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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Aug. 26, 2013

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

Have you noticed the beautiful roses in Rose Park, or the lovely new landscaping at the Evelyn Borg Johnson Park on Third Street? These are examples of projects that have used Neighborhood Project Funds to beautify our city. Other examples of projects are the traffic signal boxes that have been transformed with beautiful artwork and the Moon-Randolph Homestead 10-Year Strategic Plan. There are many other projects such as trails and amenities, park surveys and bear awareness projects throughout the city. During the past 17 years, the Neighborhood Project Funds have helped Missoula become a more beautiful and livable place, with special thanks due to the neighborhood volunteers who make it all happen.

Any industrious Missoulians can gather groups of volunteers, apply for funding and do noteworthy work in their own parts of town. The upcoming grant cycle for Neighborhood Project Funds is quickly approaching. Community members may submit grant applications for up to \$3,000 each. 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.

"Neighborhood Grants provide citizens an opportunity to add to larger or ongoing projects in their neighborhoods," said Parks and Recreation Director Donna Gaukler. "This builds a sense of ownership and pride that lasts well beyond the capital improvement installation itself."

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

Date: Thursday, Sept. 19, 6:30 p.m. **Location:** 140 W. Pine St. in the Jack Reidy Conference Room

Come to this workshop with your ideas.

- Read through a successful application.
- Identify the committee review process and use of funds.
- Answer questions about your application.
- Gain technical assistance for grant writing.

Application deadline is Oct. 7 at 5 p.m. Citizens interested in applying for funds are strongly encouraged to attend the workshop. Application and guidelines are posted at www.missoula-neighborhoods.org.

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