



## April 2024 Update

# Rimrock Neighborhoods Task Force

## Upcoming 2024 RNTF Meetings:

**May 15 ~ July 17 ~ Sept 18 ~ Nov 20**  
**Wednesdays, 7pm**  
**Mayflower Church (Rehberg & Poly)**

## Special Task Force Meeting Apr 23, 5:30pm:

We encourage RNTF members to attend to learn about the school Safety Levy so we can each cast an informed vote. Bring your questions!



## 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**

## COMMUNITY SHRED EVENT - Mark Your Calendar

**Saturday 4/20 10am-1pm ~ Billings Federal Credit Union (990 Grand)**

**Each April, local Billings credit unions get together for a community shred event!**



## Protect your family's identity - *shred old documents*

**Avoid identity theft by shredding credit offers, junk mail (that has your name or address), receipts, insurance forms, school documents, medical records financial statements**

**This service is free.**

**Donations for local charities will be accepted.**

# Help a Neighbor



**Be thinking about Rimrock area neighbors who may need one-time help for code enforcement issues like weed removal, graffiti removal, snow shoveling, etc.**

**Adult and youth 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))**

## From the Desk of Howard Evans, RNTF Chair

## Neighbors,

I have previously asked that you participate in the West Billings Neighborhood Plan survey before April 30th at the following website:

<https://sandersonstewart.com/projects/west-billings-plan/west-billings-plan-issues/>

West End development will affect traffic on our two arterial roads, Rimrock Road and MT Hwy 3. If you want to do something to control the traffic situations along your roadways, you need to make your voice heard in all venues available. If you have not taken the survey, a 5 minute process, please do so and also encourage your neighbors to participate in the survey.

As another reminder, the All City Task Force is sponsoring **An Evening with Dr. Erwin Garcia, Superintendent Billings Public Schools**, on Tuesday, April 23, 5:30 pm, in the Community Room, Billings Public Library.

Dr. Garcia has facts and some alarming data to share in developing the School Safety Levy and, in my opinion, your time will be well-spent. Serious consideration should be given this Levy as it affects the whole Billings Community, not just the schools.

The RNTF Board met with Mac Fogelsong, City Engineer, to learn of developments and processes for change along Rimrock Road. Mac is fully aware of residents' traffic and pedestrian concerns but needs to work within the parameters established by government agencies at all levels. Improvements to transportation infrastructure are based on collected data and data generated through current studies, the human element is not quantifiable and, therefore, not considered in decision making. Residents play a role in triggering the process by elevating the concern level enough to generate a study. Here is a link to a summary of our discussion with Mac: [Board Meeting with Mac Fogelsong](#)

Your Board is planning the next meeting, May 15th to include more information on ways to protect your person and property. The presenter will be a member of Billings Police Department, possibly Sgt. Stovall.

I would like to thank all the members who donated peanut butter, jelly or candy for our less fortunate residents. Your donations were acknowledged and appreciated by Family Services and the Southside Task Force and, I'm sure, by the recipients. I would also like to thank Moser Construction for our drawing prizes. We are still looking for contributors.

Sincerely,

### Howard Evans, RNTE Chair

# YELLOWSTONE COUNTY PROPERTY TAX REBILLING:

## Confused about your recent updated property tax bill? You're not alone!



**We received clarification of the recently mailed Property Tax Statement and would like to clarify any misunderstandings you may have.**

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Half Property Tax Statement and Payments**

**The last four codes in the Special Assessments table are the assessments which were not collected in full in the first Statement (ELEQ, HSEQ, STEQ, VTEQ)**

SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS	
Description	Code
OT BLSW BILLINGS STORM SEWER	BLSW
OT BS#2 BLGS STREET MAINT #2	BS#2
OT SOIL SOIL CONSERVATION	SOIL
OT ELEM GEN: 6 ADD'L MILLS	ELEQ
OT HS GEN: 4 ADD'L MILLS	HSEQ
OT STATE EQ: 7.1 ADD'L MILLS	STEQ
OT VO-TECH EQ: 0.2 ADD'L MIL	VTEQ

- The amount due on the statement reflects the total payment due for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Half and is to be paid on or by May 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Mortgage companies who require payment through an escrow account have been notified and payments will be made through escrow.
- Taxpayers not paying through an escrow account are responsible for their payment.

If you still have questions after reviewing this info, please reach out to the County:

**Marci Shafer - Treasurer/Assessor/Superintendent Yellowstone County**  
**406-256-2801 / 406-256-7928 Fax**  
**[mshafer@yellowstonecountymt.gov](mailto:mshafer@yellowstonecountymt.gov)**

## Code Enforcement Corner

## Recreational Vehicle Setbacks



If you store an RV on your property, there are required setbacks. Here are basic guidelines:

- Storing recreational vehicles in your rear yard is allowed and they can be stored on any type of surface.
- They are allowed on front or side yards if there's no access to rear yard. They must be on asphalt or concrete.

## Here are the setback requirements in any yard:

- Three feet from neighboring property lines.
- Five feet from any door, window, or ventilation access to dwelling or accessory building.
- Eight feet from street or sidewalk, whichever is closer.

RVs you store on your property **must be registered & operable**, ready to move at a moment's notice.

RVs include snowmobiles, boats, campers, ATVs, off-road motorcycles, sport/utility trailers, and RVs.

Setbacks are in place for **fire safety** reasons, which is why they need to stay within these parameters.

For more info, refer to Billings Municipal Code 27-1307(A).

## PEDESTRIAN, BICYCLE & TRAFFIC SAFETY:

**At our March meeting, Council Member Ed Gulick shared the following about transportation planning:**

**"At the Mar. 15 City Council & Staff Retreat, Council agreed with our Public Works director's suggestion to create a **Transportation Master Plan**. City Staff needs clear direction from Council on what our strategy will be going forward in addressing the opportunities & challenges of growth.**

For the past half century, Billings has increasingly built out a hierarchical street network along with low density development that is more dependent on vehicular modes. This tends to result in greater traffic congestion & higher transportation infrastructure costs relative to the amount of tax base that it serves. This further burdens property taxpayers. Additionally, the design of these roads tends to privilege speed at the expense of safety, higher infrastructure costs, & the economic productivity of adjacent properties.

**The Master Plan will consider other strategies alongside current strategies to meet the community's transportation needs, and, ultimately, the council, with the public's input, will select the strategy so that staff have clear direction."**

Your task force will bring you more info on this [Transportation Master Plan](#) as soon as more is known.  
Thank you Council Member Gulick for the update.

## PUBLIC WORKS UPDATES:

**City Yard Waste Pick-up (GREEN cans) began April 1**



1. Yard Waste is collected on the same day as your regular garbage.
2. Have bins out by 7 am, do not overfill, and make sure the lid is closed.
3. If you do not have a **GREEN** yard waste bin and would like to request one, contact Customer Service at 406-657-8315 opt #3. Each residence is allowed up to two **GREEN** bins.
4. Large limbs & branches can be collected for \$5 per 3 bundles. Limit pieces to 4 ft length & 6 in diameter. Tie pieces in bundles up to 75 pounds & 2 ft in diameter. Call 406-657-8315 opt #3 to schedule large limb collection.

**Please follow these Dos + Don'ts to ensure timely collection.**



## **Taxpayers - \$\$\$\$\$ - take note:**

Participating in both the **GREEN** can yard waste collection, and the monthly cardboard collection helps extend the life of our landfill, which means we won't need a costly expansion as soon as we would otherwise!



## **APRIL CYBER SECURITY TIPS:**

**Brought to you by Anastasia Edwards  
with Big Sky Quantum SHIELD**

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

**Neighbors - in March, our guest speaker from the FBI focused on Cyber Security.**

**For this month's newsletter, Anastasia provides tips building on 2 of his topics:**

## AI-generated Voice fraud

## Locking up your Social Media

# YOU'RE GOING TO WANT TO WATCH THIS!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BigtRxmkPNw>



**They clone voices now...check out this scam call using AI cloned voice.**

I would text the person while I'm on the phone and ask them if it's them. I'd expect them to text back "hey what's up?!" Or some response.

## BEST PRACTICE:

## establish code words with your family.

# This is very serious

## Stay Vigilant



## Overall Advice for any social media:

**-Regularly review your privacy settings on all platforms to ensure they remain aligned with your desired level of privacy.**

**-Be mindful of the info you share in posts, even with customized settings, to maintain digital safety.**

**Anastasia has prepared an easy to follow guide on how to modify your settings on some of the common social platforms.**

**We're attaching her document to the email  
that's bringing you this newsletter.**

If you're reading this on social media, send an email and we'll get Anastasia's helpful guide to you! [rimrocktaskforce@gmail.com](mailto:rimrocktaskforce@gmail.com)

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## MONTHLY DRUG CORNER:

***Note - Medical & recreational marijuana are legal for adults in Montana.***



The following is a composite synopsis of facts from a National Geographic article titled "Do you smoke weed recreationally? Here's what experts want you to know." By Meryl Davids Landau, March 22, 2024

*This article is written with the intent to inform and is in no way intended to advocate or judge. Medical cannabis has several positive uses and amounts are controlled by dosage and usage. Medical use should not be compared with recreational use.*

Today's cannabis strains are not your grandma's weed—and they may be impacting your mental health, heart health, and more. Today's products are much more potent and come in so many different formulations, that it's very different from those in the sixties and even the nineties.

The risk from cannabis for substance-abuse psychosis where a person has delusions or paranoia, hears voices, and otherwise temporarily loses touch with reality is higher even than from cocaine. Up to a third of people who experience substance-abuse psychosis go on to develop the more permanent condition of schizophrenia.

Teenage brains are going through a time of maturity, so when substances are put in the brain, they have more of an influence than they do on adult brains. Using adolescents are 37 % more likely than using adults to develop depression. Rates of suicide are also higher with marijuana using teens. People younger than 25 should avoid cannabis altogether,

People who use the drug regularly have a higher risk for heart attack, stroke, and other heart disease. Heart attack rates are 25 percent higher than the norm while stroke increased 42 percent researchers found.

Pregnant women who use cannabis regularly are more likely to have preterm births and dangerously small babies.

Many people perceive cannabis to be safer than alcohol, but one in five cannabis users develops an addiction to the drug.





### **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. To determine your Ward, see the Ward Map on the City's website: [Ward-Map-4-2022 \(civicplus.com\)](http://Ward-Map-4-2022 (civicplus.com))

### **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

Upcoming City Council meetings are posted on the City website: [Calendar • Billings • CivicEngage \(billingsmt.gov\)](#)

Information on past meetings can be found at: [City Council Agendas & Minutes | City of Billings, MT - Official Website \(billingsmt.gov\)](#)



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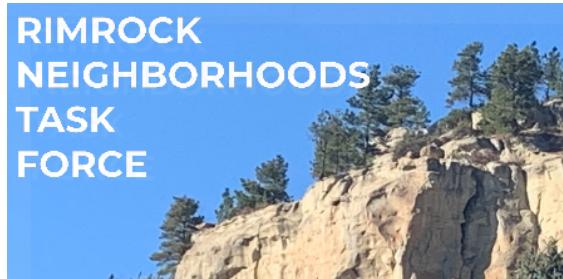
**Dan Tidswell**  
Ward 4  
**(406) 690-4534**  
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Rimrock Neighborhoods Task Force does not politically endorse any current office holder or candidate.

We extend an open invitation for attendance and participation in our task force meetings to all elected officials and candidates.

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 the task force board: [RimrockTaskforce@gmail.com](mailto:RimrockTaskforce@gmail.com)  
Be sure to include your phone # when emailing the board, in case we need to call you!
- City website: <https://www.billingsmt.gov/1730/Rimrock-Neighborhoods-Task-Force>

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.