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CITY OFFERS \$20,000 IN GRANTS FOR NEIGHBORHOOD PROJECTS

Have you noticed the large, colorful Riverfront Mural just off South Third Street West or the beautiful improvements to the Madison Street median? Both these projects were funded by last year's Neighborhood Project Funds. Other examples of projects are the traffic signal boxes that have been transformed with artwork and the Moon-Randolph Homestead 10-Year Strategic Plan. There are many other projects throughout the city, such as trails and amenities, park surveys and bear awareness projects. During the past 17 years, the Neighborhood Project Funds have helped Missoula become a more appealing and livable place, with special thanks due to the neighborhood volunteers who make it all happen.

The Neighborhood Project Funds make it possible for industrious Missoula residents to gather groups of volunteers, apply for funding and do noteworthy work in their own parts of town. Applications for grants of up to \$3,000 each are due Oct. 6 at 5 p.m. A pre-application workshop will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 9, at 6 p.m. in the Jack Reidy Conference Room at 140 W. Pine St. Applications and information are available on the City website at <http://www.ci.missoula.mt.us/304/Neighborhood-Grants>.

Applications are reviewed by a Community Forum committee, City Council representatives and City staff and are awarded on a competitive basis. Funds are approved by the Community Forum, a representative body of Neighborhood Councils, and the City Council.

Neighborhood Project Funds are set aside to build a sense of community and pride through neighborhood improvement, neighborhood planning and neighborhood outreach. The grants seek to improve the physical dynamics of the neighborhood. Other funded projects have taken on city inventories, such as seeking out areas without complete sidewalks or little land for parks. These inventories have then been used in larger City plans.

This year's grant cycle for Neighborhood Project Funds will begin with a workshop:

Date: Tuesday, Sept. 9, 6 p.m. *Location:* 140 W. Pine St. in the Jack Reidy Conference Room

Come to this workshop with your ideas. We will

- read through a successful application;
- describe the committee review process and use of funds;
- answer questions about your application; and
- provide technical assistance for grant writing.

Application deadline is Oct. 6 at 5 p.m. Citizens interested in applying for funds are strongly encouraged to attend the workshop.

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