

City of Colstrip

October 2013

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.

City Hall Information

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Celebrating 14 Years



Another summer has passed and it was surprisingly hot toward the end. Just about the time we were beginning to experience water shortages, we were blessed with rain; a good reason to be thankful.

Here at the City, we are anticipating the completion of the new City Shop. The old shop was constructed in the 1930's. After the City was notified in late 2011 that it was no longer safe, we began moving forward on a new shop. Since then, we have nearly completed the project. After spending last winter without a place to work on projects, or keep up with basic maintenance, the Public Works employees are looking forward to the completion of the shop. We plan to host an "open house" at the new City Shop, you are all invited. Stay posted for the date and time.

The City is moving forward on the Master Water Plan. We are scheduled to start this fall with the backwash project. The City must meet the DEQ requirements, which become more stringent all the time. This project is slated to cost the City nearly \$500,000. In the highly simplified version, the project addresses limiting the dirt that we allow back into the lake that we have previously taken out of the lake water with our filters. According to the DEQ, when the filters are backwashed, removing the sediment trapped in the original filtering process, the backwash water has too high of turbidity levels to go back to the lake-it's dirty. Our engineers have helped us come up with a solution that satisfies the DEQ and helps us plan for the future.

Jan Morgan and the Planning Board have been working diligently the last 18 months on updating our City Growth Policy. It is ready to roll. If you get a chance, check it out at the library, online or at City Hall. Colstrip has choices to make, plan to grow forward into the years ahead or remain stagnate. The Planning Board has developed some great goals and objectives to help us go forward. We are looking for dedicated people to help us achieve the goals that have been outlined in the Growth Policy. If that could be you, drop a note of interest to my office.

And finally, don't forget to celebrate Thanksgiving as the day it was meant to be. We have so many reasons to be truly thankful. Our first president, George Washington proclaimed the first nation-wide thanksgiving celebration in America marking November 26, 1789, "as a day of public thanksgiving and prayer to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many and signal favours of Almighty God". I agree with Mr. Washington, and believe that giving thanks to God and praying for our nation is more important than ever.

May God bless and keep you all through the holiday season.

Mayor Rose Hanser



Colstrip Police Department

Cory Hert, Police Chief



We at the Colstrip Police Department hope that you had an enjoyable and safe summer and have an equally enjoyable winter as the colder weather approaches.

The Crimestoppers ATV raffle went extremely well and we thank those of you that supported the fundraiser. We raised almost \$5000.00 through the raffle which will be utilized throughout Rosebud County to pay for crime tips leading to apprehension and arrests of suspects.

The new signs for the Willow Avenue truck route have been posted and we will begin enforcement actions in October once the City Council has approved the Ordinance pertaining to the route. Industrial deliveries must use Power Road, if caught using Willow, the drivers will be stopped and cited. Local deliveries will still be allowed to use Willow to access the businesses in that area.

We began the testing schedule for our Emergency Sirens and testing will continue the first Saturday of each month at 12:00 P.M. (Noon). We have enclosed the activation policy below once again just in case you missed the previous newsletter.

The Public Works Department has ordered more school zone signs that will be placed on side streets entering Pinebutte Drive between the flashing signs near CHS and PBES. We have had citizens express concerns that there currently is not enough posting in this area so more signs will be erected.

One final thought as we move into the winter months and the holidays approach, please be conscious of all the potential scams that occur during this season. Scammers use all types of avenues such as telephone calls, internet or through the mail. If you are contacted by either means and someone is requesting personal information please make sure you know who you are talking to and if there is any doubt at all, don't provide your information. Identity theft is on the rise and is extremely difficult to prosecute, please protect your information and don't become a victim!

Again, we hope you all have a safe and enjoyable holiday season!

COLSTRIP EMERGENCY SIREN ACTIVATION POLICY

A. General Information:

The outdoor warning system (sirens) installed in 2013 in Colstrip will alert the majority of the citizens. This system for alerting is a preparatory step in alerting the public. **The EAS system needs to be activated first to provide information to the public via the radio stations.** The sirens and the EAS must both be used to alert the public of a disaster. Siren controls are located at the Colstrip Police Department and will be initiated by the on-duty 911 Dispatcher. All 911 Dispatchers need to become familiar with the operation of the siren controls.

B. Specific Instructions for Activation:

If the emergency is weather related, The National Weather Service (NWS) must be contacted for verification prior to any activation of the siren system. Working in conjunction with the NWS, a decision will be made as to whether an EAS warning and sirens will be activated. This decision will be made by any one of the individuals or methods listed below.

If the emergency is not weather related, the NWS must still be contacted and given the appropriate information to activate the EAS for broadcasting to the public via radio prior to the sirens being activated. An EAS Non-Weather Emergency Message Activation form is available from the NWS to ensure a clear and concise message is forwarded to the NWS.

Activation of the sirens can be authorized by the following individuals:

1.
 - a. Colstrip Police Chief/Assistant Chief
 - b. Rosebud County DES Coordinator
 - c. Mayor of Colstrip
 - d. Rosebud County Commissioners
 - e. Rosebud County Fire Chief
 - f. Colstrip Fire Chief/Assistant Chief
 - g. On-duty Colstrip Police Officer
 - h. On-duty Rosebud County Deputy
 - i. Rosebud County Sheriff/Undersheriff

Police Department cont. on page 4

Building/Zoning/Code Enforcement

Jan Morgan



The Planning Board has been working on the Growth Policy for the past eighteen months. Since January 24, 2012, they have held open monthly meetings, researched data, made personal contacts and compiled information. They discussed and analyzed the information looking for changes and trends in Colstrip land uses, population, housing needs, economic conditions, local services, public facilities, natural resources and other characteristics.

The process has been interesting, inspiring, time consuming and at times frustrating. From the data and community input; community goals and objectives were developed. The Planning Board compiled a summary of the information along with the community goals and objectives into a document. After a public hearing, the document was recommended by resolution to the council for adoption early in September. It has since been approved by the City Council and adopted for implementation.

The completed document is available on the City website under Public Downloads; Building and Zoning Information. Please check it out. It is filled with information about the changes in the community of Colstrip since its incorporation in 1998. The Planning Board members worked diligently on the document and the City is grateful for their dedication and hard work. Please ask the committee members about the Growth Policy and thank them for their hard work as you see them in the community. The Planning Board members are: Gary Parry, Betty Jo Ellison, Cheryl Fulkerson, Mark Stevens, Rose Hanser, Lawretta Miller, Zane Longacre, Donna Rogers and Doug Martens.

Bicentennial Library



On stacks and on shelves, in rows, in order, we put our ideas. We log our past and our present. Author Unknown-just a great quote

In order for communities to thrive they need libraries to provide the services that libraries are designed and evolving to provide. Fifty years ago, those services were clear. Books! Books are still a very important service that Bicentennial Library provides; however, more and more of our time and resources are being diverted to other services. Mainly programming and web based services.

Mindy Kohn will write, host and direct: A teen murder mystery pizza party. Piece a Pete's a Pizza is coming soon to Bicentennial Library. Will you be able to solve the murder of a young teen-age girl, while feasting on some delicious pizza? Thirteen spots will be available soon to try your hand at solving this mystery.

Frank Barreto could not stand to see his children's Spanish Class end, so we re-arranged his schedule and he is continuing with it every Monday morning at 9:00 a.m. Please consider bringing your child to Spanish Class. Exposing your children to a second language is a life skill that will continue to be useful throughout their adult life.

Bicentennial Library, along with Rosebud County Library and John Woodenlegs Memorial Library, has an exciting program that we want you to think about. The program is called Imagination Library and Cherie from Rosebud County Library discovered it. Any child in Rosebud County up to their 5th Birthday is eligible to receive one free book a month, as long as they live in Rosebud County. What we want our residents to do is consider sponsoring a child's postage for \$25.00 a year. What a wonderful gift you will be able to provide for the future of our county with an annual sponsorship of \$25.00. Bicentennial Library has sponsorship forms at the circulation desk. We would sincerely appreciate you considering sponsoring a child for Imagination Library.

Bicentennial Library's entire budget is around \$130,000. I invite anyone who is interested in the mechanics of running the library to take a peek at our monthly expenditures, we are always in the black, and we spend money frugally. Bicentennial Library does this so that we can show how responsible we are with the funds we are granted.

Fifty years from now, Bicentennial Library will be here for the citizens of Colstrip. The staff that currently operates this library will be a distant memory, the building may be different, the books and resources will mostly likely be completely different, but the library should still be here no matter what happens. Every community needs a library.

Police Department cont.

j. Citizen report verified by NWS, Law Enforcement or other citizen reports (see Citizen Report Questionnaire)

D. Siren Tones:

The **Steady Tone** will be used to inform the public to **Shelter in Place**
(This means preferably in a basement if you have one or one of the following designated shelters nearest your location)

Colstrip High School
Frank Brattin Middle School
School House History and Art Center (SHAC)
Colstrip Parks and Recreation (CPRD)

The **Intermittent Tone** will be used to inform the public to **Evacuate** (This means you may need to evacuate the City limits due to the impending nature of the incident/occurrence)

E. Siren Testing:

The sirens will be tested on the first Saturday of each month at 12:00 P.M. (Noon)

Schoolhouse History and Art Center

Lu Shomate, Director



We're getting a new facelift. Have you seen our foundation lately, it's beautiful, rustic, and ties into the building nicely. We are so grateful for these improvements. We couldn't have done this without you. Thank you Montana Coal Board, First Interstate Bank, PPL Montana, Western Energy, and the generous donations from the community and our loyal Schoolhouse members.

The handicap access remodeling is taking longer than we thought. Getting contractors lined up has been an eye opener but every contractor we have worked with has been exceptional. Contractors like Gus the Gutterman, Rod's Handyman Service, and Dade Allison have dedicated their talents to our building. We are looking forward to the craftsmanship of Randy Feisthamel and Total Asphalt to complete our project.

We have been reserving space already for our 35th Annual Arts and Craft Fair. Mark your calendars for the 1st and 2nd of November. If you are interested contact us soon, the gym is filled already and we are moving into the library and hallways. This is the Christmas kick-off. I can't believe its right around the corner.

We would like you to welcome the newest member of our team. Terry Currier, you might remember her as the past owner of the Colstrip Floral Center. Terry will be doing our accounting side of the operation as well as creative classes for the community. Terry is thinking about canning classes next year in conjunction with our Farmer's Markets. We look forward to the opportunities Terry will bring. It will be great to share her talents at the Schoolhouse.

In our revolving Gallery we have the "Rancher" show. Scott Egan, Barb Needham, and Clint McRae have teamed up to bring us a glimpse in the life of our local ranchers. We all know last year was a horrible year for our friends along the Rosebud, we hope this show will give us the opportunity to gather and share goodwill in a great atmosphere, and you are all invited. Watch for the closing reception in October.

Our gift shop continues to bring local artistry to 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.

Don't forget to check out our website www.colstripshac.org. Thank you Evan Stewart for all your help!! If you have suggestions for our website, please let us know. Your comments are appreciated.

Schoolhouse History and Art Center cont. page 5

Schoolhouse History and Art Center cont.

As always, the Board and Staff at SHAC thank you for your patronage, your contribution through volunteering, your financial support through membership, your kind words when you stop in and your partnership in making Colstrip a wonderful community. Because of you and your participation, we can offer wonderful educational programs, speakers, share our history, and offer Gallery Shows to our communities for many years to come. Thank You Colstrip!!

Volunteer Fire Department

How often has the doorbell rung or a child interrupted you while you were cooking, causing you to forget about the chicken you left sizzling on the stove - until smoke filled the house?

If this scenario or a similar one sounds familiar to you, you may want to think about it a little more because it's likely that you, a friend or family member has run the risk of having a dangerous fire. As a fire fighter, I often talk to people about the ways they can stay safe in their homes. Too often, we have that talk after they've suffered a damaging fire.



It's my hope that people reading this article won't have to learn the hard way. If I could give just one fire warning, I'd say, "Keep an eye on what you fry!"

Why? Because cooking is the leading cause of home fires, according to the nonprofit National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). The latest statistics from NFPA say U.S. Fire Departments responded to an estimated annual average of 156,600 cooking-related fires between 2007-2011.

We're joining forces with NFPA and thousands of other fire departments across North America to commemorate Fire Prevention Week, October 6-12th, "Prevent Kitchen Fires." The theme reminds us that leaving cooking unattended and other unsafe kitchen practices are a recipe for disaster.

Often when we're called to a cooking-related fire, the residents tell us they only left the kitchen for a few minutes. Sadly, that's all it takes for a dangerous fire to start. The bottom line is that there's really no safe period of time for the cook to step away from a hot stove. A few key points to remember:

- Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling, **or** broiling food. If you must leave the room even for a short period of time, turn off the stove.
- When you are simmering, baking, or roasting food, check it regularly, stay in the home, and use a timer to remind you.
- Keep cooking areas clean and clear of combustibles (e.g. potholders, towels, rags, drapes and food packaging).
- Keep children away from cooking areas by enforcing a "kid-free zone" of three feet around the stove.
- If you have a fire in your microwave, turn it off immediately and keep the door closed. Never open the door until the fire is completely out. If in doubt, get out of the home and call the fire department.
- Always keep an oven mitt and a lid nearby. If a small grease fire starts in a pan, smother the flames by carefully sliding the lid over the pan (make sure you are wearing the oven mitt). Turn off the burner. Do not move the pan. To keep the fire from restarting, do not remove the lid until it is completely cool. **Never pour water on a grease fire.** If the fire does not go out, get out of the home and call the fire department.
- If an oven fire starts, turn off the heat and keep the door closed. If the fire does not go out, get out of the home and call the fire department.

A cooking fire can quickly turn deadly. Fire fighters have seen too many homes destroyed and people killed or injured by fires that could have been easily avoided. Please heed these simple safety rules. We firefighters would like to be in your kitchen, but only when you invite us for dinner!