

The City of Billings, Missouri

www.billingsmo.com July – Sept 2019

Greetings from your City Hall!

Apparently our monsoon season has now passed. It is good to dry out a bit as long as that does not translate into a drought. As we all know, that can happen in the Ozarks.

One of the wettest months of May on record brought its challenges to our waste water treatment plant. Since we passed the 5.5 million water and sewer systems improvement bonds three years ago we have made progress in better controlling the storm water infiltration of our waste water collection system. However, we have further progress to make in addressing our aged and deteriorating public water and sewer systems. There is a poster in City Hall that has been added to this newsletter that identifies improvements that have been made, as well as those that are currently planned or underway.

We scheduled a public question and answer forum before last Board of Aldermen meeting June 20, in order to respond to questions, concerns and complaints about water and sewer rates in Billings. These rate are tied directly to the necessary and expensive improvements that are being made. I think most who attended found this forum useful and informative. Hopefully we can do more of these kinds of meetings in the future.

I think that it is becoming more and more clear that part of the solution regarding rising water and sewer rates is population growth, "more rooftops," we sometimes say. We need to broaden our rate paying base to help spread the costs of these required improvements beyond the limited 470 residential and business customer base that bear the brunt of increased costs here in Billings today. Whether we grow or not, the costs of improving and maintaining the public services that are essential to exist and thrive as a community will continue. This is the challenge for small towns throughout the country, many with stagnant or declining population numbers.

Fortunately for Billings there is evidence that we may see moderate to significant growth in the coming years. For many of us that growth has been slow in coming. The lack of growth effects the ability of our limited tax dollars and service fees to meet the challenges of the day and enhance the community as an attractive place to live. Our local school system has had a decrease in enrollment by close to 100 students over the last ten years. Such a drop in enrollment makes it more and more challenging to provide the quality of education that we all want for our young people. We would like to see more businesses in town, especially a local grocery store. This will not happen unless we grow in population. Our neighbors to the east in Clever have shown us that.

The city is working toward addressing our ditch and culvert problems. The heavy recent rains have made these problems even more obvious. We recently have hired a part time employee to help direct and assist in needed ditch and culvert improvements. We appreciate the assistance from the Billings Special Road District in this project. This effort can be greatly aided if we all help keep ditches mowed where possible and by removing leaves in the fall that often clog up culverts the rest of the year.

The community of Billings has faced many challenges over its 148 year history. This has always been a great little town which has shown its ability to "rise to the occasion" many times. I am confident that our spirit and commitment will continue in the days and years to come.

It is a pleasure to work with you in continuing toward that goal.

David Rauch, Mayor

Recycling in Billings

Many have noted the change in recycling services provided by Christian County. That recycling service is now limited to cardboard and that cardboard must be broken down in order to deposit it. There is a growing demand for a good way to recycle cardboard, especially with the proliferation of online sales. However, a primary reason for the discontinuance of other recycling options is due to abuse of the recycling service. The County reports that many people were using the recycling trailer bins to dispose of trash and garbage and not recyclable items, as well as removing aluminum deposits because the value of the metal. Abuse of this otherwise valued public service came to cost the county's recycling program more than it could justify.

Keep in mind that if you live in the city limits of Billings, recycling at the curb is available without charge through our local city-contracted trash service. That is what the blue trash receptacles are used for that you see along the streets about once a month. This is a great service for convenient recycling of most paper, metal and plastic products, and it reduces the amount of our refuse that will end up in a landfill. If you do not have a blue recycling bin, call City Hall to arrange for one. Again, this service is free!

The County's public recycling location will continue to be available at 1300 W. Hall Street in Ozark, and there are also locations in Nixa, Aurora and Springfield.

By the way, the City will have a fall general city wide trash pickup in October. More details will be forthcoming.

Capital Improvement Sales Tax Ending

The tax on sales in the City of Billings will go down by one ½ cent in September. That is when the voter approved capital improvements sales tax will sunset. This special tax was approved by a public vote to generate a limited source of public funds to make needed improvements on our historic City Hall, which once served as the Bank of Billings for more than 100 years. The Bank of Billings generously gifted the building to the City of Billings after it completed its new facility just down the street, but the building came with needed updates and repairs. Most of those updates and repairs have now been accomplished through the special tax, and, as promised, the tax will end accordingly.

BILLINGS COMMUNITY FAIR SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Thursday, August 29th

6:00 – 8:00 pm Exhibit Check-in (FEMA Building, no floriculture or culinary)

Friday, August 30th

8:30 – 11:00 am Exhibit Check-in

(FEMA Building, all exhibits)
4:00 pm Amusement Rides, Games & Food
5:00 – 6:45 pm Music: *DeeDee Blankenship*5:30 – 8:00 pm Exhibit Hall Open
7:00 pm Fair Queen Crowning
8:15 – 10:00 pm Music: *Blue Train*

Saturday, August 31st

9:00 am Beef Cattle Show

11:00 an – 5:30 pm Exhibit Hall Open

12:30 pm Parade lines up a BHS parking lot

1:00 pm Parade

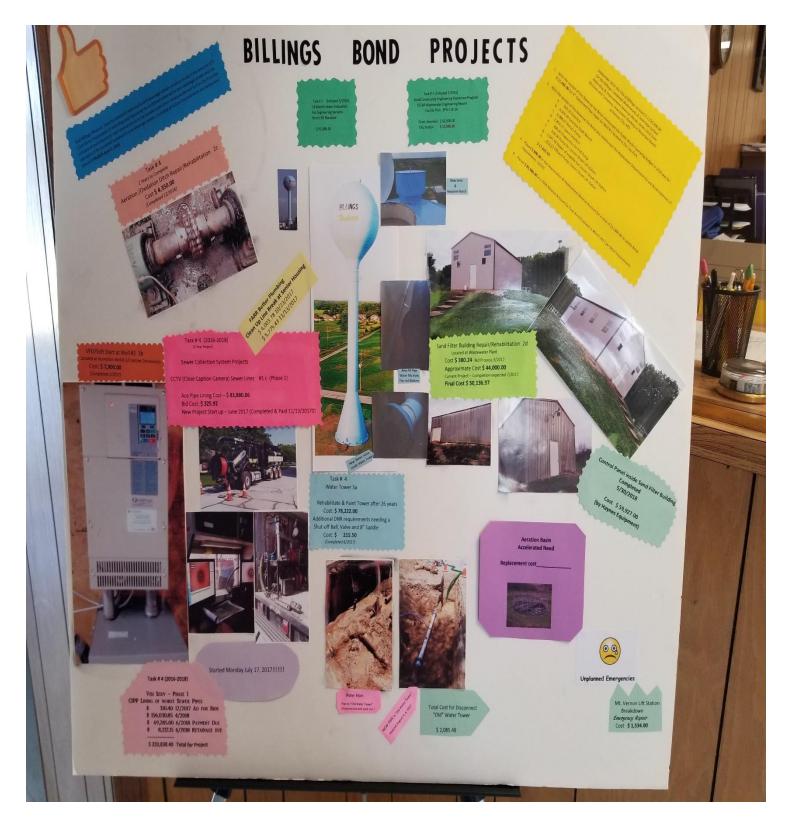
4:00 pm Baby Contest at Pavilion

(check in 3:30 pm)

4:30 pm Back Seat Driver Contest (walking track)

5:00 – 7:00 pm Music: **Sold in Seattle**6:00 pm Truck and Tractor Pull
7:00 pm PCCW Cake Walk
8:00 – 10:00 pm Music:

Dave Perryman and the Country Revue



This picture of the chart displayed in City Hall attempts to show the progress being made in addressing the repairs and improvements that the city and dedicated staff members are making in keeping our public water and sewer systems functioning effectively and safely for all of us. If you would ever like to take a tour of these two essential systems, let us know. We are pretty sure that such a tour would be both enlightening and perhaps even surprising regarding the complexities we face in guaranteeing safe and dependable public services.

CALENDAR

July

- 4 City Hall Closed Independence Day
- 5 Trash and Recycle Day (Friday)
- 11 Trash Day
- 13 Bar-Ber-Q @ Billings Barber Co.
- 15 Water Bill Due
- 18 Board of Aldermen Meeting.....7pm
- 18 Trash Day
- 25 Trash Day

August

- 1 Trash and Recycle Day
- 8 Trash Day
- 15 Water Bill Due
- 15 Board of Aldermen Meeting.....7pm
- 22 Trash Day
- 29 Trash and Recycle Day
- ** 30-31 Billings Community Fair **

<u>September</u>

- 2 City Hall Closed Labor Day
- 6 Trash Day (Friday)
- 12 Trash Day
- 15 Water Bill Due
- 19 Board of Aldermen Meeting.....7pm
- 19 Trash Day
- 21 Merchants Association

Fall Harvest 8-5

26 Trash and Recycle Day

Billings Park Calendar of Events

July 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st—Kickball in the Park.

July 13th—Bar Ber Q @ Billings Barber Shop parking lot.

August 3rd—Back to School Day sponsored by the Billings Fire Dept.

Fundraiser:

Bow Raffle:

Have you purchased a ticket for the bow combo? Drawing will be at the Bar-Ber-Q



BOWFREAKS

ARCHERY







Join us for the 1st annual
Bar-Ber-Q
Benefiting Billings Park
Saturday, July 13th
10:00am (until sold out)
Billings Barber Co.
& Twisted Grip BBQ

Will be donating a percentage of profits to the Billings Park

Find us on facebook: Billings, MO Community Park.

Billings City Library News

The Billings City Library has been working on cataloging their extensive collection of books. If you have a few hours a week (or month), they can use your help with organizing and cataloging all their overflow books. Visit their website at www.billingscitylibrary.org and check out their Wish list or Volunteer pages. They can really use more help.

The Library board is also looking for 2 new board members and is planning an Alzheimer's Workshop on Saturday, August 10 from 10 am to noon. Details on their first ever Library 5k on September 21st will be coming soon. The Missouri Alzheimer's Association will be there to provide a presentation and answer questions. Check their website and Facebook pages for their events and save the dates.