

# Town of Milton

115 Federal St  
Milton, DE 19968



[www.ci.milton.de.us](http://www.ci.milton.de.us)

Phone: 302-684-4110

Fax: 302-684-8999

## **TOWN MANAGER REPORT APRIL 2012**

### A Little Bit of History

Just like our federal and state government, your current town government does not become a new creation after each election. The talent brought forth through the election of new public servants may change. The legacy of the Town Charter, Municipal Code, Comprehensive Plan, programs and policies of the past carries on to the current and future Councils and Administrations, though.

The result of the March 24 Water System Improvements referendum is that proposed borrowing for such improvements is not approved by the voting public. The Water Facilities Master Plan adopted by the prior administration (April 2009) and incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan (May 2010), by the same, are still in effect.

This is the plan that was presented by CABB Associates in January and February of 2012. Additional study of Milton's water needs and validation of the Master Plan has been authorized by Council under a Resolution passed this month.

The grant funding to re-assess the Master Plan is insufficient to replace it entirely. Having a different engineering firm perform the study, however, will serve to validate prior findings and add to the information previously presented.

### One Thing Leads to Another...

Last month, the Finance Committee recommendation to re-bid professional services was made as part of the Town Treasurer's report. Professional services contracts are not awarded to lowest bidder. It is expertise in a field and familiarity with a client's particular needs that typically drive the selection process. Practices that closely resemble that which is used by the State of Delaware have been put into place. The Water Committee has reviewed proposals from engineering firms that would like to re-visit the Town of Milton Water Facility Master Plan and are making their recommendation tonight.

### Cannery Village Addressing Issues

The Cannery Village addressing issue on will be addressed through an Ad Hoc Committee created for that purpose. The Sussex County Addressing Department will respond when technical assistance is requested by a representative of the town. The first meeting of the committee is not scheduled.

### Code Enforcement Recruitment Effort

The Code Enforcement Officer position has been advertised in the Cape Gazette for the last three issues and in the Delaware State News for the last two Sundays. It has been posted on the State of Delaware Department of Labor website and the Del Tech Community College student & alumni job board for four of weeks, now. The position description has been e-mailed to key persons in professional organizations and to Construction Management Department Chairs. Several applications have been received. The closing date for applications is May 4<sup>th</sup>. Interviews will follow.

### Did you know?

(March 23, 2012) The new State Record largemouth bass was caught by James Hitchens of Georgetown. The 10 lb. 10 oz. fish was caught, weighed and later released into Wagamons Pond!



### Web Site Development

There are several measures that will make the new web site more user-friendly. One such measure is breaking-up the “Public Documents” section of our current site. Each committee or commission will have its own “home page” with links to documents related to that particular subject area. The committee-specific home page will explain how the committee was formed, what they do and who currently serves on the committee. A draft copy of each page has been developed. A follow-up meeting with our web developer was held last week. A “release date” has not yet been determined.

### Plan of Services Required for Annexations

The State of Delaware requires that municipalities have a “Plan of Services” for all annexations. The plan is filed with the Office of Planning Coordination during the annexation process. There has not been an annexation in Milton since 2008. Plans filed over the past decade are being reviewed by the Circuit Rider Planner assigned to Sussex County. The review should provide more clarity of purpose as we approach a new budget year.

### Legislative News

The new regulations regarding trash service, yard waste and recycling have been a burden to town governments as well as individual homeowners. They were created in the Delaware Legislature. Your local government officials are ever-vigilant when it comes to legislation that will impact their citizens. Please do your part, as well. The State Legislature is back in session. Your thoughtful watch of legislative activity and your willingness to contact your state representatives is very important.

### Speaking of Yard Waste...

You know that you’ve got good neighbors when they do the right thing...even when the Code Enforcement Department isn’t looking. Grass clippings should be bagged, swept or blown back onto yards. Clippings that go onto the street clog the drainage system. This causes street flooding during summer showers. The clippings that make it through go to the river – where they cause algae blooms and deplete the water of oxygen. This, in turn, creates an unpleasant odor and kills fish. Please be a good neighbor, protect our natural resources and be mindful of your grass clippings. Thank you.

### Upcoming Festivals and More

On Thursday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, the Town of Milton will be the subject of painters and photographers from throughout the region. The Milton Historic District, the Broadkill River and the Dogfish Head Brewery will be “captured” as art in a competitive event sponsored by the Rehoboth Art League, the Childrens’ Beach House and the Food Bank of Delaware – the 2012 Plein Air Coastal Delaware event.

On May 25<sup>th</sup>, the Milton Mile run/walk event sponsored by the Milton Wesleyan Church will be held from 5 until 7:30 pm in the neighborhood east of Union Street. And, on May 26<sup>th</sup> the annual Horseshoe Crab and Shorebird Festival, sponsored by the Milton Chamber of Commerce, will be held in Milton Memorial Park and in the Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge.

If you did not receive your Summer Concert schedule in the mail, it can be printed from the town web site. The Annapolis Bluegrass Convention kicks-off the Wednesday evening season on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Bring your lawn chair to Memorial Park and enjoy the good life, down by the river, in Milton!