

## From the Mayor

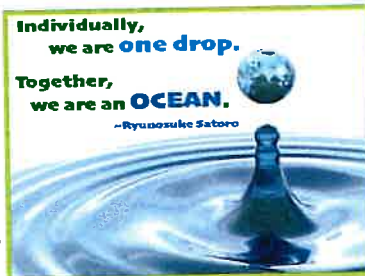
I hope you all had a blessed Christmas and were fortunate enough to spend time with family and friends. These days, spending time with loved ones can happen in many ways, whether in person, over the telephone or via the internet, and I hope you were able to find a way to connect with those important to you. May the true spirit of Christmas continue to reside in your heart and light your path as you say, "Hello, 2023!"

HAVE AN  
ATTITUDE OF  
GRATITUDE

Like many people, I find myself asking, "Where did the year go?" We blink, and the year ends. Even though time seems to fly by, it is important to slow down and take a look at the past. Why? We might not want to remember some things that happened in 2022, but we should take time to reflect on the blessings of the past year.

The list of blessings in our personal lives might be pretty long. We should also try to recognize the blessings bestowed upon our community. Some of the blessings we see; others we take for granted. Whether they are known or unknown, be thankful for each one! And while you are reflecting on how you've been blessed, think of ways you can be a blessing to others.

This past year we were finally able to get back to our community celebrations for Independence Day, Halloween and Christmas. It was truly a blessing to resume these festivities. I'm thankful for the employees who worked hard to make these events happen, and I am grateful to the area businesses and residents who participated as well. Their dedication to this community helped make these events extra special.



Recently, Barbara Norris, owner of Barbie's Formals, set up a table and memory tree at our Christmas in the Park event, where she accepted donations for filling the Blessings Boxes in Milton. The idea behind the Blessings Boxes is to "Take What you Need, Leave what you can." Typical donations for the Blessings Boxes include personal hygiene items, hats, gloves, hot-hands, non-perishable food, etc. Thank you to all who contributed to the Blessings Boxes, and thank you, Barbie, for your efforts to help those in need.

After taking a moment to reflect on 2022, let's now focus on the new year. What do you have planned for 2023? What would you like to start anew, continue or complete this year?

(Continued on Last Page)



## From Recorder Dana Walters

2023.... Can you believe it is already here? I hope you had a very Merry Christmas and enjoy the New Year.

We've had a few changes in the last few months at City Hall. Our whole office is going to miss Donna McComas who retired at the end of the year after five years working for the City in the Water Department. We wish her the best of luck and hope she enjoys her retirement, especially getting to spend so much more time with that grandbaby!!!

Teresa Lewis will be taking over Donna's job full time beginning the first of the year. She will be the one helping you when you come inside City Hall to pay your water/sewer bill.

Another new employee is Celeste Ferguson. She will be working part-time, mostly with the police department, but filling in wherever we need her. Please welcome these new employees whenever you happen to be at City Hall.

Fourth Quarter 2022 B & O Tax Returns will be mailed out on or before December 30, 2022. These returns are due by February 15, 2023 without penalty. Please make sure that all your information is up-to-date with us (e-mail and phone number) and let us know if you are no longer doing business in Milton.

If you ever have questions, please feel free to contact me (Dana) at (304) 743-3032, extension 222, or Cameron at extension 211.



## Milton Library News

**Hours:** Monday-Friday 9am-5:30pm; Saturday 9am-1pm; Closed Sunday

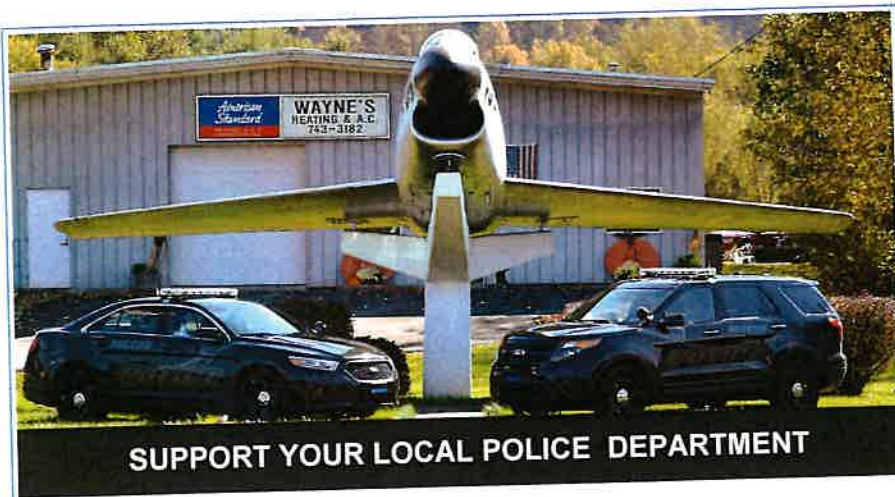
- ◆ **Story Time, Wednesdays, 10am.** Join us for a story, song & craft.
- ◆ **Knotty Knitsters, Tuesdays, 1-3pm.** Weekly knitting session for beginners & pros alike. No knowledge, needles or yarn needed; we can provide all three.
- ◆ **Code Club, Wednesdays, 4pm.** Learn fundamentals of coding with Scratch! Recommended ages 8-18.
- ◆ **D&D Club, 3:30-5:30pm on the second and fourth Thursday of every month.** Do you like stories? Adventures? Games? Then this is the club for you. Join us for a dice-rolling, dungeon-delving, dangerously good time. Recommended ages 8-16.
- ◆ **Build-It Challenges, Fridays, 3:30-5:30pm.** We have Lego, K'Nex, Duplo. We only need one more thing: your imagination! Visit us every Friday to participate in our weekly building challenges.
- ◆ **Art Gallery, first Tuesday every month from 3:30-5:30.** Join us to create your own miniature art for our winter display.
- ◆ **Zany Portraits, January 6, 4-5pm.** Learn all about WV artist Charly Jupiter Hamilton and how to create your own art in his style! In partnership with WV Public Broadcasting's Connect & Create project.
- ◆ **Sit on It Part 1, January 9, 4-5pm.** Learn how master artist Dan Pleska designs beautiful furniture then create your own pop-up paper chair! In partnership with WV Broadcasting's Connect & Create project.
- ◆ **Sit on It Part 2, January 23, 4-5pm.** Learn which shapes make strong structures and which ones don't, then see who can build the strongest chair! In partnership with WV Broadcasting's Connect & Create project.
- ◆ **Origami Workshop, January 31, February 28.** Learn how to make beautiful and colorful creations using nothing but folded paper. Open to all ages and levels of experience, from beginner to expert!
- ◆ **Puff Mobile, February 13, 4-5pm.** Learn how to build a car using paper, straws, tape, paperclips and lifesavers, then race to see whose car will travel the farthest! In partnership with WV Broadcasting's Connect & Create project.
- ◆ **Book Tea, TBA January.** Adult book club that meets monthly



### AMERICAN LEGION MILTON POST 139

The American Legion is a veterans' advocacy & community service organization. If you served, you're one of us! Stop in. We'd really like to see you. Membership is open to all veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces, their spouses and family members.

Try your luck at Bingo every Sunday at 6pm, doors open at 5pm.



**From Chief Parsons**

Well hopefully everyone enjoyed the holidays despite the weather. As we enter 2023 we face renewed potentially severe weather which can lead to dangerous travel and extended periods stuck inside the home.

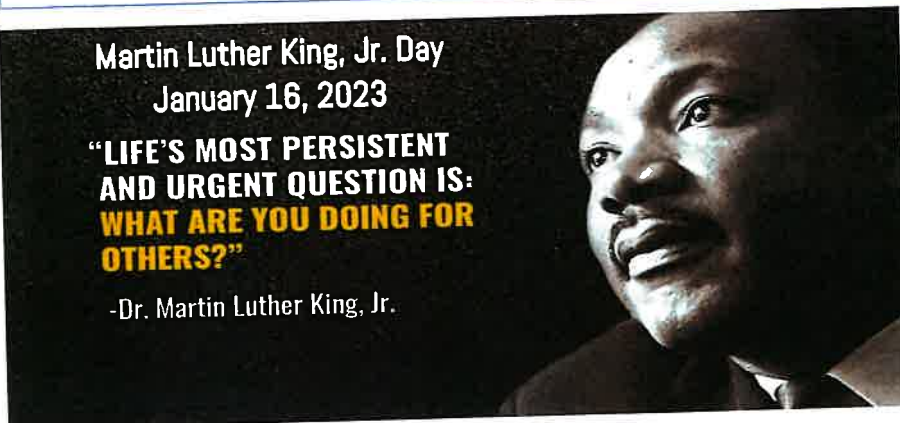


Addressing the travel first, it is imperative that motorists adjust their driving habits to the road/weather conditions. Already in our first snow we have seen multiple crashes both on I-64 and on city surface streets. Believe it or not, we have issued several traffic citations for speed in excess of 95 m.p.h. even with the icy conditions. Also remember that even though you are moving fine on the road, you have to stop if traffic in front of you stops. This can take extra distance on slick or icy roads. There have been several rear-end collisions, especially on the Interstate ramps and at intersections in town.

In regard to those who are homebound, winter brings a lot of boredom and depression for many. Please be sure to check on your neighbors during this time and ensure that they are safe and warm. If you suspect someone is struggling, please do not hesitate to call us and we will draw on locally available resources to help in any way that we can. Tempers often flare with no ability to separate from one another for a "cooling off" period during inclement weather, which can lead to domestic disputes, assaults and batteries. We at the Milton Police Department stand ready to not only protect, but to serve our citizens and assist them in their time of need.



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**HOUSING FOR THE ELDERLY**

The MILTON HOUSING AUTHORITY is accepting applications for tenancy for the elderly & disabled, 62 years of age or older, or handicap/ disabled regardless of age, with or without children.

**1 BEDROOM ONLY**

Applications may be obtained online at [cityofmiltonwv.com](http://cityofmiltonwv.com) or at City Hall, 1139 Smith St., Milton, WV 25541

**304-743-9530**  
**TTY/TDD 1-800-982-8771**  
**AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER**

- City offices will be closed for holidays on the following dates:**
- December 30** New Years Eve (observed)
  - January 2** New Years Day (observed)
  - January 16** Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
  - February 20** Presidents' Day

**Do You Qualify?**

USDA (304-284-4861) offers assistance through the 504 Program, a low interest loan for those 62 or older who own their home and the 502 Program, a 100% financed, no interest loan for low income homeowners.

**From Director of Public Works Charles Conard**

I hope you all had a joyous Christmas with family and friends. Here's to being thankful for the year that has passed, and enthusiastic for the year ahead.



For residents in the City of Milton corporate limits, we will be providing free disposal of live/cut Christmas trees. Trees may be dropped off at the Sewer Pond Garage on Fairgrounds Road from Monday, January 9th thru Thursday, January 12th from 8am-noon. All tree stands, lights, nails, hooks, ornaments, tinsel and other non-organic items must be removed from the trees and discarded separately. The collected trees will be chipped into mulch or composted. No wreaths or artificial trees will be accepted.

Many folks have commented on the beauty of the Christmas Tree the City places at the center of April Dawn Park. Unfortunately, this display will likely not be displayed any longer. Vandals have wreaked destruction on the tree and its lights nearly every night since the tree was placed. It is unfortunate that the acts of a few can ruin something that so many enjoy.

On a positive note, I want to give a big THANK YOU to the residents of Milton for your cooperation with contractors who continue working diligently on the Sewer Project. Your patience and understanding have been appreciated by all of us! We anticipate the water line replacement project on Newman's Branch will begin this spring, which will require still more tolerance of potentially aggravating situations.



I wish you all a healthy and prosperous new year! As always, if you have any questions, please call me at 304-743-3032, extension 209.

**United Daughters of the Confederacy Cooney Ricketts #2726 Milton**

Cooney Ricketts chapter 2726 decided to cancel our monthly meeting in November so that we could participate as a unit in the Veterans Day Parade in Kenova. That parade was scheduled for the same day and time as our meeting. But, as luck would have it, the parade was canceled due to rain, and too late to reschedule our meeting. Consequently, as a chapter, we did nothing official in the month of November. We did, however, make up for our inactivity in the month of December.

One of our favorite donation projects is to Golden Girl's Group Home in Kenova. Each year our Chapter is a "Christmas Angel" to the home, providing a Christmas for one of these wonderful girls, anonymously. Also, on December 17<sup>th</sup>, we will be volunteering to place wreaths on Confederate soldiers' graves at Spring Hill Cemetery in Huntington as part of the Wreaths Across America program.

This year we have also "adopted" a local active-duty soldier, to whom we are sending a package of goodies to let him know we appreciate his service. And we haven't forgotten our recovering servicemen; we have sent Christmas Cards to wounded soldiers at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington. And we remember our brave Veterans by ensuring that each of the 78 residents at the WV Veterans Home in Barboursville gets a Christmas Card, as well.

At the end of a very busy December meeting on the 10th, we took a little time out for some fun. We played 'Pass the Parcel' and had a lot of laughs stealing others' gifts. Our guest speaker for the meeting was one of our favorites, Robert Thompson, an author, and local historian. He spoke about his newest book, "Shoot Your Way Out" - The hanging of Laban Walker. It is an intriguing story of the only public hanging in Wayne County that occurred on a cold, rainy November 28, back in 1879. It happened at Trout's Hill (the present-day town of Wayne), which at the time had an estimated town population of only about 200 people. But on that day, between 7,000 to 10,000 thousand people came into town just to witness that execution. The entire event took on "a carnival-like atmosphere" and it remains a story that continues to enthrall people 144 years later.



Standing, back row L-R, Sue Thornton, Ada Martin, Ethel Elkins. Mary Johnson, Easter Miller, Dee McComas, Elizabeth Swain; standing, middle row, L-R, Bobbi Young, Donna Stephens, Jean Hatfield; seated, L-R, Marilyn Coleman, Robert Thompson, Billie Johnson

## From the Utilities:

Happy New Year from the Utilities Department!

The Sewer Project is still underway with crews working in many areas around town. Bids were opened on December 6, 2022 for the Newman's Branch Water Line Replacement Project, with Mountain Haus Properties, Inc. coming in at the lowest bid; the estimated start date is March 2023. A majority of the funds for this project came from the WV Infrastructure & Jobs Development Council Critical Needs Program.

Please remember that we have a new telephone alert system to notify you of water outages, boil water advisories, and to notify customers with past due balances of an upcoming termination date. **These calls will appear on your caller ID as 681-203-5645. We urge you to add this number to your contacts, if possible, so it isn't mistaken as spam or telemarketing.** Also, please make sure we have an updated telephone number on file so we can reach you if necessary.

Our offices will be closed January 2, 2023 for the New Year, and January 16, 2023 to observe Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Offices will also be closed February 20, 2023 to observe Presidents Day.

Coming soon...Online Bill Pay! Watch for updates on the middle portion of your monthly bill.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call our office during regular business hours at 304-743-3422.



**Don't pile snow on rain gardens or landscaping**

**Prune certain trees**

**Clear downspouts, gutters, and storm drains to allow melting snow to drain**

**Shovel your walk rather than use salt when possible**

**Don't leave your rain barrel connected to your downspout**

**Apply mulch over any bare spots on your rain garden**

**This winter, take care of your landscape- and your watershed!**

Call Mike Ramsey at the City of Milton if you have any questions about stormwater.

304-743-3032

## Code Enforcer/Building Inspector Mike Ramsey

It is hard to believe that winter is here, but we cannot deny the cold weather. With winter weather comes all types of issues with our homes. There are always the dreaded frozen water pipes, the battle to keep warm, possible power outages and the list goes on.

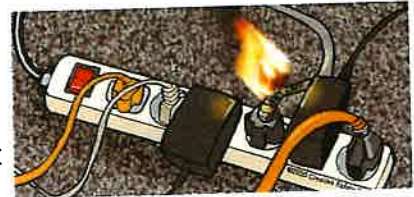


Let me start with frozen water pipes. There are several things you can do to prevent this. A simple and cost-effective solution is wrapping your pipes with pre-cut pipe foam wrap. This is a straightforward project that most can handle on their own. You can also line the crawl space around your house with plastic or a foam board. While your exterior walls to your house may be sealed well from the elements, your foundation may not be. Any small cracks or holes can form which will speed up the freezing process. A simple thing we sometimes overlook is to disconnect your garden hose from the outdoor spigot. Another approach is heat tape. Heat tape is wrapped around the spigot pipe and plugged in to an electrical source creating the heat.

Since we have mentioned electrical, let us not forget that electrical and fire safety go hand in hand. A lot of homes in Milton, are older and we need to use heaters in addition to our main heat source. These heaters are fine to use as a supplementary heat source but according to the International Code Council they cannot be the primary heat source. When using these heaters, it is VERY important to follow all the proper instructions. Do not use extension cords when using electric heaters and be sure to keep a clear area around any supplemental heater as well.

Kerosene heaters should not be used in enclosed areas. Another heat source that should not be used in or under your home are the salamander or torpedo type heaters.

Remember not to overload your electrical circuits. If a breaker is tripping and keeps needing to be reset that is an indication there is an issue. If a breaker is tripping it is doing, it's job. If there is any question about your electrical system you should contact a licensed and insured electrician to come inspect your wiring. This could prevent tragedy or even save your life.



Following the topic of prevention, smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors are a must! Not only is it a good idea but it is also required by City code. All dwellings are required to have smoke detectors and any dwelling where natural gas is used for heating or cooking requires a carbon monoxide detector. If you rent your home or an apartment the landlord is responsible to provide these safety measures. They MUST provide you with a smoke detector and/or carbon monoxide detector if you meet the criteria.

Just remember, if you hire someone to work at your residence make sure they are licensed with the State as well as with the City of Milton. If you have any questions or need information regarding a contractor, please feel free to reach me here at City Hall at 304-743-3032, extension 202.



The Milton Lions Club meets at 6:30 p.m. on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 809 Mason Street., Milton, WV. If you would like to become a member, pick up an application at the Library or call the number below.

The Lions Club has delicious apple butter available for purchase! See any member for details.

Are you looking to rent space for an event? The Lions Club building at 809 Mason Street is available!

For more information, visit [lionsclubofmiltonwv.com](http://lionsclubofmiltonwv.com), or call 304-549-2723.

On December 6, 2022, a Resolution was passed authorizing West Virginia American Water (WVAW) reasonable access to documents, facilities and personnel related to Milton's water and wastewater utility systems, reiterating what was previously agreed to by Milton and WVAW in 2020. Pursuant to the agreement, dates have already been agreed upon by the City and WVAW for WVAW to conduct a site inspection and to review financial information, which is public record. This has been agreed upon in order for WVAW, at its sole discretion, to make an offer to purchase Milton Municipal Utilities, which has not yet happened contrary to what some may have been led to believe. When and if an offer is received, the City of Milton will give any offer serious consideration.

Shortly after the 2014 chemical spill that contaminated WVAW's water supply, the Milton Water Company was advised that it was required to have an interconnection with another water source in the event that a similar incident occurred affecting our raw water source. Since then we have, indeed, used WVAW to supplement our water supply. However, let's clarify a few things. We use that water to keep our tanks full when our water operators are off duty or if a repair or upgrade is being made at the water plant.

If we had a water operator there to run the plant, we would process our own water, not purchase it from WVAW. Our engineers have advised that the Mud River supplies a sufficient quantity to fulfill our needs now and in the future. We have two full-time water plant operators and one operator in training. Once the operator in training is certified, we will be staffed sufficiently to process at least one-third more water.

Additionally, the City of Milton received a \$1 million grant from the Cabell County Commission to upgrade the filtration system at the Milton Water Plant. This upgrade will allow for a greater volume of water to be processed in a shorter period of time, allowing us to fill the water tanks ourselves.

Water leaks and water loss. They are the bane of water utility systems across the nation. So much so that President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 with an emphasis on repairing aging water and sewer infrastructure. In the past five years, well before the ARPA was passed, Milton began replacing aging water lines in many areas, including all or portions of Heck Street, Taylor Street, Adams Avenue, Stewart Street, Glenwood Street, Mason Street, Rear Florida Street, Washington Avenue, Florida Street and McGhee Street. There are still miles of water lines that must be replaced, and in time we will get to all of them.

This is not an issue affecting only the Milton Municipal Utilities. WVAW has water leaks, too, as evidenced by their online list of boil water advisories and their yearly percentage of water loss. This is said not to minimize WVAW's efforts to fix their ongoing problems; rather, it is mentioned merely to show that they have problems, too.

We also want to make sure you understand the consumer cost difference between WVAW and Milton Municipal Utilities. At this point, we do not know what the sewer rate would be with WVAW. The figures below are the water rates obtained from the Public Service Commission's website:

#### Minimum Bill

MMUC	2500 gallons of water	\$25.00
WVAW	1500 gallons of water	\$36.41

#### Average Bill

MMUC	3400 gallons of water	\$33.10
WVAW	3400 gallons of water	\$67.09

A water rate increase from the Milton Municipal Utilities is inevitable. So is a rate increase from WVAW. We will seek a rate increase to pay for replacements and repairs. WVAW will seek a rate increase to line their investors' pockets. WVAW is a publicly traded corporation with stockholders and a board of directors with interests in making a profit, as reflected in an article written by Mike Toney<sup>1</sup> of the Herald Dispatch. We have not had a water rate increase since 2015. According to Toney's article, WVAW has had 12 rate hikes since 2005, not to mention their additional surcharge for infrastructure improvements.

We are not saying that the Milton Municipal Utilities is perfect. Far from it; but we have been and will continue to work on the aging infrastructure. We currently are in the middle of a sewer project, and just opened bids for a water line replacement project. More projects are in the development stage. It takes time, no matter who is doing the work.

At Milton Municipal Utilities, we drink the same water that you do, and we pay the same water and sewer utility bills that you do. We want what's best for Milton because we live and work here, too.

Please, do your own research.

<sup>1</sup>Toney, Mike. "Increasing water loss, rising rates prompting concerns." *The Herald Dispatch*, 27 Nov. 2022, pp. 1A+.

# January 2023



January 2023							February 2023						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	26	27	28				
29	30	31											

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jan 1, 23 6pm, BINGO @ American Legion NEW YEARS DAY	2 New Years Day, Observed. Office Closed	3 12:30pm, BINGO @ Senior Center 5:30pm, Utility Board 7pm, City Council	4	5 12pm, Rotary @ Giovanni's 6:30pm, Lions Club	6 Recycling	7 Recycling
8 6pm, BINGO @ American Legion	9 7pm, Cabell Co Fair Bd 7pm, VFW Mtg	10 12:30pm, BINGO @ Senior Center 5pm, Court 7pm, American Legion Post 139 Mtg	11	12 12pm, Rotary @ Giovanni's	13	14
15 6pm, BINGO @ American Legion	16 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Office Closed	17 12:30pm, BINGO @ Senior Center 4:30pm, Birthday BINGO @ Senior Center	18	19 12pm, Rotary @ Giovanni's 5pm, RPOC 6:30pm, Lions Club	20 Recycling	21 Recycling
22 6pm, BINGO @ American Legion	23	24 12:30pm, BINGO @ Senior Center 7pm, American Legion Post 139 Mtg 7pm, Pumpkin Park	25	26 12pm, Rotary @ Giovanni's	27	28
29 6pm, BINGO @ American Legion	30	31 12:30pm, BINGO @ Senior Center				



# February 2023

Be Mine Valentine



February 2023							March 2023						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28					26	27	28	29	30	31	

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jan 29	30	31	Feb 1	2	3	4
6pm, BINGO @ American Legion				12pm, Rotary @ Giovanni's 6:30pm, Lions Club		Recycling
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
6pm, BINGO @ American Legion		12:30pm, BINGO @ Senior Center 5:30pm, Utility Board 7pm, City Council		12pm, Rotary @ Giovanni's		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
6pm, BINGO @ American Legion	7pm, Cabell Co Fair Bd 7pm, VFW Mtg	12:30pm, BINGO @ Senior Center 5pm, Court 7pm, American Legion Post 139 Mtg		12pm, Rotary @ Giovanni's 5pm, RPOC 6:30pm, Lions Club		Recycling
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
6pm, BINGO @ American Legion	Presidents' Day, Office Closed	12:30pm, BINGO @ Senior Center 4:30pm, Birthday BINGO @ Senior Center		12pm, Rotary @ Giovanni's		
26	27	28				
6pm, BINGO @ American Legion		12:30pm, BINGO @ Senior Center 7pm, American Legion Post 139 Mtg 7pm, Pumpkin Park				

**From the Mayor (Continued)**

Here are a few things going on in Milton in 2023:

- \* The Sewer Project continues on schedule.
- \* The bids to replace water lines along Newman's Branch have been opened, and work is expected to begin in March.
- \* There are other projects in the development stages, such as water plant upgrades and additional water line replacement projects.
- \* Milling and repaving of City streets will resume once the weather warms up.
- \* We've been exploring ways to build and finance a separate police station, and we are closer than ever to getting this underway.

We will keep you informed about other projects as details become known.

I'd like to wish Donna McComas, our receptionist and Utilities employee, a happy retirement! We hope she enjoys retired life as much as we have enjoyed working with her! We will miss her!



May the upcoming year be full of love and laughter! Wishing you all the best!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Steve'.

**WELCOME TO THE CITY OF MILTON . . . . . WHERE LIVING IS A PLEASURE!**

**City of Milton**  
1139 Smith Street  
Milton, WV 25541

**City of Milton**

1139 Smith Street  
Milton, WV 25541-1327

(304) 743-3032  
recorder@cityofmiltonwv.com  
cityclerk@cityofmiltonwv.com  
financeclerk@cityofmiltonwv.com  
miltoninspector@cityofmiltonwv.com  
miltoncemetery@cityofmiltonwv.com  
it@cityofmiltonwv.com

**Milton Municipal Utilities**

(304) 743-3422  
After-hours emergency, call  
(304) 590-7649  
miltonwater@cityofmiltonwv.com  
miltonutilities@cityofmiltonwv.com  
stormwater@cityofmiltonwv.com  
publicworks@cityofmiltonwv.com

**Milton Police Department**

(304) 743-9211  
mpdclerk@cityofmiltonwv.com  
mpdchief@cityofmiltonwv.com  
Visit [www.cityofmiltonwv.com](http://www.cityofmiltonwv.com)

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