

Billings City Administrator Weekly Report

November 3, 2023

1. **2024 Leadership Billings** – I’m participating in this year’s Leadership Billings Class. Our first session focused on the following Community & Social Service providers: Intro to ACEs - Riverstone Health; St Johns United; Addiction 101 Dr Malcolm Horn – Rimrock; United Way; Family Promise tour; Family Service tour; and round table discussions with Veterans Navigation Network, Big Sky Senior Services, CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates), Adult Resource Alliance, Yellowstone Valley Animal Shelter, Dog Tag Buddies. The program is off to an impressive start – Get ready for football analogies, I’ve been assigned to read What It Takes to be #1 – Vince Lombardi on Leadership.
2. **City/County/School Meeting** – We covered future ballot initiatives - SD2 anticipates a spring safety mill levy and a fall high school bond in 2024, the county didn’t offer any indication of a jail and juvenile detention bond. We provided an update on our Family Justice Center efforts. SD2 summarized their three charter school proposals to the state.
3. **FJC Steering Committee** – the Family Justice Center Steering Committee continued making progress. We had a zoom call with the FJC Alliance and also reviewed a job description for the FJC Coordinator. The coordinator position will continue the great work by Ellie Stanton. Ellie’s VISTA commitment ends in early 2024. We will be bringing a proposal to the city council to fund the position in a partnership between the YWCA and City using some of the \$200,000 allocated for the
4. **Press Conference Statements** - Attached you will find the statements Mayor Cole and CA Kukulski made at Thursday afternoon’s press conference.
5. **Parks Project Progress** – Please see the attached Parks Project Progress Report.
6. **Elevating Air Service in Billings** – There has been a great deal of progress lately at BIL, including receiving the SCASD Grant for LAX/SFO service; headquarter meetings with Sun Country and calendared meetings with United, Southwest and others; The Montanna Rendezvous, and more. As members of the air service committee, we would like to encourage you to attend two events to help develop our future strategic direction for air service.

Please attend the “Elevating Air Service in Billings” program **on November 8, 2023, from 8-9:30 a.m. at the Northern Hotel** to learn more about progress and plans directly from our consultants at Mead & Hunt along with the BIL Director of Aviation and Transit Jeff Roach. The event will feature a community discussion and brainstorming on needs from the business community for the future. Complimentary breakfast will be served during this free event. Space is limited. Register to attend event by November 6, 2023. <https://business.billingschamber.com/events/details/elevating-air-service-in-billings-5102523>

From **11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Nov 8 at Rock 31 in the Zoot Room** we, as the committee, will roll up our sleeves and develop a plan for the future. The meeting will be facilitated by Mead & Hunt. Lunch is included. Please RSVP by responding directly to me.



7. **Parks, Recreation and Trails Bond Presentations** – Educational presentations on the PRT Bond were given to the Downtown Rotary Club.

8. **Next Week's Meetings/Task Forces**

- a. Legislative Committee, Wednesday, November 8th 4:00 PM, City Hall Conference Room.

9. **New City Hall Update –**

Fifth Floor:

Ceiling grid made good progress this week with most of the southwest area complete. The ceiling grid is up to the inspector's station on the east, and they will hold off on the coiling door areas until the overhead doors are installed. The overhead doors should be installed this month. Thermax will be complete with insulation on the hydronics and overhead plumbing. Ace electric completed lighting rough in, in the bathroom group as well as the family bathroom. Ace will be calling in a ceiling inspection for Monday in the hard lid bathroom locations. This will release drywall to be able to be hung on the ceilings. Paint and tile will follow in the bathrooms. Ace is still re-working the lighting controls in the ceiling and the switches. Drywall patch and paint to follow for the switching changes. Ace installed the display screen electrical boxes and conduit raceways. Blocking for the display screen and speakers on the north wall will be complete next week with drywall to follow. HVAC for the diffusers in the council chambers will be complete. Once framing begins on the soffits in the council chambers, the diffusers will be installed during this activity. Star is working on welding for the gas pipe in the fan room and next week will T-off of the main and up to supply the Roof Top Unit. Star also replaced the steam's main line ball valve. Relites are complete in the hollow metal frames on the north and south side.

Fourth Floor:

Star is progressing with hydronic runs. HVAC completed this week. Taping is ongoing and will be complete late next week for painting to start on Monday 11/13. Ace Electric is working on lighting runs in the ceiling and re-working the power in the bathroom groups. Hard lids are complete apart from the two bathrooms. The elevator lobby soffit began today with good initial progress. Hollow metal door spreaders were removed in preparation for painting.

Second Floor:

Ace is complete with rough in, and box walk changes/adds/corrections. A QC device walk will follow today and Monday. Ace is also coring for floor boxes. Exterior wall demo is near complete.

Door frames are installed except for the few door frames that were damaged in transport (2 door frames). Blocking for TVs and ADA accessories will be complete this week. Plumbing rough in is still ongoing. HVAC started rough in. A drywall delivery is scheduled for Monday 11/6 which will kick off one siding the walls. Also, on the drywall delivery there will be framing materials for the south courtroom storefront wall and 4th floor police counter.

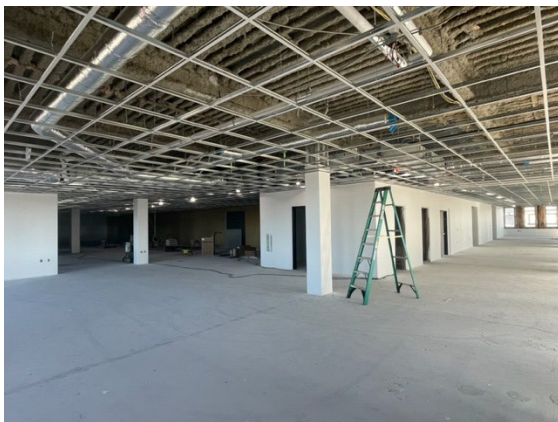
First Floor:

Framing started this week with good progress.

Additional:

Ace relocated the power for the material hoist out of 5th floor's ceiling and down through the north IT room, into 4th floor's north electrical room. This move was important to avoid the temp power conflicting with ceiling finishes.

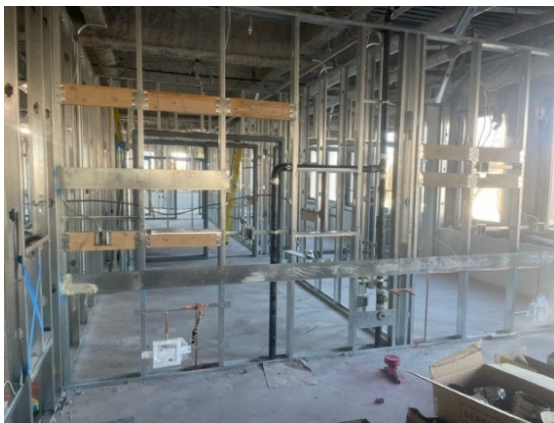
5th Floor:



4th Floor:



2nd Floor:



1st Floor:



Statement by Mayor Bill Cole, November 2, 2023

I would like to begin by expressing my deepest sympathy to the family members and friends of the victims who died as a result of these recent shootings in our city.

In just five short days, three people, including an innocent, one-year-old infant, lost their lives as a result of heartless criminal behavior and senseless gun violence.

My heart also goes out to the neighbors neighborhoods where these shootings, and the non-fatal shooting on Colton Blvd., occurred, as well as to all our residents who, as a result of these crimes, feel less safe in their homes, neighborhoods, and our community.

I, like all of us, condemn these acts of senseless violence and insist that those responsible be held accountable for their brazen actions.

Violent crime will not be tolerated, and violence is never the answer to conflict.

I'm confident that I speak for all city council members, many of whom I have spoken with in recent days, when I say that we cannot, and will not, let these killings define our community.

We are committed to doing everything we can to make Billings a safe community.

Ironically, these tragic and heart-wrenching deaths come in a year when we have seen a significant decline in violent crime.

According to Chief St. John's August 21, 2023 semi-annual report to the city council, violent crime in the first half of this year was down significantly from the first half of 2022 and down 18.3% from the peak in 2021.

And before Saturday, homicides stood at 6, well below the 17 in 2022 and below the two previous years as well.

But those statistics don't mean anything to the victims of violent crime or their families.

I want to express our community's and the city council's appreciation for the men and women of law enforcement who have worked to protect our community and solve these crimes with diligence and professionalism.

Thank you also to the Billings Fire Department, AMR, Sheriff Linder, and the Yellowstone County Sheriff's Office who played important roles in responding to several of these crimes and their victims.

I have full confidence in Chief St. John, the Billings Police Department, County Attorney Twito, and our Yellowstone County prosecutors to investigate these crimes and bring those who are responsible to justice.

The BPD and their partners have an outstanding track record when it comes to solving serious, high-profile crimes in Billings.

I also encourage law enforcement and our entire community to come up with proactive strategies that will reduce the likelihood of similar criminal activity in the future.

These investigations require a tremendous investment of human resources and can take a severe physical and emotional toll on the law enforcement officers, paramedics, and other first responders who are involved, as well as on their families.

I hope our community will remain as patient as possible while these investigations are carried out and will stand by the victims' families, our first responders, and our community in prayer and compassion.

Finally, I encourage us all to commit ourselves anew to doing what we can as parents, guardians, friends, and families to address the root causes of crime and be a positive influence in the lives of at-risk youth.

Know where your children are and who they are hanging out with. Model love, compassion, and accountability. Get involved as a coach; be a big brother or big sister; or volunteer at your school or church youth group.

And if you know something is amiss, alert the appropriate authorities. Don't look away. Act before another innocent life is taken, and before more hearts are broken.

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CA Press Conference Comments

November 2, 2023

As your City Administrator, and as a husband and father in Billings, I share my grief with family members and friends who have lost loved ones unnecessarily.

I want to thank our first responders, prosecutors and all those who support them. They do an excellent job serving our community and solving crimes. We understand that witnessing the results of gun violence never gets easy.

Speaking on behalf of all City departments, in partnership with our elected officials – improving the health and safety of Billings is our highest priority. We cannot accomplish this strategic goal by ourselves. We need all 120,000 residents engaged in making Billings safe. We are also pushing on all aspects of the criminal justice system at the city, county, and state to improve accountability and help victims.

I also want to take this opportunity to emphasize how important crime prevention is. Way too many of our citizens are living in unhealthy homes and are regularly subjected to violence and trauma. In partnership with our non-profits and faith-based service providers, we must do more to stop generational trauma and crime from becoming the norm.

Chief Rich St. John, along with all his men and women in uniform, the city and county attorney's office have my full support. We will continue to demand the county and state do all they can do to improve accountability and the safety of our community.

Thank you.

November 3rd, 2023 progress report

Park	Progress	Project	Status	*updated information for this week
	Started -----> Completed			
*Arrowhead playground replacement	<div></div>		*Contractor nearing completion	
*Castle Rock playground addition	<div></div>		*Slide replacement parts have been received, contractor has been notified to get installed	
Castle Rock parking lot & restroom	<div></div>		Design work with consultant underway	
Central tennis courts replacement	<div></div>		Submitting LWCF paperwork for project reimbursement	
Comanche playground replacement	<div></div>		Playground complete and open to the public	
*Cottonwood Park masterplan	<div></div>		*Updates in progress and on agenda for the November 8th Park Board meeting	
Coulson Park South Improvements	<div></div>		Received approval from US Army Corps of Engineers, proceeding with design	
Gorham irrigation automation	<div></div>		Installation by contractor ongoing	
Grandview irrigation automation	<div></div>		Advertised twice, no bids both times, rebid at a later date	
Highland playground replacement	<div></div>		Playground equipment was delivered, installer under contract for Fall completion	
Millice irrigation automation	<div></div>		Sealed bids opened, project over budget, rebid at a later date	
North Park adult exercise & shelter	<div></div>		Shelter delivered to Parks, to be installed by contractor	
*North Park playground replacement	<div></div>		New play equipment scheduled for delivery week of November 6th	
*North Park restroom replacement	<div></div>		*Pre-fab concrete restroom scheduled for delivery Wednesday November 8th	
Pioneer Park tennis courts replacement	<div></div>		Received proposals from consultants, reviewing candidates for recommendation	
Poly Vista inclusive playground and parking lot	<div></div>		Landscape Architect hired for design of inclusive playground and complete parking lot for phase II	
Ponderosa irrigation automation	<div></div>		Final walkthrough complete, system fully operational	
Rose Park pool spray equipment replacement	<div></div>		New spray equipment ordered and scheduled for September delivery, contractor to install in Fall	
Skypoint sail replacement	<div></div>		Structural Engineer's report completed, proceeding with recommended repairs prior to painting	