From your Commissioners

Febrary 2024

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FERGUS COUNTY UPDATE



Fergus County Small Town Summit

The planning committee for this exciting event is comprised of the Fergus County Commissioners, staff members from Snowy Mountain Development, local business members, and several residents from the small towns in Fergus County. We are excited about the plans that are coming together, and confident that the day will be informative, educational and inspirational. If you are passionate about your town, mark you calendar for March 21!

What does <u>opportunity</u> look like in <u>your</u> town?

- Creating Hometown Housing for your community.
  Available lots, New Builds or Rehabs, Sales, Rentals
- New kids in your school
- New volunteers for your ambulance & fire
- New revenue for you community stores
- New business growth

Small Town Summitt

Thursday, March 21st
9 AM to 4 PM
Venue TBA

We want to hear about the opportunities you see in your community and provide you with the tools to achieve your goals.

Topics:
- Removing Red Tape
- Funding
-Q&A Panels
And more!

4-H Parli Pro team wins State and go's on to Regionals

At the beginning of January four of our senior 4-H members, Emma Farley, Hailey Gallagher, Justine Curry, and Maggie Barth earned the opportunity to compete in Parliamentary Procedure at the Western National Roundup in Denver, Colorado. Parliamentary Procedure is the process of running a business meeting in which motions are proposed, amended, approved, and defeated with specific rules to enable organization and orderly resolutions. Each of the girls filled a position; President, Vice President, Secretary or Treasurer and then carried out a business meeting. During the competition they are required to work through problems such as tabling a motion, rescinding a motion and/or amending a motion to name a few. These girls have been working with their coach Cassandra Cox (4-H Alumni) on going to nationals for at least the last four years. Though they placed fourth they walked away knowing that they did well and achieved their goal in competing at the national level. This was a wonderful adventure for the girls. They have gained skills they will use throughout their life and made friendships they will have forever. The girls started their career competing at our county level (County Public Speaking Day) in what we call Gavel Games (Parliamentary Procedure). Throughout their parliamentary 4-H career, they have taught many workshops throughout the state and presented their parliamentary procedure to our 4-H community. They also presented their parliamentary procedure (Gavels Games) for the extension agents across Montana in hopes they start implementing gavel games in their counties. These 5 strong young ladies have shown leadership, determination and what it means to make the best better.



NOW HIRING

- ·Road & Bridge/Road, Bridge, & Gravel Crew Member-perm/full-time
- District Court/Office Clerk-perm/full-time
- Sheriff's Office/Detention Officer-perm/full-time

Contact Fergus County HR 406-535-3120

Why Work for Fergus County?

Fergus County offers an excellent benefits package! Full-time employees receive a health insurance contribution of $1,214 per month, which covers the basic health plan, dental, and vision; employees earn 8 hours of sick leave monthly and 10 hours of vacation monthly and receive ten paid Holidays each year. Our retirement is through MPERA, and the County contributes 8.77% each pay period. We have the options of flex spending accounts, life insurance, AFLAC, and Nationwide. Employees earn .10 cents for every hour worked upon completion of their first year of employment (based on 2,080 hours). This rate increases by .10 cents per hour for every hour worked based on years of service. We also offer a Wellness Program where qualifying employees receive up to $40 worth of Chamber Bucks monthly.

County Commission Meetings

- Thur. Feb. 8, 10 am
- Wed. Feb. 21, 5:15 pm
- Fri. Feb. 23. 10 am

All meetings are held in the Commissioner's Office, 2nd floor Courthouse Annex



Congratulation Marlo for 20 years in County Nurses Office!
Thank you for your dedicated service to Fergus County.

Thank you!
Safety Committee and Maintenance

The back steps in the annex now have railings on both sides, and are much safer to use. The additional railing was a recommendation from our County Safety Committee, it was paid for and installed by the Maintenance Department.



If you would like to be added to email list to receive this letter email jsaunders@co.fergus.mt.us

Roy Fire Hall, Feb. 5th @ 6:30 pm
Denton Community Center, Feb. 6, @ 6:30 pm

Fergus County Sheriff's Office Update

Last year ushered in a new Sheriff's Office administration and lots of updates to the department. There were 4876 calls for service for 2023 compared to 3805 calls in 2022. Our staff can feel the increase in population across the county and we are striving to remain proactive with our law enforcement functions.

Our K9 program is in full swing. Masa is a female Belgian Malinois from the Czech Republic. Sgt. Tyler Wilson and Masa spent a month last summer training in South Carolina before bringing Masa to Fergus County. Sgt. Wilson has come a long way with training and Masa has been deployed multiple times for drug investigations and once for fugitive apprehension. Sgt. Wilson has done a great job working in the schools and demonstrating K9 functions to students.

We have several new vehicles added to our patrol fleet. We have several Pursuit Dodge Durango's and one Dodge Charger. We are hoping to have a cost savings with police rated vehicles compared to civilian model pickups. The new vehicles are more economical and look sharp.

We have implemented a drone program. This equipment was a joint effort between Sheriff, Fire Warden and Search and Rescue. We have deployed the drone for missing people, flood damage, structure and wildland fires, crime scene documentation, and some limited law enforcement functions. Lt. Kirby Dempster is our FAA licensed pilot. We have new uniforms. I got tired of the "What Can Brown Do For You" UPS jokes so we are black shirts with yellow SHERIFF letters. It looks much better.

We have also created multi-agency task force with approximately 12 agencies. This helps us share intelligence and extend our reach during investigations.

We have created a new medical program in the detention center. We have a paramedic working with us in the jail from CMMC. Angela Phelps is a community paramedic and is providing inmates with better health care while saving the county thousands of dollars.

We have lots more going on but in short, our goal for 2024 is to make the Sheriff's Office more productive and efficient while providing exceptional service to the residents of Fergus County.

Thank you,
Sheriff Ryan Peterson

Please see below the new rate sheet for services from the Fergus County Planning Office.

Fergus County Planning Office		
Service	**Base Fee**	**Additions**
Fergus County Development Permit *(This permit will be obtained prior to any construction in order to identify any property, road or floodplain limitations, to assign a physical address and receive and encroachment permit if needed)*	$50	$500 *(ifconstruction begins prior to obtaining the permit)*
Certificate of Survey Review	$450	
Survey Administrative Rule and Examining Land Surveyor Review Adminstrative Rules of Montana (ARM) Examining Land Surveyor (ELS) review of legal land title survey documents being publicly filed or recorded at the County Clerk and Recorder's office.		
Minor Subdivision (5 or fewer lots)		
Examining Land Surveyor (ELS)	Billed for actual cost.	
Pre-Application Meeting	$300	
Preliminary Plat (includes staff report and recommended conditions of Approval)	$2,000	plus $100 for each lot over 3
Minor Subdivision Final Plat Submittal	$750	plus $100 for each lot over 3
	$3,050	
Major Subdivision or Planned Unit Developments (Includes full report/suggested findings for County use)		
Examining Land Surveyor (ELS)	Billed for Actual cost.	
Pre-Application Meeting	$450	
Preliminary Plat (includes staff report and recommended conditions of Approval)	$4,000	plus $100 for each lot over 6
Final Plat Submittal	$1,000	plus $50 for each lot over 6
	$5,450	
Floodplain Review	$500, *plus travel from Billings*	Additional $250 if construction begins prior to review.
Floodplain Violation Inspection, each visit	$250	
Building for Lease or Rent (BLR) Permit Review	$800	
Variance Requests	$250	
Plat Amendments/Review	$250	
		Approved January 2024