



# OUR TOWN

*Where the desert meets the mountains.*

October 2006  
Issue No. 42

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## Election News

### **Fire Station Bond Election Nov 7**

The Hailey City Council has asked that voters decide, in a November 7, 2006 bond election, whether Hailey should build a new fire station, to be located in Woodside.

**PROJECT NECESSITY** Since the early 1970's, there have been plans to locate a fire station in the Woodside area. Now that approximately 90% of Woodside is either built out or is in the process of being built out, the need to implement that plan is imminent.

1. Calls for emergency services are increasing faster in the Woodside area than any other area of the city, as Woodside approaches build-out.
2. All Woodside properties located south of Moonlight Dr. are considered outside of the Hailey Fire Department's service area by the insurance industry, which defines service area as properties within 1.5 miles from a fire station. North Woodside has 238 residential lots, central Woodside 806, and south Woodside 637 residential lots and 75 business lots. Only 128 lots are undeveloped.
3. Such a large number of properties outside the service area has a significant negative impact on our Insurance Protection Class rating, which directly affects insurance premiums paid by all commercial and business property owners within the City of Hailey. Our last rating was a Class 4 in 1997. We are due to be rated again within the next year, and the developed area outside Hailey's service area has increased from 10% to 27%. A drop to a Class 5 rating is estimated to result in a permanent increase in residential fire  
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## Hailey Arts Commission

### **Arts Commission Awarded Public Art Grant**

The Hailey Arts Commission and the City of Hailey were awarded a \$5,425.00 grant by the Idaho Commission on the Arts for public art at the new Woodside Park. The *Art for Public Places* grant program is an initiative designed to identify and support public art projects in Idaho.



The Hailey Arts Commission envisions the project as an entryway to the Woodside Park. The entryway would celebrate the building of a stronger community, and promote environmental stewardship in this beautiful valley that would be its home. The total project budget is \$8,305.00.

## Public Works Department News

### **Metered Water Rates Begin**

October 1 will begin the switch to a metered water rate for Hailey residents and some businesses, as a number of businesses are already on a metered rate. This will provide more equitability in water bills. If you use more water, you pay more. If you conserve water, your bill will be lower.

This month residents will notice a lack of water and sewer charges on utility bills. The reason for this is a switch from paying your water and sewer bills in advance to paying in arrears. Your utility bill that arrives next month will have the base monthly  
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Fire Station Bond Continued

insurance premiums of 9% to 16%. This could result in a cumulative increase in insurance premiums exceeding **one million dollars**.

4. Emergency response time will be reduced to all locations from a Woodside fire station. Over 60% of our Volunteer firefighters and EMT's reside in Woodside. They respond by driving first to the downtown equipment location, then to the emergency scene. The proposed station is estimated to save an average of more than 3 minutes in the response time to emergencies located in the Woodside area, and one or two minutes to emergencies located elsewhere in the city, as the drive time in personnel vehicles to a station would be significantly reduced. The current 8 minute response time to south Woodside is a significant safety issue.
5. With significant growth of the City of Hailey at large, the Hailey Fire Department has outgrown the 1,200 square feet of office and training room space at our existing facility, and is in need of additional apparatus and equipment storage space. We have an immediate need for at least 2 more heated apparatus bays.
6. The Hailey Fire Department intends, in time, to staff full-time firefighters, and the Woodside facility would accommodate 24/7 living and work spaces.

**PROJECT COST AND SCOPE**

The proposed fire substation contains two double length apparatus bays that can house 4 apparatus; an administrative wing that provides a modest



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Metered Water Rates Continued

charge and bond payment (\$11.89 for water and \$29.24 for sewer) plus the metered water charge. These rates are for a standard ¾” water service. If you have a larger water service both your water and sewer base monthly charges will be proportionally higher

The metered water rates, on a cost per thousand gallons, are as follows:

▪ 1,000 gallons to 50,000 gallons	\$0.48
▪ 50,000 to 100,000 gallons	\$0.97
▪ 100,000 to 150,000 gallons	\$1.38
▪ 150,000 to 200,000 gallons	\$1.73
▪ 200,000 and above gallons	\$2.07

This means that in the winter a residence using the city average of 6,000 gallons per month will pay an additional \$2.88 (6 x \$0.48). However, with a summer use of 50,000 gallons the metered water cost will be \$24.00. Please be aware that water usage is rounded down, i.e. 2,999 gallons will be billed as 2,000 gallons. The intent of these rates is to keep your annual water bill as close as possible to your current bill with proper watering practices. There is information available both at City Hall and on the city website ([www.haileycityhall.org](http://www.haileycityhall.org)) on proper irrigation practices. Further questions should be directed to the Public Works Department at 788-9830.

Calendar

**Important Dates**

Arts Commission .....	10/17/06
City Council Meetings .....	10/09/06
.....	10/19/06
.....	10/23/06
.....	10/26/06
.....	10/30/06
Historic Preservation Commission .....	10/03/06
.....	10/31/06
Parks & Lands Board .....	10/04/06
P&Z Meetings .....	10/02/06
.....	10/16/06
<b>Election related dates:</b>	
Last day to Register to Vote .....	10/13/06
Last day to request mailed ballot.....	11/01/06
Last day in-person absentee voting .....	11/06/06

office area for the administrative and fire prevention functions, as well as a moderately sized classroom that can seat approximately 45 persons. This area can also be designed to provide an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to centrally manage any significant threat or hazard to our city. The proposed substation also contains a duty-quarters wing which will serve as future living quarters for up to 4 emergency personnel serving a 24 hour shift rotation schedule.

The total proposed square footages of the building include:

Apparatus Bay Area ----	4,800/sf (plus an additional 1,600 s.f. of mezzanine storage)
Administrative Wing ---	2,880/sf
Duty Quarters -----	<u>2,765/sf</u>
TOTAL	10,445/sf

Total cost estimate provided by Kreizenbeck Constructors based on preliminary drawings dated June 5, 2006, minus the various items or building features that were deemed non-essential, results in a construction total of \$2,639,585. This translates to approximately \$246/sf for construction costs.

The land for the station has been graciously deeded to the city by Dave Anderson, of Sprenger Development. Additional costs for landscaping, furniture, equipment and professional service fees are not included in the above construction costs. Hailey estimates \$2.8 million following completion of all these elements.

A bond that the city has been paying for the purchase of our existing city hall building (Fox/Brown Building) is near the end of its term. We are recommending that a new 21 year bond be issued for the same annual payment amount. This will provide approximately \$2.3 million with which to finance the majority of the Woodside Fire Station project. Funding this \$2.3 million by acquiring a new bond will result in no net increase in property taxes due to this project.

### **CONSOLIDATION OF FIRE JURISDICTIONS**

The cities in the southern portion of the Wood River Valley are currently protected by the Bellevue and Hailey city fire departments. For

taxing reasons, the unincorporated areas surrounding the two cities are protected by the Wood River Fire Protection District. While the Wood River FPD currently operates two stations within Hailey, neither of these two stations are located close enough to include the south Woodside areas with which we are concerned.

The option to consolidate the Hailey Fire Department with the Wood River Fire Protection district and/or Bellevue has been proposed and studied many times over the past 16 years. While many strides have been taken to assure the best possible response is provided to the entire community of the Wood River Valley, existing state laws make it financially unfeasible to merge, contract, consolidate or create a "super" district that encompasses Hailey, Bellevue and surrounding unincorporated areas, without increasing the average amount that a Hailey citizen will be taxed for a similar level of service by a factor of up to six times their existing costs.



Until a financially feasible method of legally consolidating these departments is found, our local fire departments have developed many agreements and cooperative ventures that utilize the equipment and talent of each department. Existing cooperative agreements include:

- Automatic aid agreements that respond designated emergency equipment for any agency based on the type of call without any time delay.
- Mutual aid agreements that provide the capabilities to give or receive additional support from any fire department in the county (or state), without cost to the department who is requesting aid.
- Hailey, Ketchum and Wood River Fire Agencies currently comprise the Blaine County Hazardous Materials Response Team,

and are committed to respond anywhere within the region to assist in the mitigation of a hazardous materials spill.

- The Hailey Fire Department currently maintains a multi-casualty emergency response trailer that can treat and provide care for over 75 persons. This unit is available for response anywhere it is needed.
- All of the area fire departments have been working to develop a county wide training center dedicated to fire and rescue training.
- All of the fire agencies located in the county cooperate and coordinate fire and EMS training courses, which provide consistent and uniform standards of operation throughout the valley.

While seamless operation of the 5 departments operating in the Wood River Valley has not yet been achieved, continuing progress is being made toward that goal. The Hailey Fire Department and Wood River Fire Protection District have held several meetings to coordinate the locations of new fire stations in the Hailey area to eliminate the redundancy of existing stations. The possible solutions include options such as future consolidation, shared facilities or long term lease arrangements as needed. These possible solutions are only enhanced by a Woodside fire station, the need for which is prevalent with our without consolidation.

The decision to construct a new station comes down to one of three options.

**1.** Do not construct a new Fire Station, do not drop to a Class 5 rating, and accept that emergency response times to the southern Woodside area average over 8 minutes.

**Cost** --- Increased response time to these areas also increase the likelihood of death, and/or property damage.

**Cost** --- Repair, remodel and enlarge the existing station to accommodate the existing and future apparatus and equipment needs.

**2.** Do not construct a new fire station, drop to a Class 5 rating with additional insurance to all.

**Cost** --- 9 to 16% in additional residential insurance premiums, estimated at a cumulative cost exceeding \$1,000,000.

**Cost** --- Repair, remodel and enlarge the existing station to accommodate the existing and future apparatus and equipment needs.



**3.** Construct a new station to include a sizable portion of the city located outside the existing fire station service area.

**Cost** --- Approximately \$2.8 million single expense

**Cost** --- By authorizing a new bond, and utilizing impact and annexation fees, the average net cost increase in taxes to a Hailey citizen is \$0

## EXISTING FIRE STATION

The Countryside Station **is not** intended to replace our existing station, but is a part of a master plan to construct new fire stations in the valley to better serve the emergency needs of our citizens. As these new stations are constructed, the older existing stations of our local departments can be sold or removed to eliminate the existing redundancy of fire station location. It is anticipated that when a future Wood River Rural/Hailey Fire shared station is constructed in the northern section of the city center, that our existing station, as well as the two existing Wood River Fire & Rescue stations may be demobilized. Any proceeds from these properties may be used to finance the construction of this station. In the interim, the existing station will continue to sever the needs of the central and northern portions of the city.

Please contact Chief Michael Chapman at 788-3147 or [mchapman2@cox-internet.com](mailto:mchapman2@cox-internet.com)