

# The CITY LINK



SUMMER 2020



## OFFICIAL NEWS AND INFORMATION FROM THE CITY OF BILLINGS

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Visit us online at <http://billingsmt.gov>

## STORIES FROM STAFF

Working in the Distribution and Collection Division of The City of Billings Public Works offers the opportunity to participate in the distribution of our drinking water in several ways. Most days my duties consist of checking the functionality of mainline valves or hydrants. On occasion we are called upon to repair a leak in a water main. As one of the division's Senior Equipment Operators, my duties during these repairs are to dig the "leak hole" using the backhoe, ensure the safety of my crew members, and assist in various aspects of the repair. The included picture is an especially nasty water main break. We would place a repair clamp over the hole in the main and then turn the valve open enough to let water fill the main, only to have it break through in another spot on the main. We chased it a few times then decided that we had gotten to a point where we could leave the water on overnight and bring back a new stick of pvc pipe to replace the problematic section the next morning.

Adam K-



It may look like "just a picture of the Yellowstone River," but out of all the machines and equipment and technology that we utilize here at the Water Treatment Plant; the Yellowstone River is by far the most important.

We have been gifted with a body of water that needs little attention. How truly lucky we are to be given such a beautiful and healthy river from which we get our drinking water.

None of us could do our jobs if it weren't for this one, simple, yet oh so complicated piece of our puzzle. I hope all of us and those who follow in our footsteps continue to take care of this truly magnificent piece of mother nature.

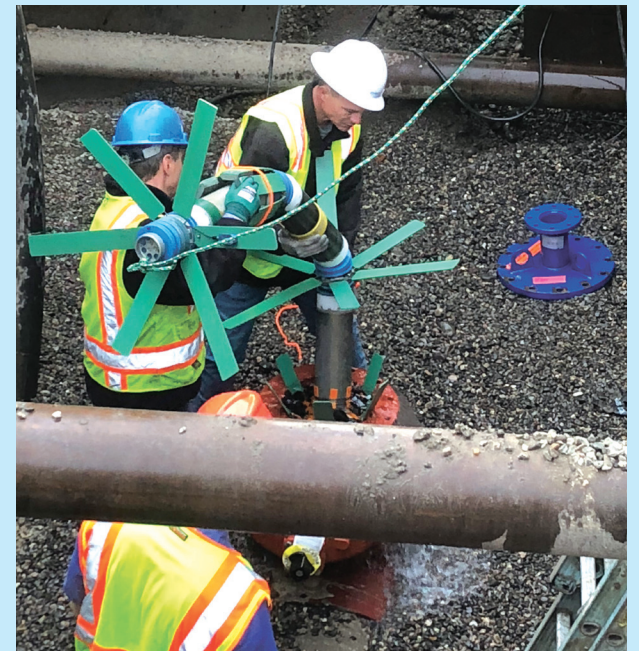
I'm blessed to be a part of a group who gets to sample and test the Yellowstone River and to help turn it into the drinking water we all know and rely on every day.

Erin M-

One of the things Distribution & Collection has to do is to repair water mains throughout the city. We discovered a leak on a 36" water main that is responsible for feeding water to the Billings Heights, unable to shut the main off during the summer due to high demands on the water system we elected to repair the main during the less demanding fall season. We partnered with a local contractor that did the digging for us and also had a representative from the pipe company assist us with the repair. The project was 3 days of collaboration between multiple Public Works Departments. The leak encouraged us to do some investigating on the integrity of the water main to find out if any other issues were present.

We had the line surveyed by a smart pig that was inserted at the water department and removed behind Applebee's in the heights and found it to be in great shape!

Derick M-





# BILLINGS PUBLIC LIBRARY

*imagine... inform... inspire!*

“The scariest moment is always just before you start.” –Stephen King

While it seems like Stephen King wrote the book that the year 2020 is based on, there is comfort and inspiration to be taken from his words. The City of Billings is about to start a new chapter.

We’ve all used the word “weird” to describe recent times, but now it’s time to look forward. Over the next several months, things will no longer be considered “weird”, but rather just “different”.

To navigate this time of difference, the Billings Public Library is preparing to offer an array of new and adapted services to meet the evolving needs of our communities. To start, we are opening on July 1st.

Our new hours will be Monday through Friday 10am-6pm, and Saturday 9am-5pm. To ensure the safety of our patrons and staff, the building will look a little “different”.

There will be protective Plexiglas at each service station, floor markings to support social distancing, and contact free service standards. The BPL will not have meeting spaces open to the public including, but not limited to, the conference rooms, study rooms, and genealogy room. We will be implementing new cleaning protocols and lowering the capacity of the building in accordance with current government guidelines.

To keep our patrons safe and comfortable, we will continue to offer a curbside pick-up service. Patrons can go online, place holds on books, and then pick them up contact free without even leaving their cars. This service began in May and has been a growing success.

Along with the new curbside service, the library was also engaged as a daycare for the children of healthcare workers in the city. Caretakers from the Billings Clinic and St. Vincent were on hand for over three months

to watch the children while their parents took on the task of protecting the city by providing medical care. Library staff provided activities, crafts, and program ideas to the caretakers to keep the children safe and occupied. It was an honor and a pleasure to serve our city in this fashion.

As the BPL team works to continue services, things have taken a turn for the virtual, rather than physical. One program that has adapted significantly is Summer Reading. The children’s, teen, and adult summer reading program will be conducted entirely online. Patrons of all ages can still read for prizes, participate in online challenges, and attend digital programs, all from the safety of their own homes.

With proper planning and thoughtful execution, there is no need to fear as we start down this new road together. We are excited about the opportunities the future will bring. We are committed to the health and safety of our communities and staff. Before long, the new normal will simply be normal, and the civil servants that make up the City of Billings’ workforce will prevail and come out even stronger than we were before.

Be safe. Be well.  
Be brave.





# DITCH AND DRAIN POLLUTION

As summer yard work continues, the City and Ditch companies want to send a friendly reminder to not throw yard waste into the ditches and drains. Your cooperation is needed to reduce negative impacts on the Yellowstone River water quality and reduce flooding.

Ditches and drains discharge directly into the Yellowstone River or into the City's stormwater system. The City does not currently treat stormwater discharges. Any dumping of yard wastes, chemicals, pet waste, trash or even loose dirt either on the ditch bank or within the ditch, can potentially cause water quality issues and blockages in the City's stormwater system, which can increase flooding and ditch bank overflows.

Because of this interconnection between the ditches and the City's stormwater system, dumping of debris violates Section 28 of the City Code and State Law 75-5-605 - Prohibitive Activity. Ditches and drains provide valuable benefits such as agricultural irrigation, residential/commercial/public outdoor watering, groundwater recharge, and stormwater runoff collection.

Control and maintenance of the majority of the ditches and drains are by private ditch companies through ditch easements or prescriptive rights. Typically, the City's responsibility and ownership is limited to street culvert crossings. Please contact the ditch companies to get permission to divert or alter the course of a ditch, construct ditch crossings (i.e. fences and bridges), discharge stormwater, and use ditch water for irrigation.

Below is a link to a map listing the ditches and drains crisscrossing the metropolitan area:

<https://www.billingsmtpublicworks.gov/DocumentCenter/View/215/Ditch-and-Drain-Map>

Below is a link to a ditch contact list:

<https://www.billingsmtpublicworks.gov/DocumentCenter/View/210/Ditch-Contacts-July19>

You can also contact Boris Krizek, Environmental Engineer at 247-8517 if you have questions or concerns.





# FIND ROAD CLOSURES AND CONSTRUCTION UPDATES ONLINE!

Follow us on Facebook @billingsmtpublicworks or see the construction projects page on our website: [billingsmtpublicworks.gov](http://billingsmtpublicworks.gov)

The summer of 2020 is shaping up to be a busy construction season for city projects! While there are several projects to address growth of the city, the vast majority of projects that will be completed this summer are for maintenance and rehabilitation of existing infrastructure. To give you an idea of the amount of infrastructure in the city that needs to be on regular maintenance and replacement cycles, here are some statistics for the city:

- Miles of street: 1,160 lane miles
- Traffic Signals: 122
- Miles of water main: over 500 miles
- Miles of sanitary sewer main: over 500 miles
- Miles of storm drain pipe: 300 miles
- Facilities (lift stations, pump stations, water treatment plant, wastewater treatment plant, etc): 35

When you pair this amount of work with our short construction seasons, it can seem like there is construction everywhere. On top of that, there are state, county and private projects trying to construct at the same time. So, while we know construction can be a hassle, we appreciate your patience while we do our best to keep our systems in good shape. Here are some of the projects you may come across this summer:

- If you head to the landfill, notice the new scales and transfer station. The project will be completed in September and you will be able to drop off your waste in the building! There is also work being done on the road.
- The water and sanitary sewer systems have replacement projects on 1st Avenue North from Exposition to 15th and 24th to 33rd; the neighborhood west of Division to 7th Street West between Grand and Broadwater; and on 1st Avenue North from Exposition east on Hwy 87.
- King Avenue East from Orchard to Jackson and Wicks Lane from Bench to Hawthorne will both be widened and have sidewalks/trails added.

- Chip seals, overlays and street reconstructions are happening in the Wanigan Subdivision (Shawnee, Radford Square); the metal streets (Copper, Silver, Gold, Vickery); the hospital corridor; Lake Elmo from Main to Pemberton; Governors from Wicks to Babcock and all of Senators; 14th Street W between Grand and Lewis; the triangle west of S. 27th between State and 1st Ave S; Jackson Street from King Ave E to State Street; 17th Street West from Grand to Rimrock; 32nd St W from King to Monad; and Zimmerman Trail from Poly to Rimrock.
- New or improved signal work is being done at Grand & Virginia; King Avenue W and 36th ; and Overland & S. 24th Street W.
- An exciting project is happening downtown too. Both N. 30th and N. 29th from 6th Ave N to Montana Ave will be converted from one way streets to two way streets.
- The city is constantly working to make walking and biking safer in our community. We have pedestrian signals being installed at the roundabouts on Shiloh Road; Rimrock and Arvin; Lake Elmo and Milton; and Barrett and Kiwanis Trail.







# GET SMART ABOUT YOUR WATER GET WATERSMART!

Water Conservation is a key to managing your water utility costs. Want to learn ways you can save water and dollars? Use your City of Billings water utility account number to register at WaterSmart (billingsmt.watersmart.com) today! Helpful tips on saving water and other updates are shared during the summer on Facebook @billingsmtpublicworks

## YOUR WATER COMES WITH A LIST OF INGREDIENTS...

Learn more by reading the 2019 Consumer Confidence and Water Quality Report (CCR), find it at billingsmtpublicworks.gov

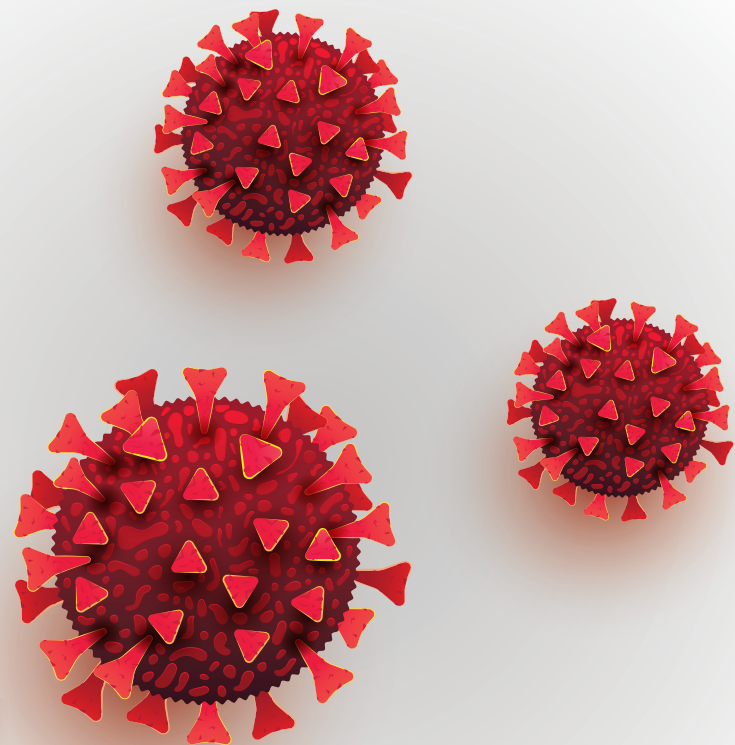


# COVID-19

## C O R O N A V I R U S

Do you qualify as a member of the defined vulnerable population for a COVID-19 exemption on your utility bill? Are you experiencing financial hardship because of COVID-19 and are not able to pay your utility bill in full? There is help available, visit [billingsmtpublicworks.gov](https://billingsmtpublicworks.gov) payments & utilities for more information.

**UPDATES** from the City of Billings regarding COVID-19 response and other important information is available at <https://coronavirus-response-billings.hub.arcgis.com/>





# DISPATCH

When one thinks of a hero, it's likely to invoke images of super humans wearing capes with non-human like strength and ability. These images are ones our brains have been trained to recognize from early childhood. They are part of our cultural identity and recognizable to us all. Super humans save people from the injustice of crime and burning buildings. Heroes are there to help, and when people are in need, they are there. An image of a hero that rarely comes to mind however, is that of a 911 dispatcher. Let us introduce you to these super humans.

While the COVID pandemic has taught us all different things in many different ways, one thing that has become clear is just how essential some things and some people are. The dispatchers and call takers of the Billings 911 center have always been there, doing their work behind the scenes. COVID

hasn't changed that. What it has revealed are those who step up to the plate when the situation demands it. COVID has propelled these people into an unprecedented world of 12-hour shifts w/ scheduled time off always in doubt. 8 and 10-hour shifts have become 12 and 16-hour shifts. What was once a 40-hour workweek has been stretched to a 48-68 hour workweek. Since the city's emergency declaration on March 16th, the employees of the City-County 911 center have worked nearly 2,500 hours of overtime as of May 31st.

An annual April celebration of our 911 professionals was reduced to the absolute bare minimum, a truly unfortunate result of these unpredictable times. If there was ever a time to celebrate these individuals, mid-April would have been the perfect time to do so.

The level of dedication and work that the employees of our 911 center have put in over these past few months has been nothing short of remarkable. In many ways, the dispatchers and call takers of our 911 center are superheroes, they just don't wear capes, and that's ok. They will always be there, every time, ready to answer the call.



## HOLIDAY TRASH COLLECTION SCHEDULE:

HOLIDAY	DATE	TRASH COLLECTION	LANDFILL
Independence Day	Friday, July 3	On Schedule	Closed (Sat. 4th)
Labor Day	Monday, September 7	Delayed one day	Closed
General Election Day	Tuesday, November 3	On Schedule	Open
Veteran's Day	Wednesday, November 11	On Schedule	Open
Thanksgiving	Thursday, November 26	Delayed one day	Closed
Day After Thanksgiving	Friday, November 27	Delayed one day	Open
Christmas	Friday, December 25	Delayed one day	Closed



# 2020 SERVICE DIRECTORY

## AIRPORT-BILLINGS LOGAN INTERNATIONAL

Airport Information..... 247-8609  
 Airport Administration..... 657-8495  
 Airport Police ..... 657-8498  
 Airport Operations ..... 657-8496  
 Edwards Jet Center ..... 252-0508  
 Parking – SP Plus ..... 259-8545  
 Gateway Restaurant  
 & Lounge ..... 256-8446  
 TSA–24/7 Customer Service..... 877-846-5737

## ANIMAL CONTROL..... 657-8226

## ANIMAL SHELTER & LICENSING

Yellowstone Valley  
 Animal Shelter ..... 294-7387  
 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday,  
 Friday: Noon – 7 pm  
 Saturdays: Noon – 6 pm  
 Sundays: Noon – 6 pm  
 Lost Pet Hotline.....294-1138

## BUILDING DIVISION

Building Permits..... 657-8270  
 Building & Plumbing  
 Inspections..... 657-8277  
 Plan Review ..... 657-8271  
 Business Licenses..... 657-8364

## CITY

**ADMINISTRATOR** ..... 657-8222  
 Assistant City Admin. .... 657-8478  
 City Clerk .....657-8210

## CITY ATTORNEY ..... 657-8205

## CITY COUNCIL INFORMATION..... 657-8433

## CODE ENFORCEMENT – ZONING & WEED COMPLAINTS .....237-6146

## COMMUNITY

**DEVELOPMENT** ..... 657-8281  
 AmeriCorps VISTA..... 247-8675  
 Home Repair Program ..... 657-8284  
 First Time Homebuyer  
 Program ..... 657-3045

## FACILITIES

**MANAGEMENT** ..... 237-6294

## FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Accounts Payable ..... 657-8224  
 Business Tax Information 657-8364  
 City Tax Information–SID's. 657-8223  
 Municipal Bonds ..... 657-8363  
 Purchasing .....657-8216  
 Other Finance Services .... 657-8207

## FIRE DEPARTMENT

Emergencies Only ..... 911  
 Non-Emergency  
 8 am to 5 pm weekdays:  
 Fire Department  
 Administration ..... 657-8423  
 Fire Prevention Bureau .... 657-8423

## FLEET SERVICES..... 657-8407

## GIS SERVICES .....247-8512

## HEALTH DEPARTMENT

123 S. 27th .....247-3200

## HUMAN RESOURCES.....237-6210

## JAIL .....256-6881

## LIBRARY (BILLINGS PUBLIC)

Information Services..... 657-8258  
 Children's Services..... 657-8256  
 Bookmobile .....657-3091  
 Senior-Homebound ..... 657-8255  
 Hours..... 657-8259  
 Website: [www.billingslibrary.org](http://www.billingslibrary.org)

## MAYOR ..... 657-8296

## MET TRANSIT

Information & Schedules..657-8218  
 MET Special Transit  
 Reservation.....248-8805

## MUNICIPAL COURT

(City Hall Second Floor)  
 Bond & Traffic Citation  
 Info ..... 657-8490  
 Juror Information (24 Hrs)247-8653

## PARKING DIVISION

Enforcement, Parking Tickets  
 & Meter Repair .....657-8412  
 Park One Garage.....657-8212

## PARKING DIVISION (cont'd)

Park Two Garage..... 657-8279  
 Park Three Garage .....657-8212  
 Empire Garage .....657-8412

## PARKS-RECREATION & PUBLIC LANDS

Administration .....657-8371  
 Community & Senior  
 Center ..... 657-3050  
 Cemetery Division..... 657-8299  
 Forester/Natural  
 Resources ..... 237-6227  
 Fax..... 247-8641  
 Website..... [www.BillingsParks.org](http://www.BillingsParks.org)

## PLANNING ..... 247-8676

## POLICE DEPARTMENT

Emergencies Only ..... 911  
 Non-Emergencies..... 657-8200  
 PD Records..... 657-8460  
 (Open 8am-6pm weekdays &  
 10 am - Noon Saturday)  
 Detective Division ..... 657-8473  
 Public Relations..... 657-8464  
 Crime Prevention Center. 247-8590  
 (Open 9 am to 4 pm weekdays)  
 Fingerprinting  
 - Call Crime Prevention Center  
 Montana Internet Crimes Against  
 Children (ICAC)..... 839-9070

## PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Public Works  
 Administration ..... 657-8230  
 Engineering Division..... 657-8231  
 Right-of-Way Permits &  
 Inspections...657-8307  
 Environmental Affairs .....247-8517  
 Meter Shop..... 657-8331  
 Solid Waste Division & Landfill .....  
 657-8260  
 Street/Traffic Division..... 657-8250

Water Bills - On/Off Orders –  
 Payments  
 (Open 8am-5pm weekdays).....657-8315  
 Water Emergencies  
 (Open 8am-5pm weekdays).....657-8305  
 Water Emergencies  
 (After 5pm, weekends & holidays) 657-8353  
 Wastewater Reclamation  
 Facility ..... 657-8356  
 Water Treatment Plant.... 657-8353

## ZONING ..... 657-8246

## We Want to Hear From You

*Please provide us with input  
 for our next newsletter.*



**What did you like most  
 about the newsletter?**



**What would you like to see  
 in upcoming newsletters?**

**Mail or e-mail your comments to us at:**

[citylink@billingsmt.gov](mailto:citylink@billingsmt.gov)

**The City Link**

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