**Dear Friends and Neighbors!**

Springtime greetings from Billings City Hall. Spring-like weather has been long in coming this year, but as the old adage goes, better late than never.

There are several articles and notices in this quarterly newsletter to which I would draw your attention. I especially would like to emphasize the upcoming election April 2. The state designated April election date, the first Tuesday after the first Monday in April, is commonly known as the municipal and local election day throughout the State of Missouri. We have three aldermanic positions on the ballot this year, two are regularly scheduled two year terms and one unexpired term. Many thanks to all those on the ballot for their willingness to serve. Please exercise your vote.

I would encourage you to check out the new and developing City of Billings Webpage. Thank you to Tina Didreckson for taking on the task of upgrading and maintaining the city’s webpage. In deciding in favor of an enhanced webpage the city is attempting to add more city information and content, as well as more links to other related information. Please know that by separate action of the Board of Aldermen all the city’s ordinances are now accessible via a link on the webpage.

At this point the webpage is still a work-in-progress, involving ongoing upgrades and improvements. It is our hope that Billings’ citizens and other interested parties will find the improvements to our city’s website both attractive and engaging, as well as a more extensive, up-to-date and interactive resource to access information about the different dimensions of city government and our community more broadly. If you have further improvement suggestions and/or questions, please let us know.

The City of Billings will soon issue $1.2 million more in capital improvement bonds as it begins Phase Two in the needed upgrades and repairs to both our public water and waste water systems. In 2015 the citizens of Billings approved by public vote a total bond issue of $5.5 million to address our aging and deteriorating water and waste water systems. Phase I included $1.25 million which was allocated primarily to address waste water deficiencies. Phase II will include both water and waste water improvements.

We want to thank members of the Republic Public Works Department for providing emergency assistance following a recent breakdown of a critical waste water system pump at the sewer plant. This was not the first time that our friends up the road have come to our aid and helped us avert a potential interruption in service and costly repair. It is great to have good neighbors!

Police Chief David Taylor and Officer Justin Braden continue to convalesce following surgeries tied to injuries sustained in separate law enforcement incidents. We look forward to their return to active service in the coming weeks. A special thank you to Lt. Bruce Belin for going the extra mile in our service during his two colleague’s absence. We are very fortunate to have someone of Lt Belin’s experience and commitment on our police force, especially at this critical time.

Don’t forget to vote on April 2nd! David Rauch, Mayor

David Rauch, Mayor

**Some Sewer System Breakdowns Can Be Avoided!**

Billings is in the midst of spending literally hundreds of thousands of dollars repairing and upgrading our aging waste water treatment system. Sometimes repairs and improvements are scheduled and managed. Sometimes breakdowns come without advanced notice and we have to take extraordinary measures to make repairs and avoid service interruptions. Most of these are due to deteriorating and worn out equipment and structures. However, some are not.

We recently had a pump breakdown at the treatment plant that could have been avoided had things not been flushed down the toilet which should not have been. When our Republic neighbors helped us lift and repair a critical submerged pump, the cause of the clog included clothing, wax, grease, feminine hygiene products, hypodermic needles, other medical supplies such as bandages, and even whole apples and onions. These kinds of things need to be put in a garbage can and NOT flushed down the toilet.

Please use good sense and help us avoid costly and unnecessary treatment plant repairs by using public services for what they were intended. Ultimately, we all bear the costs of these avoidable repairs.

**April**

 2 Election Day

 4 Trash

 4 Park Board @ 6:30

 9 Library Board @ 6:30

11 Trash – Recycle pick-up

14 Fair Board @ 6:30

18 Trash

18 Board of Alderman @ 7:00

25 Trash

**May**

 2 Trash

 2 Park Board @ 6:30

 9 Trash – Recycle Pick-up

14 Library Board @ 6:30

16 Trash

18 Spring Clean Up – Big Trash Day

19 Fair Board @ 6:30

16 Board of Aldermen @7:00

23 Trash

25 Billings Spring Fling - 9 to 5

27 Memorial Day – Offices Closed

31 Trash (Friday)

**June**

 6 Trash – Recycle pick-up

 6 Park Board @ 6:30

 9 Fair Board @ 6:30

11 Library Board @ 6:30

13 Trash

20 Trash

20 Board of Aldermen @7:00

27 Trash

29 Fireworks in the Park @ dusk

**Billings Merchant’s Association**

**invites you to the 2nd Annual**

**Spring Fling**

**Shopping and Junking**

**Saturday, May 25th – 9 to 5**

Antiques,

 Industrial, Architectural,

Farm House, Shabby Chic, Vintage,

Boutique, **Farmers Market**,

**Home Décor**,

Furniture, Flowers

**and so much more**

**sPRING CLEAN UP**

**Saturday, May 18, 2019**

For all Republic Services customers paying through city trash services.

Please have all trash out by 6:00 am the day of service, Saturday, May 18, 2019.

There will be multiple trucks running during the clean-up day.

**Example of Waste items**

**ACCEPTED**

* BBQ Grill
* Patio Furniture
* Sofa
* Dresser
* Loveseat
* Recliner
* Desk
* Television
* Guttering (bundled)
* Beds
* Mattress
* Box Spring
* Sink
* Toilet
* Vanity
* Carpet (bundled, less than

5ft in length and rolled)

* Bicycles
* Scrap lumber (bundled, less than

5ft in length)

**Example of Waste items**

***X NOT ACCEPTED X***

*X Tires*

*X Yard waste*

*X Large quantities of ash*

*X Dead Animals*

*X Raw sewage*

*X Waste oil*

*X Hazardous materials*

*X Wet paint containers, cans, pails*

*X Chemicals*

*X Flammable substances*

*X Lead/acid batteries*

*X Lumber over 5 ft. in length*

*X Appliances*

***NO LARGE REMODEL OR CONSTRUCTION***

The City of Billings requires that anyone residing within the city limits who owns a dog must obtain a license every year. The standard licensing period is from June 1 to May 31. In order to obtain a license you will need to provide documentation of a current rabies vaccination, which includes the date the vaccination expires.

 Licenses may be purchased at City Hall.

202 NE Highway 60

Monday through Friday, 8am - 12pm and 1pm – 5pm.

FEES:

Altered (Spayed or neutered) $ 3.50

NOT Altered 7.00

**BILLINGS CITY CODE**

205.020: VACCINATION AND TAG

The owner or keeper of any dog in the City of Billings is hereby required to have such animals vaccinated against rabies by a licensed veterinarian and to procure a certificate of such vaccination from the veterinarian and to present such certificate to the City Clerk on or before June first (1st) of each year; and the City shall register such certificate, which registration shall remain in force until the May thirty-first (31st) next following said registration; and upon registration, the City Clerk shall issue a tag evidencing the registration and certificate of vaccination, and the owner or keeper shall securely attach the tag so issued and the tag issued by the veterinarian to a collar to be worn continuously by the animal for which the tag was issued. It shall be unlawful for the owner or keeper of any dog to permit such animal to remain in the City of Billings unless wearing the tag above provided for herein. (Ord. No. 1048 1-2(4-2), 6-27-06)

**205.110: RUNNING AT LARGE PROHIBITED**

**It shall be unlawful for any owner to allow his/her animal to run at large.**

**Our Partnership with the**

**Christian County Library**

The Billings City Library has a partnership with the [Christian County Library](https://christiancountylibrary.org/) in Ozark, Missouri. They will drop off books here and you can use our drop box to return them.

Visit their website and click on the [CoolCat link](http://coolcat.org/search~S4) ( <https://coolcat.org> ) to order books.  Be sure to choose CCL – Billings as your drop off location.  It is as easy as that.

The Christian County Library also offers [Books to Go](https://christiancountylibrary.org/library/books-to-go/), and has an outreach coordinator who visits our Elementary School and Senior Citizens on a regular basis.

For more information about The Billings City Library or to volunteer your time please visit our web site at: [www.billingscitylibrary.org](http://www.billingscitylibrary.org).