

BREAKFAST EXCHANGE CLUB

BECON

November 22, 2024

Guests.

- Michelle Harkins with Billings BIRD.

Announcements.

- Maria – shared thanks for the Grateful Giving event that fed 900 families, with help from BEC. She will be shopping to fill boxes on Sunday for the MT at 5pm distribution. Helping hands to pack the boxes on Saturday.
- Trina – the Cat/Griz board to support the BEC Foundation is full. There will be quarterly payouts. She thanked Tony for all of his help. Tony will post updates during the game. The Club presented a check to Trina for Hoodies for Heroes.
- Brynn – Bus tour of lights for seniors is 12/3 at 6pm. There will be 2 buses.
- Dina –
 - Tree decorating on 12/4 at 5:15pm. Helping hands are welcome!
 - Westend BEC is hosting a Spooky Christmas at the Billings Convention Center, costumes optional. We have 2 tickets available. Trina will attend.

Reminder. No meeting 11/28 due to Thanksgiving.

Presentation.

- Michelle Harkins with Billings BIRD. The Billings Industrial Revitalization District, BIRD, is a 501(c)6 contracted with the City of Billings to manage the East Billings Urban Renewal District Tax Increment Finances, also called TIF. Established in 2007 to assist with the blighted community, founded by business owners in the area.
- The area is Thirsty Street east to Main Street and Montana Ave to 7th.
- TIF helps with infrastructure, construction, safety sources, new lights, landscaping, fencing, security, green space and more to help revitalize an area so it can thrive.
- There are 6 TIF projects in various phases right now. 17 years of funding remain with this TIF.
- In the spring, the last unpaved road will be paved. There are also lots of street light improvements. 7am-7pm security will be launching soon.
- They recently launched a mural festival, where 17 murals were painted on industrial buildings in one week. (There's a map you can download online to check them all out!)
- As a newer mom, she's been inspired to help clean up North Park. Some of the improvements include: dog park, playground, bathrooms, and disc golf.
- She is currently raising monies for The Courts at North Park, which includes updated surfaces, fencing, pickleball courts and benches.
- She recently applied for a \$20M grant to renovate the community center. There is also a 150-housing unite project, mixed development, and a protected bike path that will eventually connect to the Heights. It also includes a new boiler for Head Start's building.
- They recently hosted a successful Renaissance Festival. All events are community funded/sponsored and no TIF monies are used for this.

Respectfully submitted,
Kim Lewis