



# The CityLink

Official News and Information  
from the City of Billings

Billings Pride:  
City-wide

Spring 2010

## Census 2010 – IT'S IN OUR HANDS!

April 1, 2010, is Census Day. This is the day that each person in every household across the United States is counted. Prior to that date, residents will receive a short 10-question form to complete and a self-addressed, stamped envelope to mail it back to the U.S. Census Bureau. The count of households and residents provides the information necessary to distribute federal funds to communities for public service and infrastructure projects and helps determine the number of seats each state has in the U.S. House of Representatives.

In March, each household will receive the questionnaire. The Census Bureau estimates the form can be completed in 10 minutes. The questions ask only for the number, name, age, gender and race of individuals in the household and whether you own or rent your dwelling. A telephone number for future contact -- if needed -- is also requested. The population data is widely-used to design

federal, state and local programs to benefit specific groups of people. Household data is important for planning housing programs and assessing the economic condition of the community.

Why is the Census important to Billings and Yellowstone County? Based on the Census count, the City and County have access to important demographic information that is used to determine what types of public services are needed and where those services should be offered to have the greatest benefit. Locally, the data is used to prioritize funding for housing, education, and emergency services. The amount of federal funding Billings and Yellowstone County receives for major public infrastructure projects is also based on the population. In 2000 alone, the community received over \$623,589,947 in federal funding or over \$4,820 per person. This money was used to rehabilitate low-income housing, provide health care benefits

to underserved populations, and construct and rebuild numerous roads and trails – just to list a few items.

To ensure Billings and Yellowstone County continue to receive their fair share of federal funds, it is very important to complete the form and mail it back. In the last Census, it was estimated that the population for the entire state of Montana was undercounted by 14,000 people. This resulted in a loss of an estimated \$43.2 million to Montana. In the 2000 Census, Montana ranked 44th in the states that were undercounted. Unfortunately, the populations that were undercounted are those that benefit most from the federally funded programs – tribal members, lower-income rural residents and children.

All information on the form is confidential. Title 13 of the U.S. Code protects the confidentiality of all personal information, and violating this law is a crime with severe penalties. In addition,

other federal laws, including the Confidential Statistical Efficiency Act and the Privacy Act, reinforce these protections. It is against the law to publish private information including names, addresses, social security numbers and telephone numbers. The data is used to produce statistics, and the use of individual private information is prohibited. All U.S.

Census Bureau employees have taken an oath to uphold the confidentiality of Census information. Any violation of the law is a fine of up to \$250,000 or imprisonment of up to 5 years, or both.

*Completing the 2010 Census form is very important. It takes only 10 minutes to complete and the results benefit all residents.*

Easy.  
Important.  
Safe.

United States  
Census  
2010

IT'S IN OUR HANDS



WE CAN'T MOVE FORWARD  
UNTIL YOU MAIL IT BACK.

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Visit the City's Website: <http://www.ci.billings.mt.us>

## We Want to Hear From You

Please provide us with input for our next newsletter.

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

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

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Mail or e-mail your comments to us at:  
[citylink@ci.billings.mt.us](mailto:citylink@ci.billings.mt.us)

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# Mountain Pine Bark Beetle In Billings

Mountain Pine Bark Beetles (MPB) are the most serious insect pest in Montana's pine forests, and they have now moved into landscape pine trees in Billings. The MPB is the insect that is killing large numbers of native pine trees in Montana's forested lands annually.

City staff identified the first infested pine trees in Walsh and Edgerton parks during the later part of August, 2009. Shortly after that, reports of attacks in other parks and private yard trees throughout the City were confirmed by local experts. In addition to Walsh and Edgerton parks, City staff has identified infested trees in Rose Park, Sacajawea Park and at Mountview Cemetery.

The potential threat that the beetle represents to Billings' urban pine trees is significant. The MPB is currently attacking mostly non-native Scotch and Austrian pine trees, but will attack all species of pine, including Ponderosa, Lodgepole, White and Mugho. In Bozeman and Great Falls, the MPB has been reported to attack a few Spruce trees. Trees that are most likely to be at-

tacked are those not growing vigorously due to old age, crowding, poor growing conditions, drought, fire or mechanical damage, root disease and other causes. The beetle has a one-year life cycle. In late summer, adults leave the dead, yellow- to red-needled trees in which they developed. In general, females seek out large diameter, living, green trees and they attack by tunneling under the bark. However, under epidemic or outbreak conditions, small diameter trees may also be infested.

Coordinated mass attacks by many beetles are common. If successful, each beetle pair mates, forms a vertical tunnel (egg gallery) under the bark and produces about 75 eggs. Following egg hatch, larvae (grubs) tunnel away from the egg gallery, producing a characteristic feeding pattern. Beetle larvae spend the winter under the bark.

They continue to feed in the spring and transform into pupae in June and July. Emergence of new adults can begin in mid-June and continue through September. Identifying trees under attack by Mountain Pine Beetles isn't difficult. As they bore into the trunk, the tree produces popcorn-shaped nodules of sap, called "pitch tubes," in an effort to repel the insects. Small piles of wood dust

Continued on page 3

## City Council Sets Goals and Priorities

*"We the City Council and staff of the City of Billings, affirm that we perform all of our duties embracing the values of integrity, collaboration and stewardship."*

Using results from the Citizen Survey and the Community Conversations, both conducted in 2009, the Mayor and City Council met late last year to develop a "community investment plan." The plan prioritizes the activities that the governing body wants to pursue in 2010 and beyond.

*The plan contains the following strategic elements:*

- Honest, Responsive Government
- Comprehensive, Orderly Growth
- Transportation Linkages
- Preservation of Resources
- Economic Development
- Involved, United Community

To support the strategic direction, the Council wants to develop a comprehensive communications plan. Citizens told the Council that the City does a poor job of explaining its actions, programs, budgets, etc. A communication plan will help to

identify the most effective messages and methods for communicating with citizens.

Orderly community growth can be promoted by developing effective infill and annexation policies, creating transportation routes, such as the inner belt loop, and proactively zoning property to promote desired land development. The Council wants to examine incentives that might induce development or redevelopment within the City's present service area.

A system that accommodates all forms of transportation is important to the City's growth and health. Public transit funding, routes and ridership need more examination. Traffic enforcement and developing roads that encourage alternative transportation will make a safer community.

The City will explore what similar communities are doing to develop trails and parks and will adopt their best practices. Plans will be created for improving park development and maintenance and how to best deliver public library services and facilities.

Community partners such as

the Chamber of Commerce and the Big Sky Economic Development Authority will be consulted to help build the area's economy. City fees may be adjusted to better recoup the true cost of providing services.

The City hopes to foster a community-wide investment in visioning and planning for the future of the City by creating an environment where diversity and difference result in positive, creative solutions. The City must find creative ways of solving both old and new problems, embrace the opportunities to learn in public and encourage citizens to take ownership in the ever-evolving "Community Investment Plan."

The goals and action plan summarized above are not a complete, all-inclusive list, but are intended to give the readers a glimpse into the planning process the City governing body undertakes each year to develop a plan for the future of the City. The Mayor, Council and senior staff continue to work diligently to produce a vision for the Magic City, and they will be communicating this plan with City staff and the community over the next few months.

(Beetles - continued from page 2)  
collect near the base of the tree.

Infested trees may remain green during the fall and have green crowns, but if you see pitch tubes and wood dust, the tree will die and no treatment is going to save it. The feeding activity of the larvae will disrupt the tree's circulatory system. Once attacked, infested trees must be removed and destroyed no later than May of the following spring. If not removed and destroyed, each infested tree can produce enough beetles to attack two to ten more pine trees.

City staff has developed a comprehensive control and prevention program geared towards protecting this valuable resource in Billings' parks. To date, staff has located, identified, removed and destroyed infested pine trees located in City parks. The goal has been to have those trees destroyed prior to beetle emergence in June 2010.

Healthy, high value park trees will be

## Fiscal Year 2011 Budget Preparation

The City of Billings is in the budget development mode for Fiscal Year 2011 (FY11).

The Mayor and Council have reviewed the Capital Improvement Plan, Equipment Replacement Plan and Technology Replacement Plan (TRP). Each City Department was once again instructed to keep their Operations and Maintenance budgets at a zero percent increase, except for allowable costs such as electricity, natural gas, gasoline and diesel fuel, etc. Requests for additional services are

protected by spraying them in April and May with any one of several commercial brands of insecticide. In February, the Billings City Council provided \$20,000 for the protective spray program. Thoroughly covering the tree trunk is the key to successful protection of this valuable resource.

Property owners throughout Billings and the Billings area are encouraged to remove infested trees from their properties prior to May 15 and destroy the wood through chipping, burning or burying the infested trees. Following up with preventative spray applications in May will protect the trees from attack for the growing season. Preserving and protecting valuable and irreplaceable large pine trees in City parks and throughout the community is important to the quality of life in Billings.

By working together, we can protect pine trees throughout the community, ensuring their survival so that future generations may benefit from them.

handled through supplemental budget requests (SBRs).

The Departments will complete their department requested FY11 budgets in the first week of March. The requested budgets, as well as SBRs, will be reviewed the last week of March and the first week of April with Administration. Changes to the requests will be completed after these meetings in preparation of upcoming meetings with the Mayor and Council.

The budget will be presented to the Mayor and Council at public meetings with dates, times and locations advertised in the Billings Times. The FY11 budget is scheduled for a public hearing and adoption June 14, at a regular Council meeting.

# News from Public Works

In each issue of the CityLink, the Public Works Department tries to provide an update on projects going on throughout the City and on projects coming up in the near future. The following is a quick look at those projects:

The City plans on constructing street improvements on Lake Elmo Drive this summer from Main Street to Wicks Lane. The improvements include constructing curb, gutter, sidewalk, approaches, asphalt path, turn lanes, storm drain and street surface improvements. Construction is planned to begin in June. The improvements will increase the level of service on Lake Elmo, as well as provide a safe pedestrian facility.



(Lake Elmo Drive - Preconstruction)

The City will be overlaying 24th Street West between Grand Avenue and Central Avenue and 1st Avenue North between North 18th Street and North 33rd Street starting in August. The City will also chip seal approximately 13 miles of residential streets throughout the city.

The City replaces deteriorating water and sanitary sewer pipe in its water distribution and sanitary sewer collection systems annually. In 2010, the City plans to replace slightly more than two miles each of water and sanitary sewer pipe along with their appurtenant structures such as manholes, hydrants, and valves. Major work areas for the upcoming

construction season include 24th Street West from Broadwater Avenue to Grand Avenue, Broadwater Avenue from 24th Street West to 28th Street West, the alleys north of Dehler Park to the BBWA Canal between North 23rd Street and North 27th Street, Calhoun Lane between King Avenue East and Underpass Avenue, and Mountain View Boulevard. Total budget for the upcoming projects is \$6.4 million.

The City's water distribution and wastewater collection systems are each comprised of about 450 miles of pipe. As water and sewer mains age, they begin to reach the end of their useful lives. Performance of the mains deteriorates resulting in high maintenance costs and loss of capacity. Old water mains contribute to a degradation in water quality and water loss. Old sewer mains experience increased inflow and infiltration, as well as the potential for exfiltration. Water pipe replacement is most often performed in City street right-of-way or in easements using open trenching methods. Sanitary sewer pipe replacement is usually done in City street or alley right-of-way as well as in easements using either open trenching methods or trenchless replacement technology.



(24th Street West Sewer Manhole Replacement Prior to Trenchless Rehab)

## Free Tax Preparation and E-filing Available in Billings

Local residents can have their taxes done fast, free and certified at a Billings Community Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) site.

VITA is a free income tax preparation service staffed by IRS-certified volunteers for people with basic returns who generally made \$49,000 or below in 2009. Five free tax preparation sites located throughout Billings will be open from Jan. 30 to April 15. Please call (406) 254-9760,

for more information about locations and hours. You can also go to [www.unitedwayyellowstone.org](http://www.unitedwayyellowstone.org) or [www.montanafreefile.org](http://www.montanafreefile.org), for more information.

In addition to tax preparation, VITA volunteers assist community members in claiming special credits and deductions for which they may be eligible, such as the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and the Elderly Homeowner/Rental Credit. These credits can provide refunds to people even if they

do not owe taxes or paid less taxes than the credit is worth. VITA sites specialize in helping low-to-moderate income filers receive all the tax benefits they are entitled to while saving them the cost of commercial tax preparation.

This year, Yellowstone County has five VITA sites offering free tax preparation and e-filing:

- District 7 Human Resource Development Council (HRDC) is located at 7 N. 31 St. and open through April 15 on Wednes-

days and Fridays from 2 to 8 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon.

- United Way/MSU-B is located in downtown Billings at 112 N. Broadway at the Jackets and Co. store. It will be open through April 11 on Saturdays from 1 to 4 p.m. and Mondays from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
- Billings Federal Credit Union is located at 2522 4th Ave. N. and will be taking appointments.

Please call (406) 248-1127, for more information.

- Rimrock Credit Union is located at 952 Central Ave. and will be taking appointments. Please call (406) 245-3685, for more information.
- AARP Tax Aide is located at the Yellowstone County Council of Aging at 1505 Ave. D. They will be taking appointments. Please call (406) 259-9666, for more information.

# City of Billings Hazardous Waste Collection Events

Friday, June 4th: The Billings Solid Waste Division is sponsoring a hazardous waste collection event for small businesses. In order to qualify, businesses must not produce more than 220 pounds of hazardous waste per month, or have accumulated more than 2,200 pounds of hazardous waste for disposal. Participants must pre-register for the event by calling (406) 247-8633.

Saturday, June 5th: The Billings Solid Waste Division is sponsoring its 15th Annual Toxic Trash Round-Up, a household hazardous waste col-

lection event for residents of Yellowstone, Treasure, Musselshell, Carbon and Stillwater counties. Residents may bring their unwanted, unused and leftover household chemicals to the Billings Operation Center, 4848 Midland Road, between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Items that will be accepted include medications, ammunition, paint, used oil, fluorescent bulbs, batteries and garden chemicals. Items not accepted include medical waste, agricultural chemicals, explosives and electronic waste. For more information, call (406) 247-8633.



# Q&A

## FROM OUR READERS

### Questions from Ralph Snyder of Billings:

What are the City's long-range plans to improve Central, Broadwater and Grand Avenues' ability to handle traffic off of Shiloh Road? When is the City going to widen these three roads?

### Answers:

The new construction of Shiloh Road is expected to bring new commercial and residential developments along the road. With these developments comes added traffic to Shiloh Road and the adjacent roads – including Central Avenue, Grand Avenue, and Broadwater Avenue. As the development occurs, the City will require the developers to widen the road adjacent to their properties. Therefore, the development will bring added traffic, but it will also bring added capacity of the roads as they are constructed. As an example, this practice is being utilized for the construction of Grand Avenue from 24th Street West to Zimmerman Trail. Grand Avenue is built out in varying widths depending on the adjacent developments. After enough development has occurred, the added traffic may require construction of the full width of street where development has not occurred. At this point the City will construct the remaining portions of road that are needed for continuity throughout the corridor. Engineering plans for both Grand Avenue and Central Avenue are being developed so the road is built consistently from end to end – whether built by development or the City.

The answer for Broadwater Avenue is a bit different. Broadwater Avenue is already largely developed. Therefore, developers will not be able to build out Broadwater Avenue in conjunction with their properties. Further, Broadwater Avenue does not continue west of Shiloh Road. Existing traffic patterns show that the amount of traffic on Broadwater Avenue is approximately half that of Central Avenue and 25 percent that of Grand Avenue. It is safe to assume that as traffic increases on Shiloh Road,

Broadwater Avenue will carry more traffic as well, but not nearly as much as on Central and Grand Avenue. Further, the characteristics of Broadwater Avenue (number of left-turn openings, driveway spacing, the golf course's limited access, etc.) limit the amount of conflicting traffic and allow for Broadwater Avenue, as it exists today, to carry more than triple the existing traffic.

More generally, all potential projects are prioritized according to need and available funding. The three streets you mention are all arterials so they would be built using Arterial Funds. Some recent projects that have been built using these funds are Aronson and King Avenue West. Rimrock Road is the next project that will be completed and is planned for this year.

### Comments and Questions from Carrol Botts of Billings:

I liked to see the City's regulations printed, such as those on garbage collections. What would I like to see in upcoming newsletters? In simple English, what are the regulations on fences in residential zones? Are any of them enforced, besides mine?

### Answer:

As with all Code Enforcement complaints, the officers only respond to complaints received either through the City Complaint Line, through the website, via telephone, or written and mailed or dropped off at the office.

Fencing codes within a residential zoning district restrict fence heights to a maximum height of 6 feet on the side and rear yards, and 30 inches within a clear vision zone such as corners, driveways and alleys where they enter the street. Fence permits are required and must be purchased prior to installation of the fence. The homeowner is provided with a copy of the current fence codes at the time the permit is issued.

*Thanks for reading the CityLink and for sending in your great suggestions and comments!*

# Benefits of Parks and Recreation Services

Nationally, visits to park and recreation resources each year number in the billions. In Billings, 76 percent of households visit Pioneer Park at least once per year, 64 percent attend a special event in a park, 78 percent participate in passive recreation and 61 percent participate in sports and athletic activities.

In a recent Needs Assessment study of the services provided by the Billings Parks and Recreation Department, 83 percent of Billings' households responded that the Department provides an essential service to the community. 97 percent responded that, "well-maintained parks add to the quality of life in the community."

Clearly, parks and recreation services are viewed by many as "essential" or "necessary" to the quality of life in the community because of the many benefits those services provide.

But what are those benefits? Numerous studies and surveys have been completed, nationally and locally, which have identified three major areas where parks and recreation services benefit communities and make them more successful.

Those are:

1. **Social and Health Benefits;**
2. **Economic Benefits; and,**
3. **Environmental Benefits.**

The social and health benefits of parks and recreation services are many. Parks provide places for people to gather and socialize, where neighbors can meet and kids can play to-

gether. This "know your neighbor" effect helps ward off antisocial problems that would otherwise cost the city more in police and fire protection, prisons, counseling and rehabilitation. People know that using parks or recreation programs and facilities provides greater wellness and healthier lifestyles.

Concerns about health and wellness are the factors most likely to motivate people to use the Heritage Trail, participate in a sport or use a local park and recreation facility or program. Several studies have documented the economic burden of physical inactivity. Lack of exercise is shown to contribute to obesity and its many effects, and experts call for a more active lifestyle. Access to trails, parks and recreation programs can help people increase their level of physical activity and reduce health care costs.

More than 30 studies have shown that parks and recreation services contribute to the economic health of a community. Neighborhood parks can provide up to a 20 percent increase in housing values for homes near a park. Community parks can provide benefits of up to 33 percent in increased property values. Homes next to greenbelts and trails can generate a premium of 11 percent in value over the average price.

Most direct uses of city parks are free of charge and open to all, no matter their race, creed or economic situation. This represents a savings to all

residents who would otherwise have to pay for the use of private or commercial facilities. In other words, if parks were not available in a city, how much would residents have to pay in order to receive the same benefits they can obtain free of charge? Additionally, other studies have shown that businesses locate to communities that have strong parks and recreation resources in which their employees can participate.

Parks provide many environmental benefits to a community. Storm water runoff is a significant problem in urban areas. Parkland reduces storm water management costs by capturing precipitation and/or slowing its runoff. Large pervious (absorbent) surface areas in parks allow precipitation to infiltrate and recharge the groundwater. Also, vegetation in parks provides considerable surface area that intercepts and stores rainwater, allowing some to evaporate before it ever reaches the ground. Thus city parks and natural areas function like mini-storage reservoirs, saving millions of dollars in upgrading storm sewer systems. Park trees, shrubs and grasses absorb a variety of pollutants, including nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide, ozone, and some particulates. Leaves absorb gases and particulates adhere to the plant surface, at least temporarily. Vegetation in city parks and natural areas plays a role in improving air quality and reducing pollution costs.

## New Parks and Recreation Summer Brochure Coming Soon!

The Billings Parks and Recreation Department's 2010 summer brochure will be inserted in the Billings Gazette on Sunday, May 2. The brochure will also be distributed to all elementary schools in the Billings area and be available online at [www.prpl.info](http://www.prpl.info). The brochure will contain summer programs for both children and adults. Some of the programs offered will be:

- Red Cross Swimming Lessons
- Magic City Summer Camp
- AquaNuts Water Adventure Camp
- Adult Water Exercises at Rose & South (new)
- Audubon Nature Camp
- Youth Tennis Lessons,
- Youth Arts and Enrichment Classes,
- Exploring the Billings Trail System
- Martial Arts Day Camp
- Ice Skating
- Learn to Kayak
- Canoeing
- Fly Fishing
- Youth Air Gun Safety & Shooting Basics
- Zumba and Pilates and Belly Dancing



*Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more specific information coming soon...*



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# Fire Department Looks at 2009

The first part of the year is always a good time for the Billings Fire Department to look back at the previous year's demand for services. The good news is that overall requests for emergency alarms for the Fire Department were down by approximately 1,000 alarms in 2009; however, the overall alarm responses remains around 10,000. This equals about 28 times per day, on aver-

age, that the men and women of the Billings Fire Department respond to emergencies in the community.

This demand for emergency services continues to be primarily associated with medical calls, which constitute 70 percent of call volume. Structure fires continue to be a small fraction of calls, but are the most dangerous and risky part of the fire fighting profession. Other services provided by the Suppression Division include vehicle fires, grass fires, hazardous material spills and special rescue situations.

The demand for emergency services could not be managed without the essential

assistance of the Communications Center. This division provides the communications for fire, law enforcement and EMS in our community. These behind-the-scene dispatchers are truly the unsung heroes of the 911 system.

The Fire Prevention Bureau was kept busy in 2009 providing business inspections, plan reviews, public education activities and fire investigations. Backing everyone up is the office personnel who truly are the glue that keeps the budget, department activities and alarm records in order. The Department relies on the various divisions to work together for a common good, and

Fire Department personnel should be proud of their accomplishments in 2009.

The support from City Administration and the City Council is vital to the Department's success. In 2009, the Department took possession of two new fire engines and a new rescue truck. The Department was able to increase overall training and purchase the necessary tools and equipment for personnel to provide quality and professional emergency service to area citizens. This would not have been possible without the political and administrative support from Administration, Council and various departments throughout the City.

## City of Billings Solid Waste Division

The City's Solid Waste Division, a unit of the Public Works Department, provides commercial and residential garbage service for Billings. Residential service is assessed on property taxes in the amount of \$86/year for weekly collection, or about \$1.66/week.

In the areas that have alleys, 300-gallon barrels are provided by the City to be shared by 2-3 households. Where alleys don't exist, each household is provided with a 90-gallon barrel on wheels. The residents push the barrels out for collection on their day of service.

The Solid Waste office receives phone calls every day concerning different aspects of collection services. Solid Waste staff thought it might be helpful to provide some guidelines for the residents of Billings regarding garbage collection.

### General Information

■ Solid Waste will collect trash from the public right-of-ways. Solid Waste cannot come on to private property to remove items, even with the permission of the homeowner.

■ Because of the risk of injury, items weighing more than 75 pounds cannot be collected by Solid Waste workers.

■ City ordinance states that refuse resulting from contracted work, be it tree trimmings, hot water heaters or carpeting, is required to be disposed of by the contractor, not the Solid Waste Division.

■ The Solid Waste Division has held an annual Toxic Waste Roundup for the past 16 years at which time residents are allowed to bring items from their homes for disposal at no charge. The roundup is held the first Saturday following Memorial Day weekend. Oil-based paint, stains, batteries, pesticides, herbicides and other toxic materials are collected at that time. Mark your calendars!

■ Used oil and anti-freeze are accepted at both the landfill and the Solid Waste Division Office, 4848 Midland Road, for year-round recycling.

■ Solid Waste accepts old household refrigerators and freezers at the landfill for a charge. The charge is for the recovery of the Freon by certified persons in the Solid Waste Division which is required

by federal and state regulations.

■ The landfill is available for Billings and Yellowstone county residents to use at no charge for loads brought in vehicles no larger than a ¾ ton pickup. There is a charge for commercial use of the landfill, for residents of other counties that the landfill serves and for residents of the City of Laurel. Hours are 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. seven days a week from March through November. It closes on Sunday from December through February.

■ The Solid Waste Division observes the major holidays, which include New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day. Collection may be delayed by one day during those weeks. Watch for ads in the newspaper.

■ Commercial containers should never be used by residential customers. Businesses pay commercial rates for service, and this act would be considered a theft of services.

### Alley Service

- Use the alley barrel primarily for household trash.
- Top off the barrel with yard waste or larger items the day before collection.
- Keep the alley clean from your property to the middle of the alley.
- Place items too large for the barrel on your side of the alley for alley cleaning.
- Extra materials are cleaned from the alleys approximately every third week.
- Only residential trash should be placed in residential barrels.
- Lawn services or tree trimming compa-

nies must haul their own refuse.

- Branches need to be prepared in 4-foot lengths and bundled for pickup.
- Long items causing the lid to stand up can cause a mess when the barrel is emptied.
- To help prevent litter, Solid Waste staff suggests placing trash in bags.
- Residents should not move barrels from where the City has placed them or turn them.

### Curb Service

- Collection service begins at 7 a.m. and barrels and any extra items should be out.
- The barrel should be placed with the lid opening toward the street.
- Reasonable amounts of extra trash will be collected on the same day as the barrel.
- Extra barrels should be no larger than 32 gallons and should have outside handles.
- Extra trash or barrels should be placed at least 3-4 feet away from the 90-gallon barrel.
- Branches need to be prepared in 4-foot lengths and bundled for pickup.
- Overfilling the barrel can cause a mess when the truck empties it.
- Placing the barrel away from obstacles (mailboxes, vehicles, etc.) is required.
- The truck must be able to reach the barrel from the street.
- Barrels cannot be stored at the curb and should be removed after being emptied.
- To help prevent litter, Solid Waste staff suggests placing trash in bags.

### HOLIDAY SCHEDULE FOR THE NEXT FEW MONTHS:

Holiday	Date of Observance
Memorial Day	Monday, May 31 (Collection delayed one day)
4th of July	Sunday, July 4 (Collection on schedule)
Labor Day	Monday, September 6 (Collection delayed one day)

Also watch for information included in your May water bill on the Toxic Trash Round-Up on June 5.

# News from the Parks, Recreation and Public Lands (PRPL) Department

## Area Youth to Compete

in AQUAFINA®

## Major League Baseball®

### Pitch, Hit & Run Competition

The PRPL Department, in cooperation with the Billings Mustangs and Little League District No. 1, will host a free Aquafina® Major League Baseball® Pitch, Hit & Run™ Competition for area youth. This will be held on April 25, 2010, at 2:00 p.m. at Dehler Park (East Entrance). Pitch, Hit & Run™ is the Official Skills Competition of Major League Baseball®. This grassroots program is designed to provide youngsters with an opportunity to compete, free of charge, in a competition that recognizes individual excellence in core baseball/softball skills. Competitors are divided into four age divisions: 7/8, 9/10, 11/12 and 13/14, and have the chance to advance through four levels of competition, including Team Championships at Major League ballparks and the National Finals at the 2010 MLB™ All-Star Game®. The individual Pitching, Hitting and Running Champions, along with the All-Around Champion in each age and gender group at the local competition will advance to the Sectional Level of Competition. All participants must bring a copy of their birth certificate and fill out a registration/waiver form prior to the start of the competition. For questions concerning the competition, please contact the PRPL Department at (406) 657-8371.

## New Buses for the PRPL Department

The PRPL Department acquired two new buses to safely transport children involved in summer camp programs. The buses were purchased last fall with money from a grant and did not use any General Fund dollars. They replaced two Special Transit buses from MET Transit which had over 100,000 miles each. The buses



are also used by the Billings Community Center and senior activity tours. They are a great addition to the Department.

## 13-Year-Old Summer Baseball League

Starting March 1, team managers can reserve a spot for team entry into the 13-year-old Summer Baseball League sponsored by the PRPL Department. The team entry fee is \$150, and the League is limited to six teams. This League will not conflict with the Little League Junior's scheduled games or the TOC's. The League is specifically designed for play on field dimensions which are appropriate for 13-year-olds. Billings American Legion Baseball Post #4 supports the continued development of young baseball players in Billings and agrees that playing on field dimensions designed for the differences in physical development of this age group is critical for continued player improvement and overall success. The League will be offering instructional coach clinics in preparation for the season, designed for consistent skill development. Each team will play a total of 20 games over the course of 11 weeks. League games will start the week of May 17. Games played in May and the first half of June will be played on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays. Games played the last half of June and into July will be Mondays through Thursdays. Games will start at 6:30 p.m. on weekdays and 2:00 p.m. on Sundays. The League will provide team uniforms, game balls and a home

plate umpire. Each team will be responsible for providing its own equipment. For more information, contact Kory Thomson at (406) 657-8376, or visit the PRPL website at [www.prpl.info](http://www.prpl.info).

## Pioneer Park

There has been significant progress on the Pioneer Park Master Plan Update. The Land Group has completed their research and data collection, which included a statistically valid survey that was sent out to Billings households. Their research and the results of the survey were presented at the first of two public meetings on Jan. 28 at the Billings Community Center. Approximately 30 people attended the meeting and provided input, which was used by The Land Group to develop three alternative layouts for the park. At the second public meeting, held on March 2, the alternatives were presented and the public had opportunity to make comments and give suggestions. From the outcome of this second meeting, The Land Group will be



developing a final layout and written master plan narrative that will be presented to the Parks, Recreation and Cemetery Board (PRC Board) for their recommendation. The final master plan draft and the PRC Board recommendation will be presented to City Council at their regularly scheduled work session on April 5. To track the progress of the Pioneer Park Study, visit [www.prpl.info](http://www.prpl.info). You can also provide your comments by clicking on "contact us" on the "about us" tab at the top of the homepage. Your comments and suggestions are welcome.

## Dog Parks in Billings

The Friends of Billings Dog Park committee is busy with fundraising efforts to raise \$400,000 in private donations to build at least three Dog Parks throughout the community. To-date, they have raised nearly \$20,000 with donations coming in daily. If you are a dog lover and interested in making Dog Parks in Billings a reality, you can make a tax deductible contribution by filling out the form below and sending it, along with your donation, to the address on the form. To find out more about donation opportunities, such as how to sponsor furnishings, shelters, benches, drinking fountains, etc. in the Dog Parks, visit [www.billingsdogparks.com](http://www.billingsdogparks.com). If you would like to be part of the fundraising campaign, contact Mark Jarvis at the Parks, Recreation and Public Lands (PRPL) Department at (406) 657-8367 or via email at [jarvism@ci.billings.mt.us](mailto:jarvism@ci.billings.mt.us).

### Billings Dog Park "A Place Where A Dog Can Be A Dog"

Please find enclosed (check payable to the Billings Park, Recreation & Preservation Foundation or bill my credit card) my tax deductible gift of (circle one):

\$1,000      \$500      \$100      \$50      \$20      Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Visa/MasterCard Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address is (receipt for tax purposes): \_\_\_\_\_

This gift is in honor of or memorial for:: (please circle one) \_\_\_\_\_

The Honoree's address is (necessary to send certificate upon request): \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form with gift to:

Billings Parks, Preservation Foundation - c/o Galusha, Higgins & Galusha P.C.  
Attn: John Fekety P.O. Box 2532 Billings, MT 59103

E-erase your E-waste! is coming to Billings on Saturday and Sunday, June 5 and 6.

On those days, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Tatoonie Electronics at 21 North 15th Street (the old Pierce Packing building), there will be an opportunity to recycle old computers, television sets and other unwanted electronic equipment.

Although charges do apply, this special event provides a great opportunity for area residents to get rid of old equipment and to keep toxic waste

out of our landfill.

The City of Billings is partnering with Tatoonie Electronics and the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to offer discounted recycling fees during this special event.

The event is only for household electronics for residents of Yellowstone, Carbon, Musselshell, Stillwater and Treasure counties. Businesses can contact Tatoonie at (406) 861-4920, to arrange for electronics recycling. For more information and to view the price list, go to [www.tatooniebillings.com](http://www.tatooniebillings.com) or contact Brandon Fox, Tatoonie Manager, at (406) 861-4920.

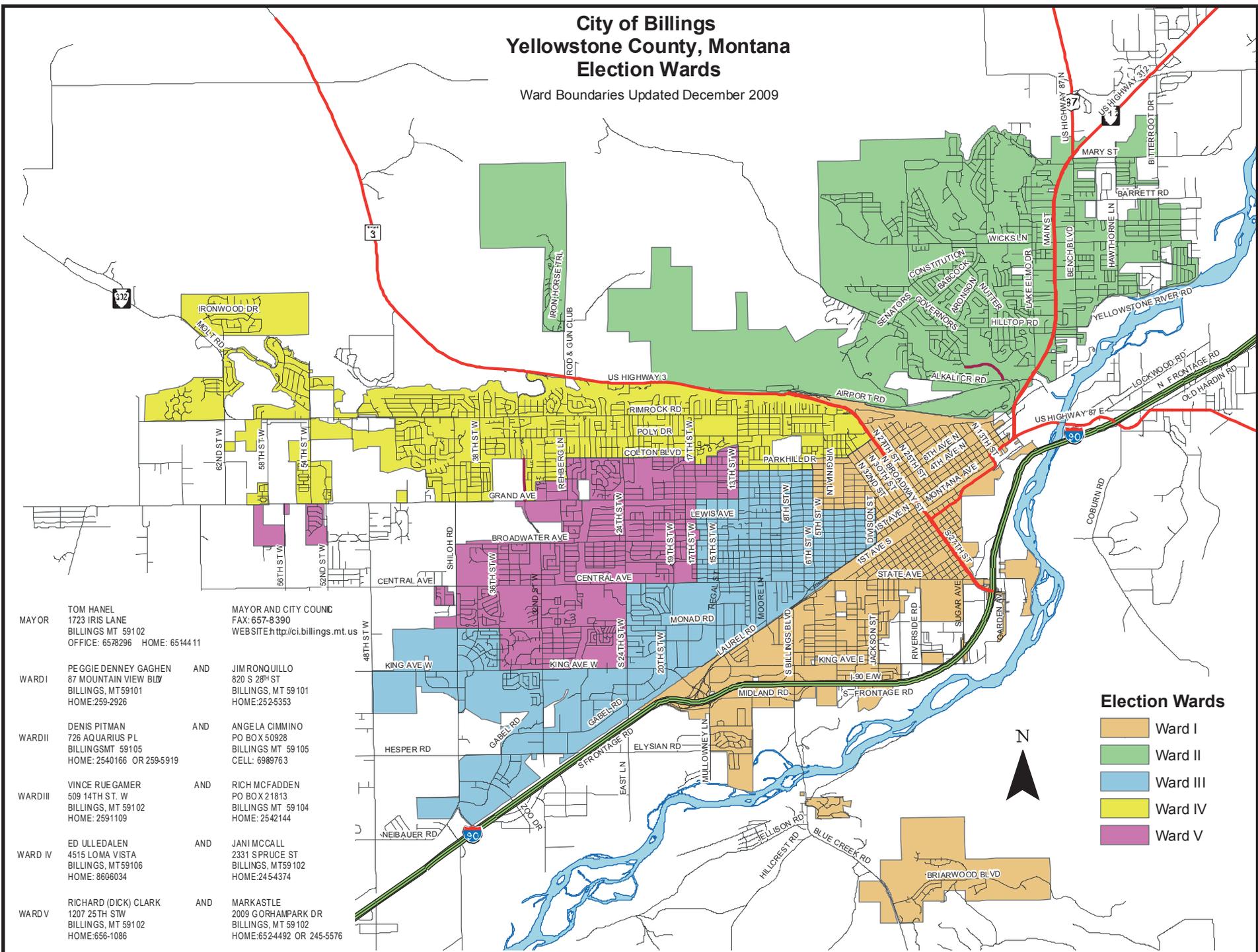
The City of Billings has once again received the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the Fiscal Year 2010 Budget document.

This is the 18th consecutive year that the City has been presented with this prestigious award.

Thank you and congratulations to the Finance staff responsible for compiling the budget.

## City of Billings Yellowstone County, Montana Election Wards

Ward Boundaries Updated December 2009



MAYOR	TOM HANEL 1723 IRIS LANE BILLINGS MT 59102 OFFICE: 6578296 HOME: 65144 11	MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL	FAX: 657-8390 WEBSITE: <a href="http://ci.billings.mt.us">http://ci.billings.mt.us</a>
WARD I	PEGGIE DENNEY GAGHEN 87 MOUNTAIN VIEW BLVD BILLINGS, MT 59101 HOME: 259-2926	AND	JIM RONQUILLO 820 S 28th ST BILLINGS, MT 59 101 HOME: 252-5353
WARD II	DENIS PITMAN 726 AQUARIUS PL BILLINGS MT 59105 HOME: 2540166 OR 259-5919	AND	ANGELA CIMMINO PO BOX 50928 BILLINGS MT 59 105 CELL: 6989763
WARD III	VINCE RUE GAMER 509 14TH ST. W BILLINGS, MT 591 02 HOME: 2591109	AND	RICH MCFADDEN PO BOX 21813 BILLINGS MT 59 104 HOME: 2542144
WARD IV	ED ULLEDALEN 4515 LOMA VISTA BILLINGS, MT 59106 HOME: 8606034	AND	JANI MCCALL 2331 SPRUCE ST BILLINGS, MT 59 102 HOME: 245-4374
WARD V	RICHARD (DICK) CLARK 1207 25TH ST W BILLINGS, MT 591 02 HOME: 656-1086	AND	MARK KASTLE 2009 GORHAMPARK DR BILLINGS, MT 59 102 HOME: 652-4492 OR 245-5576

**Election Wards**

- Ward I
- Ward II
- Ward III
- Ward IV
- Ward V