



# The CityLink

Official News and Information  
from the City of Billings

Billings®



Summer 2015

## Mayor & City Council — City of Billings

Mayor Tom Hanel: [hanelt@ci.billings.mt.us](mailto:hanelt@ci.billings.mt.us) - (406) 657-8296

### WARD 1

Brent Cromley:

[cromleyb@ci.billings.mt.us](mailto:cromleyb@ci.billings.mt.us)

(406) 252-3512

Mike Yakawich:

[yakawichm@ci.billings.mt.us](mailto:yakawichm@ci.billings.mt.us)

(406) 254-2445

### WARD 2

Denis Pitman:

[pitmand@ci.billings.mt.us](mailto:pitmand@ci.billings.mt.us)

(406) 670-7430

Angela Cimmino:

[cimminoa@ci.billings.mt.us](mailto:cimminoa@ci.billings.mt.us)

(406) 698-9763

### WARD 3

Becky Bird:

[birdb@ci.billings.mt.us](mailto:birdb@ci.billings.mt.us)

(406) 534-2523

Rich McFadden:

[mcfaddenr@ci.billings.mt.us](mailto:mcfaddenr@ci.billings.mt.us)

(406) 545-9481

### WARD 4

Jani McCall:

[janimccall65@gmail.com](mailto:janimccall65@gmail.com)

(406) 670-3084

Al Swanson:

[swansona@ci.billings.mt.us](mailto:swansona@ci.billings.mt.us)

(406) 671-5917

### WARD 5

Ken Crouch:

[crouchk@ci.billings.mt.us](mailto:crouchk@ci.billings.mt.us)

(406) 690-0114

Shaun Brown:

[browns@ci.billings.mt.us](mailto:browns@ci.billings.mt.us)

(406) 698-2328

### Mailing Address:

City of Billings  
P.O. Box 1178  
Billings, MT 59103

### Street Address:

City Hall  
210 North 27th Street  
Billings, MT 59101  
Fax: (406) 657-8390

## Airport to Open New Convenient Parking Area

The Billings Logan International Airport is pleased to announce that a new parking area in front of the Terminal Building will soon be available for use. Beginning in early June, the new Express Lot with 225 parking spots, will open to the traveling public, providing close, convenient parking to the Terminal Building for only \$11 per day. This lot will also feature the ability to pay and exit on the south end of the lot using a fully automated credit card only pay

station, or for those who want to use cash, a new bypass to the existing pay plaza will be available. The new entrance into the Express Parking Lot is located directly across from Door 1 of the Terminal Building. Once the Express Lot is operational, the Airport's Short-Term parking lot will be closed during the month of June for surface maintenance.

For any questions concerning Airport Parking, please call (406) 259-8545



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

# King's Green Subdivision Affordable Housing Project — Success!

This story began in February of 1995, when Yellowstone County donated 14.5 acres of tax-deed property to the City of Billings with the condition it be used to create affordable housing. In June of that year, the City Council held a public hearing, during which neighbors expressed concern over the development of the property. In response, the City Council placed four criteria on the development to ensure a quality development complementing the existing neighborhood:

1. Property to be used solely for affordable housing projects;
2. Access must be provided to the adjacent park property;
3. Development must mitigate negative impacts on the surrounding neighborhood; and,
4. All conditions will be enforced by a Development Agreement.

City staff subsequently worked with the adjacent neighborhood, the South Side Task Force, the City Council, and others to illuminate concerns, brainstorm ideas for addressing them, and help create a workable plan to meet community affordable housing needs.

Unfortunately, the City experienced periodic flooding in the area between June of 1997 and June of 2000 that temporarily halted the project. The City received a \$300,000 grant to combine with other local resources to provide a storm water-retention facility for the area. The Public Works Department's subsequent efforts to mitigate flooding issues allowed the project to again move forward.

The City's Community Development Division coordinated a 4-phase project with the following goals:

- Build new, affordable, single-family homes and make them available to low income families
- Build energy efficient homes that include accessibility features
- Close the affordability gap by providing down payment and closing costs assistance to qualified First Time Home Buyers

**December 2004:** Final home in Phase I purchased

**June 2006:** Park improvements completed

**November 2007:** Final home in Phase II purchased

**August 2010:** Final home in Phase III purchased

**August 2013:** Final home in Phase IV purchased

**Average sales price:** \$150,273

**Average number of bedrooms:** 3

**Average primary mortgage:** \$112,444

**Average monthly payment:** \$751

The project resulted in 49 affordable, single-family homes constructed and sold to low income families. The homes included "Visit-Ability Features" such as no stairs, Energy Star construction, in-floor radiant heat, landscaped yards with sprinkler systems and off-street parking. Infrastructure improvements included water, sanitary sewer, storm drains, curbs, gutters, sidewalks and streets.

A recent mail survey of Kings Green Subdivision residents highlighted the following successes:

- **Average Monthly Costs:** Natural Gas \$41.15; Electricity \$50.46
- **Best Home Features:** Energy efficiency, radiant heat, one level/no stairs, accessible, affordable, open design, garage, big yard
- **Best Neighborhood Features:** Quiet, safe, well-maintained, young families, family oriented, friendly neighbors, diversity, paved streets, sidewalks, nice layout, peaceful, walking trail, low traffic

The mail survey also provided valuable insights into how staff might better meet community affordable housing needs in the future through:

- **Home Construction:** Patio doors and a concrete patio slab, carpet instead of cement floors, better/thicker stain/sealant on floors, light fixture in dining area, laundry access through kitchen, and more natural light



- **Neighborhood:** Street lights, street names with continuity, more park trees, houses further apart, bigger yards, drive approach instead of roll-over curbs, and smaller front yards/larger back yards.

#### On the Horizon:

Staff anticipates construction of the multi-use trail between the Kings Green Subdivision and Ponderosa Elementary School will begin later this year.

#### Funds Available for a Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO):

The City has funding set aside for a qualified CHDO to develop affordable housing within the Billings city limits. A CHDO is a private nonprofit, community-based service organization that has obtained, or intends to obtain, staff with the capacity to develop affordable housing for the community it serves.

For more information, please visit <http://ci.billings.mt.us/CHDO> or call the Community Development Division at 247-8675.

## Airport Implements New Flight Information Display System

The Airport recently finished installing a new, user-friendly Flight Information Display System or "FIDS" in the Terminal Building.

This system includes the flight monitors that display the arriving and departing flights and times, conveniently located throughout the Terminal Building, as well as an online component that provides real-time flight information accessible on the Airport's website — <http://flybillings.com>.

The Airport worked with ProDIGIQ, a technology company serving airports and the airline industry, to implement and install the system.

The new FIDS is a cloud-based system, utilizing multiple real-time flight data feeds for both accuracy and redundancy. The licensed data feeds include information streamed from the FAA, the airlines, other hub airports, and a global distribution system.

Fifteen high definition FIDS monitors display flight information that is updated and refreshed about every two minutes. Additionally, people arriving at the Terminal Building to greet arriving flights will appreciate several monitors located in baggage claim and the restaurant/lounge that feature an active flight tracker display with a weather overlay, that shows the real-time location of flights in progress.

# News from the Parks, Recreation & Public Lands Department



## Arbor Day

On May 8, Arbor Day was celebrated in Riverfront Park. This year's theme was "Trees-Pathways to Preservation". Over 450 fourth grade students visited 20+ environmental education stations hosted by Billings professionals. The students learned about tree planting, how trees grow, forest trees, fish in Lake Josephine, water quality and pollution, soil science and wildlife, among other topics offered at the booths.

Over 150 volunteers helped beautify Riverfront Park; pruning, removing hazardous trees, mulching, installing planting beds and planting 221 trees. Mayor Tom Hanel, Superintendent of Schools Terry Bouck, Park Board Chairman Rick DeVore and Park and Recreation Director Michael Whitaker were guest speakers at the tree planting ceremony where a Lewis and Clark Elm tree was planted to commemorate the event. Billings was recognized for its 31st consecutive year as a Tree City USA. Billings Parks staff want to thank all of the booth sponsors and volunteers who made this the biggest Arbor Day yet.

Billings won the 2014 Gold Leaf Award from the International Society of Arboriculture for the Arbor Day event in Pioneer Park. The award recognized Billings for holding the best Arbor Day event in a four state region consisting of Montana, Wyoming, Colorado and New Mexico.



## Volunteer park ranger program

In the Fall of 2013 the Billings Parks and Recreation Department began a pilot Volunteer Park Ranger Program where Park Rangers could serve as extra sets of "eyes and ears" for the Parks Department.

They commit to visiting their assigned park or parks once a week in pairs and make observations on park conditions and user patterns. They also act as park hosts, engaging with the public in a positive manner.

Park Rangers are important to our community's parks by welcoming people to the parks and answering any questions about park use.

Volunteer Park Rangers have a rewarding experience by engaging with the outdoor community and monitoring the parks' conditions. They report any issues to the Billings Parks and Recreation Department.

Volunteers are able to choose which park they wish to patrol. Because Park Rangers go out in pairs, they are encouraged to apply with a partner.

Come join our team! The Park Ranger season takes place during the warmer months of the year and lasts until about October.

For more information and to fill out the application, contact the Billings Parks and Recreation volunteer coordinator, Chris Waite, by email at [waitec@ci.billings.mt.us](mailto:waitec@ci.billings.mt.us) or by phone at (406) 657-8308.

## Billings Recreation Offerings

Register now for summer recreation programs online at [www.BillingsParks.org](http://www.BillingsParks.org). Many of the camps and programs fill quickly, so register soon to avoid being placed on the waiting list. Be sure to check out the Recreation Department's various camps including: Adventure Camp, Playhouse Camp, Sports Camps and Special Interest youth camps that run all summer long!

South and Rose Park Pools will open Wednesday, June 10, along with Rose Park Waterslides! The wading pools at Pioneer and Hawthorne Parks open Monday, June 15. South Park Pool and the wading pools are open daily from 12-6 pm. Rose Park Pool is open daily from 12-8 pm. Swim Lessons begin June 22, with morning and evening opportunities. Classes run for one week. The last session starts August 3. Swim instructors are certified with the American Red Cross and are trained to educate a vast array of skill sets. Adult Lap Swimming is available June 22 — Aug. 7.

Interested in a group or individual white water rafting trip? Billings Parks and Recreation is offering a Family/Group or Individual White Water Rafting adventure on the Stillwater June 27, July 11, August 1 or August 15.

The City of Billings Parks and Recreation Department has excellent adult programs and adult fitness opportunities as well. There is almost everything you can imagine from Aqua Zumba to Coed Soccer. Check out these offerings at [www.BillingsParks.org](http://www.BillingsParks.org), for the most up to date schedule of events.



# DID YOU KNOW?

- There are 530 miles of streets in Billings and 123.4 miles of alleys within the City limits.
- The Billings Public Library houses 226,109 items. That number includes books, DVDs, music CDs, eBooks and books on CD. The Library's collection of free online music has millions of downloadable songs. In 2014, the Library hosted 85,695 public computer sessions and held 26 story times every month.
- In 2014, the Billings Police Department was dispatched for 84,011 calls. 5,401 property crimes and 458 violent crimes were reported. 6,483 traffic accidents were reported and the BPD made 646 DUI arrests.
- The Police Department's Crime Prevention Center volunteers handled 4,098 incident reports and issued 1,022 parking tickets last year.
- The Animal Control Division handled 2,312 stray cats and dogs, issued 905 citations, and sold 4,552 licenses in 2014.
- As the cleanup from the May 2014 hailstorm intensified, the Landfill staff had 19,515 vehicles cross the upper scale in July, averaging one vehicle across the scale every 51 seconds.
- In 2014, the Billings Logan International Airport had 428,578 enplanements (passengers boarding flights), 428,713 deplanements (passengers getting off flights), 8,390 total airline flights and 9,390 aircraft landings.
- The City's largest park is Riverfront Park at 640 acres and the smallest park is Baptist Park at 1,508 square feet.
- In the summer, over 800 acres of parkland is mowed each week. That is the equivalent of 4,256 average sized residential lots.
- In 2014 there were 42,542 combined visits to Rose and South Pools and 353,266 pitches at the Strike Zone batting cages.

# Fire Department Addresses Training Challenges

The Billings Fire Department faces challenges with providing a comprehensive program that addresses training fire suppression, emergency medical care, and specialized rescue. Nationally the emphasis on firefighter training is known to have a direct impact on the quality of services provided by a fire department as well as the overall safety of firefighters.

In order to meet a growing demand for training, the Fire Department has partnered with the airport fire rescue operations in developing a comprehensive training facility

built out of shipping cargo containers. This project literally saved the taxpayers millions of dollars by purchasing used cargo containers and fabricating these large metal storage containers into a two-story structure that replicates a residential house or a small business.

With the support of a \$40,000 grant from Phillips-66 the Fire Department has implemented a video conferencing program that will have a direct impact on response times and improve the overall training program. The video conferencing program allows all seven fire

stations to remain staffed during much of the daily routine training sessions. This eliminates the need to have half of the fire station's manpower relocate to a central location.

The video conferencing program enhancement will reduce repetitive training by half when compared to what it currently takes to present a class. All seven stations will be able to actively participate in a training program at the same time. The video communications system will have a direct impact on response times as it will allow staff to remain at the stations.

# Citizens Police Academy - Fall Class 2015

The Billings Police Department will be hosting a fall Citizens Police Academy.

The class will begin on Sept. 1 at 6 p.m. every Tuesday for three hours ending on Oct. 20.

Each week a representative from the Police Department will give a presentation. The class size is limited, so apply early. The deadline to register is Aug. 10. This is a great way to learn what your local officers do and class participation is encouraged.

Please contact Jamie Wegner at (406) 657-8452 or by email at [wegnerj@ci.billings.mt.us](mailto:wegnerj@ci.billings.mt.us), to register.

## 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)  
The City Link  
P.O. Box 1178  
Billings, MT 59103

# Billings Adult Municipal DUI Treatment Court

The Billings Adult Municipal DUI Treatment Court (BAMTC) program restarted in December 2012 with the aid of a federal grant.

The treatment court program is led by Judge Sheila Kolar who heads up a team of six other professionals. These professionals include probation, treatment, defense, prosecution, law enforcement, and court staff.

The treatment court program was formed due to an increased need for cost-effective treatment, high recidivism rates, and as a way to decrease taxpayer burdens.

The offenses that qualify for Treatment Court are aggravated DUI, DUI by drugs, second or subsequent DUIs that have been committed within City limits. The offender must be over the age of 18 with a municipal charge, have a chemical dependency and not be a registered violent offender.

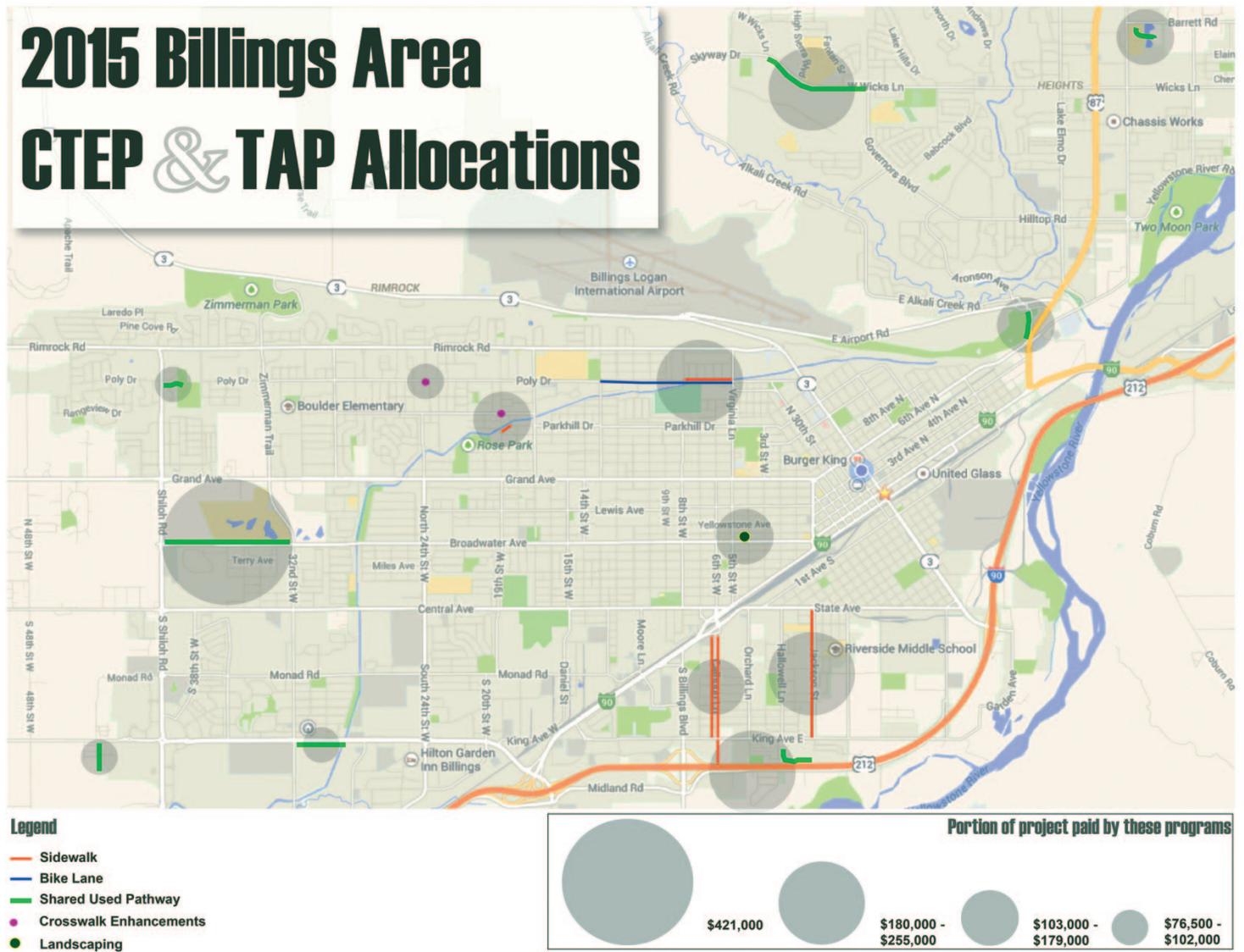
DUI Treatment Court lasts on average 13 months with a maximum number of 20 participants at any given time. While in the program, each participant must attend evidence-based treatment, attend court on a regular basis, submit to random drug and alcohol testing, attend three self-help meetings per week with sponsor contact, maintain or gain legal employment, and complete a 30-hour community volunteer project.

The cost to the participant is \$30 per week plus any court-ordered fine or mandated class. The \$30 covers probation costs, which is significantly lower than traditional probation. The benefits to the participants for choosing this program include possible jail time suspension, license reinstatement after 45 days of being sentenced into DUI court, monthly bus pass, intensive treatment, lowered probation costs and possibility of having court fines forgiven with successful completion of program.

Year	Total DUI Convictions	Total Aggravated DUI Convictions
2011	504	48
2012	389	249
2013	360	208
2014	340	212

# Community Transportation Enhancement Program (CTEP) Projects

With the sun setting on the CTEP program, the Planning and Engineering Division had to make some quick changes within the program. Plans for the placement of a bridge over the downtown railroad tracks to provide bike/pedestrian access had to be postponed due to bids coming in far above the budget. The remaining CTEP funds had to be re-allocated to other projects under a very strict timeline. Therefore, out of the one planned 25th Street Bridge project and with remaining unallocated funds, the City has identified the projects as indicated on the map, to use the remaining CTEP funds. Look for these projects this summer!



## Where Do Your Property Taxes Go?

This graphic displays the distribution of 2015 levied property taxes for City of Billings residents who live within School District 2 boundaries.

Approximately 82 percent, or \$25.9 million, of the levied property tax revenue received at the City is used to pay for Police and Fire protection. In addition to the property tax revenue, another \$8 million is transferred from other general fund revenues to cover the remaining costs of public safety.

The remaining property tax revenues assist in funding a combination of city services including public transportation (6 percent), Library (3 percent), and general obligation debt (9 percent).

The City of Billings posts its operating budgets and annual financial reports on its website at <http://ci.billings.mt.us> under "Departments" and then "Finance."



School District 2  
39.9%

City of Billings  
26.4%

Yellowstone  
County  
18.3%

State of  
Montana  
15.4%

# News from the Engineering Department

## Flashing Yellow Arrows

The City recently installed a new traffic safety treatment to the traffic signal at 32nd Street West and Monad Road.

Flashing yellow arrows (FYA) are a traffic signal addition that is used to increase driver awareness which, in turn, increases safety of the intersection. In addition, the FYAs allow engineers the opportunity to operate adjacent signals more efficiently. In the coming months, more flashing yellow arrows will be installed along 32nd Street West, and eventually, across the City as signal heads are updated.

The FYAs do not change the functionality of the existing traffic signal. They simply change how the operation of the signal is displayed. On existing signals, a green ball is used to alert drivers to proceed with a left turn only after there is gap in oncoming traffic. This operation is termed the permissive phase. The permissive phase will now be displayed with the FYA.

At other times during the signal operation, oncoming traffic is stopped while the left turners are free to turn. This operation is known as the protected phase. This operation will still be displayed as it is in existing signals; with a green arrow. The FYA does not change this operation, and it does not change the overall functionality of the signal it simply changes the way the signal phases are displayed. The new displays increase safety and allow engineers more freedom to increase the efficiency of the signals.

More information on the FYA can found at the City's Traffic Engineering website located at <http://www.ci.billings.mt.us/index.aspx?nid=2066>

## Summer Construction

It will soon be time for construction to start up again and you are probably wondering if we'll be in your area. Information on most of these projects can be found on the City's website at [www.ci.billings.mt.us](http://www.ci.billings.mt.us). Also, follow us on Face-

book at City of Billings Engineering for updates. Here is a list of the some of the projects that will be going on this summer:

- Calhoun Lane will be reconstructed between King Avenue East and Underpass Avenue. The project will start early this spring and run through most of the summer. Local traffic will be allowed but if you are just going through the area, please try to use an alternate route such as Orchard Lane.
- The City will be reconstructing Poly Drive from 32nd Street West to 38th Street West this summer. This project will improve storm drain infrastructure, repair existing sewer pipelines, and widen the existing pavement section. In addition, sidewalks will be constructed on both sides of Poly Drive to provide vital connections to both Boulder and Arrowhead Elementary Schools. Bike lanes and parking lanes will be constructed within the widened road to match Poly Drive as it continues east. The project will be completed near the end of October. More project information can be found at the City's project website at <http://www.ci.billings.mt.us/index.aspx?nid=612>
- The Exposition Gateway area will be under construction for most of the summer and fall. The Exposition Gateway area runs between 1st Avenue North and 4th Avenue North, east of North 11th Street. The project includes all utilities and street improvements.
- The missing portion of Colton Boulevard between 38th Street West and Avalon will be under construction, beginning in the late spring and running through summer.
- Intersection improvements will be done at 32nd Street West and Gabel and at Poly and Virginia.
- Three streets will get a pavement overlay this year: Broadwater Ave. from 16th Street West to 24th Street West; 19th Street West from Broadwater to Lewis; and Poly Drive from Virginia to 13th Street West.
- The annual program to replace ADA (Americans with

Disabilities) ramps is primarily on Grand Avenue and Nutter Boulevard. There will be brief, minimal lane restrictions to accomplish this work.

- Treasure Drive and Shawnee Drive will be constructed.
- A 72-inch storm drain interceptor will be installed in the East End Industrial Area. The line will be located on 4th Avenue North between North 23rd Street and North 15th Street, then south on North 15th Street to the railroad tracks. The project has started on North 15th Street and will continue into late fall of this year.
- Water and sanitary sewer lines will be installed on Elysian Road.
- The water line on 17th Street West from Avenue D to Poly Drive will be replaced. Local traffic will be allowed on 17th but commuter traffic should try to find an alternate route on either 19th or 13th.
- Water line replacements in the local streets east of Will James Middle School from Broadwater up to Grand Avenue.
- Sanitary sewer replacements in the alleys north of 6th Avenue North and east of North 24th Street to North 12th Street.

Several trail projects will be constructed this summer. Most will not impact traffic but will create a few new good connections in our trail system. They are:

- Arrowhead School Trail
- Swords Park/6th Avenue Bypass
- Poly Drive Elementary School Crossing at Arvin Road
- 19th Street West and Colton Blvd
- 44th Street West south of King Avenue West
- Wicks Lane far west end to connect to the new Skyway Drive
- King Avenue West from the BBWA canal to 32nd Street West
- Jackson Street Sidewalks



## We Make It Possible

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Applying is quick and easy and the interest may be tax deductible.\*

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\*Annual Percentage Rate accurate as of publication date and subject to credit approval. APR may vary. Maximum APR is 18%. \$250 document preparation cost. Other fees may apply. Consult a tax advisor regarding the deductibility of interest. Limited time offer.

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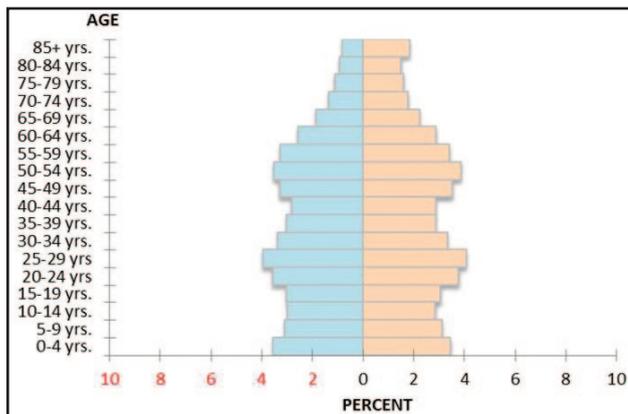


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# BillingsBeyond – a Plan for City Growth

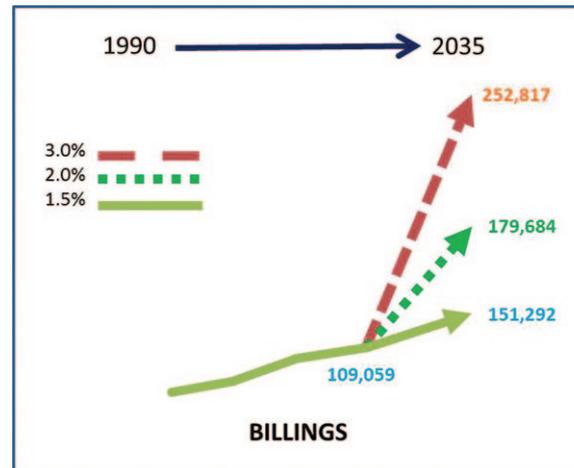


How the City grows and where it grows have significant consequences for existing and future residents and business. If growth is restricted to the current City limits, would there be enough land for housing and businesses to serve an increasing population? If growth was allowed to continue westward and northward, will there be enough public resources to serve and maintain the outlying development? What about the needs of current and future residents? The average age of Billings' population has increased; from 36.8 in 2000 to 37.5 in 2010, but more importantly the population in general is aging. The largest population groups in Billings are the millennials, age 20 – 35, and the late baby boomers, age 45 – 65. These two generations will drive what types of public services and facilities are needed in the future.



Population pyramid showing the distribution of population by age and gender (male blue, female pink)

The future needs of businesses and residents are why the Planning Division has embarked on an ambitious 2-year process to plan for Billings. The plan has been branded, “BillingsBeyond,” because it looks beyond the needs of current residents and beyond the current boundaries. Starting October 2014 and ending February 2015, the Planning Division gave 35 presentations on the current status of many aspects of the City. The presentation also showed a chart on growth trends. From 1990 to 2010, Billings' population



Population of Billings in 1990 projected through 2035 at 1.5%, 2.0%, and 3.0% annual growth rate.

grew approximately 1.5 percent per year. Since 2010, Billings has grown closer to 4 percent per year. If the population were to continue to grow at 1.5 percent, approximately 10,000 more people would be added by 2035. A slightly higher growth rate of 2.0 percent would add about 70,000 people. At a 3.0 percent annual growth rate, the City would exceed a quarter million people in 20 years.

The participants at each presentation were asked two questions: How do you want Billings to grow, and where do you want Billings to grow? From over 1,200 responses, the “how’s” could easily be grouped into six categories. The planners evaluated the responses and developed goals for each category:

- **ESSENTIAL INVESTMENTS:** We want our money spent wisely and on those things that would improve our quality of life.
- **PLACEMAKERS:** We want to preserve and enhance our important public buildings and spaces.
- **COMMUNITY FABRIC:** We want the City to be attractive and well designed.

- **STRONG NEIGHBORHOODS:** We want clean and safe neighborhoods that meet our essential daily needs.
- **HOME BASE:** There should be a choice of housing types and sufficient supply of affordable housing.
- **MOBILITY AND ACCESS:** Our transportation system should be designed to be safer and more efficient for all users.

Interestingly, the issues of economy and jobs were not raised. However, they were very important issues back in 2003 and 2008 when the last versions of the Growth Policy were updated. This is a good indication that the current economy is fairly stable and people are comfortable with the levels of employment.

The answer to the question of where we grow needed little interpretation. Three geographical areas emerged as primary directions: stay within our existing boundaries (infill), grow north (Inner Belt Loop area) and grow west. There were some very specific locations mentioned, but no comments suggesting growth should cross the river to the south, which helps frame plans for potential growth areas.

The identified growth areas will provide the next element of the planning effort; growth scenarios. Scenario planning entails comparing the consequences of developing in different areas to determine which scenario offers the best outcomes in terms of revenue generated, costs incurred and goals achieved. While no one scenario may meet everyone’s desires and be most cost-effective, the exercise will help reveal what factors of the scenarios are responsible for driving costs and affecting the values stated in the goals. The intent of the scenario analysis is to determine if the current pattern of growth and infrastructure investments can be modified to achieve the desired outcomes.

The planning effort will continue through June 2016. Planning staff values all input from the public, (including City employees). Please join us at our future meetings to help map our future and keep Billings a great place to work, live and play.

## Crime Prevention Center — Report Writing Volunteers

The Report Writing Center is an essential unit of the Crime Prevention Center.

The Crime Prevention Center as a whole is comprised of many volunteers who donate their time to help the Billings Police Department. Volunteers play a critical role in freeing up time for the Police Officers, contributing

over \$300,000 worth of time!

The Report Writing Center uses volunteers to write up cold calls such as thefts or vandalisms where there are no suspects and little to no evidence.

Volunteers complete over 5,000 reports per year. That means that on average, police

officers have 19 fewer calls to go to per day. In addition, these volunteers take over 1,100 abandoned vehicle reports a year.

Are you interested in joining our team? The Crime Prevention Center can provide more support with new volunteers! While a lot of reports are completed here, there

are always ways to expand the program! Come learn more about the work the volunteers do here at 2910 3rd Avenue North, or contact the volunteer coordinator, Kallie Parsons, at (406) 247-8590 or by email at [parsonsk@ci.billings.mt.us](mailto:parsonsk@ci.billings.mt.us).

# Summer at the Library

Have you ever wanted the power of invisibility, or maybe super-strength? Enhance your literary superpowers and sign up for summer reading at the Billings Public Library! There are programs for all ages: adults get the chance to “Escape the Ordinary,” while teens “Unmask” their alter egos, and children discover that “Every Hero Has a Story.” Register online at [www.billings.lib.mt.us](http://www.billings.lib.mt.us) and start logging hours now! And don't forget your special superhero slogan: “Take a look, it's in a book!”

Also this summer, the Library will participate in the nationwide Week of Making, a White House initiative to “lift up makers and builders and doers across the country.” During the week of June 12-18, there will be activities relating to S.T.E.A.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) Education. Tinkerers and inventors of all ages are welcome!

## Children's Summer Events

### “Every Hero Has a Story”

- **May 4 — July 24:** Sign up for Summer Reading through [www.ci.billings.mt.us](http://www.ci.billings.mt.us).
- **June 6 — Read to a Dog,** 10:30 -11:30 am in the Story Tower. Each child who is able to read will be able to spend 15 minutes with the dog of their choice. Registration begins at 10am.
- **June 11—Moss Mansion: Hero Search through the Past,** 10:30 am at 914 Division St. There will be a tour afterward - free for children and parents will receive a discounted admission.
- **June 18 — Story Time: Sports Heroes,** 10:30 am in the Story Tower. A surprise visitor may attend!
- **June 25 — Pictograph State Park Heroes of the Past:** 10:30 am in the Story Tower.
- **July 2 — Story Time: 4th of July,** 10:30 am in the Story Tower.
- **July 9 — Super Hero Camp: Train to be a Super Hero,** 10:30 am in the Community Room.
- **July 9 —Pictography State Park, Become Heroes of the Past,** 2 pm at 3401 Coburn Road. Pre-registration is required!
- **July 16 —K9 Officer David Firebaugh, Local and Animal Heroes,** 10:30 am in the Community Room.
- **July 23—Wise Wonders Children's Museum, Hands on Heroes Unite,** 10:30 am in the Community Room.
- **August 1—End of Summer Reading Block Party,** 11:30 am — 3:30 pm in the Parking Garden. EVERYONE WELCOME! Games, music, and activities!

## Teen's Summer Events

### “Unmask!”

- **June 1 — August 1, Animal Shelter Supply Drive:** Library staff will be collecting pet toys, treats, cat litter, pet beds, dog and cat food, new towels and blankets, kitten chow, collars, and laundry detergent for local area animal shelters. Collection bin is located in the Library lobby.
- **June 8 — 25, Superhero Challenge:** Earn extra Summer Reading hours by participating in the Superhero Challenge. Determine the names of mysterious superheroes and villains by solving the clues located in jars near the second floor help desk. You can earn up to 10 extra hours. (The answer sheet is located on pages 5 and 6 of the journal.)
- **June 12 — Superman Day,** 2-4:30 pm in the Teen Area: Celebrate Superman Day by enjoying a free screening of Man of Steel!
- **June 12 — Week of Making: Exploring the Science of S.T.E.A.M.,** 2-4 pm at the T.E.C.H. Lab: Experiment with different stations to explore the science behind circuits. Make copper tape circuits, LED objects, and squishy circuits!
- **June 13 — Week of Making: Using the Technology of S.T.E.A.M.,** 2-4 pm at the T.E.C.H. Lab: Use the technology stations to try out Minecraft, Drone Photography, and Scratch Programming!
- **June 15 — July 27, Grow Green: Container Gardening.** 2-3 pm at the Boys & Girls Club, 505 Orchard Ln. Learn about sustainable gardening practices with the Housing Authority of Billings' Community Gardens Project, and take home your own vegetable garden that will be ready to harvest by the end of summer. This is a seven week program! Pre-register by calling (406) 657-8258 or stop by the second floor Help Desk.
- **June 16 — Week of Making:** Doing the Engineering of S.T.E.A.M., 2-4 pm at the T.E.C.H. Lab: Work with a Lego Robotics kits, play the Gravity Maze Game, and explore 3D Modeling!
- **June 17 — Pet First Aid,** 2-3 pm in the Community Room: Get pet first aid tips and tricks from the Shiloh Veterinary Hospital! Teens and parents are welcome to attend. Pre-register by calling (406) 657-8258 or stop by the second floor Help Desk.
- **June 17 — Week of Making: Engaging with the Arts of S.T.E.A.M.,** 2-3 pm at the T.E.C.H. Lab: Try out the new Teen Fiber Arts Group, The MisKnits! Develop your knitting or crocheting skills and create something awesome!

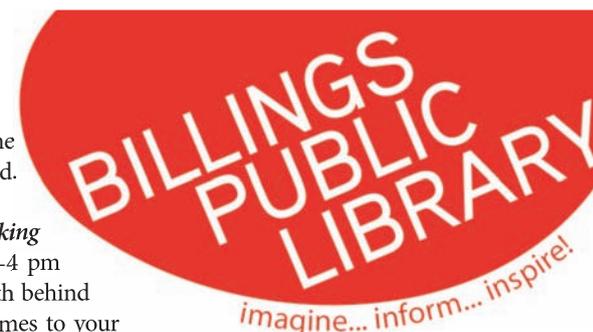
All skill levels are welcome. \*\*The MisKnits will meet every Wed. from 2-3 pm all summer long.\*\*

- **June 18 — Week of Making: Working with the Math of S.T.E.A.M.,** 2-4 pm at the T.E.C.H. Lab: Use the math behind musical theory and rhyme schemes to your advantage! Record songs, jam with musical instruments, and experiment with Haikus!
- **June 24 — Mask Making with Worbla,** 2-4 pm in the Community Room: Ever wondered how cosplayers are able to make their armor and weaponry look so realistic? Worbla is a thermos-plastic material that is able to be molded into any desired shape when heated. You will be taught the basic techniques needed to create your very own mask to take home. Pre-register by calling (406) 657-8258 or stop by the second floor Help Desk.
- **July 8 — Upcycled Book Art Workshop,** 2-4 pm at the T.E.C.H. Lab: Create a work of art using pages from recycled books! Register by calling (406) 657-8258 or stop by the second floor Help Desk.
- **July 15 — Comic Book Decoupage Craft,** 2-3 pm at the T.E.C.H. Lab: Create a clever storage box using old comic books! Register by calling (406) 657-8258 or stop by the second floor Help Desk.
- **July 23 — Teen Book Group,** 4-5 pm in Teen Study 2: Read Paper Towns by John Green and show up to talk about it! We provide the snacks; you provide the energy and dialogue. Register by calling (406) 657-8258 or stop by the second floor Help Desk.

## Adult Summer Events

### “Escape the Ordinary”

- **June 2 — E-reader Support Group,** 4 pm in the Computer Lab. Registration Required.
- **June 5 — Friday Film “To Kill a Mockingbird”,** 3 pm in the Community Room.
- **June 9 — Basic Computer Troubleshooting,** 4 pm in the Computer Lab.
- **June 16 — What is a Soundcard, anyway?** 4 pm in the Computer Lab.
- **June 16 — Public Safety Panel with Chief of Police St. John and Fire Chief Dextras,** 5 :30 pm in the Community Room.
- **June 19 — Friday Film “Double Indemnity”,** 3 pm in the Community Room.
- **June 23 — Maintaining Your Computer Hard Drive,** 4 pm in the Computer Lab.
- **June 23 — Martial Arts Academy Self-Defense Presentation,** 5:30 pm in the Community Room.



- **June 30 — Open Lab,** 4 pm in the Community Room.
- **June 30 — BPD K-9 Unit with Officer Firebaugh and Kooko,** 5:30 pm in the Community Room.
- **July 7 — E-Reader Support Group,** 4 pm in the Computer Lab. Registration Required.
- **July 7 — The Artful Woman,** 5:30 pm in the Community Room.
- **July 14 — Beginning Computers,** 4 pm in the Computer Lab. Registration Required.
- **July 14 — Big Sky Fencing Demonstration,** 5:30 pm in the Community Room.
- **July 17 — Friday Film “The Wizard of Oz”,** 3 pm in the Community Room.
- **July 21 — Basic Internet,** 4 pm in the Computer Lab. Registration Required.
- **July 21— Russell Walks Presentation,** 5:30 pm in the Community Room.
- **July 21 — “The Monuments Men” Book Discussion,** 7 pm in the Large Conference Room.
- **July 22 — “The Constant Gardener” Book Discussion,** 7 pm in the Large Conference Room.
- **July 25 — Special Film Showing of “The Monuments Men”,** 11:30 am in the Community Room.
- **July 25 — Special Film Showing of “The Constant Gardener”,** 2 pm in the Community Room.
- **July 28 — Open Lab,** 4 pm in the Computer Lab.
- **August 1 — End of Summer Reading Block Party,** 11am in the Parking Garden.
- **August 7 — Friday Film “Psycho”,** 3 pm in the Community Room.

## High Plains Book Awards October 3.

On October 2-3, plan on attending the High Plains BookFest and the High Plains Book Award. The Book Awards celebrate the best writing of the past year by authors who live in or celebrate and reflect life in the vastness of the High Plains. Get the latest information at <http://highplainsbookawards.org>.