

The CITY LINK



WINTER 2020-2021



OFFICIAL NEWS AND INFORMATION FROM THE CITY OF BILLINGS

Mayor & City Council — City of Billings 2020-2021

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Visit us online at <http://billingsmt.gov>

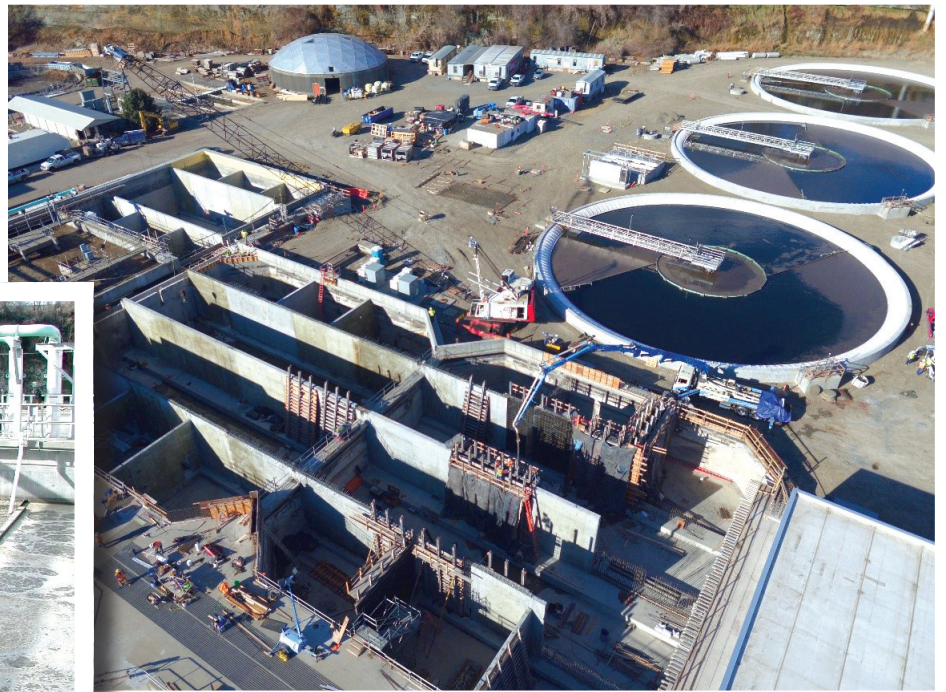
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT - WASTEWATER RECLAMATION FACILITY

City of Billings receives \$90,000 energy efficiency incentive from NorthWestern Energy for state-of-the art energy improvements at the Wastewater Reclamation Facility.

Over the past 3 years, the Public Works Department has upgraded the wastewater treatment process to produce even higher quality water that returns to the Yellowstone River. Part of this \$75M upgrade, included constructing a state-of-the-art aeration system that maximizes energy efficiency. Aeration is the most energy intensive process required in wastewater reclamation, accounting for approximately half of the electrical load used at the Wastewater Reclamation Facility (WRF).

Find news like this about the Public Works Department, updates on projects, snow plowing activity, utility service

information, holiday office schedules and much more online at billingsmtpublicworks.gov or follow us on [Facebook@billingsmtpublicworks](https://www.facebook.com/billingsmtpublicworks).



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

FROM THE BILLINGS PUBLIC LIBRARY

At the end of a trying year, it is easy to complain. Things have been hard and frustrating for a long time now. However, while the occasional vent can be cathartic, it's important, now more than ever, to be thankful. The Billings Public Library would like to take this opportunity to offer our heartfelt thanks to everyone who has been there for us over the course of the year. The Billings Public Library team is grateful for our community. We are thankful for the support and encouragement of our patrons. They've been on a wild ride right along with us and have been so gracious about the changes and adaptations we've been through. It is our honor and pleasure to continue

serving our community.

We are also thankful for our community partners. Through the challenging stages of this year, our partners have been there for us. They had our backs when we adjusted our service modalities and safety measures. We cannot say thank you enough to you all.

We also cannot express enough gratitude to our internal partners for their help. The Library Foundation has transformed to help the library in innovative new ways through programming and donations. The Friends of the Library have continued their support by managing book donations and supplying financial assistance to support

programs and outreach endeavors. The Public Works department made signs to help us direct our patrons as our services evolved. The Parking department removed the parking meters so library patrons could easily access the curbside services. Our City Administration has supported us and kept us going when things were hardest during 2020.

The Billings Public Library appreciates you all. We look forward to continuing our service and to being the welcoming, helpful institute that you have helped us become and remain. Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and we will see you all in the bright new year.

BILLINGS AWARDED \$11.6 MILLION IN BUILD FUNDS TO CONSTRUCT THE INNER BELT LOOP AND SKYLINE TRAIL!

The City of Billings was notified in September that the City would be receiving \$11.6 million in BUILD funds from the US Department of Transportation. The Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development, or BUILD, provides an opportunity for the US DOT to invest in road, rail, transit and port projects that achieve national transportation objectives. Previously known as TIGER Discretionary Grants, Congress has dedicated nearly \$7.9 billion to fund projects that have significant local or regional impact.

In 2020, \$1 billion in BUILD funds were available for a competitive grant process and the City of Billings applied for approximately \$16.8 million to complete the Inner Belt Loop, the Skyline Trail and the Stagecoach Trail. While the City was not successful in receiving the full request, DOT has awarded \$11.6 million to fully construct the Inner Belt Loop and Skyline Trail. This would not have been possible without the assistance of

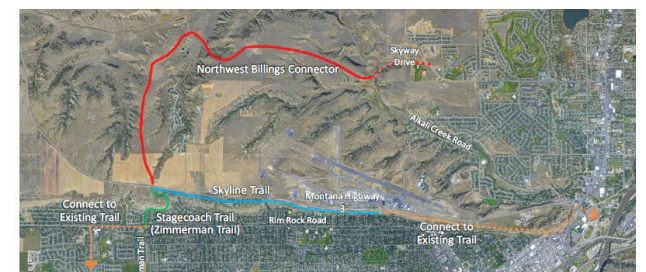
our partners, Billings TrailNet, the Billings Chamber of Commerce, Big Sky Economic Development Agency, Yellowstone County, Montana Department of Transportation and especially Senator Tester, Senator Daines and Representative Gianforte.

With local funds of \$7 million from the City of Billings, and \$85,000 from Billings TrailNet, these projects will open alternative transportation routes that will enhance safety and travel time while also providing for economic development opportunities and outdoor recreation. The projects will:

- **ENHANCE** movement of goods, services and people;
- **CREATE** emergency route for Billings Heights;
- **STRENGTHEN** multi-modal transportation infrastructure;
- **INCREASE** tourist and recreation economic activity;

- **REDUCE** congestion and community's carbon footprint;
- **PROVIDE** safe biking and walking options; and
- **ENHANCE** quality of life and livability of residents by increasing direct access to nature and outdoor active recreation leading to better public health.

This is a huge win for our community and we look forward to working with US DOT on the successful completion of this essential project.



WHAT IF THERE'S NO ONE THERE TO ANSWER?



Yellowstone County. Big Sky Country. The Last Best Place. 2019 estimated the population over 161,000 and climbing. In your day to day lives you might not stop to think much about how county is running, how it is working 24/7/365. With a town this size there is always something happening. Disturbances, accidents, medical emergencies, and the list continues; Billings and its surrounding area is big.

There are a great many factors contributing to keeping our communities safe, a few of notable mention are the great Officers, Firefighters, EMS personnel, and 911 dispatchers. It is the last position we would like to spotlight this month. 911 calltakers and dispatchers work behind the scenes, gathering necessary information from callers, deploying responders to locations where help is needed, and providing direct/self-help information to those waiting for responders to arrive.

The dispatch center is currently employing 23 fully qualified people total, excluding the supervisors, to answer all the calls from the Community. Of the 31 budgeted positions, 25 are currently filled. Chronically low staffing levels throughout 2020 has placed the City-County 9-1-1 Center in the position of needing help from the Community; instead of the other way around. To give you an idea of what these dispatchers answered

in the 2019 year here are some of the numbers: 58,307 calls to 911, and 249,264 non-emergency calls, for a total of 307,571.

We need more applicants that are willing to answer your next call for help. Your next call to assist your loved one in a medical emergency, your next phone call reporting there is a fire spreading in the county, or reporting someone who is feeling suicidal. The 911 center answers all these calls for emergencies, but we also answer non-emergency calls.

This career holds so many benefits, great health insurance, extensive training, 3 paid vacations a year, overtime opportunities, and more. Another benefit is knowing that you yourself would be a key player in keeping our county safe. That you are helping your community with every call you pick up. If you have compassion, if you're a critical thinker, if you can type at least 40 words per minute, then you have what it takes to become a dispatcher for the City of Billings.

We need people now to spread the word. With these uncertain times no one wants to worry that their calls may go unanswered, that help was delayed because of staffing issues. You can do something to help your community. Please consider heading over to city website and applying to the 911 Dispatcher Trainee position today! <https://ci.billings.mt.us/Jobs.aspx>



City of Billings water utility customers have an incredible online tool at their fingertips!

- View Invoices, Payments and Usage
- Set-up Account Options (Recurring Payments, Paperless Billing)
- Sign up for Alerts (Leak Detection)
- Get Money Saving Tips
- Find other helpful tools and resources- sign-up today to get started!

Visit WaterSmart to set up your account at:
<https://billingsmt.watersmart.com/index.php/welcome>

Learn more at billingsmtpublicworks.gov by going to the Payments & Utility Account Services page.



CITY OF BILLINGS



**FIND YOUR
NEXT
CAREER
HERE!**

*We are
hiring*

**Vacancies
are updated
each Friday at
5:00 pm and
are available
online at
billingsmt.gov**

BILLINGS PARKS AND RECREATION

HIGH SIERRA DOG PARK RESTROOM

We are happy to announce the completion of the new restroom facility at High Sierra Park. For many years, the park has utilized portable toilet systems to service the park due to a lack of sewer

infrastructure in the area. To overcome this lack of infrastructure, a prefabricated vault system was utilized, similar to what you would see at trailheads and campsites. As part of the construction, a new ADA accessible parking stall was created along with an ADA accessible route to the restroom and entrance to the dog park. This facility is a welcomed upgrade and a convenience to that will

be enjoyed by users at High Sierra Park for years to come.

ROSE PARK PLAYGROUND

This summer, the Parks and Recreation Department held a voting contest as part of the selection process for the new playground equipment at Rose Park. Matching funds from the Land Water Conservation Fund grant will allow the Parks and Recreation Department to build a destination playground that is

sure to attract residents from across the city to enjoy. Billings' citizens were able to vote on two designs for each of the three playground pods. Over 700 votes were cast to determine Billings' favorite playground structures and the winning designs will be installed in the spring of 2021. The staff has ordered the equipment and it is anticipated to arrive at the end of December. The installation will occur as weather permits.



SEASONAL YOUTH ATHLETICS PROGRAMS



The fall and winter months at Billings Parks and Recreation transition from Summer Camps, Aquatics, and special interest activities, into a variety of Youth Sports. Flag Football, Girls and Boys Basketball, and Girls Volleyball become our main focus. Recreation is tasked with facilitating these sports and putting out a quality athletic option for the Billings area residents that is inexpensive and enjoyable for kids and parents alike. Finding the right coaches for these sports becomes a huge priority.

NFL Flag football is a safe way for 2nd- 5th grade boys and girls to learn the sport. Coaches like Tim Alkire, Dave Carey, and Dustin Sciacca have been volunteering their time and energy for years with Parks and Recreation. Each has created a culture of inclusion, education, and competitiveness at their home site, and all have done so in their own individual ways. All of our flag football coaches give hours of their time to teach the game and are greatly appreciated by the Recreation Department.

Girls and Boys Basketball is a great introduction to basketball for 4th-5th graders and a next step to instruction for 6th, 7th, and 8th graders. Kara Allen has seven years of experience in Parks and Rec Basketball coaching,

while Tara Sinkler, Georgia Meyer, and Amy Bender have multiple years of coaching as well. Each has developed their players with a focus on fundamentals and promoting a love for the game.

Girls Volleyball for 3rd – 5th graders, which will begin in February, keeps growing in popularity every year. Coaches like Abria Boze, Melanie Watkins, and Emme Nelson have created fun and energetic practice sessions that teach girls all of the basics they need to make volleyball an activity they will pursue well into the future. These 3 coach volleyball and basketball, while maintaining a full time student workload.

The Recreation Department finds it so important to not only offer these activities and others like: Tennis Is Elementary, Pickle ball, Fly-fishing, Backpacking, Cross Country Ski Trips, Piano Lessons, Kids in the Kitchen, and Baby Sitter Training, all with top level instruction from qualified Coaches. These activities, and more, will be available through the winter months. A full list and description can be found on our website and in our Winter 2021 Brochure.

Christmas Tree Recycling

**YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE CAN BE RECYCLED INTO
NATIVE MULCH AND USED AT ZOOMONTANA AND
THE MONTANA AUDUBON CENTER**

Please remove tinsel, ornaments and plastic wrapping and drop
your tree off at any of the following locations between

December 26, 2020 - January 21, 2021

BILLINGS:

Schnitzer Recycling: 1100 6th Avenue North
Hanser's Automotive: 430 South Billings Blvd
ZooMontana: 2100 South Shiloh Road
Rocky Mountain Compost: 3060 Farley Lane
Billings Landfill: 5240 Jellison Road

LAUREL:

Thompson Park: Parking Lot

LOCKWOOD:

Lockwood Middle School: 1932 US Hwy 87E

SHEPHERD:

Shepherd High School: 7842 Shepherd Rd

HUNTLEY:

Methodist Church: Parking Lot



For more information, contact
Billings Public Works at **406 657 8230**

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR

Be sure to keep sidewalks adjacent to your home or business free from snow, ice and other debris. Never push snow or leaves into streets or alleys.

Place your garbage can at least 4' away from other objects on pick-up day.

If you need assistance keeping your sidewalks shoveled this winter, or you would like to volunteer to help a neighbor, **please call 406-237-6146 to register with the Snow Buddies program today!**



Happy Holidays



HOLIDAY TRASH COLLECTION SCHEDULE:

HOLIDAY	DATE	TRASH COLLECTION	LANDFILL
Christmas	Friday, December 25	Delayed one day	Closed
New Year's Day	Friday, January 1	Delayed one day	Closed
Martin Luther King Day	Monday, January 18	On Schedule	Open
President's Day	Monday, February 15	On Schedule	Open
Memorial Day	Monday, May 24	Delayed one day	Closed

2021 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..... 657-8226

ANIMAL SHELTER & LICENSING

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

CITY

ADMINISTRATOR 657-8222
 Assistant City Admin. 657-8478
 City Clerk657-8210

CITY ATTORNEY 657-8205

CITY COUNCIL INFORMATION..... 657-8433

CODE ENFORCEMENT – ZONING & WEED COMPLAINTS237-6146

COMMUNITY

DEVELOPMENT 657-8281
 AmeriCorps VISTA..... 247-8675
 Home Repair Program 657-8284
 First Time Homebuyer
 Program 657-3045

FACILITIES

MANAGEMENT 237-6294

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Accounts Payable 657-8224
 Business Tax Information 657-8364
 City Tax Information–SID's. 657-8223
 Municipal Bonds 657-8363
 Purchasing657-8216
 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..... 657-8407

GIS SERVICES247-8512

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

123 S. 27th247-3200

HUMAN RESOURCES.....237-6210

JAIL256-6881

LIBRARY (BILLINGS PUBLIC)

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

MAYOR 657-8296

MET TRANSIT

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

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 Garage.....657-8212

PARKING DIVISION (cont'd)

Park Two Garage..... 657-8279
 Park Three Garage657-8212
 Empire Garage657-8412

PARKS-RECREATION & PUBLIC LANDS

Administration657-8371
 Community & Senior
 Center 657-3050
 Cemetery Division..... 657-8299
 Forester/Natural
 Resources 237-6227
 Fax..... 247-8641
 Website..... www.BillingsParks.org

PLANNING 247-8676

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..... 657-8464
 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 657-8230
 Engineering Division..... 657-8231
 Right-of-Way Permits &
 Inspections...657-8307
 Environmental Affairs247-8517
 Meter Shop..... 657-8331
 Solid Waste Division & Landfill
 657-8260
 Street/Traffic Division..... 657-8250

Water Bills - On/Off Orders –
 Payments
 (Open 8am-5pm weekdays).....657-8315
 Water Emergencies
 (Open 8am-5pm weekdays).....657-8305
 Water Emergencies
 (After 5pm, weekends & holidays) 657-8353
 Wastewater Reclamation
 Facility 657-8356
 Water Treatment Plant.... 657-8353

ZONING 657-8246

We Want to Hear From You

*Please provide us with input
 for our next newsletter.*



**What did you like most
 about the newsletter?**



**What would you like to see
 in upcoming newsletters?**

Mail or e-mail your comments to us at:

citylink@billingsmt.gov

The City Link

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 Billings, MT 59101