

JANUARY 5, 2018

# Milan City Hall

## LETTER FROM THE MAYOR

BW BEASLEY

### Happy New Year from the Mayor!

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all the citizens of Milan a Happy New Year. Milan made some great strides in 2017 that has put our town on a positive path forward and will serve us well in growing our economy.

### Economic Development

As a result of our ECD team's efforts in 2017, we have secured the following companies and projects: The trips to China and Australia have paid off and we will be announcing in 2018 a new factory in Milan. The company is Global Track Warehouse and they will be manufacturing rubber

tracks for heavy equipment in the old Tower Bldg. Escue Wood Treated Products opened in 2017 and they are manufacturing treated wood that is being shipped throughout the central United States. Dennison Recycling has purchased the old Foamex Building and are planning to start hiring in 2018. Our ECD team has been working with the Army and our Washington DC delegation to have land conveyed to the City of Milan for retail development. The conveyance of this land is a long and complicated process but we are committed to seeing it through. Hargett Materials, Inc. has made great strides in 2017 and has opened a new manufacturing facility that will increase their capacity to produce a cutting-edge product called Elephant Armor. Milan added a new Japanese restaurant called Toyami Steakhouse to our community and there is a proposed restaurant coming to downtown behind City Hall. Milan also will add a new Bed and Breakfast / Wedding venue to Main Street in the old Caldwell House.

### New Events of 2017

One of the highlights of 2017 was the addition of many new

community events for our citizens. We added an Easter Egg Hunt, Movies in the City Park series, Fourth of July Fireworks and a Halloween Trunk or Treat sponsored by the Milan Police Dept. to events at our City Park. We expanded the Fall Folklore Festival to include Food Truck Friday and Music on Main to our downtown events. The most gratifying was 1Table Milan where ALL of the churches in Milan came together to provide food for a free Thanksgiving dinner.

### City Hall

At City Hall we have renovated the City's website, rejuvenated the City's Facebook page and created a Visit Milan , TN Facebook page to attract individuals from out of town to our events and to shop at our



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## MAYOR'S LETTER CONT'D...

businesses. We have put Milan on the map with tnvacation.com and have started a City Hall quarterly newsletter with over 200 subscribers.

### Health Insurance

The City of Milan was advised in June of 2017 that the estimated increase in health insurance cost would be in the neighborhood of 17%. This represented an additional \$136,000 to the City's budget. This was a devastating increase to our City's finances as we were pulling the city out of a financial hole. We put together a committee to try and find the best insurance coverage at the most affordable rate for our city employees. Our goal was to try our best to maintain our current level of benefits to all our employees. The due diligence of the committee paid off and we were able to offer a two-option solution that reduced the City's health insurance cost. The 2-option approach allowed for city employees to tailor a plan to their specific needs. The minimum amount that these options will save the city is \$92,632.

### Building & Codes

The Building and Codes Dept. took over the required ADA transition plan and saved the city \$100,000. They also adopted a new RFP process that was used for 3 roofing projects and this saved the city \$87,000. The

department issued 101 building and plumbing permits and initiated 27 slum clearance hearings. As a result, 13 structures were torn down including the old Shoney's building. They handled 780 grass complaints and supervised the cleanup of other properties that had an added safety benefit.

### Library

Our library was awarded three grants and held 10 job fairs. It began a partnership with Gibson County Adult Education Center which resulted in 30 new students registered for GED classes. The library held 200 outreach programs and 52 classes. The Summer reading program had 600 participants.

### Milan Public Utilities

Milan Dept. of Public Utilities was re-certified as an RP3 (Reliable Public Power Provider). The criteria is based on reliability, safety, workforce development and system improvement. They also scored 100% on Water System Sanitary Survey. They cleaned and inspected over 1.25 million gallons of clear well water.

### Milan Police Dept.

The Milan Police Department prides itself on its community outreach and this year they added several new events to their outreach program. They started a Back to School Bash where they partnered with the community to hand out backpacks and other school supplies. They also began a Trunk or Treat



event in our city park that was attended by over 1,000 citizens. The Milan Police Dept. created a YouTube Channel and held a church safety seminar for the first time. For the second year in a row the department held a Citizens Police Academy which educated our citizens on proper police procedures. The Police Dept. Shop with a Cop assisted about 80 children with a Christmas shopping spree and also held a coat drive that provided coats to about 40 children. The City made additional investments in our Police Department in 2017 to ensure our crime rates remain low.

### Milan City Park

Our City Park continues to improve and add new features. This year we received a \$50,000 Tourism Grant that allowed us to create an RV Park in our City Park. We added the only outdoor Pickle Ball courts outside of Memphis to our tennis courts. Our Movie in the Park series was a huge success! Other new additions to our park include a new fishing pier, a TWRA Trout release, a new baseball fence, a new road to

## MAYOR'S LETTER CONT'D...

our soccer field and for the first time Dawg Daze was held in the Park.

### **Milan Public Works**

Milan Department of Public Works had a very busy year. Many of their contributions to our city go unnoticed, such as drainage improvements and replacing culverts, of which they did many. What is visible is the addition of flower beds to our welcome signs and an additional strand of lights in our downtown area. They also completed a couple of paving projects and demolished 6 houses. Our streets are clean and our leaves are picked up because of their hard work.

### **Senior Citizen Center**

The Senior Citizen Center has grown its exercise class and other activities. They once again partnered with the Gibson County Office On Aging/ Bradford Senior Center and delivered over 70 Senior Citizens in Milan a Thanksgiving lunch.

### **Milan Municipal Court**

The Milan Court System implemented E-Citations and updated its record keeping equipment in 2017. They had 5 Drug Recovery Court participants graduate that are currently employed in Milan businesses. Drug Court participants helped pack and deliver Christmas baskets and held a citywide litter pick-up. The court clerks have

been certified to administer Narcan and participated in an Active Shooter Training.

### **Alderman**

Our Aldermen worked together as a team to assure a bright future for the citizens of Milan. Milan has a strong group of representatives that bring a variety of talents to the table to serve Milan. I am honored to work with this group and we have a shared goal of being fiscally responsible to the citizens of Milan and to aggressively recruit new business and industry.

Milan's Chamber of Commerce is an integral part of our economic development process and they consistently worked with the city leaders to recruit and maintain business and industry. Milan has one of the best Chambers in West Tennessee and they are committed and dedicated to creating a thriving economy in our city.

Milan's Department Heads and all city employees are to be commended for a job well done. Milan remains a safe and clean city due to our public safety, courts and public works directors and their employees. Our park, library and senior citizens center offer more to our citizens than ever before. Our building and codes department ensures consistency and compliance in new and existing construction.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention the many volunteers that serve on a variety of

committees that pour their hearts into the success of Milan.

Because of all the people I've mentioned I'm confident Milan has a bright future.

I want to thank all the citizens of Milan for allowing me to serve my hometown. I come to work every day with a sense of responsibility to make our town a better place to live.

Happy New Year!!

Mayor Billy Warren Beasley



PRIDE. PASSION. PURPOSE.

# NEWS FROM CITY DEPARTMENTS

## MILAN SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER

We hope to see you for some, if not all, the great activities we offer here at your Senior Citizen Center. Our goal is to give you a place to come for fun and fellowship with other senior citizens instead of sitting home alone. We also work hard to keep you active as long as possible. Come on down and check us out, you may just get hooked!!!

We will be having Add-A-Soup on Friday Jan 12th at 10:30am, the program will be honoring Martin Luther King Jr.. Friday February 9th at 10:30am will be our Black History program. Friday March 23rd from 11am to 1pm we are planning a fund raiser with local talent singing and selling hamburger or hot dog plates.

Please be sure to keep up with our monthly events by visiting the City's website, or you can click [here](#).



## MILAN PUBLIC WORKS

### Leaf Season

The last quarter of the year is a time many outdoor businesses slow down and in some instances the weather impacts what MPW can do as well. Getting off road during winter weather to make drainage improvements, etc. becomes a challenge. This time of year, is just the opposite for the Public Works Department. When leaf season collection begins it gets extremely busy. We operate two leaf trucks/machines that operate with a three man crew on each truck. At the time of this letter the trucks have collected approximately 230 loads of leaves from the residents of Milan and transferred them to the Milan Landfill. We will continue to operate the trucks until February 9th at which time we ask that all citizens bag their leaves and we will collect them with the claw truck. The dump trucks that are used during leaf season have other uses during the remainder of the year and this is the time we remove the leaf machines and prepare the trucks for other uses.



### Drainage Improvements

In recent weeks the Public works department has been able to make additional drainage improvements. Improvements were made at Caldwell Street by installing slip liners in an existing culvert failure and a complete culvert replacement and drain inlet re-construction on Oakwood Drive. We have initiated a safety project at the dangerous curve on Stinson Road near the business of PRI (Pavement Restoration Incorporated) in partnership with PRI. MPW has installed new signage and lowered the speed limit on Stinson Road in an effort to make this area safer. We have also moved the adjacent ditch over and built a new drainage box. In the spring when weather permits, PRI will widen the shoulder to finish the initial phase of this safety project.

In September MPW replaced bridge pilings under the bridge on Salem Rd. to prevent bridge closure by

TDOT. We also received great news from TDOT that Salem Street bridge will be completely replaced in the next 3 years with a new bridge. This project will be fully funded by TDOT, with no expense to the City of Milan.

In the coming weeks we plan to repair a culvert failure at the intersection of East Jackson and Smith Streets.

### **Paving**

The city recently paved Salem Rd. Extended (North of Middle Rd), along with Caldwell Street and the neighborhood access easement behind McDonalds. Some pavement patching was completed over culverts on Salem Rd, Denton Fly Rd and Phelps Ln. Additional pavement patching was completed on Creswell and NW Front Streets, as well as the City Park. We have also initiated our next STBG project with TDOT that will be used for resurfacing a portion of Stinson and West Main Streets. This paving will most likely take place late summer of 2018.

### **City Park**

We have recently made

additional improvements to our City Park. In partnership with the Milan Special School district we were able to replace the outfield fence at Bulldog Field. We have completed our 5 space RV park and it is available for use. We have six pickleball courts striped over our existing tennis courts as well as pickle ball equipment for use. We have widened the narrow single lane road access to the soccer field area of our park to a two-lane road. This relieved a tremendous safety issue that we had at the park. TWRA has again released trout into the park pond and fishing activity has picked up. The most recent upgrade to our park is a brand new fishing pier. This pier was funded by the Milan Healthcare Foundation. Additional information concerning the pier will be coming in the near future.

### **Recent Events**

Milan Police Department recently hosted Trunk or Treat at the Park and to say that it was a success is an understatement. Probably one of the largest crowds the Park has seen in some time. We continue to



welcome everyone to come out and enjoy all the amenities our beautiful park has to offer.

### **Downtown**

MPR staff recently installed additional string lights downtown on Front and Williamson Streets. These lights are all LED and use very little electricity while bringing a festive feel to our downtown each and every night. These lights have been a hit with the downtown business owners and citizens of our city.

The light poles downtown have been lighted with garland, the Winter banners are out and Christmas lights line the streets. From MPW/Parks... We wish everyone a Happy New Year!! Thanks to all of you for your support!!

## MILAN PUBLIC UTILITIES

### Ugly Christmas Sweater Contest

MPU employees recently celebrated the holiday season by having an ugly Christmas sweater contest.



### MPU Considers Fiber

Please be watching your mailbox within the next couple of months for a survey from Milan Public Utilities and Younger & Associates. If you receive one of the surveys, **PLEASE** respond to the survey either by the paper copy mailed to you or by the web address provided on the survey. MPU's board voted at the December board meeting to conduct a feasibility study regarding fiber/broadband services within the electric footprint of MPU. It is imperative that we receive your survey data to adequately compile the needed information for the study. Thanks in advance for your cooperation!

### MPU Service Recognition

MPU recently honored employees celebrating monumental work anniversaries for 2017. Those employees are: Mark Brasher (40 years), Dawn Anderson (15 years), Perry Hicks (15 years), & Billy Joe (B) Berry (15 years).

### Winter Energy Saving Tips

#### Hot Water:

Use less by installing a low-flow showerhead and fixing leaking spouts.

Try using warm or cold water when washing clothes. Washing one large load instead of several small ones can cut costs too.

#### Fireplaces:

To make sure your heat isn't flowing out the chimney, firmly close the damper – an open damper is equivalent to keeping a full-size window open during the winter.

Plug and seal your chimney flue if you never use your fireplace.

#### Heating Equipment:

Once a month, check your furnace air filter and clean it or replace it – dirty or clogged filters can force furnaces to work harder, costing you more.

Clean your warm-air registers, baseboard heaters,

and radiators. Make sure carpeting, furniture and drapes aren't obstructing the heat.

#### Insulation:

Leaky doors and windows can be a costly problem. Save money by caulking and weather-stripping those drafty areas.

Check the insulation in various areas around your home to ensure they meet the levels suggested for your region.

#### Thermostat:

Set your thermostat at the lowest comfortable temperature possible when you're home. If there is a time during the day when no one is home, set your thermostat at 65 degrees instead of the usual 72. Maintaining 65 degrees for eight hours a day may cut your heating bill by as much as 10 percent.



## MILAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

### Free the Chief 2017

Chief Bobby Sellers spent the day in "jail" at Milan Walmart to raise money for LeBonheur Children's Hospital. He was able to raise over \$500!



### Operation Coats for Kids

The Milan Police Department was able to raise over \$3,000 in donations from local businesses and citizens to provide new coats, hats and gloves to 96 children. Coats were given out at the Milan FEMA Building on November 2, 2017 by Amber Pierce, Chief Sellers, Mayor Beasley and several of our officers.



### Shop with a Cop 2017

On December 14, Christmas presents were provided for more than 74 children in the Milan area. A delicious meal was provided by Junior Aux. that fed over 300 people. Several Law Enforcement agencies volunteered their time to participate in this spectacular event. Milan Walmart kicked off the 2017 donations with a community grant of \$2500. That, along with more than \$17k in donations from local residents and businesses created a night to remember for these kids. Photo by bkP.



## MILDRED G. FIELDS LIBRARY

### GED Registration for new students now available at the library

A representative from the Gibson County Adult

Education Center is now available at the library on Wednesdays from 9:30-4. New students may pre-test and register for GED classes. More than 30 have done so since the partnership's inception in August. Gibson County classes are held at the MGF library on Thursday evenings from 6-8.

### Santa Visits Library

Santa visited the library during Story Time on December 13th. He and Mrs. Claus visited with the children and



passed out toys. They were also available for

photos. A huge thank you to Joe and Melissa McMinn for making this event possible! Story Time is held each Wednesday morning at 10 am for pre-school aged children.

### Friends of the Library Hosted Book Reviews

The Friends of the Library book reviews will return from

**Don't forget that your 2017 taxes are due by February 28, 2018.**

**Options to pay are: cash, check (make payable to City of Milan), money order, or online at [www.cityofmilan.tennessee trustee.org](http://www.cityofmilan.tennessee trustee.org) (small fee with this option).**

# 2017 TAXES

holiday break on January 25th at noon. January and February's reviews will be presented by local patrons Carl Mussenden and Ken Fisher, respectively. The March review will be presented by Ashton Lee, author of the Cherry Cola Book Club series. Set in Cherico, Mississippi, this series is full of southern charm, wit, and warmth. The series is available both in the library and online through R.E.A.D.S. Copies of his latest book, *Book Club Babies*, will be available for purchase and signing.



### **Black History Month**

Black History Month will be celebrated at the MGF Library during February. A display will be exhibited throughout the month highlighting the resources available to the community, recognizing the role of African Americans in U.S. history.



### **Job Seeker Series**

Through a grant received from the TN State Library and Archives, the MGF Library will be able to provide a series of classes for job seekers beginning in March. The grant allowed for the purchase of laptops which students will use to create resumes, search for jobs, and submit applications. Classes will cover these topics as well as basic computers and interview tips. This project aligns perfectly with the library's mission, "to be the center of information and discovery in the community."

### **Library Mobile App Launch Delayed**

The library mobile app launch has been delayed. Stay tuned for new launch date. Follow us on social media for more information: Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter @mgflibrary.

## **MILAN FIRE DEPARTMENT**

We at the Fire Department are continuing to promote fire protection throughout our



city. We have recently had 2 more of our officers complete the Fire Inspector 1 training, which will enhance our "Engage for Safety Program." This Program was built for the business owner or commercial property occupant to make their facilities safer for their employees as well as their customers. Work on the Firewise community program continues to go forward and we are looking forward to working with our community this spring. Lastly, we have joined with a coalition to promote safety with our children, this program is called "Safe Kids" The Coalition is made up of THP, Fire Service, Tennessee Dept. of Health, Hospital networks, etc... Each of these groups will concentrate on safety within their prospective disciplines. We will be hosting another CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) Training this spring. For more information please call Station 1 and speak to Capt. Luter at 731-686-3996.

## Important Phone Numbers

### Police & Fire Emergency:

9-1-1

### Milan Police Department:

(731) 686-3309

### Milan Fire Department:

(731) 686-3996

### Milan City Hall:

(731) 686-3301

### Milan City Court:

(731) 686-0985

### Milan Public Utilities:

(731) 686-1537

### Milan Public Works:

(731) 686-1611

### Building & Codes:

(731) 686-0774

### Milan Senior Citizens Center:

(731) 686-0851

### Mildred G. Fields Library:

(731) 686-8268

### Milan Chamber of Commerce:

(731) 686-7494



If you see your Alderman around town, please be sure to thank them for serving our city and ensuring our continued success.

[CLICK HERE TO SUBSCRIBE!](#)

## Board of Alderman

### Jack Cunningham, Ward 1

(731) 686-8845

### Jay Black, Ward 1

(731) 676-5909

### Hal Holmes, Ward 2

(731) 686-0364

### Lee Alexander, Ward 2

(731) 225-9635

### Jeff Lifsey, Ward 3

(731) 487-5646

### James Fountain, Ward 3

### Vice Mayor

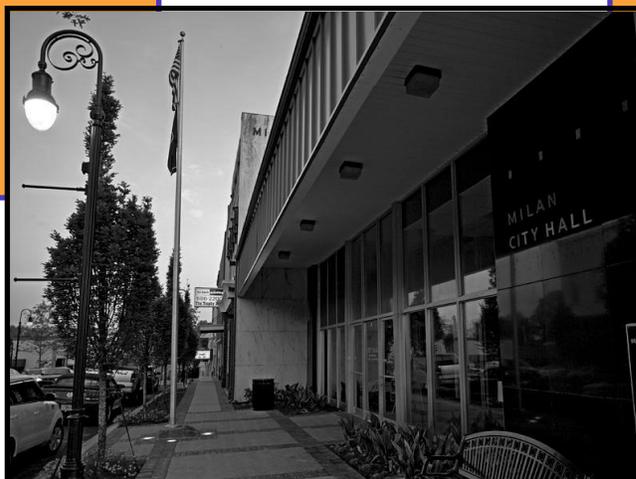
(731) 723-5677

### Tammy Wade, Ward 4

(731) 686-9712

### Richard Adkisson, Ward 4

(731) 686-3837



## SPONSORING CITY EVENTS

OUR EVENTS ARE MADE POSSIBLE BY THE SUPPORT OF OUR COMMUNITY. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN SPONSORING ANY OF OUR CITY EVENTS, PLEASE CALL MILAN CITY HALL AT (731) 686-3301.

**MARCH 31, 2017**

City Wide Easter Egg Hunt

Be on the lookout for more events coming in the 2nd Quarter Newsletter! We have LOTS of fun things planned for 2018!

## OTHER DATES TO KNOW:

January 1: City Hall Closed & New Year's Day

January 9: City Board Meeting

January 15: City Hall Closed & Martin Luther King Jr. Day

February 13: City Board Meeting

February 14: Valentine's Day

February 19: City Hall Closed & Presidents' Day

March 11: Daylight Savings Time

March 13: City Board Meeting

March 31: City Wide Easter Egg Hunt

If you have any suggestions on what you'd like to see included in our newsletter, please contact Allyson Wadley at Milan City Hall by calling (731) 686-3301 or emailing [awadley@cityofmilantn.com](mailto:awadley@cityofmilantn.com)