



## From the Mayor

And just like that 2021 is behind us and we welcome a new year! When we face new beginnings with faith, courage and effort, anything is possible. The City accomplished a lot in the past year. We are hitting the ground running, and I can hardly wait to see our achievements in 2022.



For example, last year the City acquired three houses, two of which were eye-sores and have already been demolished. The now vacant lot on Lawhorn Street is adjacent to Jarrell Sargent Memorial Park, which we plan to expand and revitalize for families and kids of all ages. We are in the process of applying for a grant to add a picnic shelter, bathrooms and new play equipment for both young and older children. We are excited by the prospect of making this small park a larger, fun-filled recreational space for Milton.

The house on North Main Street is still occupied for now, but it will likely be torn down this spring. We've been contemplating building a structure there for use as a local farmer's market. This would be a great opportunity for local farmers to sell their produce, and would bring more visitors to town to, hopefully, visit other Milton shops.



The house on McGhee Street was donated to the City. The structure was torn down and Bethel Freewill Baptist Church will be able to use that space for parking. Once the sewer project construction begins, large trucks and heavy equipment will be parked there. We will have to open the alley running parallel between McGhee Street and Shaw Avenue to allow traffic to flow.

Behind-the-scenes work continues as we determine Milton's most critical infrastructure needs. We were awarded a \$970,000 critical needs grant to replace water lines along Newman's Branch, but with widespread unavailability of parts, I'm not sure how long it will take to complete this project. There really is no "fast track" to get these projects done. It takes a lot of time and planning to go from concept to the finished product. Another issue is that since obtaining an estimate for this project, the cost for this work has increased substantially, which means we either have to find more funding, or downsize the project.



We have several smaller projects that should be done this year. Last month we began a water line replacement project on Heck and Taylor Streets, which will continue into the new year. And once the deep ditch alongside Route 60 near Wallace Funeral Home is filled in, we can begin placing new water lines closer to the surface, as the existing lines are deep underground where it is difficult to locate leaks when they occur.

The Sewer Project should break ground this spring or summer. We are hopeful that perhaps by the end of 2022 both the Sewer Project and the Newman's Branch Water Line Project will be complete, and hopefully many of the smaller water line replacement jobs we are working on, too.

(Continued on Last Page)



City offices will be closed for holidays on the following dates:

January 17 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

February 21 Presidents' Day

## From Recorder Dana Walters

It is hard to believe it is already 2022, and I've been the City's Recorder for six months. I have learned much over that time, and would like to thank Benita Ryalls for imparting her knowledge to me before she retired. We will miss her.

The City will send out 4th Quarter 2021 and Annual 2021 B & O Tax Returns by 12/30/2021. These returns are due by 2/15/2022 without penalty. Make sure you update your email and telephone number with us, and if you are no longer doing business in Milton, please let us know so we can inactivate your account. We wish you and yours a Very Merry Christmas and may 2022 be a prosperous new year.

As always, if you have any questions feel free to call 304-743-3032, extension 222 for Dana, or extension 211 for Cameron.

**From Director of Public Works Charles Conard**

Happy New Year! Over the past year, we've continued with our paving projects including all or portions of Florida Street, Washington Street, Cardinal Drive, Harrison Street, Perry Lane, Parrish Lane, Daily Lane, Stewart Street, Parkview Lane with some sidewalks and curbs created and/or repaired, as well as many other roads patched. Paving will continue once the paving companies open back up in the Spring.

We have many irons in the fire with regard to utility projects. In addition to the large potential projects we've already told you about, we've begun smaller jobs, like replacing water lines on Heck Street and Taylor Street, as we are able. As mentioned above, we will pave those roads once the paving companies reopen.



The Maintenance Garage is nearing completion. Rising costs over the past two years have slowed progress, but we are getting very close to moving the street, water, sewer and stormwater departments together into one location.

If you haven't driven by Jarrell Sargent Memorial Park lately, you should. Over the last month or two we have cleared out the surrounding area in anticipation of putting in more playground equipment, a shelter and bathrooms. The cleared area looks great! We also obtained property adjacent to the park which we will use to expand the park, making it an even more enticing place for our children to play. We have some grand visions for this area, and although it will take time for it to be complete, we will continue improving the park as money and time allow.



I'm excited for what this year will bring. 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.



**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 Fridays at 7 pm. Join us Saturdays from 5-7 pm for a tasty dinner and fellowship.



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

The Lions Club has delicious apple butter available for purchase!

Are you looking for a place to rent for an event? The Lions Club building at 809 Mason Street is available.

For more information on any of these matters, call Brad Stewart at 304-941-5683.

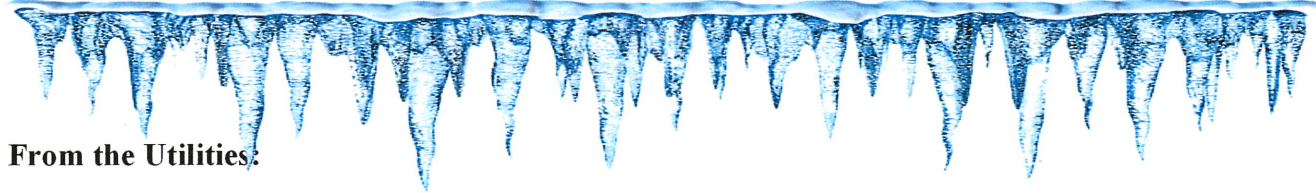
**Code Enforcer/Building Inspector Mike Ramsey**

Even though the colder weather may be here, there is no reason to fear. You can still do some simple things to help winterize and protect your home this season.

- Inspect your home's exterior for crevices, cracks, and exposed entry points around pipes and if you find any seal them tight.
- Weather-strip around doors to prevent cold air from entering the home.
- Caulk around drafty windows. Replace cracked glass in windows and, if you end up replacing the entire window, prime and paint exposed wood. (Any contractor who does the work must be licensed, and a permit may be required.)
- Prepare an emergency kit. Include indoor candles with matches or a lighter for use during a power outage. Keep phone numbers for your utility companies easy to find, and cell phones charged. Store extra bottled water and non-perishable food supplies (including pet food, if you have a pet), blankets and a first-aid kit in a dry and easy to access location.
- You should always have an evacuation plan in the event of an emergency.

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





**From the Utilities:**

Happy New Year from everyone here at Milton Utilities! We hope your holidays were filled with joy and good cheer!

Winter brings freezing temperatures that can wreak havoc on your plumbing. To help avoid leaks and/or breaks in your pipes, please be sure to follow these tips:

- Insulate pipes with insulation sleeves, wrapping or using slip-on foam pipe insulation. Do not leave any gaps without insulation as cold air can affect the pipe in these spaces. Plastic piping is more tolerant of freezing than old copper or steel water pipes.
- Inspect the exterior of the property, making sure that all visible cracks are sealed. Cold air can enter through the cracks and, once inside, it will cause your pipe to freeze. If visible cracks are noticed, seal them using caulking or spray foam to fill the voids.
- Maintain a heating source inside the home to protect pipes against cold.
- It is a good idea to maintain a faucet dripping, allowing the water to move freely and continuously, preventing it from freezing. Keep in mind, however, that doing so has the potential to increase your water bill.
- Make sure the crawl space is properly insulated. Block all vents that lead to the outside using cardboard or wood.
- Don't forget the hose bibs. Hose bibs are normally left unattended, causing them to burst in the middle of the night. Drain hose bibs and insulate with covers. Once this has been completed, deactivate bibs at the shutoff valve.



As a reminder, if you experience a water or sewer related emergency outside of our regular business hours, call 304-590-7649. Your emergency will then be reported to the Public Works Director who will determine the next course of action.

**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**

**Grant / IT News from Mike Nixon**

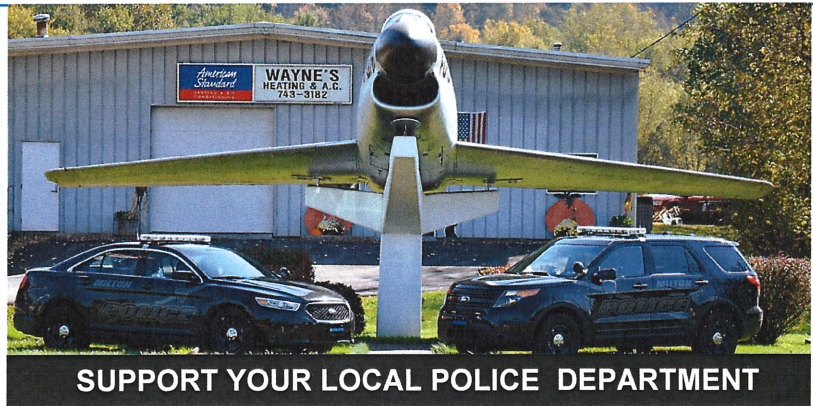
The Holiday season is behind us, and a New Year is upon us! Some exciting news is I have secured \$15,000 from the Chaney Foundation to go towards the Jarrell Sargent Park renewal. We are applying for another grant for more funding for this park enhancement. The Congressionally Directed Spending money is still being held up in Congress. They passed a Continuing Resolution and pushed the budget vote until mid-February. I'm hopeful that we will receive over \$151,000 in those funds.



Now for some info on a new scheme going around. Most of the time this new scheme is solicited through social media and email and is called a "money mule" scheme. These schemes are fueling the growth of crimes across the globe. A money mule is someone who transfers or moves illegally acquired money on behalf of someone else. Some money mules know they are supporting criminal enterprises; others are unaware that they are helping criminals profit. Here are a few things to look for:

- You receive an unsolicited email or contact over social media promising easy money for little to no effort.
- You are asked to open a bank account in your own name to receive and transfer money.
- You are asked to receive funds in your bank account and then transfer funds via a wire transfer or electronic payment system.

I hope you had a wonderful Christmas and New Year! Here's to 2022!



**SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**From Chief Parsons**

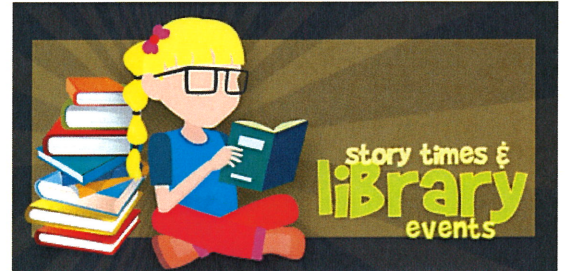
This is the time of year that scammers are out in force trying to get your hard-earned money for nothing. We have talked about this at the Senior Citizens Center and to various groups in the past but we would like to remind you again.



One of the biggest scams going is a call from the local police department with a caller ID that says it is the police department. They will say they are collecting a past due fine or that your relative, whose name they got from your social media page most likely, has been arrested and you need to go their bond. The big tipoff is that they will ask you to go to Target or Walmart and purchase gift cards in whatever amount they are scamming you for and read the numbers off to them. Once they have the numbers they will immediately cash the card in. Remember this, NO government agency conducts business with gift cards. There are several variations of this scam, some claim to be the IRS collecting overdue taxes, some are for the sale of a puppy or kitten that will be sent to you from a bogus website that you were looking at and you contacted them.

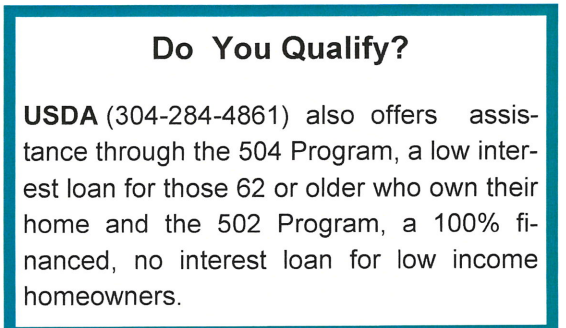
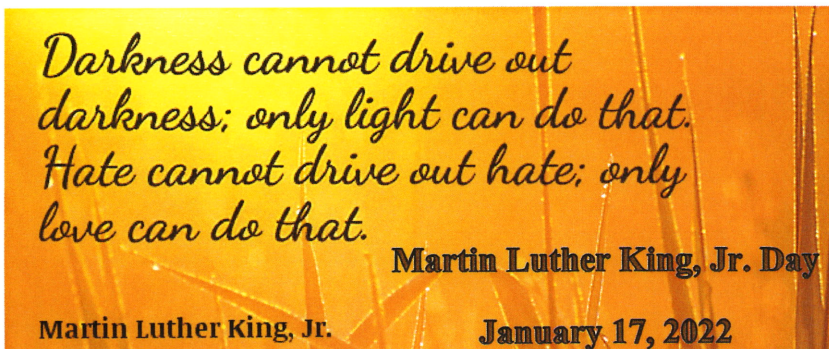
These scams get bigger and more elaborate all the time and they tend to prey on the elderly who may not fully understand the electronic media and how it works. Please talk with your elderly loved ones and explain to them that just because someone contacts them and says they owe something, doesn't mean they actually do. Our elderly have a strong sense of responsibility and believe in paying their debts, another reason they are targeted.

I hope everyone has had a joyous and fun-filled holiday season. Now, onto 2022 and the new year! We pray that it will be a better year than 2021.



**Milton Public Library Hours: 9 am—5:30 pm Monday, Wednesday—Saturday; 9:00am—7:00pm Tuesday; Closed Sunday.**

- ◆ **Storytime Reading Wednesdays, 10am, Join us for a story, song & craft.**
- ◆ **Can You Make It At Home? Check our Facebook page weekly for a craft video you can try at home.**
- ◆ **Knotty Knitsters Tuesdays, 1-3pm, Weekly knitting session for beginners & pros alike. No knowledge, needles or yarn needed; we can provide all three.**
- ◆ **“Snow” Place Like the Library, January 4, “Snow” one does crafts like the library! Pick up one of our snowflake crafts today.**
- ◆ **Milton’s Got Talent, January 17-21, This week is all for the crafters and artists of Milton! We will display any submissions of painting, knitting, quilting, etc., during this week.**
- ◆ **Groundhog’s Craft, February 1-2, When the groundhog looks for its shadow, we’ll be ready with this craft!**
- ◆ **Skate’n’ Read, February 8-9, We’ve got a fun ice skate craft for kids!**



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

The regular monthly meeting of our Chapter, held on Saturday, November 13th, once again had the pleasure of welcoming Linda Whaley, of Huntington UDC Chapter #150 as our guest lecturer. Linda is one of our favorite speakers. It is always fun and interesting when our speakers come in character and portray the person they are presenting. This time she portrayed Rose O'Neal Greenhow, the renowned Confederate spy. As always, it was a wonderful performance.



Back L-R: Sharon Williams, Dee McComas, Easter Miller, Donna Stephens Ethel Elkins, Front L-R: Billie Johnson, Linda Whaley, Marilyn Coleman.

Our Benevolent Committee chairman, Donna Stephens, collected individual wrapped snacks from our members to make up "snack baskets" for our local hospice. Since our recurring monthly gifts of food for two Blessing Boxes and pet food to a nearby animal shelter were already consuming a sizable portion of our donation expenses, the membership agreed that the "snack baskets" could not be a monthly endeavor. We opted, however, to make them a quarterly project. Fortunately, our Chapter was so generous in their individual donations of snacks that enough food was collected for several baskets for the initial start of this new Benevolent endeavor.



Back L-R, J. K. Spence, Susan Holley Crumb, Percell Arthur, Brent Williams, Dee McComas. Front L-R, Renee Spence, Mike Stephens, Donna Stephens, Billie Johnson. Standing by float Gaines R. Johnson

This month our Chapter also participated in the annual Veterans Day Parade in Kenova, WV, which is hosted by that town's local American Legion Post 93. We were joined on our float by several members of the Sons of Confederate Veterans Camp A.G. Jenkins #638, of Huntington. One of those SCV gentlemen, David Hager, who is also a Vietnam veteran, had originally opted to wear his Vietnam era Green Beret camouflage uniform and ride on another float with some U.S. Army vets. But as luck would have it, something happened and the float he was supposed to be on did not show up. Consequently, we asked David to jump on our float and ride with us. So, there we were, ladies in period hoop skirts, Confederates soldiers in gray, and a single Vietnam Vet in a Green Beret combat uniform, all riding down the streets to the tune of "Dixie" as the crowds cheered and patriotically waved flags and offered salutes. That parade was great fun.

## FLOODPLAIN & STORMWATER NEWS by MIKE RAMSEY

**Stormwater Runoff Is Manageable**—Issues related to stormwater runoff such as pollution and flooding are hot topics in today's world as people grow more environmentally conscious and flooding in urban areas is prevalent and forecast to get worse. There are many ways to aid in the alleviation of these issues, yet few are implemented on a large scale. In terms of stormwater management, small improvements can help a lot. Something as little as planting trees along sidewalks, medians and parks can make more of a difference in the amount of water running off into a storm drain than many know. Not only is this aesthetically pleasing to an urban environment, but it also aids in the retention and filtration of water. Due to the impermeable surfaces found in towns and cities such as concrete and asphalt, water is unable to soak into the soil in most cases. Without infiltration the water has no choice but to run off, gathering pollutants, road salt, and debris from the roads and sidewalks along the way to streams and rivers. Trees on the other hand can take up water from the soil and release it into the atmosphere through evaporation-transpiration and simultaneously filtering these chemicals out of the water.



Now for something completely different. The number of people cleaning up after their pets has increased the past few years, but a few people are still causing a problem with their pet's waste. Please do not let your pet use the bathroom on or near our water meters. City crews shouldn't be exposed to the disease-causing bacteria in pet waste just to do their job. It has been estimated that a single gram of dog waste can contain up to 23 million fecal coliform bacteria, which are known to cause cramps, diarrhea, intestinal illness, and serious kidney disorders in humans.



**Floodplain News**—Storms never happen in a vacuum. In a world with relatively few uninhabited places, their impact is the result more of human development and building practices than of the storm itself, which is, after all, simply a natural and predictable event. Hurricanes have always been part of the natural cycle on this earth, but they appear to be getting worse, and climate change is an increasingly evident factor. Meteorologist Ken Kunkel, affiliated with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and North Carolina State University, stated that Hurricane Harvey produced more rain than any other hurricane in the last 70 years. According to Kunkel, five weather stations over an area of 14,000 square miles in the Carolinas recorded an average of 17.5 inches. Harvey's average was 25.6 inches, with some areas of Texas getting over 60 inches of rainfall during that storm. By comparison, Chicago averages about 37 inches for an entire year. Such heightened precipitation levels are in line with expected impacts of climate change. While the above is about major storms, we here in Milton can expect our average rainfall to increase as well. We have already seen it the past two years. West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection and FEMA are in the process of creating new guidance for our changing climate conditions. I'll let you know more as I learn more.

# January 2022



	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 
26 Recycling - Weekends at the Water Plant	27 9 am Work Session	28 5:30 pm Utility Board 7 pm City Council	29 12 pm, Rotary @ Venetian 6:30 pm Lions Club Mtg	30 12 pm, Rotary @ Venetian	31 7pm Bingo @ AmLeg	8 Recycling - Weekends at the Water Plant 5-7 pm Dinner @ AmLeg
2 Recycling - Weekends at the Water Plant	3 7 pm Cabell Co Fair Bd Mtg 7 pm VFW Mtg	4 5 pm Court 7 pm AmLeg Post 139 Mtg	5 12 pm, Rotary @ Venetian	6 7pm Bingo @ AmLeg	7 7pm Bingo @ AmLeg	15 Recycling - Weekends at the Water Plant 5-7 pm Dinner @ AmLeg
9 Recycling - Weekends at the Water Plant	10 Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Office Closed 	11 12 pm, Rotary @ Venetian	12 7pm Bingo @ AmLeg	13 7pm Bingo @ AmLeg	14 7pm Bingo @ AmLeg	22 Recycling - Weekends at the Water Plant 5-7 pm Dinner @ AmLeg
16 Recycling - Weekends at the Water Plant	17 7 pm AmlLeg Post 139 Mtg 7 pm Pumpkin Park Bd Mtg	18 12 pm, Rotary @ Venetian 5 pm RPOC 6:30 pm Lions Club Mtg	19 7pm Bingo @ AmLeg	20 7pm Bingo @ AmLeg	21 7pm Bingo @ AmLeg	29 Recycling - Weekends at the Water Plant 5-7 pm Dinner @ AmLeg
23 Recycling - Weekends at the Water Plant	24 12 pm, Rotary @ Venetian	25 9 am Work Session 7pm Bingo @ AmLeg	26 9 am Work Session 7pm Bingo @ AmLeg	27 9 am Work Session 7pm Bingo @ AmLeg	28 9 am Work Session 7pm Bingo @ AmLeg	29 Recycling - Weekends at the Water Plant 5-7 pm Dinner @ AmLeg
30 Recycling - Weekends at the Water Plant	31					

# February 2022



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
30 Recycling - Weekends at the Water Plant	31 Recycling - Weekends at the Water Plant	1 5:30 pm Utility Board 7 pm City Council	2 12 pm, Rotary @ Venetian 6:30 pm Lions Club Mtg	3 12 pm, Rotary @ Venetian 5 p.m RPOC 6:30 pm Lions Club Mtg	4 7pm Bingo @ AmLeg	5 Recycling - Weekends at the Water Plant 5-7 pm Dinner @ AmLeg	
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13 Recycling - Weekends at the Water Plant	14 <b>HAPPY Valentine's Day</b>	15 7 pm AmLeg Post 139 Mtg 7 pm Pumpkin Park Bd Mtg	16 12 pm, Rotary @ Venetian 5 p.m RPOC 6:30 pm Lions Club Mtg	17 7pm Bingo @ AmLeg	18 7pm Bingo @ AmLeg	19 Recycling - Weekends at the Water Plant 5-7 pm Dinner @ AmLeg	
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**From the Mayor (Continued)**

In addition to those to projects, we have identified other infrastructure areas which need quick attention, such as upgrades to the water plant, and water line replacements on Conners Addition, North Main Street from Smith Street to Kipling Shoes, and on Route 60 from Ohio Valley Bank to the old water plant. These plans will likely take a few years to accomplish from start to completion, but the groundwork is being set.

Those are some of the big things the City has going on, but there are loads of little things, too. The street and utility departments are always working on something—from picking up leaves and brush and keeping the cemetery looking nice, to repairing fire hydrants and random water leaks that pop up. The Christmas lights and decorations take quite a while to put up, (and then take back down) but they sure do make our town festive and inviting. None of these projects or services provided would be possible without dedicated employees. I am grateful for each of them, and I'm grateful for all of you, too, for allowing me the privilege of being your Mayor.

So, as 2022 begins, I hope each of you stays busy enough to stay out of trouble, but not so busy that you can't take time to enjoy life. I wish you all a very Happy New Year!



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

**City of Milton**

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Milton, WV 25541-1327

(304) 743-3032

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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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