

Billings City Administrator Weekly Report

November 19, 2022

1. **City Hall** – Staff, the design team and the general contractor spent several days this week analyzing options to deal with the inflationary increases to the project. The first bid package will be on the November 28th agenda with more decisions to be made in December.
2. **Low Barrier Shelter** – See the enclosed update from building and the fire marshal.
3. **Parks & Trails Community Meeting** – Approximately two (2) dozen community leaders spent four (4) hours Wednesday discussing Parks and Trail Development and Maintenance. The conversations revolved around answering the following questions:
 - a. Parks Operations & Maintenance
 - i. How much over what period?
 - ii. Which funding models should be used?
 - b. Parks & Trail Development
 - i. Which projects over what time-period?
 - ii. Which funding models should be used?

The meeting was facilitated by Dana Pulis, Owner and Principal of Kinetic Marketing & Creative.

4. **Community Health Public Forum** – Several staff and council members attended Friday's forum. We were presented with the preliminary results of the 2022 Community Health Survey. The official report will be released in early 2023.
5. **From the PIO Desk:**

City/County dispatch center to begin encrypting all city law enforcement

<https://www.billingsmt.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=2405>

City of Billings in the news

Billings City Administrator gets good marks and potential raise in annual performance review

https://billingsgazette.com/news/local/billings-city-administrator-gets-good-marks-and-potential-raise-in-annual-performance-review/article_e825bfba-65fa-11ed-84d0-a37d8b700842.html#tracking-source=home-top-story

Billings is growing: 1,000 acres annexed since 2018

https://www.kulr8.com/news/billings-is-growing-1-000-acres-annexed-since-2018/article_75c6033a-64f6-11ed-a53a-bb5220f0d80b.html

Exploring our namesake: Frederick Billings (Community 7 segment with Mayor Cole & Kevin Kooistra)

<https://cloud.castus.tv/vod/comm7tv/video/636ea7fc6934a50008ae2943?page=HOME>

Watch now: Mayor Bill Cole tours Bench Elementary

https://billingsgazette.com/news/local/watch-now-mayor-bill-cole-tours-bench-elementary/video_256789e7-601a-54c0-a5c8-1a041c846d51.html

Billings Main St. construction completed

https://www.kulr8.com/news/billings-main-st-construction-completed/article_45a9d93e-6603-11ed-a886-734fb02bb785.html

Dispatch encryption

Billings starts encrypting police radio traffic for safety reasons

<https://www.yourbigsky.com/local-news-2/billings-starts-encrypting-police-radio-traffic-for-safety-reasons/>

Useless scanners? Billings emergency broadcasts no longer public

<https://kmhk.com/useless-scanners-billings-emergency-broadcasts-no-longer-public/>

City of Billings to start encrypting law enforcement radio communication

https://www.kulr8.com/news/city-of-billings-to-start-encrypting-law-enforcement-radio-communication/article_807b0762-6438-11ed-a961-67af05c7b52f.html

Yellowstone County 911 dispatch will encrypt law enforcement radio beginning Nov. 15

https://billingsgazette.com/news/local/yellowstone-county-911-dispatch-will-encrypt-law-enforcement-radio-beginning-nov-15/article_be1eeeec-6435-11ed-b57c-432c8bcd6c52.html

Billings area 911 dispatch to begin encrypting law enforcement radio traffic

<https://www.ktvq.com/news/local-news/billings-area-911-dispatch-to-begin-encrypting-law-enforcement-radio-traffic>

Critics worry Billings 911 dispatch encryption harms police transparency

<https://www.ktvq.com/news/local-news/critics-worry-billings-911-dispatch-encryption-harms-police-transparency>

Holocaust exhibit at BPL

Traveling Holocaust exhibit arrives at the Billings Public Library

<https://www.ktvq.com/community/out-and-about/traveling-holocaust-exhibit-arrives-at-the-billings-public-library>

Jewish pioneers in Montana exhibit at Billings Public Library

<https://kmhk.com/ixp/628/p/jewish-pioneers-in-montana-exhibit-at-billings-public-library/>

Americans & the Holocaust exhibit at the Billings Public Library

<https://www.yourbigsky.com/local-news-2/americans-the-holocaust-exhibit-at-the-billings-public-library/>

Snow storm

Kudos to City of Billings for plowing and sanding quickly during storm

<https://www.yourbigsky.com/billings-beat/kudos-to-city-of-billings-for-plowing-and-sanding-quickly-during-storm/>

Lingering storm triggers Billings residential plowing

https://billingsgazette.com/news/local/lingering-storm-triggers-billings-residential-plowing/article_78189f14-6139-11ed-901d-63c2e8b18c8b.html

First snowfall of the year means long shifts for Billings snowplow drivers

<https://www.ktvq.com/news/local-news/first-snowfall-of-the-year-means-long-shifts-for-billings-snowplow-drivers>

Courts & Crime

BPD and U.S. Attorneys Office prosecute identity theft on federal level

https://www.kulr8.com/news/bpd-and-u-s-attorneys-office-prosecute-identity-theft-on-federal-level/article_47d2da30-615d-11ed-80d3-bf861f00bb1c.html

BPD, Feds target identity theft and net 20 convictions, \$200,000 in restitution

https://billingsgazette.com/news/local/bpd-feds-target-identity-theft-and-net-20-convictions-200-000-in-restitution/article_d7069bd4-6148-11ed-a0e6-37d98ec213d8.html

Death of Raymond Dupree Jr: Jury rules Billings Police officer justified in shooting

<https://www.ktvq.com/news/local-news/death-of-raymond-dupree-jr-jury-rules-billings-police-officer-justified-in-shooting>

Bodcams in Billings: How residents feel after jury rules officer justified in shooting death

<https://www.ktvq.com/news/local-news/bodcams-in-billings-how-residents-feel-after-jury-rules-officer-justified-in-shooting-death>

Sale of city properties

Billings prepares to sell City Hall and other properties downtown

https://billingsgazette.com/news/local/billings-prepares-to-sell-city-hall-and-other-properties-downtown/article_b2066cd8-6472-11ed-98f2-bbb4381d4ac9.html

Billings City Council approves selling downtown buildings, including City Hall

<https://www.ktvq.com/news/local-news/billings-city-council-approves-selling-downtown-buildings-including-city-hall>



2825 3rd Ave. N.
Billings, MT. 59101
P 406.657.8271

Jessica Fust
Building Official

Subject: Emergency Low-Barrier Shelters
From: Jessica Fust, Building Official
Bill Tatum, Fire Marshal
Date: November 18, 2022

The City of Billings Building Division and Fire Prevention Bureau have been working with two local organizations that intend to provide temporary, emergency shelter overnight for individuals in Billings. We understand the need and priority to provide accommodations for this vulnerable population.

The Building and Fire Codes that the City of Billings enforces are adopted by the state through the administrative rule making process and are based on the 2021 International Building Code and 2012 International Fire Code, respectively. The City of Billings does not have the authority to modify or waive the state adopted codes; the codes must be adopted in whole by the jurisdiction.

The Codes require that if the intended use of a building is different from the original use it was permitted under, the building may need to be modified to accommodate the new use. This is especially important when the building is changing from a less hazardous use to a more hazardous use. Housing multiple people in a commercial building overnight is considered a more hazardous use than many other uses due to the fact that people would be asleep and unaware of their surroundings if a fire or other hazard were present.

The Continuum of Care (COC) wishes to house people at First Congregational Church located at 310 N 27th St. City staff have been in contact with Pastor Lisa Harmon, Kari Boiter, and High Plains Architects regarding the code deficiencies in that building for the intended use. Fire and building officials have toured the building and discussed potential options for areas to house people overnight considering some parts of the building do have fire sprinkler protection, smoke detection, a fire alarm, and alarm notification devices. The City intends to respond to the architect's code analysis in writing early next week and outline the next steps required for them to accommodate overnight guests.

The Montana Rescue Mission (MRM) wishes to house people in a building located at 21 S 29th St. City staff has been in contact with Al Rapacz of Schutz Foss Architects, and Max French and Shaun Ryan, of MRM. The architect completed a code analysis that demonstrated the



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Jessica Fust
Building Official

building does not meet several code requirements for overnight housing, including, but not limited to: fire sprinkler protection, smoke detection, fire alarm, and alarm notification devices. The existing egress is also not code compliant with the number of people they intended to house (50-60 occupants).

City staff informed the MRM representatives that they shall not house people overnight in that building until they make modifications to the facility to meet building and fire codes for that occupancy use.

The City of Billings Building Division and Fire Prevention Bureau remain committed to working with these community organizations to keep all Billings' citizens and visitors safe. We understand the challenges presented by the cold weather during this season.