

Billings City Administrator Weekly Report

October 15, 2020

- 1. COVID19** - Effective Wednesday, October 14 through Monday, November 9 the Billings Public Library will be closed to the public. During this time the library will continue offering curbside pickup. Curbside hours will not change and will continue to be available Monday-Friday from 11am-5pm. In addition, the library offers a wide variety of online services and resources available 24/7 from our website, and the Bookmobile and Senior Outreach services will continue as usual. For curbside delivery instructions, online resources, remote program details, and up to date information, please visit the Billings Public Library web page and our social media pages.

This change allows us to provide Riverstone Health with three more contact tracers immediately.

We are also in constant communication with SD2 and are collaborating on any changes to recreation programs to be consistent with SD2 decisions and guidelines. The pandemic has us working even more closely than we have in the past. Both entities are being guided by the fiscal and mental health of our children.

- 2. Construction Update** - King Avenue East opened on Friday, October 9. There is still work to do along the edge of the road, i.e. fencing and landscaping, but the new section of road will remain open to traffic. The signal equipment for Overland and S. 24th arrived and the contractor will be installing it this week. The signal is expected to be operational on Monday, October 19. The contractor installing the pedestrian crossing signal equipment on Shiloh will be drilling bases starting this week. All the signal equipment has not arrived yet so the bases may be done for some time before the pedestrian signals are actually installed. When the equipment arrives, they will go up quickly. The repair work on Kiwanis Trail is starting this week and will likely continue into next week.
- 3. HRDC CARES Act Fund Assistance for Water Utility Bills** – The Public Works Department is partnering with HRDC to support the CARES Act Fund program, which will provide relief to our utility customers who have fallen behind on their bills since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are now available to those who qualify, and applications may be obtained and are processed through HRDC. General program guidelines are an income level at or below 200% of the Federal poverty guidelines with assistance capped at \$200 per household. Additional information will be available at the Public Works website, Facebook page, through customer letters and direct customer support at the utility billing office. Other customer service programs will not be interrupted, including payment arrangements, budget billing and the vulnerable population shut-off exemption.
- 4. Project Re-Code, the Capital Improvement Plan and COVID 19** - these three critical projects/issues will continue to dominate most of my time, much of our staff time and most of the Council's time for the remainder of the year.

Have a great weekend.