



# OUR TOWN

*Where the High Desert Meets the Mountains*

November 2015  
Issue No. 146

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[www.haileycityhall.org](http://www.haileycityhall.org)

## Public Works

### New Water Rates Applied to the Next Billing Cycle

Hailey City Council and Mayor Haemmerle held public hearings in September and October to discuss water rate increases. On Oct. 19th, they approved new water rates that will be reflected in your November bill. Rates are evaluated each budget season to ensure that the amount of revenue collected meets, but does not exceed, the cost to maintain and operate the water system within the city.

The new fiscal year started on Oct. 1st with a total water division operating budget increase of 28%. This increase can be attributed in part to the following increased expenses for new or continuing projects:

- ◆ Mobile generator for pump houses/wells as recommended by the Water System Master Plan - \$85,000
- ◆ Engineering fees and construction for improvements to Indian Springs collection system - \$135,000
- ◆ Consulting and legal fees to address water rights - \$100,000
- ◆ Truck fill card reader system - \$20,000
- ◆ Pump upgrades - \$45,000

Water rates include three types of fees: a base, bond and metered fee. The base and bond are flat fees, assessed to each bill.\* The metered fee is based on actual water consumption. In order to cover the additional expenses listed in the new fiscal year's budget, the following changes were made to the water rates (no changes have been made to the wastewater rates at this time):

\*See article on this page regarding changes to billing for multi-family housing.

## Message from the Mayor

### Board & Commission Appointments

Each year at this time we seek to appoint community members to various Boards and Commissions within city government. The enclosed brochure lists all of the various opportunities to serve within Hailey City government, and describes the fundamental mission of each board, commission, committee or organization.

Please thoughtfully consider applying for an appointment. Residency within Hailey is required in most cases; otherwise, your interest and concern regarding a specific area of government is sought without limitation. Call City Administrator with questions 788-4221 x 18.

### Billing Changes for Apartments, Condos and Other Multi-family Housing

Hailey City Council recently considered a separate change—not to rates, but to the way rates are calculated—that specifically affects multi-family dwellings that are not already individually metered. This includes most apartments and some condos and townhomes. Total water consumption will be divided by the number of units and each unit will be charged a base and bond fee for water along with the metered fee based on the average water usage for a unit or single family dwelling equivalent. Previously, the metered rate was applied to the total water usage for the entire property and only one base and bond fee was charged for water. The same will apply to sewer rates. These properties will see a change in their November bill as a result this change and the new water rates shown below.

| Gallons Used | Old Bond Fee | New Bond Fee | Old Base Fee | New Base Fee | Old Metered Fee | New Metered Fee | Old Total | New Total |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------|-----------|
| 1,000        | \$3.89       | \$3.16       | \$8.24       | \$8.66       | \$0.25          | \$0.44          | \$12.38   | \$12.26   |
| 3,000        | \$3.89       | \$3.16       | \$8.24       | \$8.66       | \$0.75          | \$1.32          | \$12.88   | \$13.14   |
| 6,000        | \$3.89       | \$3.16       | \$8.24       | \$8.66       | \$1.50          | \$2.64          | \$13.63   | \$14.46   |
| 20,000       | \$3.89       | \$3.16       | \$8.24       | \$8.66       | \$7.50          | \$13.20         | \$19.63   | \$25.02   |
| 50,000       | \$3.89       | \$3.16       | \$8.24       | \$8.66       | \$37.50         | \$66.00         | \$49.63   | \$77.82   |
| 100,000      | \$3.89       | \$3.16       | \$8.24       | \$8.66       | \$145.00        | \$242.00        | \$157.13  | \$253.82  |
| 200,000      | \$3.89       | \$3.16       | \$8.24       | \$8.66       | \$520.00        | \$583.09        | \$532.13  | \$594.91  |

## Hailey Public Library November Events



*As snowfalls make their  
premiere,  
November appears*

HaileyPublicLibrary.org

**Story Time-** Fridays at 10:30am  
**TNT Thursdays-** Every Thursday 4-5PM

**Libraries are DiVine –**  
**Sunday, Nov 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> – Starting at 6:00PM**  
Join HPL at DiVine Wine Bar for our second movie event: True Grit! Doors open at 6:00pm for dinner and drinks. Movie starts at 6:30pm.

**Veterans Day Closure – Wednesday, Nov 11<sup>th</sup>**  
The Hailey Public Library will be closed Wednesday November 11<sup>th</sup> in honor of Veterans Day. We will reopen on Nov 12<sup>th</sup> with normal hours of operations.

**Hailey Public Library Board Meeting –**  
**Wednesday, Nov 18<sup>th</sup> – Starting at 5:30PM**

**Let's Talk About It Book Discussion –**  
**Thursday, Nov 19<sup>th</sup> from 6:00PM – 7:30PM -**  
We begin our annual 'Let's Talk About It' book discussion with the book, *Choice Cuts*. This year's book theme is "We Are What We Eat."

**Thanksgiving Closure –**  
**Thursday, Nov 26<sup>th</sup> - Friday, Nov 27<sup>th</sup>**  
The Hailey Public Library will be closed Thursday November 26<sup>th</sup> and Friday November 27<sup>th</sup> in honor of Thanksgiving. We will reopen on the 28<sup>th</sup> with normal hours of operations.

LIBRARY EVENTS

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## Calendar

### Important Dates



City Council..... 11/02/15 and 11/16/15  
Art & Historic Preservation Commission..... 11/12/15  
Hailey Parks & Lands Board .....11/04/15  
Hailey Public Library Board..... 11/18/15  
Planning & Zoning Meetings..... 11/09/15  
Tree Committee ..... 11/12/15  
Urban Renewal Agency ..... none

**Veteran's Day \* .....11/11/15**  
**Thanksgiving \* .....11/26/15**  
**Friday After Thanksgiving \* .....11/27/15**

\* City Hall and Library Closed

## Public Works

### Water Rights - Delivery Calls Could Mean Less Water

Each drop of water we use in the city can be attributed to a water right -- a very valuable property right. There are important elements of a water right, such as the date the water right was put to use, which is known as the priority date. Hailey's water is either a groundwater from wells or a surface water right from the Big Wood River. Surface water rights usually have more senior priority dates than groundwater rights.

A water right is governed by a well-known constitutional principle called the Prior Appropriation Doctrine, which is summarized as "first in time, first in right." In other words, when there is not enough water to supply all the water rights, a senior water right can force a curtailment of junior water right in a water call.

Many western states recognize that there is a connection between groundwater and surface water. In recognition of this relationship, Idaho adopted conjunctive management rules in 1994, which requires surface and groundwater rights to be administered together as one interconnected resource. Conjunctive management has made the principle of first in time, first in right far more complex.

Conjunctive management has now arrived in Blaine County. Last February, surface water right holders below Magic Reservoir alleged that their water rights have been injured by groundwater use in the Wood River Valley. These allegations have resulted in the Idaho Department of Water Resources initiating a contested delivery call. This delivery call may impact Hailey's water rights and could include a requirement for curtailment.

Our primary goal in this water delivery call is to protect the city's water rights. As a result, we have to defend the water call, but we are trying to do so in a cost effective manner. For example, we have agreed to share in the costs of an engineering firm who is evaluating the pertinent water rights. We are also working closely with Bellevue in the legal defense of this water call and will continue our efforts to cooperate with other entities to reduce expenses.

There are many unknowns until we receive a decision on the call, but water calls can result in a reduction or curtailment in water usage, which could mean a limit to individuals' irrigation and possibly other water throughout the city.

*Look for more information regarding the call and other local water issues in future editions of Our Town.*

## Public Works

### City Requests Removal of Personal Belongings from Public Rights of Way

With winter on the way, the city is requesting all property owners to remove personal belongings and any other unpermitted uses from public rights of way.

#### Public Rights of Way Include:



Alleys, streets and sidewalks



Drainage ditches and canals



Neighborhood footpaths (paved or unpaved)



Roadsides and barrow pits

The city has noticed a number of encroachments into public rights of way that may cause issues with snow removal. In the coming weeks, property owners may be notified to remove these encroachments. Your cooperation is appreciated. Even if you do not receive a notice, you are still responsible to remove unpermitted encroachments from public rights of way.

A public right of way is any property owned by, or dedicated to, the city of Hailey for the purposes of providing city services and general circulation to the public. Such rights of way include, but are not limited to, public streets, alleys, sidewalks, roadsides/barrow pits, neighborhood footpaths (paved or unpaved), canals and drainage ditches.

An encroachment is any work or improvement within a public right of way. Driveways, mailboxes, landscaping, gardens, etc., are all different types of encroachments. A public right of way encroachment desired by a private property owner requires a permit. Fences are never permitted in a public right of way.

Snow removal and other utility work sometimes causes damage in public rights of way. Property owners should be aware that the city has no obligation to repair damage in a public right of way. This includes landscaping elements such as sod and irrigation systems that may have been installed by the property owner, regardless of whether the work was completed under a city-issued encroachment permit.

## Nuisances and Abandoned Vehicles

### A Proud Town is a Clean Town

A few years ago the City of Hailey adopted a nuisance ordinance and began implementing it with a soft approach. Of late, we've noticed that some areas of town develop a neighborhood norm of utilizing the street rights of way, the alleys, sidewalks and front yards as untidy collection areas for vehicles, personal property, and general storage. **What's wrong with the picture below?**



A more rigorous effort to enforce the nuisance ordinance is underway with the goal of getting some of these areas cleaned up. We urge all residents to take pride in their homefront and be respectful of the public

property that borders it. Please find storage for your materials prior to winter. Thank you!

## Public Works

### Snow Removal ABC's

**BEFORE WINTER BEGINS** – Remove personal belongings from the city right of way; items not removed may be damaged during plowing operations. The city is not responsible for any damage that may occur.

**PARKING RESTRICTIONS** – No overnight parking (12:00 a.m. to 7:00 a.m.) of any kind within any city right of way between Nov 1 and May 1. Where there is no improved curb and gutter, vehicles must be *at least 6'* off edge of asphalt. Illegally parked vehicles may be towed without notice and at the owner's expense.



#### CLEARING THE BERM IN YOUR

**DRIVEWAY** – When clearing the berm from your driveway, do not push, shovel or plow snow back into the roadway.

**RUBBISH AND RECYCLING CONTAINERS** – Keep rubbish and recycling containers back from the roadway during snowstorms.



# Thank you 2015 City of Hailey park adopters!



Award Winning Design, Installation, and Service



C-U Next Storm  
Landscaping



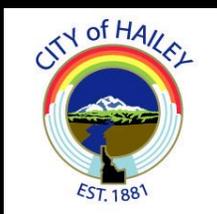
A DIVISION OF WHITEHEAD LANDSCAPE  
GARDEN DESIGN & MAINTENANCE

4302 Glenbrook Dr. Hailey, ID 83333



208-928-6083

Parks still available for adoption include Old Cutters, Deerfield, Heagle, Echo Hill, McKercher and Curtis. For more information contact Hailey Public Works at 788-9830.



Hailey's parks were at their  
best this season; we  
couldn't have done it  
without you.

