

NOTICE OF PROPOSED CONSOLIDATION OF PARK CITY RURAL FIRE DISTRICT AND COLUMBUS RURAL FIRE DISTRICT

Dear Registered Voter and/or Real Property Owner:

You are receiving this notice because the Board of Trustees of Park City Rural Fire District and the Board of Trustees of Columbus Rural Fire District have voted to consolidate the districts and have adopted a consolidation plan pursuant to § 7-33-2120, MCA.

A public hearing on the proposed consolidation will be held before the joint Boards of Trustees as follows:

Date: September 30th, 2026

Time: 6:30 P.M.

Location: 34 Special K Lane (Special K Gymnasium) Columbus, MT. 59019

The purpose of the hearing is to receive public comment regarding the proposed consolidation of Park City Rural Fire District and Columbus Rural Fire District into a single rural fire district pursuant to § 7-33-2120, MCA.

The consolidation plan includes the estimated financial impact of consolidation on the average taxpayer within the proposed district. The estimated financial impact is:

Park City Rural Fire District taxpayers:

\$100,000 taxable value: \$19.51 increase of \$5.62
\$300,000 taxable value: \$58.52 increase of \$16.86
\$600,000 taxable value: \$124.73 increase of \$35.94

Columbus Rural Fire District taxpayers:

\$100,000 taxable value: \$19.51 decrease of \$3.48
\$300,000 taxable value: \$58.52 decrease of \$8.45
\$600,000 taxable value: \$124.73 decrease of \$22.29

The consolidation plan is available for review at Columbus Rural Fire Station, 944 E Pike Ave, Columbus Mt 59019, or online at www.columbusfirerescue.com. For further information, please contact:

Rich Cowger- Fire Chief
PO Box 285, Columbus MT 59019
406-322-4302
rcowger@columbusfirerescue.com

Real property owners in each affected rural fire district may submit written protests opposing consolidation to that district's governing board. Written protests must be received within 30 days of the first publication of notice. (Sept 17- Oct, 16, 2026)

Written protests may be submitted to:

Park City Rural Fire District
Jeanna Fry
PO Box 476
Park City, MT 59063

Columbus Rural Fire District
Lisa Westervelt
PO box 285
944E Pike Ave
Columbus MT 59019

If, within 30 days of the first publication of notice, the owners of 40% or more of the real property in an existing district and owners of property representing 40% or more of the taxable value of property in an existing district protest the consolidation, the consolidation is void.

DATED this 7th day of September, 2026.

PARK CITY RURAL FIRE DISTRICT

By: Chris Southworth
Title: Board Chair

COLUMBUS RURAL FIRE DISTRICT

By: [Signature]
Title: Chairman of Board