

City of Colstrip

September 2012

Mayor's Message



- Mayor Rose Hanser
- Tom Jankowski
- Lawretta Miller
- Evan Stewart
- John Williams

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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Well, no doubt about it, Colstrip has passed the summer in much better shape than some of our neighbors, due to the prayers and hard work of many, many people and the blessing of a little rain. Many of the ranchers, our firemen from the city, the county and surrounding areas worked to put out overwhelming fires, along with crews from all over the United States. Thankfully not a single life was lost. Thank you one and all for your sacrifice of time, energy and resources to keep us safe. It isn't just imagination or bad memory; this has been one of the hottest, driest, fire prone summers ever for Montana. Unfortunately, the fire danger will continue to be of concern until we have considerable moisture or it gets much colder. Everyone has done a great job of being careful not to start fires here in town or out in the surrounding area. Thank you for being good neighbors.



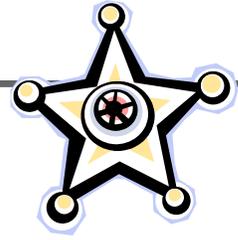
The city website is an ongoing project. Keep looking, it will be changing and rearranging more as we move into fall. Not only will the City Council Agendas be posted, but also links to the documents related to each item. This information is available upon request in paper form at city hall if you are interested.

This will be the last mailed out newsletter the city will print. If you would like to receive a paper copy in the mail, please let us know at City Hall. The next newsletter will be online at cityofcolstrip.com. Only those requesting a mailed out copy will be receiving one. There will be a limited number of hard copies available at the front desk in city hall.

Summer seems to be gone before you know it as we move toward fall. School starts, gardens ripen, leaves begin turning and the weather is cooler. Fall is a wonderful season, like Spring, it is a time of beginnings as well. The new school year begins, the fall hunting season begins, sports programs, exercise classes, holiday planning, and before you know it, a new year. Enjoy the changing of season and may God Bless you in your next season.

Police Department

Cory Hert, Acting Chief of Police



We at the Police Department hope you all had a safe and enjoyable summer. We were extremely busy over the past three months with Colstrip Days, all of the fires in Rosebud County and the surrounding areas and the day to day operations within the city. I am sure by now most of you have noticed some changes in the department. We have replaced our uniforms with a more modern police look and we replaced the striping on our patrol vehicles.

We have also hired three new Police Officers since February. Officer Ryan Dunster left the city and took a new position with the Missoula County Sheriff's Office. We would like to thank him for his service over the past five years and wish him and his family well as they undergo their new journeys!

We would like to welcome Michael Hayes, Jacob West and Hossein Borhan as our new police officers. They are eager to complete training and get involved in our community.

We would also like to welcome Aisling Pitt as our new part-time 911 Dispatcher. Aisling is also eager to get to work and will be a great asset to our department. We would like to thank our former part-time 911 Dispatcher, Frank Barreto. Frank has taken a fulltime position with the Bicentennial Library and we wish him the best.

The Police Department has recently partnered with the Eastern Montana Drug Task Force. This partnership will enable us to get more involved with the drug activities in the community and we look forward to working together to make your community safer and more enjoyable.

We have some professional training classes scheduled in Colstrip this fall which we hope will bring some revenue to our local businesses. We have four days of TASER training scheduled in mid-September with a Master Instructor from TASER International in Scottsdale, Arizona. We also have a Domestic Violence Course scheduled which will be presented by the Montana Law Enforcement Academy. In October we have a one day training covering Racial Profiling, Ethics, Sexual Harassment and Cultural Diversity which is also being presented by the Montana Law Enforcement Academy.

As you can see we have a busy fall coming up and we are sure you do as well with school starting and all the activities that come with it. We hope you have a great school year and we wish the Colts and Fillies the best of luck in all their upcoming activities!

Public Works Department

John Bleth, Public Works Director



Summer is passing us by very quickly. The city is just completing another road project on the first half of Pinebutte Drive. Next year phase two will complete the project to Highway 39. This project has cost nearly \$550,000 which includes the engineering portion. I would like to thank everyone for their patience and understanding during the construction. Phase two will probably cost more due to additional dig outs to replace unstable sub-grade material.

Earlier this summer, we bid out for the construction of a new city shop to be built at our current warehouse yard; however the bids came in extremely high so the bids were rejected. We are going to rebid the project in December with some changes to the building to attempt to get the bids lower. If we are successful we could start construction in the late spring with completion sometime in the summer. We will be without a shop this winter which could cause problems with plows sitting outside all night. Right now we are basically working out of our pickups. Our old shop is condemned and cannot be inhabited. We are allowed to store sand in the building for the winter.

Our precipitation totals this year are just the opposite from last year. We are still under six inches as of the middle of August. Last year we were at almost 21 inches of moisture.

We have just completed spraying weeds on the city's right of ways. Next we will spray spotted knapweed. Late summer is the best time to spray this weed in order to kill the entire root system.

I would like to wish Ivan Watson the best of luck with his new endeavor and thanks for a great job. I would also like to welcome Warren Buckalew to the city crew as our new Solid Waste Operator. Jason Martinez will be moving into Ivan's position as a Utility Operator I.

Building/Zoning/Code Enforcement

Jan Morgan



Once school starts foot traffic along city sidewalks increase. Please be aware of that increased use and make sure that the sidewalks in front of your home are clear. Make sure garbage containers are placed off the sidewalks and into the streets for pickup. Check the area behind any vehicles parked in driveways to make sure the sidewalk is not blocked or impeded by hitches sticking out into the foot traffic area.

Once winter comes it is the responsibility of every homeowner to make sure the sidewalks in front of their property is clear of snow and ice. Clear sidewalks make it easier and safer to get around. They are important for everyone who uses sidewalks, but they are especially important for seniors, people with disabilities and children. Snow, ice-covered or blocked sidewalks force people to travel in the street and that is unsafe. Be considerate of your neighbors. Clear the sidewalks and make our community a safe place for all those who walk; especially our children.

According to local noxious weed experts, September and October are the most effective months to spray those infestations of Spotted Knapweed, Canada Thistle and Field Bindweed. Remember it is against the law to allow noxious weeds to propagate and it is the property owner's responsibility to get rid of the weeds. Call the Rosebud County Weed Control Official, Amy Adler, for help in identifying noxious weeds on your property and the most effective sprays to use in your area. Her number is (406) 351-1344. She is well trained on weed control and will be glad to help.

The Planning Board has started to meet monthly to discuss the City of Colstrip's Growth Policy. They are discussing three what's: *What was, What is, and What if* to look for possible future direction for the community of Colstrip. The most recent meeting was August 30, 2012. The minutes of that meeting along with some recommended changes to codes by the Zoning Commission are available on the city's website under the Zoning and Building department. Please check them out. All meetings are open to the public and the group desires your input.

Bicentennial Library



Bicentennial Library has some sad news to share: After eight years of service to Bicentennial Library as the children's librarian Sue McKamey has decided to retire. We will miss you Sue. Thank you for your years of service.

Bicentennial Library would like to welcome Mindy Kohn as our new children's librarian. Mindy has her bachelor's in education and worked in that profession for many years before deciding to home school her children. She recently moved to Colstrip from Billings and was very excited when this position opened. We look forward to working with her and all her ideas that she has for children's programming at Bicentennial Library.

Bicentennial Library has a services/programming survey that we would really appreciate if you fill out. The survey is not long and you should be able to fill it out in just a couple of minutes. We will offer a Hershey Kiss to any and all that turn in a survey. So I hope that's good motivation a kiss from a librarian. Speaking about the survey, we have some interesting statistics to share so far: The most requested programming addition is Young Adult Programming, our patrons are asking us to do more with young people 13 and up. The second most requested programming is tied: Juvenile Programming and Family Programming. Adult, State Resource and Infant Programming like books for babies is coming in third and one on one attention has not been requested much. Thank you for sharing your opinions with us so far, we will close the survey September 30th and get working on those program requests in the meantime.

Whether you need help with math homework, prepare for the college entrance exam, study for the GED, or write an effective resume or term paper, HomeworkMT can help!

Bicentennial Library is so pleased to participate in HomeworkMT. HomeworkMT offers free online tutoring, academic resources, writing assistance and preparatory testing materials from Tutor.com for all Montana residents. Get help in math, science, social studies or English from a live tutor as part of this statewide service. The service can be accessed from a Montana public school, academic or special library or from your home computer.

Bicentennial Library appreciates the support that we receive from the people of Colstrip and look forward to serving you the best we can.

Schoolhouse History and Art Center

Did we really have summer? Gosh, it seems like the kids just got out of school. Teachers are special, and our children the future. We wish everyone a very happy and positive school year.



A lot has been going on at the Schoolhouse. We are starting a Capital Campaign to restore our foundation and to fix our deteriorating handicap ramp. We are searching high and low for funding sources; I think I'll check the cushions in the couch! The Community of Colstrip rescued this building twenty-five years ago, many of you worked hard for a very long time to bring our history, along with art and culture, to our communities. The building was built in 1924, and while it has stood the test of time, it's starting to show some wear. Restoring the building to its former self will cost an estimated \$113,667. Wow, is that too big to hit or too big to miss? We are writing grants but there won't be enough to cover the many expenses. We will be asking for your support to bring this historic building back to a solid foundation. Any amount you can give will bring us one day closer to fruition. Please help us in this restoration process.

We have been getting calls already for our 34th Annual Arts and Craft Fair. Mark your calendars for the 2nd & 3rd of November. We will be sending out information to past vendors in the near future. If you are interested in receiving an application please contact us with your information. Sign up early, this is a very popular show, early sign-ups have a pick of their table space.

We would like you to welcome the newest member of our team. Jordana Nelson, a graduate of Colstrip High School, and computer and artist extraordinaire who will add so much to our accounting side of the operation as well as creative classes for the community. We look forward to the opportunities Jordana will bring us, it will be great to have all that computer experience, and we are excited to learn from Jordana!

In our revolving Gallery we have Jen Petritz's photography through September 20th. Jen's work is beautiful. Her images celebrate life in the best of experiences. Jen's depiction of Weddings, Births, and Graduations captures the spirit of each of her subjects. So many baby pictures, their eyes tug at your heart; you just want to pull them from the wall. Come see what a professional, hometown, photographer's work looks like. There is no reason to go anywhere else for those special moments.

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.

Check out our website www.colstripshac.org. This year you will be able to fill out our 2013 Scholarship Application online. Thank you Evan Stewart!! If you have suggestions for our website, please let us know. Your comments are appreciated.

As always, the Board and Staff at SHAC thank you for your patronage, your contribution through volunteering, and your financial support through membership, donation and hopefully this year, toward our restoration project. Because of you and your participation, we can offer wonderful educational programs, speakers, our history, and Gallery Shows to our communities for many years to come.

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COLSTRIP, MT

ECRWS

Box Holder

Colstrip, MT 59323

Celebrating 12 Years

Volunteer Fire Department

Ryan Reid, Fire Chief

It has been a difficult summer. Wildland fires have burned more acres than anyone thought was possible. Southeastern Montana is closing in on $\frac{3}{4}$ of a million acres burnt. That is hard even to imagine. We have had twice as many calls in the first month of our fiscal year than we typically have in a full year. A forest service employee told me that the last time this much acreage was burnt was in 1910. We are experiencing a hundred year fire storm. This was a summer where there were not enough people or equipment to fight the fires. I don't believe we are done.

I would like to thank the people and the City of Colstrip. This year tested the equipment we have and it withstood the test well. It makes our job much easier when we have equipment that performs well.

These fires have caused much loss and heartache. Please protect your home by making it fire resistant. If you keep a defensible area around your house, it is much easier to defend. A defensible area means that you have a green or noncombustible area around the house. The trees should be limbed up so there are no fuels that can act as a ladder to get fire from the ground to the trees. The trees should also be 10 to 15 ft. from the house. There should be no piles next to the house such as firewood or lumber. During the summer, I saw sprinklers on roofs, decks, and porches. They all helped keep fire off the house.

Thank you to all the people that supported us this summer. Thank you to the firemen that gave up so much of their time and effort.

Please be careful with fire.

