



# The CityLink

Official News and Information  
from the City of Billings

*Billings Pride:*  
City-wide

Summer 2010

## City Honors 147 Employees during 2010 Service Awards Ceremony

The City of Billings honored staff members at this year's Service Awards Ceremony, held Wednesday, March 31, at the Billings Community Center.

There were 147 people who received awards for their years with the City. Congratulations to all of the long-time employees of Billings and especially to those who have spent two or more decades with the City serving the community. Listed are the 51 people who have served the City of Billings for 20-plus years:



Jan Grossman, celebrating 40 years of service, with Mayor Hanel.

[Jan Grossman](#), Streets/Traffic, 40 years

[Henry Harmoning](#), Public Works, 35 years (retired)

[James Burnham](#), Public Works, 35 years

[Robert Peter, Jr.](#), Streets/Traffic, 35 years

[Mike Spear](#), Public Works, 30 years (retired)

[Ronald Wenger](#), MET Transit, 30 years

[Clayton Breshears](#), Public Works, 30 years

[Robert Wicks](#), Public Works, 30 years

[Alan Towleron](#), Public Works, 30 years

[David Lauwers](#), Solid Waste, 30 years

[Rueben Montez](#), Streets/Traffic, 30 years

[Steven Wilson](#), Fire, 25 years (retired)

[Edward Bakken](#), Parks, Recreation & Public Lands, 25 years

[Thomas Barry](#), Aviation, 25 years

[Thomas Binford](#), Aviation, 25 years

[Alene Malloy](#), Finance, 25 years

[Jeff Bloom](#), Fire, 25 years

[Keith Reichert](#), Fleet Services, 25 years

[William Houghton](#), MET Transit, 25 years

[Carol Smith](#), Parking, 25 years

[Michael Leikam](#), Parks, Recreation & Public Lands, 25 years

[Dean Sjolseth](#), Parks, Recreation & Public Lands, 25 years

[Keith Dukart](#), Police, 25 years

[Timothy O'Connell](#), Police, 25 years

[Fred Charette](#), Public Works, 25 years

[Ralph Giacomini](#), Public Works, 25 years

[Kennard Behling](#), Solid Waste, 25 years

[Leonard Munter](#), Solid Waste, 25 years

[Richard Ballantyne](#), Police, 20 years (retired)

[Charles Moore](#), Police, 20 years (retired)

[Mark Keyes](#), Police, 20 years

[Todd Klein](#), Building, 20 years

[John Gibson](#), Engineering, 20 years

[Terry Larson](#), Fire, 20 years

[Dennis Lenz](#), Fire, 20 years

[Thomas Selleck](#), Fire, 20 years

[Ronald Frisbie](#), Information Technology, 20 years

[Marian Murphy](#), Library, 20 years

[Scott Baker](#), MET Transit, 20 years

[Steven Leichner](#), MET Transit, 20 years

[William Cady](#), Police, 20 years

[Mark Kirkpatrick](#), Police, 20 years

[Dellon Kuntz](#), Police, 20 years

[Thomas J. Vladic](#), Police, 20 years

[Shaun Emerick](#), Public Works, 20 years

[Maureen Kaul](#), Public Works, 20 years

[Bruce O'Banion](#), Public Works, 20 years

[Gregory Smith](#), Public Works, 20 years

[Dwile Weagel](#), Public Works, 20 years

[Donald Ludwig](#), Solid Waste, 20 years

[Scott Reynolds](#), Solid Waste, 20 years

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Visit the City's Website: <http://www.ci.billings.mt.us>

# Fiscal Year 2011

## Budget Preparation

The City of Billings is in the budget development mode for Fiscal Year (FY) 2011. The budget was presented to the Mayor and Council at public meetings on May 3, 11, 17, 25 and June 7. The FY 11 budget is scheduled for a public hearing and adoption June 14, 2010, at a regular Council meeting at City Hall starting at 6:30 p.m.

The budget presentations are available on the City's website at [www.ci.billings.mt.us](http://www.ci.billings.mt.us), by clicking on "Your Government," then on "Finance," and looking for the "2011 Budget Work Session Presentations."

## City of Billings Partners with McKinstry on Cost-Saving Energy Improvements

### Proposed retrofits to City facilities paid for with energy savings

With rising prices and a tough economy, the City of Billings is taking a proactive approach to saving energy and improving energy efficiency.

In March, the City awarded Missoula-based McKinstry a contract to complete a comprehensive, City-wide energy audit to identify energy improvements for its facilities.

The audit involves approximately 100 buildings totaling 1.8 million square feet. This energy performance project will help the City fund energy efficiency and related environmental improvements in City facilities and assets throughout the community. The improvements will be paid for by energy savings guaranteed by McKinstry, through a "performance-based contracting" agreement. The energy cost savings achieved as a result of the upgrades free up the capital needed to fund the project. Any shortfall would be paid for by McKinstry as part of its guarantee.

McKinstry's contract with the City also includes the design and installation of systems or maintenance programs to conserve energy, such as installation or modification of equipment for heating, air conditioning, ventilation, lighting, water heating, etc. in City facilities. The company will also monitor and verify energy savings from the project.

Through this contract, Billings moves one step closer to implementing a comprehensive energy services program that will not only decrease energy expenditures and reduce environmental impact of operations throughout the City, but also improve the indoor environments of its facilities.

For more information, please contact Mark Evangeline, Airport Facilities Superintendent, at [evangelinem@ci.billings.mt.us](mailto:evangelinem@ci.billings.mt.us) or by telephone at (406) 657-8499.

# Summer Construction News

*Summer 2010 once again promises to be a busy season for construction projects on Billings streets. Here are some of the construction projects you may see this summer:*

- Lake Elmo Drive from Main Street to Wicks Lane, Alkali Creek Road between Black Pine and Aronson Ave., and Dorothy Lane from Bench Blvd. to the ditch just west of Hawthorne Lane, will be reconstructed.
- Approximately 13 miles of residential streets will be chip sealed throughout the city, including King Ave. E. from South Billings Blvd. to Orchard Lane.
- 1st Ave. N. between North 18th St. and North 33rd St. will be overlayed.
- More than two miles of both water and sanitary sewer pipe will be replaced in the following areas: 24th St. W. from Broadwater Ave. to Grand Ave., Broadwater Ave. from 24th St. W. to 28th St. W., the alleys north of Dehler Park to the BBWA Canal between North 23rd St. and North 27th St., Calhoun Lane between King Ave. E. and Underpass Ave., and Mountain View Blvd.
- A tunnel will be constructed for pedestrian and bike traffic under Main Street in the vicinity

of where Alkali Creek currently passes under Main. New paths will be constructed on the west side of Main to the tunnel and the east side of the tunnel through Earl Guss Park.

- A water booster station will serve City properties along and on streets accessed by Constitution Ave. west of Governors Blvd.
- Bike lane striping is planned along 6.5 miles spread across 6 corridors including Briarwood Blvd., Nutter Blvd., Poly Drive, 6th Ave. S., South 28th St., and North 30th St.
- A new water main will be installed from Parkhill Drive and 17th St. W. north to Rimrock Road between Stanford Drive and 17th St. W. A 16-inch water main is being extended in 15th St. W. between Avenue D and Parkhill Drive.
- A right turn lane on the west leg of the intersection of Grand Ave. and 24th St. W. is planned for construction.
- A traffic signal addition is planned at the intersection of Wicks Lane and St. Andrews Drive.
- Storm drain trunk mains will be installed within Hilltop Road, Shamrock Lane, Nutter Blvd., and Aronson Ave. A detention facility within a nearby park will be constructed to detain peak runoff flows.

## Nonresident Visitor Statistics

Montana is a popular visitor destination and surveys of passengers arriving at the airport confirm this.

For a number of years, the Billings Logan International Airport has participated in a monthly program conducted by the University of Montana's Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research (ITRR) to survey arriving passengers.

The ITRR collects visitor data such as where they reside, how long they plan to stay here, whether they visited Billings before, the size of their travel group and the reason for their trip to Billings.

The ITRR recently released the following survey results for the 3rd Quarter for 2009. The Billings Airport serves as one of the main entry points for visitors to Montana, at roughly 27 percent.

The average length of stay was 6.37 nights. About 77 percent of the visitors were repeat visitors to Billings. Most of the travelers arrived either solo or in a group of two. 36 percent of the visitors came to primarily visit friends or family, 29 percent, arrived specifically for business or to attend a

convention and, 24 percent came here for vacation. The following is a breakdown of where the surveyed visitors resided:

RESIDENCY	
Washington	16%
California	11%
Oregon	7%
Texas	6%
Alaska	4%
Colorado	4%
Arizona	3%
Utah	3%
Canadian Provinces represented:	
Alberta, British Columbia	
Countries represented:	
Austria, England, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Spain, Taiwan	

# Exploring the Trails at Montana's Trail Head

Summer is here and it is a great time to get out and explore the trail system in the urban areas of Billings and Yellowstone County.

Currently, there are approximately 34 miles of hard surface trails threading through the community. The longest continuous section is 6.5 miles and stretches from Mary Street to Mystic Park along the Yellowstone River. However, there are many other sections of trail around the community and great strides have been made in the last five years to connect this network.

As arterial roadways have been built or reconstructed, trails have been built along one side of the roadway, such as along Zimmerman Trail, Aronson Avenue, Rimrock Road and Alkali Creek Road, to name a few.

The trail along Shiloh Road will be completed this summer, providing 4.5 miles of trail between Rimrock Road and ZooMontana. There have also been trails built through parkland and along public corridors with street crossings and refuge islands. One such example would be the trail section that spans from Lillis and Descro Parks down to the trail south of King Avenue West which connects to 24th Street West.

The next connection scheduled for completion is the Main Street Underpass and Earl Guss Park Trail



where Alkali Creek crosses under Main Street in the Heights. This project will connect the existing trails east of Main Street to the underpasses that were built as part of the Airport Road project and to Swords Park.

Bike lanes will also be added on various streets in the City this summer, providing additional connectivity. A new bike tour map is available at the Parks, Recreation and Public Lands Department office, the Planning Division office, the Chamber of Commerce, and local bike shops. Happy Trails!



## We Want to Hear From You

Please provide us with input for our next newsletter.

### What did you like most about the newsletter?

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### What would you like to see in upcoming newsletters?

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### **Mail or e-mail your comments to us at:**

[citylink@ci.billings.mt.us](mailto:citylink@ci.billings.mt.us)

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# Q&A

## FROM OUR READERS

### Questions and comments from an anonymous Billings reader:

I liked the garbage rules printed in the last newsletter. I see trees around Billings that I think are improperly trimmed. Maybe include in upcoming newsletters some trimming guidelines. I'd also like to see an explanation of the roundabout at the airport, which I haven't yet experienced.

### Answers:

#### Tree Trimming:

We are unsure of what type of trimming guidelines you are seeking, but there are excellent residential tree care and pruning guides available on the Arbor Day Foundation website at <http://www.arborday.org/trees/pruning>.

#### Airport Roundabout:

One of the most confusing intersections in the Billings area used to be at the entrance to the Airport. The four-way intersection had a three-way stop configuration that confused drivers who were not familiar with the layout. This configuration also resulted in daily periods of backed up traffic coming from the Heights, or trying to get out of the Airport. Fortunately, last summer's Highway 3 improvements between the Airport and Main Street in the Billings Heights also included the construction of a new roundabout at the intersection of the Airport entrance. While the public's views on how well the roundabout would work ran the full gamut, Airport officials have been very happy with the improvement and have noted that traffic no longer gets backed up for more than three or four vehicles during the busy morning and evening rush hours. The heavy east- and west-bound traffic is also able to flow through the roundabout easily and efficiently.

Even with all this success, the roundabout can still cause some confusion, and awareness

and caution are still advised. Fortunately, for those who want to learn more about how a roundabout works, or just want to preplan for a trip through one of the new roundabouts in Billings, the State of Montana's Department of Transportation website has an instructional display of how to negotiate a roundabout and what signing to expect. Go to <http://www.mdt.mt.gov/travinfo/roundabouts> to view this information. There is also a diagram printed below for your information.

### Comments and Questions from an anonymous Billings reader:

In past issues, I've enjoyed reading the activities of and the plans for the City, this Q&A column, and the Solid Waste schedule. In the future, I'd like to see articles regarding: the City's walking trails (safe trails), recreational services available to the elderly and low income, and litter laws in alleys, yards, and streets. I'd also like you to mail the City-Link to all households, as not everyone gets the Gazette.

### Answer:

#### Trails:

We are happy to provide you with more information about the City's trails in this issue, and please watch for additional information in the future. Billings is rapidly developing a city-wide network of bike trails and bike routes. Darlene Tussing, the Alternate Modes Coordinator, is responsible for implementing the 1995 BikeNet Plan and its recent update,

the Heritage Trails Plan, which identifies existing and proposed on-street and off-street bicycle and multi-purpose trails. Bicycle trail maps are available from the Planning Department on the 4th floor of the Library - 510 N. Broadway. You may also access the trail map and/or information on the City's website at [www.ci.billings.mt.us](http://www.ci.billings.mt.us).

#### Litter:

The owner or occupant of any premises within the City limits is responsible for keeping the premises and one-half of the alley immediately adjacent to the premises and the gutter in front of or adjoining the property clean, open and free of wastepaper, cans, leaves or any unhealthy materials of any kind. There are a number of different City ordinances which apply to the "litter" issue, and the City's Code Enforcement Division can use any or all of them to control and abate litter, trash and debris left or placed in City right-of-ways or in yards within the City limits.

In 2009, the Code Enforcement Division responded to 297 complaints of open storage of trash and debris, 521 complaints of junk vehicles and 371 complaints of nuisance property. In the first four months of 2010, Code Enforcement fielded 131 complaints of open storage of trash and debris, 214 junk vehicle complaints and 127 calls on nuisance property.

Residents can call in complaints to the Code Enforcement Division at (406) 237-6146. You will need to provide information regarding the nature of the complaint and the location of the problem.

The Solid Waste Division completes "alley sweeps" every 5-6 weeks throughout the year. During these "alley sweeps," bulky items and yard rubbish are picked up. Appliances should never be left in the alley for pick up. Appliances can be taken to the landfill. A small fee is charged to defray the cost of recovering the refrigerant from the appliance, if applicable.

#### CityLink Mailing:

Unfortunately, budget constraints do not allow this publication to be mailed to every household. However, the CityLink is also available on the City's website at [www.ci.billings.mt.us](http://www.ci.billings.mt.us): click on "For Residents," and then on the "City Link Newsletter." Extra copies are also available in the lobby of City Hall.

### Comments and Questions from Sabrina Kraft of Billings (paraphrased):

A major hindrance to the positive growth, positive experience and continued investment in "The Magic City's" downtown business district is the inadequate parking situation. As new development projects are completed and new businesses lease spaces, the strain on the current parking situation will become even more evident. As parking enforcement becomes more aggressive, it also enhances the hostile environment that is created when the consumer, business person, customer or visitor receives a ticket. So much time, effort, and money have been invested in developing downtown. Those yellow envelopes, slipped so casually under the windshield wipers of a vehicle, damage the wonderful experience people enjoy downtown. Until the City prioritizes the parking problem downtown and develops a positive business atmosphere, everyone loses.

### Answer:

Parking is regulated in downtown Billings because there are a limited number of on-street parking spaces in the area. The City uses meters and time limits on parking to create turnover. In other words, by controlling the time allowed for parking in these scarce spaces, the City can try to guarantee everyone a convenient parking space for a reasonable length of time.

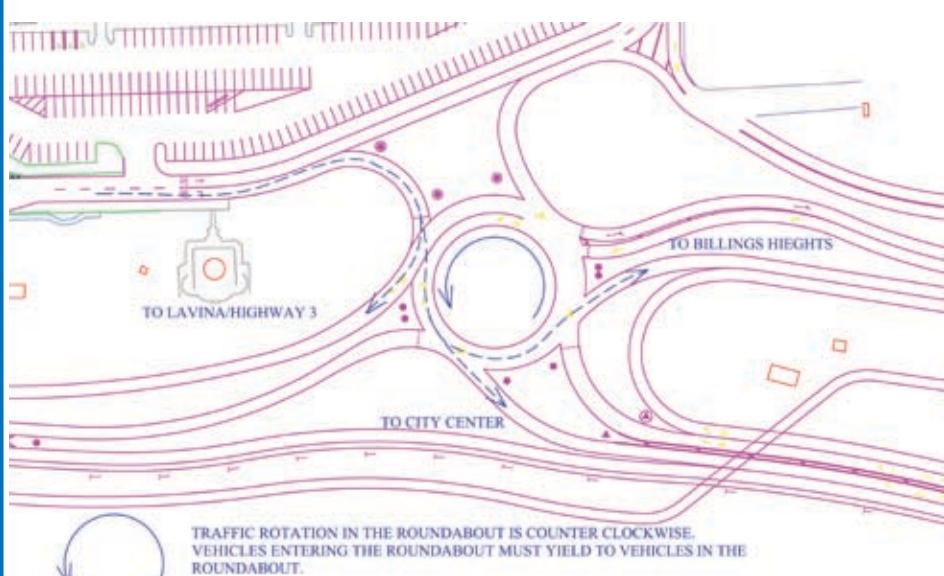
If parking regulations were not enforced, some business owners and employees would park all day in these prime, on-street spaces. This would make it difficult for many shoppers and customers to find proper short-term parking. By enforcing parking regulations, the City can ensure that those needing short-term parking options find them on-street and those needing long-term parking options find them in the downtown parking garages or lots.

Of course, there are many other reasons that the safety of all citizens requires parking enforcement, not only downtown, but throughout the City. For example, handicapped spaces, fire hydrants, streets and alleys must be kept free of obstruction. Parking regulations are designed to benefit everyone, and for this reason, there is a need for the regulations to be uniformly enforced.

You are correct that many development projects are underway and will be completed soon. For that reason, the City of Billings is researching the possibility of building a new parking garage to provide more options for business owners, employees and customers.

If you would like to discuss this reply or parking options, please contact Chris Mallow, Parking Supervisor, at (406) 657-8412 or by email at [mallow@ci.billings.mt.us](mailto:mallow@ci.billings.mt.us).

*Thanks for reading the CityLink and for sending in your great suggestions and comments!*



# NEIGHBORHOOD STABILIZATION PROGRAM

The City of Billings will be purchasing a few foreclosed and vacant homes through the Montana Department Commerce's Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) through Sept. 19, 2010. This stimulus program was funded through the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008 to prevent the decline of neighborhoods where affordable housing is located.

The City is currently identifying properties for purchase and can acquire homes with purchase prices up to \$150,000. The City will also repair items identified in the City's pre-purchase property inspection and prepare them for resale to low income homebuyers.

## How will NSP homes be sold?

The City manages a program called the First Time Homebuyer (FTHB) program to assist low income households in purchasing their first home with down payment assistance. More than 70 households have already been qualified to purchase homes using the FTHB program. They are now on a waiting list. By federal regulation, the City must prioritize households with incomes less than 50 percent of the Area Median



*NSP home at 1039 Custer Avenue (rehab items include new windows, flooring, paint, kitchen and EnergyStar appliances).*

Income for NSP and may qualify households up to 80 percent of the Area Median Income in the future.

Anyone can apply through the FTHB program for eligibility consideration for the NSP program. If you are interested in acquiring a NSP home, please contact Dina Billington at (406) 657-3045 or by email at [billingtond@ci.billings.mt.us](mailto:billingtond@ci.billings.mt.us).

Household Size	Area Median Income Maximum Limits	
	2010	
	<i>Effective May 18, 2010</i>	
1	\$22,050	\$35,300
2	\$25,200	\$40,350
3	\$28,350	\$45,400
4	\$31,500	\$50,400
5	\$34,050	\$54,450
6	\$36,550	\$58,500
7	\$39,100	\$62,500
8	\$41,600	\$66,550

# YIELD TO EMERGENCY VEHICLES

On a daily basis, Fire Department vehicles, Police vehicles and ambulances navigate public streets in order to meet emergency needs in the community. One of the most dangerous and challenging responsibilities of these emergency response agencies is to maneuver their vehicles through traffic in a safe manner.

For as long as there have been sirens on vehicles, there have been concerns that yielding to emergency vehicles is often a difficult and emotionally charged activity.

Because of the way vehicles are designed to keep noise out, it is often difficult for the driver to hear an emergency vehicle. This is compounded by the fact that motorists are often using their air conditioning and heating units which hinders their ability to hear emergency vehicles. The consistent use of radios and cell phones, as well as normal conversations, all contribute to a lack of awareness of an approaching emergency vehicle.

In an urban setting, the siren noise echoes off of buildings and other structures, making it hard to determine the direction

of an emergency vehicle.

All of these considerations result in a dangerous and dynamic situation in the community every day for both the public and emergency vehicle operators.

### *Some of the ways you can help emergency service providers are:*

- Manage the noise level in your vehicle;
- Periodically rehearse what actions you should take when encountering a responding emergency vehicle;
- Drive in the right hand lane whenever possible, as emergency vehicle operators are trained to pass on the left;
- Pull over to the right and yield space for other drivers, when applicable;
- Be careful not to change lanes or pull in front of a responding emergency vehicle. Emergency vehicle operators often count on private vehicles that are stopped to remain in their fixed position; and,
- Stay calm, make good decisions and help others to yield to emergency vehicle traffic.



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# —City of Billings Parks, Recreation and Public Lands Department—

The Parks and Recreation Department classes are filling up quickly and space is limited, so be sure to register soon! Remember, you may register online at [www.prpl.info](http://www.prpl.info) or in person at the PRPL office at 390 North 23rd Street.

Take a walk during your lunch hour or afternoon free time. Dehler Park is open weekdays from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., and there is no charge. See you there!! (Access at the parking lot gates)

## Third Annual "Billings Arbor Day Celebration"

The third annual Billings Arbor Day, "Billings Arborist for Public Safety," was held at South Park on May 14 this year. The event took place with the cooperation of local, private arborists providing tree pruning, fertilization, diagnostics, Arbor Day tree planting and a Tree City USA recognition ceremony.

Twenty-one volunteers donated time and equipment this year to prune 15 trees, remove



three hazardous trees, fertilize 63 trees, and plant five new trees throughout South Park. The total value of volunteer efforts was over \$12,000. At the peak of the day, there were three aerial lifts, two wood grinders, three fertilization rigs, and six climbers working throughout South Park.

This event would not be possible if not for the cooperative efforts of Billings Parks and Recreation, Public Works-Street/Traffic Division, Department of Natural Resources and



Conservation, Yellowstone Valley Tree Surgeons, Pro Rover, JB's Tree Service, Davey Tree Experts, Vermeer Rocky Mountain, Botanical Design, Garvey's Urban Forest and Friendship House of Christian Service.

## Swimming Pools, Wading Pools and Spraygrounds

Billings public swimming pools opened June 9. Rose Park Pool and Waterslides, located at 21st Street West and Avenue C, is open 12 noon to 8 p.m. daily. Youth admission (7-17) is \$2.50, adults 18 and over are \$5, and children 6 and under are free with a paid adult. Season swim passes may also be purchased: family (up to 5 members in same household) \$150, individual adult (18 and older) \$100, and individual youth (7-17) \$50. South Park Pool, located at 6th Avenue South and South 30th Street, is open 12 noon to 6 p.m. daily. Admission for youth (7-17) \$2, adult (18 and over) \$4 and children 6 and under are free with a paid adult. Season swim passes may also be purchased: family (up to 5 members in same household) \$75, individual adult (18 and older) \$60, individual youth (7-17) \$25.

There are two filtrated, chlorinated wading pools and four "spraygrounds" located within the Billings park system. Spraygrounds opened May 29 and operate from 10a.m. to 8 p.m.

Wading pools open June 14 (12 p.m. – 6 p.m.). The wading pools and spraygrounds are open seven days a week. All wading pools are free for children 8 years and younger. Parents are responsible for the supervision of their children at all times. Locations are as follows:

- Pioneer Park (wading pool) – 3rd Street West & Avenue D
- Hawthorne Park (wading pool) – Janie & Columbine Drive
- North Park (sprayground) – 6th



Avenue North & North 20th Street

- Terry Park (sprayground) – 5th Street West & Terry Avenue
- Highland Park (sprayground) – 2nd Avenue South & South 37th Street
- Castlerock Park (sprayground) – Wicks Lane & Nutter Boulevard

the existing two-mile segment along the Rims, beginning at the roundabout on 27th Street at the entrance to the airport, with the tunnels and trail segments that were recently completed as part of the Airport Road Improvement Project.

## Dog Parks in Billings

The Friends of Billings Dog Parks are busy with some exciting fundraisers. On Aug. 14, the Parks and Recreation Department will host a "Dash For Dog Parks" fun run at High Sierra Park near Skyview High School. The event will feature a 2K run/walk where people can bring their dogs. A 5K run will be available for the more serious runner. Entry forms can be downloaded at [www.billingsdogparks.com](http://www.billingsdogparks.com) or picked up at the Parks and Recreation Office.

If you want to be a race sponsor or would like to make a tax-deductible donation, please contact Mark Jarvis at [jarvism@ci.billings.mt.us](mailto:jarvism@ci.billings.mt.us) or (406) 657-8367 or visit the Dog Park website at [www.billingsdogparks.com](http://www.billingsdogparks.com).

# LIBRARY COMPLETES STRATEGIC PLAN

In May, the Parmly Billings Library Board of Trustees adopted a Library Strategic Service Plan, after a 17-member Planning Committee and Citizen Focus Groups worked for six months to identify how the Library can best help meet community needs in the coming five years.

After developing a vision for the future of Billings and Yellowstone County, committee members chose six community needs that the Library can help meet so that the vision can be realized. The six goals selected as priorities are:

1. Connect to the Online World
2. Know Your Community
3. Learn to Read and Write
4. Satisfy Curiosity
5. Stimulate Imagination
6. Visit a Comfortable Place

Recognizing that resources to achieve these goals may not increase, or increase only incrementally, the committee and the Library Board adopted objectives for each of the goals at three different levels of investment:

- Constrained, at current budget levels
- Enhanced, with some increase or reprioritization of budget levels
- Targeted, with funding to permit the Library to achieve the average of the six next largest communities in Montana.

The Strategic Service Plan will guide planning and budgeting from Fiscal Year 2011 through Fiscal Year 2015. The Plan is available at the Library or online at: <http://ci.billings.mt.us/librarystrategicplan>.



# SUMMER READING – IT'S NOT JUST FOR KIDS ANYMORE

For years, children and teens have enjoyed great books and great prizes at the Parmly Billings Library's annual summer reading program. Now adults can join the fun during the first adult summer reading program this year!

The reason for a summer reading program is actually very simple: to motivate

children to read and to provide an opportunity for children to maintain their reading skills during summer vacation. A parent, caregiver or older sibling can read aloud to a child who is not yet reading. Reading provides a great family activity. Children who participate in the program may register to win prizes donated by various

local sponsors and the Library. Each hour that the child spends reading is a chance to win one of the great prizes.

Registration began Monday, June 7, with programs starting the week of June 14. In addition to reading done at home, the Library is offering crafts, movies and other fun programs. Be sure to check the July

newsletter for the schedule or ask at any service desk for more information.

The Library's summer reading program is a great way to encourage reading for children and teens! For more information or to register, contact the Library at (406) 657-8256 or visit the Library's website at [www.billings.lib.mt.us](http://www.billings.lib.mt.us).

## Water Your Mind READ!

### For Children: Make a Splash – READ!



Thursday Mornings:  
10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

- June 17:** Make a Splash with Weather - Ed McIntosh  
**June 24:** Magic City Fly Fishers

**July 1:** Western Heritage Center (at the Western Heritage Center)

**July 8:** ZooMontana

**July 16:** Pirates - Society for Creative Anachronism

**July 22:** Yellowstone Audubon Society

### Special Programs

**July 12:** Kyle Groves Magic - A Magic Splash! 7:00 p.m.

**July 15:** Discussion: Book it with a Buddy! 7:00 p.m. *Register and get a free book!*

**August 6:** Skiddles the Clown!! 3:30 p.m.

### For Teens: Make Waves @ Your Library



**June 11:** 2:00 p.m.: Movie: Land of the Lost (Will Ferrell PG-13, 101 min.)

**June 16:** 2:00 p.m.: Bracelet Craft (make a knot or hemp bracelet)

**June 18:** 2:00 p.m.: Movie: Jumanji (PG, 104 min.)

**June 23:** 2:00 p.m.: SCA Program (Medieval Vikings and early-modern pirates)

**June 30:** 2:00 p.m.: Program: Martial Arts Academy of Billings (learn about martial arts and self-defense)

**July 2:** 2:00 p.m.: Movie: The Mask (Jim Carrey PG-13, 101 min.)

**July 7:** 2:00 p.m.: Program: Bluewater Springs Trout Hatchery (Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Presentation)

**July 14:** 2:00 p.m.: Program: Ghost Hunting 101

**July 21:** 2:00 p.m.: Program: Origami  
**July 21:** 7:00 p.m.: Book Discussion

**July 23:** 2:00 p.m.: Movie: Cirque Du Freak: The Vampire's Assistant (PG-13, 108 min.)

**July 30:** 2:00 p.m.: Movie: The Mummy (Brendan Fraser PG-13, 124 min.)

### For Adults: Water Your Mind! Wild & Watery Movies – 7:00 p.m.

**June 3:** Dead Calm (1987, R)

**June 17:** The River Wild (1994, PG-13)

**July 1:** A Month by the Lake (1995, PG)

**July 15:** Deep Blue Sea (1999, R)

**August 5:** Open Water (2004, R)

**August 19:** Poseidon (2006, PG-13)

### Programs:

**June 30** – Noon: Growing Herbs in Billings

**June 8, July 13 and August 10** – Noon:

Water Your Mind Reading Circle:

A different kind of book discussion

– bring whatever you are reading and talk about it. Learn about new authors and great reads!

## BPD Volunteer Program – 2010

The Billings Police Department (BPD) is fortunate to have a citizen volunteer program with a viability exceeded only by its flexibility. The program is renowned for its ability to adapt to the ever-changing needs of the BPD and the City. Next year will mark the program's first decade of existence in its current form. It has grown from 11 volunteers to well over 100. Ranging in age from 16 to 85, with an average age of 58, volunteers put in a combined total of 15,159 hours in 2009.

The volunteers are spread out across five divisions: Crime Prevention, Report Writing Center, Special Projects, Volunteer Patrol Unit, and the newly formed Volunteer Bike Patrol. These divisions are characteristic of the demographic cross section of the Billings population.

The volunteers represent both themselves and sometimes local businesses which participate as corporate volunteers. The program appeals to both men and women; although, men currently outnumber women volunteers 65 percent to 35 percent.

The most important benefits of the program are the time and money it saves the City. This program frees up police officers to attend to the most critical incidents requiring a sworn officer and establishes and maintains an open line of communication between the BPD and its citizenry.

For more information about the BPD Volunteer Program, please contact Penni Reed at [reedp@ci.billings.mt.us](mailto:reedp@ci.billings.mt.us) or by telephone at (406) 247-8590.



# MET & the City of Billings

## 'Walk the Walk' with LEED Platinum Public Transportation Facility

The City of Billings has been awarded the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Platinum certification for the MET Transfer Center.

The LEED Certification program was established by the U.S. Green Building Council and verified by the Green Building Certification Institute (GBCI). LEED is the nation's preeminent program for the design, construction and operation of high performance green buildings. Platinum is the highest level of certification that can be achieved.

Ron Wenger, Transit Manager for the City of Billings, said, "MET Transit is proud to have created a safe and efficient Downtown Transfer Center that will serve our riders well into the future and continue to contribute to the overall quality of life in Billings."

The MET Transfer Center is the first public transit facility in the U.S. to achieve LEED Platinum certification. Some of the contributing features include energy efficiency, stormwater management, water use reduction, and recycling construction waste. By using less energy and water, LEED Platinum buildings save money for families, businesses, municipalities and

taxpayers. LEED certification of Platinum is based on a number of green design and construction features that positively impact the project and broader community.

For more information, please contact Ron Wenger at (406) 657-8221 or by email at [wengerr@ci.billings.mt.us](mailto:wengerr@ci.billings.mt.us).



## Did You Know?

Student Bus Passes may be purchased for only \$10 a month for the summer months (June, July and August)! Bus Passes may be purchased from any bus driver, at the MET Office located at 1705 Monad Road, or the Finance counter of City Hall – 210 North 27th Street.

**You can get there by bus!**



## CITY OF BILLINGS USES PIPE BURSTING TO BROADEN ITS ASSET MANAGEMENT TOOLBOX

The City of Billings is challenged with an aging infrastructure of water and sanitary sewers. There is a constant and consistent need for improved and updated piping and appurtenances throughout the two systems.

In 1979, an annual replacement program started for the water and sanitary sewer networks. At that time, the highest number of annual water main breaks was 263 incidents. Today, that number is down to approximately 50-60 breaks a year. This is due, in large part, to annual water and sanitary sewer replacement projects.

In 2005, the City's Distribution & Collection Division performed its first pipe bursting project with rented equipment and replaced 360 feet of sanitary sewer. In 2006 and 2008, the City purchased its own equipment, and in the fall of 2008, the City started using fusible PVC pipe for water mains. The use of fusible PVC pipe has allowed the City to increase the size of the water mains to increase the quantity of water that can be used for fire protection.

Pipe bursting...what is it? It involves the breaking of an existing pipe, expanding the broken pipe shards into the surrounding soil, while simultaneously pulling in the new carrier line. Bursting methods for the City of Billings are either pneumatic or static pulls. Pneumatic pulls are used for sanitary sewer and static pulls for water mains.

The design and pipe bursting construction are done "in-house" to replace and improve water mains and sanitary sewers, which in turn, provide substantial savings to the City's customers. The advantage to using pipe bursting is that it minimizes the costs of design and construction because it eliminates long, open trenches by only having two small trench cuts into the street/alley and other small cuts to reconnect services.

The success of the City's projects are due to the hard work of the pipe burst crew and the customer service from Underground Solutions and Earth Tool/Hammerhead.

