



SEPTEMBER 2021 BUTTE-SILVER BOW NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends & Neighbors,



JP Gallagher
Chief Executive
community.

I want to thank the Butte-Silver Bow Commissioners who passed the 2021-2022 budget on Wednesday, August 11th. Our directors and departments heads worked extremely hard to make sure we did not increase local taxes for local government. In this budget, we were able to invest in the future of our community while continuing to provide essential services addressing immediate and long-term needs of Butte-Silver Bow. This budget puts money into reserves without increasing the budget allowing us a solid safety net to protect the community from another crisis or economic downturn. There were hundreds of hours spent working directly with Finance and Budget Director Gleason and all our Department Heads to bring forth a very comprehensive and complete budget. We made many tough decisions knowing that the COVID pandemic is not behind us. In this budget we made sure that resources are available to ramp up testing, contract tracing and support in response to another surge. This budget was designed to try to make BSB a safer, stronger, and more vibrant

Respectfully,
J.P. Gallagher
Chief Executive

Essential Public Services

Water, sewer, and road maintenance are services are available 24/7.

- To report a water problem, call 406-497-6540
- To report a sewer problem, call 406-497-6550
- To report a road maintenance problem, call 406-497-6565
- To report an animal control problem, call 406-782-4467

Many services can now be requested online. Visit <https://www.co.silverbow.mt.us/2012/Submit-a-Request> to begin.

Archives

The Archives is participating in the Montana Historical Conference this September 23-25. This is the first time it has been held in Butte since the mid-1990's. All are welcome! More information can be found here: <https://mhs.mt.gov/education/index3>.

IT, GIS, and Economic Development Departments

Butte-Silver Bow will be reaching out to our citizens for help with our Broadband Availability Project. In our research, we have found that much of the data available from the FCC, broadband providers, and other agencies is skewed or incorrect. Working in conjunction with ESRI, and the National League of Cities, we will be creating a website that can be used to survey your broadband needs and measure the existing broadband service at your residence. This will allow us to gather more accurate data, and ultimately provide us with the information needed to produce a realistic map of the speed, affordability, availability, and reliability of the broadband service throughout the county. This information will be used to determine how we will proceed in our efforts to provide equitable, reliable, and affordable broadband to all the citizens of Butte-Silver Bow. Stay Tuned for more information on how you can help provide us with this important information.

American Rescue Plan Assistance for Montana Homeowners and Renters

If you have experienced financial hardship after January 21, 2020, related to the coronavirus pandemic, please visit [ARPA.MT.GOV/HOUSING](https://www.arpa.mt.gov/HOUSING) to check your eligibility and apply for financial assistance through the Montana Homeowners Assistance Fund or the Montana Emergency Rental Assistance program. Renters needing help filling out the application can schedule an appointment online at [HOUSING.MT.GOV](https://www.housing.mt.gov) or call Action, Inc. at 406-533-6855 for local assistance.

Butte-Silver Bow County Coroner

On several occasions I have been asked, "What is a Coroner?" and "What do I do?"

A Coroner is an official who investigates death that is sudden, violent, or suspicious. The coroner is an elected position with specific qualifications.

Some of the duties include:

- The county coroner shall hold inquests.
- Inquire into the cause, manner and circumstances of all human deaths and establish identity of the deceased person.
- Provide decent interment or cremation of any unclaimed dead human and unclaimed parts of bodies believed to be human.
- Maintain records of inquires as required by good practice and law.
- As soon as practicable upon identifying a dead human body, provide notification to next of kin.

For a complete and detailed job description, please refer to Montana Code Annotated under CORONERS.

Lori Durkin

Butte-Silver Bow Coroner

Reclamation and Environmental Services

The Department of Reclamation and Environmental Services staff has been reviewing various superfund documents and preparing for submittal to the regulatory agencies. Staff has been working with Atlantic Richfield to address agency comments regarding previously submitted documents and work plans and incorporating the comments in the final drafts. Field crews have been conducting routine activities. BRES crews have been implementing corrective actions on various reclaimed areas and sediment removals from storm water structures located throughout uptown. The RMAP has been conducting routine environmental assessments and crews have been abating attics on a one per week per crew basis. The RMAP is also remediating residential yards. So far this year the RMAP has completed 64 abatement projects.

Also, staff has been participating in RDRA progress meetings, development and implementation of the Community Engagement Plan and the Repository Siting process.

SEPTEMBER 2021

- 2nd Civic Center Board Meeting
- 2nd COVID Vaccine Raffle Drawing – Winner’s Presentation & Vaccine Clinic (lobby)
- 7th Voir Dire/Jury Selection Broadwater County
- 8th Voir Dire/Jury Selection Broadwater County
- 9th COVID Vaccine Raffle Drawing – Winner’s Presentation & Vaccine Clinic (lobby)
- 11th Foreigner
- 16th COVID Vaccine Raffle Drawing – Winner’s Presentation & Vaccine Clinic (lobby)
- 17th NAIA Pow Wow
- 18th NAIA Pow Wow
- 22nd Empty Bowls
- 23rd COVID Vaccine Raffle Drawing – Winner’s Presentation & Vaccine Clinic (lobby)
- 30th COVID Vaccine Raffle Drawing – Winner’s Presentation & Vaccine Clinic (lobby)
- 30th Chamber Dinner

Current Events On-Sale:

- Montana Tech Football Season Tickets
- Foreigner September 11th
- Price is Right November 17th

Water Utility Division

We get many calls from customers on meters asking, “Why is my water bill so high?” In the summer, you must be careful about the way your underground sprinkling system is set. Be sure it is set to only run on odd or even days based on your address. Be sure you are watering before 10:00 am or after 6:00 pm. Be sure you know how many minutes your system is set to water each zone. The more minutes you water the more gallons of water used. Be sure to check your system for broken sprinkler heads. Some of the other things that cause high readings are toilets that run, leaking faucets, hoses that are left on, children playing with hoses, and washing vehicles.

Government Buildings

The service worker team continues to clean and sanitize Butte - Silver Bow building’s daily. With the recent uptick in COVID related cases you will again see spraying of sanitizer increase in your areas. Although not required at this time, masks can go a long way in protecting you and family members. Engineers are awaiting inspections so they can reassemble the boilers and prepare our buildings for the upcoming winter months.

Contracted projects coming up are the LEC/Courthouse boiler replacement and Motherlode fire system installation.

You will notice we have a few new faces joining our teams In the Service and Central services departments Phillip Lovell will replace Chris Campbell who transferred to the Civic center and painter Mike Hacket will replace Amy Bray who moved on to a union position. Welcome Phillip and Mike!

Please feel free to contact Government Buildings if you have any questions on anything, or if you see something that needs to be addressed.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN:

Mobile Home 2nd half 2021 taxes are due September 30, 2021. If you have delinquent Mobile Home taxes, your property is subject to Sheriff Sale. The Treasurer’s office will be issuing a WRIT OF EXECUTION to the Sheriff for the collection of delinquent Mobile Home Personal Property Taxes Pursuant to Montana Code Annotated (MCA) 15-16-401 and 15-17-911. The last day to redeem your Mobile Home before the issuance of Writ’s will be on September 30, 2021, at which time all delinquent and current year taxes are due to redeem your Mobile Home. After September 30, 2021, an additional Sheriff’s fee and Treasurer’s fee will be assessed in addition to delinquent taxes, penalty, and interest. Please contact the Butte-Silver Bow Treasurer’s office at 155 W. Granite St., Room 206, Butte, Montana, or by calling the tax department at 406-497-6303.

The City-County of Butte-Silver Bow’s budget for fiscal year 2022 was adopted by the Council of Commissioners on August 11, 2021. The total budget for fiscal year 2022 is \$141.7 million. The countywide taxable value \$72,995,269 up 7.03% from the prior year. Residential property taxes, for local government services, will decrease by \$20.25 (3.61%) per \$100,000 in market value. The budget for the tax supported funds is \$54.4 million of which \$28.6 million (52.63%) is funded through property taxes. There are no increases proposed for Water Utility, Metro-Sewer operations, Stormwater, Landfill collection or disposal, or the Countywide Road maintenance district. The complete city-county budgets can be found by visiting the following website <https://www.co.silverbow.mt.us/1994/Yearly-Budgets>.

The Department is finalizing the Fiscal year 2022 Performance Budget and completing fiscal year 2021 year-end processes. The staff is generating financial reports in preparation of the independent audit and completing required filings.

In addition to finalizing the budget and completing year-end processes, the Finance & Budget staff has been attending webinars and trainings related to the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding relative to the United States Treasury interim guidance on allowable expenditures, and training on the required filings for the direct funding received by the local government under county designation and city portion as a Non-entitlement Unit (NEU). The Department is also working on other grant opportunities from the ARPA funding that was allocated to the State of Montana.

Health Department

Butte-Silver Bow, like the rest of Montana and parts of the country, is experiencing a resurgence in COVID-19 cases. Health Officer Karen Sullivan says the Delta variant to the virus has been detected in the community. In this resurgence, new cases are being confirmed in younger residents, with the median age of active COVID cases, as of Aug. 12, at 29 years. As of Aug. 12, five individuals were hospitalized at St. James Healthcare with the virus, with two of those people in the hospital’s intensive care unit. As of Aug. 13, the Health Department was reporting 57 active cases. Of those active cases, 13 are under the age of 12. Fifty-nine percent of Butte-Silver Bow’s eligible residents – those ages 12 and up – are fully vaccinated, putting Butte-Silver Bow second in the state for vaccination rate. A variety of pop-up vaccination clinics are being held weekly, and residents can visit a variety of local pharmacies to be vaccinated. More information is available at <https://www.vaccinefinder.org>.

September Events at the Clark Chateau

Art Walk

- Friday, September 3rd, 6-8pm

(1st and 3rd Wednesdays) Ukulele Jam Sessions with the Uptown Ukes

- September 1st
- September 15th

Young Artists’ Vaudeville Workshop

- Wednesday, September 1st, 4-6pm- last class
- Wednesday, September 8th, 4-6pm- Dress Rehearsal
- Thursday, September 9th, 6-9pm- Performance
- Friday, September 10th, 6-9pm- Performance

Non-Profit Social Hour (1st Thursdays)

- September 2nd, 5-7pm

Ivan Doig Book Club

- Thursday, September 16th. English Creek