

Billings City Administrator Weekly Report

February 7, 2025

1. **RFP and RFQ Process Improvements** – Tuesday we had a Teams meeting with a handful of local firms to get feedback. Jill Cook, Nick Pancheau, Kurtis DeShaw, Doug Enderson, Erin Claunch, DJ Clark, and Dusty Eaton participated.
2. **Save the Date** – Breakfast with BSED – Economic Development 201. Event to be held on Thursday, March 6th 7:30 am – 9:30 am.
3. **Code Enforcement News** – Please see the attached 2024 Graffiti Pilot Project Report.
4. **Semi-Annual Reports** – Please see the attached semi-annual report for PRPL.
5. **Legislative and Local Affairs Committee** – Our lobbyist team of Aimee Grmoljez and Brad Longcake provided an update on the session and did Q&A. The house is more active than the senate early this session.
6. **Council Operations Committee** – The committee continues to work through Article 2 of the Municipal Code (Mayor & Council, Meetings, Rules of Procedure). The committee also wants to set a date and agenda for a winter Council retreat.
7. **Airport News** - Billings Logan International Airport (BIL) is excited to announce the launch of seasonal direct flights to Chicago O'Hare International Airport (ORD) by United Airlines. The new service will provide passengers with a direct connection to one of the country's busiest and most connected airports, offering enhanced access to domestic and international destinations. (Please see the attached media release.)
8. **Library News** - Please see the attached January 2025 Library Statistics.
9. **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.
10. **Next Week's Meetings/Task Forces**
 - a. Budget and Finance Committee, Wednesday, February 12th 9:00 AM, Rimrock Conference Room, 316 N. 26th Street, 5th Floor.
 - b. Legislative and Local Affairs Committee, Wednesday, February 12th 4:00 PM, Rimrock Conference Room, 316 N. 26th Street, 5th Floor.

11. City Communications

Website updated with audit results:

<https://billingsmt.gov/3240/Utility-Audit-Results>

Family Justice Center to host open house on Feb. 11

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/19v5ESpZRC/>

Billings PD Weekly Brief

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/194Cfz3ni9/>

MET ticket vending machines now available at two locations

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

PCSD annual report now available

<https://www.billingsmt.gov/DocumentCenter/View/53331/2024-Annual-Report-Final>

PRPL annual report now available

<https://www.billingsparks.org/wp-content/uploads/2024-Annual-Report-FULL-PRPL.pdf>

Council

Billings residents voice concerns over Wilson Park animal shelter proposal

https://www.kulr8.com/news/billings-residents-voice-concerns-over-wilson-park-animal-shelter-proposal/article_86ea56aa-e444-11ef-8188-1fdd543387e1.html

PHOTOS: First Council meeting held at new City Hall

https://billingsgazette.com/news/article_7139d096-e297-11ef-8e88-bf2a36e9d995.html

PHOTO: Art House Billings reaches campaign goal to restore Babcock marquee

https://billingsgazette.com/news/local/article_fa059e84-e4c0-11ef-8d8a-47b915111422.html

Utility audit

Most water bills were accurate, say auditors about Billings system

Yellowstone County News – February 7, 2025 – Cover & pg 14

Community reacts to water bill audit results

https://www.kulr8.com/news/community-reacts-to-water-bill-audit-results/article_d1b43ecc-e2b3-11ef-9ee9-1f0d0dca6866.html

Audit reveals key findings on Billings water billing system

https://www.kulr8.com/news/audit-reveals-key-findings-on-billings-water-billing-system/article_316b33d8-e2a6-11ef-9cc5-f70a650a95dd.html

Were Billings residents hosed on their water bills? Spendy city audit says "no."

https://billingsgazette.com/news/local/government-politics/article_9d4e09ea-e247-11ef-be1a-2352e8b0c82c.html

BIL

Billings airport adds new United Airlines flights to Chicago and Denver

https://www.kulr8.com/news/billings-airport-adds-new-united-airlines-flights-to-chicago-and-denver/article_78c34fec-e263-11ef-ad3a-0fb36707edaf.html

Record-breaking travel brings in big bucks for Billings airport

https://billingsgazette.com/news/local/business/article_1137d036-e007-11ef-8019-c3df284947c9.html

PW

PHOTO: *Billings begins plowing streets*

https://billingsgazette.com/news/article_c017b29a-e27a-11ef-9319-4b1d10523836.html



2024 GRAFFITI PILOT PROJECT REPORT

Seasonal Worker Graffiti Abatement:

May 13, 2024 – September 10, 2024

Vehicle lease through motor pool (\$275/mo.)	\$1,096.67
Fuel: 185.85 gallons x \$3.03/gal	\$ 563.12
Seasonal Employee compensation	\$4,313.30
Total cost:	<u>\$5,973.09</u>

A list of reported and/or found graffiti around the city was started in April 2024. The seasonal worker began work in May 2024, remedied the provided list and then found additional targets around the city. A share point spreadsheet was created by Public Works and shared with Code Enforcement listing the dates, locations, and description of graffiti remedied. Most of the graffiti sites were city owned. Total graffiti sites cleaned up:

April 2024:	61
May 2024:	193
June 2024:	402
July 2024:	222
August 2024:	53
September 2024:	34
Total:	<u>965</u>

The seasonal worker was tasked primarily with covering and/or cleaning graffiti on city-owned infrastructure citywide. Items addressed included dumpsters, signs, light poles, sign poles, utility cabinets, and some private utility boxes located in city rights of way. The paint for the private boxes was supplied to us from the utility companies. This was another



great partnership that allowed the seasonal worker to address everything that was tagged with graffiti in a certain location and not just the city property.

Total hours for seasonal worker: 258

Graffiti Abatement Projects – Graffiti Trailer:

Number of project locations: 37

The graffiti trailer was used citywide to clean sidewalks, buildings, concrete barriers, power poles, and the rimrocks. It was also part of the cleanup of the wall in the alley of 122 North 30th Street that prepared the surface for the beautiful murals that are now installed on those buildings. The rims were cleared of graffiti above 17th Street West that had been there for over 10 years. We partnered with Yellowstone County and removed graffiti on the rims in Zimmerman Park.

Graffiti Abatement Projects – Painting:

Number of project locations: 35

Graffiti painting projects included numerous trips to the 6th Street Underpass area, 13th Street Underpass, and South 22nd Street Underpass, to name a few. The paint and supplies used in these projects were made possible through financial donations to the anti-graffiti fund, discounts through Home Depot, and donated paint to the CE Division from MDOT and other sources.

The graffiti abatement projects were organized and facilitated by the commercial code enforcement officer. Two treatment court participants also satisfied their community service hours by working with us completing a total of 80 hours. Both participants worked extremely hard and had requested to work with Code Enforcement. The relationship between treatment courts and Code Enforcement has grown stronger over the past few years, and we will continue to partner with them to support participants in their recovery as well as accomplish important work in keeping our city clean, safe, and healthy.

It is estimated that the commercial code officer devoted approximately 240 field hours abating graffiti during the months of May through October 2024.



Graffiti Cases and Compliance Rates – Property Owners:

Number of cases since January 2024: 161 Compliance Rate: 99%

In addition to field hours abating graffiti, coordinating with treatment court participants, and maintaining supplies and equipment, the commercial officer continued his diligence with his caseload. Graffiti is only one of the numerous assignments to the commercial code officer position; however, as you can see from the compliance rate, property owners were cooperative and worked with Code Enforcement to abate the graffiti.

As a result of being more active in the community, the commercial code officer has been able to assist the police department in identifying common tags around the city and the possible perpetrators. Criminal cases have been investigated by the police, resulting in pending court actions. Code enforcement has been working with prosecutors to request that upon conviction, the perpetrator is assigned to serve their community service hours with the Code Enforcement Division. We have already had one such assignment, and the perpetrator was used to abate graffiti.

The following is a list of locations cleaned and/or painted around the city. As you travel around in our city, you can see the impact this program has had in a six-month period. In most of the locations, the area remained clean; however, there are some spots in town that had to be addressed multiple times. Number of visits to the site are in parentheses next to the address.

Graffiti Trailer Project Locations

6 Ave N & N 22 (North Park)

10 West & Terry Ave

14 S 27th

215 S 27th

570 S 24 West

611 Alderson

749 St Johns

2212 7th Ave N

Graffiti Painted Project Locations

2nd Ave N & N 14

2nd Ave N & N 15

2nd Ave N & N 17

6 Ave N & N 22

6 Ave N & N 24

6 Ave N & N 7

6 Street Underpass (4)

7 Ave N & N 18



2712 Minnesota	7 Ave N & N 22
2820 Central	7 Ave N & N 24
2902 Minnesota	7 Ave N & N 25
Becker's Glass 1 st Ave N	7 West Underpass
Carter's Brewing Montana Ave	8 Ave N & N 25
Central & S 37 West	16 West & Central cemetery
City Hall entrance	123 S 27
Colonial 223 S 27 (4)	224 S 29
Fallow & Granger Ave S	623 N 24
Garfield School playground	624 N 24
Hawthorne & Ping	1004 4 Ave N
Kratz & Monroe	2413 9 Ave N
Lake Elmo & Main	2416 9 Ave N
Lewis & 16 West	2825 3 Ave N
Metra Park & Highway 3	3390 Canyon
Mystic Park	3615 Montana
N 28 sidewalk near Library	Bench connector bridge
Phyllis Lane	Burlington Park
Reno Club	Henesta & 20 West
Rims @ 17 West (2)	Laurel Rd Underpass
S 27 & 3 Ave S	Minnesota & N 13 (3)
S 28 & 5 Ave S	Muldowney & I-90
S 31 & 2 Ave S	N 15 & 3 Ave N
Salvation Army 6 Ave N	1 Ave S & S 13
State Ave VFW	Reliable Tent & Awning

State Ave & 1 Ave S

S 31 & 3 Ave S

Sugar & State

TNT Springs

Tumbleweed

Zimmerman Park Rims

Some of the locations on these lists are private properties. Code enforcement utilized treatment court participants to assist these owners with cleanup and, in many cases, the materials were supplied by the property owner.

Special Projects and Partnerships:

122 North 30th Street alley

Removal of graffiti along west wall at 10-foot mark using the graffiti trailer. Base paint preparation for mural installations. Partnership with DBA and treatment court volunteers.



Rims @ 17th Street West

Removal of graffiti from the face of the Rims using the graffiti trailer. Partnership with Billings Fire Department to rappel and power wash safely, along with Parks and Recreation who supplied an additional power washer.



Rims @ Zimmerman Park

Removal of graffiti from the face of the Rims in this widely used park in the county. Partnership with Yellowstone County Public Works supplying the truck to tow the graffiti trailer through the park.





Summary:

The goal is a completely graffiti-free city. We may have set the bar high; however, continued attention to this issue can and will keep graffiti to a minimum. Our first-year attempt at this program has been very successful. We have learned what works and what doesn't work. We were able to bring city-owned infrastructure into compliance. Leading by example to clean graffiti in a timely manner has had positive results in property-owner compliance rates. By working together, the community can keep graffiti at bay and foster that pride of ownership for our city.

“Great things are done by a series of small things brought together.”

- Vincent Van Gogh

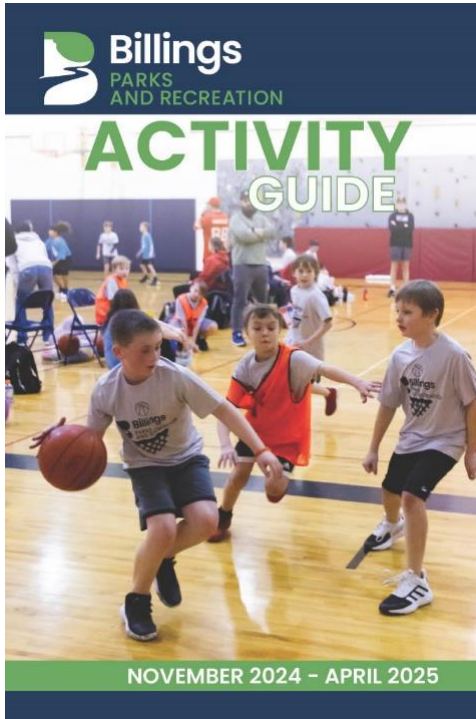
Respectfully submitted,

Tina Hoeger

Code Enforcement Division Manager



2024 Annual Report



Winter Registration

Our 32-page 2024 Winter Activity Guide was distributed through direct mail to over 10,000 households who have recently utilized the services provided by the Department. In addition to direct mail, the guide was inserted in the November issue of Simply Local Magazine. This magazine, which focuses on all things Billings, delivers over 20,000 copies to local businesses and organizations.

The new activity guide features recreation programs offered during the months of November through April 2024. Registration opened November 1st for all winter activities including Youth Basketball for boys and girls, Adult Coed Volleyball League, Adult Men's and Women's City League Basketball, Girls Volleyball, Tennis is Elementary, Martial Arts, Learn to Fly Fish, Spring Break Camps, and numerous Health and Wellness programs for seniors.

Our Winter Guide provides a jump-start into spring with summer registration starting April 1, 2025. The Summer Activity Guide will be available in March so parents will have the opportunity to decide which summer programs to register for before registration opens.

Aquatic Operations

The Recreation Division oversees the staffing and operations of the Rose Park and South Park pools, as well as the Pioneer Park and Hawthorne Park wading pools. We employed 37 lifeguards throughout the summer, all of which receive rigorous American Red Cross Lifeguard and CPR/AED training before the pools opened. We ensured each guard receives the proper training they need to respond to any situation that arises. This year, our lifeguards supervised 49,478 visitors at Rose and South Park pools. Unfortunately, due to the low number of lifeguards and limited availability, we were not able to open Pioneer Park and Hawthorne Park wading pools.

Two hundred and fifty-eight (258) reduced price pool passes were sold in 2024 to help residents in low-income households cool off on our hot summer days. In total, 76 seasonal aquatic employees (lifeguards, instructors, managers, cashiers, concession workers) were employed at the aquatic facilities in 2024. Most of these employees are high school students, college students, and School District #2 employees.

Aquatic Programming

To compliment recreational open swim for children and families, the Recreation Division also provided popular aquatic programming, which included 609 children enrolled in our seven-week American Red Cross Learn to Swim program, 52 adult lap swimmers, and 104





children enrolled in our all-day aquatic camps. The aquatic staff were commended for doing a tremendous job during another eventful summer, keeping our facilities safe and enjoyable for the community.

Dog Day of Summer

On September 8, 2024, we celebrated our tenth annual Dog Days of Summer on the last day of the pool season. A total of 237 dogs visited the pool to help us close out an excellent summer season.

Summer Programs

Summer program registration for 2024 (June-August) was once again our most successful summer to date. The summer was two weeks longer, 13 total weeks, which meant 2 extra weeks of camps and entertaining offerings for youth in Billings. Summer and specialty camps saw a 9.3% increase in enrollment, while sports camps saw

717 participants, a modest increase, taking part in multiple sports including basketball, golf, tennis, flag football, martial arts, cheer, and volleyball.

Our growing, free Rec2U program expanded from one day per week at two parks, to four days per week and reaching 8 parks. Rec2U spanned the entire city to the following parks: Hawthorne, Arrowhead, Ponderosa, Optimist, Sacajawea, Centennial, Rimrock West, and Yellowstone Family parks. Rec2U was able to engage 148 kids per week on average and 1,328 kids overall. This program offered a range of fun activities, including lawn games, sports, arts and crafts, plenty of healthy snacks, and water to keep cool.

Summer programs by the numbers:

- 1,462 enrolled in non-sports camps
- 717 enrolled in sports camps and lessons
- 1,328 participants in Rec 2U



Fall Programs

Fall Recreation began on September 9th at the conclusion of our summer programming. Enrollment was strong, staffing was excellent, and our traditional strong fall programs continued to thrive.



Youth Sports for the fall and into the winter months included NFL Flag Football, Girls Basketball, Tennis Is Elementary and the start of Boys Basketball. NFL Flag Football utilized 4 different parks sites with game days at Centennial Park. The kids were divided into 2nd/3rd and 4th/5th graders and a total of 24 teams were created. We had a large increase from 162 participants to 200 kids participating in games and developing their skills at bi-weekly practices. We had 41 amazing volunteer coaches this year and 14 staff members working as site supervisors, game day coordinators, and officials working hard to give the kids a great experience. With that large increase we also increased to a third field for game days at Centennial.

NFL Flag Football by the numbers:

- 4 sites
- 200 players (+24%)
- 33 Coaches (+24%)
- 8 weeks of practice at 4 sites
- 4 weeks of games at Centennial Park

We also added Girls Middle School Instructional Basketball this year, a program previously offered by School District 2. We were able to provide 28 girls with an opportunity to continue playing outside of their school program with practices and games. With 3rd-5th grade girls, we had a total of 133 players across 18 teams. We had 14 excellent coaches across these leagues passing on their knowledge to these young players.

Tennis Is Elementary also had an excellent turnout this fall with 2 sites, Meadowlark and Eagle Cliffs Elementary, and 73 participants.

The Miracle League of Billings has also had its 5th successful season with game days from late August to early October. We had 33 participants and 41 volunteers, including MSUB Softball and Baseball teams to help us make lasting memories at our incredible Miracle League Field.

Rounding out the Fall with a couple of Special Interest programs, we had Kids in the Kitchen and Adult Piano Lessons. Kids in the Kitchen saw 8 participants join us for 4 Saturdays worth of cooking lessons. Adult piano also had 3 people enrolled for 4 weeks of piano lessons.

Adult Recreation

Adult Sports for the fall included: Co-ed Volleyball, Pickleball Open Play, Table Tennis, and City League Basketball sign ups. Fall Coed Volleyball was full once again and grew by 4 teams up to 28, with over 200 players. Pickleball Open Play provided a fun and relaxing way to play everyone's favorite sport during the cold weather. Table Tennis also provides a classic, year-round sport to play on consistent days every week.

A total of 542 players signed up for City League Basketball with 60 teams on the schedule, being held at all 6 middle school gymnasiums in Billings. Winter Coed Volleyball signups are also full once again with 28 teams playing on Sundays at Castle Rock Middle School.

- Fall Coed Volleyball: 28 teams around 225 players
- Pickleball Open Play: 10 participants
- Table Tennis: 18 players
- City League Basketball: 60 teams and 542 sign ups
- Winter Coed Volleyball: 28 teams and 225 players

We Make Aging Fun at the Billings Community and Senior Center

At the Billings Community and Senior Center, we promote recreation, wellness, and social connection. Strong partnerships and innovative programs help us create a vibrant, active senior community. This year, we achieved significant growth:

- **15% Increase** in attendance across programs.
- **7% Growth** in Senior Recreation and Wellness Program participation.
- **24% Rise** in meals served through our partnership with the **Adult Resource Alliance**, totaling **3,587 meals**.

Social activities and games attracted more male participants, and we aim to continue diversifying programs to reach broader audiences.

We worked closely with the Adult Resource Alliance to expand meal services and offsite wellness classes, which consistently reached full capacity. These efforts highlight the growing need for accessible, engaging senior programs across the community.

Program Expansion Highlights

In Fall 2024, we introduced several new programs:

- **Bob Ross Oil Painting:** A favorite for new and hobby artists in the community. The program is so popular that we added overflow sessions.
- **Cardio Line Dancing & Strong and Fit Classes:** These new fitness programs were instantly popular, helping seniors build strength and balance for confident, independent living.

After completing Fall Prevention training in April 2024, staff launched the *Strong and Stable* fitness class, inspired by the SAIL program and customized to meet varying fitness levels. Additionally, the *Aging with Grace* curriculum was combined with the *Stepping On* program to create a tailored Fall Prevention Program. Participants have shown notable improvements in strength, balance, and mobility. These programs align with health goals across the state of Montana and national health programs.



New Collaborations

In summer 2024, the Yellowstone Genealogy Forum relocated to the Billings Senior Center, offering volunteer-led genealogy assistance (Monday–Friday, 1–3 PM). The volunteers also provide free educational programs like genealogy workshops and cross-stitching classes. This partnership has enriched our offerings and helped us reach more seniors.

In 2024, we hosted 9 nursing students and 2 occupational therapy students who contributed to program delivery and health promotion, benefiting both seniors and students.

Looking ahead to 2025, the senior center plans to expand fitness and wellness programs by integrating creative ideas and cognitive health goals. The staff continues to adapt evidence-based programs to meet diverse needs. Our goal is to provide programs that engage seniors and improve their overall health and well-being.

Parks

Our maintenance team does an incredible job and 2024 was no exception. In particular, our maintenance and forestry teams jumped right in to handle the safe removal of fallen trees in the August storm. We lost over 50 trees in parks across the City, and while safety was a quick priority, it required multiple weeks to remove limbs and fallen trees.

As summer and fall wrapped up, the maintenance team turned attention to cleaning brush and dead fall around natural land parks. There are several regular maintenance projects through the winter when the ground is frozen. It is also a good time for our equipment operators to practice their skills on the equipment and maintain equipment around the department.

There are several bike path bridges that the department maintains in Billings. The bridge over Alkali Creek in the Heights had some rotting boards replaced to keep trails safe for riders and walkers.



Annual maintenance along the Billings Bench Water Association (BBWA) canal occurs each fall after the water is turned off. Many of the large parks in Billings including Pioneer, Stewart, Rose, North, Castle Rock, and others, utilize the canal for irrigation. Debris and sediment are cleaned out each fall to ensure smooth operation at the pump stations the following spring.



The old deteriorating racquetball/handball courts at North Park Rec Center were demolished and cleaned up. This area will be re-landscaped in the spring providing an updated look to the area.

The maintenance team pulls certain irrigation pumps in the fall to replace parts through the winter, when pumps aren't running. These preparations help prevent irrigation issues through the summer and keep operations running smoothly.

This fall the maintenance team upgraded the South Park irrigation pump station. The new pump stations are more efficient and use less power than the old pumps. Our department is utilizing grant funds and maintenance dollars to upgrade some parks each fiscal year.

Community Partners in Parks

The Parks Department worked with the Billings Public Library to install a new story trail in Castle Rock Park this summer. This is the first one in a city park and is made possible through a generous support of the Billings Library Foundation. The stories are meant to engage young readers and visitors to the park.

The department also partnered with the non-profit Hoodies for Heroes to place a one-of-a-kind memorial for Montana Veterans at Dehler Park. Construction broke ground this summer and completed with a ribbon cutting in November on Veterans Day.



Forestry

The City of Billings suffered a devastating storm this year as well with winds reaching 78 miles per hour. Billings parks suffered a total of 68 storm damaged trees that had to be removed. The Parks maintenance team and the Forestry Department joined forces to tackle this disaster in a timely manner having the destruction cleaned up in 7 days with a total of 482 staff hours.

This year the Forestry division has seen some major changes, with the addition of a new Arborist, Brian B Bourgeois, and a new Forester, Nick Miller. The newly formed teams brought a lot of change and experience for 2024 and beyond. The department will change the way that the tree inventory is managed, switching from Treeworks to the City's ArcGIS program. This will allow Forestry to streamline some processes and increase efficiency when arboriculture issues arise. Forestry is already planning exciting programs to share with the community in 2025.

Cemetery

There were two incidents this year in which a vehicle left Central Avenue and entered the cemetery. The two incidents combined to damage or destroy 52 veteran headstones. The 22 head stones from the first accident were replaced during the Saluting Branches volunteer event. Replacement headstones are on hand for the 30 damaged in the second accident. Staff are waiting for the ground to thaw and then place the additional headstones. In an effort to prevent vehicles from driving into the Veteran section, 12 concrete planters have been placed along Central Ave. Flowers will be planted in the spring.



In October, Mountview Cemetery hosted our second Saluting Branches event. Saluting Branches is a national, non-profit organization that brings arborists and tree care professionals together with volunteers to maintain trees in spaces that are dedicated to veterans. This year the level of participation dropped due to a date change for the event due to weather. In spite of changes, we still had 23 sponsors and 48 professionals and community members dedicate their time and resources to tree pruning, removal, and planting trees in Mountview Cemetery. The estimated donation in time and services was \$35,000. We are so grateful to CM Tree Service and Removal for leading the effort in making this a great event!

In November, the Cemetery hosted the 2nd annual Patriot Run. In addition to the 5k event, we also added a 2k event targeting young runners 12 and under. Participation almost doubled from 2023, with 120 entries this year. The event raised \$4,000 for the Central Avenue barrier project.

Mountview Cemetery completed the installation of a new Variable Frequency Drive pump station this spring. The new pump station will reduce irrigation costs by decreasing energy consumption. The cemetery can also begin to modernize its irrigation system and allow for off-hour irrigation.

Repairs were completed on the main irrigation line that runs under Central Avenue from the Billings Bench Water Association Ditch near Stewart Park to



Mountview Cemetery. A pressure relief valve was installed on the new pump station, that will reduce pressure on the main line, which should reduce the frequency of these costly repairs.

Cemetery by the numbers:

- 85 burials
- 65 graves sold

Community Outreach & Volunteer Programs

In the second half of the year, 2,049 hours were logged by volunteers across our programs. For the full year of 2024, the total came to 3,564 hours – this is equivalent to 1.7 FTE, nearly two full time employees. Our volunteers at the Senior Center are particularly dedicated with four folks volunteering over 200 individual hours. A big thanks to Connie, Don, Jim, and Jennifer for their support of our senior programs and Faith for her service of over 200 hours this year at Mountview Cemetery.



Refresh the Rims took place on October 5th with great weather and amazing community participation, continuing a great partnership with MSU-Billings Outdoor Adventure Leadership Program. Five trail groups covered several miles of trails along the Rims, including the new section of Skyline Trail. This year's event was also a soft launch of our new Youth Volunteer Corps! This national program will allow Parks & Rec to provide service-learning opportunities for youth in our City. We are partnering with middle and high schools to recruit volunteers to support our adaptive recreation and free Rec2U programs for year-round engagement.

The Community Garden at Amend Park had a very successful growing year and sold every plot for the season. A great group of gardeners labored and persevered to grow everything from heirloom tomatoes to husk melon. Approximately 6,700 pounds of produce was harvested by our gardeners, most of which went directly into their homes. Over 200 pounds of produce was donated to local non-profits and senior centers. We also began selling affordable, fresh produce at the South Park Gardener's Market, run by Healthy by Design. The funds from the farm stand are put back into the garden scholarship fund and used to buy plant starts for the next gardening season. Huge thanks to our amazing AmeriCorps VISTA Member, Inanna Hencke, for spearheading this new initiative!

We capped off a great year at Poly Vista Park with several community partners hosting an all-inclusive Trunk-or-Treat for the community on October 27th. We welcomed over 20 organizations to pass out candy in a welcoming environment for hundreds of kids of all ages and abilities. Organizers estimated over 400 trick-or-treaters came through in 2 hours. Many of our Love Serving Autism and Miracle League athletes came, as well as other youth with disabilities that learned about our programs. Special thanks to our partners at Blue Skies Pediatric Therapy for coordinating an awesome event!



BILLINGS



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 3rd, 2025

City of Billings Aviation and Transit

Contact:

Jeff Roach, Director, Aviation and Transit, roachj@billingsmt.gov, 406-657-8484

BILLINGS WELCOMES NEW SEASONAL DAILY SERVICE BY UNITED AIRLINES TO CHICAGO

BILLINGS, Mont., – Billings Logan International Airport (BIL) is excited to announce the launch of seasonal direct flights to Chicago O’Hare International Airport (ORD) by United Airlines. The new service will provide passengers with a direct connection to one of the country's busiest and most connected airports, offering enhanced access to domestic and international destinations.

The new United Airlines flights from BIL to ORD will commence on May 22, 2025 and extend through Oct. 25, 2025. This new service will provide BIL an additional 24,000 seats for 2025 (nearly 12,000 new seats each direction).

United Airlines has also announced an additional flight per day to Denver from May 22, 2025 through Aug. 18, 2025, expanding direct service to six flights each day over the summer months. This will add 18,500 seats to and from Denver for 2025. Service to Denver will then return to five flights per day for the remainder of the year.

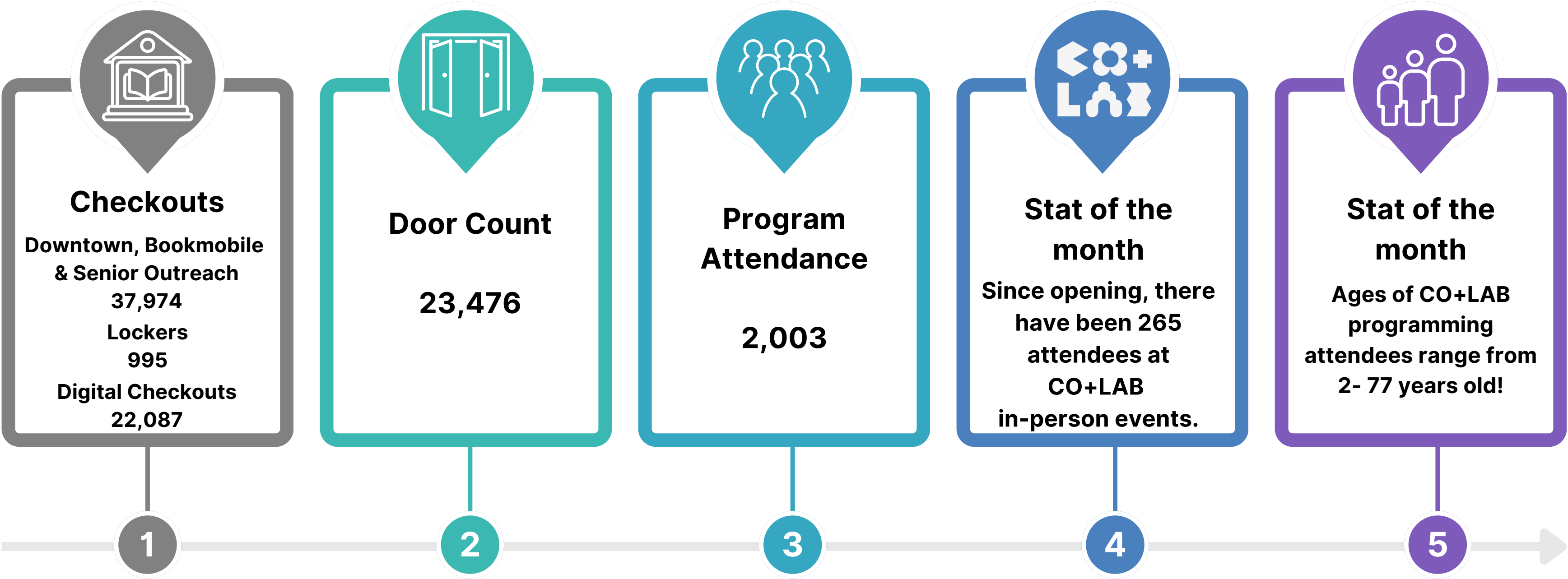
Jeff Roach, A.A.E., Director of Aviation and Transit for Billings Logan International Airport, stated, “Billings Logan International Airport (BIL) is thrilled to have the commitment of United Airlines to our market and the expansion of service to both Chicago and Denver. These additional direct flights will play a significant role in driving visitation and economic development for Billings and the region, while providing more travel options for our area residents.”

The Billings Air Service Committee is comprised of leadership from Visit Billings, the Billings Chamber of Commerce, Big Sky Economic Development, and the City of Billings, along with businesses and community leaders who are dedicated to supporting Billings Logan International Airport (BIL) and efforts to increase air service to Billings and the southeast Montana region.

###



January 2025 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!

OWEN'S Proposed Resolution – Performance Metrics for Major Projects?

February 10, 2025 **REGULAR BUSINESS**

CONSENT:

1. BID AWARD: BOC Rooftop Unit Replacement
2. BID AWARD: CCTV Storm Inspection Camera
3. Amendment 4 – purchase and sale agreement of City Hall
4. Contract – DOWL - W.O. 25-18: Grand Avenue Trunk Main Extension and Arnold Drain
5. Purchase new playground equipment – Sacajawea Park
6. FWP Grant and Trail Net Donation - Big Ditch Trail Extension
7. Annual Certified Local Government Grant for Historic Preservation
8. Donation from Rimrock Credit Union for Anti-Graffiti fund
9. Donation from Empire Roofing to Police Department Camp Blue
10. Resolution of Intent for SID 1428 Annafeld Sub., 5th filing
11. Resolution amending Res. 24-11193, expedited graffiti rewards
12. 2nd Reading/ORD BMCC 6-1300, Display of Address numbers
13. 2nd Reading/ORD BMCC 13-400, Business, Occupation and Profession Tax
14. 2nd Reading/ORD BMCC 18-1100, Graffiti
15. 2nd Reading/ORD BMCC 18-1302, Civil Citations
16. 2nd Reading ORD BMCC 24-411, Parking for camping purposes

REGULAR:

1. Resolution adopting FY2026 City County Budget Goals

February 18, 2025 (Tuesday) – **WORK SESSION**

1. Aspenlieder's Initiative – City of Billings Purchasing Policy
2. **Sale of City Properties (Kevin) depends on Coldwell Banker communications**

February 24, 2025 **REGULAR BUSINESS**

CONSENT:

1. Boards and Commissions
2. BID AWARD: WO 25-16: 2025 Annual Street Reconstruction
3. BID AWARD: W.O. 24-15, WRF Chemical Room Repair
4. Mimecast Annual Renewal
5. Amendment 24 with Morrison-Maierle, Inc. for Rehabilitate Overlook Dr

6. Consultant Contract with Kittelson & Assoc. to complete 21st Street Underpass Improvement Study
7. General Contractor / Construction Manager (GC/CM) Contract for Amend Park Recreation Campus
8. Consultant Services Contract with Applied Research Associates for W.O. 25-09: City Pavement Condition Survey and Assessment
9. Professional Engineering Services with HDR Engineering for W.O. 24-37 Stagecoach Trail
10. Outsourcing of Custodial Services at City Hall
11. Outsourcing of Custodial Services at BOC
12. MET Transit 2025 Human Services Transportation Coordination Plan Adoption
13. MET Transit Public Transit Agency Safety Plan 2025 Update
14. MET Transit 2025 Disadvantaged Business Enterprises Program Update
15. Donation from Lockwood Pre-cast for bench at Veterans Park
16. Trail design funds from Billings TrailNet
17. Rose Park Trail Easement
18. High Sierra Subdivision, 22nd Filing – Preliminary Plat
19. Annafeld Subdivision, 6th Filing - Preliminary Plat
20. Zeiler Subdivision - Preliminary Minor Plat
21. Resolution Authorizing the Filing and Acceptance of Transit Grant Funds and Related Documents

REGULAR:

1. PH and Resolution for Weed Assessments
2. PH and Resolution for Nuisance Property Abatement Assessments
3. JT PH – Annexation 24-05
 - a. Resolution to Annex Annafeld Subdivision, 6th Filing
 - b. 1st Reading ORD - Annexation 24-05, Ward Boundary Expansion
 - c. Annafeld Subdivision, 6th Filing - Preliminary Plat
4. JT PH - Annexation 25-01
 - a. Resolution to Annex Wilson Park
 - b. 1st Reading ORD - Zone Change 1061 - 441 Riverside Rd, Wilson Park, YVAS
 - c. 1st Reading ORD - Annexation 25-01, Ward Boundary Expansion

March 3, 2025 – WORK SESSION

1. CPSM continued review, update on municipal court study implementation, Citizen's advisory board, CRU update (Owen's request)
2. Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan Update – Elyse Monat / Mack Drzayich from Alta Planning + Design

March 10, 2025 REGULAR BUSINESS *(Mayor Cole will be absent/Deputy Mayor Boyett to preside)*

CONSENT:

1. BID AWARD: W.O. 24-32: North 12th Street Gravel Street Improvements
2. 2nd Reading-Annexation 24-05, Ward Boundary Expansion Ordinance -

3. 2nd Reading-Annexation 25-01, Ward Boundary Expansion Ordinance - Second Reading

REGULAR:

1. Annexation 25-02, Resolution to Annex Lot 3, Block 1 of Exchange Sub
2. RES Establishing a Procedure for the Disposition of Unclaimed Property?

March 17, 2025– WORK SESSION

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

1. Billings TrailNet (Kristi Drake)
- 2.

March 24, 2025 REGULAR BUSINESS

CONSENT:

April 7, 2025– WORK SESSION

1. CRU Follow up (done during the March 3rd WS)?
2. Police and Fire Annual Report

April 14, 2025 REGULAR BUSINESS

CONSENT:

REGULAR:

April 21, 2025 - WORK SESSION

1. Big Sky Senior Services – Adult Resource Alliance (Erika Purington) was moved from 2.17.2025 per Erika's request

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. [*Council Meeting Schedule for December](#)

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:

REGULAR:

December 15, 2025– WORK SESSION

December 22, 2025 REGULAR BUSINESS

CONSENT:

1.

REGULAR:

CLERK'S NOTES

**Annual Items shown in Blue*

January (First Work Session) after an election: Swearing in of new Councilmembers and Nominations and Elections of Deputy Mayor Pro Tempore

January: Amend Park Development Council Proposed Budget

January: Beartooth RC&D MOU

March: Budget Calendar

March: Council Priorities

September: City Administrator's Annual Review

October: TRP, ERP and CIP

October: Council Holiday Schedule for December

November (First Regular Business Meeting) after an election: Nominations and Elections of Deputy Mayor

DRAFT