

# Neighborhood Newsletter

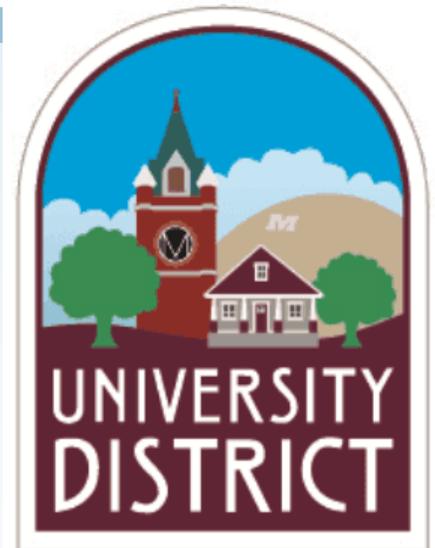
## Welcome to Neighborhood News

Greetings neighbors. Due to the onset of Covid-19 in March, ensuing stay at home orders and ongoing recommendations for social distancing, we haven't seen each other in a while. But summer has arrived and many of us are emerging from our homes to work, play and enjoy some time with family and friends.

In the spirit of reconnecting, your leadership team thought it might be helpful to put together a short newsletter with updates and goings on. We've got information about neighbors uniting during Covid to support each other, resources on how to create wild backyards, information about our neighborhood greenway and a call for help in maintaining our urban forest. We hope you take some time to read and share it and contact us with any questions, ideas or concerns. We're honored to serve and remain hopeful we can meet again soon.

Stay healthy,

Dori Gilels & Darcy Caron, Co-Chairs, University District Leadership Team



### Leadership Team

Dori Gilels, Co-chair  
Darcy Caron, Co-chair  
Jennifer Copley, Secretary  
Bryce Rowe, Treasurer  
Rick Caron  
Julie Stephenson  
Jordan Lyons, UM Representative

### Email:

[University@ci.missoula.mt.us](mailto:University@ci.missoula.mt.us)

### Website:

[www.ci.missoula.mt.us/287/  
University-District](http://www.ci.missoula.mt.us/287/University-District)

### University District

#### City Council Representatives

##### Ward 3

Heather Harp and Gwen Jones

##### Ward 4

Jesse Ramos and Amber Sherrill

### University of Montana

#### Neighborhood Ambassadors

Phone: (406)243-2017

Website: [umt.edu/neighborhood](http://umt.edu/neighborhood)

Neighborhood Ambassadors are UM students who promote positive relationships within our neighborhood. If an issue with your student neighbor is impacting your quality of life, Neighborhood Ambassadors can mediate situations including noise, parking, or disruptive pets.



## Neighbors United

Neighbors United was formed in April to provide assistance to U District residents during the pandemic. The group has helped get groceries and pay for dog food, among other things. If you or someone you know needs support, call (406) 219-1843. The group is also creating a storytelling project and organizing events in the neighborhood. If you have a story or photo to share, email [u.district.neighbors.united@gmail.com](mailto:u.district.neighbors.united@gmail.com).

Want to see your neighbors from a safe distance? Host a front yard BBQ every Friday or join a Slow Roll on the third Thursday at 5:30. Join your neighbors at Bonner Park to walk, bike, skate or stroll through the neighborhood.

## UNIVERSITY NEIGHBORS

Sharing our neighborhood with UM affords us an incredibly diverse community. It's likely one of the reasons many of us chose to live here. Maintaining a sense of community and ensuring we support our neighbors is important to all of us. Looking for ways to be involved? Check out these organizations. Montana Racial Equality Project ([themtrep.org](http://themtrep.org)) and Empower MT ([empowermt.org](http://empowermt.org)).

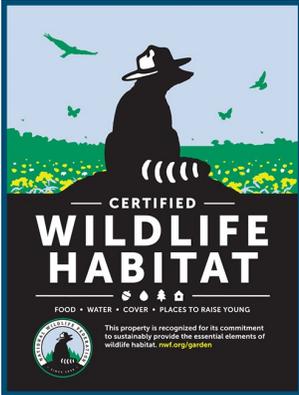


## NEIGHBORHOOD GREENWAYS

Looking for a safe place to ride your bike? Check out the Gerald Avenue Greenway. The Missoula Bike and Pedestrian Advisory Board has helped establish greenways to encourage slower traffic in our neighborhoods for walkers, skaters, bikers, strollers and other users. The Gerald Street Greenway connects our neighborhood to other bike/pedestrian city systems and parks including the Clark Fork River Corridor. We would like to find ways to highlight this greenway with signs or other features and would love your ideas. To learn more visit <https://arcg.is/raa1L>.

## Engage Missoula

Engage Missoula is a NEW city website where residents can access timely information about city projects. It's designed to improve citizen participation in city business. The site has dedicated staff, key dates and decision making points and easy ways for you to ask questions and provide comments when it's convenient for you. To learn more visit [engagemissoula.com](http://engagemissoula.com).



### Certify your Backyard as a Wildlife Habitat

As one creeps into retirement, yard work for some is no longer a priority. When my wife and I came home to the university neighborhood it sure wasn't for us. We settled on all native plants, trees and even a plot of native prairie grass. Our goals included low maintenance, little watering and something that looked attractive.

This spring Claudia Hewston, National Wildlife Federation Education and Outreach Assistant, shared with the leadership team the Federation's "Garden for Wildlife" program, outlining what citizens must do on their property to be certified as "wildlife habitat."

Realizing we were 90% there, we added a few bird houses and consistent watering sources and we became a Certified Wildlife Habitat. Now we enjoy a unique yard that's low maintenance with a host of visitors through all the seasons.

**For more information on wildlife habitat certification, visit the National Wildlife Federation website at [nwf.org/garden-for-wildlife](http://nwf.org/garden-for-wildlife)**

## TREES FOR MISSOULA

Trees for Missoula is seeking the help of homeowners to properly water street trees this summer. As Missoula enters its hottest, driest months of July, August, and September our urban forest will benefit from proper watering to keep the trees healthy.

To find valuable information about where, when, and how to water your trees whether newly planted, maturing, or matured trees, check out the Trees for Missoula website at [treesformissoula.org/watering-trees](http://treesformissoula.org/watering-trees).

