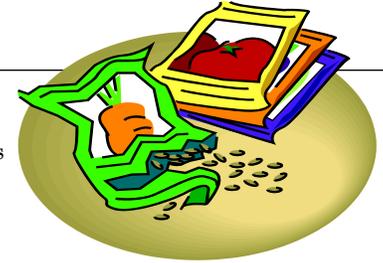


City of Colstrip

June 2010

Mayor's Message



- Mayor John Williams
- Rick Harbin
- Dan Becker
- Evan Stewart
- Tom Jankowski

City Offices open
9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.
Monday thru Friday,
except on Holidays

Court is in Session:
Tuesdays and Thursdays
10:00 a.m.

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As your city begins looking toward a beautiful summer, with all this great rainfall, our city crews are challenged with the planting of new trees to enhance the beauty of our city. This is thanks to our very active Tree Board and the opportunity of grant money that recognizes the importance and the added beauty trees bring to a community.

Your city, not unlike every community across the state, has been challenged with the legalized use of marijuana for medical purposes. The Montana voters by a large 62% margin voted to legalize the use of marijuana for medical purposes. This all occurred in 2004 but it wasn't until the U.S. Government backed away from the enforcement of a federal law that banned its use that much attention was given to this issue. Now there are continued articles about the medical marijuana problems and issues involving its control. Your City Council has taken an active stance on this issue by passing a resolution that adopts a policy of ***no issuance of a business license for the sale of medical marijuana.*** This fits very well with our existing Business License Ordinance that does not authorize the issuance of a business license to a business that does not comply with federal law. So even though our Federal Government may not enforce this law it still remains a violation of federal law. The other rule the Council is in the process of putting in place is an ordinance that prohibits the public display and/or consumption of medical marijuana. Thank you to all our residents that attended the Council meeting and voiced your opinion.

We received some very favorable news in regards to the pricing of our large street project for this construction year. We received four bids and they were all under our engineer's estimate. Our street rehab project this year involves the paving of Appaloosa and the paved portion of Prairieview Drive, and Sweetgrass Drive. Our earlier estimate for this project was approximately \$700,000; now it appears we will be able to do the project in the \$500 to \$600 thousand dollar range

Our city continually changes with new people coming to town and some of our older residents leaving. We have all heard the argument that change is good. Well, sometimes that may be the case but when we have residents leave our community that have had a positive impact on our community by their involvement it leaves a void difficult to fill. Such is the case with Bill and Pat Medved. Bill and Pat have been a positive presence in our community for over 35 years. I would like to wish them the best as they take up a new residence in Great Falls. You both have made a very positive impact to our community making it a better place and influencing the quality of life we all enjoy.

The city's Raw Water Transportation Agreement with PPL and the other plant owners has expired and we are in negotiations for its renewal. The agreement has been in place for over ten years and will have an increase that will effect the water rates that are charged to our residents. As soon as this agreement is finalized the city will be notifying our residents of the impact to our water rates. Although our water rates have not changed in the past ten years this rate increase coupled with our other increases to produce water will affect our cost recovery needed to effectively operate and maintain our water system.



Police Department

Larry Reinlasoder, Police Chief



When we think and talk about drug abuse our thoughts most likely center on drug dealers and drugs such as methamphetamine, marijuana, cocaine, etc. The unfortunate truth is that we are facing a new and increasing danger with the abuse of prescription pills. Prescription pills are unlikely to raise a concern or even a second thought with parents. The pills are prescribed by a doctor for a legitimate reason and when used as directed do what they are supposed to do. However, when used by a person that does not have a legitimate need for the pills they can be very harmful and even in some cases fatal. Nationally the abuse of prescription drugs such as pain killers like oxycontin, hydrocodone or morphine has reached epidemic proportions. We have also seen abuse of drugs prescribed for hyperactivity, which used properly helps an individual suffering from attention deficit disorder or attention deficit hyperactivity. According to the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) prescription drugs that are abused or used for non-medical reasons can alter brain activity and lead to dependence. Commonly abused classes of prescription drugs include opioids (often prescribed to treat pain), central nervous system depressants (often prescribed to treat anxiety and sleep disorders), and stimulants (prescribed to treat narcolepsy, ADHD, and obesity). These drugs are commonly found in the medicine cabinet of any family in our community. Teens abuse prescription drugs more than any illicit street drug except marijuana. In fact, every day, more than 2,000 teenagers nationally try a painkiller to get high for the first time. It has been found in national studies that parents mistakenly believing that abusing prescription medicines is "much safer" than using illicit street drugs. We have seen the problem of abusing prescription drugs in our community, including our school system. The Colstrip Schools and the Colstrip Police Department are working together to address this serious issue. Parents need to monitor their prescriptions and take steps to secure the medicines to safeguard their family. Put a lock on your medicine cabinet if needed and talk to your children about the dangers of abusing drugs both prescribed and illegal. It is true that the best drug prevention tool we have is involved parents talking to their children. Prescription drugs are easily accessed in a home by any number of visitors including friends of your children, repair people, delivery workers, etc, who are allowed to enter your home legitimately and then gain access to areas of the home where you may keep the medicine.

We want to help provide an alternative for our citizens and help families safely deal with unneeded and outdated prescription drugs. The Colstrip Police Department has received permission from the Federal Drug Enforcement Agency to conduct a Prescription Drug Take Back Program. If you have prescription drugs, such as mentioned above, in your home and no longer need them then dispose of them by bringing them to the police department at 303 Willow Avenue on June 5, 2010, between the hours of 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM and we will dispose of them for you. We would encourage you to clean out your cabinets of all unneeded prescription drugs to include those you may have had prescribed to your pets. There will be a secured collection container in the foyer of the CPD. We won't ask for your name or the type of medicines you are turning in so this is a confidential visit. We will also accept these drugs from folks living outside of Colstrip. There is no charge for this service. Visit our web site at www.colstrip.police.com for more information for parents on preventing drug abuse.

Animal Control

Spring is officially here! That doesn't mean we won't see a little more snow or that all our days will be sunshine, but Spring is definitely in full bloom. Along with the daffodils, the tulips, and the lilacs we have to remember the fleas, ticks, mosquitoes, and snakes. With that in mind it is time to get your animals tested for heartworm and start them on heartworm medication for the next six months. Also have your pet wear a flea/tick/mosquito all-in-one killer. My personal preference of the products available is K9 Advantix. K9 Advantix is available through many (but not all) veterinarians and many online sources. (Petedge, Drs Foster and Smith, JB Wholesale pets, to name a few).



Additionally, for those of you with active dogs you would be well advised to consider the rattlesnake vaccine. The first year the dog gets a vaccine and then a booster a month later. Another booster follows each year. Well worth the minimal cost (under \$50) and if your dog is bitten by a rattler no one in the area (including the six vets I called in Billings) was found to keep the antivenin in stock as it is so expensive (approximately \$500 per dose) and it has such a short shelf life. So look your dog in the eye and see if you want to spend less than \$50 now or take a chance and spend more than \$500 later. It's a personal choice that you have to make. The only vet I have found to carry it so far is Animal House in Forsyth.

Don't forget the mosquito spray for you and your family and check for ticks after each and every outing. Both mosquito and tick bites can have long lasting affects.

Take care and have a great summer and make sure both you and your pets have PLENTY of fresh water at all times!

Public Works Department

John Bleth, Public Works Supervisor



I would like to start by again thanking all the residents on Antelope Drive and Castle Rock Lake Drive for their patience with both water main breaks. Unfortunately, both of them took an extended period of time to repair. The patches on both streets will be repaired early this summer by a contractor.

The city's next street project will be bid out in the next few weeks. Construction will begin in early July and should be completed before the first of September. I will be sending out letters at least seven days in advance of the project. Also, we will host an open house in June. The residents in this area are welcome to come in and ask questions to the engineer or the contractor. I will also send those residents affected a letter as to the date and time of this meeting.

The public works crew installed a new water service on Main Street on the east side of the street. This service will provide water for the boulevard. The crew will be planting sixty trees with local contractor, Tom Crippen, installing the sprinkler system. Tana Pippin applied for and received a matching grant to help cover these costs. The grant was for \$15,387.07. This boulevard has needed improvement and this project will help to make it look better.

Tom Crippen will be installing the remaining sprinkler system on the west side of City Hall as soon as we get funding in July.

Sometime this summer I should know which direction the city will proceed with our backwash water issue at the Water Treatment Plant with the Department of Environmental Quality. One of the options involves a substantial cost to the city of \$600,000 or more. In the next newsletter I should be able to update you on this matter.

Building, Planning, Zoning and Code Enforcement

Jan Morgan



The Public Safety Committee for the City of Colstrip met on March 24th to discuss zoning issues. The discussion centered primarily on stored vehicles and abandoned or neglected properties within the city limits.

We live in a community of laws and ordinances. When a person buys or rents property within the city limits of Colstrip they agree to live by the laws that dictate the use, confines, and appearance of that parcel of land.

The purpose of the meeting was to review procedures for addressing these issues within the confines of the laws and ordinances already in place. Several lots in town have started to accumulate an assortment of trailers, junk vehicles and debris. These accumulations of junk, as well as RV's, boats, trailers, snowmobiles and any thing else that lays around gathering weeds underneath it instead of being properly put away or stored, are unsightly and infringe upon the rights and valuations of neighboring property owners. Letters will be going out to those property owners found in violation to remind them of the city codes that prohibit such accumulations.

RV's and other recreational vehicles are not to be stored on public streets but on off-street parking spaces. Those spaces must be accessible from a public street, must be located on the same lot as the dwelling, and may not be located in any front yard except in the driveway.

Streets are designed for motorized travel. Non-motorized trailers are not to be parked on the streets except for unloading purposes. Motorized vehicles may not be parked or left standing for a period of longer than five days.

It was the determination of the committee that code compliance is simply a part of living in a community and that the ordinances are to be enforced. The police department will begin to ticket vehicles stored on the street. The code enforcement officer will send letters to property owners in violation of the other ordinances. Property owners who fail to comply with the letter will be referred to the police department.

Schoolhouse History and Art

Lu Shomate, Director

As with each new season, the Staff and Board of Directors is preparing for another successful Spring and Summer.

Our Educational Director, Carol Oberth, has been working with the After School Program with CPRD, senior citizens and children from Forsyth, Colstrip, Lame Deer, and Birney. The Boy Scouts, local school children, home schooled children and retirees have benefited from her many programs. Carol takes her program on the road to reach those that can't come to the Schoolhouse. Carol brings much more than Art to her recipients. Helping others to make positive choices through Art is her main focus as she delights her classroom with companionship, hope, and excitement.



Without our members, our grants, and funding from the City of Colstrip this wouldn't be possible. Each of you does so much more than you could ever know by being a friend to SHAC. Your loyalty lays the foreground for our many good works which are watched over by a diligent Board of Directors.

Soon it will be graduation time, the wedding season will soon follow. If you are looking for something special for these occasions remember our "Buy a Brick" program. Why not consider purchasing a brick in our patio to honor that special occasion.

Our Summer Program will begin in June, watch for our flyers and email messages. We have interesting classes for children, teens, and adults and if you are a member you won't have to pay for each class. Remember membership to the Schoolhouse is very reasonable. Family memberships are \$35.00; Single memberships are \$25.00. Stop in and see what membership affords you.

Check out our Gallery Exhibits. April and May will host American History Prints brought to us through the Montana Historical Society and MAGDA. June will be the Traveling Art Collection; local artists are often recognized in this show. We will also have Michael Delaney on June 24th entertaining us as Mark Twain. This show is free to the public and sponsored by the Montana Arts Council. This will be our kickoff to Colstrip Days. July and August will display China Marks, art in cloth, a show brought to us through the Montana Art Gallery Directors Association (MAGDA). In September we will be hosting Ben Steele. Ben is a survivor of the Bataan Death March. Ben will be showing some of his art depicting life during his experience as a POW. October and November will be Visual Poetry, another MAGDA show, and December we will have local artist, Heather McDonald, displaying her amazing photographs. As always the Colstrip Medical Center annual Wreath Auction will take place. Remember we will also have a Santa's mail box for all the little children at SHAC. They can drop their letters in the mail box, and each letter will be answered by our own little elves. We look forward to visiting with you when you stop by, our Gallery enjoys your company.

Our gift shop is becoming very popular in our community. If you haven't had an opportunity to visit, stop in to see what we are all about and support your local artists. We regularly go to market, so we have the latest and greatest at prices you can afford. If you are a local artist and would like to have a place to sell your artwork, stop in and talk to our Gift Shop committee, we would love to share our shop with you.

As always, the Board and Staff at SHAC thank you for your patronage, your contribution through volunteering, and your financial support through membership and donation. Because of you and your participation, we can offer wonderful educational programs, speakers, and Gallery Shows to our communities.

Bicentennial Library



The Bicentennial Library was again fortunate. We were allowed to display the wonderful Earth Day Posters made by our talented artists at Pine Butte Elementary.

This summer's Reading Program is going to be a blast; I am not sure who will have more fun the kids or the librarians. This year's theme will be "Make a Splash at Your Library". Registration will start Monday June 7th and run till Saturday the 12th. We would like to have all our participants registered that week so all our kids can get started around the same time. We have some fun activities planned already. We will explore the fine art of tie-dye t-shirts, and learn about our natural water environment from our local game warden. This will be quite the Summer Reading Program, so please register with us on Monday June 7th and find out what other fun activities we have planned. Our sponsors for the summer reading program so far are Friends of the Library, SHAC and CPRD. Bicentennial Library would like to thank these fine organizations for wanting to participate in our summer reading program.

We tried something new this school year and had Friday evening scavenger hunts for our elementary and upper elementary age kids. The response was phenomenal. We will definitely start up that program again in late August with another round of Good Knights vs. Bad Knights.

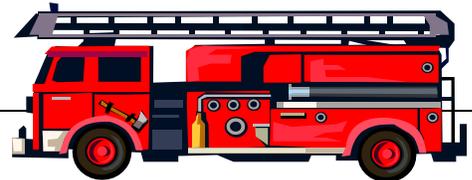
For our computer users we have changed systems again. We are now using a Windows based system so that our general population feels more comfortable while using the internet. We are still tweaking some of the details but are learning fast how to operate the new system.

The Bicentennial Library has a Services Survey at the front counter that we would like our patrons to fill out. There are only two questions, plus comments, if you have them. You would really be helping us out if you took a couple minutes to participate in the survey.

We are continually purchasing new books and DVD's to add to our collection. If you have a suggestion for an item purchase please let one of your librarians know. We take all suggestions seriously and generally purchase the items that are requested.

Thank you for your continuing patronage and support. The staff at Bicentennial Library looks forward to serving you at the checkout counter.

Volunteer Fire Department



The popularity of portable backyard fire pits is on the rise. While they can be fun, they could be putting your family in danger. It's important to keep your fire pit at least ten feet from your house and three feet away from any outdoor furniture because it only takes a few seconds and a little flame for disaster to occur. For best results, follow the manufacturer's directions when using your fire pit. Be sure to clear away brush and dead or dry vegetation in a 10 to 20 foot circle around your fire treatment and don't place your fire pit under low hanging trees where errant sparks and heat might ignite dry foliage and branches. Keep a fire extinguisher or garden hose with a spray nozzle nearby so that if anything does escape the fire area you can smother it quickly and effectively. When starting your fire do not use lighter fluids. They can be unpredictable and dangerous; instead, use kindling and build your fire up slowly so that it is always under control and manageable.

Handling Gasoline in lawnmowers and Trimmers

- Never smoke when filling the gas tank. * Store gasoline in a container with a UL, FM, or CSA label. The Briggs & Stratton Smart Fill Fuel can meets these requirements. * Never keep gasoline in the house or fill gas tanks indoors. * Never store the machine or fuel container where there is an open flame, spark, or pilot light such as near a water heater or other appliances. * Never fill containers inside a vehicle or on a truck bed with a plastic bed liner. Always place containers on the ground away from your vehicle before filling. * Wipe up gasoline spills immediately and do not attempt to start the engine but move the machine away from the area of spillage and avoid creating any source of ignition until fuel vapors have dissipated. * Never over fill the fuel tank. Replace gas cap and tighten securely. * Never remove the gas cap or add fuel with the engine running. Allow the engine to cool before refueling. * Keep gasoline

Volunteer Fire Department continued page 6

Tree Board

The City of Colstrip celebrated Arbor Day on May 7th. Pine Butte Elementary School hosted the annual event. The Colstrip Tree Board was awarded Tree City USA for the 5th year and the Tree City Growth Award for the third year. There are only 42 cities in the state of Montana that have received Tree City status and 7 that have received the Growth Award in 2010. Our local Senior Citizens helped judge the poster contest that PPL sponsored. Bicentennial Library displayed all the posters for their patrons. Western Energy provided ice cream treats for all the staff and students to help reward them for their valuable help in picking up litter.



The City of Colstrip has promoted two speakers this year. Mr. Toby Day, MSU Extension Horticulture Associate, gave a presentation regarding Xeriscape. Mr. Mike Garvey gave an informative presentation on May 20th covering all aspects of tree care.

The Tree Board also sponsored a tree give away contest. The three lucky winners were: Hailey Poole, Lindsey Pippin, and the Mount Calvary Lutheran Church. Miss Poole requested a tree for her yard. Lindsey Pippin chose to ask for a tree to honor Mr. Josh Davidson and to have it planted at the CPRD Baseball Fields. Rev. Dr. John Sias requested a tree for their entire congregation to enjoy. Congratulations to these lucky winners. We are excited to watch these trees grow and flourish.

The Tree Board members are: Bill Neumiller, Jackson Craig, Tana Pippin, John Williams, Dan Becker, Irene Nelson, Terry Currier, Tanya Cadwell, Doug Goodheart, and Harry Cheff.

Volunteer Fire Department cont.

containers out of reach of curious children. * Never use gasoline as a parts cleaner. There are commercial products available at your local hardware store.

Safety for Electric Mowers

- Use only recommended, grounded extension cords. * Mow away from the cord. * Never abuse the cord or use a frayed cord. * Always turn off the mower when you leave it and unplug the cord directly from the outlet. Never unplug by yanking the cord from the wall. * Never use an electric mower when wet or raining.

Have a safe and sane summer.

City Court

Judge Gail Beckham

Judge Beckham recently attended her 33rd Montana Supreme Court Judicial Training Conference in Billings. The Supreme Court requires that all judges of the Courts of Limited Jurisdiction complete a 40-hour training session in the fall and spring each year. Over 100 judges were in attendance and received specific training which included Rules of Evidence, D.U.I. trials, Montana Supreme Court Decisions and Medical Marijuana.



The judges also had the opportunity to observe the Drug Court in session before Billings Municipal Court Judge, the Honorable Mary Jane Knisely. It brought tears to many of the judges, both the men and women. Many of the stories told by the participants were sad, yet their motivation to overcome their addictions was very inspiring.

During the conference Judge Beckham attended the regular meeting of the Montana Magistrates Association (M.M.A.). Judge Beckham currently serves as the Eastern Vice President for M.M.A. and has recently been appointed to serve on the Court Procedure Committee and the Resolutions Committee.

City Court continued on page 7

City Court cont.

DO YOU WANT TO BREAK THE METHAMPHETAMINE HABIT?

If you are a woman between the ages of 18-40, are currently on methamphetamine and have a desire to stop, you may qualify for participation in a research study for the treatment of methamphetamine abstinence. You must meet other specific criteria to qualify. **If interested, please contact:** The Recruitment Team at (406) 259-2413 or (406) 247-6461 or E-Mail: research@billingsclinic.org.

| COLSTRIP CITY COURT OFFENSES FILED IN 2009 | |
|--|----|
| Criminal Possession of Dangerous Drugs / Drug Paraphernalia | 11 |
| Assault | 1 |
| Partner/Family Member Assault | 4 |
| Unlawful Possession of Intoxicating Substance Under 21 (Under 18) | 1 |
| Unlawful Possession of Intoxicating Substance Under 21 (Over 18) | 7 |
| Unlawful Transactions with Children | 3 |
| Unlawful Possession of Open Alcoholic Container in Motor Vehicle | 2 |
| Criminal Mischief | 1 |
| Criminal Trespass To Property | 8 |
| Theft | 4 |
| Issuing A Bad Check | 1 |
| Permitting Unauthorized Minor to Drive | 1 |
| Obstructing a Peace Officer / Obstruction of Justice | 2 |
| Escape (Official Detention) | 2 |
| Disorderly Conduct | 6 |
| Failure To Register As A Sexual Or Violent Offender | 1 |
| Urinating or Defecating in Public | 4 |
| Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol / Drugs | 10 |
| Operating Motor Vehicle With BAC of .02 or Greater While Under 21 | 1 |
| Operating Motor Vehicle With Alcohol Concentration of 0.08% BAC Or Greater | 2 |
| Operating Motor Vehicle Without Liability Insurance / Exhibit Proof | 10 |
| Operating Motor Vehicle Without Valid D/L or Possession of D/L | 7 |
| Operating Motor Vehicle While Driving Privileges are Suspended | 8 |

City Court continued page 8

City Court cont.

| | | |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| Violation of Instruction Permit / Violation In Use Of Traffic Ed. Learners License | 2 | |
| Probation Violations | 25 | |
| Habitual Offender Operating Motor Vehicle | 1 | |
| Failure to Give Notice of Accident by Quickest Means | 1 | |
| Failure to Stop / Notify Owner of Accident with Property Damage | 1 | |
| Right of Way Violations / Failure to Yield to Authorized Emergency / Police Vehicle | 1 | |
| Operating With Expired Registration – Failure to Reregister | 3 | |
| Seat Belt / Child Restraint Violations | 10 | |
| Speeding / Basic Rule | 28 | |
| Reckless Driving | 2 | |
| Careless Driving | 6 | |
| Fail to Park Within 18 Inches Of Right Hand Curb Or Shoulder Of Roadway | 1 | |
| Nuisance Animal | 1 | |
| Vicious Animal | 5 | |
| Dog at Large | 7 | |
| No Pet License / Tags / Registration | 4 | |
| TOTAL OFFENSES FILED: | 195 | |
| AVERAGE B.A.C. STATISTICS | | |
| 2009 | 2008 | 2007 |
| .1638 | .1686 | .1317 |
| <i>Under Montana Law it may be “inferred” that a person is under the influence if the blood alcohol content (B.A.C.) is .08 %</i> | | |

JUROR NOTICE

It is that time again to solicit jurors for fiscal year 2010-2011. The Clerk of Court has randomly selected 300 jurors for the City Court and letters with questionnaires will be sent within a couple of weeks. If you receive a letter and questionnaire please read it carefully and return it promptly. Failure to return a questionnaire does not exclude you.

The right to a trial by jury is guaranteed under the United States Constitution and the Constitution of the State of Montana. The effectiveness of the jury system depends upon the willingness of all citizens to perform their duty as jurors, as well as their ability to be fair and impartial while deciding the facts and applying the law as instructed. As a Juror, yours is a serious duty and is of great importance to all those involved.

If summoned to serve as a Juror please stop by the City Court and pick up a “**Juror’s Guide**” to assist you in understanding a Juror’s role and responsibility.

City of Colstrip
PO Box 1902
Colstrip, MT 59323

Website: cityofcolstrip.com

Phone: 406-748-2300
Fax: 406-748-2303
Email: info@cityofcolstrip.com

**PRSRT STD
PERMIT NO. 9
COLSTRIP, MT**

**ECRWS
Box Holder
Colstrip, MT 59323**

Celebrating 11 years