



The CityLink

Official News and Information
from the City of Billings



Spring 2018

Mayor & City Council — City of Billings

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What is Arbor Day?

On Arbor Day we consider why trees matter and make time to appreciate the benefits they provide. In addition to their beauty, trees provide food, shade and wildlife habitat. Trees clean our air, storing carbon and other elements we've probably never even thought about.

While not yet an official holiday, more and more people mark the day with a public gathering, community projects, official proclamations and wise words from community leaders.

Arbor Day was originally founded by Julius Morton of Nebraska City, Nebraska, and was first observed on April 10, 1872. That year, thousands of people participated and an estimated one million trees were planted throughout Nebraska. President Theodore Roosevelt was a huge advocate of conservation and in 1907 he issued an "Arbor Day Proclamation to the School Children of the United States." By the 1920's, every state had established a specific date for Arbor Day observation.

In spring 1909, The Billings Gazette reported on the first large Arbor Day celebration in Billings. Banks, schools, city and county governments and many private businesses closed for the day to plant trees



throughout Billings! More than 200 poplar trees were planted in South Park alone.

In 1983, Billings began celebrating Arbor Day in conjunction with Tree City USA and the Arbor Day Foundation. In 2014, Billings won the "Gold Leaf Award" for holding the best Arbor Day event in a four-state region - Montana, Wyoming, Colorado and New Mexico.

Arbor Day 2018, Billings' 34th as a Tree City USA community, will be held in Optimist Park on Thursday, May 3. There will be environmental education booths for 4th grade students. Activities will include park cleanup, tree planting, pruning, mulching, landscaping, and a tree planting ceremony.

If you would like to be a part of Arbor Day 2018, please contact the Parks and Recreation Department at (406) 657-8371.

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THE CITY OF BILLINGS RECEIVES “ROCK STARS OF HEALTH AWARD”



Award 2017
S I L V E R

The City of Billings was awarded the “Rock Stars of Health Award” during The Rock Stars of Health Summit held in Missoula in September.

“The award recognizes innovation in the implementation of employee health initiatives that unify expertise in wellness, employee health, safety, risk management, and employee benefits,” said Dan Keith, President of the Rock Stars of Health Summit.

The Summit attracts employers, employee benefit decision-makers, employee benefits consultants, wellness coordinators, and other implementers of employee health and benefit services



HR Associate, Leta Lintern, accepting the City of Billings award

who desire to be on the cutting edge of employee health, wellness, and benefit integration.

The City was recognized for the benefits and programs provided to employees, such as: annual health assessments including comprehensive blood panel and lab testing; flu shots; mammograms; quarterly wellness activities including the annual “Maintain, Don’t Gain Holiday challenge; monthly wellness newsletters with tips and healthy recipes; participating in the Quality of Life run; negotiated discounts for employees at local health clubs; and various programs in partnership with the YMCA.

MEMORIAL TREES

*“I've heard that there can never be,
a poem as lovely as a tree.
But you'll take this poem and like it see?
Cause I ain't giving you no tree.”*



One of the great ways of giving a tree to someone you love, admire, respect or just plain want to have remembered is through the purchase of a Memorial Tree, which you can arrange through Billings’

Urban Forestry Division: <http://www.billingssparks.org/forestry/programs-2/memorial-tree-program>. You can also call Steve McConnell, City Forester, at (406) 237-6227 for additional information.

Trees are great for the city because of all the benefits they provide, starting with just being nice to look at. They provide shade on long, hot summer days, homes for birds and other wildlife, and they clean particulates from the air. Trees take in water which reduces the need for expensive fixes from engineered solutions to storm water management.

Trees last a long time, ensuring that the person or occasion remembered by a tree planted today will be seen by people yet unborn who will, because of that tree, enjoy a more beautiful and healthier city.

There are multiple tree species to pick from. The Forestry Division maintains a list of both trees and parks from which you can choose.

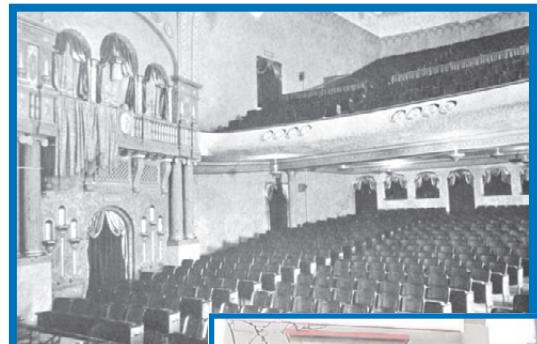
As part of the Memorial Tree program, you also have the opportunity to order a plaque or a bench in remembrance of your loved one.



And our apologies to Joyce Kilmer...



THE HISTORIC BABCOCK THEATER



The Babcock Theatre, located at the corner of N. Broadway and 2nd Ave. North, is a 750-seat performing arts theater in downtown Billings. It was built in 1907 and at the time was considered the largest theater between Minneapolis and Seattle.



Today, after extensive renovations, it hosts a variety of local and national acts.

The Theatre served as an important anchor in the northern expansion of Billings' downtown from its origins along the railroad tracks and the Northern Pacific Depot. The building is linked to a range of uses important to the growth of culture and commerce in the city. The building is a significant downtown landmark, which is on the historic register.

Designed by renowned Seattle theatre architect Edwin W. Houghton, the building, designed in the Two-Block Commercial style, contrasts with the more common Classical Revival styles of the surrounding area. The theatre evolved over time but remains an excellent example of the Skouras-Style theatre design.

In 2008, the City of Billings approved a grant to the Babcock LLC to assist with purchasing and restoring the Babcock building. The development agreement required the owners to perform specified restoration work on the theater and to deed that portion of the property to the City at a later date.

To prepare for the theater's transfer to the City, the City Council created an Ad Hoc Committee to advise the governing body regarding the Theater's future use.

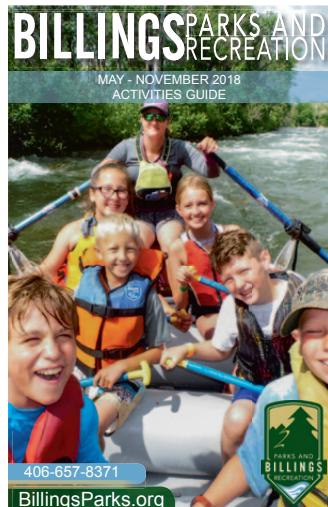
City staff developed and issued a Request for Proposals to lease the Babcock Theater. Two proposals were received and Council selected the Art House Cinema & Pub to manage the property.

City Staff has begun the process of negotiating a lease and operating agreement between the City and the non-profit company, which plans to expand upon their existing business downtown and offer full-feature films in the Theater.

News from Billings Parks, Recreation and Public Lands

The Billings Parks and Recreation Department is gearing up for another program-packed spring! There will be activities for participants of all ages. For more information or to register online, please visit www.BillingsParks.org. You may also call the office at (406) 657-8371.

Stay tuned for the upcoming release of the Summer Program Guide on April 1! Swing by the Billings Parks & Recreation office at 390 N. 23rd Street, to grab your complimentary copy. Programs fill up fast; so don't miss out on all of the fun!



Adult Coed Soccer

Come kick the ball around by playing in the upcoming Spring Adult Soccer League. Men's, Women's, and Coed Leagues will begin on April 8. Deadline to register your team is Friday, March 30. Registration is \$275 per team. This team fee includes 7 regular season games. Games are played 8v8 on junior fields.



Spikeball

This fast-paced activity mixes together components of volleyball and four-square played in an exciting 2v2 fashion. Once the service is hit against the net, it bounces up to the opposing team and the game is on. Teams have three hits to hit the ball back against the net. Hard hits and drop shots are encouraged. Registration Cost is \$60 per team. Deadline to register for the 2018 season is March 19.



Badminton

Parks and Recreation is bringing back a classic! Come kick it "old school" in this classic, high-speed game that is sure to make everyone's grandparents jealous. Grab your partner and enter into this all-day double-elimination tournament on Saturday, April 7. It's going to be a smash! The registration cost is \$35 per team.

American Red Cross Babysitter Training

A fun, fast-paced course with hands-on activities, exciting videos, role-plays, and lively discussions. Learn to be the best babysitter on the block, while gaining the confidence to make smart decisions and stay safe in any babysitting situation. Registration is open to those ages 11-15 years old and is \$65 for Billings residents. Class will be held on Saturday, April 7 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Learn to Fly Fish

This class includes everything you need to know about fly fishing! Learn how to set up and fish streamers, nymphs and dry flies, tie knots, etc. Learn what fish feed on, keys to successful fly fishing, and "hands-on" casting practice. The fly fishing class will be held on April 16, 19, 23, 26 and 28. Plan to bring your fly rod for the Saturday casting practice. The casting practice will be determined during the course of the class. Registration is open to those ages 16 and older with a cost of \$45 per participant



Short-Court 2v2 Volleyball Tournament

Billings Parks and Recreation is hosting an adult 2v2 short-court volleyball tournament on April 21. Games will be played on a smaller court with similar rules to beach volleyball. Grab a partner and don't miss out on some high speed volleyball action. Spiking, diving, and high-fiving are encouraged! Registration cost is \$30 per team.

Back Packing 101

This class will teach participants how to plan, pack, and successfully complete short day or long overnight backpacking adventures. Discover what gear is necessary, which clothing is recommended, how to pack your supplies, and select your ideal trail. Cost is \$15 for Billings residents. Course will be held on Wednesday, April 18 at the Billings Community Center (360 N. 23rd Street).



BILLINGS POLICE HISTORICAL CENTER

Located in the basement of City Hall there is a door identifying the "Billings Police Historical Center," or more affectionately called, "the museum" by many in the Billings Police Department. Behind this door is a small room holding Department artifacts, some dating to the early 1930's or earlier.

The have been locked away for years and very few people are even aware of the museum's existence.

In January 2016, members of the Billings Police Protective Association (BPPA) and Department employees wanted to change that. The goal was to find out what kind of items were in the museum and to eventually display items chronicling the Department's history.

With the blessing of Chief St. John and other administrative personnel, a few members and employees volunteered their time and began looking through mounds of clothing, leather gear and boxes containing unknown items. What they found were photographs that many had never seen before and probably only a few retired and current officers knew existed. Among other items, they found old uniforms,

uniform patches, along with night sticks, old fashioned lead-filled leather hand batons (SAPs), and other weapons.

Volunteers continue to comb through artifacts and have begun the daunting task of inventorying, photographing and documenting the items.

In 1991, numerous items from the Department were loaned to the Montana Law Enforcement Museum (MLEM) which was then located in Deer Lodge. MLEM moved to Great Falls around 2005, and then in June 2015 to Philipsburg, where it is currently located. Current BPPA members are working with members of the MLEM to locate the loaned

items as it appears many may be missing.

One day, members would like to have an area to display and share the Department's history not only with its officers but with the citizens of Billings and visitors from out of town.

The BPPA is looking for police-related items to help grow the museum. If items are loaned or donated to the museum on a temporary or permanent basis, first and foremost credit would be given to those who made the loan or donation. Also, proper documentation and accounting procedures would be followed in the event items need to be returned. If items cannot be loaned or donated to the museum, the association is asking



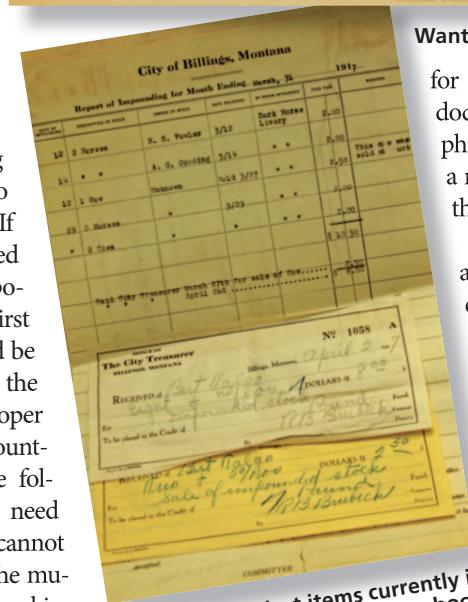
Photo of police department circa 1929-1931



Wanted Poster from 1928

for the opportunity to document, scan and photograph the items so a record can be kept of the items that exist.

Anyone who has any old police-related items or knows where they can be found, is encouraged to contact Joel Watson at (406) 657-8460 or watsonj@ci.billings.mt.us.



One of the oldest items currently in the museum - a police ledger book showing receipts by Chief Bert Talgo for impounded stock and sale of impounded stock - March 1917

CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY

The next Citizens Police Academy, which is already full, is scheduled to begin on Tuesday, April 3.

The Police Department conducts two Academy sessions per year. Seating is limited to 20 participants per session.

This hands-on class meets on Tuesday evenings from 6 to 9 p.m. for eight weeks. Topics of discussion include: Domestic Violence, DUI and Crime Scene Investigations, K-9, Bomb Squad, S.W.A.T., and firearms use.

For more information or to apply for the next session to be held in the fall, contact Jamie Wegner by telephone at (406) 657-8452 or via e-mail at wegnerj@ci.billings.mt.us or Lt. Neil Lawrence by telephone at (406) 657-8375 or via e-mail at lawrencen@ci.billings.mt.us.



“EVERY SECOND COUNTS: PLAN 2 WAYS OUT!”

Fire prevention week was celebrated the second week of October with open houses held at each of the seven fire stations. This year's theme focused on the importance of home fire escape planning. This year's key messages were:

✓ Draw a map of your home with all members of your household, marking two exits from each room and a path to the outside from each exit.

- ✓ Practice your home fire drill twice a year. Conduct one at night and one during the day with everyone in your home, and practice using different ways out.
- ✓ Teach children how to escape on their own in case you can't help them.
- ✓ Make sure the address of your home is clearly marked and easy for the fire department to find.

- ✓ Close doors behind you as you leave – this may slow the spread of smoke, heat, and fire.
- ✓ Once you get outside, stay outside. Never go back inside a burning building.

To schedule a fire station tour, call (406) 657-8423. Thank you to all who attended the tours this year and helped to make Fire Prevention Week 2017 a huge success!

SMOKE AND CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS



Smoke alarms are a key part of a home fire escape plan. When there is a fire, smoke spreads fast. Working smoke alarms give you early warning so you can get outside quickly.

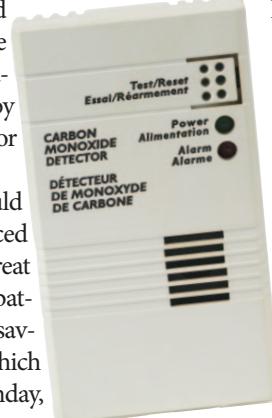
Every house or apartment should have smoke alarms. In addition to being tested every month, they should be placed in each bedroom, hallway, and on every level of the house.

However, not every smoke alarm on the market today includes a carbon monoxide alarm. Often called the invisible

killer, carbon monoxide is an invisible, odorless, colorless gas created when fuels (such as gasoline, wood, coal, natural gas, propane, oil, and methane) burn incompletely. In the home, heating and cooking equipment that burn fuel can be sources of carbon monoxide.

Carbon monoxide alarms should be installed in a central location outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home and in other locations where required by applicable laws, codes or standards.

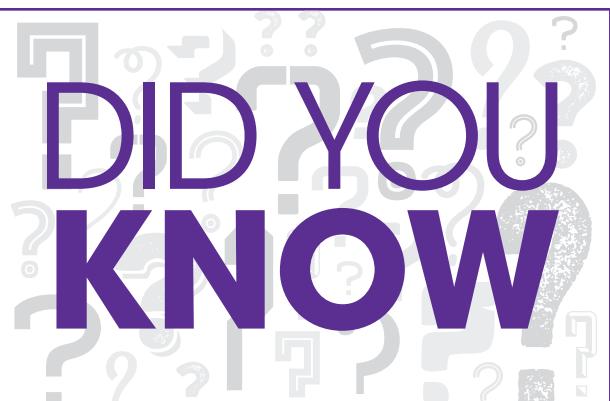
Both devices should have the batteries replaced every 6 months. A great reminder is to replace batteries during daylight savings time changes which this year will be on Sunday,



March 11, and during Fire Prevention Month which is always in October. However, there is no need to wait, especially if you haven't tested these in the past month or year.

It is also recommended to replace your smoke alarms every 10 years, and carbon monoxide alarms per the manufacturer's instructions. These devices may have an expiration date label on them, or a date telling you when it was installed.

These devices will have a few different warning sounds. It would be hard to define the different tones and blinks on your device, however, a quick look in the installation guide could tell you if your device is warning you to replace the batteries or indicating a problem.



- The Recreation Division provides 137 recreation programs for people of all ages (pre-school through active adults 55+ and senior citizens). In 2017, the Recreation Division had 6,245 people participate in various programs.
- In 2017, the parks restrooms went through 2,880 rolls of toilet paper and hauled 520 yards of trash from the parks.
- In 2017, Rose Park Pool and South Park Pool had over 40,000 combined visits.
- The Billings Community & Senior Center had 19,429 visits in 2017.
- Through a partnership with the Adult Resource Alliance of Yellowstone County, 5,566 meals were served at the Billings Community and Senior Center in 2017.
- Billings has 47 developed parks, and the Parks Division manages 2,555 acres of both developed and undeveloped parkland.
- There are 530 miles of streets in Billings and 123.4 miles of alleys within the City limits.
- The Billings Public Library houses 226,109 items. That number includes books, DVDs, music CDs, eBooks and books on CD. The Library's collection of free online music has millions of downloadable songs.
- In 2017, the Billings Police Department was dispatched for 94,643 calls. 6,762 property crimes and 540 violent crimes were reported. 3,914 traffic accidents were reported and the BPD made 569 DUI arrests.
- The Animal Control Division handled 4,039 stray cats and dogs, issued 868 citations, sold 5,332 licenses, and currently have 11,019 licensed animals, as of the end of 2017.
- In 2017, the Billings Logan International Airport had 425,691 enplanements (passengers boarding flights), 427,868 deplanements (passengers getting off flights), 10,908 total airline flights and 10,802 aircraft landings.

GARDENING WITH THE BILLINGS PARKS DIVISION

With spring weather on the way, the Parks Division is gearing up for another season of community gardening.

This year there are several ways for citizens to get busy growing those nutritious vegetables. The Parks Division has two traditional community gardens (Amend and Songbird) where citizens can rent plots for the season. Prices range from \$15-\$40 depending on the plot size. In 2017, the gardens harvested 7,609 pounds of produce.

In addition to the nutritional benefits, the community gardens are a great place to meet new people and get involved in the community.

After a successful pilot program in 2017, the Parks Division is now offering a container garden checkout program for those who have limitations that prevent them from being part of a traditional garden. This program can bring the benefits of gardening to your home. Containers can be checked out from May through September and come with soil and seeds.

Applications are now being accepted for community garden plots and container gardens. To get an application, or find out more about the gardening programs, visit <http://www.billingsparks.org/community-gardens/>.



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PUBLIC WORKS-ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS DIVISION

To improve our water quality and to stay in compliance with state and federal regulations, the City of Billings has adopted and Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE) Ordinance.

This ordinance prohibits the discharge of pollutants into our local waters, regulates connections to the storm sewer systems, and outlines enforcement procedures and penalties.

The IDDE ordinance applies to non-storm water discharges in areas within the City limits. The following are typical illicit discharges:

- Dumping household chemicals
- Dumping leaves and yard waste
- Dumping motor oil
- Sanitary wastewater (sewage)
- Car wash wastewater
- Litter and garbage
- Pet waste
- Sediment from construction sites



Remember...

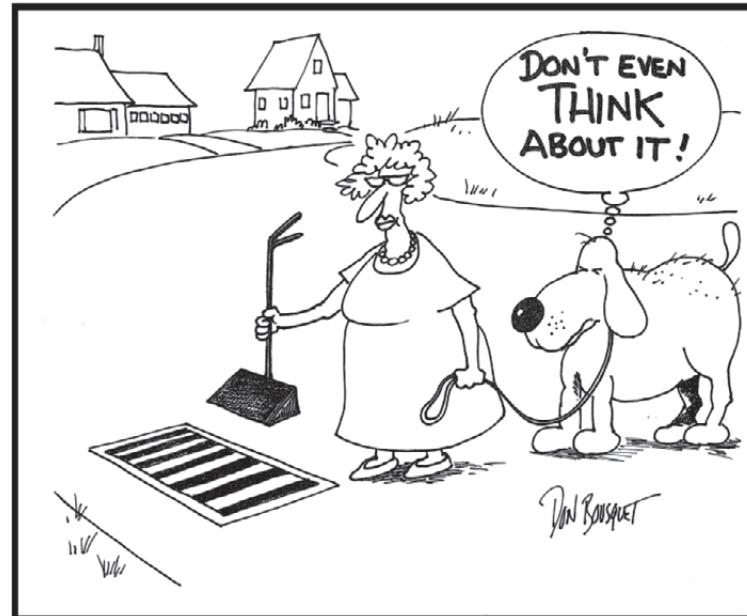
- What we do on land affects the quality of water we drink and use in so many ways.
- Many small sources of pollution add up to cause large water quality problems.
- Natural things, such as soil, leaves, grass clippings, and pet waste can cause water pollution and /or flooding.
- Waste dumped into the storm sewers ultimately ends up in the Yellowstone River.



What can you do?

- Dispose of paint, cleaners and other household chemical according to label directions.
- When at home, wash your car so that wastewater drains to grass, not to the storm drain system.

- Promptly clean up after your pet.
- Recycle used motor oil at participating centers.
- Vegetate bare areas to reduce soil erosion.



KEEP
IT
CLEAN

Holiday Schedule:

Holiday	Date	Trash Collection	Landfill
Presidents Day	Monday, February 19	On Schedule	OPEN
Memorial Day	Monday, May 28	Delayed one day	CLOSED
Fourth of July	Wednesday, July 4	Delayed one day	CLOSED
Labor Day	Monday, September 3	Delayed one day	CLOSED

If collection is delayed one day, it only affects the customers who would normally have trash pickup on that day and the days following. For example: Fourth of July-- only Wednesday, Thursday and Friday collection will be affected. The Landfill will be open on President's Day and will be closed Memorial Day, Fourth of July and Labor Day.

Yard waste pickup will start the first full week of April and end the last full week of November. The Landfill is only closed one day on the major holidays and that is the day of the holiday.

2018 Service Directory

AIRPORT-BILLINGS LOGAN INTERNATIONAL

Airport Information	247-8609
Airport Administration	657-8495
Airport Police	657-8498
Airport Operations	657-8496
Edwards Jet Center	252-0508
Parking – SP Plus	259-8545
Gateway Restaurant & Lounge	256-8446
TSA-24/7 Customer Service	877-846-5737

ANIMAL CONTROL

ANIMAL LICENSING

ANIMAL SHELTER

Yellowstone Valley Animal Shelter	294-7387
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: Noon – 7 pm	
Saturdays: Noon – 6 pm	
Sundays: Noon – 6 pm	
Lost Pet Hotline	294-1138

BUILDING DIVISION

Building Permits	657-8270
Building & Plumbing Inspections	657-8277
Plan Review	657-8271
Business Licenses	657-8364

CEMETERY DIVISION

CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Assistant City Administrator	657-8222
City Clerk	657-8210

CITY ATTORNEY

CITY COUNCIL INFORMATION

CODE ENFORCEMENT – ZONING & WEED COMPLAINTS

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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

COMMUNITY & SENIOR CENTER

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Accounts Payable	657-8224
Business Tax Information	657-8364
City Tax Information – SID's	657-8223
Municipal Bonds	657-8363
Purchasing	657-8216
Other Finance Services	657-8207

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Emergencies Only	911
Non-Emergency 8 am to 5 pm weekdays:	
Fire Department Administration	657-8423
Fire Prevention Bureau	657-8423

FLEET SERVICES

GARBAGE (SOLID WASTE)

GIS SERVICES

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

123 S. 27th	247-3200
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HUMAN RESOURCES

JAIL

LANDFILL

LIBRARY (BILLINGS PUBLIC)

Information Services	657-8258
Children's Services	657-8256
Bookmobile	657-3091
Senior-Homebound	657-8255
Hours	657-8259

Website: www.billings.lib.mt.us

MAYOR

MET TRANSIT

Information & Schedules	657-8218
MET Special Transit Reservation	248-8805

MOUNTVIEW CEMETERY

MUNICIPAL COURT

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

PARKING DIVISION

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

PARKS-RECREATION & PUBLIC LANDS

Administration	657-8371
Community & Senior Center	657-3050
Forester/Natural Resources	237-6227
Mountview Cemetery	657-8299
Parks Division	657-8372
Recreation Division	657-8371
Fax	247-8641
Website	www.BillingsParks.org

PLANNING & ZONING

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Emergencies Only	911
Non-Emergencies	657-8200
PD Records	657-8460
(Open 8am-6pm weekdays & 10 am - Noon Saturday)	
Detective Division	657-8473

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Crime Prevention Center	247-8590
(Open 9 am to 4 pm weekdays)	
Fingerprinting	
- Call Crime Prevention Center	

Montana Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC)

839-9070

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

PUBLIC WORKS ADMINISTRATION

Engineering Division	657-8231
Right-of-Way Permits & Inspections	657-8307
Traffic Engineer	657-8231
Environmental Affairs	247-8517
Meter Shop	657-8331

SOLID WASTE DIVISION & LANDFILL

STREET/TRAFFIC DIVISION

STORM DRAIN & STREET LIGHT

Maintenance

TRAFFIC SIGNALS

WATER BILLS - ON/OFF ORDERS – PAYMENTS

(Open 8 am to 5 pm weekdays)

..... 657-8315

WATER EMERGENCIES (8 AM TO 5 PM WEEKDAYS)

WATER EMERGENCIES (AFTER 5 PM, WEEKENDS & HOLIDAYS)

..... 657-8353

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

WATER TREATMENT PLANT

..... 657-8353

PURCHASING DIVISION

..... 657-8216

TAXES

CITY TAXES

..... 657-8223

ZONING

..... 657-8246