



OUR EARTH

Our Town, Our Future

April 2007
Issue No. 1

Your City in Action

No Idling Campaign

Idling a vehicle for more than 10 seconds, except in traffic, wastes money and harms the earth.

The City of Hailey is partnering with the ERC and Idaho Department of Environmental Quality on an Air Pollution Prevention Program. Signs asking motorists to help improve air quality by turning off engines have been posted at city properties throughout town. Local businesses, such as coffee shops and day cares, are being asked to partner with us by also posting signs.

It is a common belief that idling for just a few minutes is better than turning your car off and on numerous times a day. However, it is worse! Since the introduction of electronically controlled engines it is unnecessary to warm up your car.

Idling produces incomplete combustion which creates fuel residue condensation on cylinder walls while also contaminating engine oil and clogging spark plugs, which further increases fuel waste. Excessive idling can also cause water condensation in the exhaust system, which can cause premature corrosion.

All of these damages result in reduced engine efficiency and increase fuel consumption. So actually, letting your car idle costs you more than turning it off and restarting it.

Find out how your business can obtain a sign by calling Hailey Public Works at 788-9830, ext. 17.

Events

Arbor Day

“Planting the Seeds of Tomorrow for Today” is the theme of this year’s National Arbor Day set for April 27, 2007. In keeping with that theme we encourage

you to read President Roosevelt’s 1907 Arbor Day Proclamation to school children of the U.S at <http://www.idahoforests.org/arborday.htm#02>.

Earth Day

“Rising concern about the environmental crisis is sweeping the nation’s campuses with an intensity that may be on its way to eclipsing student discontent over the war ...A national day of observance of environmental problems is being planned for next spring...when a nationwide environmental ‘teach-in’ ...coordinated from the office of Senator Gaylord Nelson is planned....” Gladwin Hill, *New York Times*, November 30, 1969.

Senator Nelson began to formulate the idea for Earth Day over a period of seven years prior to the first event. He was disturbed that the state of the environment was not noticed by the political establishment but degradation was appearing everywhere. Nelson’s speaking tours were an attempt to educate the public and bring political awareness to the problems the environment faced.

The 2007 Earth Day falls on Sunday, April 22. Make an effort to make a difference. Plant a tree; run your errands on a bike or on foot; purchase recycled-content paper goods; replace an incandescent light bulb with a compact fluorescent light bulb; research composting; take advantage of the curb-side recycling the City of Hailey offers. Above all, remember Margaret Mead’s command: “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever does.”

Clean Sweep Day

Save the Date – May 19, 2007 – More to come in next month’s edition on the valley’s largest environmental effort and how Hailey is involved.



OUR TOWN

Where the desert meets the mountains.

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Visit us online at
www.haileycityhall.org

Message from the Mayor

City Moves Forward With Environmental Protection Efforts

If you're old enough, you may have memories of lying in the grass on the side of a hill at night and staring at the stars, you may remember the scent of the damp grass and the pine, and of course you may remember the quiet – not a sound to be heard.

As the population in the valley grows these experiences have become less frequent. But the City of Hailey has decided to take back its quality of life, and to find ways for the residents of our town, and our beautiful environment, to co-exist.

Hailey City elected officials took a leadership role in environmental protection in the Wood River Valley by adopting a mandatory trash recycling program in 1993, a wastewater pretreatment ordinance in 1999, an outdoor lighting ordinance in 2004, subdivision ordinance incentives for environmentally sensitive projects in 2005, a hillside ordinance in 2006, a water metering ordinance, currently being implemented, that charges for actual consumption, and the recent 2007 Resolution of support for the international Kyoto Protocol to reduce carbon emissions.

But it's the city employees who have taken the challenge and raised the bar to new heights. Determined to implement the tenets of the U.S. Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement, city staff members have adjusted their work plans to analyze, implement, and communicate the tangible results of environmental protection measures taken at a variety of levels. I have appointed an interested citizen to assist them on the newly formed Climate Protection Committee that teams with the Environmental Resource Center twice monthly for the purpose of integrating this work into the community at large. As part of this effort, I am pleased to introduce a new

section of *Our Town*, called *Our Earth*, which will become a regular monthly feature intended to communicate with and engage residents in the progress of this important work.

Emergency Response News

Hailey Explores Shared Fire Response Services with Bellevue

The City of Hailey is formally pursuing shared fire response services with the City of Bellevue. Hailey is excited to explore meaningful ways in which the two cities can partially or fully consolidate personnel, infrastructure, and revenues to maximize our abilities to meet our statutory obligations as municipalities.

The Hailey City Council have determined that until this opportunity has been fully explored with the appropriate elected officials, they will not pursue shared service consolidation discussions with other emergency services entities. The City of Hailey anticipates that the two cities will be able to substantially consider consolidation and implement an action plan, if appropriate, within a year's time.

Calendar

Important Dates

Arts Commission	04/17/07
City Council Meetings	04/09/07
.....	04/23/07
Historic Preservation Commission	04/24/07
Parks & Lands Board	04/03/07
P&Z Meetings	04/02/07
.....	4/16/07

Public Works Department Irrigation Season Reminder

With the onset of spring weather and start of the irrigation season homeowners are cautioned to pay particular attention to backflow prevention. To assure the safety and integrity of the City of Hailey water system, all irrigation systems are required to install an appropriate backflow protection device. An irrigation system permit is also required and can be obtained at City Hall or on our website at www.haileycityhall.org. There is no fee for the required permit and inspection. Appointments for inspections should be directed to our Public Works Department at 788-9830, ext. 17.

Backflow

Backflow is the reversal of water flow from its normal direction - the normal direction being from the source to the tap. This reverse flow can send a customer's contaminated water back into the public system's safe drinking water supply.

Backflow is normally caused by either *backpressure* or *backsiphonage*. Backflow will occur through any unprotected cross-connection whenever backpressure and backsiphonage conditions exist.

Backpressure occurs when the pressure within a plumbing system is greater than the pressure of the incoming water supply. This "within-the-system" pressure pushes contaminated water "back" toward the safe drinking water supply.

Causes: Backpressure can be caused by the installation of pumps that increase pressures above the pressure of the water system supply, thereby forcing undrinkable water in the opposite direction of normal flow and back into the safe water supply line.

Steam boilers can also cause backpressure (or other equipment that heats water causing thermal expansion and resulting in pressures in excess of the incoming water pressure).

Elevated piping or tanks can also cause backpressure.

Backsiphonage is a backflow caused by a negative pressure (i.e., a vacuum or partial vacuum). This vacuum effect is similar to drinking water through a straw - water and possibly substances from a contaminated source are pulled back or sucked up into a potable (drinkable) water supply.

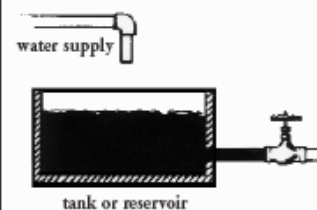
Causes: Backsiphonage (or a vacuum) can occur when there is a stoppage of water supply due to, for example, nearby fire fighting or a break in a water main. Simply flushing the water pipes to clean them may cause this phenomenon.

When this condition occurs, if you have an unprotected cross-connection (like an immersed hose filling a bucket of concentrated herbicide, or a garden hose submerged in a horse watering tank), the matter at the end of the hose will be sucked back into the public drinking water system, starting at the customer's house. ■

Preventing backflow

A backflow preventer is a means or mechanism to prevent backflow. The best and simplest means of preventing backflow is the air gap, which provides a physical separation between the end of a water supply outlet and the flood-level rim of a receiving vessel.

Air gap in a piping system



If an air gap is not possible, the next best mechanism for preventing backflow is a mechanical backflow preventer, which provides a physical barrier to backflow. Such devices or "assemblies" stop water from coming back into the safe drinking water supply system through spring loaded check valves thus preventing backpressure or backsiphonage. Of course, only use approved assemblies.

Municipal Code

Review of Dog Rules

Please be courteous of your fellow citizens and be aware of the law regarding dogs within the Hailey city limits. A brief review follows:

- It is unlawful to permit a dog to run at large upon the private premises of others or upon the streets, alleys, sidewalks, highways, vacant lots, school grounds or other public places within the city.
- A dog is considered to be running at large unless it is under control by leash, cord, chain or by verbal control of a person within ten feet of such animal. (A dog must be on a leash not exceeding ten feet *at all times* in city parks or on school grounds.)
- It is unlawful to allow a dog to be a public nuisance, including such behaviors as frequent, continuous or untimely barking; molesting passers-by; chasing vehicles; attacking other domestic animals; trespassing on public or private property in such manner as to damage the property; or defecating on public or private property when same is not immediately removed by the keeper of the animal.
- It is unlawful for any individual, individuals or family residing in a single household or residence within the city limits to own, keep or possess more than three dogs.
- Licenses must be obtained for dogs once they reach six months of age, or within ten days of the acquisition of a dog over six months of age.
- The animal control officer or any peace officer may seize and impound any dog found running at large, or any dog without a collar bearing a current license.

Parks & Trails

City Parks Enjoyed by Residents

Hailey's parks are frequented by many citizens spring through autumn. Reservations for Special Events, family picnics, birthday parties, and other social gatherings are at an all time high, with Hop Porter, Lawrence Heagle and Roberta McKercher being the most popular parks.

If you want to reserve a park for that special occasion, plan ahead. The parks are reserved on a first come, first served basis, and this time of the year, availability goes fast. For more information on reservations and fees, call City Hall at 788-4221, ext. 0.

Building Department

Does Your Project Require a Building Permit?

With the building season gearing up, it is important to know what types of projects require a building permit. The basic definition is as follows:

Anyone who intends to construct, enlarge, alter, repair, move, demolish, or change the occupancy of a building or structure, or anyone who causes any such work to be done, must obtain a permit.

In addition to the above definition, **a permit is required for all new construction, remodels or additions, re-roofs and fences.**

Types of work that are **exempt from the permit requirement** include the following:

One-story detached accessory structures used as tool and storage sheds, playhouses and similar uses, provided the floor area does not exceed 120 square feet., the peak height does not exceed 12 feet, and the structure is located at least 3 feet from other structures and at least 3 feet from any property line. This 3-foot dimension should be measured to the eave of the structure.

Retaining walls which are not over 4 feet in height measured from the bottom of the footing to the top of the wall, unless supporting a surcharge or impounding Class I, II or III-A liquids.

Painting, papering, tiling, carpeting, cabinets, counter tops and similar finish work.

There are a number of other obscure, miscellaneous exemptions. To avoid delays and citations, please be sure your project is properly permitted. The Building Department, located at City Hall, will be happy to clarify permit questions and get your project off on the right track. Call 788-9815, ext. 16 for Dave Ferguson, the Building Official, or ext. 15 for Rick Fahey, the Building Inspector.