



# The City of Billings, Missouri

www.billingsmo.com

Oct - Dec 2022

## ***Fellow Citizens...***

As we enter the fall and winter seasons, we hope that everyone endured the hot, dry summer without undue stress and/or harm. Thanks to our farmers for what they do during especially difficult growing seasons and economic times.

I'm forever impressed with the enthusiasm of the community involvement surrounding Billings. Our most recent being our Independence Day celebration and our Community Fair. Thanks to all Park and Fair Board members and numerous volunteers for making both events a huge success!

If you haven't heard, local business owners Jeff Yates, Mike McCoy and entourage made a cycle trip to Billings, Montana! They met with Mayor Bill Cole and other City government officials and exchanged several items of historic value. I believe their intent of establishing a "Sister City" with Billings, Montana was a rousing success. Thanks Mike, Jeff, Travis and Chad for your most honorable representation of our fair City. Billings, Missouri and Billings, Montana were both founded by Frederick Billings. Mr. Billings was vital in establishing the Northern Pacific Railway. Here is a link to several photos of their trip as well as a great article: <https://ci.billings.mt.us/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=2382>

Framed letters of appreciation were presented to the Fire Department, Police Department and Emergency Medical Services at the September 15<sup>th</sup> Council meeting. They very unselfishly sacrifice family and time for our wellbeing, simply because they care. When you see them, please let them know that they are appreciated.

## **Projects, Grants & More!**

We are still awaiting news on various grants that were applied for during June and July. We expect to have an update on these by mid-October. Through a subcommittee of your City Council, we identified 7 different sidewalk areas needs and requests of grants through the ARPA Program. Sidenote: *MODOT has confirmed their project of a sidewalk from Hwy 14 to the Dollar General. Probable construction will begin in the spring of 2023. Great news!*

We also have submitted grant applications for storm water runoff engineering. Engineering rights were extended to Anderson Engineering of Monett for the storm water and sidewalk issues. Archer-Elgin Engineering of Rolla applied for a couple of ARPA grants for sewer upgrades and/or expansion of our sewer system. Upgrades would allow for an approximate 100 more homes/businesses, etc. if approved. A grant allowing expansion of the treatment plant would be necessary for development beyond that one hundred connections. Water and sewer rates will be reviewed at the October 20 meeting. Both rates are expected to increase just as the cost of all goods have. I can only assure you that the city struggles yearly to keep those rate increases to a minimum. We do not incur nor seek excess monies from water/sewer rates with any goal of building a "slush fund" and have no intention of making money from a very obvious and necessary service.

## Complaints, Issues, Etc.

In an effort to not only beautify our City and enhance the safety of citizenry, efforts are being made to encourage the cleanup of long standing unattractive and hazardous areas of town. A simple request from a representative of City Hall will first notify the violator of a complaint that the owner and/or operator of the nuisance is in violation of a city ordinance. Secondly, a letter will be issued to the owner/operator. If these efforts fail, an ordinance violation ticket will be written. I nor your Council wish to create a hardship on anyone. We must, however, consider the safety and well being of the majority of the community in rectifying dangerous, unsightly nuisances. If you wish to make a formal complaint regarding a nuisance violation, forms are available in person at City Hall, and will be available on our website in the near future.

## Volunteer & Service Opportunities

There is an array of City boards and community-oriented volunteer opportunities. If you wish to be a member of any of these boards, please let Chris at City Hall know of your interest. We encourage you to be involved in the development and growth process through awareness and input to the Board of Aldermen, Planning and Zoning, Park Board, Fair Board, Library Board or Board of Adjustments. For meeting dates and times please contact City Hall. Chris also has a "form of interest" document available for anyone wishing to become a member of any volunteer board. It merely identifies your areas of interest, expertise and type of service you wish to be considered for.

## Holiday Street Lights

**The Board of Aldermen has discussed the replacement of the holiday "snowflake" lights that are placed on the electric poles in town. In the interest of avoiding a debate or issues regarding funding of Holiday decorations for the City, we are asking any individual, business, organization, church, etc. wishing to donate any amount of funding for this purpose to please see Chris or Cindy at City Hall. The total cost of 12 four-foot diameter street light decorations is in excess of \$6,000 dollars. These would replace those that are 25 plus years old, homemade and in very poor shape. Your contribution is tax deductible as a charitable contribution. The lights are mandated by law to not have a specific religious connotation. The 4 ft snowflakes will be attached to our streetlights along Highway 60 and all within the City limits.**

## Police Department News

With the holidays approaching and more packages being delivered to your homes, the porch pirates will begin to resurface from their watery depths and start taking what is not theirs. If you do not have security cameras, you might consider having your packages delivered to a friend, relative or neighbor that will be home during the daytime hours. Also, please do not leave packages or valuables in your vehicles.

As always, if you see something, say something.

Just a friendly reminder, our Department is not a 24/7 department. If you have an emergency, dial 911. If you need an Officer to respond or contact you, please call Christian County Dispatch at 417-582-1030. For all other matters call 417-744-2582 and leave a message.

Chief Jody Hays

## CITY HAPPENINGS

\*Reminder: Dog licenses were to be renewed in May. Tags are \$3.50 for spayed/neutered dogs, and \$7.00 for unaltered dogs. Please get your pets licensed so that we can get them home to you should they get lost.

\*October 8th will be the Billings community garage sale. This is sponsored by our Neighborhood Watch Program. You're invited to participate by setting up in your own yard/property, the lot on the east side of City Hall or at the City Park. If enough interest is expressed this is likely to become a yearly event.

\*The City of Billings is a member of ShowMe Christian County, an organization that helps in operation and economic development of Christian County communities. SMCC is planning a "business walk" October 27, 10 a.m. until noon. The intent is to assess current businesses and possibilities of encouraging new ones.

\*There will be various **Halloween** activities coming up. These activities will be announced on our City Facebook page & website.

\*The Farmers Market continues thru the 1st Saturday in November

\*Veterans Day November 11 – Let us not forget the 1.1 million American service men and women who have died since 1776 in defense of this great nation.

\*City Hall will close at Noon on November 23 for the Thanksgiving holiday. I'm personally thankful for living in a part of this nation reminiscent of a quieter, less divisive and more settled time.

\*City Hall will close at Noon on December 23rd for the Christmas Holiday. We hope you have a wonderful holiday!

\*Nine new building permits have been issued during the past 3 three months and 3 new business licenses issued.

\*Exciting improvements are underway at your Billings City Park. Old fence has been removed, the concession stand is getting an upgrade, and there's so much more to come in the very near future with the addition of Pickleball courts and new playground equipment!

\*Just a reminder that business licenses and contractor licenses are required when located within the City Limits or contracting within the City limits. Licenses come up for renewal the first of the year. For your protection, please make sure that your contractor is licensed and insured. (A list of City Licensed contractors can be found on our website.)





Stay safe and please contact your Council person, City Hall or me should we be able to better serve you. Wishing you the very best of the holiday seasons and upcoming three months.

Most sincerely,

Mickey Brown, Mayor

## Your Utility Bill

Your Billings Utility bill includes water, sewer, primacy fee, sewer connection fee (1 annual charge), trash service and tax. Your bill is due when received and will incur penalties after the 15th (10%) and 21st (\$20.00) of the month, with disconnection being the 28th of the month for unpaid accounts. **If you are mailing your payment, please allow AT LEAST 7 days mail time for us to receive your payment to avoid penalties.** The same time line applies if you are sending your check payment through your bank's online bill pay. Online & telephone payment using debit/credit cards and e-checks is also available. The same timelines apply for these payments as well, with payment deadlines of 11:59 p.m. on the 15th & 21st to avoid those penalties. Please contact Cindy at City Hall if you have any questions regarding your bill.

| OCTOBER  | NOVEMBER   | DECEMBER  |
|--|--|---|
| 6 P & Z Meeting ....7 pm<br>6 Trash Day<br>8 City-Wide Garage Sale<br>10 Park Board Meeting....6:30 pm<br>10 Columbus Day-City Offices Closed<br>11 Library Board Meeting---2:30 pm<br>13 Trash Day<br>15 <i>Water Bill Due</i><br>16 Fair Board Meeting - 6 pm<br>20 Board of Aldermen meeting 7 pm<br>20 Trash Day & <b><u>Recycle Day</u></b><br>27 Trash Day<br>29 Halloween Activities 4-6 pm<br><div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center; margin-top: 10px;">   </div> | 3 P & Z Meeting 7pm<br>3 Trash Day<br>8 Election Day<br>10 Trash Day<br>11 Veterans Day-City Offices Closed<br>14 Park Board Meeting - 6:30 pm<br>15 Christian County Collector at City Hall (9:00 a.m. to Noon)<br>15 Library Board Meeting 2:30 pm<br>15 <i>Water Bill Due</i><br>17 Board of Alderman meeting 7 pm<br>17 Trash Day & <b><u>Recycle Day</u></b><br>20 Fair Board Meeting 6 pm<br>24/25 Thanksgiving - City Offices Closed<br>25 Trash Day<br><div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;">  </div> | 1 P & Z Meeting 7 pm<br>1 Trash Day<br>8 Trash Day<br>12 Park Board Meeting 6:30 pm<br>13 Library Board Meeting 2:30 pm<br>15 <i>Water Bill Due</i><br>15 Board of Aldermen Meeting...7pm<br>15 Trash Day & <b><u>Recycle Day</u></b><br>18 Fair Board meeting - 6 pm<br>22 Trash Day<br>23 City Offices close at noon<br>26 Christmas Holiday - City Offices closed<br>29 Trash Day<br><div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 10px;">  </div> |


 Happy Holidays

From all of us at the City of Billings,  
 Have a Blessed Holiday Season!