



# On the Gulch

A Newsletter For and About City of Helena Employees

## Centennial Park Features: Paws Park, fitness stations, and a climbing boulder!

### Employee News

Congratulations to our new Fire Chief, Sean Logan;

Welcome to Kyle McCall, Helena Police Department;

When you see our new Fire Chief and new police officer, please be sure to stop and congratulate and welcome them!

After months of planning and fundraising, Helena's first designated dog park, Paws Park, opened on July 10th. The park was fenced the week before and signs were posted to remind users of the park of the expectations, including picking up after your pet, leashing dogs outside the fenced area, and being considerate of those around you. Features such as a water spigot, shade trees and a shade structure will be gradually added to the park. It has received positive reviews so far, including a happy, tail wagging review from Commissioner Dan Ellison's dog, Madison.

Thank you to the Pads for Paws Foundation for their generous support, and to the many dog lovers in our City for their proactive approach to the park. Let's keep it clean and safe!

The Helena Softball Association's contributions and ongoing softball games have been a great part of the summer at Centennial Park.

Thanks to our partner, Carroll College, for their contribution toward the fitness stations installed around the track. Signs are posted next to the stations with instructions for use.

A climbing boulder will be delivered and installed this month! Again, the support of our community and the Helena Recreation Foundation are what bring these special features to our public park.

Parks & Recreation staff, and Director Amy Teegarden worked hard to make this community vision a reality!

Enjoy the new and improved Centennial Park on August 21st. We'll celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Old Glory Landmark as well as the 25 years of Centennial Park history. The event will be in conjunction with Alive@5 with vendors & a beer garden.

## Helena's Municipal Court - Behind the Scenes

In addition to the more than 700 distracted driving citations given by police since the ordinance came into effect, our municipal court handles hundreds of cases each month, from DUIs and domestic violence cases to dog citations.

When a citation is given, the person has a few options. The lowest impact option for the court is an admission of guilt and paying the fine. The other options leave the heavy lifting to our municipal court staff.

They must start a case file, process the trial and/or plea, collect the fine and track the file for sentenced conditions. One case can take five minutes, or five hours!

We have a strong team in our municipal court, clerks Valerie and Geri, Deputy Clerk Katrina, Court Administrator Claudia and of course, Judge Wood. The staff is impressive not only because they've been there together for ten years. The team has been the same size since

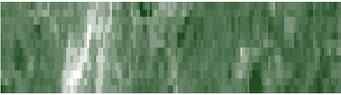
1980 despite the increased case load. Our municipal court is looking forward to an expansion of office space to include a judge's chambers, a larger jury room and a new internship program with Helena College. For more information about our court system, click here:

<http://www.helenamt.gov/municipal-court.html> or email Claudia Bagley for information about the projects and internship plans, [cbagley@helenamt.gov](mailto:cbagley@helenamt.gov).

**wellness**  
**PAY\$**

Don't forget to sign up for your FREE wellness exam!

Register for the CareHere State Health clinic and book an appointment at <http://www.carehere.com/>



## Running for Montana's Future August 17

The Helena Police Department, MT Attorney General's Office and the Angel Fund are once again partnering to promote healthy physical activity by purchasing running shoes for local students in need by sponsoring the 4th Annual Running for Montana's Future 6K Race/1K Fun Run & Walk on Saturday, August 17th in Helena. To register, go to:

<http://www.racemontana.com/Search/event.aspx?id=20675>

### August 21st

Centennial Park & Old Glory Landmark Celebration  
In conjunction with Alive@5  
At Centennial Park



## Shared history - Bannack, Virginia City, Helena

Before Helena became the Capital City, in 1864 the territorial capital was the city of Bannack. Sidney Edgerton was the territorial governor at that time. In 1865 Virginia City was named the Capital of the territory and in 1875, Helena became the Capital City.

It's partly because of this shared history that we must support our friends in

Bannack following the devastating flooding that occurred last month.

A flash flood swept through the historic buildings of Bannack on July 17th, leaving feet of mud and a path of destruction through the town. Parts of the historic boardwalk were washed down the hill, as was one of the structures. According to Montana's

Fish, Wildlife & Parks, the organization that governs the park, it will be closed for weeks while they attempt to recover the structures. For more information about Bannack State Park, click here: <http://www.bannack.org/>. For more history of Montana's Capital Cities, click here: [http://www.visitmt.com/history/Montana\\_the\\_Magazine\\_of\\_Western\\_History/capitol.asp](http://www.visitmt.com/history/Montana_the_Magazine_of_Western_History/capitol.asp)

## Tenmile Watershed Getting Attention

If you missed it, there was a [great article in the Helena IR](#) about our Tenmile flume and the reservoirs it feeds to provide water to our City. The title of the article is Protecting Precious Water and the photographs were memorable.

The Forest Service is beginning a project in the area to remove beetle-killed trees on the property adjacent to the flume and the Chessman Reservoir. They released an environmental assessment last month for public comment and hope to have a final plan by September, beginning the actual work in October or November. The project is the beginning of an

overall strategy in the Tenmile Watershed area to address forest health and protection of this precious resource.

In its third year, the Annual Running Water for Helena race took place on July 27th. The event is held to increase community awareness of our primary water supply.

For more information on the Tenmile Watershed and current projects, click here: <http://www.helenamt.gov/tmcwp.html>, or email Sarah Elkins, [selkins@helenamt.gov](mailto:selkins@helenamt.gov).



## Tech Tip #5: Create a Strong Password \*Ellen Bell

Cyber criminals have programs that can guess your passwords. To protect yourself, passwords must be hard for others to guess and be easy for you to remember.

1) Avoid words and proper names: Programs can try every word in a dictionary and look for substitutions like ! or 1 for the letter i. Try looking at a phrase in your office - choose some letters from the phrase and replace some of the letters with numbers and symbols.

2) If you believe your system, or an online account you access, has been compromised, change your passwords immediately.  
3) Use different passwords for each account you have at work and at home.

Test the strength of your password: <http://www.passwordmeter.com/> scores password strength. Can you create a password that gives you 90% or above?

Looking for fun, healthy, competitive activities? Check the wellness page:  
<https://intranet.helenamt.gov/hr/wellness/upcoming-events.html>