



STUMPTOWN *Scoop*

City of Whitefish
PO BOX 158, Whitefish, Montana 59937

LETTER FROM THE CITY MANAGER

As we enjoy the holiday season with loved ones and look forward to the New Year, it is time to pause and reflect on the successes and challenges of this past year. Reflection provides us the opportunity to learn from our past experiences and create a plan of action for the future.

This year’s visitation reached record numbers, many of the events that were cancelled in 2020 due to the pandemic returned, the Baker Avenue Underpass was finished and now provides safe access to Downtown for those walking or biking, the Whitefish Housing Authority’s 38- unit Alpenglow Apartments welcomed its first tenants, and voters secured the Resort Tax as a funding mechanism for an additional 20 years with an outstanding 89% approval rate. While those are just a few of the highlights from 2021, our community also faced new challenges. The Montana State Legislature eliminated the City’s Legacy Homes Program that required certain developments to provide 20% deed restricted affordable workforce housing, many businesses limited their hours of operation due to workforce shortages while trying to keep up with the busy summer demand, numerous home sales coupled with a low housing stock left many long-term renters without a place to live, and the cost of housing increased at staggering rates.

With these issues facing our community, the City prioritized its efforts on managing the impacts from increased visitation and identifying immediate solutions for affordable workforce housing. Some of the key projects include:

- The City is in the process of updating regulations and licensing fees for short-term rentals and mid-term rentals (less than 90 days). Enforcement efforts have improved to address illegal operations that reduce the number of long-term rentals available to workers.
- City-owned land on Monegan Road has been identified as a possible location for the Whitefish Housing Authority to develop affordable workforce housing funded through private donations. The public will have opportunities to share their comments as this proposal proceeds through subdivision, a proposed growth policy amendment, and a proposed zone change.
- The City Council committed up to \$2 million of the City’s American Rescue Plan Act allocation from the Federal Government to cover the financial gap for the anticipated Snow Lot Townhomes Project developed by the Whitefish Housing Authority. The estimated \$2 million will guarantee eight (8) of the anticipated twenty-four (24) townhomes will be priced at rates affordable to households making up to 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI).
- Upcoming projects also include zoning for affordability, such as addressing employee or dormitory -style housing in the Whitefish Zoning Code, updates

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

EMERGENCY SERVICES CENTER
275 Flathead Ave, Whitefish, MT
Fire Department 863-2483
f @WhitefishFireDepartment
Municipal Court 863-2440
Police Department 863-2420

www.cityofwhitefish.org

LIBRARY 862-9914
9 Spokane Ave, Whitefish, MT
f @WhitefishCommunityLibrary or
whitefishlibrary.org

CITY COUNCIL
City Council Meetings: 1st and 3rd
Mondays of every month at 7:10 P.M. in the
Council Chambers (City Hall, 2nd floor). View
live stream meetings online at [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0y0y0y0y0y0y0y0y0y0y0y)
“City of Whitefish” channel.



Dana Smith
City Manager
City of Whitefish

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DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS

CITY MANAGER
Dana Smith

CITY ATTORNEY
Angela Jacobs

CITY CLERK
Michelle Howke

FINANCE DIRECTOR
Ben Dahlman

HUMAN RESOURCE DIRECTOR
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FIRE CHIEF
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LIBRARY DIRECTOR
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INTERIM MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE
In Negotiation

PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR
Maria Butts

PLANNING AND BUILDING DIRECTOR
Dave Taylor

INTERIM POLICE CHIEF
Bridger Kelch

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR
Craig Workman

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to the regulations for accessory dwelling units, sustainable funding options for workforce housing, and an incentives program for developers to include affordable deed restricted workforce housing within their projects.

While the City is focusing much of its energy on housing, it is great to see our community come together with new organized groups and generous donors looking for solutions to our housing crisis. No matter the challenges, Whitefish always seems to come together to find the right solutions to keep our community the best place to live, work and play.

MEET YOUR NEW COUNCIL MEMBER



Giuseppe Caltabiano, aka GMan (his call sign when flying airplanes), and his family moved to Whitefish in

2006. He was born in Milan and was raised in Gela, Sicily, right on the beaches upon which General Patton landed two decades earlier to bring what Italians always respectfully and emotionally call the “American Liberation.”

Before moving to the U.S. in 2002 Giuseppe worked in Melbourne Australia in a joint venture with the city of Melbourne, to streamline the central business district’s (CBD) traffic and capitalize on growth due to the tourism influx into the city. He has worked for VeriFone as president of Asia Pacific, based out of Singapore, and head of

Europe Middle East and Africa business development based out of London U.K.

As a retired naval officer, and a commercially rated pilot, Giuseppe holds a doctoral degree in electronics and computer science from the University Polytechnic of Milan. He volunteers as an Angel Flight pilot, a Civil Air Patrol Captain (Cadet Leadership Program, and search and rescue), and as a commissioner for the Glacier Park International Airport Board.

Giuseppe served as the Scoutmaster of Troop 1917 in Whitefish, and taught classes at Flathead Leadership. He was a high school algebra and calculus teacher for one year at Sand Ridge Charter School in Oregon.

When he is taking “G-time” you can catch him trail running, hiking, and skinning up mountains.

PARKING PERMIT PILOT PROGRAM

The City of Whitefish is pleased to announce the Downtown Whitefish Parking Permit Pilot Program has been extended through December 31, 2022. The cost of the program will be \$20 per month, per license plate, per permit. A limited number of permits will be

made available in downtown surface lots and on the third level of the Whitefish downtown parking structure. Permits will go on sale SOON through an online portal on the City of Whitefish Website, <https://www.cityofwhitefish.org/478/Online-Payments>.

HELP SUPPORT THE NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION BY PLACING AN AD

Ad placements are available through the newsletter. The revenue from these ads helps support the distribution to all households and businesses in the 59937 zip code - over 8,000 mailboxes!

Contact Michelle Howke, mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org

WINTER TREE TRIMMING



Winter is a popular time to prune trees. Most leaves have fallen, and the tree structure is clearly visible. This allows arborists to identify structural issues and make sound pruning decisions.

As long as the weather allows, the Urban Forestry Crew will still be out pruning boulevard and park trees.

Please call 406-863-2470 with any questions or concerns. Say hello if you see them!



WINTER ACTIVITIES FOR THE KIDDOS



MIDDLE SCHOOL FRIDAY NIGHT SKI/SNOWBOARD PROGRAM

When:	January – March
Time:	School Dismissal Time – 9:00 PM
Location:	Whitefish Middle School & Whitefish Mountain Resort
Age Group:	5 th – 8 th Grade
Resident Fee:	\$20

Pizza dinner provided! Participants will be supervised during travel times. This is not an instructional program.



K-4TH GRADE GIRLS AND BOYS BASKETBALL

When:	January - February
Locations:	Roy Duff Memorial Armory
Resident Fee:	\$65

Our basketball program is a non-competitive introduction to basketball for boys and girls. Focus will be on basic dribbling, passing, and shooting skills. Games are played for fun and instructional purposes only. There are no other practices scheduled. Each game day will have two parts, an instruction/practice period, and a scrimmage period.

Look for registration for these programs to open in December on our website!

AFTER SCHOOL COUNSELORS NEEDED!

The Parks and Recreation Department is looking for After School Counselors to assist in organizing, implementing, and supervising After School Program activities for youth grades K-5. Activities may include art, athletics, outdoor exercise, games, snack preparation, homework and similar.

For a full position description, City of Whitefish job application form, and instructions on how to apply visit our website.

PLEASE REMEMBER! WITH THE SNOW AND ICY MONTHS AHEAD - OWNERS AND TENANTS OF RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES ARE RESPONSIBLE TO CLEAR ABUTTING AND ADJOINING SIDEWALKS AND PATHS OF ICE, SNOW, AND SLUSH, WITHIN 24-HOURS OF A WEATHER EVENT.

MEET YOUR POLICE DEPARTMENT



I was born in Kalispell in 1990. I have an older brother (who is also a police officer) and a younger sister who is currently a lab technician at a hospital in Missoula. My father was the former Chief of Police for the Kalispell Police Department, and my mother was a medical coder. As a kid, I wrestled and played football, basketball, and baseball. Along with sports, like many fellow Montanans, I grew up hunting, fishing, hiking, and snowboarding.

I went to Flathead High School where I graduated in 2009 and two weeks after graduation, I joined the Marine Corps as a Rifleman. I spent my first two years protecting Department of Defense assets at a naval installation in Washington. Afterwards, I was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment in 29 Palms, California where I would eventually deploy to Afghanistan in 2013. After five years in the Marines, I joined the Whitefish Police Department.

VEHICLE SAFETY CHECKLIST

As winter approaches, Whitefish Police Department would like to remind residents and visitors to travel safely and be prepared when you travel. Winter driving conditions come and go throughout the winter months and drivers are encouraged to prepare early and plan for winter conditions through spring.

GET YOUR CAR SERVICED

Make sure your vehicle's maintenance is up to date per your manufacture's recommendations

- ✓ When the temperature drops, so does battery power. Have your mechanic check your battery, charging system, and belts, and have them make any necessary repairs or replacements. For hybrid-electric vehicles, keep gasoline in the tank to support the gasoline engines.
- ✓ Check your headlights, brake lights, turn signals, emergency flashers, and interior lights. Check the brake lights and turn signals on pull trailers.

- ✓ Make sure you have enough coolant in your vehicle. See your vehicle owner's manual for specific recommendation on coolant. Check the cooling system for leaks, test the coolant, and drain or replace old coolant as needed.
- ✓ Ensure your vehicle's windshield wiper reservoir is full of high-quality "winter" fluid with deicer.
- ✓ Make sure defrosters and windshield wipers, both front and rear, work and replace any worn blades. You may also want to consider installing heavy-duty winter wipers if you live in an area that gets a lot of snow and ice.

TIRE SAFETY

As the outside temperature drops, so does tire inflation pressure. Make sure each tire is filled to the vehicle manufacturer's recommended inflation pressure, which is listed in your owner's manual and on a placard located on the driver's side door frame, NOT the number listed on the tire. Be sure to check the tire's air pressure when they are cold, when the car hasn't been driven for at least three hours. Read through for safe tire tips:

- ✓ Regardless of season, inspect your tires at least once a month and before long road trips. Don't forget to check your spare tire.
- ✓ Check the tread and sidewalls for any cuts, punctures, bulges, scrapes, cracks or bumps. If you see any damage, take your vehicle to a tire service professional for further inspection
- ✓ Install snow tires in the fall. Studded tires are permitted in Montana from October 1 – May 31.

- ✓ Replace tires that have uneven wear or insufficient tread. Tread should be at least 2/32 of an inch or greater on all tires.
- ✓ Check the age of each tire. Some vehicle manufacturers recommend that tires be replaced every six years regardless of use but check your owner's manual to find out.
- ✓ For more information on tire safety, visit NHTSA's Tires page at www.nhtsa.gov/tires.

STOCK YOUR VEHICLE

Stock your vehicle with common winter driving supplies you might need in an emergency

- ✓ Snow Shovel and ice scraper
- ✓ Sand or kitty litter in case your vehicle gets stuck
- ✓ Jumper cables, flashlight, and warning devices
- ✓ Blankets for protection from the cold
- ✓ A cell phone with charger, water, food, and any necessary medicine

WINTER HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS



Check your smoke alarms to ensure they are working properly.

Smoke alarms should be tested once a month to verify they are operational.

Batteries should be replaced twice a year. A good way to remember is to change the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors when you change your clocks.



Keep your live tree hydrated. Check the tree stand water daily.

Tree needles should be fresh, green, and hard to pull off the branches.

Placing a tree near a heat source, such as a vent or fireplace, can cause it to dry out more quickly.

Only use indoor lights to decorate your tree. Don't use lit candles on or near your tree.



Use caution with extension cords to avoid overloading electrical outlets.

Check your electric lights for frayed wires and broken or cracked sockets.

Overloading outlets can cause sparking and a fire. The standard rule is to only use 80% of the outlet's total amperage.



Don't leave burning candles unattended.

Flameless LED candles are a great option and are safer than an open flame.

Christmas is the peak day for candle fires at nearly three times the daily average.



Stand by your pan.

Stay in the kitchen when you are cooking food to prevent a fire.

Thanksgiving is the peak day for home cooking fires, followed by Christmas Day, the day before Thanksgiving, and Christmas Eve.



Burning used wrapping paper in a fireplace can cause flash fires.

Any paper that has a glossy coating, such as wrapping paper, magazines, and newspaper inserts, are inappropriate for burning in a fireplace and can release toxic chemicals. If your chimney hasn't been cleaned in a while, burning this type of paper can ignite combustible resin and cause a chimney fire.



Be prepared for adverse winter driving conditions.

Keep extra cold weather clothing along with a cell phone, portable phone charger, food, water, a flashlight, an ice scraper, blankets and medications in your vehicle.



RESORT TAX PROJECT UPDATE



The Edgewood and Texas Reconstruction Project is the current road job on the Resort Tax Priority List. The project consists of reconstructing Edgewood Place from Colorado Avenue to the eastern city limits and

Avenue, stormwater management improvements, decorative lighting, street trees, and water distribution upgrades.

Texas Avenue Reconstruction, Phase 2 of the overall project, will begin next June and is expected to be completed in October of 2022. To avoid delays like those experienced in Phase 1, the City will pre purchase pipe materials. There was extensive public outreach during the design of the Texas Avenue Reconstruction project. Information presented at public meetings, past newsletters, and current updates can be found on the website.

The Texas Avenue project will include a shared use path on the west side of the road, stormwater management improvements, decorative lighting, and street trees. To help calm traffic, the collector road width will be 26 feet wide, including curb and gutter. The shared use path will meander beneath the west side power lines. The roadway will be closed to thru traffic during construction. If you have questions about the project, contact our Public Works Office Manager at 863-2460.

Texas Avenue from Edgewood Place to Denver Street.

Phase 1 of the project began in August of 2021 and includes construction on Edgewood Place. Significant difficulties in pipe procurement led to several weeks of delay in starting construction. The current schedule is to complete all the work within the curb lines west of Texas Avenue in 2021. Remaining Edgewood Place reconstruction, including the section east of Texas Avenue, will be completed in early 2022. The new road includes sidewalk on the north side, improved pedestrian crossings at Colorado and Texas

BAKER AVENUE UNDERPASS



Picture of the recently completed Baker Avenue Underpass. The project has been long-identified as a critical bicycle and pedestrian link in numerous City planning documents. The City is delighted with the outcome of the project and excited to have this safe and efficient connection that will serve the City for generations to come.

The City will be performing curbside Christmas Tree Pickup for one week only. This service will be performed the Week of 1/10/2022 (weather permitting). Should you wish to dispose of your tree before, or after then, you can take it to the trailer at the central recycling site on the corner of Railway Street and Columbia Avenue.



FLATHEAD ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE

PEAK TIME REBATE PROGRAM

About the Program

Do you have an electric water heater? Saving \$48 is as easy as 1, 2, 3...



Click or Call

Complete the form below or call 406-751-1834 to sign up for the Peak Time Rebate Program.



We Install

A device on your water heater that helps reduce your energy demand and costs by turning it off for a short time during periods of peak demand.



You Save

\$48 per year when we pass that savings onto you via an automatic \$4 per month bill credit.

For additional information, check out the FAQs on Flathead Electric's website at: <https://www.flatheadelectric.com>



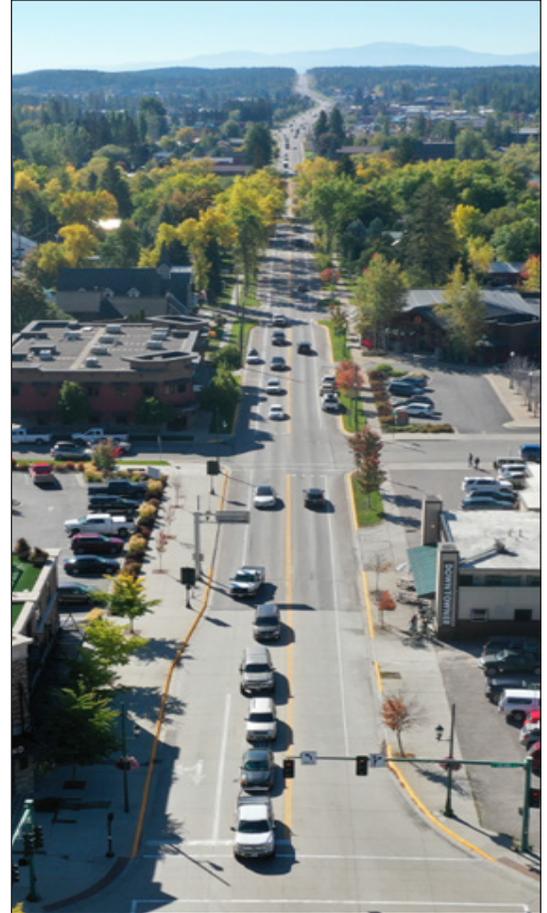
SPOKANE AVENUE WATERMAIN RECONSTRUCTION

The City recently learned of plans by the Montana Department of Transportation to make pavement and crosswalk improvements on Spokane Avenue through town. The dilapidated nature of the roadway creates safety issues for drivers, bicyclists and pedestrians and the City would be delighted to see improvements to this section of state highway. However, the roadway is underlain by a City-owned cast iron water main with a long history of repairs. The increased frequency of water main breaks and bell joint leaks are clear indicators that this pipe is well beyond its service life.

In addition to the unaccounted water loss, costly main breaks, and water quality issues, this main is restricting the City's hydraulic capacity due its undersized nature and internal pipe corrosion.

This reduced hydraulic capacity leads to difficulty maintaining system pressures and difficulties maintaining adequate fire flows in certain areas of the distribution system. Replacement of the main will be necessary for MDT to complete their work, which is of vital importance to the City.

The City has hired Morrison-Maierle to provide surveying and engineering services on the project. The proposed schedule will include public outreach, surveying, design, material procurement, and DEQ approval this winter, with construction taking place in the spring of 2022. Traffic control will be a critical concern on this project, however delays along Spokane Avenue should be expected during construction.



WATER AND WASTEWATER FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS

As of mid-fall 2021, construction of the new Wastewater Treatment Plant, as well as the Water Treatment Plant Expansion, have reached substantial completion. This means all major construction activities are complete and only a small list of items remains to be completed. The City will be working with their process integrator to get both plants fully automated throughout the winter. The City thanks all residents for their patience with disruptions to their normal routines as a result of both projects.



Wastewater Treatment Plant (shown to the left)



Water Treatment Plant (shown to the right)

UTILITY BILLING

UPGRADES TO ONLINE UTILITY BILL PAY PORTAL

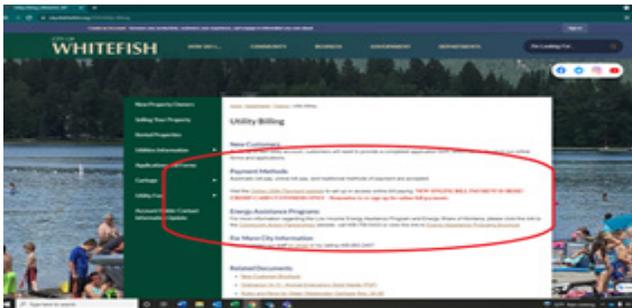
The City upgraded to a more user-friendly online bill pay site on September 29, 2021 for customers paying by credit card. The new tools will also help staff work more efficiently and effectively when helping the City's utilities customers.

The upgraded system requires customers paying online with a credit card to create a new online account and password, and then set up credit card payment details. The upgrade to this online bill pay system did not affect those customers paying by automatic withdrawal from their bank account (ACH withdrawal).

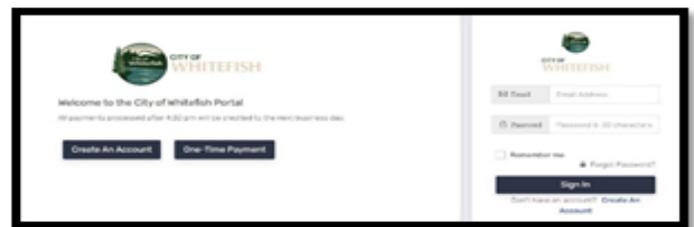
If you previously had your account set up to be automatically paid through the online credit card bill pay system and have not already signed up in the new system, or if you want to join others paying online by credit card, we encourage you to do it now. Please scan this QR Code with your smart phone to quickly navigate to the new portal:



Or launch the portal from our website, <https://www.cityofwhitefish.org/339/Utility-Billing>, and click on the Online Utility Payment Portal link or access the site directly by going to <https://whitefish.billingdoc.net>.



The new portal looks like this:



To set up an account you will need to use your email address and create a password. To set up a payment (either one-time or recurring) you will need the first three letters of the first or last name and then enter the unique Web ID account to your dashboard as it appears on the utility bill you want to pay. From there you can see your bill and can add credit card information for payment.

Highlights of FREE Online Payment Portal:

- View and pay your bill online anytime, anywhere with a credit or debit card.
- Make a one-time payment or register for reoccurring payment.
- Create one user account to manage multiple City Utility Department accounts.
- Sign up to receive emails and/or text messages when your bill is due.

Other Payment Options

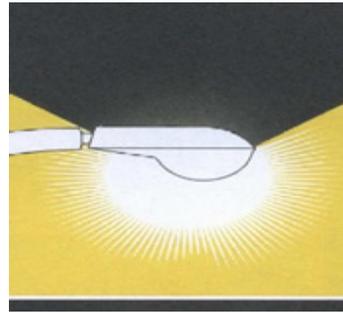
The City offers other ways to pay. Please call our office at 406-863-2456 or 406-863-2457 for details including how to set up automatic ACH withdrawals from your bank account. Of course, we still take payments sent via the USPS mail or using the utility payment drop box at City Hall. We are also happy to take payment at the Cashier/Information window at City Hall.

Please note that the old payment site is no longer accessible, and all online credit card payments will need to occur in the new system. Most people have now migrated to the new payment system but if you still have the old site saved to your tool bar or desktop, please replace it with the new link.

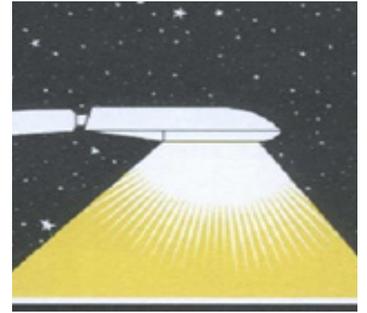
If you have any issues or questions signing up, or need help with other payment methods, please let us know using the phone numbers above. We are here to help and excited with our new system!

OUTDOOR LIGHTING REQUIREMENTS

Since 2006, the City of Whitefish has had “dark skies” lighting standards in place in our zoning code. Dark Sky Lighting protects the City from light pollution, including excessive glare, light trespass, or sky glow, enabling a better view of the stars at night, and improving people's health. Both residences and commercial businesses are required to have “dark sky” compliant lighting. That means all outdoor lights must be fully shielded so that just the ground under the light is illuminated. The only exceptions are residential lighting up to 45 watts or 400 lumens, which may be unshielded but must be under an opaque structure, and 60 watts or 1,000 lumens, which must be partially shielded with an opaque lens, under an opaque structure, and the bulb cannot be visible. Floodlights must be shielded and angled so that no light is directed above a 25 degree angle, and timers or motion sensors are recommended. Lights that do not comply can usually be easily retrofitted. Please see Section 11-3-25 of the City Code for more information. Do yourselves and your neighbors a favor and make sure all lighting at your home or business complies with Dark Sky Lighting standards.



Not Shielded



Fully Shielded



BUILDING TIPS: Pouring Concrete in the Winter

We often get questions about winter construction and, more specifically, whether concrete construction can occur in the winter months. Although not ideal, concrete can be poured during the winter with special precautions.

Winter concrete construction is more complicated for several reasons:

- Concrete achieves strength by a chemical process called hydration. The process happens when water combines with Portland cement. The process works best when the water is warm. Cold weather in the winter slows down the chemical reaction and therefore slows down the rate of strength gain. Ultimately, all that really means is you need to wait longer before you apply any significant structural loads to the concrete.
- To combat the low temperatures and slow rate of hydration, chemical accelerators can be used. In the past, calcium was used to accelerate the chemical reaction and increase the strength gain of concrete. However, it was discovered that calcium causes corrosion in the reinforcing steel. Today we use non-chloride accelerators to protect the reinforcing steel from corrosion.
- Concrete plants use warm water when mixing concrete in the winter. As you can imagine this can be quite costly due to the sheer volume of water that must be heated.
- Finally, insulated blankets and heaters are used to protect concrete from freezing when it is first poured. This allows the chemical process of hydration to continue and therefore create stronger concrete.



The Whitefish Building Department strictly follows the American Concrete Institute recommendations listed in Guide 306 when inspecting cold weather concrete. Thermal blankets or heat is required based on ambient temperatures during cold weather. Concrete monitoring is conducted by Building Inspectors to ensure proper procedures are followed. Please contact us at 406-863-2414 with your questions related to building construction.

SEPTIC SYSTEMS

A key component to healthy communities, dating back to Roman society, is the treatment of household wastewater. Nationwide, septic systems serve 1 in 6 households. Because of the more rural setting in Montana, roughly one half of the households have a septic system. Septic systems can offer an effective on-site wastewater treatment solution, but like all infrastructure, they have a finite life expectancy.

Typically, septic systems last for 25 to 30 years when the structure fails, or the drainfield soils lose their capacity to treat effluent. When this happens, human pathogens and nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen may leak into surface water or groundwater putting human health and aquatic life at risk.

Suspected septic leachate contamination in Whitefish Lake was reported in a study conducted by the Flathead Lake Biological Station in the mid-1980s. In 2012, the Whitefish Lake Institute (WLI) published a study that confirmed the presence of septic contaminants at several shoreline locations. The issue has existed for over 30 years, and as more septic systems age and fail, our clean drinking water is at risk.

In response to this ongoing threat to water quality, the Flathead Basin Commission (FBC) recently undertook an effort using a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) model to assess the density and age of Flathead County septic systems using the septic permit database. The model overlays physical risk factors such as depth to groundwater, soil suitability, slope, and distance to surface water.

Preliminary data from the FBC model shows roughly half of the permitted septic systems in the basin are older than 30 years. The model effort is currently working on estimate of even older non-

permitted systems predating permit requirements that began in 1978. The model's preliminary data corroborates the areas of concern on Whitefish Lake identified by the 2012 WLI report.

While water quality monitoring identifies the presence of septic leachate in waterbodies it does not identify the source of the contaminants. To solve this question, WLI and FBC are partnering with Cornell University to conduct a Synthetic DNA study in 2022. Synthetic DNA tracers are benign and have a unique signature that will allow the research team to pinpoint contamination sources in the upland area.

WLI is also participating on a team funded by a National Science Foundation Smart & Connected Communities grant to explore solutions to the septic issue. The group will host a septic leachate summit in May 2022 at the Flathead Lake Biological Station. Experts from across the nation will be invited to share information and develop solution strategies.

The solution strategies are complex. Traditional engineering solutions include replacement of the septic field (if there is space on the property), upgrading to a Level II system, neighborhood or communal systems, or connection to municipal waste services. Underlying the engineered solution is the complex interplay of personal perception and opinion, cost, jurisdictions, and inconvenience.

The science is clear. This issue has not gone away and will only get worse. We as a community will need to define our stewardship legacy. Will we take the steps to tackle this complex issue, or will we kick the can down the road for future generations to address?

Mike Koopal, Executive Director
Whitefish Lake Institute

WHAT CAN I DO?

1. Pump your tank regularly. Regular pumping prevents solids from clogging the drainfield. The tank should be pumped every 3 to 5 years depending on use.
2. Conserve water. Use water-saving fixtures and conserve water in the kitchen, bath, and laundry to reduce the amount of wastewater the soil must absorb.
3. Repair or replace leaky fixtures. Leaky fixtures add excess water to the drainfield; fixing them promptly will reduce the amount of water the soil must absorb.
4. Maintain proper cover and landscape over the drainfield. Make sure the drainfield is covered with grass to prevent soil erosion. A crowned drainfield and surface swales will prevent excess surface water from entering the trench. Also, make certain that gutters, downspouts, patios, walkways, and driveways do not divert water on to the drainfield or septic tank.
5. Limit what goes into the septic tank. Things like diapers, coffee grounds, cigarette butts, kitty litter, hygiene products, cooking oil, and grease do not decompose may end up blocking the drainpipes. Solvents, cleaning fluids, paint, motor oil, gasoline, or other chemical substances kill the beneficial bacteria in the tank and soil. Please don't treat your septic tank like a dump, dispose trash in an appropriate manner.
6. Do not drive or build over any part of your septic system.
7. Have the septic pumper inspect the system components at the time of pump out. Check for signs of problems that can be corrected before a failure occurs.
8. Monitor your system. Watch for toilets, showers, tubs, or washing machines draining sluggishly, standing water around your septic tank or leach field, or an awful smell in any of these areas. It's time to get your tank pumped! Please, do not wait before it's too late!

WHITEFISH COMMUNITY LIBRARY (WCL)

Thank you to Anne Moran for her years of volunteer service as Chair of the Board of Trustees. Her term as Chair expired this past year. We are excited to see Vice Chair Sarah Ericson assume the Chair position. The Trustees' also welcomed Trustee-in-Training Jessica Tubbs to the Board as a voting member. The Board will now be interviewing interested applicants to fill the Trustee-in-Training position.

On June 1, 2021 the library resumed its normal pre-COVID hours opening 6 days a week. All services including public access computers, seating and restrooms were made available, along with two popular in-house programs; "READ" (Reading Education Assistant Dogs) and "Learn to Code". We are in the process of clearing the community room of items stored during a remodeling project and hope to have it available to the public soon.

We have welcomed a new after school program "Game Day" focusing on middle and high school students interested in playing a variety of board games. "Game Day" is every other Thursday from 4-6pm. Call the Library (406.862.9914) for more information.

WCL welcomed Rusty Wire as a new parttime librarian. You will also see a familiar face at the Circulation desk as Kelly Peppmeier is volunteering every Tuesday morning.

WCL is also happy to welcome Ms. Nicholson's 5th grade class from the Middle School to the library every Thursday to browse the collection and check out materials.

Youth Services Librarian, Mary Drew Powers, has done an excellent job of creating safe out-of-doors programs

to entertain our young readers during COVID. Please join her every Thursday at 10:30am for fun activities on the library lawn or check our website for more information.

The library thanks Whitefish Credit Union for sponsoring our Summer Reading Challenge with a generous contribution of \$1,000 which was donated to the Whitefish Meals-on-Wheels program. Participants in this year's program were awarded points for the number of minutes they read, recording their minutes by adding bricks to a path leading from the library to various locations in Whitefish and finally reaching the destination at the Senior Center. Each brick represented \$1 towards the goal. This is the second year Whitefish Credit Union has sponsored this program and we are grateful for their support.

The library has been reorganizing our juvenile, picture book and Young Adult collections. You will notice more spacing on the shelves making it easier to locate materials. This is a "project-in-process".

WCL received the Excellent Library Service Award from the State Library for the 9th year in a row. This award is recognition for providing excellent library service to the community.

This year the library will begin the process of finding homes for our over 230+ snow folk. In previous years we displayed them throughout the library from first snow to Winter Carnival. This year we are planning a surprise game that will allow children to pick out their favorite snow person and provide it with a forever home. Watch our website for further details.

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

<https://whitefishlibrary.org/>

Library Hours

Monday: 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Tues - Thurs 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Friday: 11 a.m to 5 p.m.
Saturday 12:00 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday: Closed

Follow us on Facebook for updates:
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Happy Holidays!



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