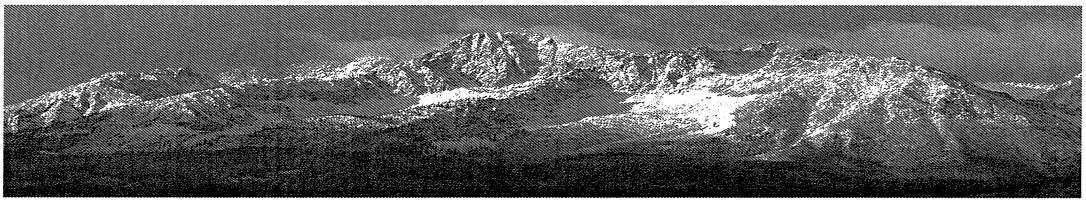
UPDATE

City of Stanley

October 2011



Stanley, Idaho: Altitude with an Attitude

Informed citizens create better communities.

IMPORTANT DATES

- 2nd Thursday of each month
  City Council meeting
  Community Center
  Check local postings for actual dates
- November 8
  Election Day - Vote!
- February11-12
  Stanley Winterfest
- March 3-4
  Annual Ski Festival
- March 10-11
  Sled Dog Races

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Voters to Decide Future of Stanley Local Option Tax

Voters have an important decision to make this November that will have great impact on services provided by city government. The Local Option Tax (LOT), which currently imposes a 2.5% tax on all sales subject to state sales tax (except for guided package sales such as guided hunting and fishing trips), was last authorized by voters four years ago and will expire unless it is renewed. The City Council supports renewal of the tax, and has passed an ordinance that will accomplish this, if it is approved by voters in the November 8, 2011 election.

Purposes of LOT

The main purpose of the LOT as outlined in state law is to provide property tax relief for small towns with tourist-based economies by allowing them to partially fund basic services and special projects with this additional revenue. The idea is that tourists should share the burden for services and infrastructure that they rely upon in these towns, rather than having local property owners shoulder all the costs through higher property taxes.

The option tax ordinance passed by the City Council proposes some minor changes to the current ordinance. Primary changes involve extending the duration of the tax from four to five years, and changing the purposes of the tax to clarify that road maintenance and planning for recreational facilities are permitted, to eliminate support for community organizations that receive funds from taxing districts, to support special events that enhance business and provide tax revenues, and to provide matching funds for grants used to further the goals of the Stanley Comprehensive Plan.

Role of Voters

Unlike property taxes, which comprise about 30% of the City's revenue, state law provides that the voters periodically get to decide whether to impose the LOT, including the tax rate, the duration, and the purposes for which the revenues can be used. Renewal of the LOT requires approval by 60% of the people who vote in the November election.

Impact of LOT

For the past 26 years, Stanley has relied on LOT funds to help fund many beneficial services, such as promotion to enhance business opportunities, 4th of July fireworks, road grading, dust abatement, snow plowing, city park management and improvement, community building maintenance, emergency services, and law enforcement. Since the LOT currently provides almost half of the normal city operating budget, eliminating this large revenue source will result in significant reductions in services unless property taxes are increased to cover the deficiency. Details of these reductions are available from the city website or the City Clerk. Voters are encouraged to turn out on November 8th to make this important decision. (Visit www.stanley.id.gov for information, including a summary of the history of LOT.)

Vandalism to Stanley's "Welcome" is Source of Concern

Several years ago, a gentleman driving into Stanley noted that it was a shame to be entering the gem of the state through a gravel pit! That was the way the intersection of Highways 21 and 75 looked. He decided something should be done. So, he contacted a good friend and together they arranged for a grant through the Idaho Transportation Department for corner beautification to be awarded to the City and implemented by the Sawtooth Mountain Mamas. Those two gentlemen were Jim Bennetts of Challis and former governor Cecil Andrus!

The Mamas were up to the challenge. The corners were graded, fill dirt brought in, a sprinkler system installed (powered by the generosity of Mountain Village Resort), trees planted, native grasses sown, and benches placed. The intersection, where three Scenic Byways converge, is a welcome sight to visitors and locals alike!

The final touch on the beautification project occurred this summer with the placement of large, engraved "Welcome" stones. Unfortunately, the stones have been pushed over three times this summer! The first time, the Mamas paid to reset the stone; the second time, local people came to the rescue to reset both stones; after one of the stones was again vandalized, the Mountain Mamas have paid over $800 to have the stones permanently anchored. As this is money that the Mamas could better spend on other community needs, they are asking for donations to help defray this expense.

Please help stop this useless prank! Anyone with information about these incidents should contact Stanley Police Department. The Mamas will provide a reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the vandals. Community businesses and/or individuals who wish to support can send donations to Sawtooth Mountain Mamas, Box 33, Stanley.

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CITY CONTACTS

City office open

Monday - Thursday

8 am to 5 pm

208.774.2286

Box 53 Stanley, ID

83278

www.stanley.id.gov

cityclerk@ruralnetwork.net

MAYOR

Herb Mumford

CITY COUNCIL

Steve Botti

Laurii Gadwa

Frank Juiliano

Lem Sentz

CITY CLERK

Doug Plass

CITY POLICE

208.774.3711 office

208.774.3327 dispatch

CITY MAINTENANCE

James Denhart

UPDATE is compiled by Stanley City Mayor, City Council, and City Clerk, and edited by Vicki Jo Lawson. Photos are by Steve Botti, Erica Cole, and David Keiski.

Darker Skies over Stanley

As urbanization steadily expands, the ability to view a dark night sky is becoming a thing of the past for most people. As a small town surrounded by wild lands, Stanley is in the enviable position of being able to restore and preserve this experience for its residents and visitors.

Stanley has a number of lights producing significant glare due to light being directed outward and upward in addition to downward where it is needed most. These lights impair the dark night sky experience in Stanley and have generated complaints from residents and visitors alike. Rather than impose lighting restrictions by ordinance as many towns have done, the City Council believes that voluntary retrofitting of its street lights and possibly privately owned lights can solve the problem. The City can lead by example for those installing lights in the future.

Stanley has partnered with the Salmon River Electric Cooperative to seek a grant to replace glaring lights with new-technology LED light fixtures that will meet dark sky certification requirements and eliminate glare by directing light downward where it is needed. The new lights will also greatly reduce energy costs to the city and participating private property owners. The City also has begun a fundraising effort to support this program. The City of Challis is seeking to retrofit its street lights with this technology, as well.

Once the project is completed, the City may be able to qualify as an International Dark Skies Community, and use that designation to promote tourism and additional business opportunities.

"A good lighting management program protects wildlife, bolsters interest in Astrotourism, night hikes, or other nighttime activities, and generally boosts revenue while saving money and energy by controlling lighting needs. A dark night sky will be a legacy for future generations."

-International Dark Sky Association

Hey, Where's All the Dust?

Stanley expanded its dust abatement treatments in 2011 on City streets to include an additional section of Wall Street, Niece Avenue, and Ace of Diamonds. Instead of a petroleum-based product, the City is using a vegetable-based, biodegradable polymer.

All Litigation Involving City Resolved

The City was a defendant or respondent in five legal actions since 2009. The City did not initiate any litigation, but could not ignore suits when they were filed against the City. Obligated to defend itself, the City fared well. It has prevailed in three cases; one case was remanded for further proceedings; and the other was resolved prior to judgment. The judge never overruled any City Council decision and never rendered any financial judgment against the City. The City reached settlement agreements with the litigants to resolve any remaining issues. For more details regarding the lawsuits, please visit www.stanley.id.gov.

New Sawtooth Valley Earthquake Fault Discovered

In late 2010, scientists from Idaho State University discovered a new active earthquake fault that runs along the eastern side of the Sawtooth Range, from approximately Stanley Lake to Petitt Lake. Preliminary studies reveal that the fault was active about 4100 and 7000 years ago. The fault crosses the upper end of Redfish Lake and has caused landslides into the lake. U.S.G.S. studies confirm the high likelihood of an earthquake of magnitude 5.0 or greater within this area within the next 100 years. This fault presents a significant seismic hazard that may require reassessment of local building codes and emergency response plans.

Sandhill Cranes along Highway 21

What's Up in Stanley?

Thanks to community news contributors: Kirk Bachman, Casey Bruck, Terry Clark, Erica Cole, Dia Danner, Laurii and Gary Gadwa, John Graham, Andy Gunderson, David Keiski, Ellen Libertine, and Jane Somerville.

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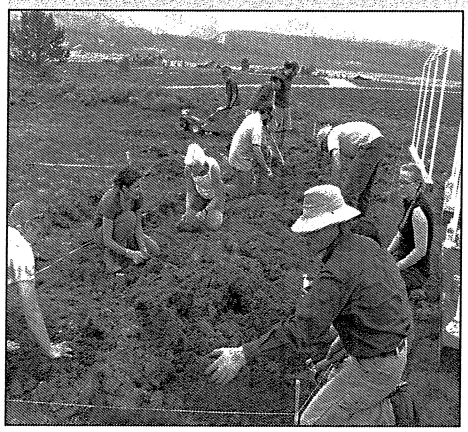

AlpenGrow work day

Helping Stanley Grow

A cold spring this year delayed initial planting in Stanley's community garden, AlpenGrow. However, the gardeners adjusted to the reliably unpredictable climate, and this fall's harvest surfaced in a blaze of orange, purple, and red root vegetables, green onions and herbs. The progressive success of AlpenGrow's bounty helps propel the ultimate mission: to cultivate a steadfast supply of local, sustainable produce that can be distributed throughout the community.

The gardeners will have their hands full this off-season. Currently, they are preparing to meet over the course of the winter to devise ways to encourage more community participation and funding, and to explore the potential of greenhouses to diversify the selection of produce and extend the growing season into winter. Anyone interested in helping should contact Jen Hettum at highjen2@yahoo.com .

PLEASE NOTE! The fire department has free smoke alarms to give to residents in need of them; smoke alarms should be located in bedrooms, halls and living rooms. Call (774.2222) or stop by when the firehouse door is open. Also, please don't forget to clean the chimney/pipe before starting a fire in your woodstove this year!

Chapel Wears Many Hats

The unique Sawtooth Meditation Chapel continues to meet multiple community needs, serving as a place of worship for a wide variety of denominations and as a venue for weddings, musical events, yoga classes, and bible study. Recently, the Chapel has received some renovations and polishing, including refurbishment of the stunning stained glass windows, cleaning and oiling of the interior logs, addition of a storage shed, and addition of outdoor benches built by Brennan Clegg as a Scout project. Over the past few years, new pews, carpet, and roof have been installed, ensuring that the Chapel will serve the community into the future.

This is the best view I've ever had!

-Eric Valli, Parisian film maker, upon walking into the Sawtooth Meditation Chapel during summer, 2011.

Local Emergency Services Busy

Emergency service volunteers of the Sawtooth Valley have had a busy season this year. With the lingering high water this spring, the swift water team was called out three times for rescues on the Salmon River. Both fire and the emergency medical service (EMS) folks were active with vehicle and ATV accidents, on and off road. Sawtooth Search and Rescue (SAWSAR), fire, and EMS folks were involved with incidents that required many hours of teamwork to bring injured people out of the woods. The fire department is pleased that there have been few fires this season. They have had to respond to only one wild land fire on public land. In mid-October, emergency service volunteers will have the opportunity to get hands-on practice in fire fighting and rescue techniques, when an old structure will be burned. This will be a refresher training for some and vitally needed experience for new volunteers.

SAWSAR has a new agreement with the Forest Service which enhances the cadre of response personnel for backcountry and front country search and rescue efforts. Donations have allowed SAWSAR to equip volunteers and to create a command vehicle that serves as a state of the art multi-agency communications center, including a 911 digital voice recorder and multi-interoperability radios. SAWSAR's latest endeavor is to build a mountain bike-tired, Stokes litter carrier that can be operated by as few as two rescuers. This will replace the ATV -tired Stokes litter which typically requires seven rescuers, plus a relief crew. SAWSAR is always open to new members! Members don't have to be "mountain goats", since there are needs for communications and logistics positions.

Donors of funds and skills to SAWSAR include Sawtooth Mountain Mamas, Sawtooth Society, Mikee Linville Memorial, Dumpke Foundation, and Sean Tajkowski.

Congratulations to Tim, Becky, Kelly, and crew for the Sawtooth Hotel's listing as one of the "world's best new boutique hotels" in the latest issue of Budget Travel! Woohooo!

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Dancin' in the Streets!

The Stanley Street Dance Series 2011 made its debut on June 30 and ran through August 10. Sponsored primarily by Back Eddy's Market, Papa Brunee's and the Kasino Club, the series also received support from Coors, the City of Stanley, the Stanley Community Library and StanHarrah. The Series was a huge success, gaining popularity as the summer went on. Approximately 2,000 people attended, rain or shine. The Series featured mostly Idaho bands, but did manage to bring in the Austin-based national act, The Trishas. Other featured acts included 10 Mile Station, Gizzard Stone, Black Label, New Transit, The Braun Band, and Kole Moulton's Lonely Road. Opening acts included Nick Chase (his professional debut), Mike Goodrich, and Ben Brault (his solo debut).

One of the features most enjoyed by attendees was the "street food". Papa Brunee's offered pizza by the slice, burgers, gyros and ice cream. Back Eddy's featured Kitty's tacos, dogs and more. Shauna's Street Grill presented a variety of wraps, sausages, dogs and tacos. The Kasino Street Bar had Mikey and Cus pouring ice cold Coors and triple berry margaritas and providing full bar service. The Library featured a child-friendly lawn. Everyone enjoyed watching the kids dance!

An expanded schedule is planned for 2012, with more national acts, a wider range of opening acts, a mini Bluegrass Festival called "Street Grass", a 4th of July Firecracker Special, and a Grand Finale on August 18. One of the Series organizers, John Graham, said, "We anticipate that the Series will double in size while retaining the small town atmosphere, quality of music, and the best street food in Idaho!"

Volunteer Wanted

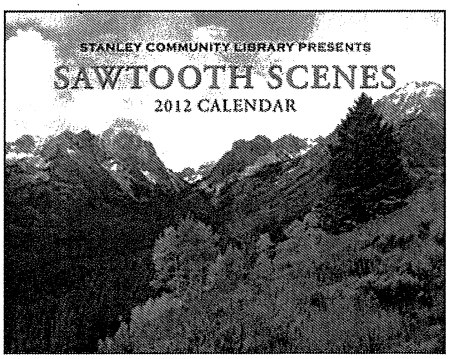
Ellen Libertine, paid Coordinator of the Stanley-Sawtooth Chamber of Commerce, is seeking a volunteer to gather local events information and to format this information for local TV community calendar websites. The calendar templates are usually not the same, so this would not be a copy and paste job. All event information received by the Chamber will be forwarded to the volunteer, although the volunteer may be required to call the individual event organizers for further information for some templates. Interested folks should contact Ellen at info@stanleycc.org.

WinterFest!

The City of Stanley needs someone to help organize the Stanley WinterFest, scheduled for February 11-12. In addition to the Ace of Diamonds Drag Race and Outhouse Race, this year's celebration will include more kid-friendly activities. Brett Wooley and Jeff Welker have offered to help, and Frank Juiliano will be available as a planning resource. If you, or anyone you may be acquainted with is interested, please contact Doug at the City office.

New Home for Stanley Community Library

The Stanley Community Library Board of Trustees and Library Director Jane Somerville are pleased to announce that the Jack and Ruth Niece house at the corner of Niece and Critchfield streets has been selected for the library's new home. Remodeling will begin as soon as the necessary funds can be raised, with the goal of moving in within two years. One local said of this, **"Stanley's library is the heart of our community, and this feels like a heart transplant that will keep the library healthy for a long time to come!"** People wishing to donate to the building fund should contact Jane Somerville at 774.2470. Sales of the Sawtooth Scenes 2012 Calendar also will be used to support the building fund. Calendars are available at www.sawtoothcalendar.com. Also, Bowls & Books discussion group is back this winter! This year's theme is "Our Earth, Our Ethics" and includes books by: Edward Abbey, Barbara Kingsolver, Aldo Leopold and more!



Ride Idaho Donates Picnic Tables for Park

You may have noticed new picnic tables in Pioneer Park. Eight expanded metal tables were donated by *Ride Idaho* to replace some of the tables that were stolen or are no longer serviceable. *Ride Idaho* is a non-profit organization powered by local volunteers. They organize and administer an annual 7-day, all-ability bicycling tour through Idaho to inform and inspire cyclists with Idaho's heritage and history, bring business to rural communities, promote healthy lifestyles, and raise awareness of safe cycling. *Ride Idaho* may be back through Stanley next summer, so greet and thank them when you see them!

Sawtooth NRA Report

Thanks to Barbara Garcia and staff for contributing Forest Service news

The US Forest Service (USFS) manages the lands that provide the wild and unobstructed views from Stanley and the rich recreation opportunities surrounding Stanley. These are some of things that they have been working on in the Sawtooth NRA with the help of their many partners.

TRAILS – During the summer, trail crews maintained 600 miles, reconstructed West Fork, Big Smoky, and Phyllis Lake Trails, replaced Williams Creek Trail bridge; relocated Hell Roaring Trailhead, constructed Rough Creek Trail puncheons, performed heavy tread repair to the Iron Creek Trail, and constructed 5 trail bridges.

CAMPGROUNDS – As of the end of August, concessionaire-operated campgrounds hosted 66,450 campers!

TIMBER –

- Fuels reduction work was completed on 80 acres near private lands along Highway 21; another 150 acres near private lands are being worked on.
- 45 personal use permits were issued for post and poles, tree transplants, etc.
- 600 verbenone pouches were applied and 400 trees were sprayed to protect from mountain pine beetles.
- 3,000 hazard trees were cut and removed.
- 2,500 cords of firewood have been sold to date; the year-end estimate is 3,000 cords.
- Up to 1,500 cords of wood will be removed from a newly opened free use area.

WILDLIFE – In 2012, the USFS will participate in a study on wolverine response to backcountry winter recreation. The data and information gathered from this project will assist biologists in determining the level and intensity of risk to wolverine that is posed by winter recreation activities. This knowledge will guide management decisions in order to allow backcountry winter recreationists and wolverines to co-exist.

Stanley Airport Improvements Made

The USFS worked with Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) Division of Aeronautics to review and approve Stanley airport runway paving. The USFS holds a scenic/conservation easement on the property which limits development, but specific improvements may be approved by the Area Ranger. This summer, approximately 1,600 feet of runway were paved and the parking lot improved in conjunction with Highway 75 resurfacing. IDT will re-seed areas of the airport disturbed during construction with drought-tolerant native grasses. Once established, these grasses, along with the pavement, should help control dust generated during airport use.

Music Festival a Thunderous Success

The Stanley Music Festival provided great entertainment again this summer, despite competition from the summer's greatest lightning and thunder show in the Sawtooth mountains. The event was well attended, and provided a welcome boost to many local businesses. One local restaurant served so many festival attendees that it ran out of food! Cooperation and coordination between the City and the Festival continues to make this a successful and well-managed event even as it grows larger each year. The Festival and spin-off benefits to local business also provided a welcome boost in option tax revenues, even in this difficult economic climate.

Year of Growth for Sawtooth Interpretive and Historical Association

In 2011, Sawtooth Interpretive and Historical Association (SIHA) took an optimistic leap into the future by hiring its first Executive Director, Terry Clark of Hailey, and entering into a special use agreement with the Sawtooth NRA to manage the Redfish Visitor Center. The Center was in danger of not opening, but the partnership allowed it to be open all summer, serving almost 10,000 visitors. In addition, SIHA hosted an additional 2,044 visitors at interpretive programs, including Junior Ranger programs, Redfish Lake boat tours, discovery stations, campfire programs, and nature walks. An art gallery, featuring local artists was added to the interpretive displays at the Center. In addition, SIHA continued doing these things: operating the Stanley Museum, serving 4,000 visitors; restoring the ice house; and hosting the 4th Annual Sawtooth Forum and Lecture Series, attended by over 1,100 people. SIHA also hosted the Salmon Festival with Idaho Rivers United, and co-hosted a talk by Congressman Orval Hansen at the Community Center with the Stanley Library Association. SIHA plans to continue building on these successes in 2012 with the support of its board, staff, and local community cooperators.

10th Annual Sawtooth Ski Festival

Sawtooth Ski Club will again groom over 30 kilometers of cross-country ski trails at Alturas Lake and Park Creek ski areas from December through March, helping to make Stanley a winter recreation destination. The Club will host and celebrate the10th Annual Ski Festival on March 3-4.

Geothermal Feasibility Study Underway in Stanley

Residents and visitors to the Sawtooth NRA have long fantasized about a geothermal-heated community swimming facility. Such a facility would not only benefit residents, but could serve as a major, year-round tourist attraction, benefitting the local economy. To that end, the City has contracted a geothermal feasibility study.

The study is a necessary first-step in achieving the longer term goal of development of the area's geothermal resource. To determine potential, a geologic, geophysical, and geochemical survey of the area is underway to do these things:

- Locate fault systems beneath the surface which control the geothermal fluid flows.
- Describe the chemical qualities of the geothermal water at the surface to predict temperatures.
- Conduct geophysical surveys to evaluate the geothermal system controlling fluid movement.
- Target locations to place an exploratory well.

If the geothermal resources prove to be hot enough and have a sufficient flow rate, they could be used for a number of things, including space heating of public and private spaces, operation of greenhouses, generation of power using low-temperature, low- impact binary technology, in addition to sustaining a geothermal swimming pool.

The feasibility study should be completed by the end of November. The City Council will subsequently discuss the findings and explore the next course of action. Please check the city website for information as it becomes available.

To fund the study, the City applied for and received a USDA Rural Business Enterprise Grant and matching funds from Custer Economic Development Association , Salmon River Electric Cooperative and others. In kind services and use of equipment are also being donated by professors from Idaho State University and others which constitute part of the matching funds for the grant. Thanks to the generosity of our community and friends of Stanley, city funds are not required for the feasibility study.

City of Stanley

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