

Billings City Administrator Weekly Report

March 11, 2023

1. **Massage Facility Licensing Ordinance** – There were some questions during the Public Safety Presentation at the February 21st Work Session regarding the success since passage of the Massage Facility Licensing Ordinance. Attached there is the presentation from July 5, 2022, regarding the progress we have made in this area. This process is not over, and we continue to monitor for illicit massage businesses or other businesses that may be harboring this activity and communicate with local, State and Federal law enforcement.
2. **Emergency Response Class** - Victoria Hill, our PIO, and KC Williams, our director of emergency management, are in the process of creating an emergency response class and exercise for the council and leadership team. They hope to host the class during the second half of April and a date is TBD.

They strongly suggest all members of the council and our leadership team complete two National Incident Management System classes before then to get the most out of the exercise. The classes are: [IS-700 NIMS: An Introduction](#), and [ICS-100: An Introduction to ICS training courses](#).

The classes are self-guided, and the final exams are done online. One class takes 3.5 hours to complete and the other takes 2 hours. And again, they can be broken up and done at your own pace.

Before you take the final exams, you will need to create a FEMA Student ID at this link: <https://cdp.dhs.gov/FEMASID/register>

Once you take the final exams, or if you're already certified in those two courses, email your certificate to [KC Williams](#).

3. **Legislative Committee** – Senator Zolnikov and Representatives Yakawich and Brewster summarized bills that they are sponsoring during this week's meeting. We anticipate the Senate Local Government Committee taking up Yakawich's HB 534 in late March.
4. **Junior Police Leadership Academy** - This is in regard to the application process being open for the Junior Police Leadership Academy (JPLA). It is an Academy similar to what Law Enforcement goes through coming up this summer. It will be hosted in Helena from July 16-22, 2023.

The students attend the Montana Law Enforcement Academy (MLEA) for about 1 week which is hosted and run by Officers from around the state and MLEA Academy Staff. They will do everything from crime scene investigations, defensive tactics, firearms, driving, armed intruder training, case law, team building, and physical fitness. They will learn what different Law Enforcement does from the local, county, state and federal levels.

The JPLA is **FREE** to the student and the only need is for the parents to take the student to the Academy the first day and pick them up on the last day at graduation.

This is a great opportunity for a student who is interested in all types of Law Enforcement to get a taste of what we do and how we do it. This is not for the faint of heart as we are busy from about 0500-2200 hrs each day. **THIS IS NOT A SCARED STRAIGHT PROGRAM. THE JPLA IS NOT TRYING TO ALTER POOR BEHAVIOR FOR CERTAIN STUDENTS.** We are trying to create and build the next generation of Law Enforcement Officers from around the state.

The students will need to fill out the application packet, get a physical if they don't already have one from sports, complete the essay portion, and get the paperwork signed off by the chief of police. At this time the JPLA is only taking 30 students from around the state. Those students will be selected from this current Freshman through Junior Classes. If there are still open spots JPLA will look to returning students or graduating Seniors from the 2023 Class.

Here is the link to the application process: [JPLA \(macop.com\)](http://macop.com)

If anyone has any questions or students/parents have concerns, please have them reach out to me on my work cell (406-698-4065) SRO Tim Doll.

5. Next Week's Meeting/Task Forces

- a. Local Affairs Committee, Monday, March 13th 4:30 pm City Hall Conference Room
- b. Budget and Finance Committee, Wednesday, March 15th 9:00 am Finance Conference Room
- c. Legislative Committee, Wednesday, March 15th 4:00 pm City Hall Conference Room
- d. Billings Chamber Legislative Videoconference, Thursday, March 16th 12:00 pm MSU Billings Liberal Arts Building, Room 208
- e. Midtown Community Collaborative, Tuesday, March 14th 7:00 pm, 1234 Avenue C
- f. Southside Task Force, Thursday, March 16th 6:30 pm Hope Center, 425 S. 28th.

6. From the PIO Desk:

Photos: Groundbreaking day for Inner Belt Loop & Skyline Trail

<https://www.billingsmt.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=2456>

Montana Gov. Greg Gianforte tours BBWA slope failure site in Billings

<https://www.billingsmt.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=2446>

Billings Parks and Rec dealing with messy situation at recycling bin sites

<https://www.billingsmt.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=2445>

Billings PD rolls out surveillance camera program with "Project Eyes on the Block"

<https://billingsmt.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=2455>

Celebrating our female officers during Women's History Month

<https://billingsmt.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=2453>

From Public Works: City of Billings launches NEW Map Library with Improved Functionality and Ease of Navigation

<https://www.billingsmt.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=2442>

Mayor & Council

City rezones land for planned housing in west Billings

<https://www.ktvq.com/news/local-news/city-rezones-land-for-planned-housing-in-west-billings>

Billings mayor gives update on effort to get Multi-Generational Recreation Center

https://www.nonstoplocal.com/billings/news/billings-mayor-gives-update-on-effort-to-get-multi-generational-recreation-center/article_2c901c6b-6810-5b0b-8e5c-837adae9e98d.html

Mayor's World Languages Dinner celebrates those that make Billings a great place to live

https://www.nonstoplocal.com/billings/news/mayors-world-languages-dinner-celebrates-those-that-make-billings-a-great-place-to-live/article_ba15a3aa-27dc-5871-873d-7ed0ade4c955.html

Mayor's World Languages Dinner at Northern Hotel

https://billingsgazette.com/news/local/photos-mayors-world-languages-dinner-at-the-northern-hotel/article_bac88a38-ba33-11ed-a373-638e69d2ce2b.html

Billings mayor brings cultures together for celebration dinner

<https://www.ktvq.com/news/local-news/billings-mayor-brings-cultures-together-for-celebration-dinner>

PW

Watch now: Skyline Trail groundbreaking

https://billingsgazette.com/news/local/watch-now-skyline-trail-groundbreaking/video_bf4a130f-3c41-581f-ab38-eb9074aef281.html

PRPL

'Trash for Trees' becoming dumping ground; City wants it to stop

<https://www.yourbigsky.com/billings-beat/city-recycling-trashy/>

Billings officials rebrand 'Trash for Trees' program due to misuse of recycling bins

<https://www.ktvq.com/news/local-news/billings-officials-rebrand-trash-for-trees-program-due-to-misuse>

Billings Parks and Rec changes name of recycling program after bins collect wrong kind of trash

https://billingsgazette.com/news/local/billings-parks-and-rec-changes-name-of-recycling-program-after-bins-collect-wrong-kind-of/article_3c9b0660-b784-11ed-908e-6385a4fede59.html

BPD

Billings PD rolls out surveillance camera program with 'Project Eyes on the Block'

https://billingsgazette.com/news/local/billings-pd-rolls-out-surveillance-camera-program-with-project-eyes-on-the-block/article_bfa95f92-b39d-11ed-9516-8f41e46d72a6.html

Project "Eyes on the Block" – BPD asking neighborhoods to crime watch and report

<https://www.yourbigsky.com/billings-beat/project-eyes-on-the-block-bpd-asking-neighborhoods-to-crime-watch-and-report/>

Billings PD asks residents to help with 'Project Eyes on the Block'

<https://realnewsmontana.com/ixp/628/p/billings-pd-asks-residents-to-help-with-project-eyes-on-the-block/>

Billings police launch 'Project Eyes on the Block' despite some criticism

<https://www.yellowstonecountynews.com/202303031152/billings-police-launch-project-eyes-on-the-block-billings-police-launch-despite-some-criticism/>

Magnet for crime: Billings police form plan to patrol popular bar

<https://www.ktvq.com/news/crime-watch/magnet-for-crime-billings-police-form-plan-to-patrol-popular-bar>

Man arrested following midtown homicide

https://billingsgazette.com/news/man-arrested-following-midtown-homicide/article_811488d4-b9d7-11ed-9491-032ee6015203.html

Suspect arrested in murder of woman in Billings

<https://www.ktvq.com/news/crime-watch/suspect-arrested-in-murder-of-woman-in-billings>

Young men and firearms: Local and federal officials work to address growing gun violence

https://billingsgazette.com/news/local/young-men-and-firearms-local-and-federal-officials-work-to-address-growing-gun-violence/article_187dfdea-b88e-11ed-8efd-135a8fab1217.html

Gun violence, firearm-related convictions up in Montana

<https://www.ypradio.org/crime-courts/2023-03-03/gun-violence-firearm-related-convictions-up-in-montana>

Law enforcement officials vow to curb gun violence in Montana

<https://www.ktvq.com/news/local-news/law-enforcement-officials-vow-to-curb-gun-violence-in-montana>

Officials assure murder is NOT 'New Normal' for Billings

<https://www.yellowstonecountynews.com/202303030904/officials-assure-murder-is-not-new-normal-for-billings/>

Murder in the Magic City: Rising homicide rate may be new normal

https://billingsgazette.com/news/local/murder-in-the-magic-city-rising-homicide-rate-may-be-new-normal/article_57072f26-b3e0-11ed-9054-1f26b8885a1f.html

BPD data shows no significant increase in crime rate

https://www.nonstoplocal.com/billings/news/bpd-data-shows-no-significant-increase-in-crime-rate/article_9e41ef44-d4f7-5007-898b-18d4c65849aa.html

BFD

Chelsea Thompson: Helping shape the next generation of firefighters

<https://yellowstonevalleywoman.com/march-april-2023>

Bystander CPR classes encouraged to help save patient lives

https://www.nonstoplocal.com/billings/news/bystander-cpr-classes-encouraged-to-help-save-patient-lives/article_ff021c59-ed87-57ac-8dc6-311b2f368697.html

House in the Heights catches on fire; no injuries

https://www.nonstoplocal.com/billings/news/house-in-the-heights-catches-on-fire-no-injuries/article_351f4ead-0192-58fd-bdf3-a18180339476.html

Photos: Cars crash into houses on Grand Avenue

https://billingsgazette.com/news/local/photos-cars-crash-into-houses-on-grand-avenue/article_3c13db60-ba4d-11ed-b5cd-cf60310da09b.html

Photo: Billings Fire Department battles a house fire on Monday

https://billingsgazette.com/news/local/photo-billings-fire-department-battles-a-house-fire-on-monday/article_75aad88c-b6b6-11ed-92bd-8b8953aa550e.html

BPL

Library express lockers ribbon cutting in Heights

<https://www.yourbigsky.com/billings-beat/library-express-lockers-ribbon-cutting/>

Billings Public Library seeking old photos from 1960-1999

<https://www.ktvq.com/news/local-news/billings-public-library-seeking-old-photos-from-1960-1999>

Community project of Billings Library

<https://www.yourbigsky.com/local-news-2/community-project-of-billings-library/>

How Billings Library can help you save precious VHS home videos

<https://realnewsmontana.com/ixp/124/p/how-billings-library-can-help-you-save-precious-vhs-home-videos/>

No joke. Prank lab for kids coming in March to Billings Public Library

<https://realnewsmontana.com/ixp/628/p/no-joke-prank-lab-for-kids-coming-in-march-to-billings-public-library/>

Did you know the Billings Public Library has a free seed bank

<https://billingsmix.com/did-you-know-the-billings-public-library-has-a-free-seed-bank/>

PCSD

Inner Belt Loop and Skyline Trail break ground

https://www.nonstoplocal.com/billings/news/inner-belt-loop-and-skyline-trail-break-ground/article_10d4650f-e504-5b37-b2b8-909a22ee9fe7.html

In other news....

Gianforte urges passage of \$100M disaster fund at Billings stop

<https://www.ktvq.com/news/local-news/gianforte-urges-passage-of-100m-disaster-fund-at-billings-stop>

Gianforte visits Billings irrigation canal, calls on lawmakers to pass disaster emergency fund

<https://www.ypradio.org/regional-news/2023-03-01/gianforte-visits-billings-irrigation-canal-calls-on-lawmakers-to-pass-disaster-emergency-fund>

Billings Bench Water Association discusses funding for canal

https://www.nonstoplocal.com/billings/news/billings-bench-water-association-discusses-funding-for-canal/article_fa08e64f-2673-578e-9231-d5ad25a60b78.html

Make Billings beautiful: Grants available for artists

<https://www.ktvq.com/news/local-news/make-billings-beautiful-grants-available-for-artists>

'We've just seen an influx of vaping:' Vape detectors to be installed in Billings West High School bathrooms

https://www.nonstoplocal.com/billings/news/weve-just-seen-an-influx-of-vaping-vape-detectors-to-be-installed-in-billings-west/article_484570b4-619f-5991-a865-18b92d40a41b.html

Ordinance 21-5757 Massage and Spa Facilities

Tina Hoeger
Code Enforcement Division Manager

Massage Facility License Update

Massage Facility Category	# of Licenses
Licenses Denied	5
Licenses Approved	12
Solo Practitioner Exemptions Approved	70
Facilities Closed Within City Limits	5

Massage and Spa Facility License Update

- City Council passed ordinance April 26, 2021
- 5 facilities applied and were denied (inspection/online ads)
- 12 facilities applied and were approved (inspection/license review)
- 70 solo practitioners applied and received exemption
- 1 facility voluntarily closed prior to adoption of the ordinance
- Some facilities outside of City limits have closed voluntarily

Conclusion

- Massage inspection process has been successful
- Most businesses have been cooperative and receptive
- No suspected illicit massage facilities in City limits to date
- Currently have one case pending in Municipal Court for operating without a license
- Code Enforcement initiates case for tracking purposes
- These inspections moving forward will fall under the Commercial Code Enforcement Officer II position (PSML)