



The CityLink

Official News and Information
from the City of Billings



Spring 2015

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The City will honor 136 staff members who reached service milestones of five or more years in 2014. The Service Awards Ceremony will be held the morning of Thursday, April 9, at the Billings Community Center at 9 a.m.

Staff would like to thank all of the long-time employees of Billings and especially honor those who have spent three or four decades with the City serving their community. Listed below are the nine people who have served the City for 30-plus years:

Thomas Barry	Airport Fire & Rescue	30 years
Thomas Binford	Airport	30 years
Carol Smith	Parking	30 years (retired)
Keith Reichert	Fleet Services	30 years
Leonard Munter	Solid Waste	30 years
Ronald Wenger	MET Transit	35 years
David Lauwers	Solid Waste	35 years
Clayton Breshears	Public Works Wastewater	35 years
Robert "Jim" Peter	Public Works Streets & Traffic	40 years

Summer 2015 Seasonal Employment

The City is gearing up to fill seasonal positions and expects to employ approximately 200 people for the summer season.

Some positions begin as early as April, and most will end in late summer or early fall.

Positions will be available in the following divisions/departments: Airport, Cemetery, Engineering, Library, Parks, Recreation, Solid Waste, Streets, Water, and Wastewater.

Check the City's website at www.ci.billings.mt.us, to view those employment opportunities

and to submit an online application. Please note: if you wish to apply for more than one position, a separate application is required for each seasonal position.

The list of jobs will be open and posted approximately March 6, and applications can be submitted through the online application process, which is the preferred method, or in person at the Human Resources Office located in City Hall at 210 N. 27th Street.

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MET Santas

A very special MET employee, Lisa Bofto, along with her husband, Shane, organized a visit to St. Vincent Healthcare's Pediatric Ward on Dec. 22, 2014, to distribute presents to children spending time in the hospital during the holiday season.

Lisa had accepted a City of Billings Star Award given to her for her assistance in the Holiday Parade as well as her outstanding customer service. However, she elected to donate the value of her award, along with her

own personal time and finances, toward the gifts distributed during the hospital visit.

Lisa actively participates in the St. Vincent Foundation Peaks program and is very enthusiastic about its mission.

Lisa's generous spirit is a reminder of what the holiday season is all about in showing support for individuals residing in and visiting our community.

Special thanks to the MET employees that opted to dress up as the various versions of Santa from around the world in the distribution of the gifts. MET Transit is proud to have such generous employees!



Summer Construction

It will soon be time for construction to start up again, and you are probably wondering if your area will be affected. Here is a list of the some of the projects that will be going on in the City this summer:

- Calhoun Lane will be reconstructed between King Ave East and Underpass Avenue. The project will start early this spring and run though most of the summer. Local traffic will be allowed, but if you are just going through the area, please try to use an alternate route such as Orchard Lane.
- Poly Drive will be reconstructed between 32nd and 38th. This project is anticipated to begin in June and be finished in the late fall. Local traffic will be allowed.

- The Exposition Gateway area (between 1st Avenue North and 4th Avenue North, east of North 11th Street) will be under construction for most of the summer and fall. The project includes all utilities and street improvements.
- The missing portion of Colton Boulevard between 38th Street West and Avalon will be constructed beginning in the late spring and running through summer.
- Intersection improvements will be done at 32nd Street West and Gabel and at Poly and Virginia.
- Three streets will get a pavement overlay this year: Broadwater Avenue from 16th to 24th, 19th Street West from Broadwater to Lewis, and Poly Drive from Virginia to 13th Street West.

- The annual program to replace ADA ramps is primarily on Grand Avenue and Nutter Boulevard. There will be brief, minimal lane restrictions to accomplish this work.
- Treasure Drive and Shawnee Drive will be constructed.
- A 72" storm drain interceptor will be installed in the East End Industrial Area. The line will be located on 4th Avenue North between North 23rd Street and North 15th Street and then south on North 15th Street to the railroad tracks.
- Water and sanitary sewer lines will be installed on Elysian Road.
- The water line on 17th Street West from Avenue D to Poly Drive will be replaced. Local traffic will be allowed on 17th, but commuter traffic should try to find an alternate route on either 19th or 13th.
- Water line replacements are planned in the local streets east of Will James from Broadwater up to Grand.
- Sanitary sewer replacements will take place in the alleys north of 6th Avenue North and east of North 24th Street to North 12th Street.
- Several trail projects will be constructed this summer. Most will not impact traffic but will add a few new, good connections in our trail system. They are:
 - Arrowhead School Trail
 - Swords Park/6th Avenue Bypass
 - Poly Drive Elementary School Crossing at Arvin Road
 - 19th Street West and Colton Boulevard
 - 44th Street West south of King Ave W.
 - Wicks Lane – far west end to connect to the new Skyway Drive
 - King Avenue West from the BBWA to 32nd Street West
 - Jackson Street Sidewalks

News from the Parks, Recreation & Public Lands Department



What is Arbor Day?

Arbor Day is a holiday where individuals and groups are encouraged to plant and care for trees.

It was founded in 1872 by Julius Sterling Morton in Nebraska City, Nebraska. On the first Arbor Day, April 10, 1872, thousands of people participated and an estimated one million trees were planted throughout Nebraska. By the 1920's, each state had passed laws that established a specific date as Arbor Day.

By the turn of the century, President Theodore Roosevelt had become a huge promotor and advocate of conservation, and in 1907 he issued an "Arbor Day Proclamation to the School Children of the United States" about the importance of trees and that forestry deserves to be taught in U.S. schools.

In the spring of 1909, the Billings Gazette reported on a large Arbor Day celebration that was held in Billings. That year, banks, schools, city and county governments, and many private businesses closed for the day to plant trees throughout Billings. At the center of activity that day was



South Park, where over 200 poplar trees were planted. Some of those poplars are still growing in South Park to this day, having reached a great size and age.

On April 25, 2014, Arbor Day was celebrated in Pioneer Park. Over three hundred 4th grade students attended and visited 19 environmental booths hosted by Billings' professionals. More than one hundred volunteers helped beautify Pioneer Park; pruning, removing hazardous trees, mulching, revamping planting beds, painting buildings, and planting trees (twenty-one in all). Montana Governor Steve Bullock attended the formal ceremony, telling students that "Arbor Day is about making sure that Billings, Montana, and the country are better tomorrow than they are today."

Billings was presented with the 2014 Gold Leaf Award from the International Society of Arboriculture for the Arbor Day event in Pioneer Park. The award recognized Billings for holding the best Arbor Day event in a four state region consisting of Montana, Wyoming, Colorado and New Mexico.

Arbor Day 2015 will be held in Riverfront Park on May 1, 2015. This year's theme is "Trees — Pathways to Preservation".

Billings will celebrate its 31st year as a Tree City USA. Activities will include park cleanup, tree planting, pruning, mulching and landscaping, environmental education booths for 4th grade students, and the Arbor Day Tree Planting Ceremony.

For those who wish to get involved in Arbor Day 2015, please contact the Parks and Recreation Department at (406) 657-8371.

Park Planning

Over the winter, Park Planning staff has been very busy preparing for the upcoming construction season. There are a number of exciting projects to be constructed starting this spring. They include:

- South Park Playground Replacement. New playground equipment will be installed late spring/early summer that will include a giant climber and a 15 foot slide, among other exciting play features.
- Pioneer Park Playground Replacement. Similar to South Park, Pioneer Park will also receive new playground equipment upgrades. It too will have a signature play feature, along with age-appropriate play equipment for children of all abilities.
- Tennis Court Replacement at Pioneer and Castle Rock Parks. Four courts at Castle Rock and three courts at Pioneer will be reconstructed with state-of-the-art techniques to provide tournament quality playing surfaces.

Plans are being finalized in order to go out for bidding the end of February, with the goal to be under construction as soon as the weather permits.

■ South Park Spray Ground. To replace the wading pool removed in 2010, a new spray ground will be constructed this coming summer. Staff is currently working with a consulting group to determine the scope of the work to be done and to secure a contract for design services. The spray ground will be comprised of spray and splashing features for children to play and cool off during hot summer months.



These are a few of the exciting park improvements coming to local parks this year. Watch for upcoming progress reports and photos on the department website at www.billingsparks.org, and on Facebook and Twitter.

Continued on page 4

Parks and Recreation Dept

continued from page 3

Recreation Division Happenings

The Recreation Division's list of leisure opportunities is endless. There is a bit of something for everyone with programs ranging from youth activities to adults. Below is a sampling of the different leisure opportunities, with their respective ages/grades listed:

- Community Playgroup (ages birth to 5 years old)
- Tiny Tykes (2 – 5 year olds)
- Girls Volleyball (5th & 6th Grade)
- Power Up Camp (8 – 15 year olds)
- Adult Soccer (18 years and up)
- Melt Pain Reduction (16 years and up)
- Strong & Fit 55+ Strength Training (55 years and up)
- Zumba (16 years and up)
- Healthy Feet (16 years and up)
- Pilates for Everyone (16 years and up)
- Pilates the Best You (16 years and up)

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 us at:

citylink@ci.billings.mt.us

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- YogaFit (16 years and up)
- Nia (16 years and up)
- American Red Cross Babysitter Training Course (11 – 15 year olds)
- American Red Cross CPR & First Aid Certification available for small groups or businesses. Call 657-8371 for more information.
- Kid's in the Kitchen (8 – 12 year olds)
- Cake Decorating (8 – 12 year olds)
- Martial Arts (Families, 5 years & up, or 16 years & up)
- Adult Wellness Program (18 years and up)
- Backpacking 101 (12 years and up)
- Learn to Geocache (10 years and up)
- Desert Mountain Medicine Wilderness First Aid Course (18 years and up)
- Fly Fishing (16 years and up)
- Spring Birding and Tree Ecology Hikes (10 years and up)
- American Red Cross Lifeguarding Certification courses are also being offered in May and June. If you're looking for a summer job, become a City Lifeguard! Certification is in-house, your certification instructor is with you the entire summer, and there are various locations where lifeguards are utilized, such as Rose Pool and South Pool.
- Aquatics Facility Operator course (18 years and older) April 30 – May 1, 2015.

For more information or to register for any of the activities or courses, please call (406) 657-8371 or visit www.billingsparks.org.



Exercise that Green Thumb in a Community Garden

Learning how to garden can be an intimidating prospect. There are challenges to face and new adventures to experience in working with the soil. Community Gardens can be a great tool for those who are just learning to garden, or who are looking for some tips to make those veggies grow. They also offer individuals who can't garden at home a space to grow their greens. With spring just around the corner, the Parks and Recreation Department is gearing up for its second season with the Amend Park Community Garden. The garden features a welcoming environment where community members can share their knowledge with one another.

The garden started in 2014 with two AmeriCorps VISTA members helping get the program up and running. It marked a transformation from an empty lot to a lush little acre of greens. Community members are invited to be a part of this great opportunity. Plots will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis to new participants starting March 1. They range in sizes from 10'x10' to 20'x20'. The garden features a variety of workshops and mentoring experiences to help those who are new to gardening, or just want some additional tips. Plots range in price from \$20 to \$30 for the season with a \$15 refundable cleaning deposit. Water is included in the plot fee. If your green thumb is a little rusty, you are invited to join in the fun at the Amend Park Community Garden. For more information, visit www.billingsparks.org, or call (406) 657-8308.

Your Parks Need You

The ever expanding volunteer program is looking for citizens who care about their community to come lend a hand. In 2014, volunteers contributed over 8,000 hours to the parks. These efforts help make the parks some of the greatest in the region.

There are a variety of ways to get involved, from being a Volunteer Park Ranger to helping with special events. The Volunteer Park Ranger Program is now accepting application for the summer 2015 season. Rangers visit their assigned park once a week and report any issues to the Parks Department. Applications can be received by visiting www.billingsparks.org, or by visiting the office at 390 N. 23rd St. If you want to help, but don't have the time for a weekly commitment, there are other events and programs to help with from an Earth Day cleanup on April 22 to Arbor Day Celebration on May 1.

For more information, call the Parks and Recreation office at (406) 657-8308 or visit www.billingsparks.org.



Billings Police Department (BPD) 2014 Annual Awards Recipients & Nominations

Officer of the Year: Ben Milam

Officer Ben Milam has been a patrol officer for nearly six years and is frequently sought after by other officers and agencies to assist with investigations and high-risk calls. His "team first" attitude, tactical knowledge, and ability to diagnose potentially unsafe circumstances have made him a recognized leader on his shift. Officer Milam continuously downplays his involvement in day-to-day operations and often gives credit to other officers. He currently serves as a Field Training Officer and is a member of the BPD SWAT Team. Officer Milam epitomizes the caliber of officer that we want patrolling our streets and protecting our citizens.

Supervisor of the Year:

Sergeant Shawn Finnegan

Sergeant Shawn Finnegan has worked for the Billings Police Department for nearly 17 years and has been a Sergeant since June 2008. He leads by example and spends a great deal of his supervisory time being a great role model to other officers. Sergeant Finnegan is the Field Training Officer Supervisor and lead hostage negotiator. He also serves as a member of the Yellowstone Valley Gang Task Force and West End Neighborhood Task Force. He is a solid and dependable sergeant, leader, and investigator. Sergeant Finnegan is a true mentor to all the members of the BPD and a great representation of what a leader should strive to be.

Employee of the Year: Crime Analyst,

Becky Shay

Becky Shay has been the Department's Crime Analyst since November 2011 and has demonstrated that she is an invaluable asset to not only the BPD, but to her community. She sets the standard for enthusiasm and professionalism. Becky approaches her duties as a team player with the mind-set of solving problems to combat the criminal element that exists in Billings. She can be counted on at any time to gather intelligence for an officer to assist him/her with a case and is a valuable resource for the command staff in compiling crime data. Becky takes a pro-active approach in helping others fight crime in Billings. She is a credit, not only to herself, but to the BPD.

Respect for Law: Officers, Jerry Smidt and Chris Simpson

Officers Jerry Smidt and Chris Simpson have been nominated to the Billings Optimist Club for their Respect for Law Community Award. Officers Smidt and Simpson serve as School Resource Officers to West and Skyview High Schools respectively. Each officer makes an effort to know the members of their student bodies, as well as the staff, in order to foster an environment that allows students and staff to feel comfortable approaching the officers on a variety of topics. Both of these officers have set up in-service training for their school's staff and administrators on gang activity, drugs, graffiti, bullying, and any other con-

cerns unique to their schools. They also do a vast amount of public speaking, educating the community on these topics. Officers Smidt and Simpson are making a huge difference in the lives of the students they serve and are worthy of this award.

American Legion National Law Enforcement Award: Officer Richard Gilmore

Officer Richard Gilmore has been nominated to the American Legion for its National Law Enforcement Officer Award. He has served as an officer for just over six years and is currently a STEP (Selective Traffic Enforcement Patrol) Officer. His drive and dedication to this program and traffic enforcement has resulted in 713 traffic citations, 776 traffic warnings, 195 arrests, and 55 DUI drivers removed from our streets. Officer Gilmore has conducted 39 school zone traffic details this year and has worked successfully with the Billings City Court to increase the fines for speeding in school zones. He is an active member of the Yellowstone County DUI Task Force and was awarded the Yellowstone County DUI Task Force Award of Merit for aggressively targeting DUI drivers. In addition to his duties as a STEP Officer, he is an active member of the BPD's Downtown Bike Program. Officer Gilmore is always willing to put in the extra hours needed and is an asset to the department.



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From Our Readers

Comments from an anonymous Billings reader:

I liked all of the newsletter. What do the schools do with the left over money as shown in the Billings Gazette?

Answer:

The CityLink staff thought this might be a great time to reiterate what the City is responsible for and what we can and cannot address in this publication. The City is responsible for many departments and services, but cannot provide answers to questions that pertain to County, State or Federal agencies. The City also cannot address questions regarding the school district and their policies. The School District is a separate governmental division, so your question should more appropriately be addressed to the District. Thank you for reading!

Comments and questions from an anonymous Billings reader:

What is the subsidy that taxpayers pay for each rider on the transit system (including the cost of benefits for the drivers)? Also, I think the roughest streets in Billings are — Grand, between Rehberg and 32nd, and the new construction on Rimrock Road and Broadwater Avenue.

Answers:

A recent study identifies MET's fully allocated cost per ride (wages, benefits, fuel etc.) at \$6.28. The revenue breakout includes:

- 48% - Federal/State Subsidy
- 39% - Local Subsidy
- 10% - Fares
- 2% - Other

Broadwater Avenue is going to be re-surfaced this summer. The City has always planned the re-surfacing project, but wanted to wait until the utility project was completed. During the summer of 2016, Grand Avenue will be re-surfaced in conjunction with the project to widen Grand Avenue from Zimmerman Trail to Shiloh Road. There was some settlement around manholes on Rimrock Road. The City has been working with the contractor to have the settlements corrected through the project's warranty. The City will continue to monitor Rimrock Road.

Comments and questions from an anonymous Billings reader:

I like to be kept informed through this newsletter. I like knowing what the City is working on and what is coming up. I liked the water report in the most recent issue. I would like to know why utilities have to be placed in the driving lanes instead of the least-used turn lane in the middle of the road?

Answer:

Regulations require separation between utilities. For instance, a water main must be separated by at least 10 feet from a sanitary sewer main and a storm drain. Taking into account that there are typically other utilities within a street (i.e. gas and communication lines); there is simply not enough room within a turn lane to fit all of the utilities. We also have situations where manholes or water valves were in the center of a driving lane when it was a 2-lane or a 4-lane street, but when the street is widened to 3-lanes or 5-lanes they end up in the wheel path. In these situations, it is not feasible to relocate the underground utilities just because the lane layout is changed. While we agree that it is desirable to keep manholes and water valves outside of the wheel path, it is not always possible to do so.

Comments and questions from Edeen Linsky of Billings:

I find the entire newsletter to be informative. It keeps me informed on what is happening in the City. I'd like to see the in-depth code on snow removal. What are the business responsibilities (i.e. the public sidewalks in front of businesses)?

Answers:

To answer your specific question regarding business owner responsibilities for snow removal — if an owner refuses to remove snow/ice from the public sidewalk or pushes snow onto public property, then the recourse for enforcement is a Municipal Infraction citation. For more information, please contact Code Enforcement at (406) 237-6146.

Here is the entire section of City code, as you requested: Sec. 22-406. Removal of snow, ice, etc., from sidewalks by abutting property owners. (a) It shall be the duty of the occupant of any premises within the city limits, or in case such premises are unoccupied, then the owner or his or her agent, to keep the sidewalks in front of and adjoining his or her premises clean and safe for pedestrians, and to

repair the same from time to time; and such occupant, owner or agent shall remove snow, ice, mud, slush and other impediments for safe and convenient foot travel, within twenty-four (24) hours after such snow, ice, slush or other impediment accumulates thereon, and prevent the continuance and accumulation of the same. Accumulations of snow and ice upon sidewalks fronting property owned by persons not residing in the city, shall be removed under the direction of the city which shall keep a record of the cost of such removal with a description of the property adjacent to which such snow and ice are removed. Each year, the city clerk shall prepare and present to the council, on or before the second regular meeting in September, a resolution containing a list of all lots and parcels of land in the city from the sidewalks adjacent to and fronting on which snow and ice have been removed, with the names of the owners thereof, and the cost of removal of such snow and ice. When such resolution is passed by the council and approved by the mayor, the assessments therein provided for shall constitute a lien upon and against such lots and parcels of land. A copy of such resolution shall be certified by the city clerk to the county treasurer for collection in the same manner as other taxes. (b) It is unlawful for any person to dispose of or move snow from private property onto a public street, alley or sidewalk. (Code 1967, § 10.84.080)

Comments and questions from Carole Baumann of Billings:

I liked the Parks articles, the Library news and the Solid Waste articles with bullets and chart of schedules and costs. I'd like to see more information about hazardous waste disposal: What to do with pills, paint, etc. I'd also like to see information about savings from improvements, like updates on natural gas collected from the Landfill. What food garbage should go in the trash? Isn't that better than going down the garbage disposal? Would food waste help to make natural gas?

Answers:

Thank you for your suggestion. Staff has included some information regarding hazardous waste and medication disposal in this issue of City Link. Watch for more information in the issue this summer.

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

Billings Crime Prevention Center

Did you know the Billings Police Department has a volunteer program where anyone age 18 and older can help make a difference in our community?

The Crime Prevention Center is an extension, and a very important part, of the Billings Police Department. Housed at 2910 3rd Ave. North in downtown Billings, the Crime Prevention Center has several different teams to choose from, including: Volunteer Patrol Unit, Report Writing Center, and in the spring and summer months — Volunteer Bike Patrol.

“It involves a real purpose since the City can’t afford to perform the duties we need to perform,” is how Jim Keeling describes volunteering with the Volunteer Patrol Unit. “It also involves a lot of fun and a sense of pride interacting

with my fellow volunteers and citizens who appreciate what we do.”

The group patrols the City in teams of two or more, giving parking tickets, tagging/towing abandoned vehicles, documenting graffiti, and assisting with traffic control at local events.

The Report Writing Center volunteers contact victims of crimes, such as vandalism and theft (home, auto, and graffiti), and lost/found property. This contact allows officers on duty to attend to urgent issues while volunteers give victims their undivided attention gathering statements and important crime details. Tina Walker describes her work as, “A great way to help people around town, while you hear what’s going on and where.”

Riders for the Volunteer Bike Patrol participate in a training course to learn riding techniques, along with observation and reporting skills. “It’s just plain fun,” states Lon Woodbury of his volunteer experience as an ambassador of the Billings Police Department. Riders are often greeted with smiles and sincere expressions of thanks from citizens while on patrol.

Each group also participates in different functions at local events such as: Heart & Sole Run, Relay for Life, Strawberry Festival, Harvest Festival, and many more!

For more information about the Crime Prevention Center Volunteer Program, please contact Kallie Parsons at parsonsk@ci.billings.mt.us or (406) 247-8590.



Hazardous Waste & Medication Disposal

The Billings Solid Waste Division is no longer sponsoring an annual Toxic Trash Round-Up. However, residents living within Yellowstone, Carbon, Treasure, Musselshell and Stillwater counties, as well as residents of the towns of Pryor and Big Timber, can bring **household** hazardous waste directly to the Billings Regional Landfill, 5240 Jellison Road, where it will be sorted, bulked and shipped to appropriate disposal sites.

As with the Toxic Trash Round-Up, acceptable wastes include latex and oil-based paint, garden chemicals, household cleaners, and used oil and antifreeze.

The landfill does not accept business-generated hazardous waste at this time. Businesses in need of hazardous waste disposal can contact Beartooth Environmental at (406) 373-2220 or Mountain States Environmental Services at (406) 248-4777, for local assistance.

The Billings Police Department has five medication drop-off sites for over-the-counter and prescription medications (NO liquids or needles) at the following locations:

- Billings Operations Center, 4848 Midland Road – (406) 247-8621
- Billings Police Department, City Hall, 220 North 27th Street – (406) 657-8460
- Military Reserve Center, 2671 Gabel Road – (406) 324-5404
- Crime Prevention Center, 2910 3rd Avenue North – (406) 247-8590
- Montana Fish and Game, 2300 Lake Elmo – (406) 247-2940

In addition to contributing methane to a Montana Dakota Utilities (MDU) pipeline located next to the landfill, the primary benefit of the MDU landfill gas facility is keeping the landfill in compliance with state and federal air quality regulations.

The facility will play an even greater role when newly proposed federal regulations are enacted requiring control of landfill greenhouse gas emissions. And yes, food waste decomposition contributes to methane production at the landfill.

For more information, please contact the City’s Environmental Compliance Coordinator at (406) 247-8633.

Building Codes & Standards

After several years of fine-tuning the International Residential Building Codes, the State of Montana adopted the 2012 International Building Codes. As per City Code, the Building Division must adopt the Codes as well. The last residential edition that was adopted was the 2006 Edition. The 2009 IRC edition was not adopted because fire sprinklers were required in all new single-family construction. This requirement was not included in the 2012 edition.

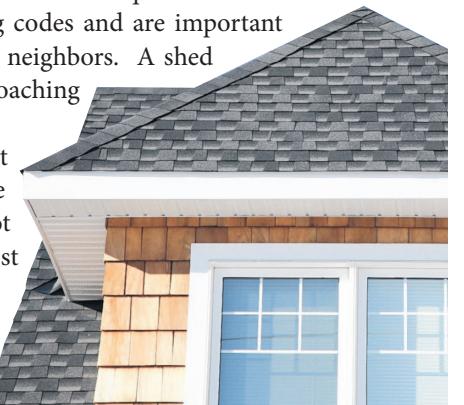
The following is a list of Building Construction Codes that are used in the City of Billings. They went into effect on February 7, 2015 (all 2012 Editions unless otherwise noted):

<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ International Building Code■ International Residential Code■ Uniform Plumbing Code■ International Mechanical Code■ International Fuel Gas Code■ International Existing Building Code	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ International Energy Conservation Code■ National Electrical Code■ 2014 Edition■ International Fire Code
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How do the 2012 codes affect the citizens of Billings? Not too much, however, to those in the building trades, it affects their business in many ways. The most notable change to the everyday citizen is that a building permit is no longer needed to build a storage shed that is less than 200 square feet in size. This could be complicated however, as there are other restrictions such as lot coverage and set-back requirements that must be met regardless. These are Planning and Zoning codes and are important to adhere to in order to avoid conflict with neighbors. A shed could also block clear vision zones for approaching vehicles in alleys or streets.

Another residential building code that has changed is the requirement of drip edge on new roofing projects. Drip edge was not required in the 2006 IRC, although most roofing companies install it.

Please call the Planning Division at (406) 657-8247, before deciding to purchase or build a shed, or with any other questions.



Mountview Cemetery

The operations at the City of Billings' Mountview Cemetery are in full swing getting ready for Memorial Day weekend this year.

It is the Cemetery staff's goal that visitors this year will be welcomed by a well trimmed and green cemetery. To that end, staff has already started mowing the Cemetery every week, treating the grass for weeds and irrigating, as needed.

As in past years, the Cemetery will have staff available to help the public locate family graves. Staff will be available in tents and in the office from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Saturday, Sunday and Monday, May 23 thru 25. The Landmark Mausoleum will also be open during those times.

For those who have access to the internet, gravesite locations can also be found on the City's website at: www.ci.billings.mt.us/cemetery. On the website is a link to the Gravesite Locator, which is a search engine run by Yellowstone County. Visitors may search by last names and actually pull up a printable map of where loved ones are buried in the Cemetery.

This year, the Veterans Memorial Service will start about 9 a.m. on Memorial Day. It will follow a Veterans Parade that will start in the southern part of the Cemetery about 8:45 a.m., and will head north to the main veterans area near front entrance.

Come and celebrate Billings veterans!

Many citizens have the misconception that reporting a crime at the downtown Police Department will get them faster service. This is not necessarily the case.

Police Officers are assigned to a "beat" or section of the City in which to patrol. When a person walks into the Police Station to report a crime, the officer from the beat in which they live has to be called in to take their report.

Requests for an officer to report to the Police Station to take a report from a citizen are considered "cold" calls, as opposed to an "in-progress" call, and take much longer for the officer to respond to.

In some cases, a citizen will end up waiting for hours for the officer to get a break from "in-progress" calls in order to respond to their "cold" call.

For the citizen's comfort and convenience, Police Department staff recommends that calls to dispatch to report any crime ("in-progress" or "cold") be done from their home or, if necessary, their work location. That way, a citizen can wait for the officer to respond while continuing on with their day.

Please be aware that "in-progress" calls will always take priority over a "cold" call.

Many calls do not require an officer to take the call. If a citizen needs to report a minor crime (such as theft of a purse or an item from your vehicle) and does not have suspect information, those calls can be reported to the Crime Prevention Center by calling (406) 247-8590. A volunteer will take the information and the report will be filed with the Police Department.

2015 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.....

ANIMAL LICENSING.....

ANIMAL SHELTER

Yellowstone Valley Animal Shelter ...	294-7387
Mon., Tue., Thurs., Fri.: Noon – 7 pm	
Saturdays: Noon – 6 pm	
Sundays: Noon – 6 pm	

LOST PET HOTLINE

BUILDING DIVISION

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

CEMETERY DIVISION.....

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

CITY ATTORNEY.....

CITY COUNCIL INFORMATION.....

CODE ENFORCEMENT – ZONING & WEED COMPLAINTS.....

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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

COMMUNITY & SENIOR CENTER.....

ENGINEERING DIVISION – CITY ENGINEER.....

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

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT.....

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

GARBAGE (SOLID WASTE)

GIS SERVICES

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

123 S. 27th	247-3200
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HUMAN RESOURCES

Job Hot-Line	657-8441
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Reporting a Crime

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PLANNING & ZONING

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
Right-of-Way Permits & Inspections..	657-8307
Traffic Engineer	657-8231
Environmental Affairs	247-8517
Meter Shop	657-8331
Solid Waste Division & Landfill	657-8260
Street/Traffic Division	657-8250
Storm Drain & Street Light Maintenance	657-8250
Traffic Signals	657-8250
Water Bills - On/Off Orders – Payments	
Open 8 am to 5 pm weekdays.....	657-8315
Water Emergencies - After 5 pm, Weekends & Holidays	657-8353
Wastewater Treatment Plant	657-8356
Water Treatment Plant	657-8353

PURCHASING DIVISION

Taxes	657-8223
Zoning	657-8246