



# City of Sun Valley Newsletter

Winter 2016

## Upcoming Meetings

### Regular City Council

*Meetings typically held on the 1st Thursday of the month at 4:00 p.m.*

Thurs., Apr. 7th at 4:00 p.m.

Tues., May 3rd at 4:00 p.m.

*(rescheduled by resolution)*

Thurs., Jun. 2nd at 4:00 p.m.

You can also click [here](#) to see the full calendar of 2016 Regular City Council meetings.

### Finance Committee

*Meetings held the Monday before City Council Meetings at 1:00 p.m.*

Apr. 4th at 1:00 p.m.

May 2nd at 1:00 p.m.

May 31st at 1:00 p.m.

You can also click [here](#) to see the full calendar of 2016 Finance Committee meetings.

### Planning & Zoning

*Meetings held the second and fourth Thursdays of the month at 9:00 a.m.*

Mar. 24th at 9:00 a.m.

Apr. 14th at 9:00 a.m.

You can also click [here](#) to see the full calendar of 2016 Planning and Zoning meetings, with submittal deadlines.

**Check our [online meeting calendar](#) for more information!**

## Mayor's Message

Dear Citizens and Neighbors,

Although we are only a few months into the new year, much has occurred in our city. In January, I was sworn in as Mayor and Michelle Griffith and Jane Conard took their seats as re-elected Council Members. Brad DuFur was appointed and confirmed to my vacated Council seat and Keith Saks was re-elected to serve as Council President. New City board and liaison position appointments included Sherri Newland to the Planning and Zoning Commission, Sally Gillespie to the Sun Valley Marketing Alliance, and Councilman Brad

DuFur to the Regional Transportation Committee.

The Council and I interviewed numerous citizens interested in serving our city. All are enthusiastic, involved, and knowledgeable neighbors that stepped forward to devote time and energy to the city. We will be calling on them and others in the future for input on the many important issues facing us. The wider our scope of inclusion, the better decisions we will make.

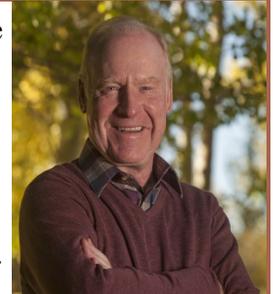
Some topics we are addressing now and in the near future include the renewal of our Local Option Tax; water conservation issues; an encroachments ordinance; Yew plant concerns; infra-

structure issues and financing; the Elkhorn Fire Station

sleeping quarters buildout; and the Request for Proposals for a City Attorney.

I encourage you to make your opinions and concerns known to me or the Council. If you wish to become involved in any issue on an ongoing basis, please let us know. The more elected officials hear from you, the better our decision-making process will be. It's our city; get involved.

*Peter Hendricks*  
Mayor



## Welcome new Council Member, Brad DuFur!

Brad DuFur was appointed as the new City Council member at the January 7, 2016 City Council meeting to fill the seat of Mayor Peter Hendricks until January, 2018.

Brad graduated in 1987 from Miami of Ohio with a BS in Finance and a minor in Economics. A few years later he visited Sun Valley, and like so many, had to find a way to live in our valley. He moved to Sun Valley in 1989 and set up and managed an estimating and accounting program for a local construction company. During that time he married his wife, Cyndi, of 25 years and started his family. He and his wife are thrilled to have the privilege to raise their three children in this idyllic place. Brad became a Real Estate Broker in 1992 and opened his own firm, Sun Valley Real Estate, in 1998.



He is grateful for the opportunity to serve and to play a part in enhancing the progress of our city.

✧ For Newsletters visit our website or sign up for e-blasts ! ✧



### Police Department

It looks like 2016 will go down as a great snow fall year, with our snow totals at around 140% of normal so far this winter. We are all celebrating the much needed moisture and the wonderful skiing, but it does bring some safety concerns. We have had a higher number of accidents and slide offs, as our roads are snow covered and slick. Remember to slow down, give yourself additional stopping room behind cars, and don't oversteer when you lose traction.

The snow has driven our big game herds into our city and neighborhoods. Numerous accidents have occurred in areas that big game are using to cross streets and highways,

so please be alert during morning and evening hours.

Even though we do not have an ordinance about leaving your vehicle unattended while idling, we receive complaints at the Police Department. We don't necessarily need a law to reduce this practice, we just need people to be good neighbors, especially in condo parking lots, where both the noise and carbon may affect your neighbor. So, thank you in advance in helping reduce these types of complaints into our office.

I would like to introduce the newest officer to join our team at Sun Valley Police Department, and many of you may already know him and his family. Colby Benz was born here, attended the Com-

munity School and recently graduated from Colorado State University with a degree in Communication. During the interview and testing process, Colby said that it was his dream to come back to Sun Valley, become a police officer and give back to a community that he loves. Colby now has that chance, as he started his career in law enforcement February 1<sup>st</sup>.



As always, if you have any concerns, stop by or send me an email at [wfemling@svidaho.org](mailto:wfemling@svidaho.org).

### Sun Valley Rally Event on Memorial Day 2016

Sun Valley City staff have worked with Higher Ground to plan the Sun Valley Rally to honor the service of veterans and first responders on Memorial Day. An event for the whole family, the day includes a march, a free barbeque, and an honor wall tribute. Please join City staff in an effort to remind the community of the true meaning of Memorial Day!

The event begins at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, May 30th in the Ketchum Town Square. For more information and to register for the event, please visit the [event website](#).

### Fire Department

We are fortunate to have two recycling stations within City limits to make recycling materials not available for home pick up, such as corrugated cardboard and glass, more accessible to our residents. However, the placement of bins at the

Elkhorn Fire Station has presented challenges for the Department.

When dropping off your recycling at the Fire Station, please note that parking is not permitted in front of the fire bays. Please observe all signs at the Fire Station; park in the designated parking spots and carry your recycling to the appropriate bins. If you do park in areas that block access for the Department's staff, you will be asked to move your car. This restriction is for the safety of all of our residents and Department personnel to help maintain the quick response our firefighters and EMS

personnel need to respond to all emergency calls.

As a reminder, both City Hall and the fire station have recycling. Cardboard recycling is available at City Hall, while both glass and cardboard recycling is available at Elkhorn Fire Station. When recycling glass, please be considerate of the safety of others and ensure all glass makes it into the dumpster.

If you have additional questions about recycling, including scheduling at-home pickup of corrugated cardboard, please call Clear Creek Disposal at (208) 726-9600.



## Winter 2016

## Community Development Department

### RIGHT-OF-WAY CHANGES

The City is considering adoption of [Ordinance 479](#), an ordinance which will change the way we manage rights-of-way. The right-of-way is City-owned property, held in trust for public-serving uses like travel, emergency services access, and provision of utilities. Due to encroachment into the right-of-way by homeowners, municipal operations like road and path maintenance, fire hydrant access, snow removal, and intersection vehicular safety have all been negatively impacted. The City is interested in resolving immediate threats to health and safety by enhancing and enforcing its Encroachment Permitting process.

Key changes to the process (per the proposed ordinance) include:

- Penalties for individuals who move snow from private property to the right-of-way;
- New vegetation planting within the first eight feet of the right-of-way from the edge of pavement will be limited to low-groundcover types of grasses and shrubs;
- Paver driveways, which previously were allowed to extend to the edge of pavement, will not be allowed within three feet of

roads and paths;

- The City will identify existing hazardous encroachments (overhanging trees, etc.) and request they be removed or mitigated; and,
- Encroachment permits must now be recorded to the property file with Blaine County.

The second reading of Ordinance 479 will occur at the regular City Council meeting of April 7th. If you have questions, please contact the Community Development Department at 208-622-4438. If you have comments prior to the meeting, you may submit them in writing to [jhill@svidaho.org](mailto:jhill@svidaho.org).

### BUILDING PERMIT SEASON

As we swing into building season, we'd like to remind residents that landscaping and construction work on the exterior of your property may be subject to Design Review by the Community Development Department and/or the Planning Commission. All construction work – exterior and interior – requires a permit from the Building Official. These permits and review are required in addition to any approvals that may be necessary through your homeowner association. Please contact us well in advance of construction so we can ensure that your work is permitted.

### BUILDING AND DEVELOPMENT POLICY CHANGES

On March 3<sup>rd</sup>, the City Council approved slight increases to [building permit fees](#). On a sample \$1 million project, fees only rise \$281. The City also voted to incentivize installation of solar panels by creating a flat “solar permit fee” of \$350.

The Council also approved changes to the City's signage guidelines to become compliant with the Supreme Court's *Reed v. Gilbert* decision. The primary changes result in “content-neutral” regulation based on zoning category instead of sign type. Most homeowners and businesses won't notice any difference in their allowable signage based on the new rules. You can view the Ordinance [here](#).

And finally, the City just adopted [Ordinance 483](#), requiring snow retention devices on roofs that can shed snow and ice over pedestrian areas. This codifies a long-standing practice to reduce the likelihood of injury by falling ice and snow. The requirement is only for new construction or substantial remodel/ reroofing projects, but it's always in your best interest to ensure the safety of yourself and others.

## Street Department

The Street Department was very busy this year with the amount of snowfall we received in the early part of winter. It is the Department's goal to have the streets and paths as clear as possible in all weather conditions. The Department consists of three full-time employees that work very hard to

reach this goal day and night.

The Department also has “winter projects” planned to keep them busy when it isn't snowing, such as research and bidding for future projects, attending training, maintaining City vehicles and working on making improvements to the shop. The Street Department is

also responsible for handling the ongoing maintenance of the City's buildings.

The Department is currently working to redesign and install a new HVAC system in the shop to improve the venting of various fumes generated by large equipment and vehicles used and maintained by the Department.

## City of Sun Valley

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<http://www.sunvalley.gov/office.com>

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### Sun Valley City Officials

**Mayor Peter Hendricks**  
[phendricks@svidaho.org](mailto:phendricks@svidaho.org)

### Council Members:

**President Keith Saks**  
[ksaks@svidaho.org](mailto:ksaks@svidaho.org)

**Michelle Griffith**  
[mgriffith@svidaho.org](mailto:mgriffith@svidaho.org)

**Jane Conard**  
[jconard@svidaho.org](mailto:jconard@svidaho.org)

**Brad DuFur**  
[bdufur@svidaho.org](mailto:bdufur@svidaho.org)

## Local Option Tax Renewal on May 17, 2016 Ballot

At its March 3, 2016 Regular meeting, the Sun Valley City Council unanimously passed a resolution calling for a Special Election to renew the Sun Valley City Local Option Tax (LOT). The election will be held on Tuesday, May 17th, 2016 and requires 60% voter support in order to pass. The LOT funds law enforcement, fire protection, emergency medical services, transportation, economic development, roads, and parks, trails and recreation, among other important City services.

The City currently imposes a 3% local option tax on lodging, restaurant food and beverage, liquor by the drink, recreation memberships, leasing of personal property, and event admission; a 2% tax on general retail sales, excluding building materials; and a 1% tax on ski lift tickets to directly fund City services. In addition to renewing the existing tax rates for a ten-year period, the City Council elected to add a 1% tax on building and construction materials. If passed, the new rates will take effect on October 1, 2017. You can view the ballot language and proposed Ordinance 484 [here](#).

City elected officials and staff are happy to answer questions citizens have about the existing tax and proposed changes. Please feel free to call City Hall at 622-4438 with any questions you have about the proposed tax rates or voting process. We also encourage all residents to vote on May 17th!

### Upcoming Issues to be Considered by the Sun Valley City Council

- **Water Conservation:** The City is working with the Sun Valley Water & Sewer District to formulate a plan to address smart water usage, including irrigation.
- **Road Conditions:** Although we are thankful for the snowstorms this year and the skiing conditions, the storms have taken their toll on our streets.
- **FY 2017 Budget:** The Fiscal Year 2017 Budget Process will begin in May, 2017. To view a full schedule of budget meetings, please visit our [website](#).

### Yew Plants in the City of Sun Valley

The danger of the yew plant has sparked conversation over the past few months as a number of elk deaths have been attributed to consumption of the poisonous plant. At its meeting on March 3rd, the Sun Valley City Council discussed the role the City can play in ensuring this toxic plant does not contribute to more wildlife deaths.

The Council elected to forego a formal City-wide ban of yew plant in hopes that an educational program targeted at homeowners and landscapers would help reduce the prevalence of the plant in the area.

Blaine County, which recently banned yew plant in the unincorporated areas of the County through Ordinance 2016-01, has produced helpful pamphlets discussing the dangers of yew plant, how to identify the plant, and how to dispose of unwanted yew plant on your property. They have shared these with the City of Sun Valley as a resource for our citizens. You can view the informational flyers on our [website](#) or in person at City Hall.

Please do your part to protect the wildlife in our area and avoid planting yew plants in your yard.

