

Billings City Administrator Weekly Report

November 22, 2024

- 1. Utility Bills** – This week we have been emphasizing how important the “service period” is on your city utility bill. The bills that customers received last week were primarily for water usage throughout September. For those of us in cycle two, it was 09/05/24 – 10/07/24 (~30 days) and is due 11/28/24. Within the next 10 days bills will be sent for usage primarily throughout October (10/07/24 – 11/07/24). We know that most citizens shut off their irrigation systems by mid-October. Today our water plant will produce between 14 – 15 million gallons of water. During the summer irrigation months that number runs between 40 – 45 million gallons per day.

Also pay close attention to any unpaid balance coming forward. If, for whatever reason, you have not paid a previous bill, that balance is being carried forward. There are **NO** late fees and **NO** shutoffs until we are certain that all systems are working properly, and customers have been provided with a reasonable opportunity to set up payment plans.

Auditors are combing through all residential accounts checking the data for 2 months of bills prior to the software change 2 billing periods after the software change.

- 2. St. Vincent Intermountain Health** – Their team made it official this week. In 2025 Billings will begin to see one of the largest investments ever made in our community on N. 27th. A fourteen story, one-billion-dollar replacement hospital will break ground with a completion date of 2029. The economic and medical service benefits are amazing for our community.
- 3. Nuisance Property Team** – This team continues to get results. Slowly but surely The Colonial is making its way through the legal process. Both Motel 6s on Midland Road and the Big 5 downtown are on our radar as properties that are creating significant problems.
- 4. CoC Strategic Plan** – I attended a brief zoom session with the CoC. The updated plan no longer includes the CoC providing low barrier sheltering services since three of their members are working in this area.
- 5. Library News** – Please see the attached BPL first quarter stats.
- 6. Recreation News** - School District #2 and the Parks and Recreation Department partnered this fall to offer an instructional program in the middle schools for 6th through 8th graders. Due to a budget cut in SD2, the middle school instructional sports were eliminated. After a few meetings with SD2 Activities, PRPL jumped at the opportunity to offer a program for those kids, like the one we currently offer for 3rd-5th graders. Being the first year providing this program, we were in a bit of a scramble this fall trying to work with each individual middle schools schedule and gym

availability. We also had to wait for each school to make the selections to their competitive teams and get registration information to those who didn't make the cut, delaying the start of our program. Our efforts to find SD2 staff to coach and coordinate this program was not successful.



PRPL was disappointed with the low registration numbers. We did have a stronger interest at both Castle Rock and Ben Steele and we are currently running the program at those schools. The Recreation staff were able to find some additional coaches from outside SD2 for those locations. Registration at the other four middle schools was very low, less than five registered, and not enough to form a team. Offers were made to those who registered at the other four schools with an opportunity to transfer to either Ben Steele or Castle Rock.

Castle Rock. We understood it was far from ideal, but with our practices starting at 6pm, we hoped it would be possible for some to transfer.

The \$90 fee we charged for the 6th-8th grade program is the same fee we are currently charging for the 3rd-5th grade program. The fee is calculated to cover all the direct costs of the program. We understood it was higher than the SD2 activity fee and did include our scholarship information on the flyer handed out at each middle school. Over the last number of years, we have seen a steady decline in the number of girls participating in our 3rd-5th grade basketball program. This year we have a 70% increase in enrollment from last year, which is a positive sign of future growth.

The School District #2 Activities Office has worked very hard with us to help make this transition. We are both committed to making this transition successful and providing a valuable instructional program for the 6th-8th graders as we move forward together.

We are currently accepting registration for the upcoming middle school instructional boys' basketball season in January and the girl's volleyball season beginning in March and are seeing a good number of enrollments for both.

7. **City of Billings aims to strengthen veteran support through Vet READY Program - Billings, Mont.**— The City of Billings has enlisted the guidance of nonprofit organization Vet READY to enhance its work environment for U.S. Military Veterans.

City staff will begin customized training in December and learn how to foster a more holistic and inclusive community for veterans.

"This innovative program aims to not only attract highly skilled veteran employees but also foster vibrant and inclusive work cultures, ensuring the retention of valuable veteran talent," said Vet READY creator and CEO Dave Nordel.

A retired U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sergeant, Nordel recognizes the challenges veterans face when transitioning to the civilian workforce after decades of military service. Through training, development, and mentorship, Nordel's six-week program creates environments where veterans can thrive.

"We value the leadership, perspective, and overall skill of Veterans that join our workforce. We want to heighten our understanding of their unique strengths so we can bridge those gaps and create a welcoming environment," said City of Billings Human Resources Director Karla Stanton.

Montana ranks among the top states for veteran population per capita, according to VA.gov. However, Pew Research Center reports that 50 percent of veterans leave their first job after service within the first year, and up to 65 percent leave within two years.

By addressing policy changes, dispelling common misconceptions about veterans, and educating civilians about military life, Vet READY empowers employers to reduce turnover costs and retain valuable veteran talent.

"I'm proud of the City of Billings for going beyond merely thanking veterans for their service. They are serious about helping to reduce veteran employee turnover, which will, in turn, improve quality of life and help reduce the high suicide rates in the state," said Nordel.

The 2024 Mental Health America report indicates that Montana, along with Oregon and Nevada, has a higher prevalence of mental illness and lower rates of access to care.

Contact Dave Nordel at 307.757.6310 for questions and to learn more about [VET READY](#)

8. **2024 Council Meeting Schedule** – Please review the attached draft agendas and provide any feedback regarding the order of business, modification of agenda items, or other changes to the consent or regular agendas. City code requires a specific order of business as it relates to certain items on meeting agendas, e.g., placement of public hearings first on the regular agenda, so your feedback will be incorporated with those code requirements in mind. [\(BMCC 2-214\)](#) Work session agendas are more flexible and can also easily be modified by the mayor with the consensus of Council during those informal meetings.
9. **Housing Regulation Costs and Building Dept Data -**

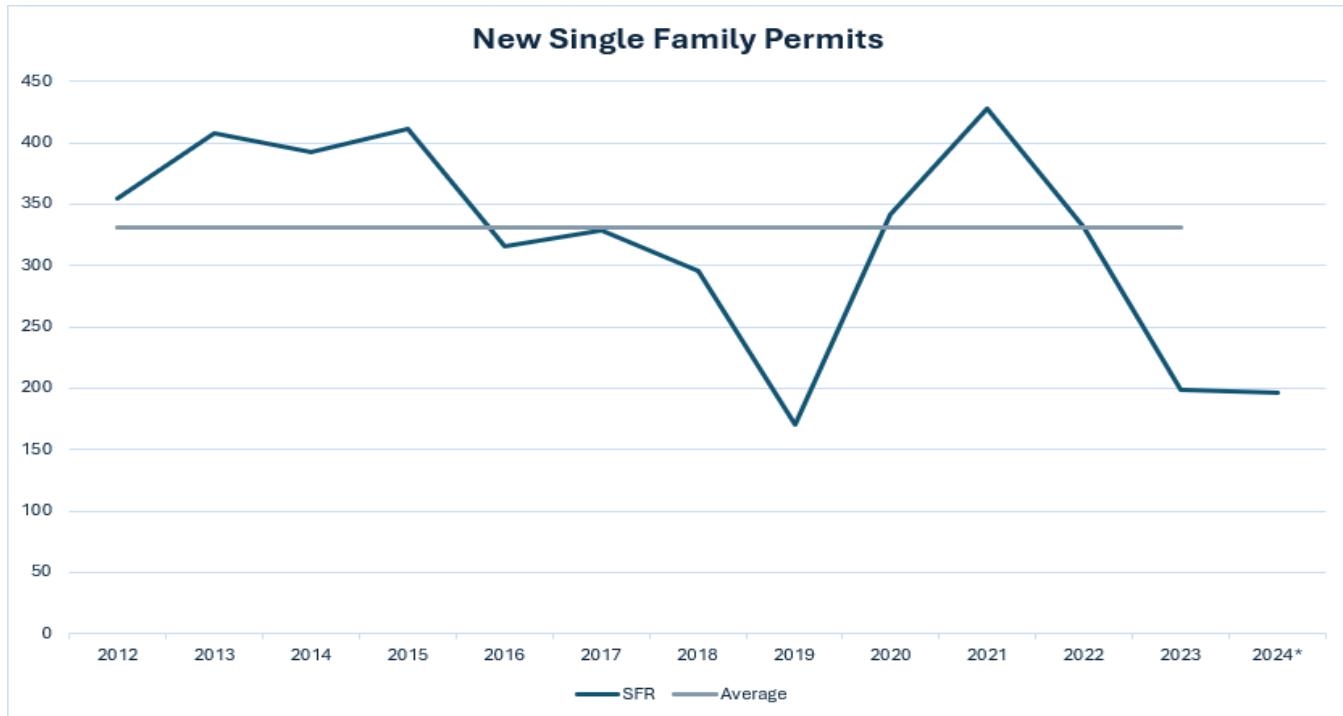
<https://www.nahb.org/news-and-economics/press-releases/2024/05/nahb-announces-a-10-point-plan-to-tame-shelter-inflation-ease-the-housing-affordability-crisis>

See linked article for the "25% added cost to new single family homes" number that HBA is quoting. I tried to dig around for some supporting information and came up short in anything to substantiate the number. I did email the NAHB code representative and left him a voicemail asking for the data to back up the number, so hopefully he can provide me with something.

Secondly, I pulled up total city fee costs for a few houses that have been completed recently. You can see the breakdown for building permit fees, engineering and planning review fees, drive approach, and system development fees.

| | House 1 | House 2 | House 3 |
|-----------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Permit | BP-24-1208 | BP-23-2033 | BP-24-1290 |
| Sq Ft | 1408 | 3672 | 2381 |
| Valuation | \$192,726 | \$401,019 | \$450,000 |
| Building | | | |
| Building Permit | \$983 | \$1,725 | \$1,895 |
| Mechanical | \$58 | \$85 | \$85 |
| Electrical | \$130 | \$130 | \$130 |
| Plumbing | \$102 | \$144 | \$109 |
| Planning | | | |
| Plan Review | \$139 | \$139 | \$139 |
| Engineering/PW | | | |
| Plan Review | \$140 | \$140 | \$140 |
| Water Sys Dev | \$2,020 | \$2,950 | \$3,255 |
| Sewer Sys Dev | \$2,800 | \$3,120 | \$2,800 |
| Drive approach | \$450 | \$450 | \$450 |
| Total | \$6,821 | \$8,882 | \$9,003 |

Also, here are our new single family home permits over the last 12+ years (last year was second lowest, but also we had a huge uptick in multifamily homes):



10. Next Week's Meetings/Task Forces

- a. Heights Task Force, Tuesday, November 26th 7:00 pm, Oasis Conference Room.
- b. City offices will be closed on Thursday, November 28th and Friday, November 29th for the Thanksgiving Holiday.

11. New City Hall Update –



5th Floor

Grind floor at east end of elevator lobby.
 Prep floor at east end of elevator lobby and start carpet install.
 Patch terrazzo at elevator and stairway doors.

4th Floor

Clean elevator lobby and restroom group.

2nd Floor

Clean elevator lobby and restroom group.

Tape and finish fry reglet at east end of elevator lobby.

Touch up wall dings in elevator lobby.

Paint elevator lobby.



1st Floor

Install solid surface countertop in finance.

Tape and finish storefront bulkheads.

Continue floor tile and grout in the gallery.

Clean walls, windows and casework.

Install ceiling tiles in data and server room.

Work on punch list corrections.

Install doors and hardware.

Install aluminum canopy at east entrance.

Continue floor tile and grout in the gallery.

Clean walls, windows and casework.

Install ceiling tiles in data and server room.

Work on punch list corrections.





Basement

Run conduit and wire for generator.

Install doors and hardware.



12. City Communications -

Photos! Fall 2024 Billings Fire Recruit Graduation

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/1v6uhcl6l95lwiuj0cb15/ALR8WRPbN6Z2BjrMw7JovSU?rlkey=8ft7ihxbj5y6jlk8fxubieu2a&st=liszpsym&dl=0>

City of Billings aims to strengthen veteran support through VET READY Program

<https://www.billingsmt.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=2665>

Billings Public Library collects pajamas for foster children

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/18TS4nvifv/>

Mavity memorial relocating to new City Hall

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/14K1KMacDF/>

Crime Prevention Center accepting holiday deliveries

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1Cn6yMyjtk/>

Billings PD Weekly Brief

<https://www.facebook.com/BillingsPD/posts/pfbid02XkeTvHpHFSd85qmpsPSbdasW6H8nPdf8ULAeanmzs9L5rMS6quR95u9CPbnY5o2El>

Fun feature with City Attorney Gina Dahl! - Billings fans balance Brawl of the Wild rivalry with respect and pride

https://www.kulr8.com/news/billings-fans-balance-brawl-of-the-wild-rivalry-with-respect-and-pride/article_6563fb0-a817-11ef-a21d-2f76b7d6384a.html

City of Billings in the news

PCSD

Billings city planners allow for public input on 20-year West End growth plan

<https://www.ktvq.com/news/local-news/city-planners-allow-for-public-input-on-20-year-west-end-growth-plan>

PW

Billings residents confused by water bill schedule, city clarifies

https://www.kulr8.com/news/billings-residents-confused-by-water-bill-schedule-city-clarifies/article_ce7197c4-a635-11ef-bf93-b3722e868648.html

Billings water-bill auditors looking at all residential billing

<https://www.ktvq.com/news/local-news/billings-water-bill-auditors-looking-at-all-residential-billing>

City moving forward on identifying incorrect water bills throughout Billings

<https://www.ktvq.com/news/local-news/city-moving-forward-on-identifying-incorrect-water-bills-throughout-billings>

FEMA Approves \$2.1 Million to Billings for Water Treatment Plant Flood Repairs

<https://www.fema.gov/press-release/20241118/fema-approves-21-million-billings-water-treatment-plant-flood-repairs>

Admin/Council

Billings City Council outlines legislative priorities for 2025 session

<https://www.ktvq.com/news/local-news/billings-city-council-outlines-legislative-priorities-for-2025-session>

City Council holds off on raise for Billings' top manager, but allows contract to renew

https://billingsgazette.com/news/local/government-politics/billings-to-renew-city-administrator-contract/article_431b14da-a215-11ef-9c78-e77c377ef36a.html

Billings city administrator's contract to renew, council postpones salary increase

<https://www.ktvq.com/news/local-news/billings-city-administrators-contract-renews-city-council-postpones-salary-increase>

BPD

Billings Police offer package pickup to prevent holiday thefts

https://www.kulr8.com/news/billings-police-offer-package-pickup-to-prevent-holiday-thefts/article_621371ac-a756-11ef-a91c-bb7f52e29ce2.html

Police say violent crime down in Billings after increased patrols

<https://www.ktvq.com/news/local-news/police-say-violent-crime-down-in-billings-after-increased-patrols>

In other news...

Billings attainable housing report promotes small homes, density

https://billingsgazette.com/news/local/business/real-estate/attainable-housing-billings-affordable-housing-crisis/article_df5e2092-a39d-11ef-88f7-c3cd1aa4bdea.html

New \$1 billion, 14-story, St. Vincent Hospital will be economic powerhouse for Billings

https://billingsgazette.com/news/local/billings-st-vincent-hospital-intermountain-healthcare/article_b0815134-a6c4-11ef-8708-f336e7b58e7c.html

Gianforte proposes adding three district court judges in Yellowstone County

https://billingsgazette.com/news/local/crime-courts/governor-gianforte-2027-biennium-budget-proposal-yellowstone-county-judges/article_5194189a-a6b1-11ef-9563-2bc1dc1e3928.html

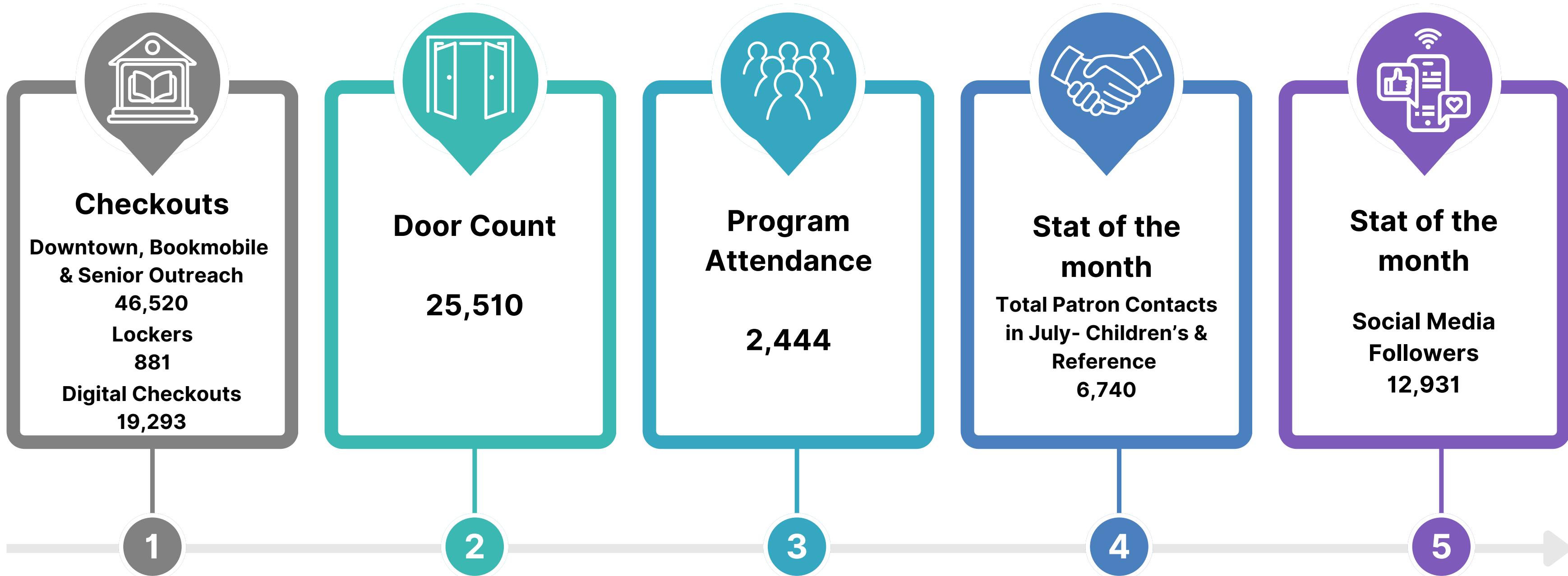


Billings Public Library

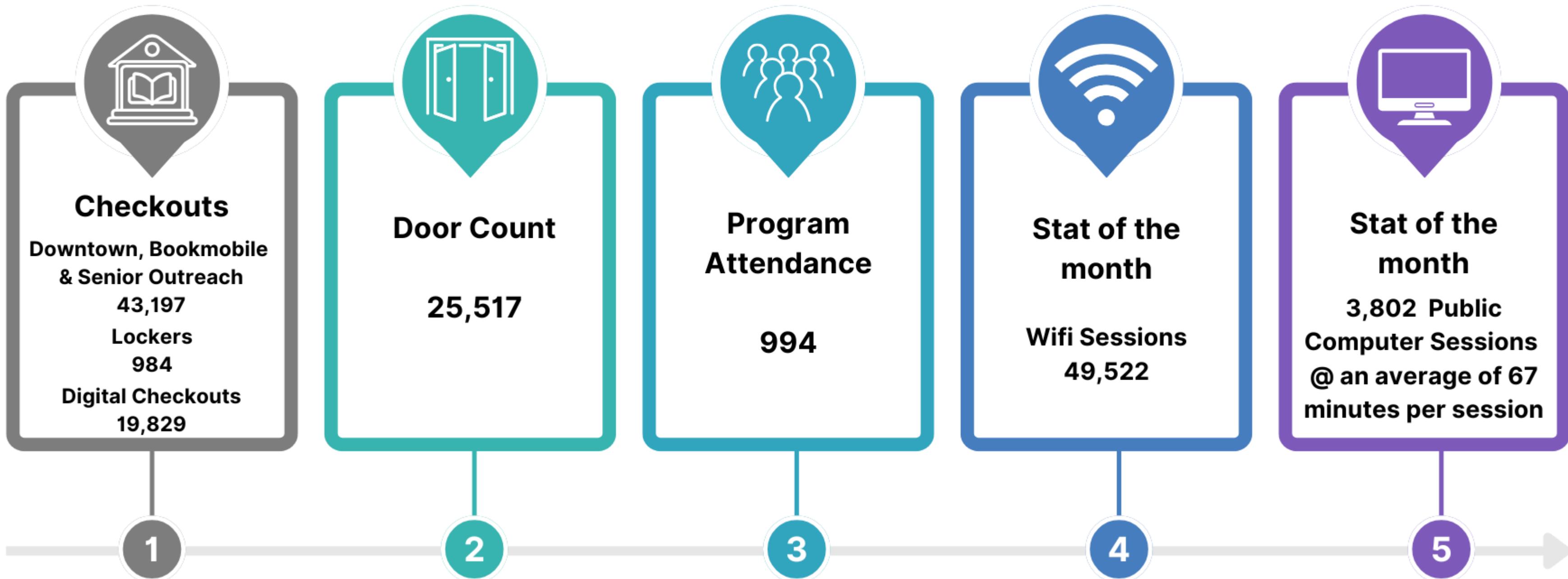
First Quarter Statistics



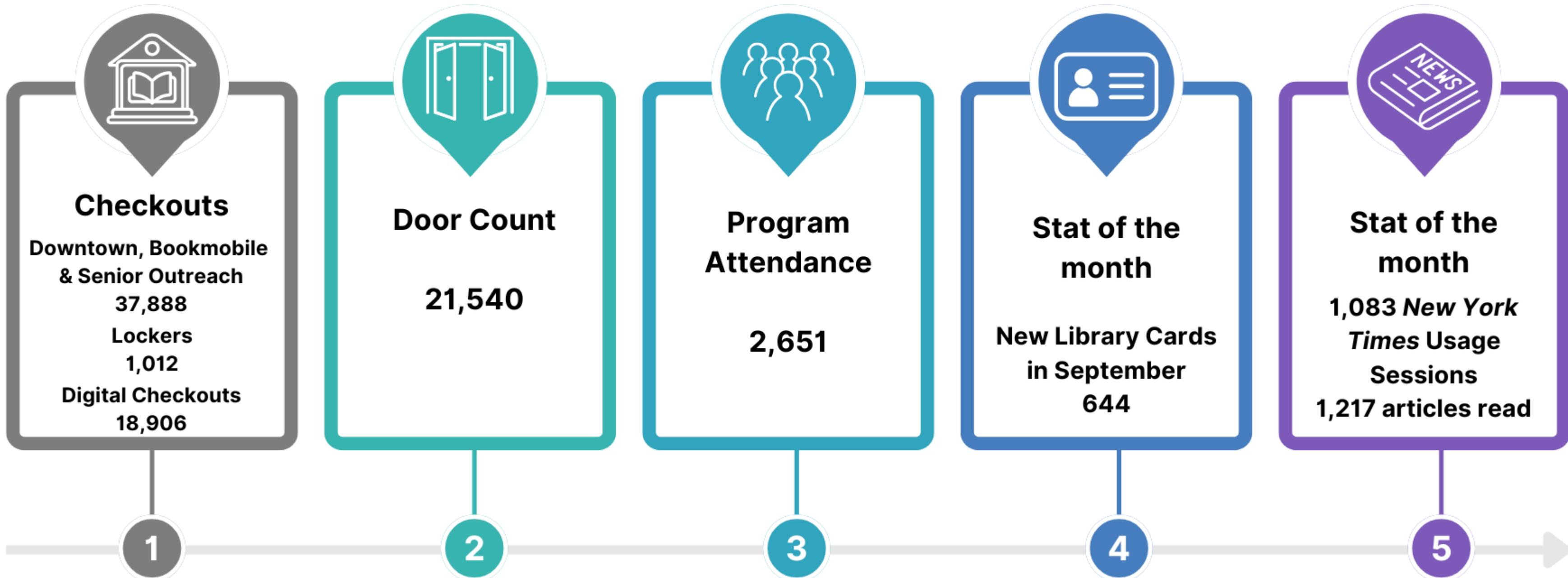
July 2024 Library Statistics



August 2024 Library Statistics



September 2024 Library Statistics



UPCOMING DRAFT AGENDAS FOR COUNCIL / LEADERSHIP

Please review the draft agendas below and provide any feedback regarding the order of business, modification of agenda items, or other changes to the consent or regular agendas. City code requires a specific order of business as it relates to certain items on meeting agendas, e.g., placement of public hearings first on the regular agenda, so your feedback will be incorporated with those code requirements in mind. [\(BMCC 2-214\)](#) Work session agendas are more flexible and can also easily be modified by the Mayor with the consensus of Council during those informal meetings.

Thank you for your feedback!

November 25, 2024 - REGULAR BUSINESS

CONSENT:

1. BID AWARD: Airport's West End Sewer and Water Expansion Project
2. BID AWARD: W.O. 23-96: WTP Intake No. 2 Catwalk Repairs
3. BID AWARD: W.O. 24-31: WRF Solids Process Building Ventilation
4. MOU with Bright N' Beautiful
5. Landfill Use Agreement with MR Rolloffs, LLC
6. Purchase of Rebuild for Landfill Compactor Powertrain and Hydraulics
7. Purchase 1 - 2025 Backhoe Loader – Landfill
8. Change Order No. 2, W.O. 19-12, West End Reservoir Project
9. Amendment 22 with Morrison-Maierle, Inc. for Engineering Services on the Runway 7/25 Reconstruction and Extension Project
10. Donation from Scheels to BPD
11. Donation from Lockwood Precast for park bench

REGULAR:

2. PH and 1st Reading - Zone Change 1058 - 2135 Grand Ave- CMU1 to CMU2
3. EBURD Safety Pilot Program - District and Business Partnership
4. Financial Assistance - Babcock
5. Financial Assistance – Billings Depot
6. Adoption of City's Goals and Objectives

• CM Aspenlieder's Initiative – Professional Services Contracts Review / Update

December 2, 2024 – WORK SESSION

CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION 4:30 – 5:30 PM

1. Friends of the Children (Kendra's Request – Nina Hernandez)
2. West End Neighborhood Plan Update (Lauren Waterton – Sanbell)
3. Off-the-Streets (Jim Mack)
4. Continuum Of Care (Kody Christianson)
5. Maintain What We Have - Preserving our Parks

December 9, 2024 - REGULAR BUSINESS

CONSENT:

1. Boards & Commissions Appointments
2. BID AWARD: WO 23-96: WTP Intake No. 2 Catwalk Repairs (Not in AQ)
3. BID AWARD: Coulson Park North and South Improvements
4. BID AWARD: Snow Hauling
5. BID AWARD: Snow Plowing
6. Amend Recreation Campus Design Contract (Consent or Regular?)
7. Contract w/Fisher's Technology for printing management
8. Prof. Services Agreement w/Advanced Engineering for water and wastewater studies
9. Park 1 Condominium Declaration and Association ByLaws
10. Aviation ground lease w/ Aerotronics
11. Aviation ground lease w/Edwards Jet Center
12. Beartooth RC&D MOU
13. Donation from Phillips 66 to Police Dept.
14. Donation from various donors to Billings Library
15. Clearwater Estates Administrative Subdivision Final Plat
16. Res. for FY26 TRP
17. Res. for FY26 ERP (Not in AQ)
18. 2nd/Final Reading - Zone Change 1058 - 2135 Grand Ave (Not in AQ)

REGULAR:

2. PH - Land Use Contrary to Zoning for Yellowstone County - Street Trees at the Miller Building
3. SBBURD TIF Assistance for Service Pro Express Lube – 743 Calhoun Lane
4. EBURD TIF Assistance - 216-224 North 18th Street - Billings Brownstones Phase II
5. CIP adoption (NOT IN AQ)

December 16, 2024 - REGULAR BUSINESS (LIBRARY**)**

CONSENT:

1. Arnold Drain Trail Repairs FWP Grant

REGULAR:

- 1.

January 6, 2025 – WORK SESSION (New City Hall – 5th Floor)

1. CPSM Report
2. EPA – PCE Plume Update (Boris)
3. Code Enforcement Changes to Ordinances (Tina)

January 13, 2025 - REGULAR BUSINESS

CONSENT:

- 1.

REGULAR:

1. PH/Zone Change 1059 - Zimmerman Home Place
2. PH/Zone Change 1056 - High Sierra
3. PH/1st Reading Ord. Zone Change 1059 - Zimmerman Home Place
4. RES Establishing a Procedure for the Disposition of Unclaimed Property (NOT IN AQ)

January 21, 2025 (Tuesday) – WORK SESSION

- 1.

January 27, 2025 REGULAR BUSINESS

CONSENT:

REGULAR:

February 3, 2025– WORK SESSION

- 1.

February 10, 2025 REGULAR BUSINESS

CONSENT:

REGULAR:

February 18, 2025 (Tuesday) – WORK SESSION

- 1.

February 24, 2025 REGULAR BUSINESS

CONSENT:

REGULAR:

March 3, 2025 – WORK SESSION

1.

March 10, 2025 REGULAR BUSINESS

CONSENT:

REGULAR:

March 17, 2025 – WORK SESSION

Executive Session 4:30 P.M. – 5:30 P.M.

1.

March 24, 2025 REGULAR BUSINESS

CONSENT:

REGULAR:

April 7, 2025 – WORK SESSION

1. CRU Follow up?
2. Police and Fire Annual Report

April 14, 2025 REGULAR BUSINESS

CONSENT:

REGULAR:

April 21, 2025 - WORK SESSION

April 28, 2025 REGULAR BUSINESS

CONSENT:

1.

REGULAR:

2.

May 5, 2025 - WORK SESSION (BUDGET ONLY)

May 6, 2025 - WORK SESSION Tues. (BUDGET ONLY)

May 12, 2025 (Tues.) REGULAR BUSINESS

CONSENT:

1.

REGULAR:

2.

May 19, 2025 - WORK SESSION (BUDGET ONLY)

May 20, 2025 - WORK SESSION Tues. (BUDGET ONLY)

May 27, 2025 (Tues.) REGULAR BUSINESS

CONSENT:

1.

REGULAR:

June 2, 2025– WORK SESSION

June 9, 2025 REGULAR BUSINESS

CONSENT:

1.

REGULAR:

2.

June 16, 2025– WORK SESSION

Executive Session 4:30 P.M. – 5:30 P.M.

June 23, 2025 REGULAR BUSINESS

CONSENT:

1.

REGULAR:

July 7, 2025– WORK SESSION

July 14, 2025 REGULAR BUSINESS

CONSENT:

1.

REGULAR:

July 21, 2025– WORK SESSION

July 28, 2025 REGULAR BUSINESS

CONSENT:

1.

REGULAR:

August 4, 2025– WORK SESSION

August 11, 2025 REGULAR BUSINESS

CONSENT:

1.

REGULAR:

August 18, 2025– WORK SESSION

August 25, 2025 REGULAR BUSINESS

CONSENT:

1.

REGULAR:

September 2, 2025 (Tues.) – WORK SESSION

September 8, 2025 REGULAR BUSINESS

CONSENT:

1.

REGULAR:

September 15, 2025– WORK SESSION

Executive Session 4:30 P.M. – 5:30 P.M.

September 22, 2025 REGULAR BUSINESS

CONSENT:

1.

REGULAR:

October 6, 2025– WORK SESSION

October 13, 2025 REGULAR BUSINESS

CONSENT:

1.

REGULAR:

October 20, 2025– WORK SESSION

October 27, 2025 REGULAR BUSINESS

CONSENT:

1.

REGULAR:

November 3, 2025– WORK SESSION

November 10, 2025 REGULAR BUSINESS

CONSENT:

1.

REGULAR:

November 17, 2025– WORK SESSION

November 24, 2025 REGULAR BUSINESS

CONSENT:

1.

REGULAR:

December 1, 2025– WORK SESSION

Executive Session 4:30 P.M. – 5:30 P.M.

December 8, 2025 REGULAR BUSINESS

CONSENT:

1.

REGULAR:

December 15, 2025– WORK SESSION

December 22, 2025 REGULAR BUSINESS

CONSENT:

1.

REGULAR: