

City of Milford News

A publication produced exclusively by the City of Milford.



Volume XVI, Issue 4

Edited by Susan Ellerhorst, Assistant to the City Manager

Holiday Edition, 2006

Hometown Holidays

Friday, Nov. 24, 10:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 25, 10:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.
Sunday, Nov. 26, 12:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

Join us in the festivities at the 22nd annual Hometown Holidays Frosted Event on November 24 - 26 in Milford's historic mill district. Sponsored by the Old Milford Merchants Association (OMMA), the event will be available on Friday and Saturday from 10:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m., and Sunday from 12:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

Bring the children down during Hometown Holidays to visit Santa Claus and enjoy a wonderful carriage ride sponsored by several local businesses.

Historic Milford can provide the best that Christmas has to offer. The list of unique gift items in Milford is endless. From antiques to stuffed bears, from fine art to rustic accessories, the Old Mill District boasts one of the area's largest varieties of mercantile convenience.

Hometown Holidays Highlights

- Cookie Walk
- Santa Hunt
- Carriage rides
- Live Entertainment
- Train display

Vote on November 7

All Ohio voters must provide proof of their identity at the polls on Election Day. Identification may include a current and valid photo id, a military id that shows the voter's name and current address, or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, pay-check, or other government document that shows the voter's name and current address. Please remember the polls are open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 7.



City of Milford Taxes

All NEW residents and businesses of Milford are required to register with the Milford Income Tax Office. If you have any questions please contact the Income Tax Office at 513-248-5082 weekdays from 8:30am to 4:30pm or stop by. The Tax Department is located at the Municipal Building, 745 Center Street, Suite 220.



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From the Mayor

By Lou Bishop

Founders Day Celebration

Thanks to the organizational and caring efforts of Virginia Critchell, the city recently celebrated its 200th birthday at the Founders Day Celebration at the American Legion Hall. My wife and I were in England so, unfortunately, we were not in attendance. However, I understand the event was well attended. Congratulations to Milford. I believe she shows her age quite well, don't you?

Clermont Lumber Site News

As I have reported to you several times over the past months, the city was working closely with a development group to bring a beautiful, new condominium to the site. Unfortunately, the developer and the land owner could not reach final agreement after two plus years of active planning and that deal is dead. I can honestly tell you that the city did all it could do to make this plan a reality but we cannot manage events and circumstances outside our control. The owner of the property is close to a new deal on this site and we have been told that the interested buyer has big plans for a significant development if the deal closes. In fact, we have been asked to attend meetings with the prospective new buyers so that they can outline their vision and ideas for the site. Of course, the city is keenly interested in a professional development of this site in line with our zoning and land use vision. As more concrete information develops, we will share it with you.

Korner Barber Shop Site

Have you noticed that construction of the new building is now under way? This is great news for the city and particularly our historic downtown. The old building was, without doubt, Milford's streetscape jewel. As reported earlier, the original building dated to the mid 1800's and was our showcase property. The loss of this historic building to a tragic fire was extremely unfortunate. Dale Roe and Steve Early, the owners of the site, had their beautiful plans approved by our Planning Commission and we look forward to the new jewel. The architectural renderings of the new building are quite impressive and the ultimate plan is to rebuild the building to closely resemble the old one. The city and downtown merchants are very excited about this project.

2nd Annual Buskerfest

Suzanne Stagg reported to council recently that the second annual event was quite successful and grew in size and attendance from the inaugural event. Thanks to Suzanne for her tireless work on this festival. I can tell you that Suzanne essentially created this event on her very own.....with little or no budget. She had traveled in Europe where Busker events are somewhat common and decided Milford would be a great place for similar festivals. Countless hours spent on the internet and a personal drive to bring Buskers to Milford, has culminated in this festival which is becoming a signature event along with Frontier Days.

The festival creates excitement for our citizens, a positive image for Milford and brings visitors (business) to our city. Thanks to Suzanne and all those who helped to make this festival a success.

Happy Holidays

The city staff, council and yours truly wishes all of you a happy, safe and meaningful holiday season.

Target Enforcement Area

Target Enforcement Areas are streets or intersections within the city where problems have been identified either by citizen complaints or by statistical analysis from report data. These problems may be speeders, drivers not obeying traffic control devices, drivers passing stopped school buses or areas where numerous traffic crashes have been recorded. Traffic enforcement is a priority for the City of Milford Police Department. We are also involved in the Hamilton County Driving While Intoxicated Task Force and the Circle of Cincinnati, I-275 Enforcement Corridor.

However, these major initiatives are not nearly as important as keeping our city streets safe. The Police Department and City Council members have heard several complaints from residents about speeding and other traffic related concerns. The Milford Police Department takes these complaints very seriously and will continue to step up enforcement in these target areas.

In addition to enforcement during patrol, we will set up the speed monitoring trailer in designated areas to increase driver awareness. Several of the target enforcement areas will be Center Street, Forest Avenue, Edgcombe Drive, and Miami Avenue for stop sign and speed enforcement. Another area will be S.R. 28, near Service Drive and the new Beachwood Connector in front of the new Wal-Mart construction site.

Please slow down in your neighborhood while driving and obey all traffic control devices. In fact, try to avoid distractions like cell phones, reading materials, and eating to potentially circumvent an accident.

Facts about Emergency Medical Levy (EMS) For the City of Milford

The 2001-2005 5.4 Mill Levy ended December 31, 2005 and will be put to the voters this November 7th for replacement.

Our staff has worked to keep the levies as close to the amounts needed to support the EMS and FIRE services for the City over the five year periods. We have reduced the millage in both areas and have planned in the past to deal with the issue we face in the future. The biggest issue is the cost of personnel.

REPLACEMENT of the old 5.4 Mill Levy with a new 5.2 MILL LEVY IS A REDUCTION IN MILLAGE FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS.

Facts about the Levy:

- Propose to replace the 5.4 mill levy with a new 5.2 mill levy. This would cover years 2006-2007-2008-2009-2010.
- Effective Rate of the 5.4 vs. 5.2 mills :
 - If your home is valued at \$100,000 the previous 5.4 mills cost \$165.37
 - If your home is valued at \$100,000 the new 5.2 mills will cost \$159.25

We feel that it is important that our customers have the ability to vote on these levies. This also keeps down confusion of high millages that occur when continued levies are added. It is our goal to give the citizens the best service today and in the future. We also believe that the people need to have the ability to review the service over the past five years. Giving you the right to vote on these services allows your voice to be heard.

Christmas Trees

Christmas-tree collection will be held every Wednesday in January. Please rid the tree of all lights, tinsel, and decoration, and place it at the curb. Trees not meeting the above requirements will be left at the curb and not collected. If you have any questions, please call Michael Haight at 831-7018.

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Website Navigation Updates

www.milfordohio.org

The City of Milford website uses multi-tier navigation to allow for ease-of-use in locating specific contents. On the left hand side of the site are menus for “City Services”, “Community”, “City Council”, “Departments”, “Links”, “History”, “Contact” and “Job Opportunities” which takes you to contents related to those topics. On the right side of the web site you can select some of the more commonly requested information such as Events Calendar, Tax forms, Zoning Forms & Information, Building Permits, Stormwater Utility, Garbage & Recycling, City Newsletters, Demographic Information, and a General Brochure.

Departments Web page contains links and contact information to Parks and Recreation, Solid Waste Disposal and Recycling Department, Planning and Zoning, Building, Fire Department, Finance, Income Tax, Police Department, Streets and Services, Utility, Water, Cemetery, Wastewater, Storm Water, and City Council, Committees and Commissions. The links on the City Council web page allow residents to review the Codified Ordinances, City Charter, and meeting minutes from City Council.

If you click on City Services the link will provide you with information about the city services provided by income tax dollars. These services are the Police Department, Parks, Street Maintenance, Garbage and Recycling and City Administration. Specific requests for information can be emailed through the links on the Contact web page for an individual department or the City Manager.

The most frequently asked questions are usually about the Planning and Zoning requirements. To navigate the website to find the Planning and Zoning requirements, click on Departments menu button with your mouse and then click on the Planning and Zoning link. Next click on Zoning forms and instructions to access the applications.

Please feel free to contact City Hall with any questions or concerns not found on the web site by calling 513-831-4192.

Park Improvements

Garfield Shelter House

The Garfield Shelter Ribbon Cutting Ceremony was held on September 16, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. City Council Member Amy Brewer, Parks and Recreation Chair David Whittaker, and Parks and Recreation Vice-Chair Rachele Rapp-Dickerson participated. The amenities include a horseshoe parking lot, shelter house, grill, portable restroom, and trash receptacles. Please call 513-831-4192 for reservations or additional information.

The Junction Trail Festival

The first ever Junction Trail Festival at Milford, Ohio was a great success! The event included trail and hiking activities which filled up the three days with food, fun, educational activities, and speakers. The Junction Trail Festival celebrates the Heat of America’s Long Distance Trails connecting in Milford, Ohio. If you have any questions about next years Junction Trail Festival please email info@thejunctiontrailfest.org or call 937-572-2995 for more details.

Rumpke’s Holiday Schedule

Rumpke will not pick up garbage and recycling on December 25, and January 1, 2007. Rumpke will pick up the garbage and recycling the following day during these weeks.

South Milford Bike Trail

The City of Milford received a Capital Improvement Grant appropriated by the 126th General Assembly with special thanks to Ohio State Representative Joseph Uecker. The South Milford Bike Trail is now available for public use.



Milford Community Activities Continued...

Promont House Museum Victorian Halloween:

Dreamweavers and Hannah Cooper will entertain visitors with their story-telling talents and a special visit by Magician, Jason Jacobs will enthrall and instruct on Saturday and Sunday, October 28 - 29. Victorian children's games, primarily designed for children ages six to ten will take place from 4:00 p.m.- 6:00 p.m.

Make a Difference Day!!

October 28 is Make a Difference in Ohio Day. The new picnic area at Promont House will be landscaped on this day. The landscape design has been completed by Milford resident, Jon Petersen. Volunteers are welcome to assist in this planting! Please call our office if interested in joining us to help Make a Difference in Ohio and at Promont House!

Beggars' Night

Beggars' Night will be celebrated from 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. on October 31. As a safety measure, children should stay in a group with an adult, try not to wear dark colors, and remove face masks when walking. The Police Department recommends that a parent or guardian inspect all candy and discard any suspicious pieces. If you have any questions, call the Milford Police Department at (513) 248-5084.

C.O.V.E.R. Awards

The C.O.V.E.R. Awards Dinner, November 1, 2006 at RSVP on Wards Corner Rd. will honor the local businesses in the Milford Miami Township Area. Recipients will be: Large Business of the Year, Small Business of the Year and Volunteer, and Service Person of the year. For more information, please contact Karen Huff, Executive Director of the Milford Miami Township Chamber of Commerce at 831-2411 or visit: www.milfordmiamitownship.com

Taste of Christmas

The 15th Annual Taste of Christmas Open House to be held, Wednesday, December 6, 2006 from 6:00pm-8:30pm at the Milford Firefighter's Community Hall at 1005 Lila Avenue in the Milford Shopping Center. Please bring the family and join in on the fun with the great food and silent auction. Please contact the Chamber office at 831-2411 for more information.

News from Row House Gallery

Row House Gallery will host its annual "Center Stage" November 24-26 during Milford's Hometown Holidays Christmas walk. Row House features a large assortment of original and limited edition print artwork as well as posters, and will showcase a selection especially appropriate for gift-giving during the "It's a Wrap" exhibit December 1-24, 2006. For more information contact the gallery at 513-831-7230 or visit www.rowhouse.com.

An AllyBeads Update

AllyBeads is inviting beaders to design something special for the **AllyBeads Holiday Giving Tree**. The items will be placed on the tree as decoration starting mid-November. As the holiday season evolves, AllyBeads will donate the beaded designs to one or more community programs for the needy. It's a great way to use up some of your one-off bead inventory; and, more importantly, participate in the spirit of giving. Be sure to call for dates and times 831-8300 or visit AllyBeads at www.allybeads.com.

Milford Theatre Guild

The Milford Theatre Guild will be presenting Agatha Christie's thriller "The Mousetrap" January 26-27 and February 2 -3, 2007. All performances will be at Mulberry Elementary School on Buckwheat Road. Show times are 8pm and tickets are \$10 for adults, \$8 seniors/students or groups of 10 or more. Tickets will be sold at the door. To pre order, contact Betty at 513-575-2103 or check out at www.milfordtheatregilde.org.



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Keep up with Milford's current issues in the comfort of your own home! City Council meetings are broadcast every week on Cable Channel 17 on Wednesdays at 10:00 p.m., and on Saturdays at 8:00 p.m.

Milford City Council

- Lou Bishop, Mayor
Kim McBeath, Vice-Mayor
Craig Kolb, Council Member
Charlene Hinnners, Council Member
James Antell, Council Member
Amy Brewer, Council Member
David Hunter, Council Member
Michael Minniear, Law Director
Joanne Trilety, Clerk of Council
Loretta Rokey, City Manager

The City of Milford would like to wish you a happy holiday season and a successful new year!



Council Meetings are held the first and third Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers unless otherwise noted.

- Nov 7 Election Day
Nov 8 Council Meeting
Nov 10 City Offices Closed
Nov 11 Veterans Day
Nov 21 Council Meeting
Nov 23 & 24 Thanksgiving Holiday
City Offices Closed
Dec 5 Council Meeting
Dec 19 Council Meeting
Dec 25 Christmas Day
City Offices Closed
Jan 1 New Years Day
City Offices Closed
Jan 2 Council Meeting
Jan 16 Council Meeting

Important Phone Numbers

- Emergency Police/Fire/Life Squad: 911
Fire (non-emergency): 831-7777
Police (non-emergency): 248-5084
General Administration: 831-4192

City Phone Numbers

- Building Department: 248-5098
Greenlawn Cemetery: 831-4013
Income Tax Office: 248-5082
Mayor's Court: 248-5085
Planning and Zoning: 248-5093
Recycling/Solid Waste Collection: 248-5092
Service/Street Department: 831-7018
Utility Billing Information: 248-5081
Wastewater Department: 831-6982
Water Department: 831-6819

County Phone Numbers

- Health Department: 732-7499
Clermont County Board of Elections: 732-7275
Driver's License/Plates (BMV): 248-0500
Milford Miami Chamber of Commerce: 831-2411
Title Office/Clerk of Courts: 831-9474