. This full-time position has great benefits. An individual with great customer service skills is needed, who can extend personable care in answering questions from utility customers in an effort to gently inform them on how to conserve water, saving costs and the environment! The City Clerk would like the new hire to begin work in mid to late April.

Hailey Public Works Department is also hiring, both seasonal and full-time employees. The City Parks department uses seasonal employees who work up to six months each summer mowing, irrigating and caring for City Parks. There is also an opportunity to

come on for the summer and stay for the winter! A full-time position with benefits is available for that perfect candidate who wants to work in City Parks in the summer and help with Street Operations, including snow removal, in the winter.

Employment applications and how to apply can be found on our website. Our great benefits are described in the Employee Handbook posted in that same Employment section of our website.

**Fiddlers of Idaho State Championship Contest**

April 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> 2019

Community Campus - Performing Arts Theater

Go To: [fiddlersofidaho.org](http://fiddlersofidaho.org) for more information



Entertainment Night Concert

Friday April 12<sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm

Youth Twin Fiddling

Performance by the Contest Judges

Featured Entertainer - **Ernie Sites.**

## Meeting Calendar

City Council .....	4/08/2019
City Council.....	4/22/2019
Planning & Zoning .....	4/01/2019
Planning & Zoning .....	4/15/2019
Art & Historic Preservation...	4/09/2019
Joint Fire Board, Hailey WRFD	4/03/2019
Parks & Lands Board .....	4/24/2019
Public Library Board.....	4/17/2019
Tree Committee.....	4/11/2019
Sun Valley Air Service Board...	none
Urban Renewal Agency .....	4/04/2019
Urban Renewal Agency .....	4/18/2019



## Plan to Attend April & May Public Meetings

JOIN US TO LEARN MORE ABOUT ANY OR ALL OF THE FOLLOWING TOPICS.

April 4 — Community Flood Preparedness  
*Community Campus Auditorium, 7:00 p.m.*

April 24 — Robinhood & China Gardens  
Pathway / Fire Lane  
*Hailey City Hall, 5:30 p.m.*

April 29 — Hailey Town Square Design  
*Hailey City Hall, 5:30 p.m.*

May 16 — River St. Design Concepts  
*Hailey City Hall, 5:30 p.m.*

May 20 — Transportation Master Plan  
*Hailey City Hall, 5:30 p.m.*

Each meeting covers one topic, as shown above. All are welcome to attend, for all or a portion of any meeting.

**WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU.**

## Friends of the Hailey Public Library April Book & Bake Sale

The Friends of the Hailey Public Library 32nd Used Book and Scrumptious Bake sale to benefit the Hailey Public Library starts Thursday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Those wanting to help with the book and bake sale should visit the library front desk to sign up as a volunteer or baker. The benefits of helping: a pre-sale preview and shopping opportunity of all the books!



Donate books now! We are especially interested in Kids books in good condition. As part of the 5B literacy initiative we want to get books to all kids for Summer Reading. 5B Reads!

The funds raised are targeted to augment library services, technology upgrades and adult and kids programs throughout the year. This event is a great way to help support our library. Mark your calendars now for the Wood River Valleys' Best and Largest Book and Bake Sale. There will be something for everyone. Call 208-720-7395 for information.

There will be a "Friends only" preview sale on Wednesday, April 17<sup>th</sup>. Join the friends today for this event! Call 208-720-7395 for information.

## Hailey Public Library April Events

**2019 marks the 100th anniversary of  
Hailey Public Library.**

To commemorate our centennial, we are celebrating all year with a new logo, parties, learning and events for all.

Follow us for more information:

**[www.HaileyPublicLibrary.org](http://www.HaileyPublicLibrary.org)**

**[www.facebook.com/HaileyPublicLibrary](https://www.facebook.com/HaileyPublicLibrary)**

*We're on Instagram!*

**[www.instagram.com/HaileyPublicLibrary#hpl100](https://www.instagram.com/HaileyPublicLibrary#hpl100)**

### **This Month's Era: 1940s**

**Tuesdays & Thursdays, 3:30 – 4:30 PM:** *In-beTween*. Activities for kids 9 - 12 full of STEAM activities, games, crafts, and experiments!

**Wednesdays & Fridays at 10:30 AM:** *Story Time* is an interactive story hour made especially for preschool aged children. Decades themed stories will be on April 10th & 12th!

**Saturdays, 4:00 PM:** *Conversational English Classes*. Want to freshen up your language skills? Join us for casual conversations in English in the library every Saturday.

**Wednesday, April 3, 5:30 PM:** *Mallory & The Early Days of Hailey*. Local historian Rob Lonning PhD, discusses the establishment of Hailey and the Wood River Valley, and how Martin Mallory captured it. Then, Ryan Gelskey, historical librarian at the Community Library, will speak on Mallory's collection of photography.

**Monday, April 8, 5:00 PM:** *Shoulder Bag Sewing Class*. Sew your own unique bag at the library! Beginners welcome. All supplies provided. 14+ years old, please.

**Tuesday, April 9, 5:30 PM:** *Library Reads Book Club*. Every month, we'll be hosting a book club with picks throughout the decades. This month's read is *The Women in the Castle* by Jessica Shattuck.

*(Library Events continued)*

**Thursday, April 11, 5:30 PM:** *Planning for the Future: Advanced Health Care Directives*. Lisa Wild, Executive Director of Hospice of Wood River, speaks on Advance Health Care Directives in anticipation of National Health Care Decision Day, which falls on April 16. Review the different forms and how one goes about filling them out.

**Saturday, April 13, 3:00 PM:** *1940s Vintage Family Games*. Come into the library to experience the types of games that were played in the 1940s.

**Wednesday, April 17, 6:00 PM:** *Hailey Public Library Board Meeting*.

**Thursday, April 18, 5:30 PM:** *Let's Talk About It: Language of Baklava*. Join us with a special guest speaker to discuss global perspectives in our featured novel.

**Thursday, April 25, 5:30 PM:** *Warm Season Vegetables*. At this event hosted by the Wood River Seed Library and HPL, we'll be talking about the veggies that can be grown during the warmer months.

**Saturday, April 27, 11:00 AM:** *Dia de los Niños*. Hispanic Elders share their cultural heritage with children ages 4 – 10. Join us for food, stories, dancing, and more!

**WHAT: Book & Bake Sale**

**WHERE: Community Campus  
Queen of the Hills Room # 200**

**WHEN:**

Thurs	April 18th	9 am – 7 pm
Fri	April 19th	9 am – 7 pm
Sat	April 20th	9 am – 3 pm

**Saturday is "Fantastic Bag Sale Day"**

## Park Development

### South Woodside Park

At the south end of Woodside Boulevard, just north of the Wood River Land Trust Building Materials Thrift Store, lies a lot that was vacant for decades and is now under development. On the south half of the lot ARCH units are under construction, nearing completion. As soon as they are completed, the City of Hailey will begin constructing a park on the northern portion of the lot. The entrance to the park is only 15 feet wide, with a bus shelter along the sidewalk partially shielding the park from view of the street. The park will feature a connecting trail from the Woodside Boulevard sidewalks through the park to the Toe of the Hill Trail.



Lyon's Landscape Architects have rendered some design drawings for the park, using a combination of green space and native drought tolerant grasses at the perimeter. The Hailey Parks & Lands Board considered Lyon's designs during their March meeting. The Board's recommendation will be brought to the Hailey City Council for approval in April. Public comment is welcome.

## Recycling

### Paper Recycling Begins April 1

The paper recycling program administered by Blaine County through the Recycling Center just received some improvements!

As always, acceptable products for recycling will be picked up for no charge by Clear Creek Disposal. What is new is the types of paper that will be picked up. Only clean copy paper, print paper and newspaper will be picked up. Remove staples and tape, and don't put envelopes, magazines, glossy paper and paper board in with your recycle container. Contaminated paper bins will not be picked up.



Call 208-788-5574 with questions about recycling. Besides paper, curbside pickup of separated plastic and tin/aluminum continues. Cardboard and glass can be disposed of at the recycle stations at River & Bullion Street and on 3rd Avenue South near Hailey Fire Station.

## FREE Water Smarty Workshops Scheduled in April



### • DIY Steps for Irrigation Efficiency with Travis McBride

Wed., April 10, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Hailey City Hall Meeting Room

No advance registration required.

The above workshop is hosted by the Wood River Land Trust's Trout Friendly program. For questions, call the Wood River Land Trust at 788-3947.

### ALSO IN APRIL, AND FREE!

### • Annual Landscape and Weed Management Workshop

Tuesday, April 9, 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

The Community Campus, Minnie Moore Room

No advance registration required.

Tentative Pesticide Credits Offered (please call to confirm credits).

The above workshop is co-hosted by Blaine County, the Environmental Resource Center, and the Wood River Land Trust. For questions, call Blaine County at 788-5574 or the ERC at 726-4333.

**BOTH WORKSHOPS ABOVE MEET** the requirements for the Water Smarty lawn removal and replacement rebate program. Go to [watersmarty.org](http://watersmarty.org) to learn about all eligibility requirements and to download application forms.



# MAY ELECTION

## *Franchise Fee Increase On Electric Utilities*

Should The Fee Be Increased From 1% To 3%?

April 2019

**Special Section:  
Election Information**

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Currently set at 1%, the Idaho Power Franchise Fee brings in approximately \$60,000 to the City of Hailey each year. The ballot question will ask: "Shall the Idaho Power Franchise Fee be increased from one percent (1%) to three percent (3%) for the purpose of maintenance and improvements to critical infrastructure and public streets, rights-of-way, sidewalks, bike-pedestrian infrastructure and other streetscape components within Hailey?" The increase, if approved by voters, would raise the electric utility franchise revenue to approximately \$180,000 per year. It would cost electricity bill payers an additional \$2 on a \$100 Idaho Power bill.

The Hailey City Council chose to put this ballot option before voters rather than a property tax increase for new projects such as the town square because:

- Hailey will score higher on a planned River Street grant application to be filed this summer if we can show that we have additional maintenance funds for the new infrastructure. The franchise fee increase would give Hailey modest additional maintenance money in perpetuity.
- Hailey already has partial funding for River Street through a grant. Completion of the River Street funding package takes priority over town square.
- We should finish projects before we start new ones. We are still spending the Pathways for People tax, and should complete Myrtle Street before asking for another tax increase.



- Hailey has maintenance needs that exceed our budget. After applying \$100,000 of Pathways for People money to sidewalk repair, there are many more sidewalks to fix.

- Snow is plowed using a fleet of trucks that are all more than 20 years old. Hailey's 53.1 miles of streets should be consistently chip-sealed. Chip-seal projects are done in years when snow removal does not use up the street department budget.

- We try to keep property taxes as low as possible. Only 37% of the City's annual general and capital revenue

currently comes from property tax, and is just over \$2.5 million per year. Hailey's current franchise fee revenue is only \$290,000 per year, collected from utility rate payers using four different utility companies including cable, electricity, natural gas and rubbish. The electric utility franchise fee increase would cost Idaho Power customers an additional \$2/month over the \$1/month they currently pay on their \$100/month electricity bill. We believe this diversifies City revenue sources, as well as diversifies who pays this fee.

- The ballot allows the revenue to be used for critical infrastructure. Hailey has experienced higher snow removal costs, flood mitigation and emergency service costs over the past several years. Emergency response is our highest priority, with funds directed to keeping the public safe and the city operational.
- Hailey's budget policies require that general surplus at the end of each fiscal year be transferred to the Capital Fund, where it is used in future years on projects. The new fee would be subject to this same policy. Despite Hailey's need for additional maintenance, some of the new fee may eventually be able to be used for projects, such as a town square!

## 2019: Historical Snow-Fall in a Single Month

February 2019 was a record snow-fall month. The City adjusted its snow removal methods, bringing the cost of snow removal down from \$2,686 to \$1,770 per inch of snow plowed. The City plowed 117 inches and hauled 2,445 truckloads of snow for a total cost of \$207,000. Despite efficiencies, this cost still exceeded the snow-removal budget for the year. A winter such as this effects summer road maintenance projects. Budget overruns in winter reduce the city's ability to perform summer chip sealing projects. A consistent revenue stream for chip-sealing and road maintenance is needed to maintain road integrity and long life.



## 2018: Unexpected Flood Repair

Hailey paid over \$40,000 to clean up and repair damage from a March 2018 flooding event in east Hailey. City crews and equipment worked to clear eroded mud and debris from city streets following a rain-on-snow event. Widespread flooding occurred throughout east Hailey. Despite its short duration, this event was very costly to the City. A revenue source to mitigate unexpected flood and fire damage is needed. This flood was not eligible for FEMA assistance.

## 2017: Sidewalk Repair in Old Hailey

The City of Hailey launched a sidewalk-repair project a few years ago. Trip hazards were removed all over Old Hailey Townsite, and several sidewalks were repaired. The temporary funding source for that project has ceased, and there are many more sidewalks still needing repair. A consistent revenue source for sidewalk repair is needed in Hailey.

