

Town of Milton

115 Federal St
Milton, DE 19968



www.ci.milton.de.us

Phone: 302-684-4110

Fax: 302-684-8999

TOWN MANAGER REPORT DECEMBER 2011

The Town of Milton enjoyed a festive December. Although the Christmas Parade was cancelled because of threatening weather, the Holly Festival and Holiday House Tour were both quite successful. The Holly Festival was sponsored by the Milton Chamber of Commerce and hosted by the Milton Fire Department – with more vendors, food and Santa Claus at Goshen Hall on Federal Street. The Town Hall was featured, along with several beautiful homes, on Milton Century Club Holiday House Tour. Many thanks go out to the Milton Garden Club, too. Our downtown shopping district had the benefit of their volunteer service and holiday decoration.

Our community is blessed to have so many active and generous individuals, businesses and associations. This partnership between the Town of Milton and its citizens adds value to everything.

Preparing for Winter Storms

Our Public Works Supervisor and assistant received a training update with regard to Winter maintenance/snow and ice removal at the University of Delaware T2 Center in early December. This was followed-up with a meeting between Chief Clark of the Milton Fire Department and key members of the Town staff. Clearing streets and providing support for each other will be a well-coordinated effort if and when the next Winter Storm comes.

Solicitation of Candidates

In December, candidates for the March 3, 2012 were solicited through advertisements in newspapers of general circulation in the area. The process by which the Town of Milton elects its Mayor and Council is governed by Title 15, Chapter 75 of the Delaware Code. The deadline to file a “Certificate of Intention” for election as a Council candidate was January 3rd. Soon after that, the Board of Elections will review documentation in order to ascertain the candidate’s eligibility. A background investigation by a certified agency will provide this. Two Council seats are up for re-election. The declared candidates are: G. Kevin Kelly, Kristin B. Patterson, John T. Booros and Gwendolyn M. Jones.

Please Pay Your Utility Bill “On-Time”

The slow economy has had an impact on just about everyone. It is important to budget for the payment of utility bills, though. Bills for water and refuse disposal services are sent to every home and business in January, April, July and October. They are due thirty days later. After about forty-five days, a notice will be sent via certified mail. Non-payment of utility bills will result in the shut-off of water service. There is a \$5 fee assessed for the certified mail notice. It cost \$50 to have the water shut-off and another \$50 to have it turned back on. Interest for the overdue period is assessed, too.

These fees are not meant to be punitive. The whole process is quite labor intensive. In addition to preparing the late notices, an additional notice is hung on each door. In the last week of December, shut-offs were occurring to those who had not paid their October bill. There are approximately 1400 “customers” in town. Last quarter, 111 received late notices and 18 were shut-off. In addition to payments by check, a credit card can be used through www.officialpayments.com or (800) 272-9829.

Town Charter and Municipal Code

Our web site (www.ci.milton.de.us) features a link to the online version of the Milton Charter and Municipal Code. This is provided as a service to the public. It is a demonstration of the Town Council's commitment to transparency and serves as a guide for citizens. You don't need to be a scholar to use it, either. General Code, the service company, provides a user-friendly search feature that helps you to find exactly what you need.

For example, if you wanted to know about grass cutting standards. Simply type "grass" into the search box on the upper right hand side of the General Code page. Then, you will find all of the references to grass in the Milton Municipal Code. You will find amendments to ordinances and Resolutions of Council, too. Changes to the Code and Resolutions that occurred over the last year were submitted in December. As the year 2012 progresses, you will see timely postings under the heading "New Laws" or "Legislation Not Yet Codified". Please take advantage of this valuable information service.

Street Paving and Parking Lots

The re-paving of Bennett, Clifton, "B", Conwell and Cedar streets was completed in December. Water mains and laterals were replaced on Cedar and Conwell Streets, too.

As a bonus, the Division of Fish and Wildlife re-paved the lot behind the library. Patrons of the library and park should note that the Municipal Parking lot is across the street at the corner of Union and Magnolia. The lot behind the library was established for the benefit of boaters. Funding for the paving and facilities was provided by way of an excise tax on fishing equipment and fuel sold at marinas. Your thoughtful consideration regarding this shared resource is truly appreciated.

Upcoming Dates

On January 15th, the Town Hall will be closed in observance of the national holiday honoring the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

On January 19, at 6:30 p.m. in the Milton Public Library, there will be an opportunity to appeal your property tax bill. Thirty days before, the property tax listing was posted on the Town website – along with the notice of the Appeal Hearing. Advertisements were made in the Cape Gazette on 12/23 & 12/27, too. The deadline to file your appeal was on January 4th. This allows some time for the Town Assessor to research the method that was used to determine the value of each property in question.

Destination Milton!

Attractions and events in Milton make it a desirable place not only to visit but also to live. There are hundreds of homes planned and not yet built. As our community grows, so does the breadth of shopping, dining and business services available. Growth helps us to manage costs through sharing fixed expenses among a greater total number of households, too. This helps everybody.

The Delaware Economic Development Office and your Economic Development Committee are always seeking ways to improve the town's situation. A proposal for way-finding signage is being developed. These signs will comply with DOT regulations and offer direction to public facilities, tourist destinations and generic business locations such as a medical park. The goal is to make our community easier to navigate for all. Visitors who find Milton to be user-friendly may, someday, call Milton *home*.

Finally...talkin' trash

It is very important to put your trash can at the curb on Monday night – prior to the Tuesday morning pickup. Trash pickups start early in the morning. Those who do not put their trash at the curb *before pickup* will have to wait until the next week. Recycling and yard waste pickups cannot include regular trash. Please note that there is no yard waste pickup in February or March (schedule is with utility bill).