

# May 2024 Update

## Upcoming 2024 RNTF Meetings:

**May 15**

**July 17 ~ Sept 18 ~ Nov 20  
Wednesdays, 7pm**

## Mayflower Church (Rehberg & Poly)

## May 15th Meeting - preliminary agenda

- 1. Welcome, introductions - Howard Evans**
- 2. Approval of minutes**
- 3. Presenters – Tom Yampradit**
  - **Law Enforcement Update - Sergeant Stovall, Billings Police Department**
  - **Personal Safety - Sergeant Stovall, Billings Police Department**
- 4. Old Business**
  - **Board nominations, to fill Vice Chair vacancy - Howard Evans**
  - **Help A Neighbor - Kevin Moser**
  - **Contributions to drawing**
- 5. New Business**
  - **Food collection - “Munch Machine” - Nikki Dolan**
  - **July 17, 2024 meeting and potluck.**
  - **Safety discussion re Rimrock Road**
  - **Open discussion on other neighborhood concerns**
    - **Turkeys**
- 6. Close meeting**

**As we approach Memorial day 2024, we want to recognize and honor all of our veteran members & neighbors who have served our nation.**

We thank you.

**Upcoming Veteran events in the area can be found at:**

<https://www.veteransnavigation.org/communityevents>



# Neighbors Feeding Neighbors!

**Thank you to all who helped Family Services at our March meeting with donations of PB&J, and Easter Candy.**

**For May we are supporting a community effort to help feed children during the summer. Nikki Dolan - RNTF resident - is coordinator for the food insecurity program of the Education Foundation.**

## The “Munch Machine” program will help feed kids at risk for hunger over the summer



## **Recommended Items to Donate:**

**Bring donations to RNTF May 15 Meeting – Please no glass or expired items**

- Peanut butter (small jars)
- Jelly (squeezable small jars)
- Tuna/chicken packs with crackers (not cans)
- Cereal boxes both large and small
- Protein Shakes (Premier or other brands)
- Breakfast Bars/Granola Bars
- Individual Trail Mix Packs
- Easy Mac and Cheese individual cups
- Hormel shelf stable entrees
- Fruit cups
- Individual pretzel packs
- Dried Fruit
- Quaker instant oatmeal bowls (individual packs)
- GoGo Squeez Fruit and VeggieZ
- GoGo Squeez Yogurtz

For more information about the program: <https://www.ebps.org/food-insecurity-programs.html>

## From the Desk of Howard Evans, RNTF Chair

Hi neighbors,

**The City Website describes the purpose of Neighborhood Task Forces as:**

**“Neighborhood task forces are community groups designed to give the residents of each neighborhood a chance to make a difference right where they live. They were initially set up to provide input to city government agencies regarding issues concerning their neighborhoods.”**

We, the RNTF Board, encourage our member's input through meeting participation, email and social media.

The Board met with Mac Fogelsong, City Engineer, on April 4th to discuss Rimrock Road plans to provide a safer pedestrian and traffic environment. The main take-away I had was that all decisions are data driven and any consideration for the human element is based on neighborhood participation and input. We will discuss our conversation with Mac at our May 15th meeting. The following is a summary of one of the topics discussed:

Mac told us about the "Pavement Preservation Project" which will happen on Rimrock this year between Zimmerman and 17th. This project will include repainting lanes to slightly narrow the driving lanes and slightly widen the bike lanes.

Discussion ensued on whether or not bike lanes should even be on this stretch of Rimrock due to vehicle traffic loads. It was suggested that bike lanes be removed completely from Rimrock east of Zimmerman (or Shiloh) encouraging cyclists to use Poly where there is less vehicle traffic. Cyclists heading further west could divert back to Rimrock at 38th.

**Our four City Council members were asked to respond to this suggestion. Their responses are summarized below, with the full content available at this link: [Full Responses from Gulick and Aspenlieder](#)**

## **Council Member Aspenlieder**

"I think we're heading into a great stretch to discuss this issue as it presents itself across our City."

On April 19th we had the initial scoping meeting for the review and development of a Comprehensive Transportation Master Plan which will look specifically at this issue with others."

"Rimrock is the prime case study for this process and you are asking the very direct conversation we'll have on that corridor:

**"Should Rimrock have pedestrian facilities and to what extent should those facilities be built out?"**

### **Council Member Gulick**

*"I support the plan to keep the bike lanes on Rimrock so there is greater access to properties via bicycle with the wider bike lanes and narrower vehicular travel lanes."*

"If, however, there was a strong movement to get rid of the bike lanes, I would strongly urge that a parking lane be placed on the north side of the road."

"I respect the authority and expertise of Public Works."

**Election season is here. It's important to be informed of the ballot issues.**

Have a safe and pleasant Memorial Day!

*Sincerely, Howard Evans, RNTF Chair*

# Code Enforcement Corner

## Weed Season!

(4/30 through 9/30)



By definition in BMCC 25-300, nuisance weeds are:

- Weeds, grasses, & unintended vegetation growing in excess of 12 inches in height within the city
- Untended vegetation creating a potential fire hazard, visual or physical obstruction for pedestrians or vehicles, potential for spread of said vegetation or unsightly condition.

What does that mean to you?

- Maintain your lawn, boulevards, alleys & vacant lots to a height of 4 inches or less.
- Code Enforcement receives hundreds of "weed" complaints annually.
- If you receive a courtesy notice from Code Enforcement, there will be an officer's name & contact info at the end of the letter. You can reach out with questions or concerns about the notice.

Please help keep the City of Billings well maintained and free of nuisance weeds.



**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.

Adults, youth, and families are all welcome to participate  
Text or call Kevin at 406-690-1718 with ideas, or if you'd like to volunteer.



# PUBLIC WORKS UPDATES:

2 important schedule notes for the week of Memorial Day

- Garbage & Yard Waste collection will be delayed 1 day during Memorial Day week
- Landfill is CLOSED on Memorial Day, May 27



## FRIENDLY FINANCIAL REMINDER:

Participating in the yard waste/green cans & cardboard collection programs helps to extend the life of the current landfill, so taxpayers won't have to pay for a COSTLY landfill expansion as soon!





## MAY CYBER SECURITY TIP: Password Security

Brought to you by Anastasia Edwards  
with Big Sky Quantum SHIELD

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

Maintaining good password hygiene is **essential** for protecting your online presence. This chart shows that a 4-character password can be cracked almost instantaneously. As you add more characters, the time it takes to brute force the password increases, but not as much as you might think unless you're smart about your password creation.

### TIME IT TAKES A HACKER TO BRUTE FORCE YOUR PASSWORD IN 2024

— How did we make this? Learn at [hivesystems.com/password](https://hivesystems.com/password) —

Number of Characters	Numbers Only	Lowercase Letters	Upper and Lowercase Letters	Numbers, Upper and Lowercase Letters	Numbers, Upper and Lowercase Letters, Symbols
4	Instantly	Instantly	3 secs	6 secs	9 secs
5	Instantly	4 secs	2 mins	6 mins	10 mins
6	Instantly	2 mins	2 hours	6 hours	12 hours
7	4 secs	50 mins	4 days	2 weeks	1 month
8	37 secs	22 hours	8 months	3 years	7 years
9	6 mins	3 weeks	33 years	161 years	479 years
10	1 hour	2 years	1k years	9k years	33k years
11	10 hours	44 years	89k years	618k years	2m years
12	4 days	1k years	4m years	38m years	164m years
13	1 month	29k years	241m years	2bn years	11bn years
14	1 year	766k years	12bn years	147bn years	805bn years
15	12 years	19m years	652bn years	9tn years	56tn years
16	119 years	517m years	33tn years	566tn years	3qd years
17	1k years	13bn years	1qd years	35qd years	276qd years
18	11k years	350bn years	91qd years	2qn years	19qn years

#### How Passwords are Exploited:

- **Brute Force Attacks:** Hackers try every possible combination to crack passwords.
- **Dictionary Attacks:** This technique uses a list of common passwords and phrases.
- **Phishing:** Cybercriminals trick you into providing passwords.
- **Malware:** Certain malware can record keystrokes.
- **Credential Stuffing:** Using leaked credentials to gain unauthorized access.

## Anastasia's Top 10 Effective Password Creation Tips

1. **Length & Complexity**: Aim for passwords that are at least 12 characters long, mixing uppercase, lowercase, numbers, and symbols.
2. **Passphrases**: Create a passphrase from something memorable, like a line from a book or lyrics from a song. For example, "ToBeOrNotToBe" is more secure than "Hamlet" and easier to remember.
3. **Personal Touch**: Add a personal twist that only you would understand to common phrases. If your favorite movie is "The Matrix," instead of "RedPillBluePill," you could use "R3dP1llorBlu3P1ll1999!"
4. **Two-Factor Authentication (2FA)**: This should be non-negotiable for important accounts.
5. **Password Managers**: They are critical tools for generating and storing complex passwords.
6. **Regular Changes**: Update your passwords every few months.
7. **Unique Passwords**: Never use the same password for multiple sites.
8. **Avoid Predictable Patterns**: Don't use sequential characters and avoid repeated characters.
9. **Phishing Vigilance**: Be cautious about unsolicited communications asking for your password.
10. **Updates**: Regularly update your systems to protect against vulnerabilities.

**Good password hygiene is like locking your doors at night; it's a basic security measure that should be habitual. Using these tips, like leveraging song lyrics or personal references in your passphrases, you can significantly enhance the security of your digital life.**

## MONTHLY DRUG CORNER:

## Obtaining Naloxone (Narcan) in Montana (from Montana DPHHS):



<https://dphhs.mt.gov/bhdd/naloxone/wheretogetNaloxone>

**Past newsletters have included info about commonly used drugs, so we can all be better informed. This month, we're bringing info that parents, grandparents, neighbors, teachers and others should know. Please share this life-saving info with families you care about!**

**Naloxone (Narcan) is available to the public to administer to those experiencing an opioid overdose  
Naloxone can reverse an opioid overdose and save a life**

**Call 9-1-1 immediately, even if you have already administered naloxone!**

- Narcan nasal spray is available to individuals at many pharmacies, health departments and drug treatment centers. (see locator map at the website shown above, or call Riverstone Health)
- Formal training is not required, and basic instructions are available
- [Montana's Good Samaritan Law](#) provides legal protection to those who administer naloxone, even if they are using substances too.

## **CITY OF BILLINGS ~ WHO TO CALL:**



**Keep handy should you need to contact the City!**

Attached to the email bringing you this newsletter is a “Who to Contact” list prepared earlier this year by Victoria Hill, City of Billings Public Information Officer.

**If/when there are updates to this handy-dandy document, we will re-distribute.**



## City Council Corner -

**Our Task Force area includes parts of both Ward 4 & Ward 1.**

**To determine your Ward, see the Ward Map on the City's website:**

<https://mt-billings3.civicplus.com/DocumentCenter/View/49070/Ward-Map-4-2022>

**City Council Contact Information:** EMAIL: [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:**

<https://www.billingsmt.gov/calendar.aspx>

**Information on past meetings can be found at: <https://billingsmt.gov/117/Agendas-Minutes>**



**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)**



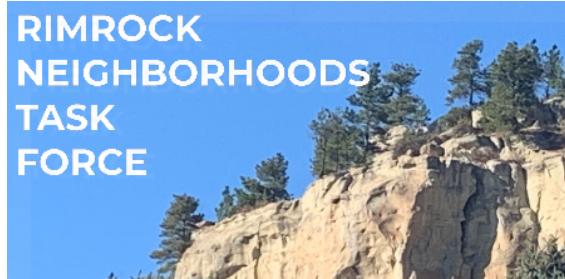
**Dan Tidswell  
Ward 4  
(406) 690-4534  
tidswelld@billingsmt.gov**

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.