

Billings City Administration Weekly Report

September 27, 2019

1) **Laredo Place Rock Slide** – The rims rock slide that took place Saturday September 21st at approximately 1:30 AM destroyed the home at 4124 Laredo Place. Thankfully, no one was seriously injured. Since the initial emergency response by the city’s first responders, we have held three (3) meetings for the neighbors in the immediate area (September 23rd, 24th and 26th). The purpose of the meetings has been to update the neighborhood on the city’s actions to mitigate the impact and take feedback on how we can improve the situation under these extenuating circumstances. Our next update is scheduled for October 1st at 6:00 PM immediately east of the rock slide on Laredo Place. During last night’s meeting I covered the enclosed agenda:

2) **General fund and public safety fund expenditures –**

I heard a comment lately regarding our General Fund reserves, something to the effect of - *the City has built up its reserves by overtaxing citizens, and not funding public safety to the full extent it should have.* I think this statement is inaccurate and misleading. As you know the General Fund makes a very substantial transfer to the Public Safety fund each year, as the revenue in the PS fund is not sufficient to cover the PS costs. This transfer has occurred every year since 2000 when the PS fund was created. The transfer from the General Fund into the Public Safety fund is greater than the total amount of taxes collected in the General Fund. This means that that the entirety of the 74 mills collected for “General Purposes” that goes into the General Fund is actually used to fund Public Safety.

	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
General Fund Transfer to PS Fund	25,999,387	22,907,140	21,305,976	21,666,153	19,531,290
General Fund Tax Revenue	15,784,291	15,153,915	14,696,044	14,600,053	14,979,893
Difference	10,215,096	7,753,225	6,609,932	7,066,100	4,551,397

2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007
20,391,752	18,620,000	17,349,932	16,606,456	16,393,337	18,168,635	17,490,116
13,515,765	13,529,374	13,630,877	12,986,900	12,808,095	11,360,990	10,972,996
6,875,987	5,090,626	3,719,055	3,619,556	3,585,242	6,807,645	6,517,120

2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000
16,574,700	16,949,884	16,091,772	13,814,574	15,171,575	14,834,209	14,068,076
10,434,579	10,006,127	9,745,883	9,036,037	9,169,992	10,313,157	12,210,934
6,140,121	6,943,757	6,345,889	4,778,537	6,001,583	4,521,052	1,857,142

As you can see, each year there is more transferred into the PS fund than total taxes collected in the GF. The additional amounts come from other revenues collected within the General Fund. The next major revenue source in the GF is State Entitlement Share. These are revenues that are collected from the State of Montana and redistributed to local governments. MCA 15-1-121 describes the types of taxes &

fees that make up the entitlement share. Primarily they are the following Aircraft Registration Fees, Gaming Revenue, Coal Tax Apportionment, Beer, Liquor, and Wine taxes, and Vehicle Registration Fees. It does not appear that any State Income Tax or State levied property tax is a part of this payment.

3) Salary and wage growth rates –

I have compiled the following data for the City as a whole. I do think some understanding of this information is imperative. Primarily, these are actual Salary, Wage, & Longevity costs incurred at the City over time. When comparing this data, it is important to consider the fact that the number of Full-time Equivalent (FTEs) will be different each year. In some years we may have been short staffed while in other years we may have been fully staffed or even added FTE’s. I’m not sure of a way to figure out the actual FTEs each year, but I have provided the number of FTEs that were authorized each year. Because of this variety in FTE’s, this information shouldn’t be used to make a blanket statement such as “City employees receive an annual pay increase of X.XX% each year”.

Fiscal Year	2019	2018	2017	2016
Total Salary, Wages, & Longevity	54,878,743	52,766,041	51,139,472	48,333,633
Percentage Increase	4.0%	3.2%	5.8%	3.4%
Authorized FTE	921.5	916.7	911.8	892.1
10 Year Average % Increase in Actual costs	3.0%			

2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
46,762,451	45,212,427	44,744,206	44,382,118	44,221,676	42,754,952
3.4%	1.0%	0.8%	0.4%	3.4%	4.3%
892.1	884.4	879.7	881.2	877.3	871.8

4) South 36th Street - A resident that resides on South 36th Street, Mrs. Propp, expressed her concern at the September 9th Council meeting that Public Works was paving streets and then tearing that work up for water main replacements. Public Works followed up with Mrs. Propp and explained the sequencing of the work. This update is to close the gap with Council on this issue and ensure Council is aware that Public Works has followed up with Mrs. Propp.

There are three (3) projects being constructed in this area – dig-outs, water main replacement and pipe bursting. The dig-outs and the water main replacements are both being done prior to the chip seal project that is scheduled in the next couple of years.

South 36th Street is an open cut section being completed by the annual water main replacement project. Engineering has coordinated the areas that will be in conflict and for the most part, all of the dig-outs that have been completed are outside the water main trench restoration limits. The streets are in such poor shape that having the dig-outs completed prior to the water main project has been advantageous because the streets do not fall apart from the construction equipment and the cost of doing dig-outs under that project are about half of what it costs to fix the street with the water main replacement project.

5) Poet Streets Construction - Public Works coordinates water/sewer replacements with road projects and if a water or sewer main requires replacement, staff schedules that replacement in the annual main replacement project ahead of the road construction. The sewer in the Poet Streets area runs through the alley so it did not need to be replaced prior to street surfacing. The waterlines are in the street, but the pipes had no history of leaks or breaks. The pipe is 60 years old, but Public Works does not have a budget large enough to replace all 60 year old pipes and with no break or leak history, the replacement of the pipe was not included in the water main replacement program schedule. During installation of the storm drain prior to the overlay of the Poet Streets, the waterlines were visually inspected and found to be in very poor condition and in need of replacement. The Poet Streets project was put on hold to complete the Poet Streets water replacement project. The cost of the water main replacement project was \$647,983 and funded out of the water main replacement budget. The Poet Streets project was also increase by \$79,000 for additional roadway costs due to the water main replacement. These costs were funded by the water fund as is typical in all water main replacement projects. The Poet Streets project also incurred a \$73,000 change order for import fill and geogrid fabric that was needed due to the large amount of rain experienced in May 2018. That cost was funded out of the gas tax budget. The final change order for the Poet Streets surface improvements project was for \$65,000 and borne by the property owners as it was for additional work requested by the property owner. Those costs are included in the respread of assessments approved at Monday night's Council meeting.

6) Next Week's Meetings/Task Forces/Presentations etc.

- a. SBURA, Tuesday, October 1st, 7:00 pm, Billings Sports Plex, 5000 Southgate Dr.
- b. Montana League of Cities and Towns 88th Annual Conference, Tuesday – Friday, October 1st – 4th, Billings Hotel and Convention Center, 1223 Mallowney Lane.
- c. North Park Task Force, Thursday, October 3rd, 7:00 pm, North Park Community Center.

Have a great weekend!



Public Health

2018-19 Annual Report



The mission of RiverStone Health is to *Improve Life, Health and Safety* and to serve all residents of Yellowstone County. Three divisions organize our public health services, Promotion, Protection and Provision.

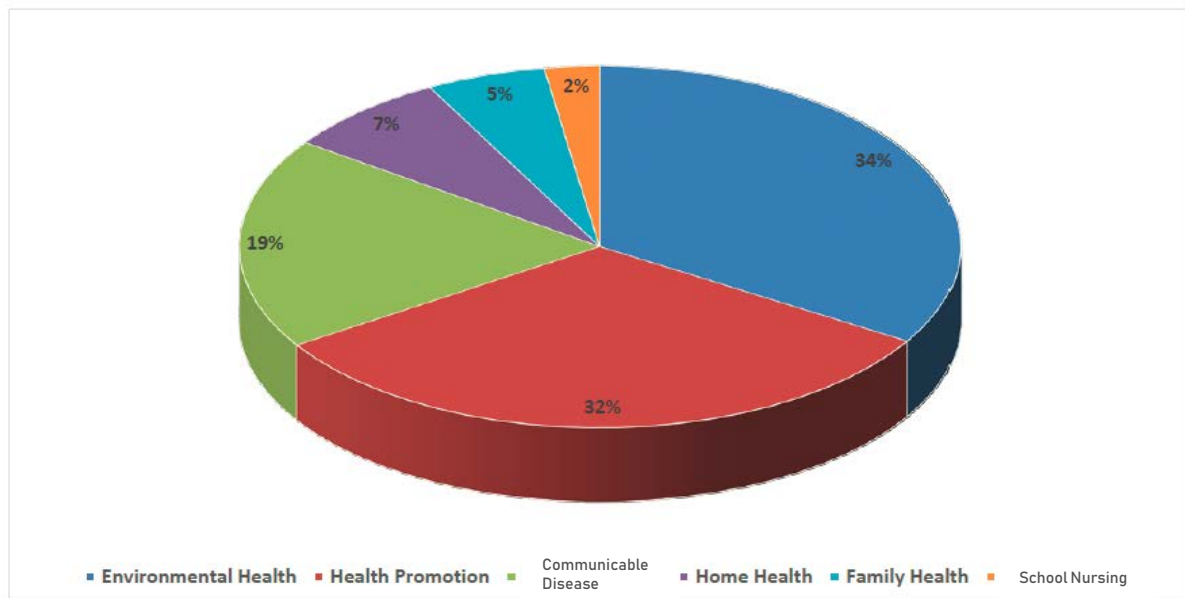
Health Promotion: *Community Health Improvement, Population Health, School Nursing* Health is more than what we get at a doctor’s office; it starts in our communities, our schools and workplaces, in our playgrounds and parks, policies and education that empower people, mobilize community members and help reduce chronic disease risk factors such as physical inactivity, poor nutrition, and tobacco use have a tremendous impact on our health.

Health Protection: *Environmental Health, Communicable Disease, Emergency Preparedness* Public safety can be taken for granted. Consider the air we breathe, the water we drink and the food we eat. Disease and infection rates can be decreased by immunizations and early detection. Natural or man-made disasters can create scenarios that require public health emergency coordination.

Health Provision: *WIC, Family Health Services, HIV Services* All Montanans, notably at-risk, vulnerable individuals, should have access to high quality, evidence-based, supportive services that not only address and connect them to appropriate basic need and healthcare services, but can also build resiliency, positively affecting future generations.

Your Tax Dollars Help to Improve the Health of Yellowstone County

Public Health Mill Levy Breakdown, Fiscal Year 2019 (July 1, 2018-June 30, 2019)



RiverStone Health	
Yellowstone County Public Health Services Impact	Reach
Health Promotion	
E-Cigarette presentations (August 2018 through the first week of June 2019)	3732 students, 385 adults
Gardeners' Market attendees (2018 season)	3380
Agencies actively engaged in coalitions (FY 19)	46 HBD coalition partners, 18 suicide prevention partners
Gun locks distributed (FY 18 and 19)	88
Schools enacting Safe Routes to School Initiatives	4
Health Protection	
Communicable disease investigations (1/1/18 and 12/31/18)	1,739
Immunizations provided (6/1/18 and 5/31/19)	9,793
Public facilities (food operations, pools, tattoo studios) inspected (FY 19)	1,303
Septic systems permitted (FY 19)	222
Public health staff trained in emergency preparedness (FY 19)	100%
Health Provision	
WIC clients served (2/18-1/19)	2,796
Home visits conducted (calendar year 2018)	3,678
Children's Advocacy Center interviews (6/30/18-5/31/19)	125
Individual HIV and Hepatitis C Tests (7/18-5/19)	2,366
Percentage of HIV clients virally suppressed (5/18-5/19, rolling)	87%

RiverStone Health follows the voluntary national standards of the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) to increase capacity and strengthen the public health system. It has been an accredited health department since June 2014. In order to monitor community health data, local county health assessment data is collected every three years. Available at: www.hbdyc.org. County Health Rankings are also used to assess and compare health status. Selected key population health data outcomes pulled from these rankings are listed here. Source: <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/>.

Population Health Outcomes for Yellowstone County	2018	2019
<i>Infant Mortality Rate</i> (# of all infant deaths w/in year per 1000 live births)	7	7
High School Graduation Rate (% of 9 th grade cohort graduating in 4 yrs.)	84%	85%
HIV Prevalence (# people age 13 and older living w/ HIV infection diagnosis per 100,000)	103	103
<i>Sexually Transmitted Infections</i> (# newly diagnosed chlamydia cases per 100,000.)	482.5	441.3
Rate of uninsured (% population under age 65, w/o health insurance)	12%	8%
<i>Flu vaccinations</i> (% of fee-for-service Medicare enrollees that had vaccination)	NA	51%
Excessive drinking (% of adults reporting binge or heavy drinking)	22%	22%
<i>Adult obesity</i> (% of adults reporting BMI > than or = to 30 kg/m2)	26%	27%
Children eligible for free or reduced price lunch (% children enrolled in public school eligible for free/reduced lunch)	40%	37%
Mental health providers (ratio of population to health providers)	340 to 1	310 to 1
<i>Adult smoking</i> (% adults who are current smoker)	16%	16%
<i>Suicide rates</i> ('07-'16)*	20.4 per 100,000	

*<https://dphhs.mt.gov/Portals/85/suicideprevention/SuicideinMontana.pdf>

BLUE = PHAB Population Health Outcomes Reporting

Fiscal Year 2019 Public Health Annual Report, Yellowstone County, published June 2019