

Chamber/CVB Board Endorses SD# 2 Bond Election



There will be a mail ballot bond election for the purpose of improving various School District #2 facilities in both the Elementary and High School Districts.

The ballots are scheduled to be mailed to all registered voters on August 19 and must be received by the Yellowstone County Election office by 8 p.m. on September 7, 2010.

After careful consideration at the Billings Chamber/CVB's July Board meeting, [Directors](#) voted unanimously to endorse both bond elections in order protect the community's existing investment in local public schools. Education is a critical priority for the Billings Chamber/CVB for the continued health and growth of the business community, relocation and overall quality of life for residents.

The Elementary District is asking voters to authorize the issuance of \$4,420,000 of general obligation bonds. The High School District is asking voters to authorize the issuance of \$7,580,000 of general obligation bonds.

Health care and its

In This Issue

[Supporting Billings Public Schools](#)

[Health care and Small Business](#)

[Tax Credit Calculator](#)

[Mid-Year Eco Update](#)

[Brewer Named to Top 100 Committee](#)

[Leadership Billings 2011](#)

[Bike Downtown Billings](#)

[Thank you First Interstate Bank](#)

[Check out Billings Business](#)

[2011 Map Sales Begin](#)

[Hu Hot Hosts BAH](#)

[AM/BS on October 7](#)

[SBDC Can Help You](#)

[Better Business Bureau Tips](#)

[Member News](#)

[5-Stars for Billings Chamber/CVB](#)

e-NEWS Sponsor:

affect on Small Business

[Read on](#) for a letter authored by Jim Wordsworth, the Chairman of the U.S. Chamber's Council on Small Business, that ran in this week's Richmond Times-Dispatch on health care and its affect on small business and jobs.

More information on the U.S. Chamber of Commerce [here](#).

New Small Business Tax Credit Available



Your small business might be eligible for the new health care insurance tax credit for fiscal year 2010 as a result of the federal health care reform bills passed by Congress in March. The legislation created a new tax credit for small businesses that have 1) fewer than 25 full-time employees or the equivalent (hours by part-timers count); 2) pay an average annual wage of less than \$50,000; and 3) cover at least 50% of the cost of each employee health insurance premium.

Visit chamberchoices.com and click on "Tax Credit Calculator" to determine if you may be eligible for a tax credit.

About [Chamber Choices](#).



Be sure to pick up the latest issue of Billings Business. The Billings Chamber/CVB is proud of its partnership with Billings Business and Billings Gazette Communications. [View it online today!](#)



Free Enterprise Survey Results

Lombardo Consulting Group recently completed a national telephone survey with





Mid-Year Economic Update

The Montana Chamber will be traveling the state presenting its Economic Outlook - Midyear update. Pat Barkey and Paul Polzin of the Bureau of Business and Economic Research at UM will give their review and projections. The update is scheduled for Billings on Tuesday, August 3rd at Noon at the Hilton Garden Inn.



[Click here](#) for registration details.

Chamber/CVB President Named to National Committee

The U.S. and Billings Chambers of Commerce are pleased to announce that Billings Chamber/CVB President and CEO John Brewer has been named to the Chamber of Commerce Committee of 100.



800 registered voters on behalf of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

When presented with a list of "ideas"- including free enterprise, free market competition, free and fair trade, capitalism and socialism-voters remain especially favorable toward the concepts of free enterprise and free market competition. [Read on...](#)

Public Input



Yellowstone County officials and MetraPark management value public input regarding the reconstruction of the Rimrock Auto Arena.

[The public is invited to contribute.](#)

2011 Map Sales Begin

In the pursuit of providing a high quality map with up-to-date information and accurate detail of the Billings area, the Billings Chamber of Commerce/CVB is pleased to inform you once again of our partnership with Spring Hill Press to produce the 2011 edition of our area street map. This map will be a 2' x 3' size in full color on 70# high gloss paper.

The map itself will be produced digitally, allowing both the legibility and accuracy to meet the highest standards. 20,000 maps will be printed for free distribution.

Representatives from Spring Hill Press will be contacting members beginning this week, with a delivery of the maps to the Billings Chamber/CVB office by mid December.

The Chamber of Commerce Committee of 100 (CCC100) is an elite group of chamber executives that represents the perspectives and needs of chambers and their members to the U.S. Chamber.

CCC100 members attend two exclusive meetings each year on leadership, policy, and best practices. Identifying emerging issues that will impact chambers and their members, CCC100 advises the U.S. Chamber on programs and services for chambers and provides feedback on policy-related issues.

[View list](#) of Chamber of Commerce Committee of 100 members.

The Expansion Campaign The Vault • The Gallery • The Future



Be a part of a school of fish in a "river" connecting the Yellowstone Art Museum's two exciting sites between the main museum and the Visible Vault.

[Find Out More!](#)



yellowstone art museum



More info [here](#).

Business After Hours

Hu Hot

Mongolian Grill



Wednesday

August 11, 2010

1806 King Avenue West
5-7 p.m.
\$5/person

Network, eat, drink and enjoy this great restaurant!



Save the Date and Your Booth Space

The 2010-2011 Billings Chamber/CVB Annual Meeting and Business Showcase is taking shape.

Mark Thursday, October 7th for you and your staff to head over to the

Leadership Billings 2011 Application Deadline Approaching

Upon graduation, the Billings Chamber/CVB's Leadership Billings program mints a new batch of leaders: a diverse group of individuals with a renewed commitment to their local community.

Leadership Billings graduates have skills, contacts and information that can turn commitment into action for decades to come.

Along with government affairs, business development and networking events, the Billings Chamber/CVB Leadership Billings program is designed to help professionals become more active in the community in which they live and do business.

Leadership Billings classes benefit the individuals who take them, their employers and the community as a whole.

[Apply now.](#)



Leadership Billings 2010, St. Vincent Healthcare Tour

Crowne Plaza Hotel to learn more about Billings businesses and take in seminars and workshops at no charge, plus the Chamber/CVB's Annual Meeting luncheon.

To reserve your booth space today, email Chamber/CVB Events Manager Kama Humphrey at kama@billingschamber.com or call her at 245-4111.

Watch your mailboxes and inboxes for more Annual Meeting and Business Showcase details.

Interested in sponsorship opportunities? Call Kama @ 245-4111.

Small Business Development Center

N
e
w
S



The SBDC professional staff provides confidential business counseling, training and information to small business leaders and entrepreneurs. With assistance from SBDC staff, business leaders can develop and enhance the financial, managerial and



Experience Downtown Billings on Two-Wheels

The Downtown Billings Alliance continues to increase awareness of cycling as a great way to enjoy downtown Billings.



The Loan-a-Bike program encourages residents and visitors to do just that! Go to the DBA offices at 2815 2nd Avenue North with a photo I.D., a credit or debit card, and ride away. There is no charge for the use of the bike, but an imprint of the card will be taken and charges will be incurred if the equipment is not returned.



technical skills they need to compete and succeed in today's complex business environment.

Upcoming Training and Events

August 18th:

Pre-Business Workshop, Big Sky EDA, Yellowstone Conference Room, 3:00-5:00 PM, no charge.

August 20th:

Entrepreneurial Edge: A Small Business Networking Group, Travel Cafe, 7:00-8:00 AM, no charge.

For registration information, please contact Mary Lou at (406) 254-6014.

BBB Tips



401•k
ADVISORS

Insight. Innovation. Independence.

Measurably Different™

401(k) Advisors is one of the nation's largest independent retirement plan consulting firms. We are focused solely on delivering enhanced retirement plan consulting and investment advisory services. With *insight*, *innovation* and *independence*, we help protect employers from liability and loss, while improving investment opportunities for plan participants.



Neil Garrett / 401(k) Advisors - Northwest Region

P. O. Box 2268 / Red Lodge, MT 59068
Direct - 406.446.4015 / Toll Free - 877.710.4015
Fax - 406.446.1015
www.401kadvisors.com

Investment Advisory services offered through 401(k) Advisors.

Plan Design | Fee Benchmarking | Provider Searches | Investment Advisory | Fiduciary Compliance

Member Calendar

Billings Chamber/CVB Top Investor News

NorthWestern Energy will have a booth at the Yellowstone Valley Farmers' Markets in Billings on Saturday, August 21st and representatives will be distributing four (4) Free CFLs (compact fluorescent light bulbs) to residential electric customers who've not already received CFLs in 2010. The Yellowstone Valley Farmers' Market is held under the Skypoint in Downtown Billings and runs from 8:30 am to Noon.

St. Vincent Healthcare offers Walk n Talk with the Doc: Tuesdays at 5:30 pm in the Fortin Lobby, 1233 N. 30th Street. Join Cheryl Cook, MD and guest walkers on these free walks. Ask questions while you walk. It's a great way to get started moving toward a healthier you. For more information, visit www.svh-mt.org/walkntalk.

More Member News

Some neighborhoods plant flowers and trees to celebrate summer. Some hang decorative flags and display festive lawn ornaments. The gang at **McCall Development** and **Josephine Crossing** decided to host a free concert series.

Aug. 3 - Zen- Habitat for Humanity

Aug. 10 - Jaded Ladies with Parker Brown and Trevor Krieger- The MS Society

Each concert is from 6-8 p.m. Visit www.josephinecrossing.com for information on movies in the park and other events hosted in the neighborhood.

The 2010 Quality of Life Run

Billings Association of Realtors 2010 Quality of Life Run Registration Open

Online registration is now open for the 2010 Quality of Life Run, which is scheduled for Saturday, August 21. All proceeds benefit Friendship House. Again this year, the event will feature a 2-mile Run/Walk and a 5-mile Run. Both runs begin at 8 a.m. The first 500 registrants will receive a race t-shirt and commemorative bag. Learn more today at www.qualityofliferun.com/

Coming soon to Alberta Bair Theatre:

Clint Black

Thurs, Sept. 9

Punch Brothers

Mon, Sept. 27

Oklahoma

Sat, Oct. 9

Hubbard Street 2

Thurs, Oct. 28

Grease

Thurs, Nov. 18

Learn more at www.albertabairtheater.org

Koncert For Kidz

Admission - FREE

Date: Tuesday, August 10th

Time: 6:00 PM till 8:30 PM

Where: Dehler Park Baseball Stadium

Learn more today about **Second Chance Homes:** www.sch-mt.org/

Western Heritage Center Presents: Discover Billings! Join the weekly walking tour of downtown Billings and experience the sights and sounds of present day Billings, while a community historian shares insights and illustrates with historic photos from the Western Heritage Center archive.

July 16, 23 and 30. August 6, 13, 20 and 27.

Tours begin at noon, please arrive at the Western Heritage Center at 11:45 am.

More information, call 406-256-6809 or visit www.ywhc.org.

Save the Date: **SATURDAY LIVE** AT PIONEER PARK SEPTEMBER 25TH.

Good Earth Market news: www.goodearthmontana.com

Top Accreditation Rating for Your Chamber/CVB

The Billings Chamber/CVB is pleased to announce that the Accrediting Board of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce has designated your Billings Chamber/CVB as an Accredited chamber with

5-Stars. This 5-Star Accreditation is currently awarded to only one percent of all chambers in the nation.



Accreditation indicates that a chamber of commerce operates under effective organizational procedures and contributes to significant positive change in the community. To achieve this standing, we performed an intensive self-assessment of our operations in nine areas of work, including governance, government affairs, and technology. For more information on the Accreditation Program, [click here](#) or on the Accreditation logo.



[Forward email](#)

✉ [SafeUnsubscribe®](#)

This email was sent to alex@billingschamber.com by alex@billingschamber.com.

[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Email Marketing by



Billings Area Chamber of Commerce | 815 So. 27th Street | PO Box 31177 | Billings | MT | 59101