



OUR TOWN

Where the desert meets the mountains.

September 2009
Issue No. 75

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Community Development

Rodeo Grounds Resolution

The City of Hailey owns the Rodeo Grounds (Wertheimer) property, and the city fully understands the cultural and economic importance of maintaining the rodeo and rodeo grounds as part of Hailey's heritage.

In a March 2008 Strategic Planning and Goal Setting Meeting, the Hailey City Council prioritized as its top priority retention of historical uses upon the Wertheimer property and improvements to the existing rodeo grounds facility. The council also identified other complementary uses in order to provide viable multi-use event facilities and preserve community character.

In a January 2009 City of Hailey Citizen Survey, residents and businesses of Hailey ranked improvements to the Rodeo Grounds, including a multi-use event arena, as their highest rated public improvement project.

City officials are also committed to providing a permanent site for the Hailey Ice Rink, and are exploring the viability of locating the rink at the Rodeo Grounds property.

The Hailey Mayor and City Council have commissioned the process of a master plan for the site, working with the Hailey Parks & Lands Board, the Sawtooth Rangers, Hailey Ice, skateboard park enthusiasts, and a local architect.

Last week, the Hailey Mayor and City Council adopted a Resolution which recognizes that the traditional uses of the Wertheimer property, including the annual 4th of July Rodeo and the Hailey Skatepark, are valued by the community and represent our heritage. Every effort will be made to continue and expand these uses, and to add a recreational component for winter uses, including but not limited to an ice rink. These uses are in the same spirit of the Wertheimer property's heritage – community gathering, competitive events, and outdoor recreation in keeping with a western mountain town.



Election 2009

Local Option Tax Election

A new Local Option Tax measure will be put before Hailey voters on November 3, 2009. The ballot measure will ask whether voters want to adopt the tax in exactly the same form as it has been established in its first four years, but now for a 20-year term.

Hailey's Local Option Tax was adopted by voters in 2006 for a four-year term. The types and rates of taxes were carefully established such that the local option tax would be paid largely by tourists. Should the 20-year measure be adopted, the items which would continue to be taxed are

motels, hotels and car rentals at 3%, alcohol beverages at 2%, and restaurant food at 1%.

Last month's newsletter shows a complete list of how Hailey has used \$1.5 million of LOT funds in 4 years.

Hailey voters will cast their ballots at Hailey City Hall in the Upstairs Meeting Room for the LOT measure and for candidates for Hailey City Council Seats 1 and 2. Voting

will be upon one paper ballot, and polls will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Absentee voting begins at City Hall on September 23.

Calendar

Important Dates

| | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| Arts Commission | 09/03/09 |
| City Council..... | 09/02/09*, 09/14/09, 09/28/09 |
| Historic Preservation Commission | 09/29/09 |
| Parks & Lands Board | 09/01/09 |
| P&Z Meetings | 09/08/09, 09/21/09 |
| Sustainable Building & Planning Advisory Committee..... | 09/02/09, 09/16/09 |
| Tree Committee | 09/10/09 |
| Labor Day ** | 09/07/09 |

* Joint meeting with Blaine County Commissioners at Old County Courthouse at 5:30 p.m. to discuss Airport Governance.

** City offices closed.

Hailey Comprehensive Plan Update in October

The City of Hailey Planning Department will kick off an update of the Hailey Comprehensive Plan in October. The Hailey Comp Plan is the blueprint for the city setting out the desirable goals and objectives for the present and future of the community. The Comp Plan does not sit on the shelf; it is used regularly by the Planning and Zoning Commission and City Council to evaluate various types of projects submitted to the city for approval. Our Comp Plan was last updated in 2003 and it is time to touch base with each other and make any needed adjustments.

In the past public meetings have been held that were geared toward specific topics like housing, recreation, natural resources, growth and transportation. For this update we still want to hear what people have to say about these topics, but with a focus on what is important in their neighborhood and we really want to hear from people who do not normally come, or have never been to a city meeting.

Neighborhood workshops will be held every Thursday in October. The workshops will be a lively discussion between you and your neighbors of what you like about your neighborhood and Hailey, what you would change if you were “king for the day” and what you want your neighborhood and Hailey to be like in 20 years. Mark your calendars and plan on attending!

| Neighborhood | Date and Time | Location |
|--|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| West Hailey (west of Main St) | October 1 6:00pm to 7:30pm | Hailey City Hall |
| North Woodside (north of Baldy View) and East Hailey (east of Wood River Trail) | October 8 6:00pm to 7:30pm | Community Campus Room 301-302 |
| Hailey Townsite and North Ridge | October 15 6:00pm to 7:30pm | Wood River Middle School |
| Central and South Woodside (south of Baldy View Dr) | October 22 6:00pm to 7:30pm | Woodside Elementary Library |
| All commercial areas | October 29 8:00am to 9:30am | Hailey City Hall |

Community

Hailey Fields Relay for Life Team

August 14 was the start of the 14th Blaine County Relay for Life, a 14-hour fundraiser for the American Cancer Society. The City of Hailey hosted a team of 14 employees and friends. In conjunction with 11 other teams, more than \$12,000 was raised for cancer research. Many laps were walked, laughs shared, tears shed and awareness increased. The community spirit of city employees is an asset; we appreciate the support of Mayor Rick Davis and the Hailey City Council and the opportunity to give back to our community. Watch for this worthwhile event next year. Special thanks to Atkinson’s, Albertson’s, Coit Electric, Golden Elk, Power Engineers, City of Hailey and the local businesses who donated raffle prizes.



Correction

In last month’s issue, the caption with the front page photo of the sculpture garden incorrectly listed both The Village at Hailey Center and the Hailey Chamber as donors of the space for the garden. The Village at Hailey Center was the sole donor. *Our Town* regrets the error.

Street Department Employee Named Road Master

Street Department employee Gary Brockman has successfully completed the training required to be classified as a Road Master by the Local Highway Technical Assistance Council (LHTAC). The designation comes under the LHTAC’s Roads Scholar program, which provides training on the fundamentals of safety, management and advanced technology, and a wide variety of topics relevant to the transportation field. The Road Master classification involves 160 hours of training, including classroom work, field work, an occasional field trip and a competency exam. The expertise gained through this training enables our Street Department to continue to provide high quality maintenance and preservation services for city streets.

Commission Works to Develop New Guidelines for Murals

The Hailey Arts Commission and volunteer Katharine Sheldon are working with the Hailey Planning Department to develop guidelines for painting murals on non-residential buildings. The commission views the voluntary development of murals in the private sector as a significant contribution to the city's public art and a means to foster cultural tourism. The guidelines are intended to provide a measure of regulation while supporting the creation of murals on diverse topics using a wide range of styles.

The commission's vision is to create a flourishing mural program that can be supported by marketing activities, such as a mural walking guide. The goal is to draw visitors who are already visiting the area to come to Hailey and see the murals here.

For questions about the program, contact Mark Johnstone, 788-3788, markjohnstone@cox-internet.com or Tracy Anderson, 788-4221, ext. 26, tracy.anderson@haileycityhall.org.

Community

Neighborhood Housing Services (NHS) Offers Free Foreclosure Prevention Counseling

- Available to all Idaho residents for their primary residence
- NO COST for NHS housing counseling services
- NHS will work with you and your lender toward modification
- NHS is a nonprofit, HUD-approved housing counseling agency

Call NHS at 208-343-4065, ext. 119 or email home@nhsid.org or visit our website: www.nhsid.org

Beware of foreclosure rescue and loan modification scams! Contact the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development at 800-569-4287 to verify that a company is legitimate and reputable before you work with them.



The Sun Valley Guide's Best of the Valley survey resulted in several awards to the City of Hailey. In the Best City/County Staffer category, Heather Dawson, Jeff Gunter and Tracy Anderson shared a first place four-way tie with long-time Ketchum City Clerk Sandy Cady. "We are honored to be in Sandy's company," said Dawson. In addition to the first place awards, Hop Porter Park was voted the third best place for a children's birthday party, and the Fourth of July Parade was voted the third best annual event.

Hailey Public Library Seeks Input on Policy Change

The Hailey Public Library Board of Trustees is considering a policy change regarding children checking out DVD/VHS materials. We are asking for public input regarding this issue. Please be advised of the following:

1. Parents are responsible for any overdue fines and lost materials. Video fines are \$2.00 per video per day.
2. The library will not be censoring what a child checks out.
3. Pursuant to Idaho Code, regardless of age, no library employee may release information pertaining to an individual's account. This includes parents requesting information pertaining to a minor's account.
4. It is not the responsibility of the library to monitor a child's account.

Considering the above information, please answer the following question:

Should children be allowed to check out movies on their account?

Yes No

Your response may be returned with your City of Hailey utility bill payment or dropped off at the library. You may also respond to this question online at www.haileypubliclibrary.org or in person at the library. The library appreciates your input. For further information, please contact the library at 788-2036.

Meeting Notice

Changes to the Idaho State Daycare Laws

Wednesday, September 23, 5:30 p.m.

City Hall Upstairs Meeting Room