



# The CityLink

Official News and Information  
from the City of Billings

Billings



Summer 2013

## Main Runway Closed for Construction over Weekends in July and August

During the months of July and August 2013, the Billings Logan International Airport will replace the asphalt surface on Runway 10L/28R, which is the main runway used by commercial service airlines to transport passengers and freight.

The last overlay of this runway occurred 15 years ago, and periodic pavement tests have determined that additional maintenance is required so that

structural integrity of the runway remains intact.

Due to the size of the runway (10,518 feet long by 150 feet wide), the only feasible way to undertake a project of this size is to close the runway while the contractors are performing their work.

The weekend closures will begin Friday mornings at 9 a.m. and go through 6 p.m. Sunday evenings. The six consecutive weekends impacted with runway

closures will be July 12-14, July 19-21, July 26-28, August 2-4, August 9-11, and August 16-18.

Crosswind Runway 7/25 will remain open to General Aviation aircraft until the main runway work progresses to the area where it intersects with Runway 7/25.

The smaller parallel Runway 10R/28L will remain open for smaller aircraft during the construction.

The staff at the Billings Airport understands the impact a project of this size will have on the many businesses and individuals that use the Airport each day, and wants to thank the community of Billings and the surrounding region for your patience and understanding during this necessary project.

Additional information is posted on the Airport's website at [www.flybillings.com](http://www.flybillings.com).

## City of Billings Airport and Parking Departments Implement Cost-Saving Energy Improvements

In March of 2010, the City of Billings began working with McKinstry Essention, Inc., an energy service company, to conduct a comprehensive energy audit to identify energy improvements that might be implemented at each of the City's facilities. The energy audit included approximately 100 buildings, totaling 1.8 million square feet, and was completed in May 2011.

In fall of 2011, the City's Airport and Parking Departments contracted with McKinstry to design and manage some of the identified energy improvement

projects at their facilities. These projects included lighting, environmental controls and mechanical system upgrades at the Airport's Terminal Building, Operations Center, and West Office Building, and lighting upgrades at the City Parking Garages.

The \$1.4 million in energy improvements will be paid for over the next 15 years using the projected annual energy savings of approximately \$170,000 and one-time energy rebates from NorthWestern Energy exceeding \$350,000. The projects will not only de-

crease energy expenditures, but also improve the indoor environments of the facilities and reduce the environmental impact caused by these operations, which is a win-win for the City of Billings.

Joining the McKinstry employees on the project team were members of City staff, local consultants, and local subcontractors. Local contractors completed the majority of the construction.



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

# Water and Wastewater Rate Changes

The Public Works Department annually reviews the water and wastewater rates to ensure the utility can continue to provide great service to its customers.

On May 13, Billings City Council approved water and wastewater rate changes to be effective with the August utility bills.

The public fire hydrant fee was previously assessed on the annual Yel-

lowstone County tax bill. The charge will no longer be on the tax bill; it will be included in the water charges on the monthly utility bill.

The fire hydrant charge recovers the cost of providing public fire protection to ensure that the City is able to meet fire-fighting needs at all times.

Wastewater rates will increase to fund an extensive amount of capital improvements that are need-

ed to meet new Federal regulations for the treatment of wastewater. Each customer received an estimate of the increase they can expect under the new rates based on their historic water usage in their utility bills this spring.

For a complete listing of all rate changes, visit the City website at <http://ci.billings.mt.us/> or contact the Public Works Department at (406) 657-8230.

# Billings Big Tree Program

Billings has some amazing trees.

The Billings Big Tree Program is a way to celebrate trees; and although many people are unaware of it, several Billings trees are state champions.

Anyone can nominate a tree for the Billings Big Tree Program. To nominate a Big Tree in Billings, please provide as many measurements of the tree as possible (preferably with pictures) to [forestry@ci.billings.mt.us](mailto:forestry@ci.billings.mt.us).

For a tree to be considered a Big Tree, it must attain a point score that is higher than the previously held re-

cord. Points are given for tree height in feet, circumference in inches, and 1/4 average crown spread (crown spread should be taken at the widest spread and at the narrowest spread).

Example: Tree Height= 78 feet + circumference = 128 inches + (average crown spread= 64 feet /4)= 16 feet= 222 total points.

For more information or to view a list of Billings Big Trees with pictures, please visit <http://www.billingsparks.org/forestry/programs-2/billings-big-tree-program>.



## City County 911 Communications Center

The 911 Communications Center falls under the Billings Fire Department's oversight. What many citizens don't know is that all calls for law enforcement, fire, and ambulance, as well as other emergencies, are routed through this central dispatching center.

The qualifications and abilities to perform the numerous dispatching tasks for City and County emergency services takes years of training, as well as special aptitudes, including the ability to bring order to chaotic situations.

911 callers are often frustrated when they are asked a series of questions that they feel is delaying help to their emergency. Specially trained call takers are the first contact citizens have with the dispatch center. The fact is, however, that multiple tasks are being accomplished at the same time. The technology in the 911 center allows the 911 call taker to type the information into a computer system, which routes this information to another dispatcher, who starts the dispatching process while additional information is

being gathered.

Regardless of the emergency, the overall goal is to get assistance on the way as soon as possible.

The majority of police and fire vehicles have mobile data terminals (MDTs) that automatically receive updated information while the responding emergency vehicle is still driving to the emergency. This is especially important when medical situations change prior to a crew's arrival or law enforcement personnel learn they are heading into a potentially hazardous situation.

The majority of time, 911 dispatchers are viewed as "behind the scenes" personnel. The fact is they are truly the essential link to coordinate the right resources to the right location to meet the community or citizen emergency.

Behind every emergency first responder is a dispatcher who was instrumental in processing the 911 call, sending the needed resources, and keeping the calling party and emergency service personnel safe.





Montana Conservation Corp planting trees.



Billings Arboriculture Association tree climbing booth.

## Arbor Day Festivities

Arbor Day had a transforming effect on Rose Park the 3rd Friday in May.

With a theme of “Pooling Our Resources for Trees,” students from Rose, Poly, Burlington, and Boulder schools spent the morning climbing trees, learning about soil and water, wildfire, weeds, insects, weather, ecology, animals, among other environmental disciplines.

At the same time, more than 100 volunteers planted 47 large trees, pruned 15 trees, completely landscaped three beds, painted part of the Rose pool building, edged sidewalks, fertilized trees, and mulched more than 100 trees - and they did it all in one day!

After lunch, everyone gathered in the center of Rose Park for the formal Arbor Day ceremony. Parks and Recreation Director, Mike Whitaker, led

the ceremony.

Mrs. Bryce’s 4th grade class from Poly Elementary led the crowd in the reading of a poem about trees.

Rachel Court from Senator Jon Tester’s office read a letter from the congressman, and Brad Shoemaker from the DNRC Urban Forestry Program presented Rick DeVore, Parks and Recreation Board Chair, with Billings Tree City USA award for the 29th year.

In addition to the countless volunteers donating their day to Rose Park, many Billings companies also donated supplies and monetary gifts to help make the day a success. It was a communitywide project.

By the end of the day, everyone was exhausted; but as you walk through Rose Park you can easily see the fruits of a community’s labor.



Mihail Kennedy from Audubon leads a talk with 4th graders.

# NEW Funding for First-Time Homebuyer Loans!

New funding has been received to support the existing First-Time Homebuyer (FTHB) Program. It will be used to provide loans to eligible first-time homebuyers for down payment and closing cost assistance.

The FTHB Program provides assistance to low-income households to help them qualify for housing financing. It closes an affordability gap for low-income households unable to purchase a home without assistance. Funding became available May 15 and it will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis until gone.

### 2013 AMI

Household Size	80%
1	\$35,700
2	\$40,800
3	\$45,900
4	\$50,950
5	\$55,050
6	\$59,150
7	\$63,200
8	\$67,300

### Household Requirements:

- Contribute at least \$1,000 toward purchase
- Meet definition of “first time home buyer”
- Be over 18 years old with income to qualify for a loan from a lender
- Assets of less than \$10,000
- Adjusted annual income less than 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI - see chart)

### FTHB Loans:

- No fees, interest or monthly payments
- The loan must be repaid in full

Please contact the Community Development Division for complete FTHB Program details:

510 N. Broadway – 4th Floor  
P.O. Box 1178  
Billings, MT 59103  
Phone: (406) 657-3045  
E-mail: [billingtond@ci.billings.mt.us](mailto:billingtond@ci.billings.mt.us)  
Website: [www.ci.billings.mt.us/homebuyer](http://www.ci.billings.mt.us/homebuyer)

2013 AMI	
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8	\$67,300

## We Want to Hear From You

Please provide us with input for our next newsletter.

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

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

Mail or e-mail your comments to:

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

The City Link  
P.O. Box 1178  
Billings, MT 59103



# Parmly Billings Library Summer Reading Program

There's something for everyone with the Billings Public Library's summer reading program.

Children, from newborns to Grade 5, will DIG INTO READING.

Teens will look BENEATH THE SURFACE.

And adults will enjoy GROUNDBREAKING READS.

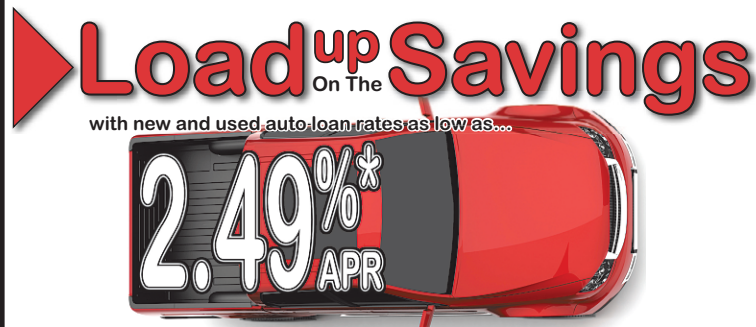
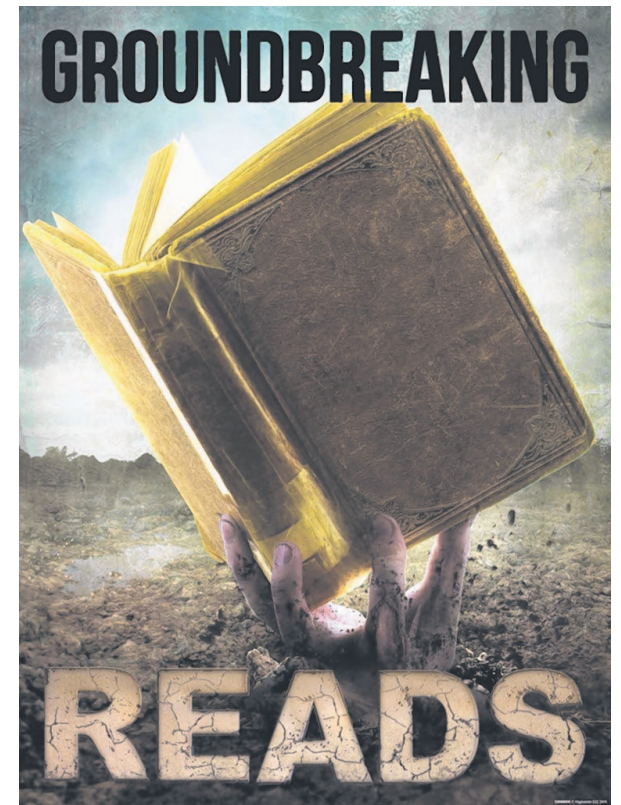
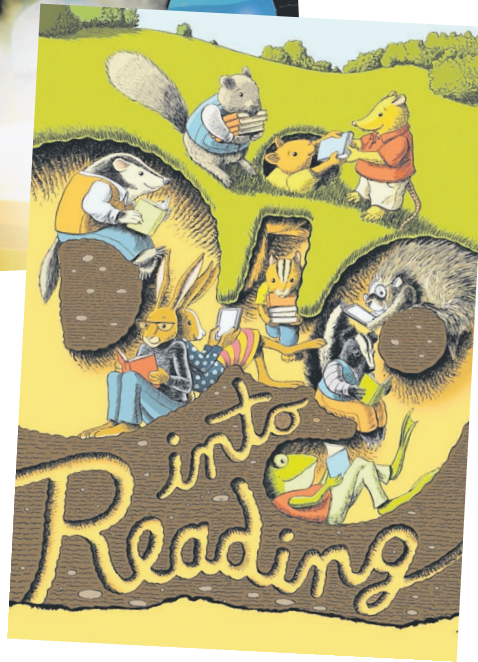
There will be programs and prizes for readers of all ages. Registration for this year's program is already open and can be done through the Library's website at <http://www.billings.lib.mt.us> or in person at the Library.

There will be a full slate of programs as always, but due to the ongoing construction at the Library this summer, some of those programs will take place at other locations, including the Pictograph Caves, Moss Mansion, Audubon Conservation Education Center, and the Western Heritage Center.

There will also be story times and crafts at the Community Library on the City College campus on Wednesdays from June 5 - July 13 at 2 p.m. These are held in partnership with the Huntington Learning Center.

Don't miss our special Summer Reading Block Party on June 15, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Library's parking lot. There will be food, music, balloon animals, face painting and activities for the whole family!

Check the website for all the details. Join the fun this summer, and READ!



Stop by Billings Federal Credit Union and visit with one of our auto loan experts today!

**NO APPLICATION FEE  
FAST APPROVALS**

\*Annual Percentage Rate accurate as of publication date and subject to credit approval. Maximum APR is 18%. Other fees may apply. Limited time offer. Rate reflects ¼% discount for checking account (Premium Checking receives an additional ¼%), autopay and direct deposit (maximum rate reduction of 1%).

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**248-1127**  
**www.billingsfcu.org**



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Summer 2013

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# Watching for Pedestrians

As the temperatures rise, so do the number of downtown pedestrians. There have been several pedestrians hit and injured in the downtown area, so the Police Department is reminding everyone to be aware that pedestrians who are crossing the street on a green light have the right-of-way. If motorists are turning, they must completely yield to the pedestrians before completing their turn.

Motorists should also be aware of the new pedestrian signal or HAWK (High-intensity Activated crossWalk) being installed over Fourth Avenue North at North 20th Street at the new Federal Building.

A pedestrian can push a button to turn the signal on as they wait to cross. The signal will then turn on yellow lights followed by red lights to stop traffic – much like a normal signal.

After the pedestrians have started to cross, the red lights will begin flashing to let drivers know that, if pedestrians have crossed, they are safe to proceed through the intersection. After the red flashing lights, the signal will go dark again, and allow traffic to move freely until the next pedestrian activates the signal.

More information, including videos of HAWK signals in other cities, can be found on the City's website at <http://www.ci.billings.mt.us/index.aspx?nid=2028>.

## Power Outages and Traffic

Power outages don't happen very often, but when they do, they cause congestion nightmares.

As a friendly reminder, citizens need to know that when power outages cause stop lights to go out, the intersection automatically reverts to a 4-Way Stop. There doesn't have to be a flashing red light.

Remember -- no lights mean the intersection operates as a 4-Way Stop. This allows for traffic to flow in a more orderly fashion.

## Summer Fun Bus Pass

Summer vacation is here for students. Help bring on the excitement of summer by purchasing a discounted Student bus pass.

Student bus passes will be discounted to \$10 a month for June, July and August.

Discounted Student passes are designed to encourage more students to use the bus over the summer months, saving time and money.

Students can ride the bus to participate in Parks and Recreation classes, go to the Library or Rimrock Mall, or check out the skate park downtown. The opportunities are unlimited for students with a discounted Student bus pass.

Passes can be purchased from any MET driver, at City Hall downtown, 210 North 27th Street, or at the Metroplex, located at 1705 Monad Road.

A valid school I.D. is required.

# Mayor and City Council — City of Billings

Mayor Tom Hanel: [hanelt@ci.billings.mt.us](mailto:hanelt@ci.billings.mt.us) - 657-8296

**WARD 1**  
Brent Cromley:  
[cromleyb@ci.billings.mt.us](mailto:cromleyb@ci.billings.mt.us)  
252-3512

Jim Ronquillo:  
[ronquilloj@ci.billings.mt.us](mailto:ronquilloj@ci.billings.mt.us)  
252-5353

**WARD 2**  
Denis Pitman:  
[pitmand@ci.billings.mt.us](mailto:pitmand@ci.billings.mt.us)  
670-7430

Angela Cimmino:  
[cimminoa@ci.billings.mt.us](mailto:cimminoa@ci.billings.mt.us)  
698-9763

**WARD 3**  
Becky Bird:  
[birdb@ci.billings.mt.us](mailto:birdb@ci.billings.mt.us)  
869-3501

Rich McFadden:  
[mcfaddenr@ci.billings.mt.us](mailto:mcfaddenr@ci.billings.mt.us)  
254-2144

**WARD 4**  
Jani McCall:  
[mccallj@ci.billings.mt.us](mailto:mccallj@ci.billings.mt.us)  
670-3084

Ed Ulledalen:  
[ulledalene@ci.billings.mt.us](mailto:ulledalene@ci.billings.mt.us)  
248-1478

**WARD 5**  
Ken Crouch:  
[crouchk@ci.billings.mt.us](mailto:crouchk@ci.billings.mt.us)  
690-0114

Mark Astle:  
[astlem@ci.billings.mt.us](mailto:astlem@ci.billings.mt.us)  
245-5576

**Mailing Address:**  
City of Billings  
P.O. Box 1178  
Billings, MT 59103

**Street Address:**  
City Hall  
210 North 27th Street  
Billings, MT 59101

**Fax:** (406) 657-8390



# New City Council Ward Boundaries

Your City Council representative may have changed. [CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=1141](http://ci.billings.mt.us/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=1141).

The Billings City Council adopted new ward boundaries in March 2013, ahead of the opening day for filing City Council election petitions. If you need to contact the Council member who represents you, or if you decide to run for the City Council, please check the map that can be viewed at: <http://ci.billings.mt.us/>

The Council adopted these new ward boundaries because the 2010 Census showed that the former wards had unequal populations.

Ward 2 in the Heights had almost 5,000 people more than the ideal ward population and Ward 3 in southwest Billings had 3,000 too few people.

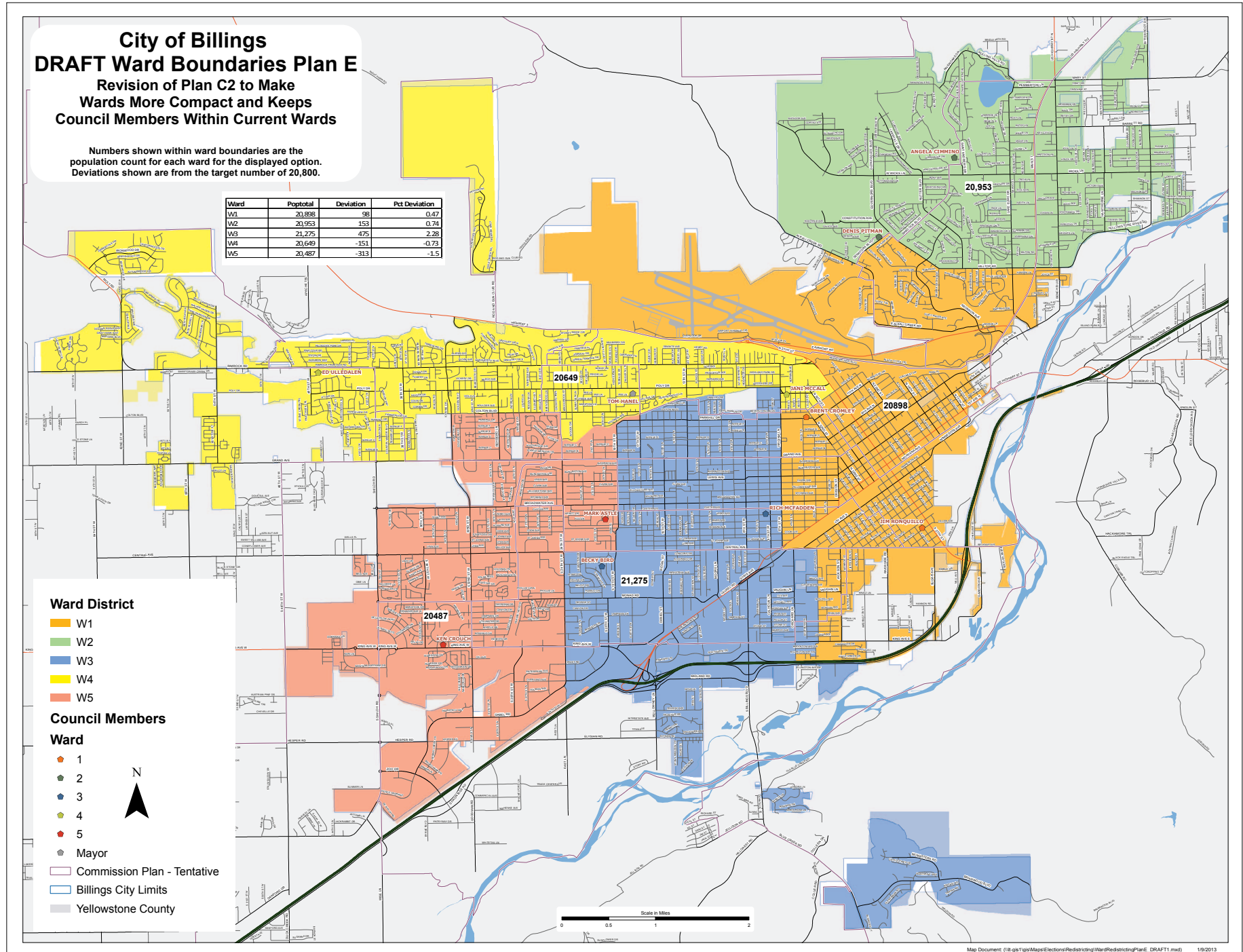
Ward 5, located in west central Billings, and Ward 3 needed to change

boundaries because both were irregularly shaped. For example, a Ward 3 Councilor who lives near Division Street could represent people who live near ZooMontana.

To ensure that the “one person – one vote” principle is upheld, the Council adopted these new boundaries so that each ward has approximately equal

population. They also changed some boundaries to make the wards more compact.

If you have questions about the boundaries or why they changed, please contact Bruce McCandless, Assistant City Administrator, at (406) 657-8222 or [mccandlessb@ci.billings.mt.us](mailto:mccandlessb@ci.billings.mt.us).



# Service Directory

## AIRPORT-BILLINGS

### LOGAN INTERNATIONAL

Airport Information .....247-8609  
 Airport Administration .....657-8495  
 Airport Police.....657-8498  
 Air Traffic Control .....255-2750  
 Edwards Jet Center .....252-0508  
 Parking Lot-Standard .....259-8545  
 Gateway Restaurant  
 & Lounge .....256-8446  
 TSA-24/7  
 Customer Service ..... 877-846-5737

**ANIMAL CONTROL** ..... 657-8226

**ANIMAL LICENSING** ... 657-8226

### ANIMAL SHELTER

Yellowstone Valley  
 Animal Shelter.....294-7387  
 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday:  
 Noon – 7 pm  
 Saturdays: Noon – 6 pm  
 Sundays: Noon – 6 pm  
 Lost Pet Hotline .....294-1138

### BUILDING DIVISION

Building Permits .....657-8270  
 Building & Plumbing  
 Inspections.....657-8277  
 Plan Review .....657-8271  
 Business Licenses .....657-8364

**CEMETERY DIVISION**.. 657-8299

### CITY

### ADMINISTRATOR

Assistant City  
 Administrator .....657-8222  
 City Clerk.....657-8210

**CITY ATTORNEY** ..... 657-8205

### CITY COUNCIL

**INFORMATION** ..... 657-8433

### CODE ENFORCEMENT

### – ZONING & WEED

**COMPLAINTS**..... 247-8647

## COMMUNITY

### DEVELOPMENT

Community Development ..... 657-8281  
 Manager .....657-8286  
 Home Repair Program .....657-8284  
 First Time Homebuyer  
 Program .....657-3045

### COMMUNITY & SENIOR

**CENTER**..... 657-3050

### ENGINEERING DIVISION –

### CITY ENGINEER

Right-of-Way Permits  
 & Inspections .....657-8307  
 Traffic Engineer .....657-8231

### FACILITIES

### MANAGEMENT

..... 237-6294

### FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Accounts Payable .....657-8224  
 Business Tax  
 Determination.....657-8364  
 City Tax  
 Information – SID's.....657-8223  
 Municipal Bonds.....657-8363  
 Purchasing .....657-8216  
 Other Finance Services.....657-8207

### FIRE DEPARTMENT

Emergencies Only.....911  
 Non-Emergency  
 8 am to 5 pm weekdays: Fire  
 Department Administration...657-8423  
 Fire Prevention Bureau .....657-8442

**FLEET SERVICES** ..... 657-8407

### GARBAGE

**(SOLID WASTE)** ..... 657-8260

**GIS SERVICES** ..... 657-3062

### HEALTH DEPARTMENT

123 S. 27th .....247-3200

### HUMAN RESOURCES

Job Hot-Line .....657-8441

**JAIL** ..... 256-6881

**LANDFILL** ..... 657-8260

### LIBRARY (PARMLY

### BILLINGS)

Information Services .....657-8258  
 Children's Services .....657-8256  
 Bookmobile .....657-3091  
 Senior-Homebound.....657-8255  
 Hours.....657-8259  
 TTY .....657-3079  
 Website: www.billings.lib.mt.us

**MAYOR**..... 657-8296

### MET TRANSIT

Information & Schedules .....657-8218  
 MET Special Transit  
 Reservation.....248-8805

### MOUNTVIEW

**CEMETERY** ..... 657-8299

### MUNICIPAL COURT

(City Hall Second Floor)  
 Bond & Traffic Citation Info.....657-8490  
 Juror Information (24 Hrs) .....247-8653

### PARKING DIVISION

Enforcement, Parking Tickets  
 & Meter Repair.....657-8412  
 Park One Garage .....657-8389  
 Park Two Garage .....657-8279  
 Park Three Garage .....657-8212

### PARKS-RECREATION &

### PUBLIC LANDS

Parks Division.....657-8371  
 Recreation Division .....657-8371  
 Cemetery (Mountview) .....657-8299  
 Community & Senior Center.....657-3050  
 Fax .....247-8641  
 Website .....www.prpl.info

### PLANNING

**& ZONING** ..... 657-8246

## POLICE DEPARTMENT

Emergencies Only.....911  
 Bond & Traffic Citation  
 Information (Second Floor) ....657-8490  
 Police Department Counter Open  
 8 am to 6 pm weekdays.....657-8460  
 Detective Division.....657-8473  
 Crime Prevention & Public Relations  
 Open 8 am to 5 pm  
 weekdays .....657-8464  
 Crime Prevention Center .....247-8590  
 Jail .....256-6881  
 Non-Emergency .....657-8200

## PUBLIC WORKS

### DEPARTMENT

Public Works Administration.....657-8230  
 Engineering Division .....657-8231  
 Engineering-Traffic Division .....657-8231  
 Environmental Affairs Division..247-8517  
 Wastewater Industrial  
 Pretreatment .....657-8305  
 Utilities – Bills - On/Off Orders –  
 Payments Open 8 am to 5 pm  
 weekdays .....657-8315  
 After 5 pm, Weekends  
 & Holidays.....657-8353  
 Meter Shop .....657-8331  
 Systems (Distribution & Collection)  
 Engineering & Permits .....657-8307  
 Utilities Service Center .....657-8315  
 Wastewater Treatment Plant ....657-8356  
 Water Treatment Plant .....657-8353  
 Solid Waste Division  
 (Garbage).....657-8260  
 Street-Traffic  
 Maintenance Division .....657-8250  
 Street-Traffic & Storm Drain  
 Maintenance .....657-8250  
 Traffic Signals .....657-8250  
 Forestry .....657-8368

## PURCHASING

**DIVISION** ..... 657-8216

## TAXES

City Taxes .....657-8223

**ZONING** ..... 657-8246