

# BECON

9-09-2022

Guests this morning included Mark Debourg. His daughter was the recipient of our Youth of the Year scholarship this past year. This is Mark's second time attending breakfast. Also attending breakfast this am was Casey Williams, the Yellowstone County Emergency Disaster Coordinator and also our guest speaker.

## Announcements

- Ed said that the numbers were coming in from the Food Truck Battle and it is north of \$80,000. When E. F. Kaufman talks, PEOPLE LISTEN!
- This is the final week for collecting school supplies and toiletries. If you still want to donate anything, you can contact Shawnee. She said that if you haven't had time to do the shopping yourself, she will be more than willing to shop for you!
- There will be a 9/11 service on Sunday at 12 noon at Fireman's Memorial Park in Laurel.
- Bryce made another announcement that October 8<sup>th</sup> is the Friends of the NRA Banquet. For more details contact Bryce. Also, a flyer was attached to the Becon email from last week.
- Dirks Bentley is this Saturday. There are still a couple of events coming up that have not been closed out. Make sure to log in and choose to work or not to work. Craig prefers the "choose to work" tab in case anyone wanted to know.
- Ales for Trails is still looking for a few pourers for tonight. If you are interested, please contact Darryl or Tanya.
- Cavin passed out some thank you letters this am. We received one from Tim Crowley for our donation for Kids N Cowboys and we also received one from the City of Laurel EMS for the donation.

As mentioned above, Casey Williams was our guest speaker. Casey is from Arkansas and one day decided he wanted to retire in Montana and was looking online and found a position for an Emergency Disaster Coordinator. So, to Montana he came!

His job is to plan ahead for any type of disaster that can be thought of and believe me he can think of a few. After thinking of all these terrible events, then he and his team have to try and figure out how best to proceed if they happen. The index for Yellowstone County on potential threats/hazards is over 300 pages. Some of the biggest potential disasters are issues with the surrounding refineries/plants that have hazardous materials, Railroad disasters (more hazardous issues) and flooding. A couple of severe issues that didn't quite make the cream of this crop were wildfires and IRS agents.

It is estimated that 80 plus thousand containers of hazardous material travel through Yellowstone County daily via railway. Also, flooding is responsible for the single largest disaster that has happened in Billings in recorded history, the 1937 Flood. That coupled with our recent water issues signifies a serious issue from Mother Nature on the H2O front.

Some other potential disaster issues that his team needs to plan for are elections, disease, and EMS response outside of Billings itself. Homeland Security has placed election disasters as a top 5 issue due to our current political and social unrest. Also, ambulance service outside of Billings is "terrible" and it doesn't appear that it is going to be fixed any time soon. More recently, because of the flooding that we have experienced, Legionnaire's disease seems to be an issue.

## Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

Dierks Bentley Sept 10<sup>th</sup>

United Way Fund Raiser  
Sept 15<sup>th</sup>

Justin Moore Sept 15<sup>th</sup>

Fusion Fight League  
Sept 17<sup>th</sup>



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Casey rounded out the morning by fielding questions and telling stories about some of the events that have taken place since he has been here. I will say it takes a special personality to be able to think of the potential problems that could arise in Billings and how to fix them and still be able to function in and around Billings.

Next Friday is a business meeting, so no guests please.

