



OUR TOWN

Where the desert meets the mountains.

March 2008
Issue No. 59

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Important Town Message

Local Flood Awareness

Many of Hailey's citizens are enjoying the plentiful amounts of snow this winter, in stark contrast to previous years. However, the abundant snow pack will eventually melt, and with the snow pack averaging about normal, flooding may occur this spring. The areas prone to local "sheet" flooding in our city are limited mostly to those adjacent to the river. These areas include the Della View, Robin Hood, and China Garden neighborhoods.

There are additional areas of the city that may be susceptible to flash flooding or the "100 Year Flood." These areas include many of the main roadways of Woodside Subdivision, and homes located between Blue Lake and Aspen Valley Drives, in North Woodside. This type of flooding would normally occur due to rapid melting snow or prolonged rain in the spring when the ground is still frozen.

While there are no indications that we are anticipating a 100 Year Flood event this year, the possibility of the river running over its bank needs to be thought about.

Why Should I Get Flood Insurance?

If you do not have flood insurance, do not wait for the next flood to apply. There is a **30-day application waiting period** before the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) coverage takes effect. However, it is common to have delays of up to 60 days if any part of the application is incomplete. Contact your insurance agent for more information on rates and coverage.

Homeowner's insurance policies do not cover damage from floods. However, because the City of Hailey participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), you can purchase a separate flood insurance

policy. This insurance is backed by the Federal Government and is available to everyone, even for properties that have been previously flooded. Even people who are not located in the "official" flood plain may be susceptible to flooding and may purchase flood insurance.

Be Prepared...Flood Warning Systems

The City of Hailey in conjunction with the Blaine County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) monitors the river levels and Big Wood Basin snow pack levels. If the snow pack continues to

increase, or the long term predictions are favorable for a potential flood situation to exist, we will provide public announcements via local radio, TV, newspaper, and through local emergency agencies. These warnings are intended to help people prepare, protect, and lessen their exposure to damages from flooding by

establishing time frames and levels of flooding expected.

Historically, the city will initiate a flood watch when the river level reaches 4.5 feet. While the FEMA flood height is officially 6 feet, our experience indicates that the sheet flooding begins at about 5.8 feet and some homes have interior water damage at about 6.5 feet. You can also monitor up-to-date information via the Internet (see inset).

If you have any questions or if you are located in a flood plain or if your property has previously been threatened by flooding, please contact the City of Hailey Public Works Dept. at 208-788-9830 x 14.

For current river levels:

http://waterdata.usgs.gov/id/nwis/uv?site_no=13139500

For a Big Wood Basin Summary:

<http://www.usbr.gov/pmts/rivers/awards/snotel>

For individual Snotel station reports:

<ftp://ftp.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/data/snow/update/id.txt>

For spring flood forecasts:

<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/data/BOI/ESFBOI>

Friends of the Hailey Public Library March Meeting will be held in the Library Thursday, March 13 at noon. Nominations will be accepted for three positions as officers.

Important Dates

Arts Commission, 03/18/08; City Council, 03/10/08, 03/24/08; Historic Preservation Commission, 03/25/08; Parks & Lands Board, 03/04/08; P&Z Meetings, 03/03/08, 03/17/08