



REFLECTIONS

City of Milaca

Volume 14, Issue 1

January-March 2018

BILL HJORT DONATES \$30,000 TOWARDS PARK EQUIPMENT



When Bill Hjort of Town & Country Finance of Milaca contacted the City of Milaca and stated he wanted to do something for the parks, we were overwhelmed by his generous donation.

Bill presented a \$30,000 check to City Manager Tammy Pfaff in November and he was given the opportunity to choose the equipment he wished to donate.

Recreation Park (Rec Park) will be receiving a 7'3" climbing boulder and a zip line. The medium sized boulder weighs approximately 2,750 pounds and is 7 feet tall.



The molds for Nicros Boulders are made from the

original part and sent to be fiberglassed. A special UV resistant outer coating is laid into the mold first and backed by a high glass content polyester resin. The parts are then assembled by standing them into place and fiberglassing them together from the inside, forming a super strong one-piece boulder. The seams are then filled from the outside and textured to form a seamless outer surface.

Since the boulders are made with fiberglass, they are already UV stable and the boulders are sprayed with a special anti-graffiti coating before they are shipped to you which makes removal of unwanted "rock paintings" easier.



Another park playground equipment that will be donated by Bill will be a 100 foot Zip Venture.

Flying through the air on a suspended cable, this ride is like nothing else on the playground! Fast and exhilarating, the ZipVenture™ Zip Line keeps you moving from one end to the other! With built-in elevation, kids

will move fast and have fun on these playground zip lines while developing , imaginative and social play and balance, coordination and strength.

This equipment will be in the parks this coming spring. Be sure to check them out!

On behalf of the City of Milaca, we extend our gratitude and deepest appreciation to Bill Hjort and Town and County Finance for this generous donation.

Just a reminder as well that reservations can be made and should be made to rent the Gorecki Community Center and any shelters in Rec Park, Reineke Park and Riverview Park. Reservations are not needed for Trimble Park.

Please contact City Hall at 320-983-3141 for reservations.

SKATING RINK

Our Public Works/Parks Department have been flooding the skating rink and trying to get it ready.

Some of the issues have been the weather. It cools down, then snows and then warms up. This is not good for "making ice".

We are hoping with the cooler temperatures being forecasted that we will be able to get the rink up and running soon. When we do, notice will be put up on the community board and the city's website or you may call city hall at 320-983-3141 for an update.

When the skating rink does open, the hours will be as follows:

- M-F 3:30 pm–8:30 pm*
- Saturday 10:00 am–9:00 pm*
- Sunday 1:00 pm–8:30 pm*

As always, thank you for your patience.



Inside this issue:

Building & Zoning	2
Dog Licenses Are Due	3
Snow Plowing	4
Clearing Sidewalks	5
Initiative Foundation	6
Liquor Notes	6
Directory	7



MEETING DATES

CITY COUNCIL

January 18
February 15
March 15

City Council meetings are held the third Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at Milaca City Hall.

PLANNING COMMISSION

January 8
February 12
March 12

Planning Commission Meetings are held as needed, the second Monday at 6:00 p.m. at Milaca City Hall.

PARKS BOARD

January 9*
February 6
March 6

Park Board meetings are held the first Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. at Milaca American Legion.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

January 22
February 19
March 19

EDC meetings are held the Monday after city council meetings of each month at 7:30 a.m. at Milaca City Hall.

Please call City Hall at 320-983-3141 to confirm any of the above mentioned meeting dates and times as dates are subject to change.

*Indicates change in date

BUILDING & ZONING NOTES

SUBMITTED BY MARSHALL LIND

In 2017 the City had 116 permits issued for building, remodeling, roofing, residing, decks, garages, windows, plumbing, mechanical, new homes and new commercial. In 2016 there were 118 permits issued.

In 2016 there were 3 new homes built with a value of \$592,000 and 2 new commercial with a value of 350,000 in the City and in 2017 there have been 7 new homes with a value of \$1,330,000 and 2 new commercial buildings with a value of \$699,000. In 2016 the total value of work in the City was \$1,916,500 and in 2017 the total value of work is \$3,288,000. One of the new commercial buildings is a 2,700 square foot daycare. The daycare will be large enough to be able to take care of 130 kids. There were also two houses torn down this year. Both were damaged due to fires.

The City has also contracted with the City of Foreston and the City of Pease to do all of building permits and inspections in those jurisdictions. The City has also contracted with Mille Lacs County to do the commercial reviews and inspections for the County.

Zoning in 2017

There were 158 letters sent out for a variety of reasons, tall grass, unlicensed vehicles, household garbage, dilapidated buildings, miscellaneous debris, appliances, household furniture, tires and for fabric type structures. Please remember, fabric type structures are not allowed in residential zoned areas in the City.

There were 4 Conditional Use permit applications. They were for a 28 unit assisted living space in the General Business District, a beauty shop located in a residential zoned district, an accessory structure larger than the principle structure and 3 new apartments in the General Business District. There was also a Variance request to have an accessory structure closer to the property line than is allowed by ordinance.

Building permits are not needed for a one-story detached accessory structure used as tool and storage sheds, playhouses, and similar uses, provided the floor area does not exceed 200 square feet. But these buildings still need to meet the zoning ordinance. They cannot be placed in the front yard and must be a minimum of 5 feet from the side property line and 5 feet from the back property line. If you are on a corner, please contact City Hall to discuss where it can be placed.

Please call if you have any building or zoning questions. It is easier and costs less to find out what the ordinance states before you do it.



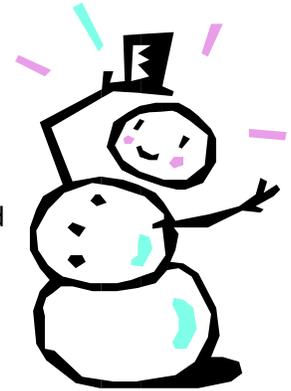


CHIEF'S MESSAGE

Chief Todd Quaintance

During 2017 there has been a great deal of activity here at MPD. The MPD has hired three full time officers to replace retiring officers and officers who chose to pursue alternative employment.

We have continued offering all of our previous initiatives while working with other city departments to create a Crime Free Communities program here in the City of Milaca. The program is currently targeted towards our rental properties at this point and may expand into other areas if interest develops. The Crime Free Housing program is an international program that works with the community to make our neighborhoods safer and more appealing to renters and home owners. The MPD continues to seek ways to engage our community and provide a level of service that the community deserves.



DOG LICENSES ARE DUE

City of Milaca Ordinance #95.02(B) (1) states the following:

All dogs over the age of four months kept, harbored, or maintained by their owners in the city, shall be licensed and registered with the city. Dog licenses shall be for a period of two years, and shall be issued by the City Manager-Clerk upon payment of the license fee as established by Chapter 34 of this code, as it may be amended from time to time. The owner shall state, at the time application is made for the license and upon forms provided, his or her name and address and the name, breed, color, and sex of each

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING
IN CURRENT PROOF OF RABIES
FOR YOUR DOG(S)**

dog owned or kept by him or her. No license shall be granted for a dog that has not been vaccinated against distemper and rabies, as evidenced by a certificate by a veterinarian qualified to practice in the state in which the dog is vaccinated.

If you have previously registered your dog with the City of Milaca, you should have received a renewal reminder in the mail mid-November.

Please check with your veterinarian to see if your dog needs to have their rabies PRIOR to obtaining their new license. License will not be issued if rabies are expired. You must bring in proof of rabies to receive license.

Just bringing in the rabies tag from the vet is not enough proof as it does not show an expiration date.

The fee remains at \$10.00 for a two year license and must be paid at the time the license is issued. **If you have three dogs, the license fee for the third dog is \$30.00.**

This new license will be effective January 2018 to December 2019.

Licenses are now being issued through the Milaca Police Department.

If you have any questions, please call Milaca Police Department at 320-983-6166.

REMEMBER: YOU CAN FIND ALL OF THE CITY OF MILACA'S MINUTES AND AGENDAS ON LINE AT WWW.CITYOFMILACA.ORG. ON THE LEFT CLICK ON CITY COUNCIL. MINUTES AND AGENDAS FOR OTHER BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS ARE AT THE WEBSITE AS WELL. STAY INFORMED.





SNOW PLOWING AND REMOVAL

Submitted by Chief Todd Quaintance

With the snow in Minnesota, we may live in one of the most spectacular wonderlands regarding winter fun. But when the snow comes, it can cause problems for area drivers as well as the snowplow operators who work, on occasion around the clock, clearing our roads.

As these operators, both private and government, are working to make life easier for everyone who is snowbound, we must be patient and mindful that our actions don't cause problems for snow plow operators with the way they are clearing our roads.

Many homeowners don't realize how they clear their driveway and sidewalks can affect the city or county snowplow operators. It is important to realize that if they push the snow across the road, lane, highway or city street, it is illegal in Minnesota.

According to **Minnesota Statute 160.2715 RIGHT-OF-WAY USE,**

(a) Except for the actions of the road authorities, their agents, employees, contractors, and utilities in carrying out their duties imposed by law or contract, and except as herein provided, it shall be unlawful to:

(1) obstruct any highway or deposit snow or ice thereon;

(2) plow or perform any other detrimental operation within the road right-of-way except in the preparation of the land for planting permanent vegetative cover or as authorized under section [160.232](#);

This means, in laymen's terms, you can't push snow across the road or into the street to get it off of your driveway or sidewalk.

The law is very specific on this issue. You can get fined for pushing snow across or onto the road -- be it state, county or city. Minnesota law and Milaca city ordinance prohibits the plowing, blowing, shoveling or otherwise placing of snow onto public roadways. This includes the ditch and right of way area along the roadside.

Public safety is jeopardized if the placement of snow creates a hazard such as a slippery area, frozen rut or bump that contributes to a motor vehicle or pedestrian crash. Other hazards created by improper placement of snow on or near a public roadway include drainage problems, drifting, sight obstruction and safe accessibility. Special attention should be made to keep sidewalks, crosswalks, intersections, entrances and exits clean and unobstructed.

With the advent of the recent snowfall and the likelihood of more to come, it is important to assure that all are educated on the law pertaining to snow removal. So remember that if you choose to violate Minnesota statute and Milaca ordinance, you are committing a crime punishable by jail time and a significant fine.

Stop and think before you push snow across the road, highway or street. It may seem harmless enough but if you push snow across the roadway or street and it freezes, someone comes along and has an accident because of this, you could be held responsible.

My request is that you please find a suitable location for snow within the confines of the property being cleared.



We would like to notify our residents that at the December city council meeting, the council agreed to change the Snow Removal Policy. Our Public Works will now start plowing when snow accumulates at 2" instead of 4".

New policy reads: *Snow removal and/or sanding operations shall begin when snow accumulation, or predicted snow accumulation is **two inches or greater**, or when ice occurs on city streets, and shall continue periodically throughout the duration of the storm. It is the intention of the City to keep streets, avenues and alleys open to traffic, if possible, during a storm; however, it is not the intent to keep them snow and ice free.*



PLEASE CLEAR SIDEWALKS

The City of Milaca would like to take this time to once again remind everyone the importance of keeping sidewalks cleared of snow and ice.

We ask this not only because it is an ordinance, but more importantly, for the safety of mail carriers, children using sidewalks to walk to school and walkers and joggers in general. Snow covered and ice covered sidewalks make any type of traveling on sidewalks extra dangerous. Falling could mean broken bones, broken hips, concussions and a multiple of other serious injuries.

Our city ordinance is as follows:

§ 94.01 ASSESSABLE CURRENT SERVICES.

B) *Snow, ice, dirt, and rubbish.*

(1) *Duty of owners and occupants.* The owner and the occupant of any property adjacent to a public sidewalk shall use diligence to keep the walk safe for pedestrians. No owner or occupant shall allow snow, ice, dirt, or rubbish to remain on the walk longer than 24 hours after its deposit thereon. Failure to comply with this section shall constitute a violation.



(2) *Removal by city.* The City Manager-Clerk or other person designated by the City Council may cause removal from all public sidewalks all snow, ice, dirt, and rubbish as soon as possible beginning 24 hours after any matter has been deposited thereon or after the snow has ceased to fall. The City Manager-Clerk or other designated person shall keep a record showing the cost of removal adjacent to each separate lot and parcel.

Please, let's all do our part and help keep sidewalks clear. If you have any questions in regard to this ordinance, please call city hall at 320-983-3141.



CITY OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED ON THE FOLLOWING DAYS:

MONDAY	JANUARY 1	NEW YEAR'S DAY
MONDAY	JANUARY 15	MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY
MONDAY	FEBRUARY 19	PRESIDENT'S DAY

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS SUNDAY, MARCH 11 AT 2:00 A.M. REMEMBER TO SET CLOCKS AHEAD ONE HOUR BEFORE GOING TO BED.





MILACA to participate in Thriving Communities Initiative Program

The City of Milaca is excited to announce that it has been selected as a 2017 participant in the Initiative Foundation's redesigned Thriving Communities Initiative (TCI).

Nine existing leaders from Milaca will join peers from five Central Minnesota communities to engage in leadership development, asset-based community development and local philanthropic development. Milaca's team is made up of Dave Dillan, Michael Ten Haken, Ardy Beklin, Beth VanderPlaats, Pete Pedersen, Rachelle Nelson, Wendy Hoeck, Tammy Pfaff and Tess Shipman.

The Initiative Foundation redesigned its TCI program in early 2017 in response to a significant demographic shift which forecasts that Central Minnesota's population of people ages 65 and older will grow by 49.5 percent over the next decade. During that same time, the number of working-age adults will increase by just 2 percent.

Phase I of the TCI program is a three-month effort to address this pending leadership gap and helps the Milaca team enhance its capacity to attract, train and retain effective and engaged community leaders.

"Following the conclusion of this three-month effort, participating communities will be able to better facilitate strategic conversations to engage the next generation of leaders and help fill these gaps," said Michelle Kiley, Community Development Specialist at the Initiative Foundation.

Communities selected to participate in Phase I of the TCI program include: Eden Valley, Hackensack, Menahga, Milaca and Upsala.

If you would like more information on this new program, please contact Councilmember Dave Dillan or City Manager Tammy Pfaff at 320-983-3141.

MILACA OFF SALE NOTES

Submitted by Vicki Jeys, Off Sale Manager

As 2017 comes to a close, I would like to say "Thank You" to all of our wonderful customers. I hope that 2018 brings you all something new and exciting, or, if you prefer, the usual with some relaxation.

Whatever your needs for entertaining are or just for chilling in front of the fire, our large selection of wines, liquor, craft beers, ciders and non-alcoholic choices are endless! Stop in and we will help get your New Year off on the right foot.

We have many great drink ideas to keep you warm this winter and don't forget about Valentine's Day!

Bobber Discount Tuesday will be back for ice fishing in January and February. Stop in and pick a bobber to see what discount you will receive!

Remember that our profits go back into the community—your community! And please, drink responsibly!



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CITY OF MILACA
 255 1ST ST E
 MILACA MN 56353
 (320) 983-3141
 (320) 983-3142 FAX
 WEBSITE:
www.cityofmilaca.org

“Reflections” is printed every 3 months.
 Stop in at city hall to pick up a copy.

If you have an e-mail address and would like to receive this newsletter via e-mail, please contact city hall and we will include your address and send you a COLORED copy of “Reflections”.

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

www.cityofmilaca.org

Next issue will be available in April 2018.



ADMINISTRATION 983-3141
 City Manager Tammy Pfaff tpfaff@milacacity.com
 City Treasurer Tracy Gann-Olehy tgann@milacacity.com
 Assistant City Clerk Deloris Katke dkatke@milacacity.com
 Building & Zoning Official Marshall Lind mlind@milacacity.com
 Administrative Assistant Patti Miller pmiller@milacacity.com

DEPUTY REGISTRAR 983-3143
 Pam Hartman depreg@milacacity.com
 Caryn Maalis
 Linda Andrews
 Stacey Schmeltzer
 Sue Rutherford

MILACA OFF SALE 983-6255
 Vicki Jeys, Manager liquor@frontiernet.net

POLICE DEPARTMENT 983-6166
 Chief Todd Quaintance tquaintance@milacacity.com
 School Liaison Officer Jeff Shaw 320-982-7368
 Officer Quinn Rasmussen qrasmussen@milacacity.com
 Officer Mike Barros mbarros@milacacity.com
 Officer Jake Isaacson jisaacson@milacacity.com
 Officer Nate Fisher nfisher@milacacity.com
 Karen Aguilera, Secretary kaguilera@milacacity.com

PUBLIC WORKS & PARKS 983-6547
 Gary Kirkeby, Public Works Supervisor gkirkeby@milacacity.com
 Darryl Stimmler
 John Oldenburg
 Jake Weinreich
 Mark Wubben

CITY COUNCIL DIRECTORY	
Mayor Harold "Pete" Pedersen	982-2340
Councilmember Dave Dillan	983-3204
Councilmember Laurie Gahm	982-2347
Councilmember Norris Johnson	983-6837
Councilmember Ken Muller	982-1808