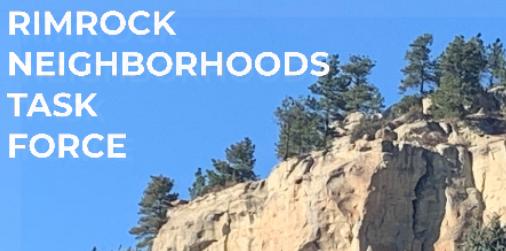


# March 2024 Update



**Upcoming Meetings:** **March 20\*** ~ May 15 ~ July 17 ~ Sept 18 ~ Nov 20

**Wednesdays, 7pm, Mayflower Church (Rehberg & Poly)**

\*You are invited to bring peanut butter & jelly to our March meeting for FAMILY SERVICES to feed children in our community

We will also accept Easter candy donations which will go to the Easter Egg Hunt in South Park



**The agenda for the March meeting is not final yet, but here are topics so far. We'll share the updated agenda when we're closer to the meeting date!**

1. Welcome, introductions, previous meeting minutes - Howard Evans
2. Board nominations, to fill Vice Chair vacancy - Howard Evans
3. Law Enforcement Update - Sergeant Stovall, Billings Police Department
4. Personal & Cyber Safety Presentation - Tony Rahls, FBI
5. Open discussion of membership concerns
6. "Drawing" - Kevin Moser, RNTF Board

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**Bring a Neighbor!**

I bet you have a neighbor or friend who is concerned about city and neighborhood issues!

Bring them along to the March meeting!

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## From the Desk of Howard Evans, RNTF Chair

Rimrock neighbors -

As a result of the change in by-laws approved by members at the last RNTF meeting, I have acceded to the position of Chair. I am honored to be able to serve you and am humbled by the trust you have placed in me. I will do my utmost to fulfill your expectations.

We now have a vacant Vice Chair position and will seek nominations until filled. Due to my age, I would like to have a way to provide continuity in leadership and assure continuation of the Task Force objectives in the possibility that I may no longer be able to serve as Chair.

I would like to acknowledge the debt I owe to previous members of the RNTF Board with whom I've worked. Lyle Gabrian is a reliable source of information and experience which he willingly shares. Alice Lahren also continues to be involved and is a valuable source of history and function. Richard King, who resigned for family health reasons, attempted to instill a sense of moderation in me, with which I still grapple.

RNTF Board is very concerned about how "The Trestles" (Copper Ridge) high density and multi-family subdivision will affect traffic on the eastern portion of Rimrock Road. We will advocate a slowing down of zoning and subdivision plans until there is satisfactory planning and commitment to traffic issues along Rimrock Road. Also at issue are school capacity and location. A delay of public zoning hearing has been requested by the developer and will now take place May 7, 2024. I believe this is due, in large part, to a strong campaign to delay and reconsider the request and subdivision development.

School District (SD2) will be holding a mil levy to improve safety in the schools. RNTF will take part in assisting the Heights Task Force in presenting the request through Dr. Garcia, SD2 Superintendent. The meeting will take place on April 23 at 5:30pm at the Public Library.

MDT has authorized a study of Highway 3 for short, mid, and long term planning. We have strongly advocated that the IBL/Hwy3 land use study be key to changes considered as well as the 2015 Highway study which was supported by RNTF. The Molt Road connector will not be included in the study.

Drawing donations from members of the Task Force will be welcomed. So far, local businesses contacted have not responded to requests for support.

It is my intention and, I feel, duty to pass your neighborhood concerns to appropriate members of government. Issues brought up in meetings will be passed on and members can also email them to us or your government representative.

I would like to thank Alice Lahren for donating the microphone system to the Task Force, it is just another way she keeps giving.

I would also like to thank Kevin Moser of Moser Construction for the donation of two coffee gift cards for the drawing. He has added a young outlook to the Board for which we're grateful.

Sincerely,

Howard Evans, RNTF Chair

# Schools



## An Evening with Dr. Erwin Garcia

Superintendent-Billings Public Schools



All City Task Force Meeting  
Tuesday, April 23, 5:30 pm  
Community Room, Billings Public Library

**Rimrock Neighborhoods Task Force, in partnership with other city task forces, is sponsoring a meeting with Dr. Erwin Garcia. You have likely heard there is a school mil levy request coming to us, the voters, this spring. Your Task Force believes it is important for every voter to consider the facts used to develop the request, so we can each make an informed decision on our vote.**

**Dr Garcia will present the background, details and costs of the mil levy, followed by an open Q&A session. Jennifer Owen (City Council) will moderate the program. If you are unable to attend in person, the presentation will be broadcast on Community 7, and be recorded.**

**Attached to the email that brought you this newsletter is a letter from Dr. Garcia.**

**NOTE: School board candidates will be invited, and available to visit after Dr. Garcia's Q&A**

# CODE ENFORCEMENT CORNER

## Fences - Permits and Clear Vision

*(NOTE: this is not a new city code, but rather a reminder)*

by Tina Hoeger, Code Enforcement Manager

Are you thinking about installing or replacing a fence? Here are some things to remember:



- In either case, you will need a fence permit. These can be obtained through the Planning Department.
- If you are hiring a contractor to perform the work, please make sure you discuss who will be applying for the permit. Many times the contractor will have a statement on their contracts that the homeowner is responsible for obtaining the permit, so read the fine print.
- The permit application can be made by either the contractor or the homeowner.

Permits are necessary to make sure that any new fences or modifications to fences comply with what is called "clear vision." When your application is made, the planning department will assist with verification that your plans do not fall within clear vision, which is a safety concern. The planning department will also review the application to determine if the materials being used are within code and that the proposed fence or modification is the proper height based on your zoning.

If you have questions regarding the fence permit application, please contact the planning department customer service desk at 406-657-8247, and they will answer any questions.

# PEDESTRIAN & TRAFFIC SAFETY:



At the February meeting, we shared that the RNTF board plans to advocate for improved pedestrian and traffic safety within our task force boundaries.



**So we need YOUR input!** We are asking each task force member to email us 2 or 3 specific ideas to improve pedestrian and traffic safety.

Include what you want and why it would help.

We need ideas for Highway 3, Zimmerman Trail, Rimrock Road, and neighborhood side streets.

Email your ideas to [rimrocktasforce@gmail.com](mailto:rimrocktasforce@gmail.com)

## EXAMPLE IDEA:

*"We need a traffic light at Rehberg and Rimrock. This would make it safer to turn on and off of both Rimrock & Rehberg, and would take pressure off of the Rimrock/Zimmerman intersection. A traffic light there would also give us crossing lights for pedestrians."*



**Kiddo Pedestrian safety.** The Phase 2 draft of the Safe Routes to School plan is now published on the City website.

Use this link to view, or if you prefer not to click links, you can type it into your browser:

[billingsmt.gov/DocumentCenter/View/51233/SRTS\\_02\\_05\\_24-Draft?fbclid=IwAR16xwsfeXyoc1vCA3zf6zIVlxQ6t8hQ24\\_TWinDxpely92veliarOzoxm0](http://billingsmt.gov/DocumentCenter/View/51233/SRTS_02_05_24-Draft?fbclid=IwAR16xwsfeXyoc1vCA3zf6zIVlxQ6t8hQ24_TWinDxpely92veliarOzoxm0)

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# PUBLIC WORKS UPDATES:

## City Yard Waste: (Green Bins)

Collection starts back up April 1:



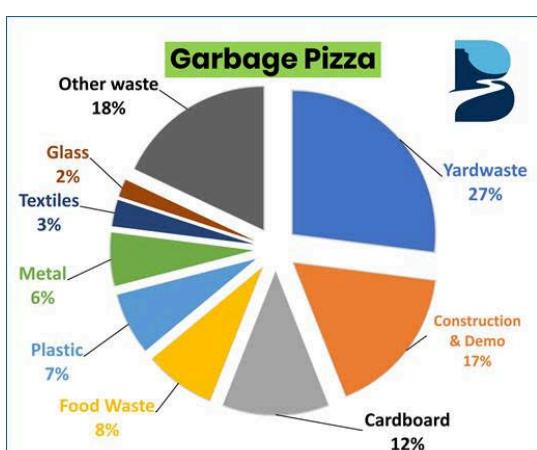
More info on the City website:

[Yard Waste | Billings Public Works, MT \(billingsmtpublicworks.gov\)](http://Yard Waste | Billings Public Works, MT (billingsmtpublicworks.gov))



## Cardboard Collection:

We've heard comments about problems with cardboard collection. So we reached out to solid waste to get the scoop.



**"Why" do we need a cardboard collection program?**

**To extend the life of the landfill, saving taxpayers money.**

**Adding 1 new "cell" to the landfill would cost taxpayers \$12 million!**

**Cardboard & yard waste comprise nearly 40% of landfill space.**

**By diverting both cardboard & yard waste, we delay costly expansion.**

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**Why doesn't the City have us use a bin for cardboard?**

**Or have us use the green bins off-season?**

*" Providing recycling containers would cost \$3 Million. Our previous extras program was setting extra garbage out 4-ft from the black bin. Setting cardboard out the same way works well for everyone. While using the green bin for cardboard is a good idea, our experience using 1 container for 2 different programs at different times of the year would be confusing & could cause contamination issues. Residents can use their own containers. Drivers will leave the container after collection. Or they can use a rock to weigh things down in windy conditions. Drivers will leave the rock after collection as well. (promise!)"*

**What do I do if my cardboard isn't picked up?**

***Please call Solid Waste to report the issue  
(406) 657-8285***

*They will do their best to get back out and collect it, but it might not be the same day.*

*They want us to report the problems so they can improve! Remember it's still a new program and everyone is learning.*

**Can I put my cardboard out if it's raining or snowing?**

**YES!**

*NOTE: if it's windy, put a rock or brick on top of flattened cardboard to prevent it blowing into the street.*

**Need more info?**

***Visit the Public Works website:***

***[Cardboard Recycling | Billings Public Works, MT  
\(billingsmtpublicworks.gov\)](#)***



# Help a Neighbor



Be thinking about Rimrock area neighbors who may need a little one-time help (weed removal, graffiti removal, snow shoveling, etc)

Adult and teen volunteers are all welcome to participate  
Text or call Kevin at 406-690-1718 with ideas, or if you'd like to volunteer.  
(or email [moser.construction@yahoo.com](mailto:moser.construction@yahoo.com))

**Let's get Help A Neighbor in place by spring weed season!**

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## CYBER SECURITY TIP OF THE MONTH: **PROTECT YOURSELF AGAINST HACKERS**

Brought to you by Anastasia Edwards  
with Big Sky Quantum SHIELD

[Link to Nextdoor Group for Big Sky Quantum SHIELD](#)

Be MINDFUL of what you share online. Even something that seems innocent, like your favorite song...could get you in trouble.

Keep your privacy settings tight. Only share with your TRUSTED circle of friends, family & acquaintances rather than sharing on a social post or public forum!

### How people think they get hacked:



### How they really get hacked:



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## **FIVE-O FORUM:**

If you haven't already, be sure to catch the FIVE-O Forum Podcast with our very own Sgt. Jeff Stovall. The 2/27 episode features a discussion with Sgt. Justin Jagers, retiring officer, about his career in public service.

You can search YouTube for the FIVE-O FORUM, or use this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7cGIZWhL0Fc>



## **MONTHLY DRUG CORNER: *What is Meth?***

Methamphetamine (meth) is an addictive synthetic stimulant which can cause considerable health adversities, sometimes resulting in death. Meth can be smoked, snorted, injected, or taken orally and is often used with other substances.



**Knowledge is power!**

Meth users may experience a temporary sense of euphoria, alertness, & energy. Meth rapidly releases high levels of dopamine (a natural chemical in the brain) into reward areas of the brain, making people want to continue to use meth.

**Even taking small amounts of meth can cause harmful health effects, including:**

- Increased blood pressure and body temperature
- Faster breathing
- Rapid or irregular heartbeat
- Loss of appetite, disturbed sleep patterns, or nausea
- Erratic, aggressive, irritable, or violent behavior

**Chronic meth use can lead to damaging, long-term health effects, even when people stop using:**

- Permanent damage to the heart and brain
- High blood pressure leading to heart attacks, strokes, and death
- Liver, kidney, and lung damage
- Anxiety, confusion, and insomnia
- Paranoia, hallucinations, mood disturbances, delusions, or violent behavior (psychotic symptoms can sometimes last for months or years after meth use)
- Intense itching, causing skin sores from scratching
- Premature osteoporosis
- Severe dental problems

**Source:** <https://www.samhsa.gov/meth>



## **City Council Corner -**

**Our Task Force area includes parts of both Ward 4 & Ward 1. From time to time we will be including updates from our council members. And we will always share their contact info should you need to reach out to them.**

### **General City Council Contact Information:**

**[Council@billingsmt.gov](mailto:Council@billingsmt.gov)**

**210 N. 27th St. ~ Billings, MT 59101 ~ P.O. Box 1178 ~ Billings, MT 59103**

**Phone (406) 657-8433; Fax (406) 657-8390**



**Ed Gulick**  
Ward 1  
**(406) 698-2747**  
[Gulicke@billingsmt.gov](mailto:Gulicke@billingsmt.gov)



**Kendra Shaw**  
Ward 1  
**(406) 670-7772**  
[shawk@billingsmt.gov](mailto:shawk@billingsmt.gov)



**Scott Aspenlieder**  
Ward 4  
**(406) 461-8392**  
[aspenlieders@billingsmt.gov](mailto:aspenlieders@billingsmt.gov)



**Dan Tidswell**  
Ward 4  
**(406) 690-4534**  
[tidswelld@billingsmt.gov](mailto:tidswelld@billingsmt.gov)

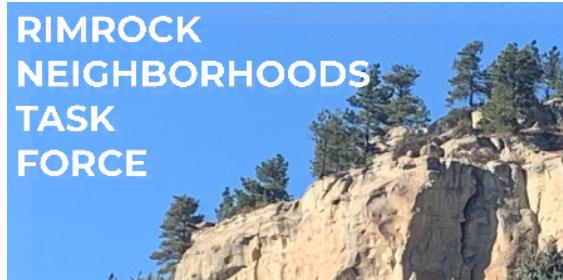
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Rimrock Neighborhoods Task Force does not politically endorse any current office holder or candidate.

We extend an open invitation for attendance and participation in our task force meetings to all elected officials and candidates such as City Council, County Commission, and State Legislators.

We appreciate all those who attend and help escalate neighborhood issues.





**In addition to Task Force meetings, you can connect with Rimrock Neighborhoods Task Force through email and social media:**



- Follow Rimrock Neighborhoods Task Force on Facebook  
<https://www.facebook.com/BillingsRNTF>
- Connect to **Rimrock Taskforce** on the Next Door app on your smartphone
- EMAIL to the task force board: [RimrockTaskforce@gmail.com](mailto:RimrockTaskforce@gmail.com)  
Be sure to include your phone # when you email the board in case we need to call you!
- City website: <https://www.billingsmt.gov/1730/Rimrock-Neighborhoods-Task-Force>  
***NOTE: we have been working on a "clean-up" of the information on the City website, and it's nearly complete!***

Links should be click-able, but if your browser doesn't support a direct link, just highlight the website address, then copy and paste into your browser's search bar.