

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 MARCH 2012

Drinking Water

Water was the main topic of the month of March 2012. At the March 5, Council Meeting, the language to be used on the ballot for the March 24th referendum was determined. A total of 384 in-person and absentee ballots were counted. The outcome was as follows: 124 voted in favor of the proposed borrowing; 260 voted against the proposed borrowing. Twenty-one absentee ballots were invalidated because of errors or incomplete submission.

In the interim, the Water Department quickly acted upon the authorization to purchase replacement meters for specific customers. A new 3” meter was installed at Milton Elementary on Federal Street. The more accurate reading caused the recorded use to jump from approximately 225,000 per quarter to 347,000 per quarter. As a result, the school is working much harder to fix leaks within the building.

Folks have heard about the “missing” water and have been more responsive to department requests for meter upgrades. A new 1” meter was put on the old scrapple plant commercial center. Three residential properties have new meters, too.

The Delaware Rural Water Association provided equipment and expertise in leak detection to the town last week. A subsurface *Leak Correlator* was used to “listen” for leaks at selected places in town. The river and creek crossings at Union, Mulberry, Lavinia and Atlantic/Cave Neck were checked – as well as the spring that begins on Broad Street and drains to Magnolia Street. It is a highly accurate device and the only leak detected was on Atlantic/Cave Neck Road. That leak was on a smaller “service line”, rather than a main. The leak has been repaired.

The significant increase in metered readings (from the installation of more accurate meters) and the relative lack of leak detection would suggest that most of the “missing” water will found in billing – as opposed to the ground. This is good for revenue. It does not, however, address the need for more water in storage.

Trash, Recycling and Yard Waste

The unseasonably warm weather has accelerated lawn and yard maintenance activity. The first yard waste pickup is Thursday, April 5th. It will occur every week through December, thereafter. Please remember that recycling pickups happen on alternate Thursdays. Recycling is always once every two weeks. A new, full-color schedule has been drafted and will be mailed to each home with trash service.

Thank You to the Milton Fire Department

The fire department bought the property on Front Street and then razed the abandoned apartment buildings there. This is a great visual improvement to a “gateway” into Milton. Thank you!

Sprucing-up the Town Parks, and more...

Fresh mulch has been applied to the flower beds and tree trunks in the parks. A drainage problem behind the library will soon be addressed. The light down by the river will be repaired, as well.

The Town of Milton has developed an excellent relationship with the Department of Corrections, as well as the Office of Probation and Parole. A conservative estimate of the value of labor contributed is in excess of \$25,000 per year. The workers that you see are hand-picked by the warden or a designee. They are most often in the final months of a sentence for driving under the influence of alcohol or some other non-violent offense.

The work performed goes beyond manual labor, too. For the past couple of months, the front office has been able to exceed its goal of creating a digital library of its records. Thousands of pages have been scanned and meticulously organized by a talented office professional that needed to perform community service. The Town of Milton is quite selective when it comes to accepting any person for an assignment. Working with the appropriate State of Delaware agencies, we receive only the best candidates for a given job. The benefit of such work accrues to both the volunteer and our taxpayers.

Code Enforcement

Our Building and Code Enforcement Department will soon be capable of issuing citations that will be recognized by the courts. The Building and Code Enforcement Department has been primarily involved with the review of construction plans and business license applications prior to approval. Follow-up with contractors and on-site inspections is often required. In addition to this, there is the need to respond to the requests or complaints of homeowners and businesses.

Most residents and businesses are responsive to letters and personal communication. A more “forceful” approach requires the ability to issue citations. In order to do this, the person be a sworn “peace” officer, the code needs to be loaded into the Delaware Criminal Justice Information System (DELJIS) and the person and equipment needs to be trained and authorized by DELJIS. These steps have been taken and the Town of Milton Code Enforcement Officer will soon be empowered to issue citations.

Upcoming Activities and Events

The Milton Farmers Market will begin a new season beginning on Friday, April 20th and continue through Friday, October 26th from 3:30 until 6:30 pm on the corner of Union and Magnolia Streets. Stop by for excellent food from local farms, bakeries and fish or meat retailers.

The Town-wide Yard Sale will be on Saturday, May 5th – starting at 9am.

On Thursday, May 10th, 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 25th, 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 26th 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.

Holiday Closure

Town Hall will be closed on Friday, April 6th, in observance of Good Friday.