



# OUR TOWN

Where the desert meets the mountains.

May 2010  
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## Community Projects

### Just Bag It! Reduces Plastic Consumption on Earth Day

Thank you to the 6 partners, 19 participating stores and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for their involvement in the *Just Bag It!* pollution source



reduction program. The 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Earth Day was highlighted by the distribution of nearly 4,000 bright red bags, greatly reduced plastic bag usage at local retailers and the enthusiasm of Hailey citizens and visitors. A printed brochure in both English and Spanish was included to help increase awareness of the problems with single-use plastic bags. The ERC's contribution toward bag purchases assured the availability of bags in the Ketchum Atkinson's, and the Hailey Chamber ran radio spots for the five days preceding Earth Day.



Cashiers did a remarkable job in working with customers to make Earth Day a bag free day, and shoppers seemed to be excited

about the reusable bags. Several people had a strong desire to receive more than one of the bags and a couple even offered to pay for it! At least one family went to all the partnering stores (Albertsons, Atkinson's and King's) to buy something just so they could get three bags – one from each store.

Tables were manned by numerous volunteers (individuals as well as groups like the Wood River High School Environmental Club and Citizens for Smart Growth), and city employees. These



volunteers offered reused bags to shoppers who wanted to add more reusable bags to their shopping bag quiver. The tables also offered information about the *Just Bag It!* program, information on the problems with both plastic and paper single-use grocery bags and some samples of handmade reusable produce bags and totes made out of used plastic grocery bags. There was so much interest in learning how to make the plastic bag tote that a class was offered at *Curves* over the weekend and another class is being considered in the library.

This summer, watch for an additional supply of red bags at the Wood River Farmer's Market. Also this July, be sure to stop at Albertsons or Atkinson's to see the *Just Bag It!* public art project (see page 2 for more information). And for the YouTube enthusiasts out there, the 2<sup>nd</sup> video contest is now open; look at the announcements on Hailey's homepage for more information.

See page 2 for EPA disclaimer.



**Election Day**  
**Tuesday, May 25, 2010**  
**Special Bond Election**  
**Hailey Rodeo Park**

**Polling Place / All Precincts:**  
Community Campus Gymnasium  
(Old High School, 1050 Fox Acres Road)

**Polls Open:** 8:00 a.m.– 8:00 p.m.

**In-Person Absentee Vote Polling Place:**  
Blaine County Courthouse  
*In-Person Absentee Voting Closes*  
*at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, May 24*

VOTE!