

June Update - Rimrock Neighborhoods Task Force

This newsletter is brought to you by the Rimrock Neighborhoods Task Force.

In most cases, the newsletter does not include the same info shared at meetings.



**Please join Us At
Our Next Meeting:**

July 16, 7:00 pm

All meetings are open to the public.

TASK FORCE SCHEDULE:

Meetings:

**In-person meetings -
the 3rd Wednesday of
odd-numbered months
Mayflower Church building
(Rehberg/Poly)**

**January, March, May, July
September, November**

Newsletters:

**To keep neighbors updated
between meetings, we send a
newsletter during
even-numbered months**

**February, April, June, August,
October, December**

FROM THE DESK OF HOWARD EVANS, RNTF CHAIR

Hi neighbors,

Election. So, you thought elections were over, at least for a while. Not true! RNTF will be holding our Board elections at the July membership meeting. We are looking for candidates for all offices. There are many concerns ahead for our Task Force area as City development, changing community needs and priorities, and the uncertainties of governments, all of which are of concern to our membership. Leslie, Tom and team have made inroads on Rimrock Rd

safety and the lesson learned is that you need to be visible to be heard and persistence is the cornerstone. Please consider volunteering to help keep our neighborhoods safe and livable.

Hwy 3 Corridor Study. A virtual public meeting was held June 4 by DOWL (engineering firm contracted by MDT) followed by a live display and opportunity for input on June 5. The video meeting will soon be available on the website and is worth watching even if you attended the live presentation. There is continuing opportunity to express your concerns and provide virtual input on the website:

<https://www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolv/hwy3billings/>

Comments can also be made to the contacts provided on the web page. If you are a RimTop resident, a frequent Highway 3 user or a concerned citizen please communicate with the team, it's the only voice you have.

Last Thoughts. I am leaving the Chair position with a sense of gratitude & optimism. I have enjoyed working with the other Board members and owe them a great deal of gratitude for their support & assistance. I will miss working with them but intend to stay engaged. Our members have provided me with affirmation that a community spirit still exists and is worthy of preservation. Many of our neighborhoods are transitioning from original owners to new families with children which restarts the cycle, We, as neighbors, are entrusted to keeping the “new” neighborhood as safe and welcoming as the original, a task which will be met by you,

Sincerely, Howard Evans, RNTF Chair

ROADWAY UPDATES

**Within the Rimrock Task Force area, we have 2 major east/west corridors:
Hwy 3 above the rims, and Rimrock Rd below the rims.**

Highway 3 Corridor Study

The Montana Dept. of Transportation recently held both an in-person and a virtual open house to gather input on the Hwy 3 Corridor Study.

For an overview of the project, visit:
<https://www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolv/hwy3billings/default.aspx>

Rimrock Road Chip Seal

Rimrock Rd just went through a chip seal project (also called “pavement preservation”)

Temporary turn lane
paint is in place.

Once the new pavement surface

For info that was provided during 2 recent public meetings,
<https://www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/hwy3billings/public-involvement.aspx>
(this includes a recording of the virtual open house)

We encourage you to provide feedback on the Hwy 3 study at
<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/d177c33a740f4bd7b855d95760e26af5>

has “cured”, permanent lane lines will be painted.

You may notice a narrowing of the driving lanes between 17th & Zimmerman.

This is for safety purposes. When driving lanes are narrowed, speed often reduces!

RIMROCK CORRIDOR SAFETY COMMITTEE

Public Comment for the Transportation Corridor Plan

Set to Begin in July



Sara Plath, City Engineer will attend our July meeting to update us on the transportation plan. This will be our first opportunity to share our Rimrock Road concerns, as well as other transportation corridors within the City.

This plan is about all corridors in the City, which includes Rimrock.

Due to the high volume of Rimrock Rd safety concerns, we have been compiling your issues and ideas over the last 12 months.

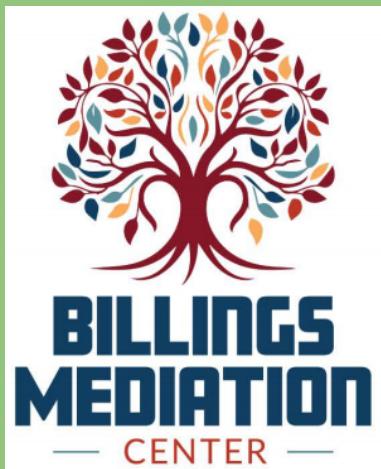
Thank you to everyone who has shared their input!

To receive updates about the Rimrock Corridor Safety Committee, you can sign up here: [**Rimrock Corridor Safety Committee Sign-Up**](#)

NOTE: We never share your contact information!

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

This month, we're featuring two non-profit community organizations that are helping with our efforts to make Rimrock Road safer for all



Temple McLean is the founder and director of Billings Mediation Center, and the Certified Facilitative Mediators Association

[Billings Mediation Center website](#)

The Mission of **Billings Mediation Center** is to assist people in resolving conflict in a way that restores, preserves, or redefines their ongoing relationship through conflict resilience.

Mediation is a peaceful alternative for resolving any kind of conflict.

Unlike a judge, the mediator's job is not to make decisions. The mediator is a neutral, third-party who helps all parties communicate, identify their interests and goals, and brainstorm options to come to a mutually agreed upon settlement.

Read more about the Billings Mediation Center in this Yellowstone Valley Women's magazine article:

[Billings Mediation Article](#)

Temple has attended informational meetings about our Rimrock safety work, and has promoted our efforts on Billings Mediation Center's social media.



Founded by Mitch Bohn, AccessBillings is

AccessBillings is a recently started nonprofit organization dedicated to improving accessibility and inclusion for people with disabilities throughout the Billings community.

Through public education, advocacy and collaboration with local leaders, AccessBillings works to eliminate physical and social barriers.

The organization aims to create a more equitable city where everyone can participate fully, regardless of ability.

Hear from Mitch first hand:

dedicated to fostering a more inclusive and accessible community for all.

[AccessBillings website](#)

Mitch Bohn Interview

Mitch has advised the Rimrock Corridor Safety Committee on ADA requirements which we will incorporate into our safety improvement requests for Rimrock Rd.

CITY TRASH REMOVAL FOR THE SUMMER MONTHS:

**Highlighted dates indicate cardboard pick-up
There are no holiday delays for these 3 months**

June						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

July						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
						5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

August						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
						2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

COMMUNITY HEALTH CORNER



**Blacklegged ticks
identified in Eastern
Montana**



The state has announced the arrival of a tick species new to Montana and is asking for the public's help with surveillance.

Ixodes scapularis (“deer tick” or “blacklegged tick”) has been identified in Eastern Montana. This is the first time a blacklegged tick has been found in our state through active surveillance.

Blacklegged ticks transmit Lyme disease, Powassan virus disease, ehrlichiosis, babesiosis, anaplasmosis & hard tick relapsing fever.

The most common tick-borne illnesses in Montana are Rocky Mountain spotted fever, Colorado tick fever, soft tick relapsing fever & tularemia - spread by tick species already common in Montana.

Reducing exposure is the best defense against tick-borne disease. Treat clothing & gear with products containing 0.5% permethrin – used to treat boots, clothing & camping gear, and will remain protective through several washings.

Avoid wooded & brushy areas with high grass & leaf litter. Walk in the center of trails.

Use insect repellents containing DEET, picaridin, IR3535, Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus (OLE), para-menthane-diol (PMD) or 2-undecanone.

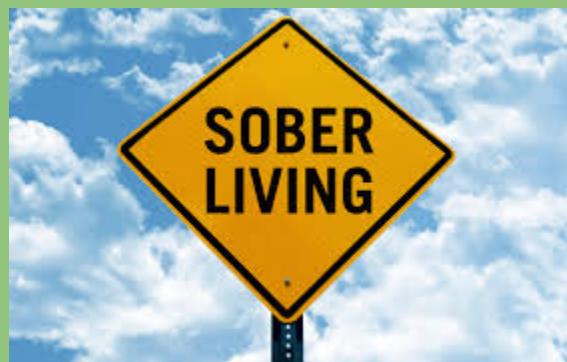
After coming indoors, check your body, gear, clothing & pets for ticks.

Early symptoms of tick-borne illnesses are often similar, & include fever, persistent headaches & body aches.

DPHHS is asking the public to contribute specimens & info about ticks found in Montana. To contribute to tick surveillance fill out an online form: [On-line form Montana Tick Surveillance](#)

For more info, go to: [Montana Tick Dashboard](#)

SOBER LIVING HOMES IN MONTANA



At our May task force meeting, the topic of Sober Living Homes came up.

2 years ago, City Code Enforcement gave us a presentation about a bill passed in the 2023 State Legislature. We are providing a link below to the State website with information on sober living homes.

The website includes a list of currently licensed companies operating these homes

State Sober Living Home Information

YELLOWSTONE COUNTY COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT - SURVEY

Several local health organizations are jointly conducting a survey of wellness issues. All residents 18 years and older are encouraged to participate.

Take the survey by scanning the QR code below, or by using this link:

<https://tinyurl.com/5eckewrt>



City Council -

Our Task Force area includes parts of both Ward 4 & Ward 1.

Ward map to determine your representative -> [Click for City Ward Map](#)

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

P O Box 1178, Billings MT 59103 (406) 657-8433

Link to City Calendar which includes council meetings:



<https://www.billingsmt.gov/calendar.aspx>

Ward 4:

Scott Aspenlieder (406) 461-8392 aspenlieders@billingsmt.gov

Dan Tidswell **(406) 690-4534** **tidswelld@billingsmt.gov**

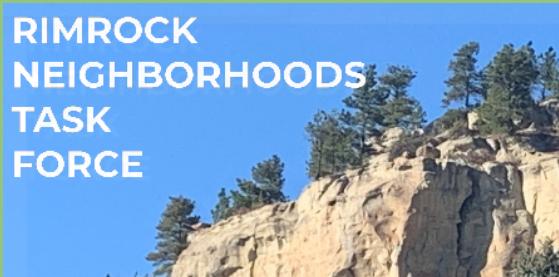
Ward 1

Kendra Shaw **(406) 670-7772** **shawk@billingsmt.gov**
Ed Gulick **(406) 698-2747** **gulicke@billingsmt.gov**

Rimrock Neighborhoods Task Force does not politically endorse current office holders or candidates.

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 with 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 - search for: RIMROCK TASKFORCE
- EMAIL the task force board: RimrockTaskForce@gmail.com

Be sure to include a phone # when emailing, 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, simply highlight the website address, then copy and paste into your browser's search bar.

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