

Rimrock Neighborhoods Task Force September 2024 Update

Upcoming meetings:

Wednesdays, Sept 18 & Nov 20, 7pm
Mayflower Church (Rehberg & Poly)

September 18 RNTF Meeting



**Boxed, jarred & canned
(non-expired) food items
such as:**

- Canned tuna or chicken
- Peanut Butter
- Pasta
- Soup
- Canned fruit or veggies
- Crackers
- Cereal
- Dried or canned beans

At our September meeting, we will accept non-perishable food items for Mayflower Church's food collection. The Mayflower congregation has graciously allowed us to use their meeting room. So as a thank you, let's support the work they are doing for less fortunate members of our community.

Preliminary Agenda for Sept 18:

6:15 – arrive early if you are interested in the Rimrock Corridor Safety Committee

7:00 –

1. Welcome, introductions - Howard Evans
2. Approval of minutes
3. Presenters
 - Law Enforcement Update and Neighborhood Watch - Sergeant Stovall, Billings Police Department
 - Park and Recreation Director - Mike Pigg
4. Old Business
 - Board nominations to fill Secretary vacancy - Howard Evans
 - Rimrock Corridor Safety Committee Leslie Cooke and Tom Yampradit
 - Rim Top Update - Howard Evans
5. Comments - Howard Evans
6. New Business
 - Holiday Social
 - Community Awareness - Charities
7. Adjournment



From the Desk of Howard Evans, RNTF Chair

Hi neighbors,

Now that school is in session and more children can be seen on the streets, please be alert and aware when driving in or near school zones. (Actually all the time.)

MEETING TOPICS: I, personally, would like to hear topic and/or presenter suggestions from you for future programs. As a Board we try to find topics which we think are of interest to our members, but urge you to make suggestions so we can better serve our community.

OPEN BOARD POSITION: The Board position of Secretary is still open. Please consider the opportunity to serve your neighbors and local government in maintaining a communications and information channel between the residents and City of Billings Council and Administration.

ELECTION: The following is meant to be *apolitical* and please read it in that light.

I consider the November election to be one of the most consequential in my lifetime, on all levels. On the matter of candidates I would urge you to question the “facts” presented in the media. “Facts” are not facts unless they can be proven. In today’s world there are ways to research the “facts” by going to records and full recordings. Don’t accept media accounts as facts. Secondly, there are three Montana Constitutional Amendments on the ballot this year. There are two measures which, if passed, will change the way voting is conducted in this State. Get informed as to the effect they will have on future voting and outcomes, The third measure deals with the hot button topic of women’s bodily rights and abortion. The controversy centers around religious beliefs, medical science and women’s rights. Again, consider all arguments and make an informed decision before voting. As a society we need voter participation, but we need informed voters more.

NOVEMBER MEETING: Since we meet bi-monthly, our November meeting will precede the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. The Board is considering a small social gathering following a short November business meeting. We're canvassing our membership to provide ideas for this event. You can submit them in writing, and/or I'll put the topic on the agenda for the September meeting.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH: Sgt. Stovall will make a brief presentation regarding Neighborhood Watches at the September meeting. If your neighborhood is interested in organizing a Watch, RNTF will assist but we will not attempt to organize the RNTF area.

Sincerely,

Howard Evans, RNTF Chair



State of Montana - Property Tax Rebate

Filing Deadline is October 1, 2024

Up to \$675 per household

<https://mtrevenue.gov/taxes/property-tax-rebate-house-bill-222/>

Rimrock Corridor Safety Committee



**Slow down.
Stop at crosswalks.
Watch for pedestrians.**

This last spring, the RNTF board engaged residents in a survey that included questions about pedestrian, cyclist and motorist safety along Rimrock Rd. **The Rimrock Corridor Safety Committee** is being formed to raise awareness of these safety issues, and to advocate with local government entities to improve citizen safety along Rimrock Rd. Leslie & Tom from the board will lead this group.

Although we have already collected Rimrock Rd safety feedback from residents, we are encouraging additional ongoing feedback. We particularly want to engage with young families whose children must cross Rimrock Rd to get to school. Please send feedback, ideas, comments, etc to rimrocktaskforce@gmail.com

Residents, city council members, and other local officials who are interested in participating in the committee's work are invited to a short introductory meeting: **Mayflower Church, Sept. 18 (Wednesday) at 6:15 pm.** We will share what we've learned so far, and gather ideas for moving our safety issues forward. Participating in this committee will **not** be overly time-consuming! ☺

City Code Enforcement Corner



Fall Leaf Guidelines (from City website)

Community shared leaf collection sites are made available every fall for leaves that do not fit into the yard waste green bins.

Previous leaf collection sites include Pioneer Park, Mayflower Congregational Church, Castle Rock Park, Clevenger Park, Veterans Park, Dehler Park, Poly Vista Park, and Amend Park.

Please do not rake leaves into the streets. Leaf burning is prohibited within the Billings city limits.

Once we know the sites are open, we'll post on FaceBook and NextDoor, and publish in the October newsletter!

Utility Bill update from Public Works:

The 2023 water usage report is now accessible on our website, providing customers the ability to view their bill amounts and water consumption for the period from May through September 2023. Here's the link -

www.billingsmtpublicworks.gov/248/Payments-Utility-Account-Services



2023 Water Usage Report

NOW Available Online



How to Use the Report: You will need either your new account number (located in the top right-hand corner of your bill) or your previous account number from our former billing system. To find your details, simply press Ctrl + F and enter your account number in the search box.

Important to Note

1. The months listed at the top of each page reflect the dates you were billed last year, with the corresponding service period occurring prior to those dates.
2. Water consumption is displayed in thousands of gallons (Kgals).
3. As of July 1, 2024, solid waste, water, and sewer rates have increased by an average of 7.8%. The stormwater fee has been moved from your property tax bill to your utility bill. This shift does not reflect an overall increase in your total costs, as the stormwater fee no longer appears on your property tax bill. This has led to an average increase of 15.5% for residential customers.

4. This summer, the City experienced a 29% increase in water consumption, mainly due to the high temperatures.

We understand the concern in billing accuracy, particularly regarding access to past bills to compare usage for the same period in 2023. While this report does not fully resolve all concerns, we hope it provides a useful interim solution.

Thank you for your patience as we continue working to improve our services.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us!

Help a Neighbor



Be thinking about Rimrock area neighbors who may need one-time help for code enforcement issues like weed removal, graffiti removal, snow shoveling, etc.

**Adults, youth, and families are all welcome to participate
Text or call Kevin at 406-690-1718 for help, or if you'd like to volunteer.**

MONTHLY DRUG CORNER



Riverstone Health has graciously agreed to work with RNTF to provide local drug information.

Cannabis use in Yellowstone County

Today's cannabis has more than 3 times the concentration of THC than it had 25 years ago. Higher levels of THC may lead to an increase in dependency and addiction.

Between 2020 and 2021, there were 163 cannabis poisoning cases seen in Montana emergency departments. 22% of these were among children aged 10 and under.

It's important to recognize the signs of unintentional cannabis poisoning in children and pets, including:

- Drowsiness or sleepiness (most common symptom in children)
- Nausea or vomiting
- Dizziness
- Difficulty with walking and coordination
- Rapid heartbeat
- Confusion
- Trouble breathing

Using any amount of cannabis can increase your risk of personal injury, including motor vehicle crashes, changes to your brain function, and mental health crises. Using cannabis by inhaling increases the risk of lung disease in addition to changes to brain, heart, and mental health.

Did you know?

- 3 in 10 people who use marijuana have “marijuana use disorder”.
- The risk of developing marijuana use disorder is greater in people who start using young.
- Frequent cannabis use is associated with an increased risk of suicide.

For more info, including a guide to marijuana vs. hemp plus other resources, go to RiverStoneHealth.org/bRIGHTchoices or **Call 211 or 988 for 24/7/365 help**



SEPTEMBER CYBER SECURITY TIP:

**Brought to you by Anastasia Edwards
with Big Sky Quantum SHIELD**

[Link to Nextdoor Group for Big Sky Quantum SHIELD](#)

Watch Out for Fake Virus Alerts: How to Stay Safe from Scareware (PC and Mobile)

Imagine, you're working on your computer or browsing on your phone, and suddenly a pop-up shows up saying your device is infected with a virus! It urges you to "click here" to fix the issue or install antivirus software. Don't fall for it! This is a scareware trick hackers use to scare you into clicking, which can actually infect your device.

Here's what you need to know, whether you're on a PC or mobile:

- It looks real, but it's not. Pop-ups are designed to look like official alerts from your system or companies like Microsoft, Apple, Google or Android etc. However, no trusted company will ask you to click on a pop-up to fix a problem.
- What should you do on a PC? Don't click anything on the pop-up—not even "Close" or "Cancel." Close your browser completely.
- If you are unable to do that, press and hold (in this order) "Ctrl" and "Alt" and "Delete" on a PC (or "Command" and "Option" and "Esc" on a Mac) and use "Task Manager" to locate your browser session (somewhere on the task list you will find a line that says either "Google", or "Safari" or "Bing", as various examples). Right click on the session you want to close and choose to "close" the browser.
- What should you do on a mobile phone? On your phone, don't tap anything on the pop-up. Close the browser or app completely by swiping it away from your recent apps. If the pop-up won't go away, restart your phone.
- Get help. Afterward, contact your local IT support team or your Mobile service provider or even us at BSQS! We can help you walk through some basic first level steps to clear up a potentially hacked phone.

Whether you're on your computer or phone, the key is to stay calm and avoid clicking. Always check with professionals to keep your device secure!

Stay Vigilant!



City Council Corner -
Our Task Force area includes parts of both Ward 4 & Ward 1.
To determine your Ward, see the Ward Map on the City's website:
<https://mt-billings3.civicplus.com/DocumentCenter/View/49070/Ward-Map-4-2022>

City Council Contact Information: EMAIL: Council@billingsmt.gov

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**Upcoming City Council meetings are posted on the City website:
<https://www.billingssmt.gov/calendar.aspx>**

Information on past meetings can be found at: <https://billingsmt.gov/117/Agendas-Minutes>



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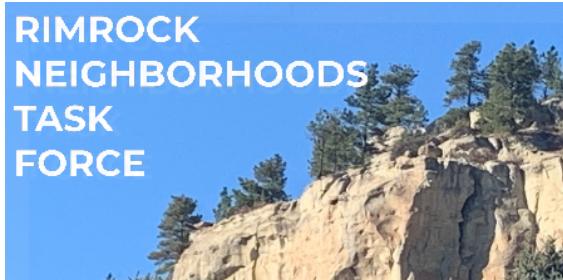


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Rimrock Neighborhoods Task Force does not politically endorse any current office holder or candidate.

We extend an open invitation for attendance and participation in our task force meetings to all elected officials and candidates.

We appreciate all those who attend and help escalate neighborhood issues.



In addition to Task Force meetings, you can connect with Rimrock Neighborhoods Task Force through email and social media:



- Follow Rimrock Neighborhoods Task Force on Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/BillingsRNTF>
- Connect to ***Rimrock Taskforce*** on the Next Door app on your smartphone
- EMAIL the task force board: RimrockTaskforce@gmail.com
Be sure to include your phone # when emailing the board, in case we need to call you!
- City website:
<https://www.billingsmt.gov/1730/Rimrock-Neighborhoods-Task-Force>

Links should be click-able, but if your browser doesn't support a direct link, just highlight the website address, then copy and paste into your browser's search bar.