



# OUR TOWN

Where the desert meets the mountains.

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## Mayor's Message

### Financial State of the City

I would like to report on a topic of importance to all Hailey citizens – the financial state of the city. The information contained in this article follows a thorough review of this year's first quarter budget activity compared to last year's.

It is no surprise that Hailey, with cities across the country, finds itself in a downward revenue trend. At the City Council meeting on January 26, I reported that operating revenues received were \$200,000 less between October 1 and December 31 this fiscal year compared to the same time period last year. This \$200,000 has now been adjusted down to \$150,000 due to receipt of the property tax payment from Blaine County's December 20, 2008 property tax collection. The downward trend comes from a combination of reduced state tax revenue, and reduced development permit revenue. The city expects this trend to continue at least through fiscal year end September 2009, and has budgeted and planned accordingly.

The city has instituted an immediate cut of \$115,000 in expenses. The expense cuts come in the form of not filling a new police department position (\$65,000), and shifting a building department employee to assist with street department functions, therefore not filling a replacement street department position (\$50,000).

The city management team has always kept a conservative eye on budget issues, and is now taking a more aggressive approach to monitoring expenses compared to revenue, thus aiding a secure cash flow throughout the remainder of the year. To continue to assure expenses do not exceed revenues, all proposed expenditures will be reviewed by management, and no single budget line item will be exceeded without prior approval.

On the bright side, Hailey's capital fund holds \$2.2 million, which is poised to be used for match requirements on any federal or state economic

stimulus project grants that might be awarded. Hailey has prepared formal requests to various state agencies for receipt of federal funds which may be distributed to states under an economic stimulus program. Application has been made to the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality to place water and wastewater projects on the Priority List.

Street and sidewalk projects are sought through two state highway agencies: the Idaho Mobility and Access Pathway (IMAP) and the Local Highway Technical Assistance Council. To see a list of eligible projects through IDEQ or IMAP, please visit our website at [www.haileycityhall.org](http://www.haileycityhall.org).

*Rick Dawer*

*Skaters enjoy the day at a great Hailey community asset – the Hailey Ice Park.*



## City Council Addresses Sewer Treatment Plant Discharge Limits

In the coming weeks and months, the city will communicate with its citizenry on the complex topic of wastewater treatment, which has been under review and the subject of study within Hailey since 2002. As a beginning, the City of Hailey sets forth the following facts to clarify the status of both the treatment plant capacity and discharge permit renewal processes in light of water quality discharge limits on the Big Wood River.

- Capacity at the treatment plant is currently at 40%. Infill development and an extended sewer service agreement to the Croy Canyon Ranch are not the primary factors that eventually will cause the city to exceed its treatment plant capacity. The central issue is stricter discharge limits likely to come from the EPA in a new discharge permit to be written for Hailey. Table 1 shows plant capacity information. The Woodside Treatment Plant has a rated capacity of 1.6 million gallons per day (MGD).
- Hailey’s Public Works Director discussed this matter with the Hailey City Council and the public on December 20, 2007. The final paragraph of a memorandum written to the city council on that date elaborates: “Because of the unknowns in both population growth rates and future regulatory requirements I would recommend that caution be exercised in any policy put forth on allowing areas outside the city to connect. I would also look to the funds made available by these connections as a means to alleviate the citizens of Hailey from bearing the full burden of necessary additions to the plant.” The council

considered both aspects of this recommendation and adopted a Sewer Extension Policy in February, 2008.

- Hailey’s EPA-issued wastewater discharge permit expired in June, 2006 and the city applied for a new permit prior to that expiration. Because the EPA is backlogged with permits Hailey received an extension of its existing permit and discharge limits. The city has since received word from EPA that its permit renewal process will begin at the end of 2009.

Woodside Treatment Plant Capacity Information	
Area	% of Plant Capacity
Existing Connections	40
City Infill & Airport Property (at GR)	36
Croy Canyon Developments	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>78</b>

**Table 1**

- The stricter discharge limits are the result of a Total Daily Maximum Load (TMDL) study conducted by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ), and approved by EPA in 2002. A second study (Post-TMDL), not yet approved by IDEQ or EPA, shows that a less strict discharge limit would still protect the Big Wood River. Both of these limits are stricter than Hailey’s current discharge permit. Table 2, on the following page, shows information about Hailey’s current discharge limits along with actual discharge information, the approved TMDL limits, and prospective Post-TMDL limits. Hailey is actively seeking opportunities by which the proposed Post-TMDL limits be considered. (See **Treatment Plant**, page 3.)



*This photo shows the interior of the Woodside Wastewater Treatment Plant Process Building. This area houses the final stages of treatment – filter and ultraviolet disinfection – before the water is returned to the Big Wood River.*

**Treatment Plant** (continued from page 2)

- In mid 2003, Hailey began its Wastewater Master Planning process by applying for a planning grant through IDEQ. When this grant was approved in 2007 the city began the study. The Wastewater Master Plan, the first draft of which is now under review by IDEQ, evaluates (among numerous other things) the effect of the increased discharge limits on the Woodside Treatment Plant.

anticipation of future plant upgrades. The plan will be subject to public comment when it is fully drafted. The city is also exploring other options, such as reclaimed water reuse to lessen its discharge to the Big Wood River, or requesting that the discharge limits be reviewed and amended by DEQ and EPA.

- The Woodside Wastewater Treatment Plant operates with remarkable efficiency, well below Hailey’s current discharge limits.

Woodside Treatment Plant Discharge Limit Information				
Discharge Parameter	Current Permit	Current Actual Discharge	EPA Approved TMDL Limits	Proposed Post-TMDL Limits
Total Suspended Solids	94	15	18	44
Total Phosphorus	18	3.5	5.2	8.6

**Table 2**

All numbers are in lbs/day

It is important to understand that proposed or potential additional connections are not the issue driving the possible need for a plant upgrade. The need for a plant upgrade is being driven by the imposition of stricter EPA discharge limits. This is not to say that capacity of the plant is unimportant or won’t have an impact on the timing of potential upgrades. Following more than 1000 additional connections in the next 5 to 15 years, depending on growth rates, the relationship of discharge limits (water quality) and plant capacity (water

- The timeline for completing any necessary upgrades to the treatment plant will be dependant on both EPA requirements and growth in the city. By optimizing some wastewater treatment processes Hailey believes it can meet even the stricter EPA discharge permit requirements for six years or more.
- Hailey is working with its consulting engineer to complete an implementation plan and timeline in

quantity) will be approaching tipping points. Water quality and quantity both are fundamental considerations in wastewater treatment plant planning, and are subject to careful scrutiny in the master plan.

**Help a Neighbor, Be A Good Sam**

Each year during the snow season the city receives numerous requests to remove snow from driveways by citizens who are unable to because they are either elderly or disabled. But the city cannot spend public funds to address these private property requests.

In an effort to provide snow removal assistance to those in need throughout the winter, the city is requesting that private citizens step forward to help. City staff will maintain a list of both property owners who require assistance along with those people willing to lend a helping hand, and will make every effort to coordinate assistance.

Mayor Rick Davis extends a warm thank you to two anonymous volunteers who have signed up to help.

Please call 788-9830 x 22 or x 14 to either request or offer this service.



*This photo shows the Big Wood at the Bullion Street bridge. After treatment at the Woodside Plant, water is returned to the Big Wood at a point approximately two miles south of here.*

### Art Lovers Wanted for Public Art Fundraising Effort

The Hailey Arts Commission is forming a volunteer subcommittee to help raise funds for public art projects in Hailey. Hailey Arts Commission Chair Mark Johnstone said, "It's important to diversify funding for public art projects in Hailey. This fundraising effort will augment funds from other sources, such as the Percent for Public Art program and grants. With the current state of the economy, and the cost of public art projects, we need to raise funds from as many sources as possible."

Anyone interested in serving on the fundraising committee can contact Johnstone at 720-5578, Tracy Anderson at 788-4221, ext. 26, or any commissioner. Hailey Arts Commissioners are Mark Johnstone, Commission Chair; Joe Castle, Commission Vice Chair; Pat Robinson Webb, Melissa Graves Brown, Jim Spinelli and Andrew Lewis.

### Important Dates

Arts Commission .....	02/05/09
City Council Meetings .....	02/09/09
.....	02/19/09
.....	02/23/09
Historic Preservation Commission .....	02/24/09
Parks & Lands Board .....	02/03/09
P&Z Meetings .....	02/02/09
.....	02/17/09
Sustainable Building & Planning Advisory Committee.....	02/04/09
.....	02/18/09
Tree Committee .....	02/05/09
<b>President's Day *</b> .....	<b>02/16/09</b>

\* City offices closed.

#### BE IN THE KNOW

Sign up for email updates on city news, initiatives and programs. Contact [tracy.anderson@haileycityhall.org](mailto:tracy.anderson@haileycityhall.org) to sign up. Reference "In The Know" in the subject line.

#### Hailey Arts Commission Vacancy

The City of Hailey is seeking a volunteer interested in serving on the Hailey Arts Commission. The commission appointment is a three year term starting January 1, 2009. Applicants must have been Blaine County residents for two (2) years and shall be a resident of the City of Hailey at the time of appointment. Successful appointee must remain a resident of the city during the term of membership. Responsibilities include attendance at one regularly scheduled meeting per month and other assigned tasks to assist the commission in providing leadership, advocacy and support for the arts in Hailey. Interested applicants should submit a letter of interest and/or a resume to the City of Hailey, 115 Main St. S, Ste H, Hailey, ID 83333; fax to 788-2924; or email [tracy.anderson@haileycityhall.org](mailto:tracy.anderson@haileycityhall.org).

#### Bright Ideas

The City of Hailey would like to hear from you! Please send us suggestions or questions, and we will choose one each month to highlight in this newsletter.

Send suggestions or questions ...

By mail:  
City of Hailey  
115 Main St. S, Suite H  
Hailey, ID 83333

By Fax:  
788-2924

By Email:  
[heather.dawson@haileycityhall.org](mailto:heather.dawson@haileycityhall.org)

Please reference "Bright Ideas" in your submissions. Thank you!

## HFD Offers Free Annual Fire Extinguisher Inspections

Mayor Davis and the Hailey Fire Department are pleased to announce a new service being offered to residents and business owners. The Hailey Fire Department will visually inspect, free of charge, any fire extinguisher belonging to a citizen or business owner of the City of Hailey. Hailey Fire Marshal Mike Baledge states, "Fire extinguishers should be inspected annually and there are limited options for service available in this area. Inspection costs can range from \$2 to \$20 when performed by outside companies. This program is hoped to save Hailey businesses and residents thousands of dollars annually, that are currently spent on basic annual inspections." This service will be performed by the department's certified fire extinguisher technicians and will include a 23-point check to ensure the extinguisher is in good working order. Technicians will automatically conduct this inspection during periodic business inspections, or personal extinguishers may be brought to the Hailey Fire Department at 617 S. Third Avenue in Hailey during regular business hours. If the extinguisher cannot be approved and retagged for another year, the owner will be notified of the reason and be provided with a list of approved fire extinguisher service companies if appropriate.

If you'd like more information about this service, please contact the Hailey Fire Department at 788-3147.

## 2008 Firefighter of the Year

Hailey Fire Department Captain Pat Rainey has been awarded the 2008 Hailey Fire Department Firefighter of the Year.



The award is given to that firefighter who demonstrates exemplary enthusiasm and dedication toward emergency services in Hailey. Captain Rainey has responded to house

fires, wild fires, rescue and recovery operations, and all other types of emergencies. Each year Pat spends literally hundreds of hours of his own time training for emergency response in and around Hailey.

The Hailey Volunteer Fire Department consists of men and women who are not full time employees, but who have the dedication necessary to train for and respond to all manner of emergencies twenty-four hours a day, 365 days a year. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the department at 788- 3147.

## Mysterious Guest Speaker to Appear

The mystery begins at the library in reading Dashiell Hammett's brilliant novel *The Maltese Falcon*. Please join us in a twisting, riveting book discussion on February 19, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. Our guest speaker will be Shelley McEuen from the College of Southern Idaho. She is the Assistant Professor in the English Department.



## Library Announces New Databases

**LEARNING EXPRESS LIBRARY** offers free and unlimited access to practice tests online. Taking these practice tests could help you reach your school and career goals. More than 300 online tests are available including ACT, SAT, GED, law enforcement, and Real Estate exams. As a test taker, you get immediate scoring and detailed explanations of answers to all questions.

Your quest for genealogical information starts with **HERITAGEQUEST ONLINE**. Within HeritageQuest Online patrons can search for documents related to people or places, perform searches on census materials, access images, edit and combine searches and even save selected results to a personal electronic notebook.

**GLOBAL ROAD WARRIOR** lets you circle the globe in the blink of an eye or the click of a mouse. Included in this database is tons of information on 175 countries – from A to Z. Add 1575 high-resolution maps plus 6500 photos and you can experience the world at your fingertips. This site is great for kids' reports, travel information or just for fun.

Databases may be accessed from within the library. Patrons that have a library card can log on from a home computer. To find out more about these remarkable new services, call or stop by the Hailey Public Library or access our website at [www.haileypubliclibrary.org](http://www.haileypubliclibrary.org).

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