

# CITY OF SHELBY

## August 2024 Newsletter



### Dear Shelby Residents,

We hope you have had a safe and enjoyable summer.

The city has spent the summer tackling many projects and we are seeing the construction associated with them wrapping up and leaving us with greatly improved streets in these areas. We thank the community for being patient and understanding during these times as we know they can be inconvenient, however, the end result proves to be worth it.

The city's first two low-to-moderate income homes have been completed and sold. Construction has begun on the Bitterroot site where the plan is to build more low-to-moderate income homes in addition to market value homes. Please reach out to City Hall with inquires.

With the beginning of the school year soon, we encourage you to drive with caution as kids will be walking and biking to school. Informational articles are included in this newsletter which we hope you read and share with your children as together we can continue to make Shelby a great place to live, work and raise our families.

#### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Facebook
- Thank You
- Safe Driver
- Back to School Safety
- School Reminders
- Talk To Your Teen
- Civic Center schedule



Today, more than ever, there is a need to provide options that allow children to walk and bicycle to school safely. Many communities like Shelby struggle with traffic congestion around schools. At the same time, children in general engage in less physical activity, which contributes to the growing epidemic of obesity.

Safe Routes to School programs share one common goal – to improve the health of kids and the community by making walking and bicycling to school safer, easier, and more enjoyable. SRTS programs use a variety of education, engineering and enforcement strategies that help make routes safer for children to walk and bicycle to school and encourage more children to participate.

The City of Shelby was fortunate to have been awarded funding years ago through the Montana Department of Transportation Safe Routes to School Program to work towards that goal of making our community safer for our children and families to walk and bike. The city made great improvements to the arterial sidewalks leading to the school campus and the bike path along Oilfield Avenue. All these projects are directed toward making our community more walkable and bikeable.

At the same time, a task force made up of city and school officials/staff, and the Toole County Sheriff's office continues with an education campaign. For the last 16+ years, the task force has planned Walk n' Wheel Wednesdays and Fit Fridays with prizes for those children who take part. On Walk N' Wheel Wednesdays and Fit Fridays walking school buses led by adult walkers are stationed at the old Middle School leaving at 7:35am and Oilfield/Sheridan intersection at 7:45am. All children riding bikes **MUST WEAR HELMETS**, walk their bikes over the viaduct and ride ahead of walkers. Parents, grandparents, and all family members are encouraged to walk/bike with their children.

This newsletter has very informative articles and information from our school district, Toole County Sheriff's Office, and Safe Routes to School task force. Citizens of Shelby are encouraged to help in developing and initiating new programs and projects that continue to encourage, educate, and engineer a more walkable and bikeable community.

Together we can all work to continue to make Shelby a great place to live, work and raise our families.



Follow us on Facebook . . . The City of Shelby has a brand new Facebook page to keep residents up-to-date on city projects, programs and events. You can follow the City of Shelby on Facebook at **City of Shelby, Montana**. Please look here for any important updates from the city.

**- BACK TO SCHOOL BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY TIPS -**

It is the beginning of the school year and now is the perfect time to review traffic safety practices. When parents are walking and biking with their children, they are encouraged to talk to them about street safety and show kids how to interact with other pedestrians, bicycles and vehicles. Young children need supervision until about age 10 or even older, depending on the child.

It is important for both bicyclists and pedestrians to pay attention and listen to their surroundings. Everyone should avoid wearing headphones that mute their surroundings and avoid cell phone use while walking and biking.

**As a pedestrian:**

- Teach children to stop at the edge of the street and look for cars.
- Make eye contact with the driver before crossing the street.
- Look left, right, left and over their shoulder for traffic.
- Teach them to cross at intersections and crosswalks when possible.
- It is important to follow all signs/warnings especially at our Galena railroad crossing.
- Wear bright clothing and reflective material if possible.



**As a bicyclist:**

- Helmets should always be worn no matter how slowly you are riding. Start the helmet habit early and parents should promote this by always wearing a helmet themselves.
- Be sure the helmet fits well, is adjusted to the head, and covers the forehead.
- Bicycles are vehicles. Children should not ride bikes in the road until they fully understand traffic rules and parents should show them how to follow them.
- When riding in the roadway, ride in single file on the right side of the street going the same direction as the traffic.
- Obey all traffic signs, signals and warnings.
- Parents are encouraged to practice with children by riding in a straight line, as well as stopping and speed control.
- Look left, right, left and over the shoulder before crossing, turning or entering the roadway.
- Bicyclists are encouraged to also slow down and look for traffic entering and exiting the roadway.
- Ride so others can see you, stay out of a driver's blind spot and wear bright reflective clothing.
- Use hand turning signals so all traffic can see your intentions.

**LET'S MAKE IT A SAFE SCHOOL YEAR, WALKING AND BIKING TO SCHOOL!**

**THANK YOU FOR MAKING OUR COMMUNITY BLOSSOM!**

The City of Shelby is very fortunate to have so many dedicated volunteers who plant and care for the baskets and planters that line Roosevelt Highway, Oilfield Avenue, Main Street and Central Avenue. These beautiful flowers and shrubs brighten Shelby roadways and welcome visitors and residents alike. The city would like to thank these individuals and businesses for the commitment to helping Shelby "bloom" each summer.



Special thanks to the Shelby Area Chamber of Commerce for purchasing flowers; Shane Adams, Lorette Carter, Tom Carter, and Colton Lampert with the city crew for planting the flowers. Also to Rachael Kovatch for stepping in to assist with watering.

The Chamber would greatly appreciate the help of anyone willing to take a shift or two with watering the flowers. Please contact Shane at (406) 434-7184 if you are able and willing to give him a hand.

## REMINDERS FROM SCHOOL DISTRICT #14

**Passing School Buses** - Passing a bus when loading or unloading children is a **violation of the law**. This continues to be an issue every year and we hope that it never becomes a catastrophe. Bus drivers are legally bound to report passing violations to local law enforcement agencies. **Please, for the safety of all the children, do not pass a school bus that is stopped or preparing to stop.**

Buses use extended stop arms mounted on the side of the bus at in-town stops. **The arms extend 6 1/2 feet out from the side of the bus to help alert drivers that students are either entering or exiting a bus. Please obey these STOP SIGNS!**

**Traffic Flow, Parking, Student Drop-Off Areas** - School District #14 is very concerned with student safety. One of the more dangerous times at school is in the morning and in the afternoon when children are arriving and departing from school. To ensure that our students are safe, we are asking the community's cooperation in adhering to the designated student drop-off and pick up areas as well as obeying all no parking or stopping areas.

**1) RED ZONES:** Any area where the curb is painted red is considered a **no parking or stopping zone**. These red zones are fire lanes and must be kept clear at all times for emergency vehicles.

**2) YELLOW ZONES:** Are **no parking zones**. Please do not park anywhere the curb is painted yellow. Also, do not stop in the yellow zone that is marked as the bus loading zone near the school buildings.

**3) HANDICAPPED PARKING:** Do not park in handicapped parking spaces, unless you have the appropriate permit which allows you to do so.

**4) SENIOR CITIZEN PARKING FOR EVENTS:** The parking spaces along the Vo-Ed building on the north side of the gym are reserved for Senior Citizens.

**5) ELEMENTARY STUDENT DROP-OFF AREA:** The drop-off and pick-up area for students attending Shelby Elementary School is along Westwood Avenue on the east side of the school. Please use this area rather than the front of the school.

**6) MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL DROP-OFF AREA:** The drop-off area for Middle School and High School students is at the West end of the high school building near the main entrance.

**7) HIGH SCHOOL PARKING/PARKING FOR SCHOOL EVENTS:** The School District asks that you utilize the parking lot behind the high school for school activities. The back lot is paved, has very easy access and is well lighted. It is a much safer and secure location to park.

**8) SPEED ZONES:** Please remember that the speed limit around the schools is 15 mph.

**We ask for your cooperation in making the Shelby School campuses a safe place for our children.**



**TALK TO YOUR TEEN ABOUT TEXTING & DRIVING . . .** As school and high school sports are set to begin, we remind parents to have daily conversations with their teens about the important rules they need to follow to stay safe behind the wheel of a passenger car, truck, or SUV. These rules should address the greatest dangers for teen drivers which number one is DISTRACTED DRIVING! And don't forget, the City of Shelby has an ordinance prohibiting use of cell phones while driving. Tickets are costly but more important, **LIVES ARE PRICELESS!**

### THE PROBLEM — TOO MANY TEENS ARE DYING ON OUR ROADS

- Car crashes are the leading cause of death for teens (15 to 18 years old) in the United States – ahead of all other types of injury, disease, or violence.
- Distracted driving accounts for approximately 25% of all fatal crashes and teens are the largest age group involved in these fatalities.
- Distractions while driving are more than just risky—they can be deadly. Statistics show year after year that among teen drivers involved in fatal crashes, over 50% were reported as distracted at the time of the crash.
- Distracted Driving has been called an American EPIDEMIC and is completely preventable.

Parents – you've guided your teen this far. Driving is a new chapter, a step toward independence for many teens. But your job is not done. Surveys show that teens with parents who set firm rules for driving typically engage in less risky driving behaviors and are involved in fewer crashes. But your kids can't listen if you don't talk.

- Get the facts about teen driving and share these statistics with your teen.
- Know Montana's nighttime driving restrictions, passenger restrictions, and all the graduated driver licensing (GDL) restrictions, and help enforce them.
  - Be a good role model for your teen driver and set an example with your own safe driving habits.
  - Remind your teen that driving is a privilege, not a right, and it must always be taken seriously.
  - Set the rules before they hit the road.



Start the conversation with your teen about safe driving habits now and continue the conversation every day throughout the year. Even if it seems like they're tuning you out, keep reinforcing these rules. They're listening—your constant reminders about these powerful messages will get through.

Get creative! Talking is just one way to discuss safe driving. You can also write your teen a letter, send e-mail or text reminders, leave sticky note reminders in the car, or use social media to get your message across.



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## Civic Center Class Schedule

Check City of Shelby, Montana on Facebook for any schedule changes.

### Mondays:

5:30-6:30 p.m. Kid's Karate Class with Bridger Ergenbright

### Tuesdays:

6:00 a.m. High Fitness with Ariel & Brooke Weishaar

10:00-11:00 a.m. Silver Sneakers with Ashley Denno

1:30-3:00 p.m. Roller Skating

### Wednesdays:

9:00-10:00 a.m. Tai Chi with Barbara Standley-Schniffer

9:00-10:00 a.m. Yoga with Ashley Denno

### Thursdays:

10:00-11:00 a.m. Silver Sneakers with Ashley Denno

1:30-3:00 p.m. Roller Skating

### Fridays:

9:00-10:00 a.m. Tai Chi with Barbara Standley-Schniffer