

City of Colstrip

Mayor's Message

February 2016



- Mayor John Williams
- Tom Jankowski
- Greg Koczur
- Jolene Verlanic
- Mike Esser

Council meetings are the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month unless rescheduled for a holiday.

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.



**Celebrating
17 Years**

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Greetings from the Mayor's office.

As I begin my message, it is my desire to address some activities that are planned, on going, and also the threats we have against our city, our quality of life, and our existence.

The first is the mailing and expansion of our quarterly newsletter. Communication is key to our success as a city providing you information and soliciting feedback. We will continue to provide the newsletter electronically and also invite you to our web page, that we continue to review and update. The city's web page address is: www.cityofcolstrip.com.

The major project planned for this year is the Willow Avenue Reconstruction Project. This street is over forty years old and is in much need of the reconstruction effort. Although we have other streets entering into our city, this street does serve as our main entrance. It is our intent as we address this reconstruction will be updating and making it a more attractive entrance reflective of the quality values of our city.

A group of residents, primarily young people, have come together uniting in defense of our coal mining industry, power plants, and most importantly the quality of life we all enjoy in Colstrip. The organization and its activities can be found on Facebook. I encourage all our residents to become familiar with it and support it.

The Colstrip United group is dedicated to putting out thoughtful, accurate information related to the benefits of coal and electrical energy to Montana. In particular, to what we all enjoy in Colstrip a quality life style based on coal.

Colstrip has really been in the forefront of the news, this year, and I appreciate all those that have taken part and addressed the positive aspects of living and working in Colstrip.

Our own Senator Duane Ankney has also been in the forefront of all the controversy of the attempts to shut down the Colstrip power plants and undermine the industry in general. We are all so very fortunate to have Senator Ankney in our support.

The community also has my undying support to put out truthful, accurate information and to solicit support wherever I can to avoid losing the quality of life we all enjoy in Colstrip.

The Town that Coal Built—Tomorrow's Town Today.



Public Works Department

Bryan Swan, Public Works Director



I can't believe we are already half way through winter. For the Public Works Department it has been a typical season. Although we haven't had a great deal of snow but the up and down temperatures have created icy streets that have kept our sander busy much of the time. At the end of January, we have applied 160 tons of sand and deicer to the streets. This year we increased the amount of deicer mixed with the sand and it seems to increase the effectiveness of the sand dramatically. This combination has kept many of the intersections free of ice for much of the season.

The following data is from our weather station at the Water Treatment Plant and includes data from last year for comparison.

| Year | Avg | Hi | Avg | Lo | Precip | | Snow | |
|------|------|------|------|------|--------|------|------|------|
| | 2015 | 2014 | 2015 | 2014 | 2015 | 2014 | 2015 | 2014 |
| Jul | 85.1 | 85.4 | 57.8 | 57.4 | .84 | .56 | | |
| Aug | 83.8 | 81.3 | 55.1 | 57.6 | 1.08 | 4.52 | | |
| Sep | 77.5 | 72.3 | 48.2 | 46.6 | .59 | 1.06 | | |
| Oct | 64.5 | 64.5 | 38.4 | 38.5 | .62 | .46 | | |
| Nov | 46.0 | 40.0 | 22.2 | 18.9 | .53 | .92 | 3.0 | 8.6 |
| Dec | 36.5 | 38.3 | 17.3 | 19.2 | .96 | .45 | 9.3 | 7.5 |
| Jan | 36.9 | 38.6 | 17.8 | 16.7 | .78 | .65 | 9.0 | 9.6 |

Our Water Treatment Plant treated 216.957 million gallons of drinking water in 2015. This is up slightly from our 2014 total of 207 MG. Also in 2015 61.707 MG of domestic wastewater was treated by our Wastewater Treatment Plant. All of the reclaimed wastewater is delivered to CPRD where it is used to irrigate the golf course. The City and CPRD, working together, saved the park district \$158,000 for water.

The Alder Court Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation project was given the green light by City Council last October. This project involved replacement of around 300 feet of sewer main from Alder Court to a manhole in the horse pasture east of the railroad track. The old clay tile line had partially collapsed beneath the railroad track and had caused backup problems in the area. This line carries flow from the original town site and handles about 25% of Colstrip's total flow. The new pipe line was installed in a steel sleeve under the tracks through a boring operation. The line was completed before winter shutdown but there is still some landscaping that will need to be finished in the spring.

The Colstrip WWTP Upgrade Phase 1 is in the preliminary design phase. This project will include the repair of deficiencies identified in the Wastewater PER and includes the building of a second clarifier and a modification to the plant headworks. After review and final design approval by DEQ we should be bidding this project out later this spring/summer with construction hopefully to begin later this year. The second Phase of the planned wastewater upgrades was the repair of the Laramie and Plum Court lift stations and the replacement of the Cherry Street lift station. These upgrades were already completed in the spring of 2015.

The reconstruction of Willow Avenue from Highway 39 to the railroad tracks is in the plan for this year. Since this street is the first thing people see when they come to town we are also looking at some beautification options. The plan is to begin construction later this year.

Planning, Building, Zoning & Code Official

Denise Sisson



Tomorrow's Town ... Today!

It is the neighborly thing to do and city codes require homeowners and property owners within the City of Colstrip keep the sidewalks on their property 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 or ice-covered sidewalks force people to travel in the street and that is unsafe.

Please remember that after a snowstorm it is the property owner's responsibility to remove accumulated snow and ice from the sidewalk within a reasonable period of time. In addition, it is illegal for the snow and ice removed from the sidewalk to be deposited in the streets. Failure to comply may cause the city to remove the snow at the owner's expense.

Be considerate of your neighbors. Clear the sidewalks and make our community a safe place for all those who walk; especially our children.

Police Department

Cory Hert, Police Chief



Colstrip #1 Safest City in Montana

Safewise.com has named Colstrip the safest city in Montana!

Each month we submit crime data and reports to the state through NIBRS (National Incident Based Reporting System) by way of our SWIFT Justice Software. The State in turn compiles all data from reporting agencies throughout the year and forwards the information to the FBI. This annual data is analyzed to determine each agencies crime rate as well as the State of Montana's overall rate.

The list of the 10 safest cities in Montana is based off the overall data for the Montana cities with a population of over 1500 residents.

Colstrip has a very low rate of violent crime with a chance of a violent crime occurring of .88 out of 1000 people or residents. Colstrip's property crime rate is 6.18 per 1000 people or residents.

Though our employee's involvement within the community and proactive approach to law enforcement played a big part in this recent rating, we cannot take all of the credit for it. Colstrip is comprised, as you well know, of a great group of residents who take pride in our community and who respect the rights and property of their neighbors and others, creating a "family" atmosphere throughout the community.

Though our community is not entirely without crime, working together with our community and residents has ensured that it is kept to a very minimal rate.

Our success would also not be possible without the support of previous and current City leadership. The Mayor and Council members have always ensured that we are adequately trained and equipped to handle issues as they arise. By supporting our training and equipment requests they have allowed us to become in my opinion, one of the best small agencies within the state!

We thank all of you for your support and ask for your continued support in the upcoming years as we work together toward the same common goal; fostering a safe community for all our residents, children and visitors alike!

Below is a list of the 10 safest cities in Montana:

1. Colstrip

Violent Crimes per 1000: .88
Property Crimes per 1000: 6.18

2. East Helena

Violent Crimes per 1000: .48
Property Crimes per 1000: 7.78

3. Dillon

Violent Crimes per 1000: .96
Property Crimes per 1000: 10.38

4. Glasgow

Violent Crimes per 1000: 1.80
Property Crimes per 1000: 12.63

5. Conrad

Violent Crimes per 1000: 3.03
Property Crimes per 1000: 13.28

6. Lewistown

Violent Crimes per 1000: 2.88
Property Crimes per 1000: 13.73

7. Livingston

Violent Crimes per 1000: 3.42
Property Crimes per 1000: 20.23

8. Miles City

Violent Crimes per 1000: 2.58
Property Crimes per 1000: 23.52

9. Libby

Violent Crimes per 1000: 1.52
Property Crimes per 1000: 24.71

10. Columbia Falls

Violent Crimes per 1000: .84
Property Crimes per 1000: 27.63

Schoolhouse History and Art Center

Lu Shomate, Director



The gray days of January are behind us and we are looking forward to Spring. Our first show this year will once again be in honor of the "Gone to Pieces Quilt Club". These beautiful quilts will be ready for you in plenty of time to bring your Valentine by and pick out your favorite quilt in each of the five categories. The color on the gallery walls, the fabric and thread just makes me feel warm inside. We all are looking forward to Spring at the Schoolhouse.

March will bring the annual all school art show. Students from Busby, Lame Deer, home schooled, and Colstrip will be displaying their multimedia talents in the Gallery. We support our local students in many activities, this is just another form of talent you might not want to miss, so be sure to add this to your calendar under fun.

"The Blind Men and the Elephant" is our April show. Missoula Artist, Stephen Glueckert, has his original drawings reproduced in this body of work and will be traveling throughout the state of Montana through the auspices of the Montana Art Gallery Director's Association (MAGDA). The Schoolhouse History and Art Center is very fortunate to have acquired this show. Our hope is to have Mr. Glueckert available in our Gallery sometime in the month of April so that when the school children drop in to view this parable that originated in China during the Han dynasty (202BC-220AD), they will be able to hear the story as well as view the pieces and maybe just leave a little bit more enthusiastic than when they walked in. The story contrasts the ideas of what we can actually grasp as real through evidence, with what we might perceive in our mind's eye as truth, and in the end, how utterly wrong everyone can be.

Have you checked out the back garden at the Schoolhouse lately? What a beautiful space for our brick garden. Signe's Garden looks beautiful after her recent facelift. The bricks are in two different colors now, it's so much easier to read the inscriptions. If you want to honor or remember a special occasion, why not purchase a brick for all time. Come walk down memory lane and read all the names and occasions celebrated in the cool evenings this Spring season.

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.

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. And remember we are ADA Accessible too! Thank You Colstrip!!

Bicentennial Library

Mary Kay Bullard, Director

Fifty years from now; Bicentennial Library needs to 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. This library is so very important to our community. Our goal at Bicentennial Library is to keep library activities and services relevant to our citizens.

The Bicentennial Library has had 9,828 library users this fiscal year. That is more than the entire population of Rosebud County which is 9,326 according to 2014 quick facts United States Census database. Bicentennial Library is only half way through the fiscal year, if we continue this way, we could potentially serve 19,656 users this fiscal year.

Okay, enough numbers. Bicentennial Library's Autumn Stewart has answered the call for more programming at the library. Bicentennial Library shows about two movies a month. Most often the movies are on Saturday during our public hours. Bicentennial Library's Rachel



Bicentennial Library cont. on page 6

City Court

Gail Beckham, City Judge



COLSTRIP CITY COURT

Increased Caseload in 2015 = 50%

Caseload 2015 = 249

Caseload 2014 = 166

Yearly Average Caseload for 2103/2014 = 174

CASELOAD STATISTICS

2015 2014

CRIMINAL VIOLATIONS:

| | | |
|--|-----------|----------|
| Criminal Possession of Dangerous Drugs/Paraphernalia | 8 | 10 |
| Assaults (includes P.F.M.A. and Sexual Assaults) | 5 | 6 |
| Possession of Alcohol/Unlawful transactions | 5 | 10 |
| Criminal Mischief | 0 | 1 |
| Criminal Trespass | 3 | 5 |
| Theft/Burglary | 7 | 4 |
| Resisting/Obstructing a Peace Officer | 6 | 4 |
| Disorderly Conduct | 2 | 8 |
| Probation Violations | 12 | 15 |
| Other Miscellaneous Criminal | 13 | <u>5</u> |
| Sub-total: | 61 | 68 |

TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS:

| | | |
|---|------------|----------|
| Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol/Drugs | 8 | 4 |
| Operating a Motor Vehicle Without Valid Liability Insurance in Effect | 7 | 6 |
| Operating a Motor Vehicle Without a Valid Driver's License/Suspended | 15 | 9 |
| Operating a Motor Vehicle Without Valid Registration | 13 | 14 |
| Stop Sign Violations | 34 | 1 |
| Speeding | 71 | 33 |
| Reckless/Careless Driving | 6 | 6 |
| Miscellaneous Traffic | 17 | <u>7</u> |
| Sub-Total: | 171 | 80 |

VIOLATION OF CITY ORDINANCE:

| | | |
|---|-----------|----------|
| Dog at Large | 9 | 11 |
| Vicious Dog | 1 | 3 |
| No Tags/Registration | 4 | 2 |
| Nuisance Animal | 2 | 2 |
| Operate Vehicle on Non-Designated Truck Route | 1 | <u>0</u> |
| Sub-Total: | 17 | 18 |

TOTAL: 249 166

Bicentennial Library cont.

Grafton and Autumn Stewart hosted an extremely successful Saturday movie on January 9th. They showed the Disney movie "Frozen" and had 73 people attend the movie. Autumn also hosted a live game of the old Parker Brother's game Clue. Participants were treated to Andy's Famous Pizza by Andy Kohn, salad and Autumn Stewart's cupcakes.

Rachel Grafton began hosting a Lego Club for children first grade on up on February 1st. This club is for children and young adults' first grade and up. Playing with Legos is not just for fun, playing with Legos may develop: thinking in three dimensions, it improves literacy as kids work with instructions, it develops problem-solving, organization, planning by construction, it improves creativity, it enhances communication and critical thinking, and it boosts kid's motor development.

For further information about what is going on at Bicentennial Library, please check out our Facebook Page or you can listen to KIKC radio Saturday Mornings, or read our library's bi-monthly column. We have three pretty good methods of keeping you informed about what the library is doing. Or, you could just stop in. That is our preferred method.

We also have very active Friends of the Library. The Friends of the Library will have a very busy February and March. On February 9th the Friends of the Library hosted the 12th annual Talent Show. These busy ladies are also putting on a Spring Craft Bazaar. The craft bazaar will be Saturday March 19th at Frank Brattin Middle School. This organization exists to support the needs of Bicentennial Library. So they could definitely use your support.

Thank you for your usage of Bicentennial Library. The staff of Bicentennial Library is very happy to serve this community.