Service Saturday Traffic Circle Clean Up

On October 12, generous student volunteers from the Davidson Honors College Service Saturday program helped Neighborhood Ambassadors clean up traffic circles at Gerald & Keith, Sussex & Helen, and McLeod & Ronald. Volunteers pulled weeds, picked up leaves, mulched, planted some new native plants, and cleaned up trash and graffiti around the traffic circles. Naomi and Claudia from the National Wildlife Federation educated volunteers about traffic circle maintenance and, specifically, certifying a traffic circle as wildlife habitat.

Many environments, including the gardens around the University Center and several breweries around Missoula, are certified wildlife habitats! In a habitat, food, water, shelter, and a place to raise young are integral elements. Volunteers constructed butterfly puddlers for insects and small amphibians to have consistent access to water. Also, all of the traffic circles received new and shiny certification signs. Thanks to all of our volunteers for their great work!

Interested in certifying or adopting a traffic circle? You can put your green thumb to work with a group of neighbors, as multiple parties can adopt a traffic circle. Also, you can apply for grants from the City of Missoula for traffic circle maintenance. Check out the City of Missoula website (www.ci.missoula.mt.us/1544/Adopt-a-Traffic-Circle) to learn more about which traffic circles in your area are available to be adopted!

Notes from the Fall University Neighborhood Council Meeting

On October 1st at Hellgate High School, students, neighbors, and neighborhood and city council members got together to discuss the goings-on in the University District over the summer and into the Fall. The Clark Fork River Coalition informed neighbors that it is important to clean up the litter on our neighborhood streets in order to prevent river pollution directly from our storm drains. The University District is also working on grant applications for neighborhood improvement projects that will appear in the Spring. Stay tuned for the Spring General Neighborhood Council Meeting!

Have an idea for the neighborhood? Email university@missoula-neighborhoods.org
Getting Ready for the Holiday Season: Is your vacation rental ready?

Contributed by the Missoula City-County Health Department

As the leaves fall and the chill creeps into the air, holiday preparations are being made around the house. Whether it's blowing out your sprinklers, turning your heat on for the first time, or preparing for guests to visit for holiday meals, there is a lot of housework. The Missoula City-County Health Department can help with preparing your home to receive visitors for vacation rentals. The state of Montana requires Tourist Homes to go through local health department plan review, and then get an annual operating license.

What is the point of a health license?

Our job, at Missoula City-County Health Department (MCCHD), is to evaluate conditions in your tourist home that could affect the health of the traveling public. We look at general housekeeping, pest control, laundry practices, chemical storage areas, bathroom and kitchen safety concerns, garbage storage, drinking water and wastewater disposal. Licensing helps you know how to comply with applicable regulations, and benefits both Montana's tourist industry, and your guests, by maintaining safe and healthy conditions.

What is a Tourist Home (sometimes called a Vacation Rental)?

A tourist home is a private home or condominium that is not occupied by an owner or manager and that is rented, leased, or furnished in its entirety to transient guests, daily or weekly.

Is a Tourist Home allowed in my neighborhood?

That depends on several things. If your Tourist Home is within Missoula city limits, contact the city's Development Services (406-552-6630) at 435 Ryman St. If your Tourist Home is outside of city limits, contact Missoula County Community and Planning Services (406-258-4642) at 323 W. Alder St. Ensure a Tourist Home is allowed at your location, before completing the health department plan review.

How often are Tourist Homes inspected?

Inspections are required before licensing and upon complaint. We'll also do a routine inspection about once every 3 years.

How much does a license cost?

The annual state license fee for a single Tourist Home is $40 payable by check or money order to Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS). This check, for the first year of licensing, will be collected by MCCHD, once the plan review is approved, and a pre-operational inspection has been successfully completed. Plan review for a Tourist Home in Missoula County is $120. Additional fees may apply if water ($120), or wastewater ($55) review is necessary. This review is conducted by the Missoula City-County Health Department.

What is involved in a Tourist Home inspection?

There are a number of public health issues addressed, including but not limited to:

- Is the home clean?
- Is there any sign of pest infestation (bed bugs, rodents, etc.), past or present?
- Where, when, and how is the laundry washed, dried and stored?
- Where, when, and how are the dishes washed and sanitized?
- When and how are kitchens and bathrooms cleaned and sanitized?
- Is the water coming out of the tap at least 100 °F, but not over 120°F?

Can the Cats, a food drive sponsored by the Missoula Food Bank, will be occurring from November 9-16. Support the UM Food Bank during this time by donating online or in person!

Sunday Sweepers has been busy this year!

The Sunday after Homecoming Weekend, 1000 New Gardens club members helped us clean up the neighborhood! If you are a part of an ASUM student group and want to earn $100, sign up to be a part of Sunday Sweepers on November 10th or 17th! Sign up here: www.umt.edu/sundaysweepers