



STUMPTOWN *Scoop*

City of Whitefish
PO BOX 158, Whitefish, Montana 59937

LETTER FROM THE CITY MANAGER

It is an honor to continue serving this wonderful community of ours as your recently appointed City Manager. Thank you to all who have kindly extended your warm wishes as I transition into this new role. I am excited to continue working with our elected officials, City staff, partners, and citizens to address the current needs of our community, plan for the future, and ensure the exceptional and reliable delivery of services to all of our customers.

As we begin to transition from winter to spring, the City continues to make progress on many projects that will help us prepare for the inevitable increase in visitors this summer and in the future. The City Council recently approved a new Parking Permit Implementation Committee to provide suggestions and feedback with respect to a pilot employee parking permit program, to consider modifications and expansions to future versions of the program, and to evaluate the potential need of a residential parking permit program in light of the effects of the employee program. The City has also invested in new equipment to more effectively and efficiently manage our parking requirements in downtown. You'll soon see a parking vehicle moving around downtown throughout our parking lots, along the streets, and in the parking structure.

Parking is of course not the only challenge during our busy summer months. We know that traffic becomes an issue in the summer and even during our slower months, especially through downtown and near our schools. The City is in the process of updating the Transportation Plan from 2009, which

will provide recommended alternative routes of travel and modes of transportation. The recommendations from this plan will also assist City staff in coordinating proposed projects to improve our transportation grid.

In addition to the City's Transportation Plan, the City is joining the Montana Department of Transportation and Robert Peccia and Associates to study possible options for improving the flow of traffic on Highway 93 through downtown. Our primary goal for the first phase of the Whitefish Downtown Highway Study is engaging the community to identify which areas of focus should be primary and where the greatest opportunities for improvement reside. Discussions around possible options, feasibility, timing, and budget will take place later in 2020. If you're interested in learning more and providing input for the Downtown Whitefish Highway Study, please join us for an open house on March 5th from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the City Council Chambers at City Hall. Please visit the following link for more details and project updates: <https://www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/DowntownWhitefishHighway>.

By working together not only can we address traffic, parking, and other challenges that arise, but we can also shape the future of Whitefish as a community. Thank you to those that continue to participate in the public process. Whitefish is a special community thanks to the people who call it home!

Dana M. Smith
City Manager

CITY HALL
418 E. 2nd St, Whitefish, MT
Customer Service 863-2400
Legal Services 863-2445
Parks & Recreation 863-2470
Planning & Building 863-2410
Public Works/Streets..... 863-2460
Utility Billing 863-2457
Human Resources.....863-2407

EMERGENCY SERVICES CENTER
275 Flathead Ave, Whitefish, MT
Fire Department 863-2483
Municipal Court 863-2440
Police Department 863-2420
LIBRARY 862-9914
9 Spokane Ave, Whitefish, MT

Sign up for weekly email notifications from me at www.cityofwhitefish.org



Dana Smith
City Manager
City of Whitefish

dsmith@cityofwhitefish.org

PUBLIC PARKING GARAGE: *Free* PARKING HOURS

3-HOUR FREE PARKING: Level 1
• 6:00AM – 6:00PM, Mon. – Fri.

FREE PARKING: all Levels
• 6:00PM – 6:00AM, Mon. – Fri.
• All Weekends & Holidays

MEET YOUR NEW CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

REBECCA NORTON



Rebecca was born in Traverse City, Michigan. Her father was a civil engineer and her mother was a social worker specializing in adoptions. She had three sisters, two of whom still reside in Michigan. Rebecca attended the University of California San Diego, St. Andrews University in Scotland, and Colorado State University. She received bachelor's degrees in History and Occupational Therapy.

Rebecca moved to Whitefish 24 years ago to be close to Glacier National Park. She has owned her own business, Handworks, since 2002 and works as a Certified Hand Therapist. She has held various leadership positions in her profession, including President of the Montana Occupational Therapy Association, Legislative Committee, and Representative to the American Occupational Association. Rebecca also has extensive volunteer experience with the City, including serving on the Board of Adjustment, Tree Advisory Committee, Local Government Review Committee, Ethics Committee, and Planning Board.

In her free time, Rebecca likes to run, hike, bike, ski, snowshoe and backpack. She enjoys reading, meditating, and spending time with her two-year old dog, Rosy. She believes that life is a miracle, people are still good, and that the purpose of our community is to allow us to live in peace and joy.

Steve Qunell



Steve grew up in South Carolina. He received a bachelor's degree in History from the University of

South Carolina, his teaching certification from California State University, Chico and a master's degree from the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

Steve found his home in Whitefish 20 years ago after working in Yellowstone National Park during the summer of 1995 followed by several years of exploring the country. He currently teaches high school in Kalispell. Steve has two daughters who attend Whitefish schools and is the treasurer of the Whitefish/Columbia Falls Swim Team, a local non-profit that funds the high school teams of roughly 40 swimmers. Steve's experience with City government includes serving on the Lakeshore Protection Committee, Board of Adjustment, and Planning Board.

When he's not teaching or volunteering, you can find Steve telemark skiing, fishing, golfing, biking or trail running.

SPRING CLEANUP

Spring leaf collection will occur in conjunction with the 2020 "Clean the Fish" campaign, anticipated to be in late April.

1. Leaves and grass clippings must be bagged and securely tied and not weigh more than 25 pounds.
2. Please do not place animal waste into bags
3. Tree limbs or branches must be trimmed into 4-foot lengths; limbs should be securely bundled.
4. Please place the debris on the nearest boulevard for pickup. If there is not access to a boulevard, the materials must be set at least 10-feet from the nearest refuse container.

The City DOES NOT pick up such items as old appliances, furniture, mattresses, construction rubble or oversized tree limbs or branches. These items must be hauled by the property owner to the County Landfill.

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HAPPY SPRING!!

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

Mayor John Muhlfeld.....(406)249-2779
jmuhlfeld@cityofwhitefish.org

Councilors:
Andy Feury.....(406)250-4179
afeury@cityofwhitefish.org

Melissa Hartman.....(406)260-6706
mhartman@cityofwhitefish.org

Ryan Hennen.....(406)270-6397
rhennen@cityofwhitefish.org

Rebecca Norton.....(406)862-8175
rnorton@cityofwhitefish.org

Steve Qunell.....(808)298-2575
squnell@cityofwhitefish.org

Frank Sweeney.....(406)863-4848
fsweeney@cityofwhitefish.org

City Council Meetings: 1st and 3rd
Mondays of every month at 7:10PM in the
Council Chambers (City Hall, 2nd floor). View
live stream meetings online at youtube.com
and search for "City of Whitefish" channel.

TREES MATTER

The City of Whitefish Urban Forestry Crew is always trying to improve our Urban Forest. Please don't be alarmed if you see them pruning in your neighborhood. Say hello! They are always willing to answer any tree related questions you may have.



What do they maintain?

- Boulevard Trees (any tree that lives between the sidewalk and street)
- Right of Way Trees (any tree that lives within 10-feet of the street's edge)
- Park Trees (any tree that lives within a city park or property)

For more information about our Urban Forestry Program, please visit our website or the Whitefish Parks & Recreation Facebook Page.

Summer Guide 2020

Registration for our Summer Programs will open on April 1st!

Register online at: <https://recre8mt.campmanagement.com/enroll>

Summer Camp	Tennis
Adventure Program	Rock Climbing
Sports Camp	Sk8fish
	Volunteer to Ski

Program details can be found in our 2020 Summer Activity Guide coming in April!

You can also stay current on program information by visiting our Facebook page: Whitefish Parks and Recreation

Scholarships are available!
Applications can be submitted April 1st – April 30th.

Applications can be found at the Parks and Recreation Department or on our website:
<http://www.cityofwhitefish.org/parks-and-recreation/youth-rec-programs.php>

SUMMER POSITIONS

Summer Camp Counselor

Assists the Camp Directors in coordinating day camp activities for youth ages 5-12 yrs.

Youth Tennis Counselor

Organizes, coordinates, implements, and coaches youth tennis to children ages 4-12.

Beach Ranger

Performs a variety of duties directly related to the safe and efficient operation of Whitefish City Beach.

Parks Maintenance

Performs a variety of parks maintenance duties throughout the City, including mowing, garbage pickup, janitorial services, and basic repairs.

Tree Water/Landscape Assistant

Performs a variety of tasks related to landscaping.

Urban Forestry Grounds-person.

Performs a variety of tasks related to maintaining a healthy urban forest.

For more information or to apply:

www.cityofwhitefish.org/city-hall/job-openings.php

BEARS AND GARBAGE



At anytime, Whitefish is home to over 20 bears from both species. When bears leave or are preparing to enter their dens, they are hungry and will seek the most convenient food sources. That is why every year we remind our residents and visitors to abide by our City ordinances and

follow best practices which will help reduce the possibility of human and bear encounters. Bears are attracted to garbage!

City ordinances require all trash cans, except the large 300- gallon containers, to be secured inside an enclosure and to only be brought to the curb for disposal no earlier than 4 a.m. on the day of pickup and returned to the enclosure no later than 7 p.m. Failure to follow the law will result in a citation that could cost up to \$500. There is a ZERO tolerance policy for violating the ordinance. The ordinance can be found on the City web page or you can call the Police Department at 406 863-2420 or Public Works 406 863-2400 if you have any questions. Please work with the city to keep our community and wildlife safe.

MEET YOUR POLICE DEPARTMENT

Ryan Zebro grew up and was raised in Kalispell, MT. He attended Flathead High School and graduated in 1996. After graduating high school, he joined the United States Marine Corps as an infantryman where he served on active duty from 1996 to 2000. During his time on active duty he met his wife, Rachel and they were married in 2000. Ryan and Rachel have 3 children and 1 grandchild.

When they returned to Kalispell to raise their family, Ryan joined the Montana National Guard and is still currently serving. During his time in the National Guard he served as a Water Purification Specialist and was deployed once to Iraq and once to Afghanistan. After returning from Iraq in 2005 he was hired by the Whitefish Police Department.

Ryan enjoys spending time with his family and friends. Ryan loves spending his time in the outdoors with his children hunting, fishing, camping and currently as much ice fishing as possible although his kids are not as impressed about the ice fishing as he is.

Ryan started out as a patrolman and worked patrol until 2010. During 2010 he was able to shift from patrol work to the Northwest Drug Task Force as a Narcotics Agent until 2013. He then returned to patrol and worked as a patrol officer until 2016 when he transferred into the School Resource Officer position. He worked as the SRO for approximately 1 1/2 years until he was activated by the National Guard and deployed to Afghanistan. After returning in 2019 Ryan continued as the SRO and is currently serving in the position.

Ryan plans to continue his work as the Resource Officer to build a strong foundation within the Whitefish School District. Long term security and safety for the children and staff is his #1 priority. Ryan enjoys working with the children and has built a strong relationship between the youth in our community and Law Enforcement.



PEDESTRIAN CROSSING SAFETY



Recently a young man was struck by a car as he crossed Baker Avenue. Fortunately, he is recovering and his injuries were not life threatening. When an accident occurs the City and more specifically the Police Department examine ways to prevent future incidents. Professional literature and community policing strongly suggest that the best way to prevent these types of incidents is education and enforcement. Crosswalk enforcement is one of the Police Department's primary enforcement goals. However, we have limited resources and cannot patrol the multitude of crosswalks that exist in our

community. So, we need your help.

Montana Code Annotated 61-8-502 dictates driver and pedestrian responsibilities. In summary, vehicle drivers must yield the right-of-way, slowing down, or stopping if necessary, to a pedestrian crossing the roadway within a marked crosswalk or within an unmarked crosswalk at an intersection, but a pedestrian may not suddenly leave a curb or other place of safety and walk or run into the path of a vehicle that is so close that it is impossible for the operator to yield. So, drivers and pedestrians must use caution and COMMON SENSE when approaching intersections. Drivers stay alert, parents teach your children crosswalk safety and pedestrians use caution.



Have you seen the City's new Problem Reporter Web Application!? This is a citizen engagement tool the City recently launched to report basic problems or observations directly to city staff. Citizens can now easily report street, parks, and code enforcement issues with a few clicks and keystrokes. The web app can be easily accessed on smart phones, tablets, and desktop computers. Find the link on the City's home page to bookmark and start reporting!



WHITEFISH POLICE DEPARTMENT

275 Flathead Ave
Whitefish, MT 59937
(406)863-2420

Facebook [@Whitefish Police Department](#)
Instagram [@whitefishpolice](#)
Website <http://whitefishpolice.com/>

City of Whitefish
418 E 2nd Street
Whitefish, MT 59937
(406)863-2400
www.cityofwhitefish.org

How to make a Home Fire Escape Plan



The Official Sponsor of Fire Prevention Week Since 1922

- Draw a map of your home. Show all doors and windows.
- Visit each room. Find two ways out.
- All windows and doors should open easily. You should be able to use them to get outside.
- Make sure your home has smoke alarms. Push the test button to make sure each alarm is working.
- Pick a meeting place outside. It should be in front of your home. Everyone will meet at the meeting place.
- Make sure your house or building number can be seen from the street.
- Talk about your plan with everyone in your home.
- Learn the emergency phone number for your fire department.
- Practice your home fire drill!
- Make your own home fire escape plan.



1st FLOOR **2nd FLOOR**

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HOME IGNITION ZONE CHECKLIST

- ✓ Clean roofs and gutters of dead leaves, debris and pine needles that could catch embers
- ✓ Replace or repair any loose or missing shingles or roof tiles to prevent ember penetration
- ✓ Reduce embers that could pass through vents in the eaves by installing 1/8-inch metal mesh screening
- ✓ Clean debris from exterior attic vents and install 1/8-inch metal mesh screening to reduce embers
- ✓ Repair or replace damaged or loose window screens and any broken windows
- ✓ Screen or box-in areas below patios and decks with wire mesh to prevent debris and combustible materials from accumulating
- ✓ Move any flammable material away from wall exteriors - mulch, flammable plants, leaves and needles, firewood piles - anything that can burn
- ✓ Remove anything stored underneath decks or porches



City of Whitefish Fire Department
 Whitefish Fire Service Area
 275 Flathead Avenue - PO Box 158
 Whitefish, Montana 59937
 406-863-2483 / Fax: 406-863-2499

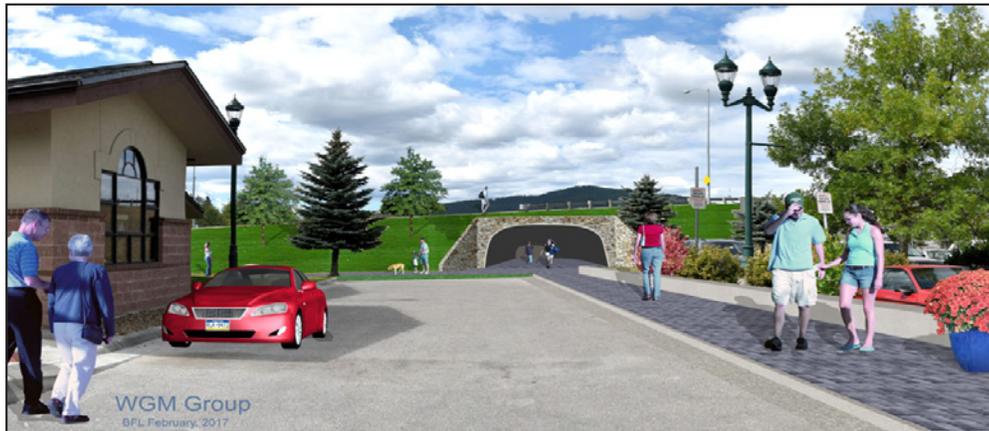
SMOKE ALARM SAFETY TIPS

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom. They should also be outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home. Install alarms in the basement.
- Large homes may need extra smoke alarms.
- It is best to use interconnected smoke alarms. When one smoke alarm sounds, they all should.
- Test all smoke alarms at least once a month. Press the test button to be sure the alarm is working.
- Current alarms on the market employ different types of technology including multi-sensing, which could include smoke and carbon monoxide combined.
- Today's smoke alarms will be more technologically advanced to respond to a multitude of fire conditions, yet mitigate false alarms.
- A smoke alarm should be on the ceiling or high on the wall. Keep smoke alarms away from the kitchen to reduce false alarms. They should be at least 10-feet (3 meters) from the stove.
- People who are hard-of-hearing or deaf can use special alarms. These alarms have strobe lights and bed shakers.
- Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.

FACTS

- ! A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat, and fire.
- ! Smoke alarms should be installed inside every sleeping room, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level. Smoke alarms should be connected so when one sounds, they all sound. Most homes do not have this level of protection.
- ! Roughly 3 out of 5 fire deaths happen in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.

BAKER AVENUE UNDERPASS



Downtown Whitefish has a visitor-driven economy dependent on creating a pedestrian oriented setting. Improvements such as widened sidewalks, pedestrian-scaled streetlights, landscaped curb extensions (bump-outs), and well-defined crosswalks help to enhance the downtown character to achieve this pedestrian friendly environment. The Baker Avenue Underpass is one of the important elements that has not been built yet, although it has been a priority project in City planning documents for more than a decade.

The Baker Avenue Underpass is part of the “Whitefish Promenade” and provides a direct linkage between Downtown and the Railway District west of Baker Avenue. The design of the underpass will create a secure and welcoming environment that provides clear sight-lines to and through the underpass. Bright, 24-hour lighting and security cameras linked to 24-hour surveillance will be included in the design.

Design of the underpass is currently underway and the project is anticipated to be built in Fall of this year.



Recycling allows us to reuse valuable natural materials while slowing down the pileup of non-biodegradable plastic, paper, and metal in the local landfill. Recently, the Whitefish Recycling Center has been having problems with contamination—when non-recyclable items are added to the bins, or recyclable items are placed in the wrong bin, the entire load becomes contaminated and must be taken to a landfill. Help decrease contamination by following these simple steps:

- 1. Know What to Throw:** Flattened cardboard, newspapers, magazines, office paper, common mail, metal food and beverage cans, and plastic bottles and jugs (without the lids) can all be recycled. NEVER place plastic bags, plastic clamshells (i.e., berry or tomato containers, plastic egg cartons), Styrofoam, food, electronics or batteries, yard waste, diapers, soiled paper, clothing, tools, toys, construction waste, or medical waste into the recycling containers.
 - 2. Empty, Clean, Dry:** Keep all recyclables completely free of food and liquid. Wet or greasy paper or cardboard cannot be accepted, nor can bottles or cans with liquid still in them. Thoroughly rinse every piece of metal or plastic before putting in into your bin.
- Coming Soon:** updated signage about the do’s and don’ts of recycling.



Did you know that Public Works employees are a vital part of the City’s emergency response network? It’s true! In fact, President George W. Bush issued Homeland Security Presidential Directive #5 in 2003 mandating the federal government include public works in all planning and response efforts. Much like police officers, firefighters, and EMTs, the Public Works staff here in Whitefish is honored to serve this community. We proudly carry the “Public Works First Responder Symbol” on our vehicles to increase recognition of public works as first responders throughout North America.

DEPOT PARK UPDATE

Phase II Project Update: Phase II of the Depot Park Project started in the Spring of 2019 with the improvements along Railway Street. In the Fall of 2019, work resumed on Spokane Avenue and the East-side of Depot Park. Much of the work was done in the Fall of 2019, but due to weather the project was not completed. In the Spring of 2020, work will resume to finish the project, including pouring concrete crosswalks on Railway Street, curb and concrete approaches to the parking lot north of the Library and a pavement overlay on Railway Street from Central Avenue to Baker Avenue.

Schedule: The remaining work for Phase II will occur in the Spring of 2020. Much of the work is weather dependent and the exact start dates are unknown. Notices will be provided prior to the closure of Railway Street. This work will not begin prior to Monday, April 6th, 2020.

Project Impacts: Railway Street will be closed for several days for the concrete crosswalk work and the pavement overlay on Railway Street from Central Avenue to Baker Avenue.

Phase III Project Description: Phase III of the Depot Park Project will construct a plaza area and seating area/raised planter at the southwest corner of Depot Park, reconstruct the roadway and sidewalks along Central Avenue, from Railway Street to Depot Street, and reconstruct the northwest corner of Depot Park. These improvements are in accordance with the Depot Park Master Plan.

Schedule: Construction of these improvements is planned to begin after the Whitefish Mountain Resort closes for the season and prior to the July 4th, 2020 holiday (i.e. during the “shoulder season”).

- Projected Start Date: Monday, April 6th, 2020 (no earlier than)
- Construction End: Wednesday, July 1st, 2020 (no later than)

Project Impacts: Central Avenue and the areas of Depot Park receiving improvements will be closed to all vehicular and pedestrian traffic throughout the duration of this project. Central Avenue will be closed from Railway Street to Depot Street and construction fencing will be installed along the west side of Depot Park.



Depot Park Project Map

2020 STATE PARK ROAD RECONSTRUCTION

Haugen Heights Road to the Railroad Tracks

The first phase of State Park Road was completed in the fall of 2019. The new sidewalk with decorative lights has become a popular route. This spring work will begin on the second phase of road reconstruction. This work will start at Haugen Heights Road and continue north to the railroad tracks. This new segment will continue the sidewalk, decorative lights and street trees.

There are three segments of the road project. During part one (Mid-April to end of June) our city contractor will do utility work (water, sewer and storm). Part two (July and August) will be gas, power and TV relocation work by Rocky Mountain Contractors and utility companies. Part three (after Labor Day in September to end of October) our city contractor will resume roadway work and finish the project. There will be detours in place throughout the project to route traffic away from the construction activities. Two public meetings on the project have been held this fall and winter. Another public meeting will occur this spring prior to the start of construction. This project is funded by the Resort Tax Fund.



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PLANNING & BUILDING

NEW BUILDING CODES IN EFFECT FOR 2020



On December 7, 2019 the State of Montana Building codes Program adopted new building codes, replacing the 2012

edition. Certified cities such as Whitefish are required to follow suit. Starting January 1, 2020, all plans submitted to the Whitefish Building Department will be reviewed and inspected under the newly adopted codes, which are:

- 2018 International Building Code
- 2018 International Residential Code
- 2018 Uniform Plumbing Code
- 2018 International Mechanical Code
- 2017 National Electrical Code
- 2018 International Existing Building Code
- 2018 International Swimming Pool and Spa Code
- 2018 International Wildland-Urban Interface Code

What is a building code?

It is a collection of laws and ordinances setting minimum safety standards and

codified for easy reference. It embraces all aspects of the building construction; fire and structural, as well as plumbing, electrical, mechanical systems, energy efficiency, and disabled accessibility.

Who needs building codes?

We rely on the safety of structures that surround us in our everyday living. The public need for protection from disaster due to fire, structural collapse and general deterioration underscores the need for modern codes and their administration.

Who uses building codes?

Architects, engineers, contractors, subcontractors, manufacturers and distributors of building material, the user and occupant of the building all use building codes.

How reliable are building codes?

Most aspects of building construction; electrical wiring, heating, sanitary facilities; represent a potential hazard to building occupants and users. Building codes provide safeguards. Although no code can eliminate all risks, reducing risks to an acceptable level is crucial.

How are safe buildings achieved?

Safety is achieved through proper design and construction practice and a code administration program that verifies compliance. As a homeowner or business owner, you have a substantial investment which can be seriously jeopardized through less-than-complete code enforcement or compliance.

Why inspect a building during construction?

Did you know that before you moved into your new home or business, an average of 25-30 inspections by city inspectors had been made to verify conformity to the minimum Montana State building standards? Inspection is the only way to verify independently that code compliance has been achieved.

Montana Department of Labor and Industry and the Montana Building Code Bureau provides an annual Building Education Conference each year. The conference is in Helena, Montana on March 16-19, 2020. Visit bsd.dli.mt.gov/training-education/building for more information.

CENSUS 2020: IT MATTERS TO MONTANA

HOW THE 2020 CENSUS IMPACTS MONTANA

FUNDING: For every Montana resident counted, the Census estimates the state will receive nearly \$2,000 per person each year in federal funding. The \$20,000 per person coming into the state over the next decade is used across Montana counties for medical assistance, educational programs, need-based support, infrastructure, highway planning and over 300 other programs. Spending just a few minutes to complete your Census form will help ensure Montana gets its fair share of federal funding. Filling out the form is quick, easy, safe and important.

APPORTIONMENT & REDISTRICTING: Census data is used to define legislative districts, establish school districts and guide decision making in many other functional areas of government. As mandated by the U.S. Constitution, the Decennial Census is used to apportion seats in the U.S. House of Representatives. Montana is one of the states on the cusp of gaining a new congressperson so getting a complete count is more important than ever.

DATA: Census data is used to inform community decisions. Think of it like a snapshot of who we are as a community every decade. Data about changes in each area are crucial to

many planning decisions, such as where to provide services for seniors, where to build new roads and schools and where to locate job training centers. Census data is also used by organizations to obtain grant funding for key programs helping Montanans.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO PROMOTE THE CENSUS

TALK: Promote discussion about the 2020 Census and emphasize the benefits of participation.

REASSURE: By law, the Census Bureau cannot share respondents' answers with anyone, including other federal agencies and law enforcement entities. All Census Bureau employees take an oath of non-disclosure and are sworn for life to protect the confidentiality of the data.

HOST: Commit to do at least ONE THING to get us closer to a complete count! Invite Federal or State Partners to events in your community. Request Census materials for your community. Volunteer to record a radio PSA to be aired on YOUR local radio stations. Host a Census awareness event.

ENCOURAGE: Participation in the census is easy, important and safe, and participation is vital.

WORK: Be a Census worker. The job is part-time, pays a competitive wage with flexible hours.

DO YOU NEED FLOOD INSURANCE IN WHITEFISH?

Whitefish has experienced several flood events over the years, and there are mapped floodplains associated with the Whitefish River, Cow Creek and Whitefish Lake. Homeowners with mortgages backed by federally regulated or insured lenders are required to have flood insurance if located in areas of high flood risk. While the majority of homes in the city are outside of the mapped floodplains established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), many are still at risk so you may wish to consider flood insurance.

Most flood insurance policies define a ‘flood’ as water moving across land affecting two or more properties. Flooding doesn’t always come from rivers and streams. Conditions such as an outdated or clogged storm drain or even rapid accumulation of rain on a street can create a flood situation. More than 20% of flood claims come from properties outside of mapped high-risk flood zones. Wildfires can also increase the risk for large flood events for several years after a fire, depending on how long it takes vegetation to regrow. Just one inch of water can cause \$25,000 of damage to a home, and most homeowners or renters insurance policies do not cover flood damage.



If you are interested in purchasing flood insurance, contact your insurance agent. It takes thirty days after you purchase flood insurance for the policy to take effect, so it’s important to start looking well before the snow melt. A great resource for more information is www.floodsmart.gov, a website in collaboration with FEMA and the NFIP.

All residents of Flathead County receive a discount on their flood insurance as the County participates in the Community Rating System. Long-range emergency management plans, public outreach letters and brochures, local zoning or floodplain regulations, and updated floodplain mapping all contribute to lowering homeowners flood insurance policies. Contact Whitefish planning staff at 863-2410 if you have questions or are interested in determining the flood risk for your property.

THINKING ABOUT ADDING AN ACCESSORY APARTMENT?

Many property owners in the City have added a small apartment over their garage or within their existing house in order to generate extra rental income or provide housing for aging parents. Here are the zoning rules for such additions.

Accessory apartments require a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) prior to construction. A CUP means the neighbors within 300 feet are notified via mail, and there are public hearings before the City Planning Board and City Council to get approval.

In order to apply for a CUP, the lot in question must meet the zoning district’s minimum lot size. Only one accessory apartment is allowed per lot, and one off-street parking space must be provided for the apartment on top of the two generally required for the main residence.



Accessory apartments must be attached to a single-family dwelling or attached to a garage located behind the primary dwelling on the same lot. The floor area of the accessory apartment

cannot exceed 600 square feet and it must be on a single level (i.e., above a garage, or in a basement). Short term rentals of less than thirty days are prohibited in accessory apartments. Property owners must maintain residence in either the house or the apartment and are prohibited from renting out both. In order to obtain a conditional use permit, the property owner must record a deed restriction to that affect and submit a copy to the City.

The majority of permits for accessory apartments get approved as they can provide affordable housing. If the apartment is above a garage, impacts to the privacy of neighboring properties can be minimized if main windows and outside decks face the main house or street rather than neighbors. CUP applications are available on the City Website (www.cityofwhitefish.org) under Planning & Building applications. Applications require a “to scale” site plan and floor plans for the apartment as well as the application fee, which is currently \$1,065. Applications submitted by the first Monday of the month will go on the following months Planning Board meeting agenda (third Thursday evening at 6 pm), then the next available City Council meeting. It is typically a two to three-month process, so plan ahead. A building permit cannot be issued without an approved CUP.

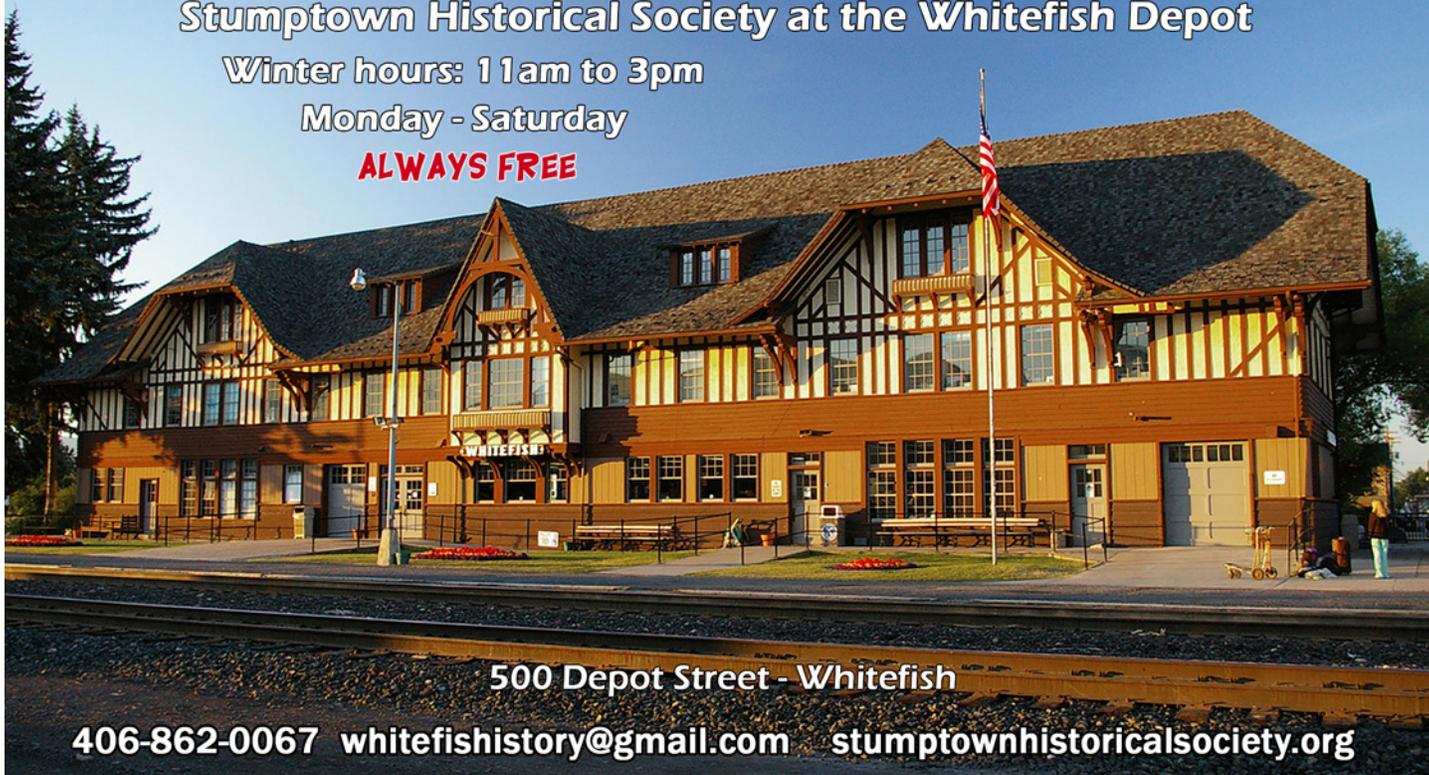
YES - WHITEFISH HAS A MUSEUM!

Stumptown Historical Society at the Whitefish Depot

Winter hours: 11am to 3pm

Monday - Saturday

ALWAYS FREE



500 Depot Street - Whitefish

406-862-0067 whitefishhistory@gmail.com stumptownhistoricalsociety.org

WHITEFISH LAKE AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAM UPDATE

To streamline our program and ensure efficiency at the boat ramps, we have made a few updates for 2020:

Exit Seals Color Update

An exit seal enables boaters to bypass the inspection process if launching again in Whitefish Lake. It does not serve as an inspection seal at other stations. In order to reduce confusion, exit seals will be BLUE this year, while inspection seals will remain white. As a reminder, an exit seal will not serve as a dated inspection seal if going to Glacier Park. Boaters can always return for an inspection at either boat ramp for a stamped form and a dated inspection seal that Glacier Park will accept for their 30-day quarantine program.

Late Boater Program

If you plan to exit the lake after 10:00 p.m. with your ballast boat, please notify the ranger performing the inspection. Upon request, we will issue you a short inspection form and an ORANGE seal, which you will apply to your boat after leaving the water. You must return to either launch site the next day to avoid decontamination. The orange seal is only valid for 24 hours with the accompanying short form.

Non-motorized Sticker Program

This program for hand-launched watercraft users is designed to get low risk watercraft on the lake quicker and to alleviate congestion at the boat launches. By passing the Online AIS Self-Certification test, you will be issued a certificate and a

sticker that is valid for FIVE years. Stickers will change in five-year increments starting in 2020, expiring at the end of 2024. All users will need to test for a new sticker in 2025, regardless of when they took the self-certification test.

New Launch Hours

Whitefish City Beach will now be opening at 7:00 a.m. all season long. If you wish to launch earlier, you can participate in the Online AIS Self-Certification Early Angler Program. Once you pass the test, you will be issued a certificate that must be displayed on your vehicle's dashboard.



Whitefish City Beach and Whitefish Lake State Park

Inspection Hours:

7am-9am, May & September

7am-10pm, June-August

Decontamination Hours:

10am-5pm, May & September

10am-8pm, June-August

WHITEFISH COMMUNITY LIBRARY

“The mission of the Whitefish Community Library is to bring people and ideas together by providing and sharing information, inspiring lifelong learning, advancing knowledge and strengthening our community.”

The Tuesday after school R.E.A.D. program continues to grow with more and more children stopping in every Tuesday to read to a certified therapy dog. After hosting a training session at the library R.E.A.D. was able to add 3 new dogs and trainers to the program. R.E.A.D. coordinator, Susie Gonaver and Ande participated in the Great Fish Challenge this past Fall representing the library. R.E.A.D. dogs and owner/trainers are here every Tuesday from 3:30-5:00. Preregistration is appreciated but not necessary.



JAYVYN JAMES READING TO ANDE

Another program that continues to attract patrons and non-patrons alike is the Learn to Code class. Thanks to Patrick Brodie and his desire to give back to our community this learning class is free and open to the public every Wednesday from 3:30-5:30 in the library community room. Bring your own laptop if you have one. The library has two that can be used

if you need to borrow one.

During the 2019 calendar year the library proctored 15 students with on-line and paper exams from several different universities across the United States. Offering this service supports the Whitefish Community Library Mission Statement.

Remember to bring your pre-school children to Story Hour every Thursday at 10:30. Mary Drew Powers offers art processing and early literacy activities as well as storytelling.

The Whitefish Library Association (WLA) is planning to participate in the Whitefish Community Foundation’s (WCF) Great Fish Challenge again this year. Thanks to this collaboration the WLA was able to purchase new keyboards and mice for the patron access computers, two new touch screen computers for the children, new juvenile audio books, fiction and nonfiction books for the collection. This year the goal will be to replace the 22-year-old carpeting that has seen nearly 2 million patrons come through the doors. We urge everyone to consider donating to the Whitefish Community Foundation “Great Fish Challenge” for the 2020 campaign specifying your donation for the Whitefish Library Association

Whitefish Community Library
9 Spokane Ave
Whitefish, MT 59937
(406)862-9914

Joey Kositzky, Director

Library Hours:

Monday – 10 AM to 7 PM
Tuesday – 10 AM to 6 PM
Wednesday – 10 AM to 6 PM
Thursday – 10 AM to 6 PM
Friday – 11 AM to 5 PM
Saturday – 12 Noon to 5 PM

Follow us on Facebook for updates:

@ [Whitefish Community Library](#)
or visit whitefishlibrary.org

Whitefish Community Library (WCL) created a new Trustee-in-Training position modeled after the Missoula Library Board of Trustees’ successful program. The WCL Trustees welcomed Trevor Gonser to fill the newly created position. Trevor brings his government budgeting, fiscal management, IT and HR experience to the Board.

Board of Trustees

Anne Shaw Moran
Chair

Mary Vail
Treasurer

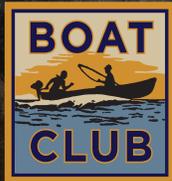
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Director Joey Kositzky
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City of Whitefish
PO BOX 158
Whitefish, Montana 59937



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\$5-\$6 Select Happy Hour Appetizers

LIVE MUSIC | Every Wednesday, Saturday &
First Friday 6-9p / All other Fridays 5-8p

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