



The CityLink

Official News and Information
from the City of Billings

Billings



Summer 2017

Mayor & City Council — City of Billings

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New CITY ADMINISTRATOR SEARCH

A Billings City Council subcommittee met on May 23, to review proposals from firms vying to recruit the next City Administrator.

Mayor Tom Hanel and Council Members Larry Brewster, Angela Cimmino, Richard Clark and Chris Friedel will continue work on replacing the current City Administrator, Tina Volek, who will retire when her contract expires at the end of September after nearly 13 years serving the Magic City. Volek holds the distinction of being the longest-serving Administrator in Billings' history and will be difficult to replace.

Eleven firms from across the country responded to a request for proposals for the executive search process. Tasks that

the successful firm likely will undertake include developing a recruitment campaign, conducting and reporting on preliminary candidate screening, facilitating interviews, and assisting the City in developing an employment offer for the successful candidate.

The committee narrowed the field down to three proposals and approved a timeline for selecting a consultant to help with the search. They forwarded their recommendation for an executive search firm to the entire City Council at the June 5 work session and approved a contract with the Mercer Group at the June 12 business meeting. Under the timeline, the new administrator could be selected by about Halloween, but might not be in place until Thanksgiving or later.

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Visit the City's website: <http://www.ci.billings.mt.us>



City Recognizes Long-Term Employees

In the Spring issue of the CityLink, two long-term employees' departments were listed incorrectly. James Mertz and Vernon Mashek, both with the City for 30 years, work for the Billings Fire Department. Our apologies!



NEWS FROM THE MET



STUDENT BUS PASSES:

Student Bus Passes may be purchased for only \$15 a month for the summer months (June, July and August)! Bus Passes may be purchased from any bus driver, at the MET Office located at 1705 Monad Road, or at the Finance counter of City Hall – 210 North 27th Street.

NEW FARES:

Monthly Bus Passes will increase July 1, 2017; cash fares and tickets will remain the same.

The fare increase is as follows:

MONTHLY PASSES

	Existing	New
Adult:	\$26	\$28
Student:	\$19	\$21
Elderly/Disabled:	\$10	\$12

Cash Fares and Tickets (remain the same)

Adult:	\$1.75
Student:	\$1.50
Elderly/Disabled:	\$0.85
10-Ride Ticket:	\$17.50
One-Ride Ticket:	\$1.75
One Day Pass"	\$4.00

You can get there by bus!

NEWS FROM THE ENGINEERING DIVISION

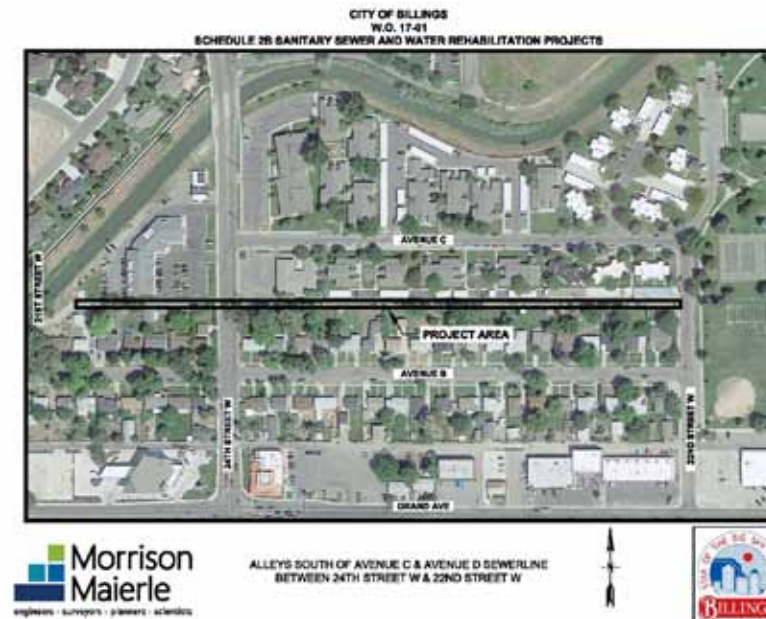
Schedule 1: South 24th Street West Waterline Replacement



City of Billings W.O. 17-01, Schedule 1
24th Street West Water Main Replacement Project

The water line replacement on 24th Street West from Central Avenue to Monad Road estimated start date is June 5th. The waterline that is being replaced is in the center of the street, so most of the work will be done primarily at night. The completion is scheduled for September 20th.

Schedule 2B: Rose Park Area Sewer Replacement



The sewer replacement in alleys by Rose Park area will be between Ave. C and Ave. D from 17th Street West to 21st Street West and between Ave. B and Ave. C from 17th Street West to BBWA Canal at approximately 25th Street West. The construction will start on June 12th and the work will primarily be in alleys and local streets, except for tie-ins and crossing of major streets. The construction on major street crossings will be dependent on the contractor's schedule. The work in 17th Street West at the alley between Ave C and Ave D will require full closure of 17th for a short period. Replacement in 17th Street West, 19th Street West, and 24th Street West will maintain two way traffic. The completion date is October 30th.

Schedule 2A: 32nd Street Waterline Replacement



The water line replacement on North 32nd Street from 9th Avenue North to 12th Avenue North is scheduled to start on July 12th. The work in front of McKinley School will be completed before school starts in August. The driver impact will be at the intersection of Parkhill/North 32nd and 11th Ave. North. The estimated completion date is also September 20th.

Schedule 2C: Miles/Howard/Cook from 26th – 28th Street West Sewer Replacement



The construction will start in mid-June for the sewer replacement in the alleys between 26th Street West and 28th Street West. The three areas will be between Miles Avenue and Howard Avenue, between Howard Avenue and Cook Avenue, and the alley south of Cook Avenue. Most of the work will be in the alleys and local streets, except for tie-ins and crossings of the major streets. The completion date is scheduled for August 28th.

Schedule 3: 6th Avenue North Water and Sewer Replacement

The estimated start of construction will be June 12th with sewer and waterline replacement from North 27th Street to Grand Avenue. There will be two lanes of traffic on 6th Avenue throughout the construction. There will be short closures on North 32nd and Division Streets which may include some night work. Grand Avenue will be constricted to one lane in each direction between Division Street and 2nd Street West during construction. The completion date is October 20th.

City of Billings W.O. 17-01, Schedule 3
6th Avenue North Water & Sewer Main Replacement Project



Widening of Grand Avenue is already well underway

The project to widen Grand Avenue from 52nd Street West to 58th Street West to a three lane section is in full swing.

This includes constructing two driving lanes and a center two-way turn lane.

The project also includes the construction of a multi-use path along the south side of Grand Avenue from 52nd Street West to 58th Street West and along the west

side of 54th Street West from Grand Avenue to Rimrock Road.

Sections of sidewalk will be completed along the north side of Grand Avenue and east side of 54th Street West.

Also included in the project is the construction of a traffic signal at the intersection of 54th Street West and Grand Avenue and a pedestrian crossing signal (HAWK signal) in front of the Ben Steel Middle School.

Knife River is the general contractor for the project and started on April 17 with work anticipated to be completed Aug. 4.

For construction updates, please visit <http://ci.billings.mt.us/2468/WO-16-09-Grand-Avenue> or follow City of Billings Engineering on Facebook.



Treatment Court Participants Prep Community Garden

It's 9 a.m. on April 26 ... 38 degrees, overcast with occasional snowflakes followed by an ongoing downpour of rain. Not ideal conditions for gardening in most parts of the country.

But in Billings, Montana, 25 treatment court participants converge on the City of Billings' Amend Park Community Garden to serve our community and think spring.

Billings Municipal Court offers three treatment courts (Drug, DUI and Co-Occurring).

Treatment court is alternative sentencing for offenders who are committed to a rigorous program that includes months of chemical dependency treatment, court-ordered classes, self-help group attendance, probation oversight, and drug/alcohol testing.

Research shows that those who complete the 12 to 16-month program are less likely to recidivate, and they report positive outcomes that impact their careers, quality of life and family connections.

Most Wednesdays, treatment court participants meet individually before Judge Kolar who presides over treatment court. Typically once per quarter, participants take time away from the courtroom to perform a service project to give back to our community.

Chris Waite, Billings Parks and Recreation volunteer coordinator, and AmeriCorps Vista's Lillian Muecke, oversaw the project and kept everyone engaged with various garden prep activities.



New Municipal Court Grant Funds

Billings Co-Occurring Court is one of only two co-occurring courts in the state; the other is Missoula.

The court launched in October 2016 through a \$349,253 Bureau of Justice Assistance grant.

The three-year grant provides services to 60 offenders (felonies or misdemeanors) with severe, disabling mental illness and chemical dependency addiction. The target population has a high risk for reoffending and a high need for concentrated services and sustained interventions.

Community partnerships with Mental Health Center, Rimrock and National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) are key to the program's effectiveness.

Treatment will exponentially reduce the likelihood of recidivism and contribute to stable lifestyles, which enhance community safety.



Turn Trash into Trees Program

RECYCLES PAPER AND ALUMINUM

Billings has had a "Turn Trash into Trees" program since 1980. In those "olden" days, community residents would save up a six-month supply of newspapers and aluminum cans and, twice a year, gather to combine their assemblage of small piles into one BIG PILE that was shipped off to a recycling center and redeemed for cash used to buy trees for city parks.

In 1998, the last of the bi-annual recycling parties on behalf of trees was held and in its stead bins were set out so that citizen-recyclers could drop off their accumulated abundance when it was convenient for them, avoiding storage problems at home and providing a more even flow of income to the Urban Forestry Division.

Since 1980 more than 3.9 million pounds of newspapers and 68 tons of aluminum have passed through these bins, providing more than \$112,000 in revenue used to buy and plant nearly 2200 trees – about 20 percent of all Park trees!

This revenue is more important than ever today because 20-30 percent of trees in Billings are ash (*Fraxinus*), all of which could be lost to the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). Planting trees that are not affected by the EAB will help us minimize the impact of EAB when/if it arrives and maintain continued green and shade as adapt to its presence.

"Turn Trash into Trees" bins are located at Veterans and Castle Rock Parks and in the Lowe's parking lot at 2717 King Ave W. Remember to recycle ONLY newspaper and aluminum at these bins.

For a recent article on EAB effects of EAB to urban forests please see: <http://www.startribune.com/minneapolis-and-st-paul-are-losing-thousands-of-trees-to-emerald-ash-borer/421687683/> With planning, the EAB arrival to Billings can be as much of a non-event as Y2K was to Armageddon and all we have to do to make it so is turn our trash into trees.



A "TURN-TRASH-INTO-TREES" BIN AS IT LOOKS TODAY AFTER 19 YEARS OF RUGGED USE. ALL BINS WILL BE GETTING A "FACELIFT" THIS SUMMER. KEEP A WATCH OUT FOR THEIR NEW LOOK!



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News from Billings Parks, Recreation and Public Lands

The warm weather has arrived! That means that it is time for summer fun!

Billings Parks and Recreation has activities for everyone this season.

There are two City of Billings pools which were scheduled to open on June 7. Rose Park pool is open daily from 12 p.m. to 8 p.m., and South Park pool is open from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m.



Individual and family passes can be purchased from the Parks and Recreation main office between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. See <http://www.billingsparks.org/facilities/aquatics-2-2/> for more information and prices.

Along with the swimming pools, there are two wading pools and four spraygrounds for young children to enjoy. The wading pools were to open June 12 and will be open daily from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. The spraygrounds are open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. The locations can be found on the Parks and Recreation website.

Swimming lessons are offered again this summer at Rose and South pools. The American Red Cross Swimming and Water Safety Program features six levels of instruction to help swimmers of all abilities and ages learn to develop their water skills. There are seven, one week long sessions starting June 19. Times range from 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. and the cost is \$55. Participants will be evaluated on the first day of class and placed into the appropriate level of swimming ability.

Be sure to visit the website to view all of the swimming lesson options offered this summer.



The 2017 Billings Parks and Recreation summer tennis program was scheduled to begin June 5 for both youth and adults. Each session runs for three weeks and will run until Aug. 3.

This year, youth tennis is being offered at your choice of three parks; Pioneer, Rose, and Castle Rock. Sessions are being offered in the morning at all three of the parks listed.

Evening lessons for both youth and adults will be held at Pioneer Park beginning at 5:30 p.m. Advanced tennis lessons are also being offered at Central Park for players who want to bring their skills to the next level. These advanced sessions are being taught by Brad Knutson, a USPTA professional. Visit the website for a full breakdown of the tennis sessions, times, and age divisions.

Not a tennis player? Parks and Recreation has many different sports camps happening throughout the summer. Kids can try baseball camp starting July 10 for ages 6-11, soccer camp starting June 26 for ages 3-12, volleyball camp starting July 24 for ages 7-14, cheer and dance camp starting June 19 for ages 4-11, golf lessons starting June 20 for ages 8-13, and flag football camp starting July 24 for ages 5-12. New this year to the sports camp series is Lacrosse camp, June 26 for kids ages 7-14.



The award-winning Adventure Camp series began June 5 and features themes such as Zombie Survival and Survivor Challenge. Each week, campers will participate in exciting activities based on each theme. Be sure to register soon because spots are filling up quickly! The Adventure series is open to kids ages 8-14 and ranges in price from \$149 to \$229, depending on the session.

Back by popular demand is the Girls Ninja Warrior Camp. In conjunction with the Girl Scouts of Montana and Wyoming, this exclusive camp for girls will test young ninjas' inner courage. Each participant will learn the ways of the ninja and perform several clan challenges and team building activities. Camp will be held July 10 – July 14 and July 31 – Aug. 4. Camp registration also includes a one year Girl Scout membership. For more information, please call the Parks

and Recreation office.

Also returning this summer is the fun and exciting Play-house series. Camp events are particularly tailored to young kids (ages 5-8), this camp offers engaging activities and creative themes. Session themes include "science week" where participants get to learn and conduct science experiments, "creepy crawlies" which teaches all about bugs, and many more! Camps are \$100 for the full day session option or \$60



for the half day session. Just as with many of the programs and camps offered, register soon so that you don't miss out!

Making a comeback this year is the Magic City summer camp. This camp is for kids' ages 7-12 who want to explore all that the Magic City has to offer. Campers will get the opportunity to travel around Billings and the surrounding community for fun activities. Don't wait to register for this camp that has made a comeback!

Kids aren't the only ones who can participate in programs this summer. There are many sports and fitness courses for adults as well. Check out the new programs such as Zumba and Yoga in the Park, Strong and Fit, Nia and others. New this summer is the 'Coffee Conversations' walking program. This class provides active adults the opportunity to walk and talk with a different professional every meeting such as a pharmacist, physical therapist and others. Whether you are looking for an intense fitness training session or a calming walk in one of the many Billings parks, look no further than the Parks and Recreation summer line-up.

Billings Parks and Recreation offers many different camps and programs for people of all ages and interest. Go to www.billingsparks.org/recreation to view all of the summer activity choices. Registration may be done online, in person, or by a mailed in registration form.

The Billings Parks, Recreation, and Public Lands office is located at 390 N. 23rd St. Billings, MT 59101. Don't miss out on the opportunity to have a summer filled with fun and adventure!



2017 Service Directory

AIRPORT-BILLINGS LOGAN INTERNATIONAL

Airport Information247-8609
Airport Administration657-8495
Airport Police.....657-8498
Airport Operations.....657-8496
Edwards Jet Center252-0508
Parking – SP Plus.....259-8545
Gateway Restaurant & Lounge ..256-8446
TSA–24/7 Customer Service..... 877-846-5737

ANIMAL CONTROL657-8226

ANIMAL LICENSING657-8226

ANIMAL SHELTER

Yellowstone Valley
Animal Shelter.....294-7387
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday:
Noon – 7 pm
Saturdays: Noon – 5 pm
Sundays: Noon – 5 pm
Lost Pet Hotline294-1138

BUILDING DIVISION

Building Permits657-8270
Building & Plumbing
Inspections657-8277
Plan Review657-8271
Business Licenses657-8364

CEMETERY DIVISION...657-8299

CITY

ADMINISTRATOR.....657-8430
Assistant City Administrator657-8222
City Clerk.....657-8210

CITY ATTORNEY657-8205

CITY COUNCIL INFORMATION.....657-8433

CODE ENFORCEMENT – ZONING & WEED COMPLAINTS.....241-6146

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

.....657-8281
Community Development
Manager.....657-8286
Home Repair Program657-8284
First Time Homebuyer
Program.....657-3045

COMMUNITY & SENIOR CENTER657-3050

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT237-6294

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Accounts Payable657-8224
Business Tax Information657-8364
City Tax Information – SID's.....657-8223
Municipal Bonds.....657-8363
Purchasing657-8216
Other Finance Services.....657-8207

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Emergencies Only911
Non-Emergency
8 am to 5 pm weekdays:
Fire Department
Administration..... 657-8423
Fire Prevention Bureau657-8423

FLEET SERVICES657-8407

GARBAGE (SOLID WASTE)657-8260

GIS SERVICES247-8512

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

123 S. 27th247-3200

HUMAN RESOURCES ...237-6210

JAIL256-6881

LANDFILL657-8260

LIBRARY (BILLINGS PUBLIC)

Information Services657-8258
Children's Services657-8256
Bookmobile657-3091
Senior-Homebound.....657-8255
Hours.....657-8259
Website: www.billingslibrary.org

MAYOR657-8296

MET TRANSIT

Information & Schedules657-8218
MET Special Transit
Reservation248-8805

MOUNTVIEW CEMETERY657-8299

MUNICIPAL COURT

(City Hall Second Floor)
Bond & Traffic Citation Info.....657-8490
Juror Information (24 Hrs)247-8653

PARKING DIVISION

Enforcement, Parking Tickets
& Meter Repair657-8412
Park One Garage657-8212
Park Two Garage657-8279
Park Three Garage657-8212
Empire Garage.....657-8412

PARKS-RECREATION & PUBLIC LANDS

Administration657-8371
Community & Senior Center.....657-3050
Forester/Natural Resources.....237-6227
Mountview Cemetery657-8299
Parks Division.....657-8371
Recreation Division657-8371
Fax247-8641
Website.....www.BillingsParks.org

PLANNING & ZONING247-8676

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Emergencies Only.....911
Non-Emergencies657-8200
PD Records.....657-8460
(Open 8am-6pm weekdays & 10 am -
Noon Saturday)
Detective Division.....657-8473
Public Relations657-8464
Crime Prevention Center247-8590
(Open 9 am to 4 pm weekdays)
Fingerprinting
- Call Crime Prevention Center
Montana Internet Crimes Against
Children (ICAC)839-9070
Online Reporting www.Billingspolice.com

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Public Works Administration657-8230
Engineering Division657-8231
Right-of-Way Permits &
Inspections...657-8307
Traffic Engineer657-8231
Environmental Affairs.....247-8517
Meter Shop657-8331
Solid Waste Division & Landfill..657-8260
Street/Traffic Division657-8250
Storm Drain & Street Light
Maintenance657-8250
Traffic Signals657-8250
Water Bills - On/Off Orders – Payments
(Open 8 am to 5 pm weekdays).....
.....657-8315
Water Emergencies
(8 am to 5 pm weekdays)657-8305
Water Emergencies
(After 5 pm, weekends & holidays)
.....657-8353
Wastewater Treatment Plant657-8356
Water Treatment Plant657-8353

PURCHASING DIVISION657-8216

TAXES
City Taxes657-8223

ZONING657-8246