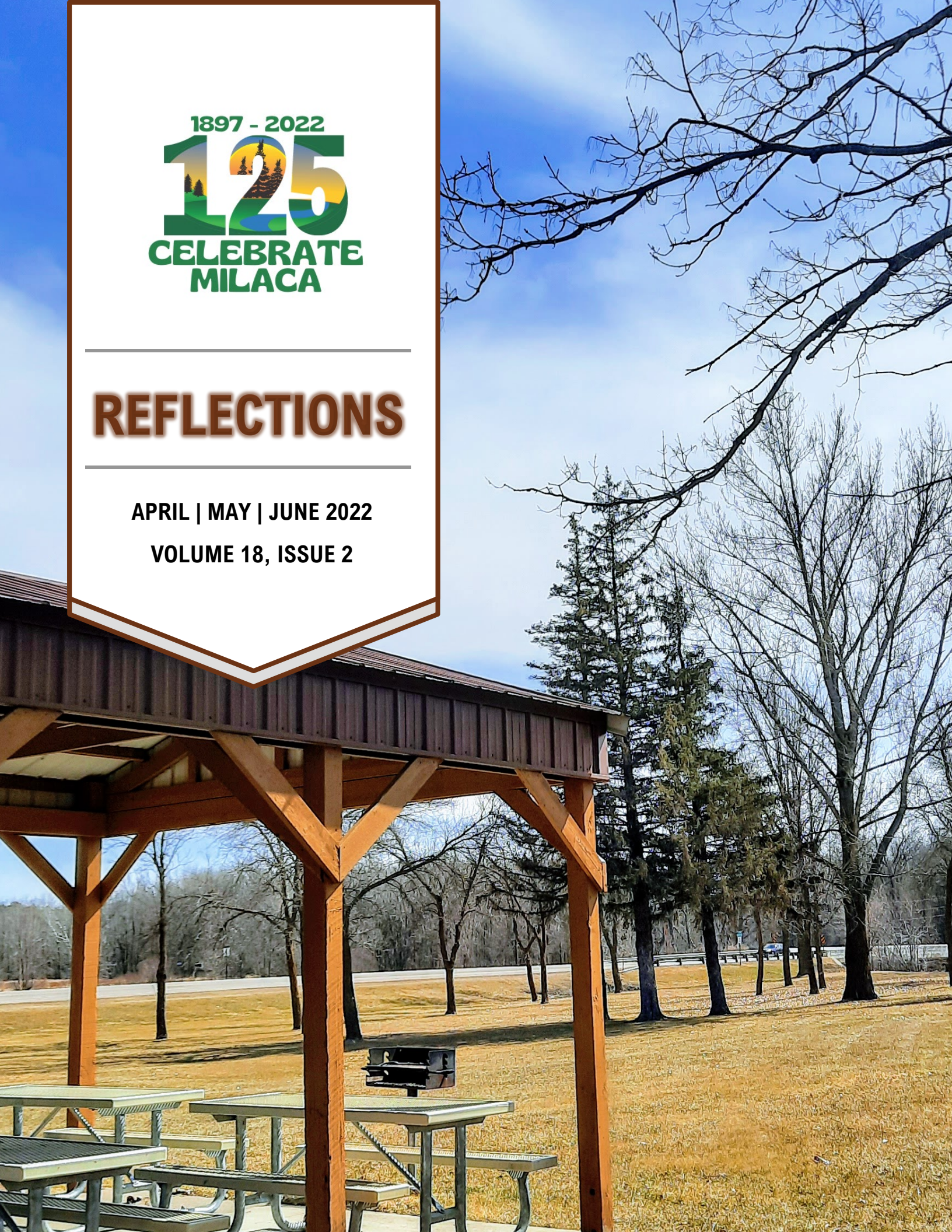


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CELEBRATE
MILACA

REFLECTIONS

APRIL | MAY | JUNE 2022

VOLUME 18, ISSUE 2



City Hall Notes

Utility Billing Updates

- For those of you who follow our Facebook page, you know that Mary Beth Niedzielski is now our Utility Billing and Front Desk Clerk. She started January 31, 2022, and is doing an excellent job.
- Sign up for Direct Pay for your water/sewer bill!
 - The amount due will be deducted automatically on the 15th of each month. If the 15th falls on a weekend or holiday then the payment will be deducted the next business day.
 - Save the cost of a stamp
 - No late fees or penalties
 - No convenience fee (If you currently pay by credit card you are charged a minimum of \$3 by the credit card processing company)
 - You will continue to receive the Water/Sewer bill each month so you will know what will be deducted from your account.
 - Form can be found at <https://www.cityofmilaca.org/payments>

Personnel Updates

- Mary Beth Niedzielski has been hired as the Utility Billing and Front Desk Clerk.
- Deloris Katke, Assistant City Clerk, has also taken on the duties of Accounts Payable.
- Mark Wubben is now the city's Events Coordinator in addition to his Public Works duties.
- Mary Mickelson will be taking park shelter reservations and updating the electronic sign.

Gorecki Center, Park Shelters, and Camping Reservations

Book a park shelter or camping spot online? Sure! Go to <https://www.cityofmilaca.org/reserve> to see availability, make your reservation, and use your credit/debit card to pay. A brief how-to video is posted on our YouTube channel, and here is the direct link: <https://youtu.be/vQmoYfMal8Q>. We still can accept your reservation and payment in-person at City Hall. For more information email mmickelson@milacacity.com.



Permits for Mini-Trucks, UTVs, and Golf Carts

It's time to renew these permits! Per City ordinance, motorized golf carts, mini trucks and UTVs must have a permit from the City of Milaca to operate legally within the city limits. These permits are due each year but there is no fee. To complete your permit, go to www.cityofmilaca.org/forms and click on the Mini Truck, UTV & Golf Cart Permit. The form can be filled out online and printed, or downloaded to be filled out. Completed forms can be mailed, dropped in the city hall drop box, or e-mailed to mniedzielski@milacacity.com. Permit will be mailed to applicant once approved. Please call city hall at [\(320\) 983-3141](tel:3209833141) if you have any questions.

Spring Leaf Dumpster — May 1st!

Jim's Mille Lacs Disposal will once again be helping with the disposal of organic debris from your yard.

Starting May 1, 2022 Jim's Mille Lacs Disposal, located at 190 2nd Street NE, will have a dumpster available to bring your brush, small branches, and leaves. **These MUST be removed from any plastic bags before placing in the dumpster.**

Hours are Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.



Liquor Store Notes

Vicki Jeys, Manager — (320) 983-6255



Beer Cave Cooler Opening Soon!

We are very excited to be adding a beer cave cooler! What this means for you is that we can increase our stock of both beer AND flavored alcoholic seltzers, just in time for summer! We will also be adding pre-mixed liquor drinks to the main coolers, like Crown Royal Apple Cranberry cocktail.

Make sure to stop by for the grand opening on Friday, May 27, 2022, Memorial Day Weekend! We will be doing free tastings and prizes.

Police Department Notes

Rebecca Porter, Office Administration — (320) 983-6166

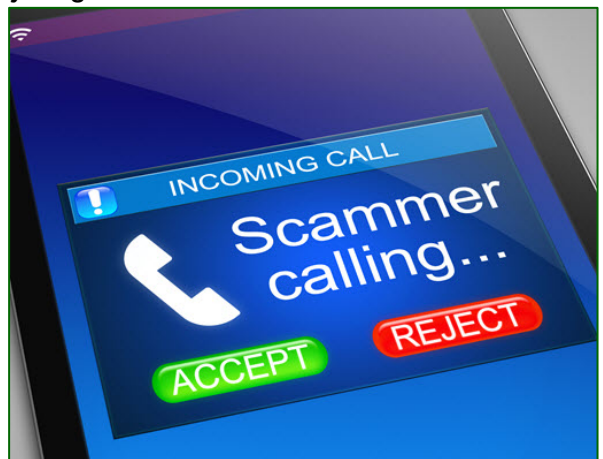
PHONE SCAMS

People lose a lot of money to scams — sometimes their life savings. Scammers use many ways to cheat you out of your money. Sometimes they may act friendly and helpful; other times they might try to threaten or scare you. Often times they will insist that you make a payment right away to avoid legal action.

How to Recognize a Phone/Mail Scam

- ***You've Won a Prize:*** But before you can receive it you will need to send in payment to cover the cost of tax, shipping, or registration fees.
- ***Law Enforcement/Government Agencies Call:*** They tell you you'll be arrested or fined if you don't pay your taxes or other debts right away. Real law enforcement and government agencies won't call and threaten you, and will never ask you for sensitive information such as social security numbers.
- ***Emergency Call from Grandchild or other Loved One:*** Caller identifies him/herself by name and says they are in trouble and need money right away. They don't want to get others involved and need your help. As scary as the call may be, ask for a number where you can reach them. Then call a family member/friend of the caller and verify if they are indeed out of town and let them know you received a potential scam call.
- ***Donations to Charities:*** Caller may thank you for past donations (even though you haven't donated in the past) and tell you that they urgently need your help. Don't feel pressured into giving immediately. Always check out a charity before you give.
- ***If someone on the phone tells you to pay them with a gift card to:***
 - Pay an IRS debt
 - Keep your Social Security or health insurance benefits
 - Keep your utilities on (electricity, water, or heat)
 - Pay for a family member in trouble
 - Pay bail or a ransom
 - Avoid arrest or deportation
 - Pay for tech support

HANG UP! It's a scam!



Personnel Updates

Welcome! to new officers Andrew Sammis and Jordan Ramler.

Parks & Public Works Notes

PARKS

Rec Park

Pickleball

The courts will be cleaned and the nets set up by mid-April.

Bathrooms

The Gorecki Center restrooms will be open to the public on Monday, May 2, 2022. The portable bathrooms are also available.

Camping

The camping sites will be available for use on Monday, May 2, 2022. You can now reserve them online at <https://www.cityofmilaca.org/reserve>.

Splashpad

As the unofficial start to summer, the Splashpad opens Friday, May 27, 2022.

Trails

The trails are still muddy and signs are posted to keep off. Follow the Milaca Trails Initiative Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/MilacaTrailsInitiative>) for up-to-date information.

Parking

The gravel parking area east of the Gorecki Center will be enlarged and paved. In addition, the sidewalks will be widened, with a new sidewalk extending to the warming house.

Archery Range

The archery range will be opened to the public mid-April. This will be announced on the City of Milaca Facebook page and website.



Deputy Registrar Notes

Amy Cain, Deputy Registrar — (320) 983-3143

The Deputy Registrar is open to the public Monday through Friday 8-4 pm. If you have a transaction that is going to take longer, please try to be here no later than 3:45 pm.

The knowledge test is offered here on a computer in the office. The test is by appointment only. Knowledge test appointments can be made on our website

<https://www.cityofmilaca.org/registrar>.

We are trying very hard to help everyone, so please be patient with us. We are limiting the number of parties in the building to 4, so please be aware of that limit so we can all stay safe, as well as keeping our doors unlocked. If you need a question answered right away, please feel free to email us at depreg@milacacity.com and we can answer your questions.

If you need anything looked up that is not public information, you do have to come in to the office due to data privacy. Otherwise please utilize the state's website to look at the status of titles and driver's licenses.

We appreciate all of our customers and we want to make sure everyone gets what they need in a timely manner. We do welcome everyone to utilize the drop box for tab renewals, DNR transactions, and even title transfers if completed! We check the box every day and do the work in between customers. Please fill out the provided form to go with the paperwork dropped off. If you need a driver's license, please make an appointment or stop in as soon as you can as they do expire at midnight on your expiration date with no extensions.

Please be aware that state is offering Road tests at this location now on Thursdays. You have to make an appointment for the road tests and they must be done online at drive.mn.gov as DVS examiners do the tests, not us. Any questions about the road tests need to be answered by state, as we have nothing to do with them.

The knowledge tests that are offered by our office is by appointment only, the cost is \$10.00 to take it with us. If you have taken a written and failed it 3 times or more, you do have to take it at an exam station, not with us.

Please be advised that if you are coming from out of state, you are required to do a written test. Make a new to MN appointment for this option on the website.

If you have any questions for us, call us at **(320)983-3143** to leave a detailed message or email depreg@milacacity.com, and we will get back to you as soon as we can!

We appreciate all of our customers, so thank you for trusting us to serve you! Stay healthy and happy throughout this summer and we hope to see you soon!



Personnel Updates

Welcome to new motor vehicle clerk Patricia Flaten.



Fire Department Notes

Jesse Gerads, Fire Chief — (320) 983-3465

GRILLING SAFETY TIPS

Only use grills outside. It may be tempting to set up your barbecue grill inside of your open garage or under a covered balcony, but propane and gas, charcoal grills are strictly designed for outdoor use where there is plenty of ventilation. Make sure that the area over top and around your grill is clear and unobstructed.

Place your grill away from your home. Barbeque grills are often placed just outside the back door or on the back deck against a railing. Grills that are placed too close to the house or other wood structures can heat up adjacent materials and cause a fire to start. Be sure to keep your grill at least 10 feet from your home or other structures.

Make sure your grill is located on a flat, level surface. Grills that are placed on slopes or other uneven surfaces can tip over easily and cause a fire. Make sure that your grill is set up on a stable surface so that it remains level while cooking food.

Check your grill for leaks. If you store your grill inside during the winter months, it's important to check it over thoroughly when grilling season begins. A leak in the gas lines can cause propane or natural gas to build up. Always open the lid of your barbecue before lighting.

Always clean your grill after use. Barbecuing regularly causes grease to build up on the grill plates and collect inside the grease tray. If not cleaned, the build-up can then act as fuel and catch fire while the grill is in use. Clean your charcoal or gas grill after each use with a grill brush and empty the grease tray.

Never leave your barbecue grill unattended while in use. You should never walk away from your grill while it's in use. Grills use high heat and open flames to cook food, and when left unattended can become a safety and fire hazard.

Wear appropriate clothing. Articles of clothing that have long sleeves or pieces that dangle can catch fire easily when too close to an open flame. If a piece of clothing does catch fire, remember to stop, drop, and roll to extinguish the flames quickly.



Keep a spray bottle on hand. It's common for grills to flare up as fat drips from meat as it cooks, and this can cause a section of the grill to remain on fire as it burns away. Keep a spray bottle filled with water beside your grill so that you can extinguish smaller flames before they spread.

Always have a fire extinguisher close by. In the event that a fire does break out, have a fire extinguisher at hand.

Following these charcoal and gas grill safety tips and having the right protection will help you and your family enjoy a safe grilling season all summer long.

OUTDOOR FIRE PITS

The necessary safety precautions for an outdoor fire pit (s'mores, anybody?) are much the same as for a grill, plus a few others:

- Never leave young children unattended near a fire in the pit.
- Fill a bucket with water and set it next to the pit before you even begin building the fire.
- Avoid throwing leaves, pine cones, pine needles and paper into the fire. They catch fire quickly and can result in dangerous floating embers.
- Unless there's an emergency, avoid dumping the entire bucket of water on the fire to put it out. Instead, spread the pieces of fuel as far apart as possible and gently sprinkle water over them until there are no more glowing embers. This prevents the scatter of embers and a thick cloud of smoke.
- Toast your marshmallows over the embers rather than the flames. This not only gives them that perfect golden crust, but prevents them from catching on fire.

Before doing any type of burning, check with the MN DNR for fire danger and burning restrictions. You can do that online at https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/fire/firerating_restrictions.html

SEVERE WEATHER PREPAREDNESS

Be Weather-Ready: Check the forecast regularly to see if you're at risk for severe weather. Listen to local news or a NOAA Weather Radio to stay informed about severe thunderstorm watches and warnings. Check the Weather-Ready Nation for tips.

Sign Up for Notifications: Know how your community sends warning. Some communities have outdoor sirens. Others depend on media and smart phones to alert residents to severe storms.

Create a Communications Plan: Have a family plan that includes an emergency meeting place and related information. Pick a safe room in your home such as a basement, storm cellar, or an interior room on the lowest floor with no windows. Get more ideas for a plan at: <https://www.ready.gov/make-a-plan>.

Practice Your Plan: Conduct a family severe thunderstorm drill regularly so everyone knows what to do if a damaging wind or large hail approaches. Make sure all members of your family know where to go when severe thunderstorm warnings are issued. Don't forget pets if time allows.

Prepare Your Home: Keep trees and branches trimmed near your house. If you have time before severe weather hits, secure loose objects, close windows and doors, and move any valuable objects inside or under a sturdy structure.

Help Your Neighbor: Encourage your loved ones to prepare for severe thunderstorms. Take CPR training so you can help if someone is hurt during severe weather.



CITY CALENDAR*

**Please remember this schedule is subject to change or cancellation.*

April 21, 2022

City Council Meeting 6:30 p.m.*

May 7, 2022

Runnin' in the Ruff 9 a.m.

May 14, 2022

City-Wide Garage Sale 7 a.m. – 4 p.m.

May 19, 2022

City Council Meeting 6:30 p.m.*

May 30, 2022

City Offices Closed – Memorial Day

June 11, 2022

3rd Lair Skatepark Demo 11 a.m.



June 16, 2022

Rhythm on the Rum Parade
City Council Meeting 6:30 p.m.*

June 20, 2022

City Offices Closed – Juneteenth

**All Open City Council Meetings are live
streamed on our Facebook page*

SAVE THE DATE

July 28 – 31, 2022

RecFest

August 27, 2022

2nd Annual Kids Hands-On Event

August 27 – 28, 2022

All American Lumberjack Show

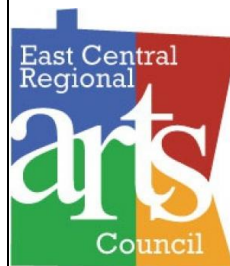


The City of Milaca is excited to announce a grant received through the East Central Regional Arts Council (ECRAC) in the amount of \$7,133. Funding for the grant program comes from the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment to the Minnesota Constitution.

The grant will be used for a mural depicting 125 years of Milaca history. Milaca Jewelers has given permission for this mural to be placed on the south side of their building.

All events will be published on our website and Facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/cityofmilacamn>



This activity is made possible in part by a grant from the East Central Regional Arts Council with funds

appropriated by the Minnesota State Legislature from its general fund.



**CLEAN
WATER
LAND &
LEGACY
AMENDMENT**

ADMINISTRATION ☐ (320)983-3141

City Manager Tammy Pfaff tpfaff@milacacity.com

City Treasurer

Jessica Humphreys jhumphreys@milacacity.com

Assistant City Clerk / Accounts Payable

Deloris Katke dkatke@milacacity.com

Administrative Communications Specialist

Mary Mickelson mmickelson@milacacity.com

Utility Billing / Front Desk Clerk

Mary Beth Niedzielski mniedzielski@milacacity.com

DEPUTY REGISTRAR ☐ (320)983-3143

Amy Cain depreg@milacacity.com

Sue Rutherford

Audra Wiener

Patty Flaten

MILACA OFF SALE ☐ (320)983-6255

Vicki Jeys, Manager liquor@frontiernet.net

POLICE DEPARTMENT ☐ (320)983-6166

Chief Quinn Rasmussen qramussen@milacacity.com

Officer Jeff Shaw jshaw@milacacity.com

Officer Jake Isaacson jisaacson@milacacity.com

Officer Craig Elgin celgin@milacacity.com

Officer Henry Harris hharris@milacacity.com

Officer Andrew Sammis asammis@milacacity.com

Officer Jordan Ramler jramler@milacacity.com

Becky Porter, Office Administration rporter@milacacity.com

PUBLIC WORKS & PARKS ☐ (320)983-6547

Gary Kirkeby, Public Works Supervisor
gkirkeby@milacacity.com

John Oldenburg

Mark Wubben

Warne Johnson

Troy Roelofs

CITY COUNCIL DIRECTORY

Mayor Harold "Pete" Pedersen (320)237-2657

Councilmember Dave Dillan (320)983-3204

Councilmember Norris Johnson (320)983-6837

Councilmember Lindsee Larsen (320)982-1088

Councilmember Cory Pedersen (320)982-1938



Reflections is produced every three months.

If you have an e-mail address and would like to receive this newsletter electronically, please contact city hall via phone or email and we will send a pdf copy to you of **Reflections**.

You may also go to our website to view the newsletter:

www.cityofmilaca.org/newsletter

Next issue will be available in July 2022.

CITY OF MILACA
255 1ST ST E
MILACA MN 56353

(320) 983-3141
(320) 983-3142 FAX

cityofmilaca.org

