



City of Shelby

March 2026 Newsletter

DEAR SHELBY RESIDENT,

With spring around the corner, the city kicks off our Annual Spring Clean Up. More information on this is provided in this newsletter.

Friday, April 24th is Arbor Day in Shelby and the city would greatly appreciate volunteers to help clean up our town. Please find more information on this later in the newsletter.

The annual Consumer Confidence Report is available on-line. Our water system is tested monthly to ensure the quality of drinking water. We thank our city crew for their care and maintenance as we have an outstanding water system providing good, clean water to the people of North Central Montana. As always, you can find city information on the City of Shelby webpage at www.shelbymt.com or follow us on Facebook at City of Shelby, Montana. . Most important, please call City Hall if you have questions or concerns. Our number is (406) 434-5222.

Happy Spring!

Special points of

Interest:

- Water Report
- Recycling Update
- Spring Cleanup
- Arbor Day
- Tree Care
- Civic Center Schedule

JOB FAIR

The Shelby Area Chamber of Commerce and Shelby Public School District have partnered to host the 3rd annual Job/Career Fair on Wednesday, April 15, 2026, from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM, in the Shelby High School Gymnasium. All local businesses are invited to participate.

If you're looking for employees, whether it is seasonal summer help or long term, this event will be a great opportunity for your business to connect with potential employees in the local area. Even if you are not looking for an employee at the moment, we still encourage your attendance as an opportunity to talk about your career field or business to our local students. Career fairs are an excellent way to help students learn about new fields they might not have previously considered.

This will be a great chance for businesses, local youth, and the general public to connect with the community. We are excited to help get Shelby's 3rd annual Job/Career Fair available to the general public and the students in the area. Together, we believe this event is a great opportunity for the Chamber & School District to give back to the community.

Open to the public and **NO FEE** to attend, and tables and chairs will be provided for businesses. We expect all employers to arrive between 9:00-9:30 AM to set up, so we are ready to go at 10:00 AM.

Please contact Shane Adams at 406-210-9533 or shelbymtcoc@gmail.com with questions and/or if you would like to register for this event. All participants need to be registered by April 9, 2026.



Citations are now being issued for all delinquent dog & cat licenses. They were delinquent as of January 31st.

CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT - OUR WATER



The annual Consumer Confidence Report will NOT be mailed out to individual water customers. A copy of the City of Shelby water report will be available for pick up at City Hall or the City Shop. You can also visit the city website at shelbymt.com to view the report. The City will post a direct link to the report on our website once

RECYCLING UPDATES

The Shelby Recycling Association has unfortunate news in that cardboard recycling will no longer be offered as part of the Shelby Recycling Program. The group and City of Shelby worked in partnership with the Pondera County Recycling Program and North Central Montana Joint Refuse District over 12 years ago to apply for grant funding from the Montana DEQ to purchase a cardboard baler and cardboard containers to recycle cardboard. The Refuse District acted as the "hub", transporting the cardboard trailers to and from the Refuse landfill where the cardboard was baled and sold. Over the last few years, the market has greatly declined, making cardboard recycling expensive and no longer possible for our rural communities.

The Shelby Recycling Association hopes that in the future, if prices turn around, they might purchase their own baler and once again offer cardboard recycling in our community. The group is very grateful for the communities support of recycling in Shelby and hope citizens continue to drop off aluminum and tin at the recycling site located at 514 1st St. North. Please remember to crush the aluminum cans and place in the trailer. The tin can be left in bags and put into the metal bins adjacent to the trailer. Recycle Shelby is looking forward to the Annual Mountain of Cans Challenge with Shelby Elementary students in late April or early May.



With spring around the corner, the city kicks off our Annual Spring Clean Up. This year you can call City Shop at (406) 434-5564 the week of April 13th to have your items placed on the pick-up list. Items such as furniture, tree branches, lumber, etc. are accepted. All items will then be picked up during the week of April 20th through Arbor Day, April 23rd. The city cannot pick up appliances that have Freon unless the Freon has been professionally removed (i.e. freezers, refrigerators, air conditioners etc.), please call the City Shop for questions regarding freon removal. Tires and batteries cannot be picked up as well. Please call the City Shop for details on how these items can be properly disposed of. Once you have called to be added to the pickup list please place items along the alley or location agreed upon with city staff.

DUST OFF YOUR RAKES AND SHOVELS...ARBOR DAY 2026!

It's the time of year again when communities throughout the nation dust off their shovels and rakes and participate in Arbor Day activities that improve neighborhoods, brighten city parks, clean roadways and foster care and concern for the communities in which they live.

Friday, April 24th has been declared as Arbor Day in Shelby. Through care and commitment, the community of Shelby has been named a Tree City USA for yet another year thanks to city employees, local organizations, businesses, students and individuals who each year initiate projects to care for and maintain community parks and public areas through tree planting and clean up.

The City of Shelby encourages groups, businesses, organizations and students to join in this year's Arbor Day celebration. If you'd like to select a city park, fence line, roadway or other area of the community to clean, please call Raquel Salois at 434-5222 or email raquel@shelbymt.com. Schedules do not always allow for cleanup to take place on that day, but the City would greatly appreciate your participation as your schedule allows.

Trees have made a positive impact in Shelby creating a much more walkable, bikeable, welcoming and inviting community. Help us continue to make Shelby a great place to live, work and raise our families.



- TREES ARE AN INVESTMENT IN THE COMMUNITY -

Trees contribute so much to a community. They clean our air, protect our drinking water, provide shade and shelter and create a healthy community. The cost to replace trees just in Shelby's public spaces would cost over 3 million dollars! Each year the city applies for Arbor Day and Urban Forestry Development funds to purchase and plant more trees within our public spaces. This investment is diversifying our tree population, beautifying our parks and public areas and enhancing our community. The city hopes homeowners will follow municipal codes in investing in their trees.

Title 9 -Chapter 7 of the City's municipal codes addresses TREES which includes trees, shrubs, bushes and other woody vegetation. Of utmost importance is their care & maintenance. Here are some important sections to reference when planting and pruning trees.

9-7-4: Spacing:

B. Curbs & Sidewalks: The distance trees may be planted from curbs or curb lines and sidewalks will be in accordance with the three (3) species size classes listed in section 9-7-3, and no trees may be planted closer than two feet (2') for small trees and three feet (3') for medium or large trees to any curb or sidewalk.

C. Street Corners: No street tree shall be planted within thirty-five feet (35') of any street corner, measured from the point of nearest intersecting curbs or curb lines.

D. Fireplug: No street tree shall be planted within ten feet (10') of any fireplug.

E. Utilities: No street trees other than those species accepted as small trees by the city council may be planted under, or within ten feet (10') of any overhead utility wire. (Ord. 749, 8-21-2000)

9-7-8: Pruning and Corner Clearance:

A. Pruning Required: Every owner of any tree overhanging any street or right of way within the city shall prune the branches so that such branches shall not severely obstruct the light from any street lamp or obstruct the view of any street intersection and so that there shall be a clear space of thirteen feet (13') above the street surface or eight feet (8') above the sidewalk surface.

B. Removal Required: Such owners shall remove all dead, diseased or dangerous trees, or broken or decayed limbs which constitute a menace to the safety of the public.

C. City's Right to Prune: The city shall have the right to prune any tree or shrub on private property when it interferes with the proper spread of light along the street from a streetlight, or interferes with visibility of any traffic control device or sign or sight triangle intersections.

9-7-9: Dead or Diseased Trees:

A. City's Right to Cause Removal: The city shall have the right to cause the removal of any dead or diseased trees on private property within the city, when such trees constitute a hazard to life and property, or harbor insects or disease, which constitute a potential threat to other trees within the city.

B. Notice to Owner: The city council will notify, in writing, the owners of such trees. Removal shall be done by said owners at their own expense within sixty (60) days after the date of service of notice.

C. Failure to Comply: In the event of failure of owners to comply with such provisions, the city shall have the authority to remove such trees and charge the cost of removal on the owner's property tax notice. (Ord. 749, 8-21-2000)

For the complete version, please visit the city website at www.shelbymt.com and click on the *Resources* tab and *Codes & Ordinances* section.

Planting a Tree on Arbor Day

Select a Good Planting Site

Identify the prospective tree planting location and, if it is on city property, find out what municipal department is in charge of planting and caring for city trees. Ask who is responsible for the identified area and what process must be followed to receive permission to plant a tree there.

Concurrently, begin to determine which trees are suitable to your climate, soil conditions, water availability, and size restrictions. Take into consideration overhead wires, room for roots to grow without upsetting sidewalks or streets, and room for the canopy to grow without interfering with traffic or business signage.

Select the Right Tree

In selecting a tree to plant, the first consideration must be what the tree needs and what the area can provide. There are six "tree needs" to compare with your area conditions:

1. Temperature – Trees have a limit to the cold they can endure. Check hardiness zones before choosing a tree.
2. Moisture – Each species can tolerate wet or dry conditions to a different degree.
3. Light – "Shade tolerance" is the term foresters use to rate the light requirements of each species.
4. Pests – Every locality has problems with a particular insect or disease. Some trees are more susceptible to a certain disease than others.
5. Soil – Soil depth, structure, pH and moisture can make the difference between success and failure with a tree. Each species has its preferences.
6. Air pollutants – Chemicals in the air vary with localities; some trees are more tolerant of air pollution than others.

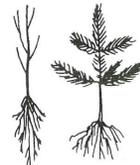
When it is determined if the area and the tree species are compatible, then other factors should be considered. Is the tree being planted to save energy and provide shade? Is it being planted to beautify the grounds? Is providing wildlife habitat important? Will the tree be part of a windbreak or shelterbelt? Determining why a tree is being planted will help identify the ideal species.

Before planting a tree, know how big it will be at maturity – will it have "head space" and root area to grow well? Will roots interfere with the sidewalk, patio, or driveway at maturity? Will it block windows or scenic views or tangle with the utility wires when it is mature? These answers will all help eliminate inappropriate species.

Finally, with the remaining eligible species, choose the tree you want to plant with an eye for its shape, its leaves, and its impact on the area.

After you have chosen a tree that is suitable for the location, get permission to plant from the appropriate city agency. Have your choice approved by your city or state forester. Follow correct planting procedures when planting your tree.

Look for these physical characteristics in your trees



BARE ROOT SEEDLINGS

- Roots should be moist and fibrous.
- Deciduous seedlings up to 10' in height should have roots approximately equal to the stem length; from 12"-24", look for roots approximately 10"-12" long.

NOTE: Bare root trees of large sizes are also available, but at fewer and fewer nurseries. It may be worth locating a source, as this can often save you 30-50 percent of the cost. Careful storage is necessary to prevent drying and planting must be completed before dormancy ends. Success is best with species that continue stem elongation all summer, such as locust, hackberry, and elm.

CONTAINERIZED SEEDLINGS

- The soil plug should be moist and firm.
- Avoid tall, spindly tops. Well-developed roots are more important than height of the seedling.



POTTED TREES

- There should be no large, circling roots. (Check this by feeling down into the top 3"-4" of the pot).
- Pruned roots should be cut cleanly and no wider than an average finger.
- Soil and roots should be joined tightly.





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CIVIC CENTER

669 Park Ave • 434-5114 • jessi@shelbymt.com
Monday - Thursday: 7-9 am & 4-6 pm



You can access the facility 24/7 with a monthly pass and key fob. Many businesses, organizations and churches have taken advantage of the business recreation pass which offers their members half price fees to the facility. Day passes and class passes available during office hours. Stop by, call, or email for questions or schedules. The staff is always happy to give tours of the facility and welcome all to enjoy the facility.

MONDAY

10:00 AM • TAI CHI

TUESDAY

6 AM • HIGH FITNESS

9 AM • SILVER SNEAKERS

WEDNESDAY

10:00 AM • TAI CHI

THURSDAY

6 AM • HIGH FITNESS

9 AM • SILVER SNEAKERS