

## Billings City Administrator Weekly Report

January 19, 2024

1. **Montana Opioid Abatement Trust Fund** – the committee held its first meeting to discuss priorities and how best to use these critical resources to deal with the effects of addiction. The implementation of an agreed upon plan is the preferred path forward. Billings is expected to receive \$65,000 annually for 18 years.
2. **Budget Launch** – Andy and I worked through improvements for this year's budget process. The most visible change is that the Council and public will see what each department has requested. This will allow everyone to better understand what each department director and their team believes should be invested to best meet the current and future needs and opportunities for the organization. This will be followed by the customary balanced budget and ultimately the budget the Council adopts.
3. **Crime Prevention Round Table handouts** – Tuesday evening's roundtable discussion included power point presentation and handouts from RiverStone and Substance Abuse Connect which are attached.
4. **Park News** - The skate rink at Veterans Park is ready for skaters. The restrooms will be open from 8:00 AM until 3:00 PM next week, then staff will be able to extend the hours into the evenings and weekends. Check the Parks and Recreation website for more details. (Please see the attached chart showing the status of all the Park projects across the city.)



5. **City of Billings Grant Funding Update** – Please see the attached grant update on the North Park Restroom.
6. **Next Week's Meetings/Task Forces**
  - a. Public Safety Joint Task Force, Tuesday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 6:00 PM, Billings Public Library.
7. **2024 Council Meeting Schedule** – Please see the attached Council Meeting schedule for upcoming items on the agenda.

## **8. New City Hall Update –**

### **5<sup>th</sup> Floor**

Install radius ceiling panels in the council chambers.  
Install linear light fixtures on radius ceiling panels.  
Set sprinkler head in radius ceiling panels.  
Metal stud framing at exterior walls.  
Finish wall and floor tile in main restroom group.  
Run data cables and trim outlets.  
Start installing plumbing fixtures.  
Tape acoustic panel ceiling in council chambers.  
Insulation and vapor barrier at exterior walls.  
Welding heat exchanger piping in fan room.

### **4<sup>th</sup> Floor**

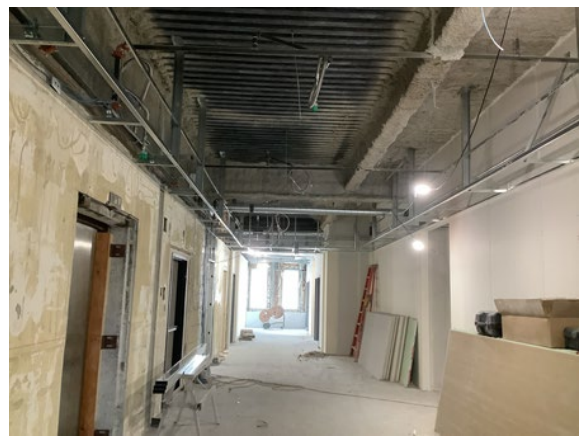
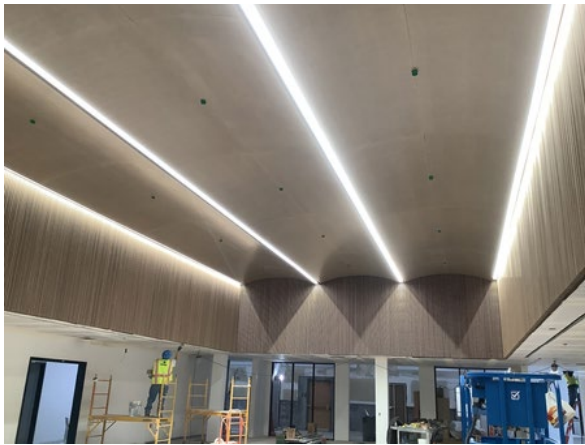
Install ceiling wires for light fixtures.  
Prime and paint hard lids and soffits.  
Install light fixtures in ceiling grid.  
Continue window replacement east elevation.  
Prep for tile in the single use restrooms.  
Land home run wire in electrical panels.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**

Taping and sanding walls north end.  
Plumbing tie in between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floor.  
Hard lid and soffit framing.  
Electrical rough in at hard lids.  
Lighting controls and light fixture box make up.  
Prep, prime and paint hollow metal frames on the north end.  
Paint wall accent color south end.

### **1<sup>st</sup> Floor**

HVAC overhead rough in and VAV's.  
Hydronic piping.  
Overhead waste and vent tie in.  
Box walk electrical rough in.  
Air handler delivery and stored on west side.  
Demo existing mixing boxes under windows.



## 9. City Communications –

*Winter weather prompts Public Works to activate 24-hour shift*

<https://www.facebook.com/billingsmtpublicworks/posts/pfbid02TPsRQA44piHtsStww16GznbLdrrYgxEe9NTHSoyF7P7oaBzCY6BK6HmPz8iGgugTl>

*Broken sprinkler pipe causes a delayed opening for the library Tuesday*

<https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=780241504130987&set=a.551966893625117>

*Press Release: Lewis Ave Assault with a Weapon*

<https://billingsmt.gov/DocumentCenter/View/50991/011724-Lewis-Ave-Assault-with-a-Weapon>

*PD accepting applications for spring Citizen's Police Academy*

<https://www.billingsmt.gov/2951/Citizens-Police-Academy>

*Billings PD weekly brief*

<https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=765099115651869&set=a.226302889531497>

*Veteran's Park ice sheet ready for skaters*

<https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=772147721614075&set=a.222453499916836>

## Finance

*City aiming for grant to build pedestrian bridge over tracks on Billings South Side*

<https://www.ktvq.com/news/local-news/city-aiming-for-grant-to-build-pedestrian-bridge-over-tracks-on-billings-south-side>

## **PD**

*Man arrested following Billings Police standoff*

[https://billingsgazette.com/news/local/crime-courts/man-arrested-following-billings-police-standoff/article\\_fc1c8470-b560-11ee-af50-ef204173aa4b.html](https://billingsgazette.com/news/local/crime-courts/man-arrested-following-billings-police-standoff/article_fc1c8470-b560-11ee-af50-ef204173aa4b.html)

*BPD releases info on weapon assault investigation & SWAT activation on Lewis Ave*

[https://www.kulr8.com/news/bpd-releases-info-on-weapon-assault-investigation-swat-activation-on-lewis-ave/article\\_1ce22eec-b568-11ee-a3c0-53f0851878a0.html](https://www.kulr8.com/news/bpd-releases-info-on-weapon-assault-investigation-swat-activation-on-lewis-ave/article_1ce22eec-b568-11ee-a3c0-53f0851878a0.html)

## **FD**

*Billings Fire Department introduces a new safety squad program for SD2 elementary students*

[https://www.nonstoplocal.com/billings/news/billings-fire-department-introduces-a-new-safety-squad-program-for-sd2-elementary-students/video\\_d9aa3187-549d-50a1-b796-33876a55eb81.html](https://www.nonstoplocal.com/billings/news/billings-fire-department-introduces-a-new-safety-squad-program-for-sd2-elementary-students/video_d9aa3187-549d-50a1-b796-33876a55eb81.html)

## **Mayor & Council**

*Billings City Council holds crime prevention round table*

<https://www.ktvq.com/news/local-news/billings-city-council-holds-crime-prevention-round-table>

*Billings leaders look again at ways to fight crime, support families and hold kids accountable*

[https://billingsgazette.com/news/local/government-politics/billings-fights-crime-and-violence/article\\_fb39a4d8-b561-11ee-ac1f-1bef778bd1ee.html](https://billingsgazette.com/news/local/government-politics/billings-fights-crime-and-violence/article_fb39a4d8-b561-11ee-ac1f-1bef778bd1ee.html)

*Billings citizens celebrate Martin Luther King's dream*

<https://www.ktvq.com/news/local-news/billings-citizens-celebrate-martin-luther-kings-dream>

## **PW**

*City Code in Billings requires residents to shovel snow off the sidewalks*

[https://www.kulr8.com/montana/city-code-in-billings-requires-residents-to-shovel-snow-off-the-sidewalks/article\\_d16e1ce2-b534-11ee-9d2d-d7d7beb315f6.html](https://www.kulr8.com/montana/city-code-in-billings-requires-residents-to-shovel-snow-off-the-sidewalks/article_d16e1ce2-b534-11ee-9d2d-d7d7beb315f6.html)

*Billings Public Works gives water system protection tips against cold temperatures*

[https://www.kulr8.com/billings-public-works-gives-water-system-protection-tips-against-cold-temperatures/article\\_287fda9c-b0ea-11ee-b081-4b5bdc6dd941.html](https://www.kulr8.com/billings-public-works-gives-water-system-protection-tips-against-cold-temperatures/article_287fda9c-b0ea-11ee-b081-4b5bdc6dd941.html)

## **In other news...**

*Billings Schools program views wrongdoing as a 'learning opportunity'*

[https://billingsgazette.com/news/local/education/billings-schools-program-views-wrongdoing-as-a-learning-opportunity/article\\_c43f8b4e-b4b9-11ee-8126-67d131b146c3.html](https://billingsgazette.com/news/local/education/billings-schools-program-views-wrongdoing-as-a-learning-opportunity/article_c43f8b4e-b4b9-11ee-8126-67d131b146c3.html)

*Billings Public Schools awarded grant for crisis response training*

[https://billingsgazette.com/news/local/education/crisis-response-training-grant-sd2/article\\_654ee210-b18a-11ee-b295-5f03fcd5d7d.html](https://billingsgazette.com/news/local/education/crisis-response-training-grant-sd2/article_654ee210-b18a-11ee-b295-5f03fcd5d7d.html)

*\$5 million project coming to Zoo Drive to improve traffic flow near new Billings Costco*

<https://www.ktvq.com/news/local-news/5-million-project-coming-to-zoo-drive-to-improve-traffic-flow-near-new-billings-costco>

*Community Crisis Center struggles with overcrowding during this weekends severe winter weather*

[https://www.nonstoplocal.com/billings/news/community-crisis-center-struggles-with-overcrowding-during-this-weekends-severe-winter-weather/video\\_eea21c2f-9bbc-5c7a-80f0-3ffe4450b5d2.html](https://www.nonstoplocal.com/billings/news/community-crisis-center-struggles-with-overcrowding-during-this-weekends-severe-winter-weather/video_eea21c2f-9bbc-5c7a-80f0-3ffe4450b5d2.html)

*Billings school district to request more money*

<https://www.ypradio.org/regional-news/2024-01-17/billings-school-district-to-request-more-money>





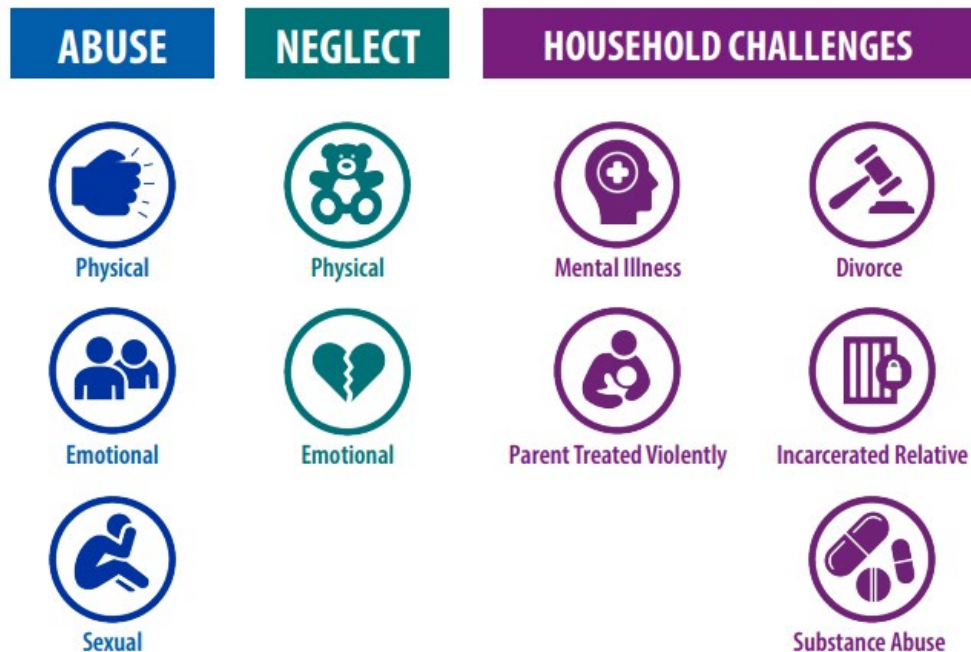
# Crime Prevention Starts with Supporting Families & Youth

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**A Summary of CDC's Reports:  
“Adverse Childhood Experiences Prevention – Resource for Action”  
&  
“Adverse Childhood Experiences Prevention Strategy – FY2021-2024”**
















# What are A.C.E.s

- Potentially traumatic events that occur in childhood





# Potential Impacts of A.C.E.s

BEHAVIOR				
				
Lack of physical activity	Smoking	Alcoholism	Drug use	Missed work
PHYSICAL & MENTAL HEALTH				
				
Severe obesity	Diabetes	Depression	Suicide attempts	STDs
				
Heart disease	Cancer	Stroke	COPD	Broken bones



Adversity is Not Destiny  
Strategies to Prevent/Counteract  
A.C.E.s & Nurture Positive  
Childhood Experiences

# Positive Childhood Experiences

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- 7 Key Positive Childhood Experiences
  - Ability to talk openly with family about feelings
  - Feel supported by family during difficult times
  - Feeling safe and protected by an adult in the home
  - Feeling supported by friends
  - Sense of belonging and connection to a larger group
  - Enjoyment of participation in community traditions
  - Relationship w/at least two non-parent adult who takes genuine interest in the child

# PCEs Prevent and Mitigate ACEs

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Strengthen economic supports for families



Promote social norms that protect against violence and adversity



Ensure a strong start for children



Enhance skills to help parents and youths handle stress, manage emotions, and tackle everyday challenges



Connect youths to caring adults and activities



Intervene to lessen immediate and long-term harms

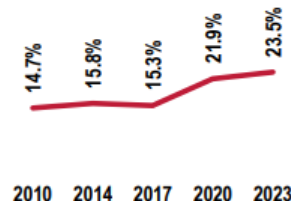


# Prevalence of ACEs and Associated Negative Health Outcomes in Yellowstone County

# Abuse and Household Violence

Have Ever Been Hit, Slapped, Pushed,  
Kicked, or Hurt in Any Way by an Intimate Partner

Yellowstone County



Approx. 60% of reported  
crime in Billings is  
relational/intimate partner  
violence related

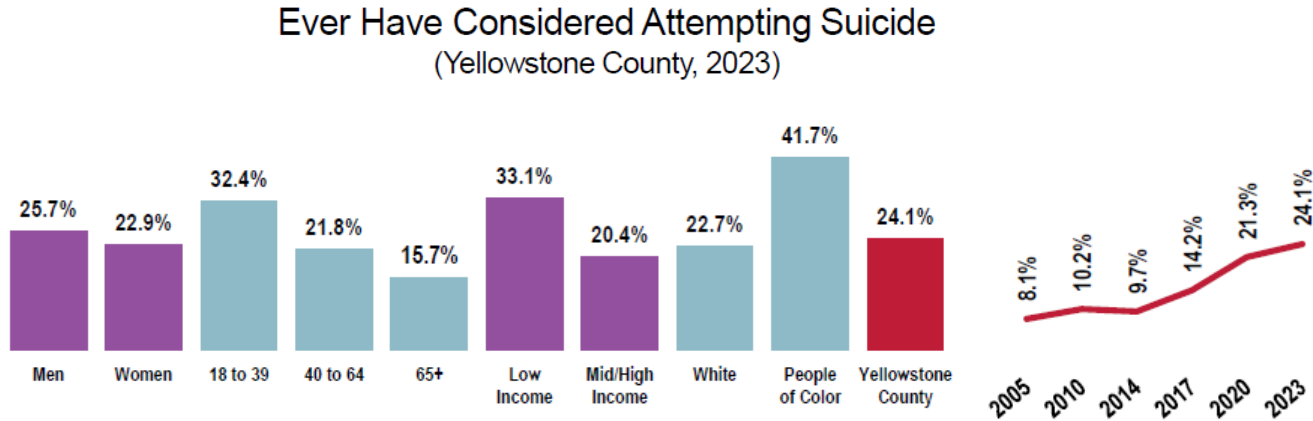
Sources: ● 2023 PRC Community Health Survey, PRC, Inc. [Item 39]  
● 2020 PRC National Health Survey, PRC, Inc.  
Notes: ● Asked of all respondents.

# Household Challenges – Mental Health

24% have considered suicide at some point in their lifetime

26 people died by suicide each year per 100,000 population in Yellowstone County

- Higher than MT (25.7) and **nearly 2x the US (13.9)**





# Challenges Facing Youth

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According to the 2021 YRBS, among Yellowstone County high school students –

- **41% were so sad or hopeless almost every day** for 2 weeks or more to the point that they stopped doing activities (depressed)
- 23% seriously considered suicide
- 19% made a plan to suicide
- **16% attempted suicide**





# Challenges Facing Youth

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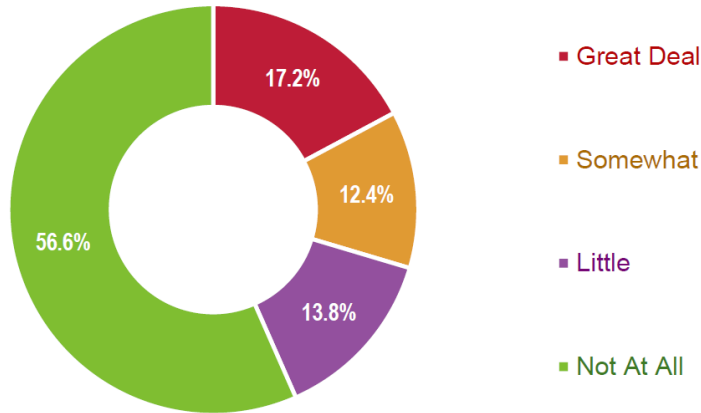
**According to the 2021 YRBS, among Yellowstone County high school students –**

- 19% were electronically bullied**
- 17% bullied on school property in past year**
- 15% were teased or name called for being perceived as gay, lesbian, bisexual**

# Household Challenges & Substance Misuse

**43% of lives have been negatively impacted by substance abuse/misuse (2020: 54%)**

Degree to Which Life Has Been Negatively  
Affected by Substance Abuse (Self or Other's)  
(Yellowstone County, 2023)

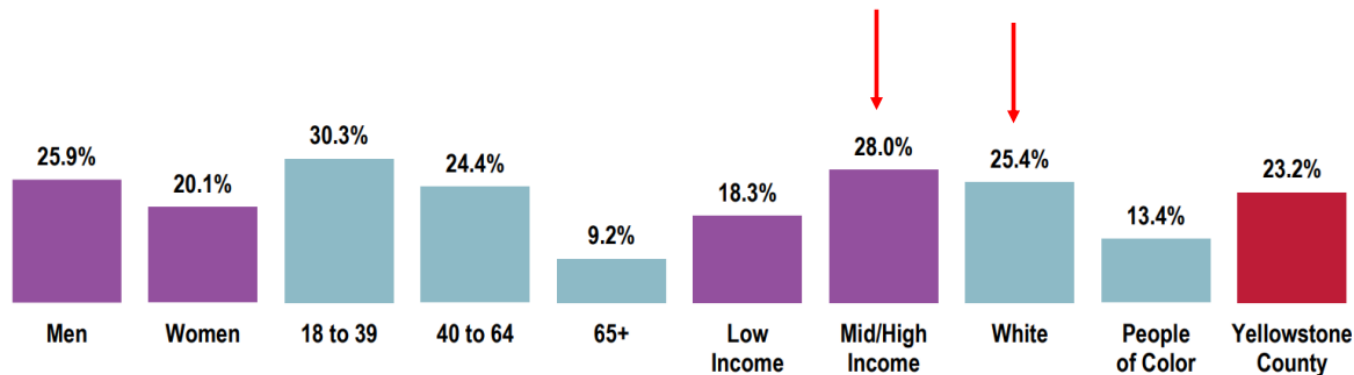


**35% of Yellowstone County  
youth report using marijuana  
by their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday**



# Household Challenges & Alcohol Misuse

## Excessive Drinkers (Yellowstone County, 2023)



Sources: ● 2023 PRC Community Health Survey, PRC, Inc. [Item 136]

Notes: ● Asked of all respondents.

- Excessive drinking reflects the number of persons aged 18 years and over who drank more than two drinks per day on average (for men) or more than one drink per day on average (for women) OR who drank 5 or more drinks during a single occasion (for men) or 4 or more drinks during a single occasion (for women) during the past 30 days.



# Household Challenges

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Montana divorce rate: **2.5 divorces per 1,000 residents**

Montana youth entering foster care: **7 per 1,000 residents** vs. 3 per 1,000 in US (ranked 49<sup>th</sup> out of 50 states)

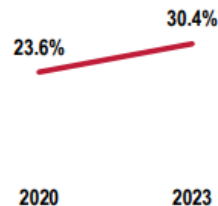
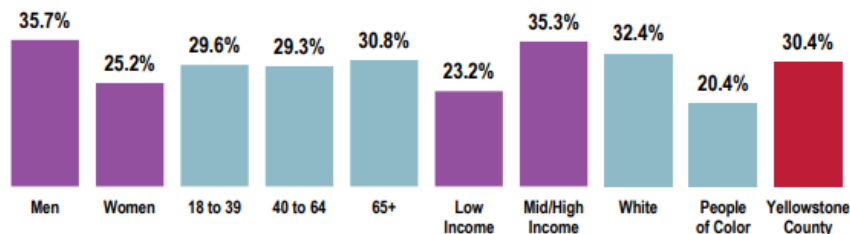


# Access to Firearms

Currently Have an Unlocked  
Firearm in or Around the Home or Vehicle  
(Yellowstone County, 2023)

Firearms (62%) are the  
most common means of  
suicide in Montana.

Yellowstone County



**In 2020, 62% of youth  
suicides were completed  
by firearm**

In 2021, 66% of veteran  
suicides were completed  
by firearm

Sources: • 2023 PRC Community Health Survey, PRC, Inc. [Item 310]

Notes: • Asked of all respondents.

• In this case, the safety is not considered to be a lock.



# Youth Injury and Violence

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**In 2021, Yellowstone County youth reported that in the last year they:**

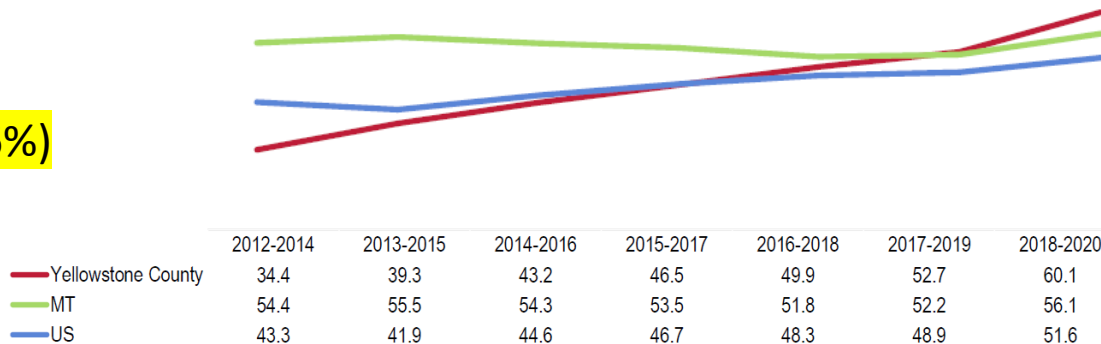
- Carried a weapon on school property: 8.53%**
- Carried gun for a use other than hunting/sport: 8.67%**
- Were threatened or injured with a weapon: 6.42%**
- Skipped school due to perceived lack of safety: 7.8%**
- Were in a physical fight: 20.37%**
- Were forced into sexual “things” against their will: 13.28%**

# Injury and Safety

Unintentional injuries were 4<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death in Yellowstone County from 2018 – 2020, and include:

1. Falls (31%)
2. Poisoning/Drug Overdoses (26%)
3. Motor Vehicle Crashes (22%)
4. Suffocation (5%)
5. Other (17%)

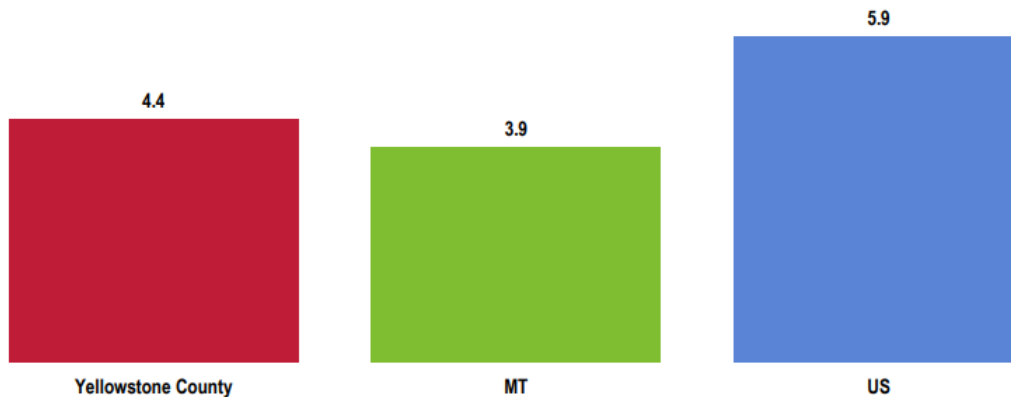
Unintentional Injuries: Age-Adjusted Mortality Trends  
(Annual Average Deaths per 100,000 Population)  
Healthy People 2030 = 43.2 or Lower



**Unintentional injuries have nearly doubled over the past decade.**

# Homicide Rates

Homicide: Age-Adjusted Mortality  
(2018-2020 Annual Average Deaths per 100,000 Population)  
Healthy People 2030 = 5.5 or Lower



Sources:

- CDC WONDER Online Query System. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Epidemiology Program Office, Division of Public Health Surveillance and Informatics. Data extracted July 2022.
- US Department of Health and Human Services. Healthy People 2030. August 2020. <http://www.healthypeople.gov>





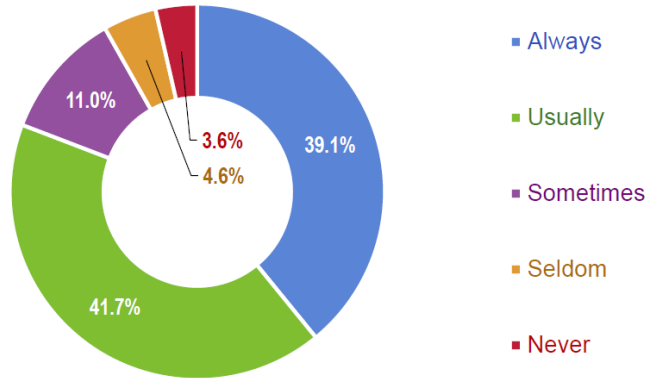
# Prevalence of PSEs in Yellowstone County

# Belonging and Support - Adults

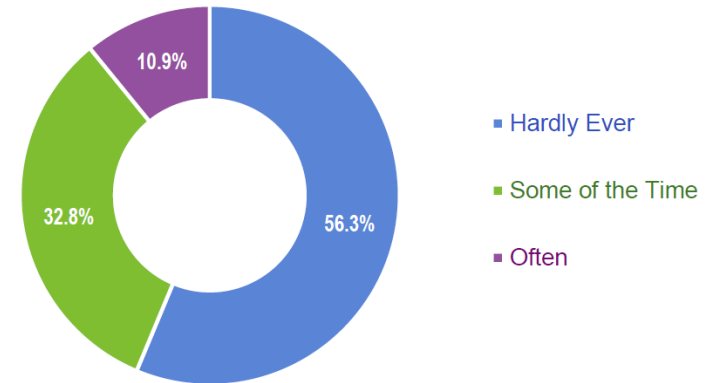
**8% have no social or emotional support**

**11% “often” feel isolated**

Frequency of Having Social and Emotional Support  
(Yellowstone County, 2023)



Frequency of Feeling Isolated  
(Yellowstone County, 2023)



# Belonging and Support - Youth

## According to the 2022 Yellowstone County Prevention Needs Assessment:

- 69% say their parents often or always notice when they are doing a good job and let them know about it
- 63% say their parents tell them they are proud of them often or all the time
- 78% can share their thoughts and feelings with their mother, 77% with their father
- 45% of YC report that they have several adults in their neighborhood they could talk to about something important
- 70% participated in at least one club, organization, or activity at school in past year
- 45 % volunteered to do community service at least 1x in past year



# Select Community Health Data – Crime Prevention

Presented to Billings City Council on January 16, 2024; prepared by RiverStone Health

**\*\*All data points reflect Yellowstone County residents unless otherwise noted**



## Adverse Experiences and Health Concerns

### Intimate Partner Violence

- 23.5% of residents have been slapped, punched, or kicked by an intimate partner vs. 13.7% in US
- Approx. 60% of reported crime in Billings is relational/ intimate partner violence related

### Mental Health and Suicide

- 24.1% considered suicide at some point in their lifetime, up from 1 in 5 in 2020. While suicide is felt by all, our young adults, low-income residents, and residents of color are at greatest risk.
  - Notable worsening over time
  - Most at risk: 18-39 year olds, low-income residents, people of color
- 24% considered suicide at some point in their lifetime
- 26 people died by suicide each year per 100,000 population in Yellowstone County
  - Higher than MT (25.7) and nearly 2x the US (13.9)
- Among Yellowstone County high school students –
  - 41% were so sad or hopeless almost every day for  $\geq 2$  weeks to the point that they stopped doing activities (depressed)
  - 23% seriously considered suicide
  - 19% made a plan to suicide
  - 16% attempted suicide
  - 19% were electronically bullied
  - 17% bullied on school property in past year
  - 15% were teased or name called for being perceived as gay, lesbian, bisexual

### Substance Misuse

- 43% of residents' lives have been negatively impacted by substance abuse vs 36% in US
  - Most at risk: women, adults ages 18 – 39, mid/high income residents, and people of color
- 35% of youth report using marijuana by their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday
- 23% of adults report excessively drinking
  - 20% of youth reported riding in a vehicle with a driver who had consumed alcohol
  - 7% drove after drinking in past month

### Household Challenges

- Montana divorce rate: 2.5 divorces per 1,000 residents
- Montana youth entering foster care: 7 per 1,000 residents vs. 3 per 1,000 in US
  - Ranked 49<sup>th</sup> out of 50 states

### Injury and Safety

- 30% of adults have an unlocked firearm in their home or vehicle, a notable increase since 2020
  - Most at risk: male, high income, and white residents
  - Firearms (62%) are the most common means of suicide in Montana.
    - In 2020, 62% of youth suicides were completed by firearm
    - In 2021, 66% of veteran suicides were completed by firearm
- In 2021, Yellowstone County youth reported that in the last year they:

- Carried a weapon on school property: 8.53%
- Carried gun for a use other than hunting/sport: 8.67%
- Were threatened or injured with a weapon: 6.42%
- Skipped school due to perceived lack of safety: 7.8%
- Were in a physical fight: 20.37%
- Were forced into sexual “things” against their will: 13.28%
- Unintentional injuries have nearly doubled in past decade
  - 4<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death in Yellowstone County from 2018 – 2020, and include:
    - Falls (31%)
    - Poisoning/Drug Overdoses (26%)
    - Motor Vehicle Crashes (22%)
    - Suffocation (5%)
    - Other (17%)
    - Note: Firearms (62%), suffocation (20%), and poisoning (9%) are the most common means of suicide in Montana. Other means include carbon monoxide, overdose, motor vehicles accidents, and jumping from heights – may be classified as unintentional due to stigma

## Positive Experiences – Belonging and Support

- Just 8% of adults have no social or emotional support
- 11% of adults “often” feel isolated

Among Yellowstone County youth:

- 69% say their parents often/always notice when they are doing a good job and let them know about it
- 63% say their parents tell them they are proud of them often or all the time
- 78% can share their thoughts and feelings with their mother, 77% with their father
- 45% report having several adults in their neighborhood they could talk to about something important
- 70% participated in at least one club, organization, or activity at school in past year
- 45 % volunteered to do community service at least 1x in past year

## Sources

1. Billings Police Department
2. Professional Research Consultants, Inc. 2023 Community Health Needs Assessment Report: Yellowstone County, Montana hbdyc.org/CHNA – Published January 4, 2023.
3. Montana Office of Public Instruction. 2021 Youth Risk Behavior Survey: Yellowstone County.
4. US Census. American Fact Finder. Available at: [www.census.gov](https://www.census.gov) Accessed on January 15, 2024;
5. Annie E. Casey Foundation. Available at: <https://www.aecf.org/> Accessed January 4, 2024.
6. Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. Suicide in Montana: Facts, Figures, and Formulas for Prevention. March 2022.
7. Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. 2022 Montana Prevention Needs Assessment: Yellowstone County Montana.

## Adverse Childhood Experiences Scale Questionnaire

Every “yes” answer = 1 point

Before your 18<sup>th</sup> birthday:

- 1) Did a parent or other adult in the household often or very often swear at you, insult you, put you down, or humiliate you OR act in a way that made you afraid that you might be physically hurt?
- 2) Did a parent or other adult in the household often or very often push, grab, slap, or throw something at you OR ever hit you so hard that you had marks or were injured?
- 3) Did an adult or person at least 5 years older than you ever touch or fondle you or have you touch their body in a sexual way OR attempt to actually have oral, anal, or vaginal intercourse with you?
- 4) Did you often or very often feel that no one in your family loved you or thought you were important or special OR your family didn't look out for each other, feel close to each other, or support each other?
- 5) Did you often or very often feel that you didn't have enough to eat, had to wear dirty clothes, and had no one to protect you OR your parents were too drunk or high to take care of you or take you to the doctor if you needed it?
- 6) Was a biological parent ever lost to you through divorce, abandonment, or other reason?
- 7) Was your mother or stepmother often or very often pushed, grabbed, slapped, or had something thrown at her OR sometimes, often, or very often kicked, bitten, hit with a fist, or hit with something hard OR ever repeatedly hit over at least a few minutes or threatened with a gun or knife?
- 8) Did you live with anyone who was a problem drinker or alcoholic, or who used street drugs?
- 9) Was a household member depressed or mentally ill, or did a household member attempt suicide?
- 10) Did a household member go to prison?

## Positive Childhood Experiences Scale Questionnaire

Every "yes" answer = 1 point

Thinking back to your childhood, before your 18<sup>th</sup> birthday:

- 1) You were able to talk to your family about feelings.
- 2) You had the sense that your family is supportive during difficult times.
- 3) You had the enjoyment of participation in community traditions.
- 4) You had the feeling of a sense of belonging in high school.
- 5) You felt supported by friends.
- 6) You had at least two non-parent adults who genuinely cared.
- 7) You had the feeling of being safe and protected by at least one adult in the home.





## Preventing ACEs

Strategy	Approach
<b>Strengthen economic supports to families</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthening household financial security</li> <li>• Family-friendly work policies</li> </ul>
<b>Promote social norms that protect against violence and adversity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public education campaigns</li> <li>• Legislative approaches to reduce corporal punishment</li> <li>• Bystander approaches</li> <li>• Men and boys as allies in prevention</li> </ul>
<b>Ensure a strong start for children</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early childhood home visitation</li> <li>• High-quality child care</li> <li>• Preschool enrichment with family engagement</li> </ul>
<b>Teach skills</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social-emotional learning</li> <li>• Safe dating and healthy relationship skill programs</li> <li>• Parenting skills and family relationship approaches</li> </ul>
<b>Connect youth to caring adults and activities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mentoring programs</li> <li>• After-school programs</li> </ul>
<b>Intervene to lessen immediate and long-term harms</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhanced primary care</li> <li>• Victim-centered services</li> <li>• Treatment to lessen the harms of ACEs</li> <li>• Treatment to prevent problem behavior and future involvement in violence</li> <li>• Family-centered treatment for substance use disorders</li> </ul>

# COALITIONS

## Working Together for Our Community

This document showcases the collaborative efforts of various coalitions in Billings united in their mission to enhance the city's safety and overall quality of life. Through their dedicated work in areas like public health, substance abuse prevention, and homelessness solutions, these organizations exemplify the power of community partnership in creating a safer, healthier environment for all residents.



### Substance Abuse Connect

Substance Abuse Connect is a collaborative initiative aimed at addressing the challenges of substance abuse in the community. It brings together various organizations and stakeholders, including healthcare providers, law enforcement, and support groups, to create a comprehensive and effective response to addiction. This alliance focuses on prevention, treatment, and recovery support, providing a unified and resourceful approach to combat substance abuse in the



### Healthy By Design

Healthy by Design is a community-driven coalition dedicated to improving health and wellness in the region. This initiative focuses on promoting healthy lifestyles, supporting access to nutritious food, and encouraging physical activity among residents of all ages. Through collaboration with local organizations, healthcare providers, and public agencies, Healthy By Design aims to create an environment where healthy choices are accessible and encouraged, contributing to the overall well-being of the community.



### Suicide Prevention Coalition

Suicide Prevention Coalition is a group committed to reducing and preventing suicide in the community through awareness, education, and support. This coalition brings together mental health professionals, community volunteers, and various organizations to create a network of resources and support for individuals at risk of suicide. Their efforts focus on providing training, outreach programs, and public awareness campaigns to address the mental health needs of the Yellowstone Valley and promote life-affirming solutions.



### Billings Continuum of Care (CoC)

The Billings CoC is a comprehensive program designed to address homelessness through a coordinated community effort. It encompasses a range of services including emergency shelter, transitional housing, and permanent supportive housing, along with necessary support services. This initiative involves collaboration among local government, non-profit organizations, and community members, aiming to provide holistic solutions and sustainable support to individuals and families experiencing homelessness in the Billings area.



### Yellowstone County DUI Task Force

The YC DUI Task force is an initiative focused on reducing the incidence and impact of driving under the influence (DUI). Through a combination of education, enforcement, and community engagement, the task force aims to raise awareness about the dangers of impaired driving. Their efforts include coordinating with law enforcement agencies, conducting public awareness campaigns, and promoting policy changes to ensure safer roads for the residents.

Januray 11th, 2024 progress report

Park	Progress	Project	Status	*updated information for this week
	Started ----->	Completed		
Arrowhead playground replacement	<div></div>		Project complete final payment invoice submitted	
Castle Rock playground addition	<div></div>		Warrantied swing set parts received, swing set reinstalled on 1/5/23	
*Castle Rock parking lot & restroom	<div></div>		*Design chosen, awaiting consultant to begin documentation	
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>		Presented at November 8th Park Board meeting and approved for recommendation to City Council	
Coulson Park South Improvements	<div></div>		Received approval from US Army Corps of Engineers, proceeding with design	
Gorham irrigation automation	<div></div>		Pump station being shipped by manufacture for installation	
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>		Building permit application was returned 12/21/23, working with consultant on corrections	
North Park playground replacement	<div></div>		Old playground equipment removed, sight cleared in preparation for install of new playground	
North Park restroom replacement	<div></div>		Concrete restroom placed on pad 12/8/23, Contractor continuing work to connect all services to building	
Pioneer Park tennis courts replacement	<div></div>		Met with consultant to discuss status of design 1/3/24, consultant expects to have core sample results back by the end of january	
Poly Vista inclusive playground and parking lot	<div></div>		Final bid documents reviewed, posted for bid on 12/7/23	
Ponderosa irrigation automation	<div></div>		Final walkthrough complete, system fully operational	
Rose Park pool spray equipment replacement	<div></div>		Spray equipment delivered, contractor being scheduled for installation	
Skypoint sail replacement	<div></div>		Structural Engineer's report completed, proceeding with recommended repairs prior to painting	
Aquatic Facility Assessment	<div></div>		Consultant performed on site visits and are compiling information for assessment	





# Update on Grant Funding Received by the City of Billings January 2024

## North Park Restroom



**North Park restroom facility. North Park is a 15 acre park bounded by 6th Avenue North and North 19th Street.**  
*Image credit: Ted Wilson*

Replacement of the North Park restrooms took place this winter. They will open with the rest of the city parks' restrooms in the spring. The North Park restrooms were constructed through Montana Community Development Block Grant Program funding.

### More About This Project

North Park:

- is a 15 acre park bounded by 6th Avenue N., North 19th Street, 8th Avenue N. and North 22nd Street.
- features horseshoe courts, jogging trails, picnic site, playground, restrooms, athletic fields, tennis courts, and a sprayground.
- has a rentable indoor facility (visit the Parks office to complete a rental agreement form).
- has two rentable park shelters (reserve at this [link](#)).
- is located on several bike routes.
- will feature four brand new individual restroom facilities in the recently completed building.

**To learn more about this grant-funded project, contact:**

Ted Wilson  
City of Billings Grants Administrator  
406-869-3997  
[wilsont@billingsmt.gov](mailto:wilsont@billingsmt.gov)



## **2024 COUNCIL MEETINGS SCHEDULE**

(Year to date listing appears at the end of this schedule)

### **January 22, 2024 - REGULAR BUSINESS**

#### **CONSENT:**

1. Change Order 1 – New City Hall Access Control and Camera System
2. Contract for Airport Master Plan update
3. Memorandum of Understanding with Yellowstone County - West End Neighborhood Plan Update
4. Amendment to Memorandum of Understanding with the Yellowstone Conservation District for West End Reservoir Master Plan
5. Amend Park Development Council 2024 Proposed Budget
6. Federal Aviation Administration Airport Improvement Program Grants
7. Montana Community Reinvestment Plan Act Planning Grant (SB 382) growth policy
8. Donation to Parks from Billings Go Kickball to Youth Scholarship Fund
9. Donation to Parks from Scheels for Youth Scholarship Fund
10. Release of Perpetual ROW Easements - North 28th Street
11. Preliminary plat extension request for Annafeld North Subdivision, 2nd Filing
12. Resolution Authorizing the Filing and Acceptance of Transit Grant Funds and Related Documents
13. Resolution Authorizing the Issuance and Private Negotiated Sale of Expanded North 27th Street Tax Increment Bonds
14. Resolution of Intent to Create District and Set a Public Hearing-SID 1427
15. Resolution of Intent to Create District and Set a Public Hearing-SID 1426
16. 2<sup>nd</sup>/ Final Reading ORD. – ZC 1040 – 1404 and 1406 Avenue B
17. 2<sup>nd</sup>/ Final Reading ORD amending Cemetery Rules and Regulations and Repealing ORD 03-5240

#### **REGULAR:**

2. PH - MT Dept. of Commerce Infrastructure Grant Application
3. PH and 1<sup>st</sup> reading ORD - BMCC Chapter 26 Water and Wastewater First Reading and Public Hearing
4. Appointments to Council Subcommittees and Boards and Commissions

### **February 5, 2024 – WORK SESSION**

1. MRM update – Matt Lundgren
2. CRU and MRT Updates (Pepper)
3. Family Violence Response Unit Update (St. John per Owen's Initiative)
4. CPTED
5. Skate Park
6. Local Government Review – Resolution for June Ballot
7. Council Discussion

## **February 12, 2024 - REGULAR BUSINESS**

### **CONSENT:**

1. Change Order 1 - Public Library Hail Repairs
2. Amendment 16 with Morrison-Maierle, Inc. for Engineering Services to Rehabilitate Aviation Place Access Road
3. Amendment 15 with Morrison-Maierle, Inc. for Engineering Services to Construct Cargo Ramp Slot 5
4. New City Hall Elevator Modernization
5. Contract for Uniform Rental / Purchase and Laundry Services for Public Works
6. Contract for scanning services with DIS Technologies
7. Landon's Inclusive Playground and Phase II Parking Lot Poly Vista Park
8. Second Reading BMCC Water and Wastewater

### **REGULAR:**

1. PH and 1<sup>st</sup> Reading ORD – ZC 1042, 655 West Wicks Lane
2. New City Hall Security and additional updates (Kevin)
3. PH and RES gifting land to Yellowstone Valley Animal Shelter?
4. PH and 1<sup>st</sup> Reading ORD – ZC Re: Animal Shelter

## **February 20, 2024 (Tues.) – WORK SESSION**

1. Billings Mustangs??
2. City Ordinance Amendments – Code Enforcement (Tina Hoeger)
3. PMD Assessment Approval Discussion (Per Rupsis's question) (Schedule Staff Prep meeting to discuss the impacts of Rupsis's questions)
4. Council Discussion

## **February 26, 2024 - REGULAR BUSINESS**

### **CONSENT:**

1. Boards and Commissions
2. Local Government Review – Resolution for June Ballot
3. Amend Park Development Council budget
4. Second Reading ZC 1042
5. Second Reading ZC Re: Animal Shelter

### **REGULAR:**

1. PH & RES for Nuisance Property Abatement Assessments
2. PH & RES for Weed Assessments
3. PH for Sale of City Hall, South Parking Lot, and North Parking Lot
4. PH & TIF Rockman Hotel Project – Multiple Parcels at N. 27<sup>th</sup> St. and 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. N.

**March 4 and 5, 2024 (Council Retreat) GINA OUT**

**March 15 and 16, 2024 (Council Retreat)**

## **March 4, 2024 – WORK SESSION**

1. 2024-2028 Transportation Improvement Program Review (Lora Mattox)
2. Safe Routes to Schools, Phase II Study (Lora Mattox)

3. Tax Abatement Policy (Dianne, BSEDA/Chris)??
4. Council Discussion

**March 11, 2024 - REGULAR BUSINESS**

**CONSENT:**

1. 2<sup>nd</sup>/Final Reading ORD – ZC 1042 – 655 West Wicks Lane
- 2.

**REGULAR:**

1. Downtown Billings Partnership - Tax Increment Assistance - Rockman Hotel Project

**March 18, 2024 – WORK SESSION**

**CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION 4:30 – 5:30 PM**

1. Council Goals and Strategies
2. Council Discussion

**March 25, 2024 - REGULAR BUSINESS**

**CONSENT:**

- 1.

**REGULAR:**

- 1.

**April 1, 2024 – WORK SESSION**

- 1.
2. Council Discussion

**April 8, 2024 - REGULAR BUSINESS**

**CONSENT:**

1. Adoption of Council Goals and Strategies

**REGULAR:**

- 1.

**April 15, 2024 – WORK SESSION**

- 1.
2. Council Discussion

**April 22, 2024 - REGULAR BUSINESS**

**CONSENT:**

- 1.

**REGULAR:**

- 1.

**\*\*Judge Kolar would like to be first during budget meetings**

**May 6, 2024 (BUDGET) – WORK SESSION**

- 1.
2. Council Discussion

**May 13, 2024 - REGULAR BUSINESS**

**CONSENT:**

- 1.

**REGULAR:**

- 1.

**May 20, 2024 (BUDGET) – WORK SESSION**

- 1.
2. Council Discussion

**May 28, 2024 (Tues.)- REGULAR BUSINESS**

**CONSENT:**

- 1.

**REGULAR:**

- 1.

**June 3, 2024 – WORK SESSION**

**CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION 4:30 – 5:30 PM**

- 1.
2. Council Discussion

**June 10, 2024 - REGULAR BUSINESS**

**CONSENT:**

- 1.

**REGULAR:**

- 1.

**June 17, 2024 – WORK SESSION**

- 1.
2. Council Discussion

**June 24, 2024 - REGULAR BUSINESS**



**CONSENT:**

1.

**REGULAR:**

1.

**July 1, 2024 – WORK SESSION**

1.

2. Council Discussion

**July 8, 2024 - REGULAR BUSINESS**

**CONSENT:**

1.

**REGULAR:**

1.

**July 15, 2024 – WORK SESSION**

1.

2. Council Discussion

**July 22, 2024 - REGULAR BUSINESS**

**CONSENT:**

1.

**REGULAR:**

1.

**August 5, 2024 – WORK SESSION**

1.

2. Council Discussion

**August 12, 2024 - REGULAR BUSINESS**

**CONSENT:**

1.

**REGULAR:**

1.

**August 19, 2024 – WORK SESSION**

1.

2. Council Discussion

August 26, 2024 - **REGULAR BUSINESS**

**CONSENT:**

1.

**REGULAR:**

1.

September 3, 2024 (Tues.) – WORK SESSION

**CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION 4:30 – 5:30 PM**

1.

2. Council Discussion

September 9, 2024 - **REGULAR BUSINESS**

**CONSENT:**

1.

**REGULAR:**

1.

September 16, 2024 – WORK SESSION

1.

2. Council Discussion

September 23, 2024 - **REGULAR BUSINESS**

**CONSENT:**

1.

**REGULAR:**

1.

October 7, 2024 – WORK SESSION

**CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION 4:30 – 5:30 PM** CA Annual Review

1. Council Discussion

October 15, 2024 - **REGULAR BUSINESS**

**CONSENT:**

1.

**REGULAR:**

1.

October 21, 2024 – WORK SESSION

- 1.
2. Council Discussion

**October 28, 2024 - REGULAR BUSINESS**

**CONSENT:**

- 1.

**REGULAR:**

- 1.

**November 4, 2024 – WORK SESSION**

- 1.
2. Council Discussion

**November 12, 2024 (Tues.) - REGULAR BUSINESS**

**CONSENT:**

- 1.

**REGULAR:**

- 1.

**November 18, 2024 – WORK SESSION**

- 1.
2. Council Discussion

**November 25, 2024 - REGULAR BUSINESS**

**CONSENT:**

- 1.

**REGULAR:**

- 1.

**December 2, 2024 – WORK SESSION**

**CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION 4:30 – 5:30 PM**

- 1.
2. Council Discussion

**December 9, 2024 - REGULAR BUSINESS**

**CONSENT:**

1. Beartooth RC&D MOU

**REGULAR:**

- 1.

**December 16, 2024 – WORK SESSION (Vacate?)**

- 1.
2. Council Discussion

**December 23, 2024 - REGULAR BUSINESS**

**CONSENT:**

- 1.

**REGULAR:**

- 1.

DRAFT

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**January 2, 2024 (Tues.) – WORK SESSION**

1. Administration of Oaths and Affirmations of Office for reelected Councilmembers
2. DES Emergency Management Update (K.C. Williams)
3. Ordinance Amendments to Water and Wastewater Utilities
4. Stormwater Billing
5. Council Discussion

**January 8, 2024 - REGULAR BUSINESS**

**CONSENT:**

- A. Bid Award: W.O. 24-03: Contract 2 Chip Seal / Scrub Seal
- B. Bid Award: W.O. 23-46: Compost Facility Waterline
- C. Purchase Water Reclamation Facility Equipment – Disinfection parts
- D. City-County Special Investigations Unit (CCSIU) Agreement for 2024
- E. W.O. 19-42: WE Water Treatment contract - Dick Anderson
- F. Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects
- G. Donations to Library
- H. MT FWP trail stewardship grant application
- I. Northwestern Energy easement for Mountview Cemetery
- J. ~~Easements North 28th Street~~

**REGULAR:**

2. PH and 1<sup>st</sup> reading ORD – Cemetery Code changes
3. PH and 1<sup>st</sup> reading ORD – ZC 1040 - 1404 and 1406 Avenue B
4. PH and 1<sup>st</sup> reading ORD – Special Review 998 – 1406 Avenue B
5. Nomination and Election of Deputy Mayor Pro Tempore

**January 16, 2024 (Tues.) – WORK SESSION at the Library!**

1. Crime Prevention Round Table Discussion – focused on Crime Prevention
2. Council Discussion