

president
Doug Abromeit

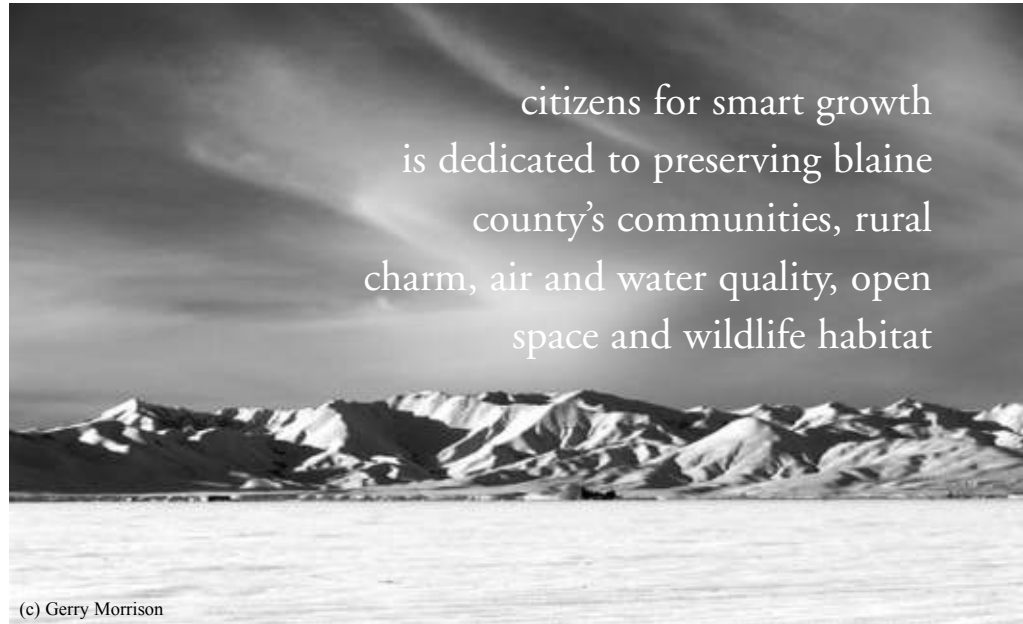
vice president
Elise B. Lufkin

treasurer
Jo Lowe

secretary
Gretchen Wagner

board of directors
Morgan Brown
Garth Callaghan
Erik Leidecker
Ali Long
Herb Thomas
Steve Wolper
Priscilla Woods
Ben Young

staff
Vanessa Crossgrove Fry
Kristen Olenick



(c) Gerry Morrison

citizens for smart growth

122 south river street
suite 2e
hailey, id 83333
208.788.8813 voice
208.788.8816 fax

JOIN US!

citizens for smart growth is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit corporation
all contributions are tax deductible

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Hailey, ID
Permit No. 48

Citizens for Smart Growth
221 South River Street, Ste. 2E
Hailey, ID 83333

printed on recycled paper-please recycle

Community Developments & Perspectives

An in-depth look at growth in the Wood River Valley

MEET EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR VANESSA CROSSGROVE FRY



The past year has been full of changes both exciting and successful. Citizens for Smart Growth promoted regional planning and coordinated growth management efforts with the municipalities, hosted the well-attended 2006 Sun Valley Sustainability Conference, and hired a very talented and energetic Executive Director in November 2006!

New Director Vanessa Crossgrove Fry looks forward to an comprehensive approach that includes working with the public and many diverse groups. "We hope to bring people and their ideas together. I think people have a feeling of how the valley should feel, not just look. I truly believe it will take us all working together, defining and communicating our common vision, to make this Valley a better place. Instead of being 'the voice of the people,' Smart Growth is helping to empower the people to make their voices heard. The goal is to preserve and protect, restore and revitalize, and to maintain vibrant communities in balance with the natural landscape."

Smart Growth's President Doug Abromeit is excited Vanessa is on board. "Smart Growth is dedicated to enhancing the character of our towns by making them more walkable and kid-friendly and to retaining the character of our county by preserving its open space and protecting its environmentally sensitive areas. Vanessa is providing the leadership and the skills to help all of us that care about Blaine County and the Wood River Valley achieve those objectives."

Vanessa believes communication and idea exchange are the keys to good decisions. Smart Growth is deeply dedicated to collaborating with Whole Communities: a consortium of Wood River Valley non-profit organizations working together to share ideas and expertise regarding growth in the Valley and to advocate for growth that benefits our community and its natural

continued on page 7

citizensforsmartgrowth.org

WINTER/SPRING
2007



*preserving a
livable community*

MEET EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR VANESSA CROSSGROVE FRY

"As the new executive director of Smart Growth, one of my highest priorities is to meet with as many of our members as possible."

DIRECTOR'S REPORT WHAT'S AHEAD FOR 2007

We look forward to working with the county as it seeks to institute a system of outreach that take the process to the people.

BOARD SPOTLIGHT BEN YOUNG

"I think that it is this enthusiasm and frustration with the current status quo that leads me to give more and more time to Citizens for Smart Growth."

INCORPORATING SMART GROWTH INTO A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

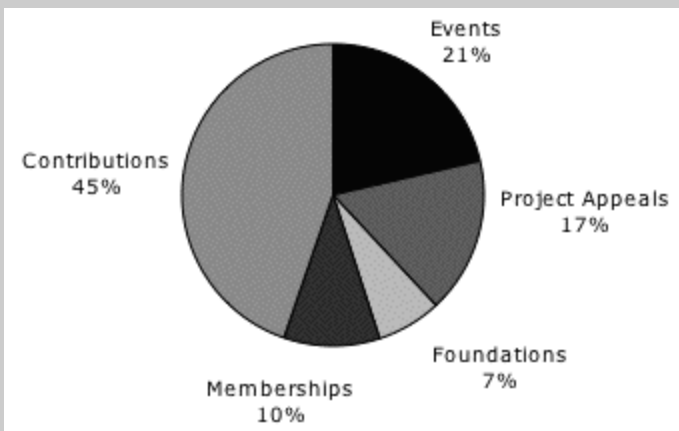
S.V. Councilman Nils Ribbi feels their efforts in Sun Valley prove and confirm that the smart growth concept is truly representative of our community's desires.

Spring is here bringing new energy and change to the Valley! The year began on a high note with the Honda Ski Tour in January and will close with the opening of the YMCA in November. In addition, an unprecedented amount of proposed development is facing Blaine County. Including Cove Springs, the potential annexations in Bellevue, the Cutters annexation and Sweetwater development in Hailey, there are over 2100 units being considered or approved. This is comparable to adding three more Bellevues to our Valley (which had 724 households recorded in the 2000 census). Granted not all will be built in the next 12 months, but they are real in their

Annual Report 2005-2006

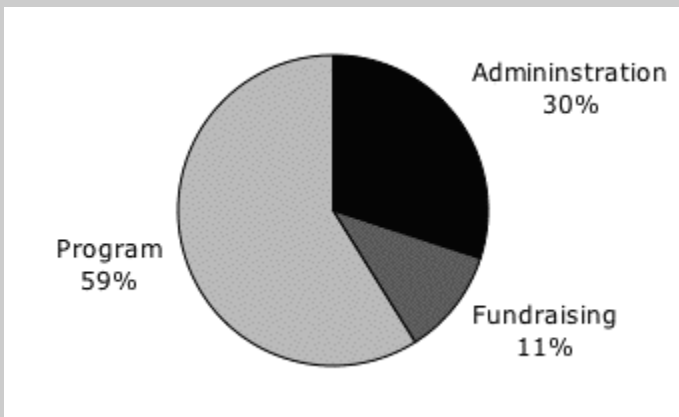
Total Income: \$168,890.37

- Events: \$36,309.14
- Project Appeals: \$27878.24
- Foundations: \$11,900.00
- Memberships: \$17,289.75
- Contributions: \$75,513.24



Total Expenses: \$159,290.22

- Administration: \$47,787.07
- Fundraising: \$17,521.92
- Programs: \$93,981.23



presence, immediacy and how they will change this county.

Whether the new development is in the County or in one of the five municipalities it will have impacts on the entire region. The necessity to look at new development from a valley-wide perspective has arrived. From transportation to water, systems and resources affected are far-reaching. As these changes occur collaboration is a must. Fortunately our community leaders recognize this need.

Blaine County has recently hired a part-time regional planner. Smart Growth commends the County Commissioners for supporting a regional planning department as a pathway to form partnerships and feedback loops necessary to help the region determine how we will move forward together. Smart Growth is tremendously excited about the 'Access Blaine' portion of the regional planning program as it seeks to institute a system of outreach that takes the process to the people. The County's regional planning effort will also consider economic development and affordable housing in its portfolio of concerns. We look forward to working with the County to help implement this new regional planning process.

Last summer marked the first step towards regional transportation with the merger of the Peak Bus with KART. Smart Growth is delighted to support the merger of Wood River Rideshare with KART/Peak. We are extremely pleased with the goals of the new organization, as they dovetail nicely with Smart Growth's transportation principle of providing a variety of transportation choices. Smart Growth will work with the new regional transportation organization to promote land-use policies that facilitate alternative forms of transportation choices.

Citizens for Smart Growth believes the people of Blaine County deserve healthy economically viable towns; homes that are both affordable and close to jobs and activities; less time in traffic and more opportunities to enjoy recreation and natural areas; air and water of the highest quality; and a landscape our children can be proud to inherit. We believe citizens deserve a much greater say, and better options, in choosing their communities' future. In light of the impending development, we must keep working together, through a cooperative local and regional planning process, to ensure our values as a community are both protected and enhanced. I thank you for your continued support of Smart Growth as we move forward in this process.

areas, residents, and wildlife. Smart Growth is also involved with efforts to inspire regional cooperation between the County and the municipalities.

Vanessa, besides being Smart Growth's Executive Director, is an avid runner, (she competed in the 2006 New York Marathon with a personal best!) and an MBA candidate (2007) in the Sustainable Management program at Presidio School of Management. Vanessa was born and raised in Ohio, and now lives in Hailey with her husband Jason and her dog Doctor.

Vanessa and Jason moved the Wood River Valley about five years ago. Vanessa's love of the environment has led her to work with the Cornell University's Lab of Ornithology, to research Lyme disease with the Institute of Environmental Studies, to teach coral reef ecology in Key West, Florida, and lead wilderness therapy groups in Southern Utah. Both Vanessa and Jason have jumped headlong into the community by volunteering, organizing events, participating in community service and working for non-profit organizations. Vanessa first worked for the ERC as an Americorps volunteer, and was then hired as

Development Director. Recently, she worked as Development Director for the Snake River Alliance and was instrumental in the fight to include Idaho in the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act. Vanessa said she was especially shocked when she read that, at the time of the testing in the 1950s, an Atomic Energy Commission report characterized the soon-to-be-contaminated downwinders as 'a low-use segment of the population.' "It drew me in and showed me how our government works for the few at the people's expense." Thinking about disparity is what fuels Vanessa's enthusiasm for policy, involvement and enacting positive change. "Everybody and everything is affected by a decision. Everyone deserves to have a voice at the table. What are the values and visions of the stakeholders?"

"As executive director of Smart Growth, one of my highest priorities is to meet with as many of our members as possible. We have you to thank for the past, present and future success of the organization."

Please feel free to contact Vanessa at (208) 788.8813 or at Vanessa@citizensforsmartgrowth.org.



We, the staff and Board of Citizens for Smart Growth thank you, our members, for being an integral part of our efforts and successes. Your continued thoughtful support is so important to making a real, positive impact in the preservation of our Valley's quality of life and natural resources.

On January 16, we hosted our **Third Annual Smart Growth Member Celebration** at the Inn at Ellsworth Estate in Hailey. The evening was a success! Board President Doug Abromeit welcomed guests and talked briefly about the importance and direction of this organization. He introduced Board, Advisory Board and Staff members present, sharing a little history about each of them with the organization. Last, he introduced Executive Director Vanessa Crossgrove Fry.

Vanessa expressed her excitement about her position with Smart Growth. She shared a little about her background and that she felt one of the most important jobs of CSG is to bring the voice of the people to the governments, as well as disparate voices together to discuss *together* the difficult issues of growth in the Valley. She encouraged everyone to drop by the office or email her to meet and discuss any issues of concern. She then introduced County Commissioner Larry Schoen.

Commissioner Schoen spoke about how we live in Blaine County including discussion about our food systems, transportation, etc. When opened up for questions from the guests, most concerns were around public involvement in the legislative and planning process. Vanessa concluded the meeting by reiterating that Smart Growth's primary role is to ensure that citizens have a seat at the table with these issues.

Communities across the country have found that protecting open space, parks and farmland is a strategy that can be used to strengthen existing communities, attract businesses, and avoid the costs of urban and suburban sprawl. As part of a package of smart growth programs and policies, communities that offer a high quality of life including well-maintained neighborhood parks and extensive park systems consistently attract and retain businesses.

This is precisely why it is so exciting that **Jimmy's Garden**, on the corner of Second Avenue and Croy Street, will be the first park in Old Hailey. Jimmy's Garden is named in honor of Jimmy Gelsky, the man who lived in the big white house that used to stand on the future park site.

Jimmy was a good ol' Hailey character, a master gardener, and a bit of a rebel. He passed away in 2002 and a few years later Chris and Phoebe Pilaro were given the opportunity to purchase Jimmy's lot. The Pilaros, who hold a strong philanthropic ethic, decided to create something for the whole community to enjoy and the dream of Jimmy's Garden was born.

The Pilaros approached the project with Smart Growth principles in mind by investing in their community, supporting vibrant, livable, walkable neighborhoods, with mixed land uses. These principles are critical community building blocks that provide an important sense of place. A "sense of place" gives a neighborhood unique character, and creates pride in the community. People will be able to walk from downtown to enjoy the park, parents can bring their kids to play after running errands, or folks can eat

their lunch with friends and neighbors while sitting on the grass under the shade of an old maple tree.

Preserving open space, especially in the heart of Old Hailey is something from which the whole town, if not valley, will benefit. The park will improve health and wellness, enhance community spirit, protect natural resources, enhance real estate values, and create more natural beauty downtown.

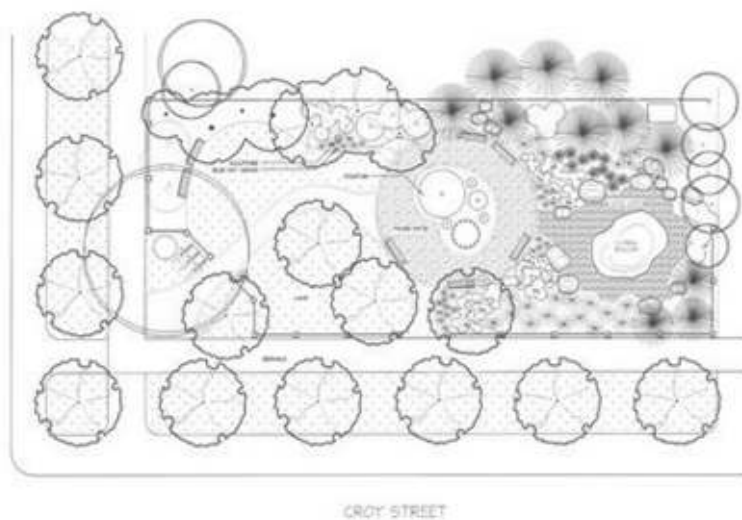
With the help of local landscape designer Dean Hernandez the Pilaros have designed Jimmy's Garden to include xeriscape landscaping for low maintenance and low water use, an interactive fountain for cooling off in the hot summer sun, an artificial boulder for climbing, numerous trees for shade, and grass and benches on which to sit. The design is meant to encourage people to spend more time outdoors and will be a space for people of all ages to enjoy.

When the ground thaws this spring Jimmy's Garden will begin to grow. Expected completion will be in July 2007. Donations of various materials as well as financial contributions are being accepted. 5% of each donation will go into the Hailey Parks Endowment Fund and the remaining 95% will be spent on the actual construction of the park. Requested donations include:

- \$ 100 pavers for the fountain patio
- \$ 250 for bushes
- \$ 500 for small trees
- \$1,000 for large trees
- \$2,500 for park benches

Major donations of \$10,000 towards a climbing rock and \$25,000 towards the park fountain are other suggested ways to contribute. Gifts in any amount can be sent to: Hailey Parks Foundation
Attention: Jimmy's Garden,
PO Box 3107
Hailey, ID 83333.

After completion the park will be maintained through a partnership with the City of Hailey. If you want to learn more about Jimmy's Garden, or help with the project please email Phoebe Pilaro at ppilaro@earthlink.net or call 578-7649.



6

Ben Young practices landscape architecture, art and design in the Wood River Valley. A resident of 7 years he currently heads his company, Ben Young Landscape Architects working on residential and commercial projects of various types.

"Growing up in rural Massachusetts I learned an intense appreciation of the land and the beauty evident within our natural environment. As kids we would spend all day outside in the woods and fields, building forts and looking for secret trails made by the horses that were pastured there. My appreciation of the natural world was furthered at Cornell University where I studied Agricultural and Biological Engineering, learning to use natural processes to handle waste treatment problems. However after a semester of finding myself spending more time in the landscape architecture studio than in the science lab I knew I had found my calling. In particular, a book by Roger Trancik, one of my Cornell professors, had profound impact. **Hamlets of the Adirondacks: A Manual of Development Strategies**, introduced me formally to what I already knew- that development and building could occur that would be in tune with the way villages and traditional neighborhoods had been built for centuries. This and the well known **Dealing with Change in the Connecticut River Valley** by Randall Arendt gave credit and inspiration to the notion of becoming a landscape architect. Since that time I have devoted myself to learning about what people consider landscape ideas, and the ideas of our culture that ultimately should influence the design of the built environment. These include study and practical

experience in art, history, sociology, architecture, building, environmental design, ecology and the construction trades. Without a well-rounded approach it is difficult to grasp the true depth of design and planning issues. Everything is connected and it can be frustrating that the design and planning here in the Valley has at times been far behind what it could be.

I think that it is this enthusiasm and frustration with the current status quo that leads me to give more and more time to Citizens for Smart Growth. Smart Growth is an invaluable organization that is addressing all of the factors that influence design upon the land. While it is easy for organizations to say "no" to development projects, we must have an understanding of all the issues that allowed the projects to be presented in the first place. As residents of the Valley we need to be concerned with these important issues and ideas - Smart Growth is literally in the thick of these issues and I support their pragmatic approach 100%. The development that will come to the Valley - and it will come - can be a powerful agent of change and education for us in the Valley and if done right, could serve as an example to the world. We only have to make it so. To do this we need to demonstrate proactive leadership in the planning process while at the same time demonstrate prudent caution in the way that we grow; and we have to aggressively look ahead to plan the best for our future while taking care to preserve our past. I think that it is this balancing act that I find interesting and motivating and it is this challenge and the potential for positive change that keeps me moving and should motivate us all, to look beyond ourselves and foster the creation of something great."

Ben Young is a Board Member for Citizens for Smart Growth. He can be reached by email, at ben@bylandscapearchitect.com

Ben Young represents the only demographic (25-35 year olds) that is shrinking in Blaine County. Young professionals, like Ben, are moving away from the County for a number of reasons including lack of job opportunities and high housing costs. Smart Growth is grateful Ben has chosen to help work on these issues the county faces by committing a great amount of time and effort to Citizens for Smart Growth.



Ben musing over the prospect of wanton developments taking over his favorite ski touring spot.....good thing Smart Growth includes Yurt development!



(c) Michael Olenick

INCORPORATING SMART GROWTH BY NILS A. RIBI

In 2006, the City of Sun Valley completed an 18-month process to update its Comprehensive Plan. This was the first update of the Plan in over ten years. Each city and county in Idaho is required by law to have a comprehensive plan, which outlines its community's vision, goals and a plan to obtain that vision.

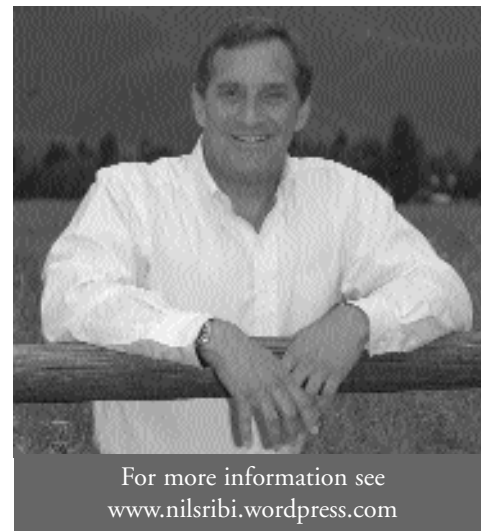
A group of 13 citizens and stakeholders representing the community of Sun Valley comprised a "steering committee" that was charged with drafting the update to the plan. We spent an enormous amount of volunteer time in a collaborative process with the public developing a vision, eight goals, numerous objectives and then a comprehensive set of actions to implement the plan.

In drafting the plan, our group of dedicated members with no professional planning experience ended up incorporating most of the ten "smart growth" principles into the plan. We did not have the smart growth principles in front of us during our planning effort. We did not set out to do it intentionally, it just happened through the process. After the Sun Valley Plan was adopted, I was honored to be invited to speak at the annual Sun Valley Sustainability Conference co-sponsored by Citizens for Smart Growth fall of 2005. My topic was a general discussion on how we can bring the smart growth principles to real life practice in our community.

In preparation for that conference, I found a remarkable resemblance between the eight Comprehensive Plan goals developed through a lengthy series of public input sessions from our citizens and stakeholders and the ten smart growth principles that guide this organization.

The eight goals of the City of Sun Valley Comprehensive Plan:

1. Preserve and protect natural and scenic resources, the environment and open spaces.
2. Promote sustainability of the resort economy.
3. Maintain social and economic diversity and protect the vitality and cultural heritage of Sun Valley.
4. Promote development that is context-sensitive and complementary to adjacent property.
5. Provide for necessary and appropriate public facilities and services to serve existing populations and new growth.
6. Provide for an integrated transportation system that promotes a recreationally active community, encourages non-motorized transportation, and reduces congestion and air pollution.
7. Promote partnerships with neighboring communities, businesses, agencies and organizations to advance the City's and the region's economic health.
8. Promote partnerships with neighboring communities, businesses, agencies, and organizations to advance the region's social, cultural and environmental health.



For more information see www.nilsribi.wordpress.com

INCORPORATING SMART GROWTH - CON'T



With a little imagination and adaptation to the local situation, you can see where we adopted most of the smart growth principles into our Comprehensive Plan goals. We further refined these principles into our objectives and the recommended implementation actions. To see how we accomplish this, I would recommend looking at the entire text of our Plan. It is available online at the City of Sun Valley website:

www.sunvalley.govoffice.com

One of the beauties of living in the Wood River Valley is, in addition to the clean air, water and incredible scenic vistas, the people. We are so fortunate to have a

diverse and rich group of talented and dedicated folks who care so much about so many aspects of what makes this place great.

Citizens for Smart Growth and the principles they advocate are critical to the future of this valley if we wish to promote the values we treasure. Citizens for Smart Growth has proven over the years that they can bring together sensible principles in a collaborative process.

Our efforts in Sun Valley prove and confirm that the smart growth concept is truly representative of our community's desires and has a solid place and role in the Wood River Valley.

Background on Nils Ribi:

Nils was elected to the Sun Valley City Council in November 2005 after serving six years on the Sun Valley Planning and Zoning Commission. Nils has been a full-time resident of Sun Valley for the past 18 years. He has been the President of Ribi Corporation, a private venture capital firm since 1987. Prior to that, he was the President and CEO of Ribi ImmunoChem Research, Inc., a publicly held biotechnology company.

For more information: www.nilsribi.wordpress.com

VISION, MISSION & PRINCIPLES



(c) Gerry Morrison

Citizens for Smart Growth believes the people of Blaine County deserve healthy, economically viable towns; homes that are both affordable and close to jobs and activities; less time in traffic and more opportunities to enjoy recreation and natural areas; air and water of the highest quality; and a landscape our children can be proud to inherit.

We believe citizens deserve a much greater say, and better options, in choosing their communities' future. We must keep working together to comment on impending development to ensure our values as a community are both protected and enhanced.

Visit our website
www.citizensforsmartgrowth.org
to donate on-line.
It's fast, easy and secure!

Twenty years from now, Blaine County will be known as a place that saved itself, and kept its style and charm, while adapting gracefully and intelligently to the changing times and needs of a mountain community and resort.

- Bill Vanderbilt