



On the Gulch

A Newsletter For and About City of Helena Employees

Helena's 150th Anniversary

Beginning on New Year's Eve, December 31, 2013, the City of Helena will be celebrating its 150th Anniversary with a year-full of events to commemorate this milestone. As City employees, we know, probably more than most, what a great place Helena is to live. We have world class fishing and hunting within a few miles of home, world class mountain bike trails, a great, walkable downtown, and all kind of amenities that make our work-life balance more possible than in many other parts of the country.

Our town was built on gold and

we have a colorful history thanks to that auspicious beginning. Some events to honor our town will include: A New Year's Eve Ball, the dedication of a permanent "Story Board" in Performance Square, a Four Georgians Banquet, and many other surprise events.

To celebrate this milestone, the City will be offering t-shirts for sale to employees with the City of Helena logo and the 150th Anniversary logo on them. We will play a big role in hosting people from all over, as well as our own

citizens, for events throughout the year. Stay tuned for more information! Or visit the Downtown Helena website: <http://downtownhelena.com/celebrate-helenas-150th-birthday/>



Employee News

Welcome to new City of Helena staff:

Gina White, Help Desk Technician with City/County IT;

Michael Seymour, Traffic Signal/I&C Tech;

Jamie Clark and David Knoepke, new Civil Engineers;

Louis Antonick, Deputy Fire Marshal;

Russ Grover, Asst. Golf Superintendent.

And congratulations to Brad Patterson on his confirmation as a firefighter with the Helena Fire Department;

When you see our new employees and confirmed firefighter, be sure to stop and congratulate and welcome them!



DRIVE NOW
TEXT LATER

City-Developed Training Program Goes National *Sarah Elkins

Early in 2011, Sheri Hall, HR Specialist for the City of Helena, was asked to research and create a presentation that would adhere to Federal Transit Administration training requirements for "Effects and consequences of drugs on personal health, safety and the work environment".

In her research, Sheri found that products available were limited, too elementary, or were too costly to serve the City's needs. The FTA didn't have recommendations for providing the training necessary to avoid being

found non-compliant. In March, 2011, Sheri completed a presentation and employees were trained using the tool she developed. When the Helena Area Transit System (HATS) was audited by the FTA in the fall of 2012, the auditors were impressed with the training being provided. They found in their audits that most non-compliance for transportation businesses was found in that area.

The City HR office provided a copy of the program to the FTA to use as a template or starting point.

At the National FTA Drug and Alcohol Conference in April 2013, one presentation was "**FTA-Compliant One-Hour Training on the Effects and Consequences of Prohibited Drug Use**". The presenter gave credit to Sheri and the City of Helena for the program, which was nearly identical to the copy provided in 2012. The FTA distributed the training to participants at the conference and is distributing it to other transit services that did not attend the conference. "HATS" off to Sheri Hall, well done!

DISTRACTED DRIVING CITATIONS IN HELENA SINCE JANUARY 2012: 631



Open Enrollment Ends June 14

Those employees who currently have a health savings account, unreimbursed medical, or daycare flex accounts **MUST** complete new forms, designating the amount of money you would like to contribute to these accounts per pay period.

Flex accounts are a great way to save money for future medical, dental, vision or day care expenses pre-taxed.

If you don't want to make **ANY** changes to your plans, you do not need to submit new forms for the coming enrollment period (2013-2014).

To learn more, visit our intranet at <https://intranet.helenamt.gov/hr/benefits/open-enrollment-documents.html> or call Morgan Maynard-Dixon, HR Benefits Specialist at 447-8333.



Don't miss the
Governor's Cup Race
June 8th
<http://www.govcupmt.com/>

Spirit of Service

On Tuesday, May 14th, 14 City of Helena employees participated in the 14th annual Spirit of Service day. SOS is a day devoted to helping homeowners who are not physically able to tackle chores such as trimming, weeding, scrubbing, sanding, painting, washing windows or other exterior tasks. In Helena, 450 employees dedicated their day to helping 56 homeowners. Our city employees (and a spouse) completed required tasks at 4 homes! To see the

*Carrie Hahn

joy on each of the homeowner's faces and their gratefulness is what the day is all about. It's a great program and incredibly rewarding. Join the program next year and help a community member in need, you'll be glad you did!

A big thanks to Kim Sell for organizing the day, and thank you to her spouse, Danny, for his help!

Participants:

Kim Sell & her husband, Danny, Debbie Havens, Dawn Reynolds, Greta Dige, Debbie McLarnon, Craig Trapp, Jason Fladland, Jeff Feth, Jeff Hindoién, Phil Hauck, Sharon Haugen, Thomas Jodoin, Carrie Hahn, Brandt Salo

Click here for more information about the program, <http://rmdc.net/about-us/spirit-of-service-project/>. Here's the story in the IR: <http://helenair.com/news/local/spirit-of-service-tuesday-in-helena/>

Summer Youth Programs through Parks & Recreation *Sarah Elkins

REC-Connect, is a **FREE** summer trolley for youth. For the second year, the City has partnered with the Youth Connections, the Capital City Optimist Club and the YMCA to provide this 8 week program during the summer with great city destinations like Kay's Kids, parks, Last Chance Splash and tennis. Check out the flyer with route map on the Parks & Rec website:

<http://www.helenamt.gov/parks.html>.

If you're looking for something for your children to do this summer, consider golf, swimming, or tennis lessons through the City's Parks & Recreation programs.

The Last Chance Splash Waterpark and Pool offers lessons and open swim as well as some great classes and clinics.

Bill Roberts Golf Course offers lessons for kids at very reasonable prices. Tennis lessons are available as well. City Parks & Recreation has some great instructors, check it out!

Remember, it's city taxes that fund these programs; if you live outside city limits, the cost is slightly higher.

Keep the webpage handy for weather closure updates! <http://www.lastchancesplash.com/>

Tech Tip #3: City/County Phone Directory *Ellen Bell

Most employees are listed in the 2013 City/County Phone Directory which is in the process of being delivered to each department.

The Corporate Phone Directory on the Cisco phone has a search feature to find employee numbers.

1. **Press the directories button and then Choose > 5 Corporate Directory.**
2. **Use your keypad to enter a full or partial name and press Search.**
3. **To dial, select the listing, and press Dial.**

GroupWise also has the phone numbers listed. You can click on the **Address Book** button to view the Novell GroupWise Address Book and you will see a column with **Office Phone Number**.

In GroupWise, you can also hold your cursor over a name in the **To:** or **From:** field of an e-mail and you will see a pop-up of information about the person, including the phone number.

As always, call the HelpDesk at 8300 if we can help you with phone or e-mail questions.

Registration is now open for the Running Water for Helena race - July 27th!

[http://www.montanadiscoveryfoundation.org/html/tenmile 10 mile and 5k.html](http://www.montanadiscoveryfoundation.org/html/tenmile%2010%20mile%20and%205k.html)