

♥ February Update ♥  
**Rimrock Neighborhoods Task Force**



**Next membership meeting**

**March 19, 7:00pm  
Mayflower Church  
(Rehberg & Poly)**

***Bring a neighbor!***

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***From the Desk of Howard Evans, RNTF Chair***

***Hello neighbors,***

**Rimrock Neighborhoods Task Force Board** is still short a board member and we are asking for a volunteer to fill the position of secretary. Filling this position has become more important with my decision to not seek another term as your Chair.

This board has adopted three main areas of concern which we feel are important to our membership:

- 1. Rimrock Road Safety - efforts led by Tom & Leslie***
- 2. North of the Rims development and Highway 3 Corridor - efforts led by Howard***
- 3. City Parks and Trails - efforts led by Kevin***

Of course, there are other city wide items which become important to our membership and we try to address them as they arise. We need help to do this.

**By-Laws.** The Board is recommending a change to the RNTF by-laws to allow more flexibility in scheduling meetings should the need arise. It is not our intention to randomly change meetings believing that a predictable meeting time and place is the best course of action.

The proposed change is included at the end of this newsletter and a vote will be taken at our next membership meeting in March.

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**Rehberg Ranch HOA** invited Leslie and I to make a short presentation to their membership. We were received warmly and felt that a seed of awareness was planted in their membership. We were able to add several new contacts to our email list.

**Rimrock Corridor.** Leslie and Tom continue to work diligently to provide meaningful input to the Transportation Master Plan.

**Rim Top.** Work continues on the BLAASF installation. Anderson Construction supplies me with a weekly construction update which I forward to Rim Top neighbors. If you are not receiving the updates and would like to be added to the mailing list, please let us know at: [rimrocktaskforce@gmail.com](mailto:rimrocktaskforce@gmail.com)

To the best of my knowledge, public input has not been sought in the Highway 3 Corridor Study nor in land planning along Highway 3 and Skyway Drive.

**Fire Dangers.** The fires in Los Angeles and Alkali Creek last summer have brought to light the need to be proactive in securing fire safety. While we don't have the same climatic conditions as California, we need to be aware of ways to protect our property interests. I am currently working with the City Fire Marshall and Code Enforcement to provide information and, possibly, evaluating fire dangers in our neighborhoods. The State does not have policy cancellation data available, so the extent of cancellations cannot be evaluated.

**Meeting attendance.** We are always looking for increased participation in our meetings and urge you to join us. We are exploring ways to communicate with neighbors who are not receiving meeting information.

***Sincerely, Howard Evans, RNTF Chair***

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**Graphic Design  
Volunteer  
Needed**

RNTF is seeking a volunteer with digital graphic design skills to assist with occasional newsletter items, as well as images to use in social media posts.

This is especially important as we move forward with the Rimrock Corridor Safety Committee's work! If you have graphic design experience and can volunteer, please email [RIMROCKTASKFORCE@GMAIL.COM](mailto:RIMROCKTASKFORCE@GMAIL.COM)

**VERY** part time - pay is non-existent, but the hours are great!

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**SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL (SRTS)**

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The Rimrock Corridor Safety Committee has been working with various local groups to find ways to make Rimrock Road safer. Three members of the committee met recently with Safe Routes to School - Yellowstone County. They work on ways to make walking to school safer for children, and they have a “walk to school” effort coming up later this month.

**We encourage task force residents to volunteer 1 day during the week of February 24 to walk with a group of kids to a local elementary school.**

See below for more details and contact info  
**THANK YOU!**

## Volunteers Needed!



Local schools are seeking volunteer support for short-distance group walks to school that help build safe walking skills!

This volunteer opportunity will be available between February 24 and February 28.

**If you are interested, please contact**  
**[saferoutesyc@gmail.com](mailto:saferoutesyc@gmail.com),**  
**or call (406) 247 – 3394.**

Volunteers must be able to comfortably walk at least 1 mile.

For more information on making safer, healthier choices when walking, biking or rolling to school, visit:  
[www.yellowstonecountysaferoutestoschool.org](http://www.yellowstonecountysaferoutestoschool.org)





## **It's legislative season again in Helena**

Use this link to stay up-to-date regarding bills before the legislature:

<https://www.legmt.gov/bills/>

To find contact info for your district's state legislators  
(both house & senate):

<https://www.legmt.gov/legislators/>

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## **Emergency Alerts from Yellowstone County**

Yellowstone County Informed / Powered by Everbridge



## **Have you signed up yet for emergency alerts from Yellowstone County?**

Get alerted about emergencies and other important community news by signing up for Yellowstone County Informed.

This system enables you to receive critical info quickly in a variety of situations, such as severe weather, unexpected road closures, missing persons, and evacuations of buildings or neighborhoods.

For more info and to sign up for this complimentary service:

<https://member.everbridge.net/305943405396532/login>

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## COMMUNITY HEALTH CORNER



# Bird Flu

### What you need to know about bird flu and your risk

Avian influenza (bird flu) Type A viruses are widespread in wild birds worldwide and are causing outbreaks in poultry and dairy cows in the U.S. Bird flu does not normally infect people, but rare cases of human infection have occurred, mainly in dairy and poultry workers.

Bird flu illnesses in humans have ranged in severity from no symptoms or mild illness to severe disease, and there has been one death reported in the U.S.

Montana has not detected any cases of bird flu in humans, but it has been found in domestic poultry flocks, wild birds and other mammals like bears, racoons, mountain lions, skunks and domestic cats in the state.

The best way to prevent bird flu is to avoid sources of exposure whenever possible. Infections in people happen most often after close, prolonged and unprotected contact with infected birds or other animals.

### What to do to protect yourself

- People should avoid direct contact with sick or dead wild birds, poultry, and other animals and observe them only from a distance.
- If you must have direct/close contact with sick or dead wild birds, poultry, or other animals, wear recommended personal protective equipment (PPE). Wild birds can be infected with avian influenza even if they don't look sick.
- Do not touch surfaces or materials like bedding material contaminated with saliva, mucus or animal feces from wild or domestic birds or other animals with confirmed or suspected avian influenza infection.
- Do not touch or consume raw milk or raw milk products, especially from animals with confirmed or suspected avian influenza infection.
- Protect your pets – avoid feeding them raw food or milk.

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If a person is hospitalized with the flu, the healthcare facility will do a test to determine the subtype of influenza causing the infection. It is important to let your doctor know if you have contact with domestic or wild birds or dairy cows that may put you at higher risk for a bird flu infection.

Informational videos: <https://www.cdc.gov/bird-flu/video-series/index.html>

Montana wildlife information: <https://fwp.mt.gov/conservation/diseases/avian-influen>



*Thank you to Casey Page  
from Riverstone Health for  
this helpful information.*



And in case you missed our January meeting, here is a link to Casey's presentation about services offered by Riverstone Health: [Riverstone Services](#)

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## CYBER-SAFETY TIP



**BROUGHT TO YOU  
BY ANASTASIA EDWARDS  
WITH BIG SKY  
QUANTUM SHIELD**

Disasters bring more than physical damage — they leave us vulnerable to cyber threats. Criminals can take advantage during a crisis to trick us into giving away personal info.

After the California fires, many received fake fundraising requests or fraudulent government emails. Scams can be hard to spot, especially when emotions are high.

### Use these 4 simple steps to protect yourself:

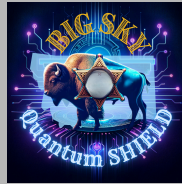
1. Be cautious with unsolicited requests. If you receive a donation request or help offer via text, email or social media - verify the source before responding.
2. Look for red flags. Scammers often create a sense of urgency like “ACT NOW” or “RESPOND IMMEDIATELY”. Don’t rush - take your time to double check details.

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3. Verify official communications. Check directly with official agencies such as FEMA via their official websites or by phone. Don't click on links in unsolicited messages.
  4. Support with trusted resources. If you want to help disaster victims - use well known organizations, and make sure donations go through their official websites.

In times of disaster, it's crucial to not only take care of ourselves and others physically, but also to stay sharp and protect our digital lives.

**Stay aware - stay safe - stay vigilant!**

[Link to Next Door group for CyberSecurity](#)



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### **RIMROCK CORRIDOR SAFETY COMMITTEE - VOLUNTEERS**



Tom & Leslie will be hosting a meeting for volunteers interested in helping get out the word about Rimrock Road safety.

We are shooting for the last week of February. The exact date, time and location will be determined soon.

Whether you can attend that meeting or not, we'd like to visit with you about our work to get **COMMON SENSE SAFETY** improvements approved for Rimrock Road. You can reach Leslie or Tom at [rimrocktaskforce@gmail.com](mailto:rimrocktaskforce@gmail.com)

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### **RIMROCK CORRIDOR SAFETY COMMITTEE - SOCIAL MEDIA**

If you use Facebook or Next Door - please consider sharing/reposting our messages about Rimrock Road safety issues.

We're working hard to get the word out about our efforts to make our neighborhood safer. By sharing our posts, you'll help us reach a much wider local audience!



Find our posts on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/BillingsRNTF>

Find our posts on the Next Door app under the profile RIMROCK TASKFORCE

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## **MILITARY HELICOPTER FACILITY PROGRESS (LAASF):**

**Reminder:** If you are interested in receiving regular updates on the progress of the military helicopter facility, please email [RimrockTaskForce@gmail.com](mailto:RimrockTaskForce@gmail.com) and let us know you'd like to receive **LAASF updates**. Those updates come directly from our Chair, Howard Evans, and are weekly, unless there is nothing new to report.



## **HELICOPTER RECOGNITION:**

Several members have observed increased helicopter traffic on the Rims.

These are the helicopters which are hangered on the north side of Highway 3

MTARNG BLACKHAWK



MTARNG LAKOTA



BFS CHINOOK





## **NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS:**

At our March meeting, we will again collect food or monetary donations for the Education Foundation for Billings Public Schools\*.

Donations help fund pantries and food back-pack programs which help students at risk for hunger.

*Donations help ease the worry of empty stomachs and help students focus on their education:*

<https://www.efbps.org/food-insecurity-programs.html>



*Over 500 students use the teen pantries each school year.*

*\*The Education Foundation for Billings Public Schools is not a governmental entity.*

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## **Trash & Cardboard Reminders and Schedule for 2025:**



## Remember... Put Everything Out by 7:00 AM

**If Monday**  
is your regular  
collection day...

Cardboard will be picked up  
the 1st Monday of each month

**1st**  
MONDAY

**If Tuesday**  
is your regular  
collection day...

Cardboard will be picked up  
the 2nd Tuesday of each month

**2nd**  
TUESDAY

**If Wednesday**  
is your regular  
collection day...

Cardboard will be picked up  
the 3rd Wednesday of each month

**3rd**  
WEDNESDAY

**If Thursday**  
is your regular  
collection day...

Cardboard will be picked up  
the 4th Thursday of each month

**4th**  
THURSDAY



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**Ever wonder how to find out what is either allowed or prohibited in the City of Billings?**

**Avoid costly fines by knowing what is expected!**

**This handy link will take you to our “City Code of Ordinances”:**  
[https://library.municode.com/mt/billings/codes/code\\_of\\_ordinances](https://library.municode.com/mt/billings/codes/code_of_ordinances)

**Or to visit with the Code Enforcement team,  
this link will take you to their contact info:**

[Code Enforcement Team](#)



Many thanks to Sgt. Jeff Stovall for his years of service to the task force.  
If you missed our January meeting, you likely haven't met our new BPD Liaison.



**Welcome  
Sgt. Glenn  
Gunther!**

*“A short introduction. I am a 17-year member of the Billings PD.*

*I recently left a specialty position and went back into patrol.  
I was a member of the Yellowstone County DUI Task Force for 5 1/2 years.*

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*I was assigned to the North Park Task Force for 3 years.*

*I am married, originally from South Dakota, and I am an MSU-Billings graduate.  
I am an Army veteran, and a father to two Great Danes and a cat."*



**NOTICE:** By the time you receive this newsletter, the Police Department, including the Crime Prevention Center, will be relocated to the new City Hall in the Stillwater Building (former Federal Building) at 316 N 26th Street.

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**City Council -**

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

Ward map to determine your representative -> [Click for City Ward Map](#)

**City Council Contact Information:** EMAIL: [Council@billingsmt.gov](mailto:Council@billingsmt.gov)

**P O Box 1178, Billings MT 59103**

**(406) 657-8433**

**Link to City Calendar which includes council meetings:**

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

**Ward 4:**

**Scott Aspenlieder**

**(406) 461-8392**

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

**Dan Tidswell**

**(406) 690-4534**

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

**Ward 1**

**Kendra Shaw**

**(406) 670-7772**

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

**Ed Gulick**

**(406) 698-2747**

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

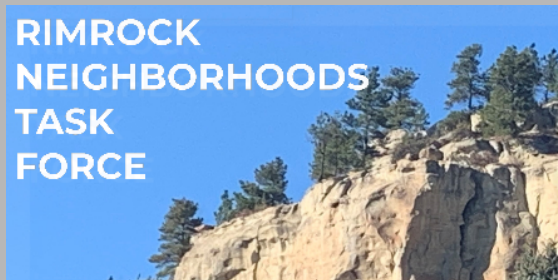
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Rimrock Neighborhoods Task Force does not politically endorse any current office holder or candidate.

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

We appreciate all public officials who attend and help with neighborhood issues.

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**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 - search for: RIMROCK TASKFORCE
- EMAIL the task force board: [RimrockTaskforce@gmail.com](mailto:RimrockTaskforce@gmail.com)  
Be sure to include a phone # when emailing, 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, simply highlight the website address, then copy and paste into your browser's search bar.

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Proposed by-law changes to be discussed and voted on during the March 19, 2025 RNTF meeting:

**Article VIII: Meetings - Current**

Section 1: Regular meetings shall be held on the third Wednesday of the following months: January, March, May, July, September and November. Meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. and end by 9:00 p.m., or as indicated in the agenda. Special meetings may be called and held as necessary.

Section 2: Agenda items should be submitted to the Chair at least 15 days in advance of the meeting. This agenda will be submitted to the City of Billings for publication on their website at: [www.billingsmt.gov/1730/Rimrock-Neighborhoods-Task-Force](http://www.billingsmt.gov/1730/Rimrock-Neighborhoods-Task-Force)

Section 3: Meetings will be held at Mayflower Church on the corner of Poly Drive and Rehberg Lane..

Section 4: The minutes of the last general meeting should be submitted to the City of Billings for publication on their web site within 30 days after the meeting.

**PROPOSED CHANGE**

Section 1: Regular general meetings shall be held on the third Wednesday of the following months: January, March, May, July, September, and November. General meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. and end by 9:00 p.m., or as indicated in the agenda. Special meetings may be called and held as necessary.

Section 2: General meetings will be held at Mayflower Church on the corner of Poly Drive and Rehberg Lane.

Section 3: By majority vote the Board may change the provisions of Sections 1 and 2 in a manner which provides our membership 30 days' notice, unless the change was made for emergency reasons. Should the Board change these provisions, notice will be posted on the City of Billings website at [www.billingsmt.gov/1730/Rimrock-Neighborhoods-Task-Force](http://www.billingsmt.gov/1730/Rimrock-Neighborhoods-Task-Force), and will be emailed to members who have provided their email contact info to the task force board. In the event of a tie vote by members of the Board, the Chair will break the tie, making the final decision.

Section 4: Agenda items for regular general meetings should be submitted to the Chair at least 15 days in advance of the scheduled meeting date, and should be sent by email to

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rimrocktaskforce@gmail.com. Each regular general meeting's agenda will be submitted to the City of Billings for publication on their website at:  
[www.billingsmt.gov/1730/Rimrock-Neighborhoods-Task-Force](http://www.billingsmt.gov/1730/Rimrock-Neighborhoods-Task-Force)

Section 5: The minutes of each general meeting will be submitted to the City of Billings for publication on their web site, which is noted in Sections 3 and 4, within 30 days after the meeting, and will be emailed to our membership email list.

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