

From the Mayor

Hello, Miltonians! It's hard to believe fall is here and winter will soon be setting in. The brisk morning air is refreshing compared to the heat of summer. I'm not sure I'm ready for snow, but it will come whether I'm ready or not.



The holidays are right around the corner, and I send warm wishes to you all for a Happy Thanksgiving and Joyful Christmas! I encourage you to have a spirit of gratitude and good will. May the light of faith and the warmth of family brighten your seasons.

I want to remind you all that the 2020 General Election is upon us and it is time to make our voices heard. Keep in mind not all countries' citizens are given the right to vote. Between the options of absentee voting, early voting here at City Hall, and voting at your regular polling place on General Election Day, there are no excuses for not exercising your right – your duty – to vote!

Next, I'd like to say "Welcome Back, Mi Pueblito's!" We are so glad that you've returned to Milton. We wish your business success and prosperity!

This year has been a challenging one to say the least. I have heard many people say how glad they are that 2020 is nearly over. This pandemic brought change with it to almost every part of life – how we live, how we work, how we educate our children, how we see our doctors, how we celebrate or mourn. Everything we do seems to be surrounded by uncertainty or fear. "Should I go?" "Should I cancel?" 2020 has definitely been stressful, and I know we are all ready to put this pandemic behind us and breathe a collective sigh of relief.

Will things return to normal in 2021? Will life *ever* return to normal? Is this the *new* normal? No one knows what 2021 will bring. I'm getting used to my new routine, and it's not all that bad. Remember, it isn't the load that breaks you down, it's the way you carry it. Don't get stuck on the things you can't do. Instead, concentrate on the things you can do, and do them!



What developments will Milton see in 2021? Will the Board of Education finalize their plans to build a new elementary school and begin construction? Which site will they choose? Will the golf courses or ball fields at the Grand Patrician Resort be nearing completion? Will the resort itself stand completed high on that hill welcoming visitors to our City? Will the renovations at the old bank building downtown be done, offering more dining options for us? Perhaps by the end of 2021 we will see construction of the flood wall beginning. What new businesses will open in Milton given the prospect that much of Milton will not be in the flood zone once the flood wall is done? It is an exciting time in the City of Milton, and I'm grateful to be a part of its growth.

What do we have planned for 2021? We have pioneered so many positive projects in the last few years. I can only imagine what we will accomplish going forward. We hope to break ground soon on an extensive Sewer Project



we've been laying the groundwork on for over a year. Every year we replace old water lines with new ones, and 2021 will be no different. By the New Year, residents may be contacted regarding property acquisitions so that the Army Corps of Engineers can finally put their long months of studying and planning into action as the flood wall begins to take shape. We have been hard at work paving City streets, as well as having curbs and sidewalks constructed in several areas. As weather and funding allow, many more paving projects will get underway to make your commute to and from home and work as seamless as possible.

(Continued on Last Page)

From the Recorder Benita Ryalls

It is hard to believe I am wishing you a Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas! Where has time gone? I hope you have a blessed holiday season with family, friends and loved ones.

As we approach our mid fiscal year amidst this crazy COVID virus, we have remained within our budget. Income has been down a little in some areas however we have cut back a little also.

Our next Municipal Election will be held Tuesday, May 4, 2021. Anyone who is interested in running for the positions of Mayor, Recorder, or Council Member may come to City Hall and pick up a Nominating Petition Packet beginning Wednesday, January 13, 2021 between 8:00 a.m. – noon and 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. The fee for these Packets is \$50.00 for Mayor and Recorder and \$35.00 for Council Member.

Also on the ballot for this election will be the issue of changing the date of our Municipal Election and joining the County Election. If this passes on the 2021 Municipal Election Ballot the following changes would occur:

- 2021 Elected Officials would serve a 3½ year term from July 1, 2021 – December 31, 2024.
- The next election would be held in November 2024 for a 4-year term and all elections thereafter will be for 4-year terms and held as part of County Elections.
- The date Elected Officials would take office would be January 1 every election year.
- Election Day voting locations would be at your regular County voting precinct

Some reasons Council feels this would be a change for the better are:

- It will be a financial savings for the City—elections are not cheap.

(Continued on Page 4)

From the Director of Public Works Charles Conard

As this article is being written Mason Street (from Pike to Smith), is getting widened, new curbs, sidewalk, and paving. It looks great! Also, crews have finished milling and paving Third Street. We are in the process of getting quotes for First Street. Like we always say we will get to your street but it does take some time. Our goal is to re-pave all streets and alleys, with some getting new water lines, curbs, and sidewalks.

We are working on a grant which will help with the purchase and installation of a Generac generator for City Hall. The main purpose of this is for our Police Department to be able to function fully during any power outage. It will also allow the office to continue serving our customers without any interruptions. We have become an electronic society so we must keep the power on.

The City Maintenance building shell is complete, and we have been acquiring bids to install electric and do the building wiring. We are looking at all the details before awarding this bid. We are still awaiting bids for a retaining wall and hope to award this by the next council meeting.

We continue to have occasional water leaks, most of which we are able to quickly repair. Occasionally, the repairs take longer than we'd all like, and for that we apologize for the inconvenience. Just know that we work hard to keep the water flowing, and we appreciate your patience. Leaks will always happen, especially with cold weather approaching when lines freeze and then begin to thaw.



As bad as I hate to mention the word SNOW we have to prepare as a City. Some say we should expect lots of snow this year... you never know. However you can be sure we are prepared with salt and plow blades and plenty of workers to keep our roads clear. Our snow removal schedule will remain the same as last year with hills first, then intersections, main streets next and lastly backstreets.

If you have any questions call 304-743-3422.



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 (formerly the Womens' Club.) If you are interested in becoming a member of the Milton Lions Club, pick up an application at the Library.

The Lions Club has quart jars of apple butter available for purchase. They've also advised us that the Lions Club building is available to rent for events.

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



United Daughters of the Confederacy Cooney Ricketts #2726 Milton

Saturday, September 12, 2020 United Daughters of the Confederacy, Cooney Ricketts Chapter 2726, Milton, West Virginia held its first monthly meeting of the new fiscal. Last year was challenging as we had to cancel many activities due, not only to the pandemic, but many individual afflictions and injuries of our members. However, in the true Southern spirit of our ancestors, we have carried on and most of our members are keeping active, individually, aiding our community in numerous ways.

We were delighted to start our new fiscal year with an incredibly special speaker, Robert "Robbie" Thompson who is a local state representative from Wayne County. Robert is also high school history teacher and historian. He has published many books on the War Between the States, mostly focusing on local details.

We usually do not have family guests at our monthly meetings, but we felt that many family members would be interested in hearing what Robbie had to say. So, along with seven regular members we were joined by several husbands. It was a remarkably interesting meeting. We all had a good time. So much so that Robbie asked to come again because he enjoyed interacting with our group. And not being the type of ladies who would turn down such a willing and handsome historian, we instantly invited him back for our next scheduled meeting.



L to R, Marilyn Coleman, Jean Hatfield, Bertie Casey, State Rep. Robert Thompson, Donna Stephens, Easter Miller, and Dee McComas

★ The City of Milton would like to say "Thank You!" to our residents for their co-operation and help in making the fall clean-up a huge success. We changed it up—tried something new—and Milton residents didn't miss a beat. Thank you all for working with us to streamline this process! ★

Code Enforcer/Building Inspector Mike Ramsey



Even though the colder weather may be here it is no reason to fear. There are some simple things you can

do to help winterize and protect your home this season. Check the exterior, doors and windows. Inspect exterior for crevice cracks and exposed entry points around pipes and, if you find any, seal them tight. Use weather-stripping around doors to prevent cold air from entering the home and 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 needs to be licensed and, in certain cases, a permit may be required. Also it is always a good idea to have an emergency kit on hand. You should include indoor candles and matches or a lighter for use during a power outage. Keep the phone numbers for your utility companies close at hand and easy to find. 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.

As always, if you have any questions, feel free to contact me here at City Hall at 304-743-3032, extension 202.



*From all of us at the
City of Milton*



Do You Qualify?

SCAC Weatherization Program, office located at 1595 US Rt. 60 East, Milton, WV helps individuals with some weatherization issues if you qualify (NOT REPAIRS). For more info visit their website www.acacwv.org.

USDA (304-284-4861) also 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.

**DON'T
FORGET**

**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1**

Milton Senior Citizens

At this time we are unsure when regular lunches will resume. However, the Meals on Wheels program is active for anyone that needs lunch provided. For more information on this or to order a lunch call the Center at 304-390-4164.





From Chief Parsons

We have received many inquiries at the Milton Police Department about recent changes to the State Traffic Code in reference to ATV's, Side by Sides and other traditionally off-road type vehicles. Here is the current law as we understand it:

- ◆ The new term for this class of vehicles is "Street legal special purpose vehicles". This will include ATV's, Utility terrain vehicles, golf carts, mini-trucks, pneumatic tired military vehicles and full sized special purpose built vehicles.
- ◆ First of all any street legal special purpose vehicles are subject to title provisions under 17A-1-1.
- ◆ The vehicle must be registered just like a motorcycle and the plate visibly attached to the vehicle.
- ◆ The vehicle must be operated by a licensed driver.
- ◆ The vehicle must be insured.
- ◆ The vehicle must be equipped with at least one headlight, at least one tail light, at least one brake light and the registration plate must be illuminated by a white light.
- ◆ Additionally the vehicle must have at least one red reflector to the rear, amber turn signals to the front, amber or red turn signals to the rear, a braking system other than a parking brake, a horn, a muffler, rearview mirrors on the left and right of the driver, a windshield unless the operator is wearing eye protection and a speedometer illuminated for night operation. Tires must have at least 2/32 inch tread.
- ◆ A street legal special purpose vehicle may not be driven for a distance greater than 20 miles on a street or road with a center line.
- ◆ Having said all of that, the street legal special purpose vehicles **MAY NOT** be operated in any county or municipality which specifically prohibits special purpose vehicles. **Currently the City of Milton prohibits such vehicles from being on the streets or highways.** We plan to clarify our Ordinance regarding this issue by December. Call City Hall to obtain a copy of the Ordinance.



The Holidays are quickly approaching and all of us here at the Milton Police Department hope that each of you has a safe and happy time throughout the seasons.

From the Recorder (continued)

- It is difficult to secure workers for election day and early voting.
- Early voting location for the County is currently Milton City Hall, election day you would vote at your assigned precinct.

Our Finance Clerk, Cameron Ernst, would like to remind local businesses that all Third Quarter 2020 Returns are due by **November 15, 2020** without penalties. If you need to renew your license, go to the City of Milton website for the application and instructions. Fourth Quarter 2020 B&O Tax returns will be mailed for all Annual & Quarterly Businesses on 12/31/2020. We are still eager for businesses go green with email submittals and/or online payments. If you are interested, email financeclerk@cityofmiltonwv.com and attach your email address and contact information for future returns.

If you have questions contact Cameron at 304-743-3032, extension 211 or myself at extension 201.

From the Utilities:

Fall's cool mornings mark the retreat of summer heat. Now is a great time to prepare our homes for freezing temperatures. Here are a few tips to avoid frozen water pipes.

First, find the main water shut-off valve in your home. It is usually found along a basement or ground-floor wall close to where your water service line enters your home. Mark where the valve is located so it can be found in the event of an emergency. Test the valve to ensure that it is working properly. Call a plumber to assist you if necessary.

Next, check your home for areas likely to freeze, like crawl spaces, basements, garages and exterior walls. Seal/caulking drafty windows and doors. Close up crawl spaces, and insulate walls, basements and attics. Protect exposed pipes with insulation or heat tape.

Outdoors, don't forget to make sure everything is off, and fully drain garden hoses. Insulate or cover the hose bib to keep it from freezing.

For questions, call during regular business hours at 304-743-3422. For after-hours emergencies, call 1-855-212-8272.

Milton Library News

The Milton Public Library Hours are 9:00-5:30 pm Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday; 9:00 -7:00 pm on Tuesday; Closed Sunday.

- **Knotty Knitsters**, Tuesdays, 1:00-3:00 pm

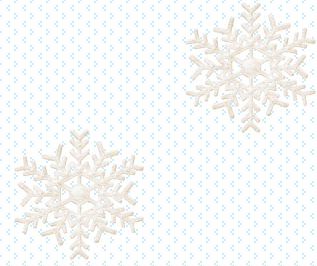
CHECK OUT THESE FACEBOOK EVENTS

- **Online Code Club**: Thursdays: Learn beginning Python in November
- **Virtual Story Hour**: November 18
- **Can You Make It At Home?** Wednesday: 3:00 pm via Facebook virtual program

- **Virtual Middle School Book Club**: November 10, Sign up for Hoopla using your library card, then hang out in a virtual chat room to discuss our monthly book.



SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO TOWN



This year the COVID Virus has forced so many changes in our lives. Since the virus is still active, the City, with regret, chose not to have our Christmas in the Park this year. We did, however, come up with a solution which should keep large groups from gathering and prevent the possible spread of the virus. We will bring CHRISTMAS TO YOU! On **Saturday, December 5** we will be out and about in the City sharing Christmas Joy. Be listening for Christmas music and keep your eyes open for a sighting of Santa, the Mayor, Mrs. Claus, and their Elf. We will begin at **5:00 p.m.** and travel through the streets of Milton. There are some streets we are unable to travel due to difficulty turning around but we have planned a route that should be close to everyone at some point. If your street isn't listed come to the closest street near you! Here is the planned route:

Electric Road, Sunset View

Pine Haven, Milton Middle School (turn around)

Stewart Street, Woodline Drive, Woodyoak Drive, Spicywood Drive

2nd Street, 3rd Street, Cardinal Drive, Sydney Court, Old River Road, Newman's Branch Road

South Main Street, Highlawn Avenue (turnaround at church)

Harbour Trailer Park

Hiddenbrook Road, Circle Cabell Health Care Center

Woodland Drive, Hillview Drive, Valley Health

Summers Addition, Mason Street, Brickyard Avenue, Kane Street

Highlawn Avenue, Jefferson Avenue, Union Street, Summer Avenue, Florida Street

Adams Avenue, Washington Avenue, Glenwood Avenue, Smith Street, Hickory Way Apartments (turn around)

Harrison Street, Pike Street, Church Street, Orchard Street (turnaround at Tennis Courts)

Orchard Street, North Main Street, Pike Street, Church Street, Smith Street, Perry Morris Square, City Hall

We hope you enjoy our effort to bring a little Christmas fun to our Milton Community! Merry Christmas from the City of Milton.





NOVEMBER

2020

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
1  Daylight Savings Ends	2	3  VOTE General Election 5:30 pm Utilities 7:00 pm Council	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 5:30 pm Court	11  Veterans Day Office Closed	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19 5:00 pm RPOC 6:30 Lions Club	20	21
22	23	24	25	26  Thanksgiving Office Closed	27	28
29	30					

Notes

Due to restrictions in place for safety reasons, many events have been cancelled or postponed. Watch our website, Facebook page and the sign at Wendy's for event information.



DECEMBER

2020

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
		1 5:30 pm Utilities 7:00 pm Council	2	3 6:30 Lions Club	4	5 8:00-11:00 am Breakfast with Santa 9:00 am - 3:00 pm Christmas Boot Drive 10:00 am Recycling 5:00 pm Santa Claus Is Coming to Town
	6 	7 5:30 pm Court	8	9	10	11 10:00 am Recycling
12	13	14	15	16 5:00 pm RPOC 6:30 Lions Club	17	18 10:00 am Recycling
19	20	21	22	23	24 	25 Merry Christmas Day 10:00 am Recycling
26	27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve	

Notes

Due to restrictions in place for safety reasons, many events have been cancelled or postponed. Watch our website, Facebook page and the sign at Wendy's for event information.

Grant / IT News from Mike Nixon

I don't know about you, but I can't believe the Holidays are upon us! With this cooler weather brings several projects that I am currently working on. I am working on several individual grants for CARES money for the city and other grants for some hopeful future projects. City Hall will be getting a generator which is great news! This will allow us to stay open and available for our residents during long power outages.

There have been several things going on. As I spoke in the last newsletter, the City will be switching over to fiber internet. We are much closer to this project coming to completion. Final testing is underway and hope to have us live very soon. With this new connection we will also be installing a new phone system. When this happens there will be a learning curve for us all so please be patient as we work out all the bugs and learn the new features. However, with the new internet and phone system, the city will be spending less on both internet and phone service.



Now, it is time for Mike's tech tip. Recently there has been a huge upswing on emails that are very misleading. I'm seeing and hearing about emails that look like they are coming from Microsoft Office 365 that says you have a voicemail and to "click here to download". Also, there are several emails from Apple and other payment websites claiming you need to download and read the invoice attached. Most of these emails take you to malicious websites and install anything from AdWare to Viruses on your computer. If you take a quick look at the "sender" of the email it will have an odd- looking email. For example, I received this one: makandag-ingbabi-dengansayurkol-sayurkolx00002@inexkesukaanku.me.

This is obviously not a real email even though it stated it was from Apple.com in the subject. The best thing to do is to delete these emails and move on. IF you are ever in doubt go directly to the website and login on your browser. Never click on the link in an email. I hope this helps and happy safe browsing!



Milton Rotary Club's Annual **Breakfast With Santa**

Saturday, December 5th

8:00-11:00 am

Milton Baptist Church Gymnasium

Bring the little ones for a yummy breakfast with JOLLY Ol' St. Nick!



2020 GENERAL ELECTION

NOVEMBER 3, 2020 — 6:30 AM to 7:30 PM

AT YOUR REGULAR POLLING PLACE



On Saturday, December 5, 2020 from 9 am to 3 pm, the Brothers of the Wheel Motorcycle Club will have their 44th Annual Christmas Boot Drive

All funds collected go toward providing Christmas joy to area children. The success of this boot drive over the years is due to your generosity.

The Brothers of the Wheel have a special place in their hearts for this project. Be sure to support them again this year by donating what you can!



From the Mayor (Continued)

We are also looking into replacing the Cemetery fence. The chain-link and barbed wire now in place are not very appealing, and we'd like to see something more befitting a final resting place. As Milton continues to thrive, we are also pondering building a new police department for our growing Police Force. We often brainstorm ideas of ways to enrich our City. Let us know what enhancements you'd like to see in Milton!

Many of these improvements make you realize that not all progress is visible, and sometimes laying the groundwork takes longer than the project itself. But the dedication and determination to follow through - even when you can't "see" the results - is key to realizing your goals. I can't wait for these visions to become reality.

The City received the final benches for the War Memorial, offering visitors plenty of places sit and reflect on all the names of veterans who have served, and many of whom gave the ultimate sacrifice for their country. The memorial, originally initiated by the American Legion to replicate an old memorial sign from years ago, soon had help from the VFW and the City of Milton. It stands proudly as a testament to our veterans' dedication.

Whatever the future brings, the most important element in this City is the people. Your generosity and spirit of community can't be beat. I wish for each of you to have the best Thanksgiving and the Merriest of Christmases. Serving as your Mayor over the last eleven years has been an awesome gift. Thank you!



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

City of Milton

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Milton, WV 25541

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(304) 743-3032

recorder@cityofmiltonwv.com

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financeclerk@cityofmiltonwv.com

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miltoncemetery@cityofmiltonwv.com

it@cityofmiltonwv.com

Milton Municipal Utilities

(304) 743-3422

After-hours emergency, call

1-855-212-8272

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miltonutilities@cityofmiltonwv.com

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Milton Police Department

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